



OUR VILLAGE



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Volume XIII

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Merry Christmas

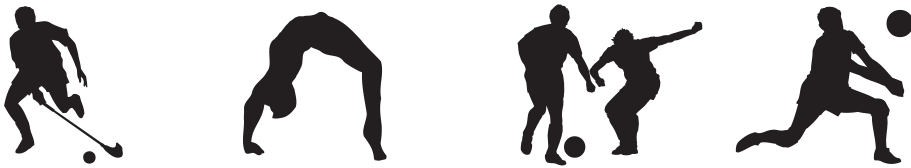
FROM VILLAGE PUBLICATIONS

Mayor Daley's Holiday Sportsfest

All ages, admission free

Sunday-Monday, Dec. 27-28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The largest indoor playground returns to Chicago and gives youngsters a chance to move around no matter the weather outside. Wrestling, tumbling, table tennis and gymnastics join a roster of team sports such as volleyball, soccer and floor hockey to fill a million square feet with fun. McCormick Place, 2301 S. Martin Luther King Dr., 312-744-3315



Navy Pier's Family New Year's Eve Bash

Winter WonderStage in Festival Hall

December 31, 2009 6:00pm - 7:45pm

Fireworks at 8:15pm

Free Admission!



Families can ring in the New Year at Navy Pier... a little bit early! Navy Pier presents a spectacular all ages showcase of hip hop dance, live music, and double dutch jumpers at the Winter WonderStage, located inside the Bank of America Winter WonderFest. The celebration culminates with a special 8:15pm Family Fireworks show outside on Dock Street.

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PAPPAS PARTICIPATES IN SANTA LUCIA FESTIVAL OF LIGHT PROGRAM

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas participates in the Santa Lucia Festival at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago. The Festival of Santa Lucia is a Swedish celebration of lights prevailing over the darkest time of the year. Yearly, girls lead a torch-lit procession down Clark Street in Chicago's Andersonville area. Pappas congratulated the newly crowned Central Swedish Committee of Chicago's Santa Lucia 2009, Emily Johnson, from the North side of Chicago. At far right is the president of the CSCC and chairperson of the Festival, Irene Strom Spejcher.

CELEBRATE THE 2009 HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PARKS

The Chicago Park District hosts numerous holiday events this winter such as breakfast with Santa, chocolate house making, flower shows, and much more. For the schedule of holiday events, click here, or call 312-742-PLAY. Holiday highlights this winter include:

Holiday Flower Show Saturday, Nov. 28 - Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., 773.638.1766 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesdays All ages, admission free

Celebrate the holidays at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Fir trees decorated in holiday lights hold court surrounded by bold splashes of color from hundreds of poinsettias. Other featured plants include ornamental peppers, plumbago and Jerusalem cherries.

Ice Skating Saturday, Nov. 28 - Sunday, Feb. 28, weather permitting Various locations and times; Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change. Contact the individual ice rinks, call 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Bring your own skates, and ice skating at all outdoor Chicago Park District ice rinks is free. Skate rentals are \$5 at all outdoor rinks except for Daley Bicentennial, which has an additional \$1 surcharge. Concessions are available at select rinks. Please note there is an admission fee at McPetridge in California Park, an indoor rink that is open year round except August.



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Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Awarded Medal of Honor for Saving Lives

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center with the national Medal of Honor for the third consecutive year for the hospital's work in saving and enhancing lives through organ and tissue donation. The medical center is one of 22 hospitals in Illinois to receive this recognition and is one of only six in Chicago to be especially recognized with the Silver Medal 1 for their particular collaboration in organ donation.

The hospitals all work with the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network and were among 428 hospitals across the country honored for exemplary leadership and commitment to organ donors, donor families and the nearly 104,000 patients on the national transplant waiting list.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison, Chicago, an accredited Primary Stroke Center and Chest Pain Center, is part of Resurrection Health Care, a family of health care services providing advanced medical care and exceptional customer service with compassion and hope. Our hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, home health services, behavioral health programs and other services are conveniently located in many Chicagoland neighborhoods.

Resurrection Health Care Corporation is a not-for-profit Catholic organization sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection. Resurrection Health Care is a not-for-profit Catholic organization sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection.

Neighbors Encouraged to Clear Sidewalks, Safe Walking this Winter

Walking in a winter wonderland is a lot easier with clear sidewalks. The Active Transportation Alliance launched a snow-shoveling campaign today that encourages residents to spread the word about safe and convenient walking this winter.

The Active Trans encourages residents throughout Chicagoland to be ambassadors for clear sidewalks in their communities. In addition to English and Spanish fliers that make a friendly request for better snow removal practices, fliers are also available to say "thanks" for a job well done. Learn more at www.active-trans.org/shovel.

The Chicago Department of Transportation is also rewarding businesses that clear their sidewalks. Residents can nominate local businesses for their efforts at www.cityofchicago.org/transportation.

Pop-Up Security Warnings Pose Threats

The FBI warned consumers recently about an ongoing threat involving pop-up security messages that appear while they are on the Internet. The messages may contain a virus that could harm your computer, cause costly repairs or, even worse, lead to identity theft. The messages contain scareware, fake or rogue anti-virus software that looks authentic.

The message may display what appears to be a real-time, anti-virus scan of your hard drive. The scareware will show a list of reputable software icons; however, you can't click a link to go to the real site to review or see recommendations. Cyber criminals use botnets—collections of compromised computers—to push the software, and advertisements on websites deliver it. This is known as malicious advertising or "malvertising."

Once the pop-up warning appears, it can't be easily closed by clicking the "close" or "X" buttons. If you click the pop-up to purchase the software, a form to collect payment information for the bogus product launches. In some instances, the scareware can install malicious code onto your computer, whether you click the warning or not. This is more likely to happen if your computer has an account that has rights to install software.

Downloading the software could result in viruses, malicious software called Trojans, and/or keyloggers—hardware that records passwords and sensitive data—being installed on your computer. Malicious software can cause costly damages for individual users and financial institutions. The FBI estimates scareware has cost victims more than \$150 million.

Cyber criminals use easy-to-remember names and associate them with known applications. Beware of pop-up warnings that are a variation of recognized security software. You should research the exact name of the software being offered. Take precautions to ensure operating systems are updated and security software is current. If you receive these anti-virus pop-ups, close the browser or shut down your computer system. You should run a full anti-virus scan whenever the computer is turned back on.

If you have experienced the anti-virus pop-ups or a similar scam, notify the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by filing a complaint at www.ic3.gov.

Property Tax Relief Program

Throughout these tough times in the economic global recession, the City of Chicago is offering some relief with its Property Tax Relief Program, recently proposed by Mayor Richard M. Daley and passed by City Council.

The program is meant to provide relief between \$25 and \$200 to City homeowners hit hardest by increases to their 2008 property tax bill for their primary residence.

For more information go to webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/

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State Representative
Michael McAuliffe, 20th District
and
Alderman **Brian Doherty**, 41st Ward

**Watch out for Neighborhood Children
During the Holiday Season**



6650 N. Northwest Hwy
Edison Park
773/792-1991



Break a Sweat, Not the Bank During One Week of Free Admission to Citywide Fitness Centers

Promotion Runs Jan. 2-10 at 66 Locations

Kick off the New Year in great shape by working out for free from Jan. 2-10 at any of the Chicago Park District's 66 fitness centers located throughout the city.

"Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle, and we encourage Chicagoans to take advantage of this special incentive," said Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Timothy J. Mitchell.

During the promotion from Jan. 2-10, patrons who extend the complimentary one-week period into a January-March 2010 winter-session membership will receive a free Nike cinch bag, while supplies last. Membership rates to the Chicago Park District's fitness centers are affordable and range from \$30-\$75 for three months, a fraction of the cost of commercial gyms.

The Chicago Park District currently operates 66 fitness centers featuring state-of-the-art equipment including: computerized treadmills, cross trainers, upright and recumbent bicycles, free weights and benches, cable cross-overs, multi-station weight machines and core-focused weight equipment. Accessible equipment for people with disabilities is available at 22 fitness centers.

The Chicago Park District's facilities also offer a variety of fitness classes at affordable rates such as circuit training, conditioning, kickboxing, Pilates, yoga and aerobics. For more information, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312.742.PLAY, 312.747.2001 (TTY).

Lincoln Park Cultural Center to Offer Jewelry Making Classes

Create unique one-of-a-kind jewelry! Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, has been providing a fun-filled creative environment for years to community members through their various hands-on cultural programs. This winter the cultural center will offer their popular 10-week jewelry making class for adults beginning the week of January 4, 2010. The jewelry making classes will be offered on: Tuesday, 2-5pm and Saturday, 1:30-4:30pm, ages 18 & over, \$160 and Tuesday, 6-9 pm and Saturday 1:30 - 4:30pm, ages 18 & over, \$160

In this unique fun-filled jewelry making class participants may create wearable accessories like necklaces, bracelets, or earrings from materials like metal, beads or stones. Participants will work at their own level with assistance from the instructor to create your own unique finished piece of jewelry. Participants must provide/purchase their own materials.

There are two easy ways to register for winter programs – online registration begins Monday, November 30 and in-person registration begins Saturday, December 4, 2010. Due to the popularity of many programs early registration is suggested. For a complete listing of programs offer at Lincoln Park Cultural Center visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Lincoln Park Cultural Center is located at 2045 N. Lincoln Park West., Clark Street at Lincoln Park West in Chicago. Questions call 312.742.7726.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Primary elections are scheduled for February 2, 2010. The deadline to register is Tuesday January 5, 2010.

Registration can be done in person at Alderman Stone's Lincoln Avenue Office. Please call 1-773-764-5050 for more information.

Legacy Project at DANK-Haus

Saturdays 11am - 3pm

DANK-Haus Scharpenberg Gallery

When Sara left Germany, fleeing from the war torn Eastern front, authorities would not allow her 4 month old son to board the plane. It took 14 months before they were reunited in the States. She still has the sailor suit in which the stewardess dressed him. Now it hangs in the Scharpenberg Gallery for your appreciation.

Moving interviews of our oldest members. Stories their families have not heard before. Vibrant photography. History as you live and breathe. A multigenerational celebration.

Trio Contrasts Winter Concert Dec 20, 2009 at 3pm

A premiere concert by German trained, Julliard School of New York graduate students Maja Pawelke, Clarinet, - Doren Dinglinger, Violin and Liza Stepanove, Piano. Works on the program include those by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Ives, Bartok and Schumann. Advance tickets available at \$18 for the general public, \$15 for Seniors and DANK members and \$12 for youth. At the door all tickets are \$20. Reserve yours today.

For further information and tickets contact DANK-Haus 773.561.9181 or dank@dankhaus.com. DANK-Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 North Western Avenue.

Cell Phones for Emergency Program

Ravenswood Community Council is looking for donations of more cell phones, any old or unused phones and chargers, to be used for RCC's Emergency CELL phone (Community Emergency Life Line) Program. The program provides free 911-enabled cell phones to seniors and victims of domestic abuse throughout Chicago. These phones can only be used to call 911 and are intended as a lifeline for seniors experiencing or witnessing an emergency situation.

Ravenswood Community Council, 1756 W Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL

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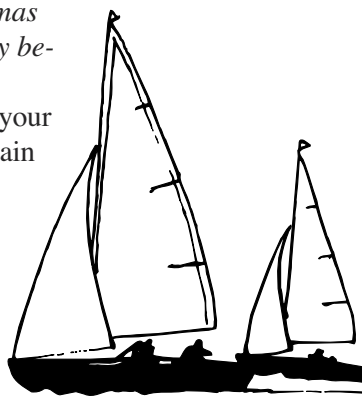
GREAT OUTDOORS

Legends of the Lake

by Tracy Seglin

"There are children in Chicago waiting for Christmas trees." — Captain Hermann Schuenemann, shortly before embarking upon his final tree journey.

Chances are good that the Christmas tree gracing your living room this season was purchased at a major chain store, bargained for at a small tree lot, or possibly chopped down by hand at a local tree farm. It is the rare Chicago family that sails a schooner to Michigan, braving November winds and sleet, to trudge a tree back to Chicago shores. This season, as you place the last bit of tinsel on your tree and stand back in awe of Tannenbaum, take a moment to remember "Captain Santa," and the ill-fated Rouse Simmons.



It wasn't until the late 1800s that Americans placed real evergreen trees in their homes and adorned them with ornaments to celebrate Christmas. Here in Midwest, the challenge soon became clear – with very little ground transport, how could trees from the forests of Wisconsin and Michigan travel to cities like Chicago?

Intrepid Great Lakes captains quickly realized the potential bounty to be made – all they had to do was to brave gale force winds, ice storms, and blizzards to make late-season tree shuttles. The risk was great, but so were the profits. Here in Chicago, crowds would eagerly await their arrival, clamor to the docks at Clark Street, and board these schooners festooned with lights to choose the perfect tree.

Hermann Schuenemann was one of these gritty entrepreneurs, but he distinguished himself from his competition with rock-bottom prices and a reputation for generosity. Each season, he donated trees to Chicago's neediest families, earning himself the moniker "Captain Santa."

On November 22, 1912, Schuenemann's schooner, the Rouse Simmons left the Thompson, Michigan dock, groaning under the weight of some 3,000-5,000 (some guess even more) Christmas trees. Onlookers said it looked like a floating forest.

Schuenemann's wife and children, along with throngs of buyers, eagerly waited for the Christmas Tree Ship and Captain Santa to return. They never did.

Details of the schooner's last hours are unknown, but a ferocious winter storm on Lake Michigan claimed several other ships. At nearly 3:00 the morning after she departed, Rouse Simmons was spotted briefly, its flag at half-mast signaling distress, but then she was lost.

For weeks, remains of Christmas trees washed ashore in Wisconsin like ghosts.

Despite her tragic loss, Captain Santa's widow Barbara and her daughters carried on Hermann's tradition. The year after his death, she chartered a new Christmas ship and sold trees at port. She continued his legacy by ship and later by rail until her own death 22 years later.

Today, Captain Schuenemann and his beloved "Christmas Tree Ship" are honored each December by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw which retraces Schuenemann's final journey from northern Michigan and delivers Christmas trees to underprivileged Chicago families.

Save Your Spot on a Car-Free Lake Shore Drive

Don't let thoughts of warmer weather fall by the wayside. The 9th annual Bike the Drive is your ticket to soak up the Chicago sun and registration is now open!

Save \$5 when you register by Dec. 24. Sign up now!

Get even more biking with our discounted Gold Package. Only \$75 for Bike the Drive, Boulevard Lakefront Tour and an Active Trans membership.

Enjoy sandy beaches, a sparkling lakefront, and the towering skyline as you cruise along without a car in sight!

Bike the Drive benefits the Active Transportation Alliance's work to improve biking, walking, and transit in Chicagoland.

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Urban Wildlife Coalition: Black Squirrels

I've been seeing more black squirrels in our neighborhood. Are they a different species than the usual grey ones we see? Ted C., Edison Park

No, they are not a different species, but are a sub-group of the grey squirrel. They are much more rare than their grey cousins, but they didn't used to be. Scientists hypothesize that hundreds of years ago, black squirrels outnumbered grey, here in the U.S., and some say their numbers may be back on the rise, especially here in the northern Midwest. Here are some more interesting tidbits about black squirrels:

Their black color comes from extra melanin, the opposite of albino squirrels that have no melanin.

Two grey squirrels can have a litter with both grey and black baby squirrels.

Marysville, Kansas loves their black squirrels so much, they've named themselves "Black Squirrel City."

Because their dark fur is better at absorbing heat, black squirrels may stay warmer in winter. And because they stay warmer, it is likely that they require less food to keep their metabolism running. Perhaps we are seeing more black squirrels in the northern Midwest because of natural selection – they are better able to adapt to colder winters.

Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife. For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org. Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com.

21st Annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference

WHO: Organized by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), the Organic Farming Conference (OFC) is now in its 21st year and the largest in the country.

WHAT: More than 2,600 attendees come to the OFC attracted by the keynote sessions, 60 workshops and 140 exhibitors of products and services that serve the organic and sustainable farming community.

WHEN: February 25-27, 2010

WHERE: La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin

WHY: 60 conference workshops, the opportunity to network with other farmers and lots of organic food.

Organic University: Thursday, Feb. 25, MOSES will hold the Organic University (OU), 10 intensive day-long courses for growers interested in an in-depth look at organic farming practices.

Keynote speakers

• Chuck Hassebrook, Executive Director of the Center for Rural Affairs (Feb. 26)

• Dr. Margaret Mellon, Director of the Food and Environment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists (Feb. 27)

Organic Research Forum: Held in conjunction with the OFC, the second-ever Organic Research Forum offers a unique opportunity for students, scientists and farmer researchers to engage and share their work.

Seed Swap: New to the conference this year will be a seed swap hosted by the Organic Seed Alliance.

More than 35 media typically attend the OFC in person. In addition to the formal sessions and media conference, it is a great opportunity to interview organic farmers specific to their geography and area of crop/livestock interest. The Media Conference is scheduled for Friday, February 26th.

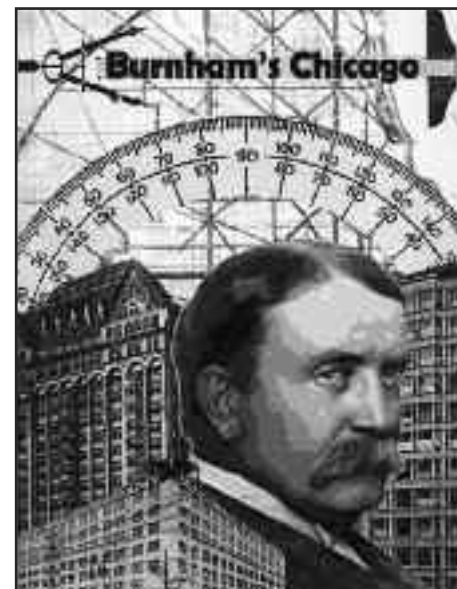
CONTACT: To request information contact MOSES at 715-778-5775, info@mosesorganic.org or www.mosesorganic.org.

Lawrence Hall Student's Artwork Chosen for New City Sticker Design

City Clerk Miguel del Valle announced recently that Lookman Muhammed, a junior at Lawrence Hall Youth Services, won the 15th annual city sticker design contest. The junior's artwork will be seen on 1.3 million vehicle stickers beginning in June 2010. He also receives a \$1,000 savings bond to help with his continuing education.

More than 300 students in grades 9 – 12, representing 39 Chicago high schools, entered the vehicle sticker design contest. A panel of honorary judges narrowed the entries to the top 10 designs. The public then voted online and at City Hall computer kiosks to choose the winning design. Nearly 17,500 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's contest winner.

"I am excited to win this year's contest. I wanted my sticker to remind people of the time when Daniel Burnham was an architect and all his work in the city," said Muhammed. "I'd like to go to school at UIC and the savings bond will help me do that."



“A Theater Review”

“Million Dollar Quartet”
Apollo Theatre
3450 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

As Jerry Lee Lewis would say “Great Balls of Fire” we have a major hit on our hands and not only with that hit song of his but with “Million Dollar Quartet” which celebrated its first anniversary November 5 at the Apollo Theatre.

I’ve seen the show three times. It opened first at the Goodman Theatre in the Owen Theatre and then after its run there it opened at the Apollo.

The show will open off-Broadway in the spring of 2010 but will become an international hit in the future.

The show has a cast of eight who are talented singers as well as musicians. From first viewing there has been a couple of cast changes but each time I’ve see it the show’s cast has gotten stronger.

Rob Lyons plays Carl Perkins, Lance Guest is Johnny Cash, Eddie Clendenning plays Elvis Presley, the incredible Levi Kreis is Jerry Lee Lewis, Tim Decker is Sam Philips who runs Sun Records, Billy Shaffer and Chuck Zayas as Fluke and Jay Perkins accompany the cast as drummer and bass player in the band. The only female in the cast is the beautiful Kelly Lamont as Dyan-nie, who for the story is Elvis’ girlfriend. Her rendition of “Fever” a song made famous by Peggy Lee is done in a sexy, sultry style and you don’t want her to stop. She also has one other solo “I Hear You Knocking” and does one with the group.

Most of the songs you’ll be familiar with and many you can come out singing. Songs from the show are “Riders in the Sky: that also was a major hit for Vaughn Monroe, “See You Later Alligator,” “Peace in the Valley,” “I walk the line” and “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On.” The show runs 100 minutes and features 21 songs.

The show has a book by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux and is under the direction of Floyd Mutrux and Eric Schaeffer. Produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cossette Productions and Northern Light Inc. Gigi Pritzker is one of the co-producers. The show premiered in Florida and Washington before coming to Chicago.

The story deals with how on December 4, 1956 an auspicious twist of fate brought Cash, Lewis, Perkins and Presley together. The setting is in Sun Records a storefront studio in Memphis where their careers began. The man that made it all happen was San (the father of rock n’ roll) Phillips who discovered them all. These four legends-to-be are reunited for an impromptu recordings and audiences get the jam session all the time.

Governor Quinn of Illinois proclaimed November 6 “Million Dollar Quarter Day.” for a free lunchtime concert in the Thompson Center.

“Million Dollar Quartet” is here for an open run however tickets are currently now on sale through March 28, 2010. For performance schedule and reservations call 773-935-6100. Ticket prices are \$25-\$70. It’s worth it.

- Four Stars -

Plaid Tidings

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Critical Evaluation: * out of ******

Noble Fool Theatricals For the Holidays is reviving “Plaid Tidings” for the Christmas season. It was last done at Drury Lane Water Tower. While some may find it silly it is a small scale musical that is perfect for suburban audiences and those in Chicago. Bob Kiser is the show’s director and choreographer and he has assembled four excellent singers, comedians and actors to play the Plaids who are Robert Deason as Sparky, David Meadows as Smudge, Sean Effinger-Dean as Frankie and Brad Simanski as Jinx. The orchestra is a two-piece one that features Kenneth Jones on keys, the musical director and Jamie Martinez on bass. The show runs two hours and the opening night audience loved it and laughed like crazy.

You’ll hear such songs as “Fever,” “Days,” “Hey There,” “Moments to Remember,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” and “Jingle Bells” to name a few of the many numbers featured in the show. If you saw and remember the original you’ll enjoy this holiday treat that Noble Fool Theatricals is offering its audience. If you remember in the original the boys were on their way to make an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. On their way the car crashed into a bus-load of nuns. The nuns all survived but the boys were killed. God granted their return for their concert in the original and He grants them a second return for this holiday season. You don’t have to be of the Christian faith to enjoy the harmony of the songs or their funny dialogue. Treat yourself this holiday to the singing of the Four Plaids. “Plaid Tidings” runs through December 27th. For performance schedule, show times and reservations call 630-584-6342. Tickets are \$29 and \$39.

New Lira Holiday Concert at Orchestra Hall

The Lira Ensemble, renowned praised for its performances of Polish music and dance, returns to Symphony Center in Chicago on Christmas weekend with a concert of Polish carols - and some American ones too - along with music of master Polish composers and lots of folk song and dance.

“Rejoice! Polish Carols, Song and Dance”

Sunday, December 27, 2009 at 3pm

Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center

220 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago

Recommended parking for Symphony Center is Grant Park South Underground Parking. Orchestra Hall opens at 2:30pm for the concert. Lira recordings will be available for purchase in the lobby.

Tickets for “Rejoice! Polish Carols, Song and Dance” are very reasonably priced because of the current recession - from \$20 to \$70, with discounts for groups of 20 or more and half price tickets for children under age 16 in all price ranges. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Lira Ensemble at 773-508-7040 or from Symphony Center at 312-294-300 or www.cso.com.



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ON 34TH STREET

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CHICAGO

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Will Severin, and John Vreeke

Story by
Valentine Davies

Screenplay by
George Seaton

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Village Cooking Corner

Wassail of Old England

3 qt. apple cider
 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
 1 tsp. vanilla
 2 tsp. whole cloves
 2 tbsp. honey or brown sugar
 1 stick of cinnamon
 1 bottle brandy
 Apple Slices
 Lemon Peel

Simmer the cider and spices for a few minutes. Then warm the brandy slightly. Pour 24 jiggers of brandy in the bowl and set ablaze. Then pour the cider and spices into the bowl. Float the apple slices and lemon peel on top.



Mike's Barber Shop

accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys until December 23

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Helping Hands Campaign

RCC and the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce are taking donations for State Representative John Fritchey's annual Helping Hands Campaign.

Items to donate include NEW hats, scarves, gloves and clothing, as well as toiletries. Items will be given to a local service agency for distribution to those in need. Please bring donations to our office (1756 W. Wilson) or Rep. Fritchey's office (2539 N. Southport Avenue).

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Ravenswood Community Council Food Drive

November 23-December 30, During Business Hours At our office at 1756 W. Wilson Avenue. Just drop your donation in the box in the front vestibule.

RCC is sponsoring a food drive to benefit local food pantries and hungry folks around our neighborhood. During the month of December we will collect donations of non-perishable foods and present them to the pantries who will distribute them to their clients.

Pathway Senior Living Food Drive

For the month of November Victory Centre of Galewood, part of Pathway Senior Living, LLC will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit Catholic Charities' food pantry. Due to current economic times, supporting our community is more important than ever. Please drop off donations during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., any day of the week, at Victory Centre of Galewood: 2370 N. Newcastle Ave. Chicago, IL. 60707. If you have any questions regarding specific items please call 773-385-5002 or please send an e-mail to snebel@pathwaysl.com.

ST. THECLA CHURCH

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Liturgy of the Hours

Sunday, December 20, 4:00pm

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4:00pm Family Christmas Mass
 Children's Choir

10:00pm (Pasterka) Christmas Eve Mass
 in Polish – Carols begin at 9:30pm

Traditional Midnight Mass-
 Carols begin at 11:30pm

Christmas Day, Friday,
 December 25

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, and 12:30pm
 (in Polish)

St. Stephen's Day, Saturday,
 December 26

12:30pm Mass in Polish

Mary, Mother of God,
 January 1, 2010

(Holy Day of Obligation)
 December 31 - 5:00pm

Mass of Anticipation

January 1 - 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,
 and 12:30pm (in Polish)



Silvesterball at DANK-Haus

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Keeping Christ in Christmas

As we already begin the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Advent, one may expect that the battles will continue: Does your local store allow its workers to say "Merry Christmas" or have they redesignated the season a "Holiday?" Is the "Reason for the Season" still allowed to be part of it?

A British newspaper reported that only one in one hundred Christmas cards sold in Britain contains any religious imagery or message. One card ignored Christmas altogether, wishing the recipient a "Happy December." How much of this political correctness has spilled over to the United States?

How should we respond to the threat? It seems a bit ironic to react with anger or outrage. Any serious celebration of Christmas acknowledges that God brought peace on earth by sending His Son to become part of His creation (Luke 2).

Do we fight to keep Jesus in Christmas? It depends on how we fight. Clearly not with harsh demands, sinful attitudes, or belligerent actions. Our response calls for faithful and bold professing that Christ, the Savior, is born. The test: Are we fighting the "good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12) or simply waging a war for war's sake or, worse yet, our own sake?

Consider the 2006 lawsuit heard by the Supreme Court in which a school system banned nativity scenes because the leaders considered the Christmas tree a Christian religious symbol, just as the menorah represents Judaism and the crescent and star represent Islam. It seems unfair and almost absurd to claim that one thinks of Jesus every time one sees a Christmas tree.

A more pertinent question may be whether we are able to keep Christ in our own Christmas. How strange and ironic it would be if we invested so much energy and money into retaining the name of Christ in our holiday but neglected to see the significance of His birth for ourselves. Indeed, this seems a predictable battle strategy that Satan would employ to turn Christmas on its head: encourage the anxiety and worry that others are driving Christ out of Christmas so that you will invest huge amounts of energy, money, and anger to retaining rightful ownership of the day. How quickly we can lose our perspective on the season.

Perhaps the best way to fight to keep Christ in Christmas is to present our "bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1). Our giving, forgiving, and being patient will be living proof that the Christ of Christmas makes a difference in our lives. By allowing our faith to be part of our daily interaction with others, and by not getting bent out of shape when that which is near and dear to us is attacked, we publicly confess that Christ makes all the difference in the world.

There is quite another aspect to remember when responding to the threat to remove Jesus' name and Christian symbolism from Christmas. While we do not have to roll over and play dead, we can calmly, but firmly and consistently, state our position because we find great comfort in our Lord's promise: "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12). Instead of acting in anger, we remind ourselves that we are blessed. Jesus never expected His path would be easy to follow. Nor should we.

We strive to keep Christ in Christmas. That is basic and the very essence of Christmas. But let us do so in a fitting way. For Christ, the Savior, is born!

Author Unknown

Over 90 Traditionally Decorated Holiday Trees from Around the World

More than 90 Christmas trees, decorated by different ethnic groups of Cook County, will be on display for the public to see this holiday season in the Office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

Viewing of the colorful holiday tree display starts Friday, November 20, 2009, and runs through Friday January 8, 2010. The public is welcome to view the traditional decorated Christmas trees Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL.

Along with the 90 plus Christmas trees is a menorah from the Jewish celebration of Chanukah, a Kinara from the African American celebration of Kwanzaa, a Prayer Thali from the Hindu Faith and a Ramadan Mubarak from Islam. For information about the holiday tree display, phone 312.603.5529 or 312.603.6237. Groups are welcome.



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5:00 pm - Family Candlelight Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service -

Holy Communion

11:00 pm Candlelight Service -

Holy Communion

Christmas Day Worship Service:

Friday December 25

10:00 am - Service -

Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Service:

7:00 pm - Holy Communion

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Best Friends/Companion Pets

Santa Paws

A few years ago I told this story, it was a huge hit; however, it still surprises me that many of you think it is made up. Well, Humans its not! Us dogs have been helping Santa out for ages; we know who has been naughty and nice; so we better get something good for dinner tonight!

Recently I have discovered that many of you don't know the story of Santa Paws, Santa Clause's dog. Everyone knows about his reindeer, so why not his canine friend? So, I am taking this opportunity to share Paws' story.

Once upon a paw, it was a cold and snowy Christmas Eve and Santa Clause was busy making his usually deliveries. As he stopped to check his list he heard a small cry. Santa went to investigate and discovered a tiny white ball of curly fur; it was a poodle puppy. Santa picked up the puppy and instantly saw the mischievous twinkle in the puppy's eyes. Not wanting to leave the poor creature, Santa took him along on his sleigh. Santa quickly discovered that there was something special about this puppy, the spirit and magic of Christmas seemed to be alive in this pup's eye. This pup should have been afraid and concerned, but instead sat upon Santa's sleigh as if he was meant to be there. Santa realized that this puppy was to remain by his side.

Santa often observed the bonds of people and their dogs, after all dogs are mans best friend. So, he decided to let him come home with him and Mrs. Clause. As the puppy, now name Paws because of his big feet, grew it was obvious to all that met him that he was special. He possessed the ability to make people smile and laugh, there was never a creature that he didn't like or who didn't like Paws. Paws seemed to carry that magic of Christmas with him throughout the year! With that magic came the ability to communicate freely with both animals and people.

As time passed, so did the demands for Santa. He was beginning to wonder how he could possibly keep track of all the good or bad children in the world. Seeing Santa's distress got Paws thinking, and then he came up with an idea. However, Paws was uncertain about how to approach Santa. You see, Paws was considered the happy-go-lucky clown of the North Pole and wasn't sure if his idea was even good enough to tell. Mrs. Clause noticed that Paws seemed concerned about something. Paws then told her that he might have an idea to help Santa, but wasn't sure how to tell him. Mrs. Clause then reminded Paws that everyone ideas are important and should be shared, those ideas may not be used exactly but we can always build upon them. With new confidence Paws set out to find Santa.

Paws idea for helping Santa was very simple, he told Santa that they could get the other dogs of the world to help keep an eye on the children in there lives. Santa was thrilled with the new idea and added that we should also ask the cats, birds, snakes, hamsters, and all creatures that have children around to watch them and report back to Santa. Santa was very proud of Paws and put him in charge of communicating with all the pets in the world. Those pets started calling him Santa Paws, the Santa of the animal kingdom! These pets don't just work for Santa, but are rewarded on Christmas day along with the good children.

Santa Paws had helped Santa and to this day continues to be along side his favorite person and help communicate with all pets. So, on Christmas Eve when you here Santa's bells listen closely because you might here the howling of Santa Paws. Also, remember to reward your favorite pet because they have been keeping an eye on you all year and they report directly to Santa Paws! Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Howlidays!

Bosley

Submitted by Bosley's mom, Nicole Carfora, CMG, owner of Canine Corral.



Anti-Cruelty Society

For more info on The Anti-Cruelty Society and our adoption process, please visit our website www.anticruelty.org or call (312) 644-8338.

Are you looking for a love bug? Someone who will adore the ground you walk on and only have eyes for you? Well, if you are, then you have to come meet **Nena**! Nena is a super sweet and very affectionate 10-year old black kitty. Her fur is "bunny" soft and is ohhh so very cuddly. Nena came to the shelter when her owner no longer had time for her -- poor Nena! She is a sweetheart of a girl who would be a wonderful addition to almost any family. Our vets noted that Nena came to us with two broken teeth, which we will gladly remove at the time of Nena's adoption. Other than that, Miss Nena is healthy, happy and ready to purr her way into your heart. Nena loves to be held and cuddled, and promises that you'll never be lonely with her around. Nena will be an absolutely amazing friend and companion -- she is a doll! Please come and meet Nena, she is available for hugs and love at The Anti-Cruelty Society, just ask for Tab Band #690028.



http://www.anticruelty.org/site/epage/36804_576.htm?secomp=317527 For more information about animals available for adoption, please call 312.644.8338 after 11:30 a.m.



Charlie is a cute little guy with lots of energy. He's a 2-1/2 years old Jack Russell Terrier and currently weighs in at a healthy 16 lbs. Happy and social, Charlie should acclimate well to a variety of homes, however, any children in the family should be older. Quality playtime with you will help this little guy burn off some energy and would be a great way for the two of you to spend time together. Charlie is already housetrained and altered and ready to move into his new home today! He's a fun little guy! Hurry on over to The Anti-Cruelty Society and visit Charlie today -- don't forget to mention Tab Band #690009. http://www.anticruelty.org/site/epage/36804_576.htm?secomp=316455 For more information about animals available for adoption, please call 312.644.8338 after 11:30 a.m.

Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

Part 2

by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

Electrical Cords - Electrical cords often seem delectable to many pets, especially cats and young puppies. Chewed cords can cause severe burns and sometimes fatal, electrical shocks. If your pet seems overly interested in electrical cords, string or tape them in a position that is inaccessible to your pet. If that does not work you can cover the cords with hot pepper sauce or use bitter tasting commercial products sold in most pet stores.

Ornaments - Avoid using glass ornaments around pets. They are fragile, break easily and the shattered pieces are sharp. If any of the pieces are swallowed, the glass can puncture the intestines, which could lead to peritonitis and possibly death. Ornament hooks are also very sharp. They can be picked up and swallowed, resulting in gastrointestinal problems such as obstructions and punctures.

Be cautious with 'edible' type ornaments. Sometimes the store-bought varieties may not be edible and contain hardening agents/preservatives that could be toxic. If you make your own edible ornaments, your pet may try to eat them. They may knock over the tree trying to get a string of popcorn or a gingerbread ornament.

The safest ornaments are one-piece, non-breakable and made of non-toxic material. They should be too big to swallow. Also, have them out of the reach of curious beaks, mouths and paws.

Tinsel - One of the most dangerous materials to put on a Christmas tree is tinsel. Animals are attracted to its bright finish and flexibility. Cats are especially attracted to tinsel and if you have a cat, it is recommended that you do not use tinsel on your tree. If your pet eats tinsel, there is a good chance that it will become wrapped around the tongue. As the pet struggles to remove it, the tinsel gets stretched out and wraps even tighter. It can cut sensitive tissues in the mouth and stop the circulation of blood to the tongue. If a strand is swallowed it can bunch up and block the intestine. If this occurs, surgery is usually required to remove it. The best advice is, if you have pets, do not place tinsel on your tree. You may lose the aesthetics of the icicle effect, but your pets will be much safer.

Niles Animal Hospital & Bird Medical Center. 7278 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles

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My Knees are Killing Me: Choosing Rehabilitation Services

Boomers have been on the vanguard of the fitness movement – we always intended to wear out, not rust away. And now, that commitment to fitness may be taking its toll.

Orthopedists agree that they are seeing younger and younger patients seeking knee and hip replacement surgery, often as a result of natural aging coupled with years of vigorous physical activity. When topical creams, over-the-counter medications, and other recommendations by healthcare professionals are not enough, joint replacement may be the preferred method of eliminating pain and increasing mobility.

Rehabbing from Joint Replacement

The good news is that rehabilitation from joint replacement surgery is much easier now than it was years ago. Oh, it's no picnic, that's for sure, but today's rehab can involve warm-water therapy, deep-tissue massage, WiFi, catered meals – and Medicare or personal health insurance usually covers rehabilitation.

The better news is that because joint replacement surgery can be planned to fit your schedule, you can take your time choosing the facility that will oversee your rehabilitation. Your healthcare professional may feel that your rehabilitation can be best handled in a facility dedicated to such care. The physician may offer you a list of rehab centers that meet accepted standards of care. Then, it's up to you. What should you look for?

First, let's think about what will go on during your rehabilitation stay. Specialized physical and occupational therapies are provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis, with the goal of helping individuals reach their highest level of function with daily activities. Rehabilitation locations may be free-standing, in connection with a hospital, or be a part of the continuum of care at a retirement community.

Some rehabilitation centers offer a team of physicians, nurses, and therapists to develop a comprehensive plan for each patient. Physical therapists provide strength training and range-of-motion exercises. Occupational therapists help patients practice daily tasks, like cooking in a model kitchen, or getting in and out of a car. (Some centers have cars inside the building for practice sessions!) Restorative nursing helps maintain the benefits of rehabilitation therapy.

There are rehab centers that focus on building relationships between therapists and patients – setting up a team assigned to a patient throughout their stay and for all outpatient therapy that continues after discharge. The thought is that a team that works with a patient day after day can better assess the progress being made and whether any adjustments are needed in approach.

Questions To Ask at the Rehab Center

Take the time to visit two or three rehabilitation centers prior to your scheduled surgery, and ask friends and trusted counselors for their input about local rehab facilities. These centers should be happy to give you a tour and answer questions about your care. Their approach and physical setting are important to the success of your rehabilitation.

During the visit, are you comfortable with what you see and hear? Trust your own good judgment. Be ready to ask some key questions, either in person or on the phone. Some might include:

Does Medicare or my insurance cover this stay?

Do we need to make any special admittance arrangements?

Will I be seeing my own doctor or a new one?

If it's a new doctor or a medical director, how often is this person in the center?

Will I be working with a regular team of therapists? Is the team experienced in treating my condition?

Is there an individual treatment plan for each patient? Who is responsible for monitoring the plan?

Has the center or team demonstrated success in treating my condition, including successfully discharging patients back into the community?

Does the staff understand family concerns? Is the location close enough for family members to make regular visits?

Does the center have medical support in case of a complication or new illness?

Will the equipment used in rehab be fitted to each individual patient?

Is the program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and/or the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)?

Does the center offer support groups for patients and/or families?

Rehabilitation can be a slow and difficult process, but patients in rehab often build rapport with other patients and begin to encourage one another. Choose a rehabilitation center that is reputable, makes you feel comfortable and, if at all possible, is close enough for your family to be supportive.

By Theresa P. Paulin, Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, Illinois;
847-866-1643



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Family Feud- Don't Let This Be Your Legacy



Chester M. Przybylo

Few things are as heart-wrenching as a dispute among family members. We expect family to be a place of love and relative harmony in our often-tumultuous world. Even the thought of such a horrible occurrence may be unsettling.

But, problems in an estate or trust can often cause deep divisions in a family, divisions that outside forces might never have been able to cause. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King's children, ended up in litigation shortly after Coretta's 2006 death. The Kings' three surviving adult children, Dexter, Bernice and Martin Luther III, fought for control of their parents' financial and historical legacy, including love letters and rights to the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The fight was exacerbated by the fact that Martin left Dexter as his executor while Coretta left Bernice as her executrix. While the King children reached an out-of-court settlement in 2009, only they know the depth of the remaining animosity over the long family feud. It is certain that the Kings never had a dream that their children would end up in a bitter estate dispute after their deaths.

Unfortunately, the Kings are not the only ones who have left a legacy that included an estate dispute. Countless estates are disputed each year, in and out of court. These disputes do not just occur in the families of the rich and famous, though those disputes are more publicized. What can you do to preserve the harmony in your family in passing on your legacy? Here are 5 easy steps you can take:

- **Plan Professionally.** Your legacy is important. Be sure to engage a qualified estate planning attorney who focuses his or her practice in estate planning. Such a professional can design a well-coordinated plan that considers all your assets and wishes.

- **Choose Wisely.** When planning your estate, you will need to choose people to make decisions for you in case of your incapacity and regarding your legacy after your death. Consider the skills and relationships of the individuals involved. For example, do not choose more than one person to manage your Trust or estate unless you know they can work together.

- **Communicate with Your Family.** While your death may come as a surprise, your wishes should not. Surprises in your estate plan increase the chances that your legacy might include a bitter dispute. Open, honest communication about your wishes during your life may be the best way to achieve and maintain lasting family harmony after your death.

- **Consider a No Contest Clause.** A "no contest clause" disinherits anyone who challenges your wishes as set forth in your Will or Trust. Such a clause can be a powerful deterrent to family-destroying estate litigation and shows that you are serious about your desire to maintain family harmony.

- **Keep Current.** Make sure you keep your estate plan current. Otherwise, people whom you intend to benefit might be excluded unintentionally, disrupting family harmony and prompting a family feud.

When families feud, there are no winners, only losers. Be sure to follow the steps above if you have a dream of family harmony that continues long after your death. Your family needs your help and planning in order to achieve that dream.

Chester M. Przybylo has been elected to the Board of Governors of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and has been engaged in the practice of law for the last 40 years. For more information or to attend an upcoming seminar, call (773) 631-2525.

QUIGLEY INTRODUCES BILL TO SUPPORT VETERANS SEEKING TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION

Speeds up processing of GI Bill benefits, prohibits schools from denying vets access until account is paid in full by VA

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) introduced a new bill to prevent veterans from going into debt in order to pay tuition while waiting for their GI Bill education benefits to come through. H.R. 4279, the GI Bill Accelerated Tuition Payment Act of 2009, establishes an accelerated payment plan for eligible veterans receiving GI Bill benefits and stops educational institutions from denying veterans the opportunity to start classes prior to receiving full payment.

Today, many veterans who enroll in a business, technical or vocational school, community college, college or university are faced with the problem of paying for their tuition, fees and living stipends prior to the start of classes due to the processing time of the GI Bill educational benefits. A recent Military Times article reported that there are still 26,000 veterans now in college that are still waiting to receive their living stipends and book allowances under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"The brave men and women of our military spend years on the front lines, directly in harm's way but far from their loved ones," said Congressman Quigley. "My legislation will ensure that no veteran must sacrifice any further, especially in an effort to continue his or her education."

Under Quigley's bill, upon receipt from the educational institution of a valid enrollment and established charges, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would have 14 days in which to make payment. His legislation also forbids any educational institution from denying any eligible veteran from attending classes prior to the receipt of payment of GI Bill education benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, including tuition, fees, and other allowances. Additionally, the legislation provides each educational institution the right to hold the veteran's grades or refuse to transfer credits until such time as any remaining debt is satisfied.

"The commitments made by our veterans represent the highest form of patriotism and service, and we must do everything we can to provide them with support and recognition as they transition back to life at home," added Quigley.

Quigley also recently introduced a resolution with the full support of the Illinois delegation to honor and welcome home the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Illinois National Guard. The 3,000 brave soldiers of the 33rd IBCT represented the largest overseas deployment of Illinois guardsmen since World War II.

Quigley will be urging House Committees to consider H.R. 4279 as soon as possible.

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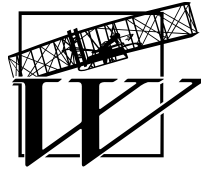
LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

St. Edward School Top Performers in Academic Events!

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl team who represented St. Edward at Notre Dame High School for Boys in October. Our team won first place over six other schools from far north side and 17 teams overall! Congratulations to team members Killian White, Ryan Greene, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Luis Rentas, Daniel Paredas, Patrick Alicante, and Michael Prostran.

The team of Killian White, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Michael Prostran, Ryan Green and Patrick Alicante competed at St. Ignatius High School along with 22 other schools. We are very proud to say that St. Edward took first place at the event!

Kudos also goes to our 8th grade girls math team who took first place at Notre Dame High School for Girls on Saturday, October 24. This team included Caroline Asplund, Selena D'Agostino, Dana Carrao, Anna Gianni, Jacqueline Stasinios, Sophia Lamperis, and Jamie Wright. Individual trophies were also awarded to Anna Gianni who won sixth place and Sophia Lamperis who took fourth place. Way to go kids!



Wright Spring Schedule Available Online

The spring course schedule for Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., is now available online and registration is open for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 19. The full spring schedule can be found at wright.ccc.edu. Printed copies are also available at Wright.

New students must register in person in Room A120. On-campus registration hours for the open-admissions two-year college are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. On-campus registration is closed the week of Dec. 20. Returning students can register online at my.ccc.edu or by phone at (312) 553-3450.

Wright tuition is just \$79 per credit hour for Chicago residents, so a typical three-hour course costs just \$237 plus fees and books. Financial aid is available. Attending the first two years of college at Wright can cut the cost of a four-year degree by thousands of dollars.

For further information on Wright's credit program, call (773) 841-8200.

All Alumni of St. Hyacinth

All Alumni of St. Hyacinth please contact us because we need your information! If you haven't done so already please email our Director of Development, Tatyana Rodriguez, at trodriguez@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org, call us at 773-342-7550, or mail your information to 3640 W. Wolfram Chicago, IL 60618. All we need is: Name; Address; Phone number; email; year graduated; updates about yourself and what you are doing now (family, career, etc).

There will be an all school reunion June 2010. If you would like to know how the school is doing our first issue of the Alumni Newsletter will be out very shortly. Keep your eyes opened for it!



Top Medals Won at Science Olympics

St. Paul Lutheran School, 5650. N. Canfield Ave., had forty-six of its students participate in Science Olympics at Concordia University, River Forest on Saturday, November 7th. This was Concordia University's 12th Annual Science Competition with 14 schools and over 250 students from 4th-8th grades participating in the events.





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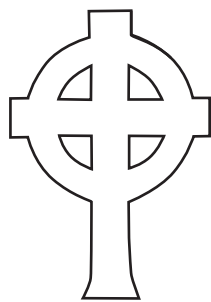


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Free Health and Wellness Series

The Academy St. Priscilla at Divine Savior is hosting Free fitness and health information programs. The programs will be held in our school hall on Wednesday mornings.

January 6 at 9:30 a.m. - Brooks Watson with Safety Squad - Child Safety and SIDS

Please call the office to reserve your spot or for more information about the upcoming programs, at (708) 452-0323

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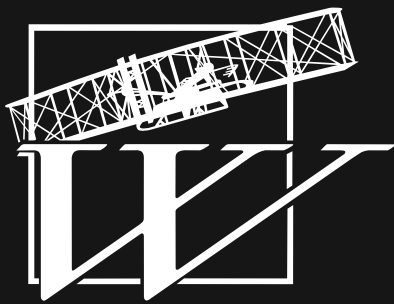
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Register NOW - January 16

Spring 2010 classes begin January 19



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| ■ Pork Shanks | ■ Fresh Fish of the Day |
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Holiday Hours:
 Dec. 24: 11 am - 5 pm
 Dec. 25: Closed
 Dec. 31: 11 am - 5 pm
 Jan. 1: Closed