



OUR VILLAGE



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Volume XIV

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Issue 1
February 19, 2010

THE CITY OF CHICAGO CELEBRATES IT'S 173RD BIRTHDAY!

Are you a fan of the City of Chicago and Punk Rock Pastry? Then come celebrate Chicago's 173rd birthday (we know...we don't look a day over 156) at the Chicago History Museum on March 4, 11am-12:30pm and enjoy a free piece of cake, created especially for the occasion by the Bleeding Heart Bakery (1955 W. Belmont). If you share a birthday with Chicago, you are entitled to a special certificate signed by the Mayor.



THE McCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK IN MILLENNIUM PARK CLOSSES FOR THE NINTH SEASON ON Sunday, March 14, 2010

Michigan Avenue Ice Rink Offers Free Admission For Skating
The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park will remain open through Sunday, March 14, 2010, weather permitting. The rink, now in its ninth season and drawing more than 100,000 skaters annually, is free and open to the public. Skate rental is available for \$10. The ice rink is located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets.

Regular hours for this season are as follows:

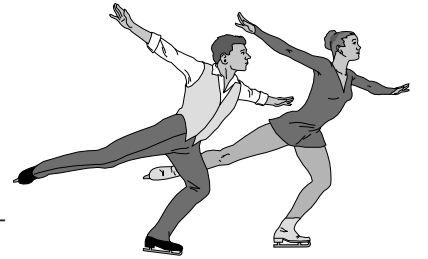
Mondays—Thursdays: 12 pm — 8 pm

Fridays: 12 pm — 10 pm

Saturdays: 10 am — 9 pm

Sundays: 10 am — 9 pm

The ice rink is just one component of the 24.5-acre Millennium Park, which has welcomed more than sixteen million visitors since opening in July 2004. Among Millennium Park's other prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture.



For more information about events in Millennium Park during the winter months, visit www.millenniumpark.org, or call 312.742.1168.

FREE - WORKSHOP TO APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

35TH WARD REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION, WALTER ZARNECKI COMMITTEEMAN, INVITES ALL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN RE-ASSESSED.

WHERE: St. Hyacinth Basilica School Cafeteria in Resurrection Hall
2845 N. Lawndale Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618

WHEN: Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 7:00 p. m.

Members of the Cook County Board of Review will assist you. Bring your Assessment or property tax bill.

Polish and Spanish interpreters provided.

State Requires Calculation Increase in First Installment for New Property Tax Bills

Due Date is March 2, 2010, for New Property Tax Bills

The state of Illinois has mandated a change in how First Installment property tax bills for tax year 2009 are calculated, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

Bills for about 1.7 million parcels of real estate across Cook County have been mailed, and payment is due March 2, 2010, Pappas said. Late payment receives a penalty of 1.5 percent per month.

Pappas said that the new bills are the first affected by a law passed by the Illinois Legislature ordering that the First Installment be calculated at 55 percent of the previous year's property tax obligation. The calculation rate had been 50 percent for previous First Installment bills.

The remaining property tax obligation for tax year 2009 will be calculated in the Second Installment bill later this year. Pappas said that due date cannot be determined until other agencies review some 400,000 assessment appeals.

If that appeals process is delayed, the Second Installment due date could be as late as December, 2010, or January, 2011, according to projections during county budget hearings in the fall.

Property owners can visit cookcountytreasurer.com and enter their Property Index Number to see how much their current bills are, whether they have received proper exemptions, and whether they are due a refund.

Payment info also is available at 312.443.5100 in English, Polish and Spanish.

Pappas said payment can be made:

- Electronically, at cookcountytreasurer.com.
- At any of more than 370 Chase Bank locations.
- From personal accounts at some 220 participating community banks.

Saturday, March 6

6:30 to 11:30 pm

Guerin Prep High School
8001 W. Belmont, River Grove
presents



entertainment raffles food & drinks
Chocolate Room
Vegas-Style Games
Comedy Club
auctions
Beatles-tribute band, Cavern Beat

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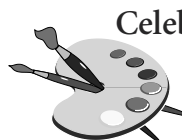
Alderman John A. Rice,
36th Ward

Bradley A. Stephens,
Mayor, Village of Rosemont

Skokie Art Guild's 2010 Members' Only Spring Exhibit "Nature's Palette"

Friday, March 12 through Tuesday, April 27
Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street, Skokie

Opening Reception
Friday, March 12 7:00 – 9:00 PM



Celebrate nature with an evening of original Art

Meet the Artists

Refreshments will be served.

All are welcome.



Skokie Art Guild is an affiliate of the Skokie Part District.
More Info: Skokieartguild.org

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers Health Programs

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison St., Chicago, will offer the following health events.

Free **blood pressure screenings** will be offered Monday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

The **Arthritis Support Group** will meet Thursday, February 25, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required.

The **Diabetes Support Group** will meet Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. These free sessions are tailored for adults who have Type 2 diabetes and focus on the emotional side of diabetes, allowing participants to share coping strategies, feelings and problems in living with diabetes. For further information about the Diabetes Support Group, call 773-794-8329.

Cholesterol screenings will be conducted Wednesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. A 12-hour fast is required for this blood draw that will test for total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL and LDL. Test results will be mailed. There is a \$15 fee payable at the screening. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

A free lecture titled **"Dealing With Memory Loss"** will be offered Thursday, March 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Get answers to key questions regarding natural aging, Alzheimer's disease and other memory loss issues from our Memory Disorder Center experts: medical director Prasad Chappidi, M.D., neurologist; Anna Maria Wegierek, PsyD, clinical psychologist; and Mary Brown-Walker, A.P.N., advanced practice nurse and certified nurse practitioner. The team will discuss signs and symptoms of memory loss as well as what is involved in a comprehensive assessment and treatment of individuals dealing with memory loss. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

Free parking is available in the hospital's parking facility on Addison Street.

CITY REMINDS BUSINESSES BPA ORDINANCE IS IN EFFECT

The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection is reminding Chicago businesses about an ordinance that went into effect Sunday, January 31, 2010 that restricts the sale of any container designed to be filled with food or liquid to be used for a child under the age of three that contains Bisphenol A.

What is Bisphenol A

Bisphenol A, commonly abbreviated as BPA, is a chemical that is produced in large quantities used primarily in the production of certain types of plastics.

What is Restricted?

Selling bottles, cups, sippy cups, or any other container designed to be filled with food or liquid, intended for a child under the age of three, that contains BPA, in the City of Chicago is not allowed. In addition, selling these items will require a label indicating that the item is free of BPA.

When does the ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance went into effect on Sunday, January 31, 2010.

What are the fines for violating this ordinance?

Businesses found selling products containing BPA face Administrative Hearing citations, violations and or fines. 1st offense: \$100-\$300; 2nd offense: \$300-\$500

Businesses with questions may contact the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection at 312-74-GOBIZ (312-744-6249) or visit www.cityofchicago.org/bacp To file a complaint, consumers should call 311

A Cell Phone That Reads; The Chicago Lighthouse Is An Official Dealer of the knfbReader

Available through The Chicago Lighthouse, the knfbReader Mobile is a cell phone which enables reading for the blind, visually impaired, and even people with learning disabilities.

The knfbReader Mobile is produced through a joint venture between Kurzweil Technology Inc. and the National Federation of the Blind. Supported through the Nokia N82 cell phone, the technology recognizes photographed text, converts it into digital text, and then reads it back to the user. By simply taking a picture of the text, the user is able to have any text, even U.S. currency, read back and magnified on the screen with each word highlighted as it is being read. Specific settings, such as book, article, label, billing, etc. may be selected and the speed and voice of the playback can be changed to accommodate the preference of each user.

Tom Perski, director of rehabilitation services for the Lighthouse, stated that "this device has the potential to drastically improve education for many students." "Diagnosed with macular degeneration during my college years, I can't even imagine how much the knfbReader would have made my studies easier, more efficient, and a lot more enjoyable" stated Perski.

Along with its reading ability, the knfbReader has functions, like any other cell phone, such as contacts, calendar, full web browser, email, media player, etc. Talks or MobileSpeak accessibility software may be purchased to make it easy for visually impaired individuals to navigate through these functions by speaking the menu and command options aloud.

"The technology is simply brilliant. It's a versatile, multifunction tool which can reduce stress and make life a lot easier for a great number of people" noted Dr. Janet Szlyk, executive director of The Chicago Lighthouse. "The knfbReader is a much needed, high tech option to assist with reading on the go. It can significantly increase success at school and work for people living with visual impairment. We are thrilled to provide such a convenient, breakthrough product to our consumers."

KnfbReader's hardware, Nokia N82, comes equipped with a 5-megapixel, autofocus camera with xenon flash. The model comes with 50 Mb built-in memory and has a memory card slot which can store up to 500 images per GB of card storage space. Text, media, and Adobe PDF files can be transferred to and from a computer, or Braille note takers, through the USB port. For an additional cost, GPS software may be purchased to provide turn-by-turn directions.

"It's everything you could possibly need; make a call, send an email, listen to music, and read a book" stated Perski, also adding that "if you do not want to sign up for the cell phone plan, you can still enjoy the reading function."

To obtain the knfbReader Mobile, contact The Chicago Lighthouse Store at 312/997-3685 or visit www.thechicagolighthouse.org

Founded in 1906, the Lighthouse is one of the nation's most comprehensive social service agencies. Housed under its roof are the oldest and most prominent low vision clinic in the U.S.; one of the few remaining clock manufacturing facilities in America; a nationally acclaimed school for children who are blind with multi-disabilities; a VA program serving veterans in all 50 states; and a radio station.

BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS OFFERED THIS SPRING

The Chicago Park District is partnering with May I Have This Dance Inc. to offer ballroom dance classes for adults this spring.

Each park will offer two different dance classes back-to-back during a four-week session. Each class is one hour. Registration fees for adults are as follows:

-\$40 per person for one class with at least 5 days advanced registration; \$45 for late registration.

-\$75 per person for two consecutive classes with at least 5 day advanced registration; \$80 for late registration.

Participants can register by mailing a check including name, address, phone, e-mail and the date, location, and title of the class enrolling to: May I Have This Dance Inc., 5246 N Elston Ave., 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60641. Additional information is at 773-635-3000.

Following is the schedule of dance classes:

Revere Park, 2509 W. Irving Park Rd., 773-478-1220

Thursdays, April 1-22

7 p.m. – Ballroom Dance Basics Don't be left out at the next wedding, event, or party. Be the life of the party on the dance floor. Meet other people with this active and healthy activity while you learn dances like the waltz, fox-trot and tango. No partner necessary as the class rotates.

8 p.m. – Salsa Dance Basics Salsa is hot all over the world. Come see what you've been missing. Instructors make learning very easy and fun. No partner? No problem as the class rotates.

Thursdays, April 29 - May 20

7 p.m. – West Coast Swing Basics Learn the hot, contemporary, funky and smooth style of swing that is sweeping the nation thanks to pop culture. Come discover what the excitement is all about. No partner necessary as the class rotates.

8 p.m. – Salsa II Participants must have taken salsa basics or an equivalent. This class teaches new moves and improves basics to enhance movements. No partner necessary as the class rotates.

For more information on the Chicago Park District, contact your local park, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312-742-PLAY. For more information on May I Have This Dance, call 773-635-3000.

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Guerin Prep Hosts Third Annual Big Event

Guerin Prep High School's third annual Big Event on Saturday, March 6, 2010 offers entertainment, food, Vegas style games and more.

The event, open to the public, will be held at the school, 8001 W. Belmont Av., River Grove, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Adults can play Texas Hold 'em, roulette and other Las Vegas-style games in one area or dance the night away to jazz and Beatles music. The event brings back the ever-popular chocolate room and an expanded Comedy Club, featuring local comedy star Roxy Bellows, aka Pat Musker, a 1975 graduate of Mother Guerin High School.

Guerin Prep's outstanding Jazz Band will accompany an alumni dance competition in addition to providing Big Band music for everyone to enjoy in the school's gym. The Cavern Beat, a look-alike Beatles Band featuring Armando Regalado, former Guerin Prep's theology teacher, will follow and rock the gym till closing time.

"We had more than 600 people each of our first two years. The word is getting out and we are excited to welcome everyone from the neighborhood," said Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, SP, vice president of advancement. "Our parents, alumni and staff are all working together to pull out the stops. We have everything to keep you entertained and well fed. In addition, there are fabulous items that have been donated by local businesses for our raffles and silent auction."

The school's foyer will be transformed into a mini Las Vegas with poker, blackjack and other games under direction of the Athletic Boosters. People who only want to visit this venue pay no admission fee.

"In addition to some terrific raffle and silent auction items, we will have a big raffle. First prize is \$5,000 cash, second is a vacation in Sanibel Island off the coast of Florida and third is a electronics item from Best Buy," explained Janis Ryan, special events coordinator.

Guerin Prep faculty will host the now traditional chocolate lovers' room, located in Café Guerin, where Synchronicity, Guerin Prep's select string ensemble, will provide music to eat by. Food donated and prepared by local restaurants and caterers will be available in abundance. All food and desserts are included in the ticket price. Cash bars will be available throughout the event.

This year, several alumni have joined companies as sponsors. Alumni include Terry Malik '69, Sam Palumbo '72, and Roy McCampbell '72, all graduates of Holy Cross, one of Guerin Prep's foundation schools. Business sponsors include LaSalle Capital Group, Winston & Strawn, LLP, High Ridge Partners, Greenola, Neighbors Newspaper, First Security Trust and Savings Bank, 36th Ward Alderman John A. Rice, Manor Press, and Rosemont Mayor Bradley A. Stephens. Additional sponsors and benefactors are being sought.

Details about The Big Event are available at www.gpbigevent.com. Tickets are \$40 per person in advance or \$50 at the door. They may be purchased online or by calling Janis Ryan at 708-437-4734. There is no charge for admission to the Vegas-venue only.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Annual Fund of Guerin Prep High School, helping to keep tuition affordable for all who wish to attend. Guerin Prep is a Catholic college preparatory secondary school for young men and women.

Cuts in Transit Service will have Serious Implications on Those Who Rely on it Most

Our economy relies on reliable, affordable and accessible transit options. We call on our leaders to find permanent solutions to both the operating and capital needs that our transit agencies face. It is not enough to simply repair and maintain existing services. We need resources to create a world-class transit network that is truly reliable, affordable, fast and convenient.

"Any cuts in service will affect those most in need, which is why we encourage those who can to continue supporting and taking transit," said Active Transportation Alliance Executive Director Rob Sadowsky.

Cuts and fare increases will have serious impact on transit users:

A large number of transit riders have alternatives that will lead to increased congestion and carbon emissions. Transit works best when it is the most convenient and affordable option.

Night shift workers will have fewer and less convenient options if bus routes start later in the morning and stop earlier in the evening. This will have an impact on our economy.

Cutting express buses makes it more difficult for people to get to their destinations quickly. Transit works best when it is fast and convenient.

We understand and appreciate that local transit agencies are in a difficult position. The economy contributed in a major way to the proposed service cuts and fare increases. Last year right before the economic downturn, the state approved a new source of transit funding: Chicago's real estate transfer tax. This action was a great step toward improving transit funding. However, home buying rates have dropped, drying up this new revenue source. As a result, transit agencies are now using their capital funds for operational costs.

The proposed service cuts are solutions for a short-term problem. We are hopeful that once the economy turns around and the transit funding sources expand, transit will recover. And we recognize and appreciate that our local agencies are trying to make the best possible decisions about how to manage this economic challenge.

The Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit, member-based advocacy organization that works to make bicycling, walking and public transit so safe, convenient and fun that we will achieve a significant shift from environmentally harmful, sedentary travel to clean, active travel. The organization builds a movement around active transportation, encourages physical activity, increases safety and builds a world-class transportation network. Formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, the Active Transportation Alliance is North America's largest transportation advocacy organization, supported by more than 6,000 members, 1,000 volunteers and 35 full-time staff. For more information on the Active Transportation Alliance, visit www.activetrans.org or call 312.427.3325.

Better Business Bureau 2010 Census Tips for the Public

For years, the Better Business Bureau has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

"Most people are rightfully cautious and won't give out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, however the Census is an exception to the rule," said Steve J. Bernas, president & CEO serving the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois. "Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data for the Census and take advantage of this opportunity by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information."

How to Identify a Census Field Representative

If a U.S. Census Bureau employee knocks on your door, here are some recognition tips to assure the validity of the field representative:

The field representative must present an ID badge that contains a Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date. The field representative may also be carrying a bag with a Census Bureau logo.

The field representative will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the Regional Office phone number for verification, if asked.

The field representative will provide you with a letter from the Census Bureau Director on official letterhead.

When Field Representatives will be Going Door-to-Door

From April to July 2010, the Census Bureau will knock on the door of every household that does not mail back a completed 2010 Census form.

It's critical that you take just 10 minutes to fill out and mail back your form rather than wait for a census worker to show up on your doorstep. About \$85 million in taxpayer dollars are saved for every one percent increase in mail response.

The Census Bureau must get a census form to - and a completed form back from - every residence in the United States. That's more than 130 million addresses. This is why the census is the largest domestic mobilization our nation undertakes.

What the 2010 Census DOES NOT Ask

Field representatives will never ask you for your social security number, bank account number, or credit card number. Census workers also never solicit for donations and will never contact you by e-mail.

The Census is Safe

The 2010 Census will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home - just 10 simple questions that will take about 10 minutes to answer.

Your answers are protected by law and are not shared with anyone.

The Census Bureau safeguards all census responses to the highest security standards available.

For more information about the Census visit www.census.gov/2010census

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“A Theater Review”

“Master Harold ... and the Boys”
TimeLine Theatre
615 West Wellington Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

For the third production of the season TimeLine Theatre is doing a three-person play by Anthol Fugard – Tony award winning play, “Master Harold and the Boys.”

The play runs one hour and forty minutes and the time flies by. Fugard is also being showcased at the Remy Bumpo Theatre in the Greenhouse with their production of “The Island” and then Court Theatre will do a production of Fugard’s “Sizwe Banzi is Dead.”

The 2010 theatre season is presenting some excellent dramas, comedies and musicals and yet some theatre critics look to find minor flaws such as the age of an actor to have negative things to say because they feel that makes them a critic.

Jonathan Wilson has put together a strong cast for this show and those three actors are Daniel Bryant as Willie, Alfred H. Wilson as Sam and Nate Burger as Hally.

Fugard was born in South Africa in 1932 so his subject matter is universal in themes, humanity and unforgettable dialog. The play takes place during the 1950’s era of apartheid.

The story deals with a white seventeen year old and two black workers he has known all his life and their story connects in the restaurant the boy and his parents own on a rainy day. We see from their wide-ranging discussions what unites us and what still divides us.

The play is considered to be a personal play in his attempt perhaps, to forgive his past behaviors and reconcile with his family and friends since it draws heavily from his childhood. The play takes place in the St. George’s Park Tea Room.

Hally not only has a problem with his parents but the two workers he has in his control.

The show is engrossing and well acted by the cast of three.

“Master Harold ... and the Boys” runs through March 21st. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 773-281-8463. Tickets are a mere \$25 - \$35.

- Four Stars -

“Hughie”/“Krapp’s Last Tape”
Goodman Theatre
170 North Dearborn St.
Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Chicago audiences can shout for joy that legendary actor Brian Dennehy loves working in Chicago theatre, the Goodman Theatre and being directed by Robert Falls.

The actor is appearing in two one-act plays by two different playwrights who are Eugene O’Neill and Samuel Beckett. The two one-act plays are “Hughie” by O’Neill, and “Krapp’s Last Tape” by Beckett.

The show runs two hours with an intermission. “Hughie” is being directed by Robert Falls and “Krapp’s Last Tape” by Jennifer Tarver. The show was scheduled to run until February 21st but has been extended until February 28th before heading to New York.

“Hughie” is a two-character play and the action takes place in a run-down flea-bitten hotel. Dennehy has the role of Erie and Joe Grifasi has the role of the night clerk. Erie is a gambler who has lousy luck and who does most of the talking. The name of the show is the name of a dead man who was the former night clerk and his funeral has affected Erie. Dennehy gives a strong performance and one for which you’ll end up giving him a standing ovation.

Beckett’s play is mainly done in pantomime and as most of Beckett’s plays are a strange one but then so is “Endgame” and “Waiting for Godot.”

The show opening the second act is a black room with a single lamp above the desk. Knapp keeps his favorite food locked in his desk and when he opens the desk we see him indulge in his bananas. He seems to enjoy playing his tapes to listen to himself. We find Knapp fancied women but could never commit to them. A brilliant performance in both one acts by a strong character actor who is big in stature.

“Hughie” and “Krapp’s Last Tape” runs through February 28th. For show schedule and performance times as well as reservations call 312-443-380. Tickets are \$25 to \$83.

-Three Stars-

Kino Kaffee und Kuchen at DANK Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The DANK Haus in historic Lincoln Square celebrates the 20th Anniversary of its Kino Kaffee und Kuchen program in 2010. The program began in response to the end of German film screenings at the Davis Theater 4614 N Lincoln Ave.

For two decades, dedicated volunteer Hans Lohr has spent Saturdays wrangling formats from 8mm reels to betamax tapes to PAL to DVD’s. The programming entertains approximately 50 people each week, largely senior citizens and those seeking German language exposure. More than just a movie, Kino Kaffee und Kuchen opens its doors at Noon, serving rich Austrian coffee and delicious cakes from Schlegl’s while patrons mingle. Erwin Lickmann greets each guest exuberantly at the door with his rich voice and twinkling eyes be they a regular or a new face. The film selections are drawn mainly from the Heimat genre, characterized by sweeping Alpine landscapes, pretty girls, handsome boys and bouncy songs.

The event is held Saturdays September through June. Doors open at Noon. Vorfilm at 1:00pm. Feature at 2:00pm. Admission free. Coffee and cake \$6 for the public \$4 for members.

DANK-Haus German American Cultural Center 4740 North Western Avenue, 5th floor, Chicago, IL 60625, 773.561.9181 www.dankhaus.com

Direct from Austria – Willi Resetarits and the Stubnblues Allstars

The DANK Haus in historic Lincoln Square hosts Austrian Star Willi Resetarits and the 4 piece Stubnblues Allstars interpreting a wild mixture of folk music, Wienerlieder (traditional Viennese ballads), Jazz and Blues as Stubnblues. Willi engages the audience in English between selections with explanations of the Viennese dialect lyrics. The performance will be set intimately to keep the interaction high.

Stubnblues? In 1994, Willi Resetarits started what has become Stubnblues. It’s music far beyond blues. It’s funk. Samba. Folklore. Soul. Viennese songs. It’s poems and stories. Back in the day, a Stubn was the only heated room in the house. It was the place where people gathered, ate, talked and sang. Stubnblues is not afraid to deal with troublesome issues; with something not being right, with failure, pain and miscommunication. Still all the while, there’s beauty, hope and joy to it.

To draw a group of this caliber is entirely due to excellent collaboration with the Austrian Consulate General Chicago who is also underwriting the project, keeping admission low in order to provide quality cultural programming to a large audience.

In addition to performing with his band, Resetarits is a human rights activist and one of the founders of the humanitarian organizations “Asyl in Not” and “SOS Mitmensch.” He has made frequent appearances on Austrian TV and in film productions.

The event is Saturday March 27, 2010 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are only \$5.00. Please reserve your place. Refreshments available.

DANK-Haus German American Cultural Center 4740 North Western Avenue, 5th floor, Chicago, IL 60625, 773.561.9181 www.dankhaus.com

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Local Arts and Entertainment

CULTURE SHOCK HEADLINES WINTER HIP-HOP DANCE PROGRAM FEBRUARY 28 AT SOUTHPORT PERFORMING ARTS CONSERVATORY

Chicago's Culture Shock Dance Troupe, a not-for-profit professional hip-hop dance company and youth outreach organization, headlines an all hip-hop/bread dance program at 3 p.m., Sunday, February 28, 2010. The all-ages afternoon performance will be held at the Southport Performing Arts Conservatory (SPACE), 3433-35 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago. The program will also feature performances by Hypnotik and student dancers ages 7-9 from SPACE's innovative B-Boys Break Dance class. A \$4 donation is suggested for the performance. For more information call 773-463-1200 or visit www.southportarts.com. The presentation is part of SPACE's new Salon Series.

"We are excited to present to Chicago audiences this performance featuring some of the top and up-and-coming hip-hop and break dance artists," said Altin Naska, SPACE artistic director. "This performance is held in an intimate setting and is a wonderful opportunity for audiences to see such a truly innovative, exciting and American art form."

The Chicago Culture Shock Dance Troupe was founded in 1998 and has performed throughout the Chicago area as well as touring to Washington, D.C.; San Diego; and Atlanta. The group has performed at Chicago largest dance festival, DanceChicago as well as performing in front of thousands at the KISS FM pre-show prior to the Justin Timberlake concert and at Chicago Bulls games.

Hip-hop dance group Hypnotik was founded in 2004 at Northside College Prep. Specializing in exploring different aspects of the movement, Hypnotik focuses on self-expression and creativity through dance.

Chicago's SPACE is a European-style performing arts conservatory that provides instruction in music and dance. Founded in 2005, SPACE has fueled the artistic dreams and aspirations of hundreds of artists from ages pre-school through adult. SPACE provides personalized instruction for all levels of artistic ability and offers a large range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program.

Dedicated to expanding the beauty and love of the performing arts to students in the Chicago area, SPACE's Community Engagement Program is available to all public and private schools from Pre-k through high school. SPACE's specially designed Community Engagement Program meets the Illinois Board of Education's performing arts standards.

SPACE has two Chicago locations at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., 773-880-1701, and at 3433 W. Peterson Ave., 773-463-1220. For more information about SPACE, please visit the website at www.southportarts.com

CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Skokie Art Guild's 49th Annual Art Fair. July 10-11, 2010. Fine Art. Held downtown Skokie on the Village Green, 5211 Oakton (next to the Library). Prizes and Awards! APPLY NOW! For information/application: skokieart@aol.com www.skokieartguild.org 847-677-8163.

The City of Evanston is seeking artists for its two summer arts festivals, the Ethnic Arts Festival, July 17-18, and the Lakeshore Arts Festival, Aug. 7-8. Set against the scenic backdrop of Evanston's lakefront, both festivals are held in Dawes Park, Church St. and Sheridan Road.

Artist applications for both festivals are now available online at www.cityofevanston.org/arts. For more details, call 847-448-8260.

The Theatre School at DePaul University's New Directors Series Presents Stephen James Anderson's Production of THE THREE MUSKETEERS

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents THE THREE MUSKETEERS, by Alexandre Dumas, adapted by Ken Ludwig, and directed by Stephen James Anderson, as the final installment of the 2009-2010 New Directors Series. The production opens Friday, February 12, and runs through Sunday, February 21, 2010, at the Greenhouse Theater Center.

Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on February 10 and February 11 at 7:30 PM.

This unhinged new version of the classic swashbuckler follows the renowned adventures of D'Artagnan and his three musketeer-mentors, as they fight with courage for king and country while distracted by spirits, sex, and song. Anderson's direction of this extraordinary quest will be sure to have audiences shouting "All for one, and one for all!" Admission is FREE but reservations are recommended. Call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

New Directors Series productions are directed in partial fulfillment of the Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing at The Theatre School. THE THREE MUSKETEERS serves as Stephen James Anderson's MFA thesis project, after three years of production practice and training in order to fulfill his degree requirements. To learn more about Anderson's past projects, The New Directors Series, or the MFA Directing curriculum, please visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>.

The Greenhouse Theater Center is located at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., in Chicago. The theatre is accessible via public transportation, and street parking is available. For more information please contact the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

The James Downing Theatre on will present THE FANTASTICKS

Saturday, March 6th through Sunday, March 28th, 2010, at the John Waldron Arts Center housed at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays. Doors open 30 minutes before show time.

The musical, with book and lyrics by Tom Jones and music by Harvey Schmidt, broke all records with a run of more than 41 years off-Broadway, between 1960 and 2002, and was revived almost immediately for Broadway. A timeless tale of young love, feuding families and the challenges of growing gardens and growing up, the show features a memorable score, from "Soon It's Gonna Rain" to "Try to Remember."

The production, directed and choreographed by Micah Fortenberry, includes cast members: Greg Foster and Shannon Regan as the young lovers, Matt and Luisa, Matthew Petersen and Kate Comegys as their parents, Jason Jackson as El Gallo, Mark Brewer as the Mute, Ben Muller as Mortimer and Sean Thomas as Henry. Fortenberry and pianist Kevin Reeks share duties as co-musical directors. Lighting design is by Steve Kedzierski and costume design is by Margret Ebert. Joshua Dlouhy is the producer.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens and students. A Group Rate of \$13 per ticket is available for reserved groups of 10 or more. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly suggested. Tickets can be purchased online with a credit card at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/97851>, or reserved by phoning (224) 72-JDOWN or e-mailing jamesdowningtheatre@gmail.com. In your voice-mail or e-mail message, please provide: your first and last name; the day and date of the performance you'd like to attend; the number of tickets you'd like reserved (specify how many adult and how many senior or student tickets); your complete phone number and/or your e-mail address. Only cash or checks are accepted at the Box Office.

For more information, visit our website at jamesdowningtheatre.typepad.com.

SKOKIE ART GUILD 2010 Members' Only Spring Exhibit "NATURE'S PALETTE"

Friday, March 12 through Tuesday, April 27 Emily Oaks Nature Center 4650 Brummel Street, Skokie

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, March 12, 7-9 PM. Celebrate nature with an evening of original Art. Meet the Artists. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. More info: Skokieartguild.org

Gallery North Shore: Modern Sophisticated Art for the Home or Executive Suite

Featured Artist: Frank Kimovec

Frank, born and raised in Chicago, started his art career in stained glass with his artworks displayed in municipal buildings and even taking first place in competition as far away as California. "I absolutely love glass as a medium to display the power and purity of color," says Frank.

However, Frank felt limited in his creativity and moved on to a variety of art forms to include abstracts, oils, and pastels. His studies were not limited to the U.S., but included travels around the world to thirty-five countries on six continents, and especially to his homelands in Austria and Slovenia. "My observations around the world, whether it was a photo safari in Africa, on the Great Wall of China, visiting the Vatican, climbing the Triglav in Slovenia, vacationing in Hawaii, touring around Greece, having lunch in Point Barrow...plus...all the drinking, were all greatly influential. But my art studies with family in Austria, were key in what I do today in my oils. But lets be clear, I dislike brush techniques, and prefer using knives as much as possible. Someone said that I just like to slather paint...but...it's good slather, if I say so myself."

And what about all those abstracts? "As with my previous experience in glass, it appears that I have a talent in getting color to explode off the canvas and leave the eyes wanting."

But when queried about his techniques further, Frank refuses to reveal them and cryptically responds with, "ancient Viennese secret." Whether he is completely serious or just joking, Frank seems to be always working underground, and sightings are rare.

However, recently, around Chicago, Frank's work has been featured exclusively at Gallery Cabaret, and as part of the Norwood Crossing Art Fair. "Next year, I would like to do some of the bigger fairs downtown, but I'm looking forward to a long vacation in parts unknown and that always takes precedence... What can I say? I really don't care if I sell anything or not. I do artwork to elevate the mind. Forget the artworld politics and the so-called 'juried' process. You like what I do or you don't. Because in the end, it's on your wall. Isn't it better to look at something beautiful and inspiring? Ugly art, even as an investment, not for me."

Anything else? "Yes, the fun part of my art work - the abstracts, that is - is that you can turn them any way you want - sideways, up-side-down - it's your choice and it's what you see. If you don't like the name, retitle it, untitle it, I don't care. But whatever you do, if you don't have any imagination, don't buy it. Leave it to someone who does."

LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

GUERIN PREP NOLAN SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Nolan Scholar students at Guerin College Preparatory High School took their case to the Illinois State Bar Association's High School Mock Trial Program Jan. 22 at the R.J. Daley Center.

Students acted as attorneys and witnesses in this program, which teaches about the American justice system. The Illinois State Bar Association has sponsored the mock trial program for high school students annually since 1984. This year's mock trial was based on the facts in a hypothetical case Logan Lovell vs. Pat Sainsbury, a civil case involving two teenage drivers involved in an automobile accident.

The 10 Guerin Prep students involved are second year students in the Nolan Scholars Program, a new academic program that began at Guerin Prep last year. The themes for the sophomore Nolan Scholars are the law and medicine.

The mock trial experience includes presenting both sides of the legal question. Volunteer judges and attorneys evaluate students on their arguments and students must also take a written test about the issues of the case.

Teams of seven are fielded to play the roles of the plaintiff, defendant, witnesses (fact and expert) and attorneys representing each side. The attorneys are expected to try the case according to the rules of evidence, including presenting opening statements, examining and cross-examining witnesses, making appropriate objections, presenting closing statements on behalf of the team's fictitious client.

"This certainly has been an opportunity for our students to learn first-hand about the legal system, and to familiarize students with the law and courtroom procedures," said Mrs. Karin Calandriello, director of the Nolan Scholars Program.

"They have been a hard-working, dedicated and talented group of students who have spent countless hours, including weekends and after school time, to develop their critical thinking skills, knowledge of the law and team camaraderie," explained Calandriello. "It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with these scholars, along with their two dedicated lawyer mentors."

The students have been practicing with Mr. Jaime Santana, the father of a freshman Nolan Scholar and private attorney. He has served as the litigation counsel. Mrs. Sharon McFadden, chairperson of the Guerin Board of Directors, also a private attorney, is the advisory attorney.

The students involved are Sophomores Melissa Cwyrus, Paula Kopec, Iwona Lazarz, Vanessa Negron, Melanie Niepsuj, Margaret Obacz, all of Chicago; and Kim Bianco of Melrose Park, Molly Campbell of River Grove, and Jenna Zacharias of Elmwood Park; and Freshman Jaime Santana, Jr., of Chicago.

"We began with 19 students and simple exercises," explained McFadden. "We built on the exercises and practiced out loud at every session. As time went on, certain students began molding to the various roles we needed and soon we had the 10 most interested, most willing to work on the competition—these 10 students became a cohesive unit."

McFadden continued, "At our dress rehearsal, I could hardly believe my eyes. Each of the student 'lawyers' not only looked like a newly licensed attorney, but also sounded like one too. The 'parties' and the 'witnesses' were also grown-up and professional in each of their roles. When our practice trial began—it was like the real thing."

"These students have matured before our eyes. I don't know who learned more—the students, the teacher or the coaches—but, we sure had a great time," said McFadden.

In all sixteen teams competed Jan. 22; four teams were selected to go onto the finals Jan. 23 at the Dirksen Center.

The regional contact for the mock trial is Kim Anderson kanderson@illinois-lawforyou.com. Donna Schechter is the state mock trial coordinator, dschechter@isba.org.

GUERIN PREP STUDENTS EARN ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLAR RECOGNITION

Twelve students at Guerin Prep are among the more than 19,000 high school students from approximately 700 state high schools who have been named Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognized Guerin Prep seniors Jonathan Cabai, Brad Erlenbach, Therese Golemo, Natalie Gwizdz, Elisa Juliano, Klaudia Kupinska, Rebecca McManamon, Megan Romberg and Rachael Santos, all of Chicago; Adam Larson of Elmwood Park; Rachel Holowicki of Franklin Park; and Taylor Greene of River Grove.

State scholar winners rank in the top 10 percent of high school seniors. Selection is based on achievement test scores (ACT) and/or class rank.

St. Paul Lutheran School Community Night

St. Paul Lutheran School will host a Community Night on Friday, February 19th from 6:30-7:30pm. Students in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will display and present information about community vehicles, businesses and occupations. Local business partners will be on hand to share facts and answer questions. Come learn more about our community and all of its great resources. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event for all ages. For more information view www.stpaulwildcats.org or call Jennifer Graf at 708-867-5044. St. Paul Lutheran School is located at 5650 N. Canfield Ave.

FUNDING, ADVOCACY PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN BIKING/WALKING SAFETY, REPORT FINDS COLD CLIMATE DOESN'T INFLUENCE COMMUTERS' DECISIONS TO WALK, BIKE

More balanced funding formulas would drastically improve the safety and convenience of biking and walking in Chicagoland, according to a report released this week by the Alliance for Walking and Biking. The report also identifies the role advocacy organizations play, and it dispels theories that a cold climate deters biking and walking.

Bicycling and Walking in the United States 2010 Benchmarking Report, found that cities that invest more dollars per capita in biking and walking see higher levels of biking and walking, and they rank higher in bicycle/pedestrian safety. See the report here: <http://www.PeoplePoweredMovement.org/benchmarking>.

In Chicago, more than 30 percent of all traffic fatalities are bicyclists and pedestrians (28.5 percent are pedestrian and 3 percent are bicyclist). Yet, Illinois is spending just 1 percent of its transportation dollars on bicycling and pedestrian funding, the report found. That translates to only \$.08 per capita.

Illinois as a whole doesn't fare much better: 12.3 percent of all traffic fatalities are pedestrian, according to the report. Illinois Department of Transportation data reveals that more than 6,000 people are hit in crosswalks every year. That translates into more than 170 deaths and more than 1,000 serious injuries.

Only 1.2 percent of federal transportation dollars are spent on bicycling and walking. While 10 percent of trips in the United States are by bicycle or foot, bicyclists and pedestrians make up more than 13 percent of traffic fatalities, the report found.

The Active Transportation Alliance is urging leaders to correct the major funding gap.

"Cities flourish when more dollars are dedicated to biking and walking," said Rob Sadowsky, Active Transportation Alliance's executive director. "We continue to see the strong connection between funding and bicycle/pedestrian safety, and we call on our leaders to fix the disparity as quickly as possible."

OTHER FINDINGS

Weather is not a major influencer on whether people choose to walk or bike. One example is Minneapolis, which has higher rates of cycling than Chicago, but much colder annual temperatures. Minnesota spends twice what Illinois does, Minneapolis has more full-time advocacy staff than Chicago, and Minneapolis has installed 15,000 bicycle parking spaces— including spots at 100 percent of Minneapolis schools, public parks, and post offices.

The report finds a positive correlation between advocacy organizations and walking and biking levels. Major walking and biking cities all have a significant advocacy capacity: Active Transportation Alliance in Chicago, Transportation Alternatives in New York City, Cascade Bicycling Club in Seattle and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

Biking to work: From 1990-2007, levels increased 315 percent. That is only second to Portland, which increase by 348%. Chicago ranks 12 among major cities for levels of biking to work. That is up from 17 in 2007.

28.5 percent of all traffic fatalities in Chicago are pedestrian. That is higher than the average 25 percent

3 percent of all traffic fatalities in Chicago are bicyclists.

12.3 percent of all traffic fatalities in Illinois are pedestrian.



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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

TAP INTO SAP AT THE NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER'S MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL MARCH 20 - 21

Discover how sap is tapped from maple trees at the Maple Syrup Festival at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Road on Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No registration is required and the event is free for all ages.

During the two-day festival visitors can enjoy music and storytelling throughout the day, try tapping a tree, watch the sap boil and sample fresh maple syrup fresh off the fire. There will be guided nature walks to the "sugar bush" where visitors will learn more about the tapping process and enjoy maple tree tapping folklore.

Elementary school children from throughout the city who participate in North Park Village Nature Center programs start planning for the Maple Syrup Festival in mid-February. The school children help prepare for the 2-day event by tapping into Sugar Maple trees to release the flow of sap with hand drills, spiles and buckets. More than 1,000 children and families visit the Nature Center in February to learn about both the ancient and modern processes of syrup making. Approximately 50 trees in the nature preserve will be tapped to collect the watery sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.

North Park Village Nature Center is the city of Chicago's first nature center, and just one of the Chicago Park District's 56 nature areas. Visitors to these special places will discover a variety of opportunities to explore nature with its vast array of lagoons, wetlands, prairies, woodlands, river edges, bird sanctuaries, dunes and wildlife gardens. The North Park Village Nature Center's nature preserve is open seven days a week, year round. Admission is free.

Skokie's St. Peter Catholic School Hosts Annual St. Particks Day Party and Silent Auction

will take place on March 13, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the auditorium. Music will be provided by Velvet Green and dances will be performed by the famous Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance. There will be a silent auction and a raffle with a \$1000 first prize. Dinner will be a choice of corned beef and cabbage or chicken accompanied by a cash bar. All proceeds will benefit St. Peter School. For more information, please call 1-847-673-0918.

Wright Film Series to Examine Men, Power

Men and power will be the topic of Wilbur Wright College's Film Discussion class this spring, which meets for five weeks starting Feb. 25 at the college, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave. Some of the movies to be discussed include "Citizen Kane," "On the Waterfront" and "Dr. Strangelove." The classes will explore the positive and negative expression of the men in film. Also, various types of power will be discussed, such as religious, racial and sexual expressions of power.

The course meets on five consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is only \$45. The fall film discussion covered women and power. For registration information, call (773) 481-8800. Returning students can register online at my.ccc.edu. First-time student must register in person in room A120. For more information about the class and a complete list of films to be covered, contact Prof. Michael Petersen (773) 481-8583.

The Sauganash School PTA just had a great Casino Night thanks to many of our readers.

Those who were "donating by gambling" included: Lin Brehmer, Lisa & John Fleming, Margy & Tony Heinrichs, Tom & Kevin & Jim Kessler, Amy & Costa Lallas, Geraldine & Eamonn Lally, Renee & Joe Merkel, Jane Powers, Tracy & Steve San Roman, Judy & Brian Waddick.

Special thanks go to Andrea West for all her assistance.

Facets' Kids Film Camp - Summer Program

Full & Half Day Sessions NOW AVAILABLE for All Ages! July Session ADDED for Ages 7-10!

Does Your Child LOVE Movies?

Don't miss out on the ONLY summer camp where kids 7 to 14 learn to critique, write and create films just like the pros! Facets Kids Film Camp (formerly Young Chicago Critics) gives kids a foundation in the technique, grammar and process of film production. Using innovative team teaching approaches, teachers, filmmakers and critics involve kids in what it takes to create a film.

Application Deadline: April 30

Session 1: Half Day June 23 - July 2 Cost: \$325

Ages 11-14 meet 9am-12:30pm

Ages 7-10 meet 2pm-5:30pm

Session 2: Full Day July 12 - July 16 Cost: \$450 (lunch included)

Ages 11-14 meet 9am-5pm

Session 3: Full Day Cost: \$450 (lunch included)

July 19 - July 23

Ages 7-10 meet 9am-5pm

10% discount available for Facets Members!

Facets Kids Film Camp gives kids a real foundation in the technique, language and process of film making. Using expert instruction, professional filmmakers and respected critics involve kids in what it takes to understand and create a film.

Now in its 10th year, Facets Kids Film Camp gives kids who LOVE movies a chance to understand filmmaking from behind the scenes. Instruction includes:

- The basics of filmmaking techniques, including camera angles, shots, lighting, sound recording, acting style, screenwriting, storyboarding, directing and film vocabulary.

- A foundation in film theory and criticism.

- Dozens of hands-on activities including: storyboarding, screenwriting, acting, writing reviews and making a movie.

Facets Kids Film Camp is the summer youth program of the year-round Facets Film School, developed by Facets Multi-Media, a leading, national, non-profit film organization, and producer of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. Now in its 27th year, the Festival is the ONLY Academy Award qualifying children's film festival in the world and the largest festival of children's films in North America.

Renewable Energy Series Offered at Wright

An ongoing Saturday series on renewable energy systems offered through the Wright Sustainability Center will cover basic and advanced "green" technology information for homeowners and businesses.

The sessions are tailored for various knowledge levels and areas of interest: Basic Solar and Wind on Feb. 20 and April 17; Advance Photovoltaics on March 6; Solar and Wind for Small Business on March 13; Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship on March 20 and Advanced Thermal on March 27. All sessions start at \$59 each. Except for the March 13 sessions, all sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room S-247 at the college, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave. The March 13 sessions are separated into a solar session from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a wind session from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The sessions are being offered through a partnership with the Illinois Solar Energy Association. Wright's Sustainability Center is one of four centers that is part of the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network and the only such center in Chicago.

For more information or to register, go to www.illinoisolar.org/events or call (773) 481-8535.

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and

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

Guerin Prep Joins the Fight Against Cancer with Kick-Off for Relay For Life

Using Glo Sticks, music and dance, inspirational speakers and informational sessions on cancer prevention and healthy lifestyles, the Guerin Prep High School Community Feb. 11 kicked off its participation in this year's Relay For Life, an event created by the American Cancer Society.

The Guerin Prep team, to be comprised of students from the Nolan Scholars Program, will participate in the Relay that is being sponsored by the Elmwood Park and River Grove communities June 25.

The Guerin Prep student team with other teams created from the community will camp out at Elmwood Park High School and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team must have a representative on the track at all times during the event, and because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

According to the American Cancer Society, the Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease.

Karin Calandriello, director of the Nolan Scholars Program at Guerin Prep, chose the Relay as a focus for this year's Nolan Scholars Program both for its educational and service components.

"One of the themes for the second year of our Nolan Scholars Program is medicine. Working with the local American Cancer society, we were able to put together information sessions on health issues, especially as they relate to cancer, from which all our students benefitted," explained Calandriello.

These sessions included gender specific presentations provided by local experts on healthy living, men and women's cancer concerns, sports' safety and sun safety. A general session offered anti-tobacco and anti-alcohol information. Carmen Carrizales, the Health Initiatives Representative for the American Cancer Society's West Cook Area Office, has been working with Calandriello and others to plan the program.

Following the information sessions, the Nolan Scholars provided an upbeat assembly for the student body with the theme, "Defeat It!" to raise awareness and introduce some creative ways to raise money to fund Guerin Prep's participation in the Relay.

Guerin Prep principal Tony Tinerella has challenged the school community to raise \$1,500 by March 1. If they do, he will have Jack Eichstaedt, the dean of students, shave his hair off in front of a school assembly as a sign of solidarity with all the cancer patients who lose their hair as a result of their cancer treatment.

Each member of the Relay team must raise at least \$100 in order to participate. Typically a team is made up of 15 members.

"There is probably no family in our school, or in society as a whole for that matter, who has not been affected by cancer. We couldn't find a more worthy cause to which to dedicate our energy and our money," said Calandriello.

A special guest at the kick-off assembly was Guerin Prep graduate Michael Scrivens '08, who was diagnosed with Leukemia during his senior year. Scrivens, whose cancer is in remission, is currently studying to be a paramedic.

St. Edward School News

McNulty/Kelly Corned Beef Dinner!

Come on out for some traditional Irish fare to kick off the month of March! The annual McNulty/Kelly Corned Beef Dinner will be held on March 7, 2010 from Noon to 5 p.m. The event will be held in Buckley Hall and the proceeds will go toward scholarships for eighth graders moving on to a Catholic High School.

Prices for the meal are \$10 for a full corned beef dinner and \$5 for a kid's meal or corned beef sandwich. The festivities will feature traditional Irish entertainment, including Irish Dancers and bagpipers. Food is also available for take-out. Contact Kathleen Mulcrone for more information at 773/282-5626.

Big Red Auction

Many exciting prizes will be on the live and silent auction block at St. Edward's annual "Big Red Auction." Each year proceeds from the auction will help St. Edward School continue its commitment to providing a quality Catholic education to area children.

The gala will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. until Midnight in Buckley Hall – the school gym – at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue (one block north of Montrose at the corner of Lowell).

Closing times on bids will be staggered during the evening. A cash bar and complimentary heavy hors' d'oeuvres will be available. Dancing and a DJ begin at 8:30PM and the dress is casual.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Partygoers must be 21 to attend. For more information, call the school at 773/736-9133.

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!

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CHILDREN & TEENS

Captain Underpants Party. Mar. 4, 7 p.m. Celebrate author Dav Pilkey's birthday with a favorite character event complete with underwear games and toilet paper activities!

Register with Lincolnwood Library's Youth Services Department, 847-677-5277 x234 or youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Afterschool Café. Mondays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Students of all ages can buy a snack and relax before tackling homework.

Acting Class. Mondays through April 12, 2 p.m. Games, skits, bit parts and more "acting out" for students in 3rd-5th grade, directed by Debbi Brodsky. Possible show in April. Register with Lincolnwood Library's Youth Services Department, 847-677-5277 x234 or youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Stories & More. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Children ages 3-5 enjoy language-rich activities including fingerplays, songs, and crafts during each 45-minute session. Siblings welcome.

Beginning with Books. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Stories, songs, and activities for infants to 2-year-olds and a caregiver. Families are welcome to stay for Playtime program that follows.

Monday Movies. Films for children on selected Mondays after school, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 22: "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs."

Playtime at the Library. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. A friendly, social time for young children, ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Toys and snacks are provided for the children.

Chick Lit. Feb. 24, 3:30 p.m. Girls, grades 6 and up, who love to read and chat are invited to join a book discussion. Contact Lincolnwood Library's Youth Services Department for more information (847-677-5277 x234 or youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org).

Chess Club. Sundays, 3-4:30 p.m. through Mar. 7. Students in grades 1-6 are invited to learn chess, improve skills, and play against others.

This-N-That Thursdays. Feb. 25, 3:30 p.m. Video games for 3rd-5th graders. Totally Teen Tuesdays. Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. Video games for grades 6 and up.

Knitting for All Ages. Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. Adults and children, ages 10 and up, can learn to knit or work on a project.



St. Thecla's Blarney Bash



Saturday March 6th

Cocktails 6pm - 7pm

Buffet Dinner 7pm - 8pm

Entertainment 8pm - Midnight



Music
by
Joe Cullen

Tickets
Pre-Pay = \$40
Seniors = \$35
At the Door = \$45

Contact:

Kathy Borner borner@sbcglobal.net

Pat Staunton - 773-320-5114

Don Kottl - 773-930-4030



Using Natural Methods to Minimize Pain

with Julie Domagalski L.Ac., Dipl. O.M., MSTOM, Certified Reflexologist

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2010 Time: 11:00 AM Registration suggested.

Roden Branch Library, 6083 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60631, 312-744-1478, www.chicagopubliclibrary.org

A traditional Chinese medicine practitioner teaches that good health is a result of a free-flowing, well-balanced energy system. It is believed that herbal remedies and the regular practice of holistic relaxation exercises helps to relieve pain, restore energy, and helps individuals maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. In this workshop, participants will learn about the Eastern methods of pain relief, including acupuncture, natural balms and linaments and the practice of Qi Gong.

National Study Recognizes Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center for Clinical Excellence Three Years in a Row

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison, Chicago, is among the nation's top five percent of hospitals with risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates associated with patient outcomes, according to a new study released by HealthGrades®, an independent health care ratings company. The hospital ranks among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation for overall clinical excellence, having received the HealthGrades 2010 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™. This is the third consecutive year that Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center received this award.

On average, patients treated at hospitals in the top five percent for overall clinical excellence are 29 percent less likely to face in-hospital mortality and nine percent less likely to suffer from an in-hospital complication than patients treated at other hospitals, according to the study.

"We are pleased to be known as a distinguished hospital and ranked among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation," said Ivette Estrada, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center. "For the third consecutive year, this independent study illustrates our commitment to clinical excellence as physicians, nurses and staff work collaboratively in caring for patients and their families. Our greatest satisfaction comes from delivering exceptional patient care for a healthy community."

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center is one of 269 hospitals nationwide, one of 22 hospitals in Illinois and one of seven hospitals in Chicago to receive the 2010 Distinguished Hospital Award.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center also received HealthGrades 2010 five-star ratings, the highest level for successful patient outcomes, in eight clinical areas: heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture repair, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (lung disease), gastrointestinal surgeries and procedures, gastrointestinal bleed, sepsis, and respiratory failure.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center also ranks in the top ten percent of hospitals in the nation for critical care (third consecutive year), pulmonary care and gastrointestinal care, having received 2010 HealthGrades Specialty Excellence Awards in these clinical areas.

For more information, visit olr.reshealth.org/caring.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Latin Elegance Dance Workshop

Move those hips and improve your Latin dance styling in the Rumba, Bolero and Cha Cha. Begin with the foundation of these dances in the first segment and progress to more advanced moves. Beginners, stay for the second segment and use that time to practice and get additional help. Then you can join us two weeks later for our Social Dance Night. For more information, contact www.TinaMangosDance.com.

Day/Date: Wednesday * March 3 7:30 – 9:15pm

Ages: 16+

Location: Lincolnwood Community Center * 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue

Fee: \$12 Lincolnwood Resident; \$15 Non-Resident

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

2010 US Census

According to the 2000 Census, 15% of all Americans consider themselves German or 42.8 million people.

The 2010 Census is upon us - you can participate by :

1. Taking the time to participate in the census (and tell them you are German!)
2. Work for the Census. Walk in testing is available at the DANK Haus at 10am and 12:30 pm

Payscale between \$16 and \$19, flexible hours, paid training.

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773.561.9181 www.dankhaus.com

Liberty Bank for Savings Announces New Personnel Changes

Recently, Liberty Bank for Savings has made several personnel changes. Foremost, it named Joseph J. Moravecek its new Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer. Moravecek, 63, has been with Liberty for 35 years and has served as Accounting Manager, Controller, Senior Vice President, Treasurer and, most recently, Chief Financial Officer.

Moravecek graduated from Lewis University with a Bachelor's Degree in accounting. He is also a Certified Financial Planner and, prior to joining Liberty, served as an auditor with Ernst and Young. Moravecek volunteers his time at Lutheran General Hospital and resides in Niles with his wife of 18 years, Michelle.

Liberty named Steven E. Stock its new Chief Financial Officer, replacing Moravecek. Stock, 60, has been in the banking industry for over 25 years, with extensive experience in many aspects of finance. Stock has served as Senior Vice President and CFO for several banks in the suburbs of Chicago throughout his successful career.

Stock graduated from Bradley University with a Bachelor of Science in 1971 and received his Illinois CPA Certificate the following year. He resides in Northbrook with his wife and son. Stock also has two rescued greyhounds and serves as Treasurer of Grace Lutheran Church.

Liberty also named Kurt Kluever its Vice President of Retail. Kluever, 60, joined Liberty in June 2009 and has been in the financial industry for over 35 years. Kluever has worked in both marketing and retail for several banks throughout the Chicagoland area during his career.

Kluever received his Bachelor's of Science from Northern Illinois University and is a State of Illinois Life and Health Insurance License holder. He resides in Palos Hills with his wife Christine and is involved in Kiwanis Club, amongst other activities.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrates its 112th anniversary in 2010. For more information call 773.489.4471 or visit www.libertybank.com.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Tibetan Alliance of Chicago

Although Losar (Year of the Male Iron Tiger 2137) falls on February 14, 2010, the Tibetan Alliance of Chicago is hosting an event filled with traditional Tibetan dance, music and food for our American friends and supporters on February 20, 2010 (Saturday) at 6:00 pm at the Tibetan community center.

2422 Dempster Street, Evanston, IL Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Suggested donation: \$15.00 at the door. (Dinner included)

Many of you have donated money for the upkeep of our Community Center. Others have volunteered to tutor our children in Math and English as a part of ACES (Alliance for Cultural and Educational Support) Program, which is funded by one very generous anonymous donor. Still others have stood with us in front of the Chinese consulate to protest the Chinese government policies in Tibet. We are both inspired and touched by your support.

While thanking you for your generous donation to us this year or in the past, we take this opportunity to request you, if you wish to donate, to make checks payable to Tibetan Alliance of Chicago. Please feel free to visit the Community Center any Sunday.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you this Losar at the Community Center on February 20, 2010.

Tashi Delek, Tenzin Jamyang, President.

Tibetan Alliance of Chicago, Inc., 2422 Dempster, Evanston, IL 60202, Ph: (847) 733-1111, Email: info@tibetan-alliance.org, www.tibetan-alliance.org

Free Income-Tax Preparation Available at Wright

Free income-tax assistance is available at Wilbur Wright College on Saturdays through April 10 to help local families and individuals maximize their tax refunds. Trained volunteers from Ladder Up's tax-assistance program will be at Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays, except March 6 and April 3. Spanish and Polish translators will be available. This free tax-filing service is available to families who earned up to \$45,000 in 2009 and to individuals who earned up to \$20,000 that year.

Ladder Up can also help filers submit their tax return electronically for free and obtain a tax refund in about two weeks, avoiding high-interest tax anticipation loans that slash refunds.

Ladder Up volunteers help tax filers obtain all the deductions and tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can mean hundreds or thousands of dollars in a tax refund. Tax filers should bring their tax documents, such as W-2s and 1099s, and identification, such as Social Security cards and ITINs for all family members. The service is confidential.

Ladder Up is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that recruits and trains professionals from the area's top accounting, law and financial service firms to provide free tax preparation, financial aid form and banking services.

For more information about additional locations and program requirements, please visit www.goladderup.org or call (312) 466-0771. Prospective clients can call the tax program at (312) 409-1555.

Sandwich Generation Needs to Avoid Financial Squeeze

Are you a member of the “Sandwich Generation”? This designation — which applies to people caring for their aging parents while supporting their own children — may be applicable to you if you’re either a younger Baby Boomer, born in the late 1950s or early 1960s, or an older member of “Generation X,” born in the mid-1960s. But any way you slice it, being in the “Sandwich” group is probably going to present you with some challenges, particularly of the financial kind — so you’ll need to make the right moves.



Neil Gardner

Basically, you should consider two areas of decision-making — those affecting the future of you and your children and those affecting your elderly parents’ lifestyle and legacy.

Regarding your future, and that of your children, you’ll need to prioritize your goals. Some people, when weighing the merits of investing for retirement versus saving for their children’s college educations, conclude that while loans are available for college, none are offered to retirees. Consequently, they focus more heavily on retirement. If you’re in this camp, you’ll probably want to contribute as much as you can possibly afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

However, if you feel strongly about helping your kids go through college relatively debt-free, you may want to explore some college-savings options, such as Section 529 plans and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, both of which offer significant tax advantages.

In any case, these goals don’t have to be mutually exclusive — but if you’re going to address them both, you will have to make some key decisions regarding allocation of resources. And while you’re handling these issues for yourself and your children, you’ll need to juggle the needs of your elderly parents. With luck, you won’t have to contribute financially, but you may be required to put in some time and energy to help make sure your parents’ situation remains positive.

This means you’ll need to ask some questions. Where do your parents bank? Do they have a brokerage account? If so, do you know the name of their financial advisor? Have they taken steps to remain financially independent if they ever need to go to a nursing home or employ home health care assistants? Have they drawn up a will, a living trust or other estate plan documents? Would they be willing to have you or another family member assume power of attorney should they become incapacitated?

In raising these questions, you will have to approach your parents with tact and sensitivity. However, you may be pleasantly surprised at your parents’ willingness to talk about these issues; after all, they almost surely want to avoid burdening you with extra financial responsibilities.

The best time to approach your parents is when they are healthy, both mentally and physically. It’s especially important to be aware of even minor-seeming cognitive impairments, such as memory lapses, which can result in paying the same bills two or three times, forgetting to record checks or even falling prey to fraudulent investment schemes. If you suspect your parents may be having these troubles, you’ll need to step in immediately.

It’s not easy being a Sandwich Generation member, but through diligence and proper planning, you should be able to help avoid getting “squished” — while improving the outcomes for all your beloved family members.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Neil Gardner is a financial advisor with Edward Jones, 9175 Gross Point Road, Skokie, IL 60077, 847-933-9845.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Your Party Place – Lincolnwood Community Center Available for Rent

The Lincolnwood Community Center is part of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Lincolnwood. We serve the community’s recreational needs by offering various programs in our facility. However, when we’re not serving the recreational needs of the community, we would like to make our Community Center available for rent to, businesses, individuals and families of Lincolnwood as well as those living nearby.

It is important for us to serve the public’s recreational needs, but it’s also important to assist families in attaining an affordable space to hold all types of functions, from birthday parties, bat/bar mitzvah parties, family reunions/celebrations, annual holiday parties, wedding engagements, retirement parties, to classroom enrichment programs and more.

We can fulfill almost every need of the community with our list of amenities including: round or rectangular tables, banquet chairs, kitchen, TV, podium, coffeepot, tablecloths and more. If you have a specific need that was not mentioned in our amenities list, talk to our staff to see if other arrangements can be made.

Availability is based upon seasonal Parks & Recreation Department programs and previously scheduled rentals. Stop by our facility, located at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue in Lincolnwood, for a tour of the building, to inquire about availability, or to pick up a renter information packet detailing prices, policies and procedures. Or you can contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740 for more information.

CJE SENIORLIFE NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR HOME REPAIRS FOR OLDER ADULTS

CJE SeniorLife is now taking applications for home repairs through its Small Accessible Repairs for Seniors (SARFS) program. Funded through a grant from the Chicago Department of Community Development, the program provides home repairs to older adults within the city limits of Chicago.

To qualify for this assistance, individuals must be 62 years of age or older, own their own home or condo, live in Chicago Wards 50, 49, 48 or 46, and fall under the income guidelines per household: one person, \$42,200 annually; two persons, \$48,250; three persons, \$54,250.

For those households meeting eligibility criteria, SARFS pays for all costs related to the approved repairs, both materials and labor. Included in the repairs covered by the program are installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, hand-held fire extinguishers, safety and enabling devices such as grab bars and handrails in stairways. Security issues are addressed with door, lock, window and glass repair or replacement, as well as tile floor replacement in kitchens and bathrooms. Bathroom modifications include sink, faucet, vanity and toilet replacement, as well as hand-held showers and shower benches installed.

The SARFS coordinator will assist with the application and documentation process, as well as coordinate the repairs from the evaluation of the home, determining the needed repairs, scheduling licensed/insured city approved contractors and final inspection. For questions or to submit an application, call 773/508-1000 and ask for the Home Repair program.

CJE SeniorLife is an innovative provider of community-based and residential programs, and services for older adults throughout the Chicago area. Over the past 38 years, CJE’s wide range of services has grown to include assisted living, counseling and care management, long-term skilled nursing, Alzheimer’s care, home health, wellness programs and much more. CJE is a partner in serving the community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation. For more information about CJE services, call 773/508-1000 or visit www.cje.net.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Join the Lincolnwood Social Club (55+)

Are you tired of staying home? Would you like to do fun and exciting things? Do you want to make a few new friends? Then why not join the Lincolnwood Social Club 55+. You do not have to be a resident of Lincolnwood to join. We go to exciting places every week in addition to the numerous special events held at our Community Center. Give us a call and find out what we are all about, our number is (847) 677-9740. This is one phone call you won’t be sorry that you made.

“Even though my children are a thousand miles away, my family is right here.” - Robineau resident



Robineau Residence

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Other services available through CJE SeniorLife

Rent subsidized through HUD’s Section 8 Program,
plus monthly service fee

Immediate openings!

For an application or to schedule a tour, call 847.675.8580

cje SeniorLife

CJE SeniorLife is a partner in serving our community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation. 773.508.1000 www.cje.net



St. Hyacinth Basilica Parish School Science Fair Winners

Catholic Schools Week was great success for St. Hyacinth Basilica School, and on February 04, 2010 we hosted our annual Science Fair to showcase all the hard work and dedication our students have done. We are very proud of our students and their hard work! They planned, created experiments, and competed amongst other students in the school grades 5th to 8th.

Congratulations to the 2010 St. Hyacinth Basilica School Science Fair Winners

1st Place: Amanda Perez, 6th Grade and Zachary Utterback, 7th Grade

We are also very proud of Zachary Utterback for collecting \$20.00 for Haiti victims for doing his Science Project on Earthquake Intensity.



1st Place Winners: Amanda Perez, 6th Grade; Zachary Utterback, 7th Grade

2nd Place: Gregory Skora, 8th Grade and David Velasquez, 7th Grade
3rd Place: Stefanie Anderson, 6th Grade and Robert Wojcik, 7th Grade
Honorable Mention: Alex Herrera, 8th Grade and Olga Solonowicz, 8th Grade

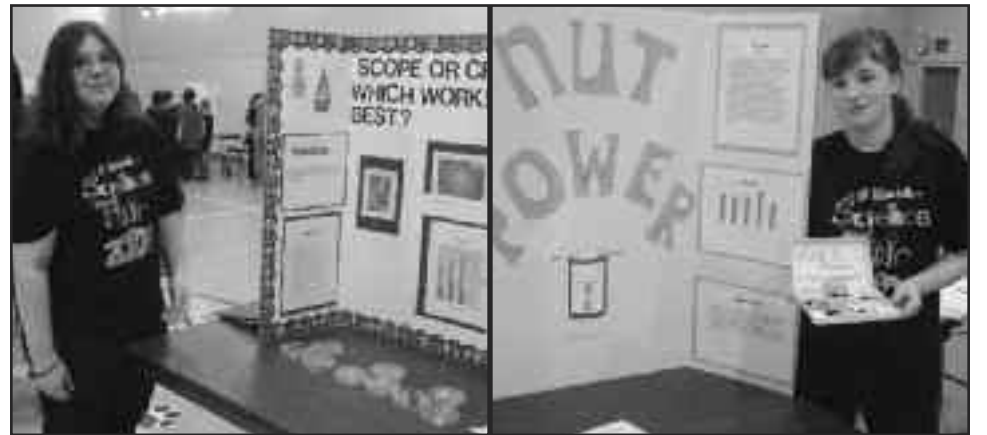
And a very special award goes out to Juan Gonzalez, 8th Grade for the Ewelina Pytko Technology Award for most technology used. Ewelina Pytko was a student at St. Hyacinth who passed away in 2007 in a car crash. The Science Department honors her memory by awarding students who use technology in new innovative ways as Ewelina did while in school.



3rd Place Winners: Stefanie Anderson, 6th Grade; Robert Wojcik, 7th Grade



2nd Place Winners: Gregory Skora, 8th Grade; David Velasquez, 7th Grade



Honorable Mention: Alex Herrera, 8th Grade; Olga Solonowicz, 8th Grade

The MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland

The MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland will be holding its Spring Open House for current members and Moms interested in joining on Monday, March 8th, 9:30am-11:30am at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Feel free to bring your kids. MOMS Club is a non-profit support group designed for the at-home Mother and their children. Our club holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and our popular Moms Night Out. Our membership area includes such areas as all of Northwest Chicago (including Edgebrook, Sauganash, Jefferson Park, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Oriole Park, etc), Skokie, Niles, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Glenview, Norridge and Harwood Heights. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago> or email chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Introduces Zumba® Fitness Party!

Community Center adds new cardiovascular fitness class

The Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department is infusing party fun into fitness this March with the launch of Zumba®.

Zumba disguises the "work" from "working out" by combining amazing, irresistible Latin and international music with dynamic, yet simple dance exercise moves, using an intermittent training format.

While Zumba embraces all the fundamental principles of fitness, the key to Zumba's success is how the music and movement motivate the body to efficiently burn calories, effectively tone all muscle groups, incorporate full range of motion, and improve the cardiovascular system. Fun and music are the two special motivational ingredients. Utilizing the natural beat, tempo, and music transitions, the Zumba dances seamlessly flow from one toning, strengthening, or cardio move into the next. Participants are constantly engaged and entertained with the variety of rhythms including salsa, merengue, samba, belly dancing, cumbia, flamenco, reggaeton, and more! Zumba breaks away from the typical aerobic class format and uses the passion of the music as it was meant to be experienced. Even those who believe they have "two left feet" are successful in a Zumba class because of the natural flow of the simple steps that radiate through the body in synch with the music.

Zumba is recognized by the world's leading fitness educators, including the Aerobic and Fitness Association of America, the American Council on Exercise, and CanFitPro, a Canadian national fitness accreditation organization. With sanctioned training programs in countries like China, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Venezuela, Zumba is taking the world by storm.

A free Zumba demonstration class will be held at the Lincolnwood Community Center on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is currently underway. For more information, please contact the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department at (847) 677-9740 or visit the department's website at www.lincolnwoodil.org, where online registration is available.

Ewelina Pytko
Award for Most
Technology Use:
Juan Gonzalez,
8th Grade



Emergency CELL Phone Program

Ravenswood Community Council's Emergency CELL phone (Community Emergency Life Line) 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. Each cell phone comes with a charger, replacement battery, and detailed instructions and can be mailed out or picked up at our office. This generous program is sponsored by the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services.

To Receive a Cell Phone: Seniors or victims of domestic abuse who would like to receive an emergency cell phone can contact RCC at (773) 784-0400 or visit our office. All participants must sign a release form for our records, but you will

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GREAT OUTDOORS

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 a conference flyer contact MOSES at 715-778-5775, info@mosesorganic.org or www.mosesorganic.org.



KILBOURN PARK ORGANIC GREENHOUSE WINTER ORGANIC GARDEN SERIES

Discover the wonderful world of nature! Spark your curiosity and explore the fun & educational offerings at Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., the Chicago Park District's only park with a teaching organic greenhouse. The 2010 winter series is designed for adults 18 & over in mind. Register for winter programs in-person at the park.

Early Spring Greens Bill Shores, Shores Garden Consulting, Inc., Wednesday, February 24, 6:30-8:00pm, Fee: \$20

Come learn about the colorful and tasty world of early spring greens. Urban grower Bill Shores will present a slide show and discussion of how to get a jump start on the growing season with salad and braising greens. Simple season extension techniques and the best greens for early planting will be discussed. Go home inspired and ready to garden!

Rain Barrels and Rain Gardening Cathy Breitenbach, Chicago Park District and Sarah Abu-Absi, Chicago Department of Environment, Saturday, March 13, 10 am -Noon, Fee: \$20

Interested in harvesting rainwater for your garden with a rain barrel or cistern? How about installing a basic rain garden in your yard? Cathy Breitenbach from the Chicago Park District and Sarah Abu-Absi from the Chicago Department of Environment will discuss the benefits of using rainwater for your garden. Participants will receive a rebate form from the City of Chicago to receive a \$30 discount on a rain barrel.

Landscaping with Native Plants Rebecca Schillo, Chicago Park District, Saturday, March 27, 10-Noon, Fee: \$20

Landscaping with native plants is creating a new buzz in the gardening world! Native landscapes create backyard habitat for birds and butterflies while offering gardeners unique, beautiful plant selections. Native habitats require less water, fertilizer, and energy to maintain than their ornamental counterparts and can help increase storm water infiltration and carbon sequestration. In this class, Becky Schillo of the Chicago Park District will discuss practical design and planting techniques for introducing natives into the home landscape. Topics will include site considerations for native landscaping, appropriate plant selection, basics of maintaining native landscapes, and where to find native plants in the Chicago area.

Kilbourn Park is located at 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., just west of Milwaukee Ave., and Addison St. in Chicago. Questions call Kirsten Akre at 773.685.3359 or kirsten.akre@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Urban Wildlife Coalition:

How Well Do You Know Your Neighbors?

Raccoons, robins, and squirrels are just a few of our wild neighbors. Moving beyond the myths makes it easier and more enjoyable for us to share our urban environment. Take the quiz below. You may be surprised by the answers!

1. True or false. If you see a raccoon out during the day, it probably has been poisoned or is rabid.
2. True or false. Mother birds will abandon their babies if they have been touched by human hands.
3. True or false. It is best not to feed or give water to an injured animal.
4. True or false. Raccoons and bats almost always carry rabies.
5. True or false. If you see a fawn on its own, it is likely that the parents are dead or that the young deer has been abandoned.
6. If you are driving and a squirrel crosses your path, it is best to:
Swerve to avoid it
Stop
7. True or false. Canada geese often mate for life.

Answers:

1. False. Raccoons are generally nocturnal, but sometimes they forage for food during the day. However, unusual behavior such as staggering, circling, or screeching during the day may indicate that the animal is ill.
2. False. The best thing you can do if you find a live nestling on the ground is to gently put it back in its nest as soon as possible. Mother birds will not abandon young who have been handled by humans.
3. True. Avoid giving an injured animal any food or drink. Sometimes even the best intentions can cause further injury to an animal. If you find an injured animal, contact Urban Wildlife Coalition at 773-545-8136 or online at www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org for a list of approved (licensed and humane) wildlife rehabilitators in our area.
4. False. Most wildlife in our area do not carry rabies. Raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats are more likely than other animals to carry the disease, but most do not. It is far more common for humans in the U.S. to die from lightning strikes than from a rabid animal. However, it is best to allow wild animals to be wild, and to observe them at a respectful distance.
5. False. To protect their young, deer parents will often leave fawns hidden for several hours while they look for food.
6. B. Stop. Squirrels often run an erratic path to confuse their potential predators (us, for example).
7. True. Like swans, Canada geese will stay with their mate, even if the rest of the flock leaves. However, if a mate dies, the surviving goose may eventually choose another mate.

For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org. Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife.

MAXWELL STREET MARKET

The Maxwell Street Market is a Chicago tradition of bargains with an international flavor. The market hosts hundreds of vendors every Sunday, year-round. In addition to household goods, clothing, CDs, jewelry, power tools and produce, there are several food stands offering authentic fare like enchiladas, tacos, tamales, plantains and polish sausage.

The market is open every Sunday from Jan 3, 2010 to Dec 26, 2010 and the hours are 7am to 3pm. Located in the South Loop at Desplaines Street and Roosevelt Road, admission is free.

REGISTRATION FOR HUMANA RACE TO TASTE OPENS IN FEBRUARY

Ready, set, race your way to the Taste of Chicago! We are pleased to welcome Humana as the title sponsor of the Race to Taste 5K Run/2-Mile Walk, a Taste of Chicago tradition set for Sunday, June 27. Run/walk through Chicago's beautiful Grant Park and lakefront, and stay for activities and great food at Taste of Chicago. All participants will receive a Commemorative Nike Dri-Fit Shirt, a strip of Taste food tickets (redeemable only on race day), and new this year at the post race party, all participants are invited to sample some of Humana's Healthier Choice Food Items featured at this year's Taste of Chicago! Registration opens mid February on-line at www.chicagoracetotaste.us. There is no race day registration. See you at TASTE and get ready to race!

Best Friends/ Companion Pets

Winter Blues

This time of year is definitely the blues. Don't get me wrong, I love romping and digging in the snow; but those great humans in our lives always bring us in too early. Thankfully this year hasn't been too cold, so they should let us let loose a little. We dogs are not stupid; if we are cold we obviously will come inside! Our humans sometimes just don't give us enough credit. Some also complain that we get to dirty in all the snowy mess; well of course we do, we are dogs! Being clean is not a top priority! So, are humans complain because we have pent up energy and no outlet for it!

This solution for us dogs; doggie daycare! This is great way for us dogs to meet, greet, and play with other dogs. We spend the day running, wrestling, tugging, and socializing with other doggie friends. Of course we are supervised by humans to keep the mischief makers at bay; you know who you are! I am lucky that my human actually runs a doggie day care program, for the rest of you try to get in a program somewhere. Even once a week makes a big difference! Humans are always surprised that we know the days of the week; I look forward to the days I get to play with my friends!

I know times are tough for our humans and some can't afford the daycare programs; so how about setting up some time for us. My human always says that a mental challenged dog creates a tired dog! She will take our favorite yummy cookies and hide them. She then tells us to go find, and we do! She starts off usually easy; but knowing that I have a great sense of smell she likes to challenge me by hiding the cookies in more difficult places. This game is fun for dog and human and doesn't have to take a long time!

You can teach old dog new tricks! how about teaching us something new? Yes my furry friends I know this is often beneath us, but the humans like it and it is fun to learn something new! Plus, think fo the yummy treats! Really all us pups need is some time with our humans. When was the last time you wrestled with your pooch?

This time of year our humans also have the winter blues, so it is appropriate to give them a few gentle nibbles to get their attention (I said gentle!). They should remember to play with us, but they are only human and they get distracted! So try and get you're Human to have some fun, they need it as bad as us! And don't worry, spring is right around the corner, until then be good and play hard!--Bosley
Submitted by Bosley's mom, Nicole Carfora, CMG, owner of Canine Corral.



Cook County Government Passes Tethering Law That Will Protect Dogs and the Community

The Humane Society of the United States, on behalf of its more than 448,000 supporters in Illinois, commends the Cook County Board of Commissioners for unanimously passing an ordinance to stop the inhumane tethering of dogs. The ordinance prohibits the use of tow or log chains as a collar, leash or tether.

"Dogs are our best friends. This ordinance will ensure that dogs that are tethered are provided the basic humane standards they deserve," said Jordan Matyas, Illinois state director for The HSUS. "I am proud of the bold initiative taken by the Board of Commissioners and Board President Todd Stroger in passing the restrictions on tethering," said Donna Alexander, DVM, the administrator of the county's Department of Animal and Rabies Control. "These restrictions will bring Cook County's Animal Ordinance into closer compliance with the state's Humane Care for Animals Act and will add to the laws in our war against the scourge of dog fighting."

In addition, the ordinance requires that all chains or tethers be at least 10 feet long and that a tethered dog must have access at all times to water, adequate shelter and dry ground. The ordinance also requires that the tether must be attached to the dog by a properly fitting collar prohibits pinch, prong, or choke collars. Dogs may not be tethered in cases of extreme weather conditions and to protect children, no dog may be tethered within 200 yards of a school.

For more information and resources on this issue, visit The HSUS' online resource library at animalsheltering.org

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www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org

Lorraine Heinichen Memorial Book Review. Mar. 5, 10:30 a.m. Elise Ginsparg reviews "All Other Nights" by Dara Horn. Program preceded by 10 a.m. coffee.

Humanities Treasures. This free discussion group meets Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. at the Lincolnwood Library to explore current events and selected readings. Humanities Treasures is affiliated with the Oakton Community College Emeritus Program.

English as a Second Language Class. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through May. Free weekly class for adults who want to learn to speak English. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426 for more information.

Literacy Class. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free weekly class for adults who want to improve reading, writing, and math skills. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426.

Knitting for Adults. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults can learn to knit or work on knitting projects. All skill levels welcome.

The Friends of Lincolnwood Library meet the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

The Adult Stamp Club meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

The Mac Users Club meets the second Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

Special Olympics Illinois Announces Team Selection for 2010 USA National Games

This July, for only the second time in its 42 year existence, Special Olympics is holding a USA National Games – the largest sporting event ever held in the state of Nebraska. From July 18-23, approximately 3,000 Special Olympics athletes representing all 50 states will compete in the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games at the University of Nebraska and in the Lincoln, Neb. community. Special Olympics Illinois is sending 69 Special Olympics Illinois athletes and two Unified Partners to the games along with 21 Special Olympics Illinois coaches.

"National Games provides an opportunity for a large number of athletes from Illinois to experience the excitement, pomp and ceremony of a major Olympics event complete with opening and closing ceremonies, the running of the torch by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, special exhibits, educational forums and entertainment in addition to quality competition," said Tracy Hilliard, vice president of sports and competition for Special Olympics Illinois. The first USA National Games were held in Ames, Iowa in 2006.

Along with the 3,000 athletes representing all 50 states, 8,000 volunteers, 1,000 coaches and official delegates, and 15,000 family members and friends of athletes are expected to arrive at the campus of University of Nebraska in Lincoln in July to show their support. Many of the families of Illinois athletes plan to be in Lincoln for the entire event to cheer and support the local athletes.

ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

EDUCATION FOR A GENERATION: A SPECIAL EVENT AND RECEPTION

Join the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and the Enough Project as they host "Education For A Generation," a special fundraising event and reception that will benefit the Darfur Dream Team's Sister Schools Program. The program is a new initiative of the Enough Project that aims to provide the next generation of Darfuri youth with access to education that will empower them to become leaders in their communities and create a lasting peace across the region. Featured speakers will include John Prendergast, co-founder of the Enough Project, Richard Hirschhaut, executive director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, and Chicago Bulls player Luol Deng. For additional information, please visit www.darfurdreamteam.org/Educationforageneration. The event will also include a silent auction. Thursday, February 25 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. Please visit www.darfurdreamteam.org/Educationforageneration for ticket information. ONLINE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago

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"PRISONER OF HER PAST" FILM SCREENING

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will host a special "sneak peek" of Kartemquin Films' new documentary, "Prisoner of Her Past." The documentary tells the haunting story of a secret childhood trauma resurfacing sixty years later to unravel the life of Holocaust survivor Sonia Reich. The film follows her son, Chicago Tribune arts and jazz critic Howard Reich, as he journeys across the United States and Eastern Europe to uncover why his mother believes the world is conspiring to kill her. Along the way, he finds a family he never knew he had. This film is the first to expose the little-known, little-understood illness: late-onset Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. "Prisoner of Her Past" examines the disorder's devastating effects on families, but also shows programs that are aiding young trauma survivors of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and how such early interventions may have helped Howard's mother. A panel discussion, question and answer session, and book signing with Howard Reich will follow the screening. Both film and book tell the story of Howard's mother, Holocaust survivor Sonia Reich. Sunday, February 28 1:30 p.m. Tickets: Museum members: \$15 / Non-members: \$20, Museum admission included. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – Call 847.967.4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Goodman Auditorium, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

How to Avoid Estate Planning Minefields: You Don't Know What You Don't Know



Chester M. Przybylo

Some things seem like they should be easy--and they are easy. However, some things simply appear easy--even when they are very difficult. The problem with some complex responsibilities is that they may seem simple on the surface, yet they may be very difficult in reality. For example, crossing a field of fifty yards seems simple, right? However, if that field is a minefield, it might be a very hazardous crossing, indeed! On the surface, both fields might appear the same to the ordinary person. However, experts can spot the hidden problems which the ordinary person may not.

This is equally true for estate planning. Let's look at two couples, the Browns and the Robinsons. The Browns have a very substantial and complicated estate which may benefit from tax planning. They own a sizable business. They each have a prior marriage and their marriage together is somewhat rocky. It's easy to see the mines in that field and know that they would benefit from consulting with an estate planning attorney.

The Robinsons have more modest assets of approximately \$200,000. They have a great marriage and two wonderful kids aged 12 and 15. It appears on the surface that they might be able to save some money and use a "do-it-yourself" estate planning method like online forms or software at little or no cost. The problem is that the Robinsons have a hidden mine in their estate plan.

The Robinsons' case looks simple to the untrained eye. However, the Robinsons' primary asset is Jake Robinson's 401k which he started right out of college, before he even met his wife, Sally. Jake named his ex-wife, Allison, as beneficiary. Of course, Jake assumes that his 401k will go to his current wife, Sally, because he will name her as the primary beneficiary in his Will or Trust. Jake doesn't know what he doesn't know, i.e. that his Will or Trust will not control his 401k.

While the Robinsons could "save" some money by using some free or inexpensive, "do-it-yourself" software, doing so will end up costing them everything because Jake's 401k will go to Allison at his death, even if Jake names Sally in his Will or Trust.

Only an experienced estate planning attorney who focuses his or her practice in that field will have the knowledge and expertise to spot and defuse the mines which you may encounter. Some other hazards which you might encounter are:

- Property ownership issues (Joint Tenancy, Community Property, etc.)
- Assets with beneficiary designations (e.g. brokerage and bank accounts)
- Life Insurance
- Blended family issues
- Leaving assets outright to minor children

Your estate planning attorney can guide you through the minefield to the other side. For example, the attorney would have advised Jake to complete a new beneficiary designation form naming Sally as the primary beneficiary of his 401k. While Jake could have done this himself, he didn't know there was a problem. He didn't know what he didn't know. Don't make the same mistake that Jake did. See an experienced estate planning attorney.

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.

TO TAX OR NOT TO TAX: A SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTION

By Andrew Salata, Public Affairs Specialist - Social Security Administration

When it comes to Social Security benefits, you may be wondering who must pay taxes on them and who does not. Let's look at the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your total income is more than \$25,000, then the answer for you is yes: you'll have to pay federal taxes on your benefits. If you file a joint return and you and your spouse have a total income more than \$32,000, you'll be expected to pay federal taxes as well. If your taxable income is below those thresholds, there is no need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits.

If you need to pay taxes on a portion of your benefits, you will need your SSA-1099. This form shows the total amount of benefits received in the previous year and is used to find out whether any benefits are subject to tax. You will need to submit it when you complete your federal income tax return.

You already should have received your SSA-1099 for tax year 2009 in the mail — they were automatically mailed to all beneficiaries by January 31, 2010. If you receive Social Security and have not yet received a Form SSA-1099 for 2009, you can request a replacement online at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. Or you can call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778) and ask for a replacement SSA-1099 to be mailed to you.

If you would like more information about paying taxes on your Social Security benefits, visit www.irs.gov and read Publication Number 915, Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits. You also can call the Internal Revenue Service toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 (TTY, 1-800-829-4059).

So if you've been wondering whether or not you'll need to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits and what forms you may need, now you know the simple facts.

Tips on Generics

Submitted by Alvin C. Klein, R.Ph., Becker Professional Pharmacy

For many people, generic drugs work very well. But if you are concerned about switching from a brand name to a generic, or among different generics, then you need to keep tabs on your meds and how they are affecting you.

Here's some guidance:

KEEP THE PACKAGING If you take a generic medication or are switched to one, keep the label.

Most state laws require that the manufacturer's name be on the label, according to Kathleen Jaeger, chief executive of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

If the label does not state the name of the maker, ask your pharmacist to add it or write it down for you. You can also look up the pill at Drugs.com or RxList.com (click on pill identifier) to find the maker.

KEEP A DIARY Or at least make notes about any side effects you experience when taking a new drug.

Generic drugs are allowed to contain different inactive ingredients from the brand drug — like flavors, fillers and dyes — which could potentially cause side effects.

BE CHOOSY If one generic version works better than another, shop around for it. "Don't assume your pharmacist will continue to carry a specific product indefinitely," said Joe Graedon, who runs a consumer advocacy Web site, the People's Pharmacy (peoplespharmacy.com). "Call ahead and ask."

ENLIST YOUR DOCTOR If you are convinced that only the brand name of a drug works for you, discuss the issue with your doctor.

You can ask him or her to write "DAW" — dispense as written — on your prescription. This will usually ensure that the pharmacist gives you exactly what the doctor ordered.

If your insurer balks, ask your doctor to make a phone call for you or write a letter explaining why only the brand name is appropriate for you. Sometimes this actually works.

REPORT PROBLEMS If you do have side effects or reactions to a specific drug, tell your doctor and then report it to the Food and Drug Administration's MedWatch Web site and post a message on the People's Pharmacy Web site.

If enough people complain about a specific medication, there's a good chance the F.D.A. or an independent group will investigate it.

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Lost German Chicago Exhibit

Saturdays 11am - 3pm

Come remember the institutions and establishments no longer with the Chicago community. The inspiration piece for the exhibit is 30 feet of woodcarvings from the East Dining Room of the Germania Club, closed since 1987. The carvings were rescued by the Oscar Mayer family from a private home in Logan Square in 1963 and have never been publicly displayed. They depict Wagner's operas in supreme German woodworking style. Exhibit Free and Open to the Public. Open through Sept 2011. Weekday visits by appointment.

Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday 12 o'clock Noon at Hilltop Family Restaurant,
2800 W. Foster (Northwest corner of Foster & California)

Feb. 25th - Regular Club Meeting at Hilltop Family Restaurant at 12:00pm.

Guest speaker is Julie Hess, Director of the Special Religious Education (SPRED) program for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Note: Meetings now begin at 12:00 noon and not 12:15pm. It would be appreciated if you would arrive by 12:00 noon. Thank you!

For further information on programs and memberships, contact Dr. Ronald A. Heiderman at (773) 561-0455.

New Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church

Our Savior Lutheran Church (Norwood Park) is now being served by Vacancy Pastor Charles Aufdenkampe. Worship is at 9:00 am, followed by Coffee Fellowship, and Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:30 am. All are most welcome. Recently the church has undertaken to aid families and individuals in need in our Uptown neighborhood at our Lutheran Ministry center there with a special grant. Lenten services are at 7:00 pm, with a Soup Supper for one and all at 6:00 p.m.

Our prayers have been with the members of Edgebrook Lutheran Church after their recent fire.

Thank you, Pastor Charles R. Aufdenkampe

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you've probably heard, the "true leader" of the State of Illinois, Mike Madigan, is moving to eliminate the Lt. Governor seat in our State.

In my opinion Mr. Madigan should rethink his position.

Just because our last Lt. Governor, Pat Quinn, after he took over the Governor's chair when Rod Blagojevich was removed, claimed that he knew nothing of the goings-on during his boss's term, says little about the Lt. Governor's office, but rather reflects onto the man who held the office.

A Voter

Dear "A Voter,"

Agreed, however, in the State of Illinois, only a very few are in command. They seem to live by the slogan, "Don't bother me with the facts - I've already made up my mind!"

The Editor

Getting on Track

Our vast Country should have a modern railway system, at least one as good as other countries have. The politicians, who own the railroads, are talking about building a two-hundred mile high-speed train at the cost of \$30 billion dollars. At that price, there will be plenty of pork, payoffs, call it what you want. We look at it as waste; a "track to nowhere!" If this comes about, some politicians and a minute number of passengers can save a couple hours and will be happy, as will all of those recipients of the pork and payoffs.

For the good of our Country, the railroads should be brought up to date, but in the right way.

We have the track, routing, and equipment. The problem at present is that there are many miles of track that are not usable from a safety concern. Safety, of course, is the most important factor. Many tracks are dangerous because of improper maintenance. To get the railroads back in shape, updating the system in all aspects has to be done.

There is something else needed; some 15,000 workers to replace the equipment and to update the trains to assure a pleasant and safe ride. A "business" study should be done, not a "political" plan. A few politicians and riders may be upset, but over 300 million people will benefit from the project, not just a few.

Safe, upgraded trains will enable a system to connect big cities, towns, and hamlets all across our Country. A train can handle short mileage. Airlines can't operate hamlet to hamlet, town to town, etc.

Lastly, using the rail saves money on transportation of goods. Large loads not only save money on the price per unit, they also save on fuel which results in, among other things, cleaner air. For emergency situations such as natural disasters and National security incidents, the military and aid workers could be expedited to help our Country be safer.

This entire package could also be a means to simply put pleasure back into travel and could be done for less than half of \$30 billion.

The Editor

Lenten Menu Ideas

Salmon Patties

1 can red or pink Salmon cleaned and deboned
Put in bowl and mash.

Add 1 small onion, chopped fine.

Beat in one egg, about 1T ketchup (more if you like the tomato taste) Add bread crumbs so that it will hold together in patties. Coat with bread crumbs and fry in hot oil, only until lightly browned on both sides.

You may add a little Worcestershire sauce if you like.

From the Kitchens of Rose Suter

Oriental Spinach Soup

1T Soy Sauce

Scallions

1/8 tsp. Ginger

Chicken Noodle Soup (1 can)

Spinach

Chop Spinach. Add chicken noodle soup. 1 can of water, soy sauce and ginger and heat. Top with thinly sliced scallions.

From the Kitchens of Rose Suter

Send your favorite Lenten recipes to us so we may share them with our readers.

Our Village P.O. Box 31391, Chicago, IL 60631; fax: 847-679-8851
or email: contact@ourvillagechicago.com

Open Studio Spring Classes!

Adult Art Classes Connecting with the Creative Process

Take time to open the window to your creative side. No prior art or writing experience necessary - just an open mind. Cost \$165 non-members, \$155 members.

Tuesday Nights, 6:30-8:30pm Feb 23 - April 6, no class 3/30

Thursday Mornings, 10:00am-12:30pm Extended Class: \$200 non-members, \$190 members Feb 25 - April 1

Friday Mornings, 10am - 12noon Feb 26 - April 2

Sunday Afternoons, 1:00pm - 3:00pm Feb 28 - April 11, no class 4/4 (Last Sunday class until fall!)

LIMITED SPACES LEFT - REGISTER TODAY! Register or call (847) 475 - 0390 for more information.

Children's Art Classes Art & Adventure

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Fee: 6-week class: \$125 non-member, \$115 OSP member, \$90 sibling.

Fee: 7-week class: \$145 non-member, \$135 member, \$105 sibling.

Tuesday Mornings, 10am-11am March 2 - April 20 6 weeks, no class 3/9, 4/13

Wednesday Mornings, 10am-11am March 3 - April 21 7 weeks, no class 4/7

Wednesday Afternoons, 1:30 - 2:30 March 10 - April 21 6 weeks, no class 4/7

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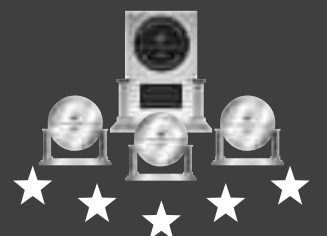
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