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Volume XIV

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contact@ourvillagechicago.com

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Chicago, IL 60631

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Happy Mannukah



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

The City of Chicago will host, Chicago Remembers Pearl Harbor, at 11 am, Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at Navy Pier. The ceremony will take place at Navy Pier - Lakeview Terrace (east end of Navy Pier).

This year's date marks the 69th Anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Naval Installation at Pearl Harbor. The City of Chicago will honor all those who fought in the face of extraordinary odds that Sunday morning.

For more information, call 312.595.5282

The American's Creed



I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies. (Authorized Version)

CELEBRATE A JIM HENSON-INSPIRED CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD AND HOLIDAYS OF LIGHT AT MSI

The Museum of Science and Industry's 69th annual Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light opens on Nov. 18, 2010. This year, the exhibit's Holly Jolly Holiday theme highlights the new temporary exhibit—Jim Henson's Fantastic World—an educational and hands-on display that explores the amazing career and imagination of the master puppeteer and creator of the Muppets, Jim Henson.

The Main Floor holds more than 50 12-foot trees beautifully decorated by volunteers from Chicago's ethnic communities representing their diverse culture and holiday traditions. This custom began for local families in 1942 as a United Nations Day salute to American allies during World War II, and in its first year, only a dozen trees lined the Museum's halls. Now the exhibit has grown into a forest of dazzling trees and homemade displays, created by dedicated volunteers.

The display also features the Museum's 45-foot Grand Tree—lighting the Rotunda with more than 30,000 red, pink and lime green lights and 1,000 puppet-inspired ornaments. Dozens of gifts wrapped in an amalgamation of colorful furs and fabrics sit beneath the tree while four large-scale photographs of the Muppets touring some of Chicago's favorite landmarks hang overhead.

Stroll through the tree-lined Museum halls and view the performances of various dance and choral groups on the Holiday Stage while enjoying intermittent falling "snow" every half hour. The exhibit runs through Jan. 9, 2011.

Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light are included in Museum general admission, as are all performances. An additional ticket is required for Jim Henson's Fantastic World. Go to msichicago.org for details and to purchase tickets.

General Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Beginning Sunday, Nov. 21, the Museum's hours will be Monday through Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Museum is open every day except Dec. 25 and offers extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., on the following days in 2010: Nov. 19-21, 26-28; Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12; Dec. 18-24; Dec. 26-31. MSI offers the following remaining free day in 2010: Dec. 6.

(See page 9 for the Austrian Mixed Chorus performance time and date.)



Grand Tree - The Museum's 45-foot Grand Tree is decorated with more than 30,000 lights and more than 1,000 ornaments. [J.B. Spector, Museum of Science and Industry]

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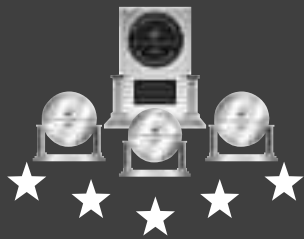


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John J. Short, FACHE, Elected to American College of Healthcare Executives Council of Regents

John J. Short, FACHE, interim executive vice president and chief executive officer, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago, has been appointed to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), which serves as the link between ACHE and affiliates by approving governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services and activities.

Short will take office at the Council of Regents meeting March 19, 2011, during ACHE's 54th Congress on Healthcare Leadership at the Hilton Chicago. As a Regent, he will represent ACHE's membership in Illinois.

Short has served as interim executive vice president and chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center since May 2010. He has more than 25 years of health care operational and strategic management experience in acute, ambulatory and post-acute settings, where he has led operations redesign projects, service excellence programs and business development initiatives. Short previously served as the senior vice president of operations and chief operating officer at Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago, where he was responsible for the operational and strategic performance of clinical, ancillary and support services.

Short achieved the highest level of certification in health care management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and earned a master of business administration degree from Northwestern University.



John J. Short

Skokie Offers an Online Payment Option

The Village of Skokie Finance Department offers convenient online payment options. Payment for water bills, parking tickets and miscellaneous invoices may be made online using debit, Discover, MasterCard and Visa cards. The Village does not charge a fee for this service.

The Village also offers Automatic Bank Payment for water bills. This program allows residents to pay water bills directly through a bank account. The Village does not charge a fee for this service.

To make a payment or to learn more about online payments and Automatic Bank Payment, please visit www.skokie.org.

Extended Hours at Civic Center for Vehicle Sticker Purchases

In an effort to provide an opportunity for residents to purchase their 2011 Evanston City Vehicle Sticker before or after our regularly scheduled business hours, staff members have volunteered to work adjusted schedules on each Monday effective December 6, 2010 through January 3, 2011. The Revenue Office will also be open on Saturday January 8, 2011. The following is a schedule of Revenue Office dates, hours of operation: Mondays December 6, 13, 20, 27 and January 3, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chicago Winter Parking Ban Now In Effect, 3AM to 7AM, Until April 1, 2011

Chicago's Winter Overnight Parking Ban for 107 miles of the city's most critical arterial streets resumed December 1 at 3AM. This seasonal ban in effect every year between December 1st and April 1st. and between the hours of 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. Yet in spite of permanent signage with posted calendar dates along the impacted streets, two related press conferences and heavy media coverage for the past two weeks warning of the resumption of the ban and the leafleting last weekend of vehicles parked along the ban route, some 215 vehicles still parked in violation of this seasonal ban and were ticketed, towed and impounded.

When motorists violate this ban and leave their cars parked on these routes they prevent the street from getting fully plowed and salted when it snows. This reduces the streets capacity during a storm to handle critical traffic. As heavy snow falls it gets pushed against these vehicles by passing plows causing a buildup that further restricts the street lanes. "These regulations are designed to keep our most critical routes up and running at all times so that emergency vehicles, buses and other vehicles can get to where they need to go," noted Streets & Sanitation Commissioner Thomas G. Byrne.

The permanent signage that marks the 107 miles of the Winter Overnight Parking Ban is often posted next to signs for the 2-inch snow parking ban which can be activated along 500 miles of arterial streets. Both posted restrictions mark Chicago's "Snow Route System," which was created as a result of response to massive snow storms, including the Great Blizzard of '67, which halted traffic citywide."

Ignoring the Winter Overnight Parking Ban can result in a \$150 towing fee (minimum), a \$50 ticket and a daily storage fee of \$10 that increases over time.

The other pertinent ban that can be activated during a heavy snow at any time of the year is the 2" Inch Snow Ban. This restriction is technically in effect all year round, but realistically only a factor in the winter months. The 2" Inch Snow Ban is not activated often, but motorists that violate it when it is active face ticketing and relocation to a nearby site. Motorists need to watch for and obey both restrictions.

Village of Skokie Property Tax Freeze Continues

The 2009 property tax bills are set to arrive in homes in late November 2010. The Village's tax levy of \$15.4 million is the same as it was in 1990 due to the self-imposed property tax freeze. Over the 19 years of the self-imposed property tax freeze, Skokie's percent of an average taxpayer's property tax bill has decreased from 15.2% in 1990 to 7.3% in 2009.

Cook County issues property tax bills and collects all property tax payments. The county then distributes the collected property taxes to each of the taxing districts listed on the property tax bill. Each individual property tax bill within Skokie is different because each is unique to the property, the property's value, as well as the school districts by which the property is served. The largest portion of property taxes, approximately 68%, is received by the school districts that serve a particular property.

Here are some Village of Skokie property tax facts:

- Based on an average Skokie taxpayer's property tax bill, school districts account for an average of 67.7% of the tax bill for 2009.
- Elementary schools averaged 39.3% and high schools averaged 28.6% for 2009.
- Resident's individual taxes paid to the Village vary, however, on their individual level of assessment and the school districts in which they reside. The term "assessment" reflects the valuation of the property by the Cook County Assessor's Office. Cook County reassesses properties every three years. The current tax bills are the third bills to be issued in the three-year assessment cycle.
- Depending on the level of the assessment for each property, any given resident's Village of Skokie property tax line may show an increase/decrease or even remain somewhat constant. This is all a byproduct of the tax extension process over which Skokie does not have control.

Please contact the Niles Township Assessor's Office at 847-673-9300 or at www.nilestownshipassessor.com with questions about your property tax assessment. Residents can also contact the Cook County Assessor's Office at 312-443-7550 or visit www.cookcountyassessor.com.

Township Assessor Extends Hours during Property Tax Period

The Evanston Township Assessor's Office will have extended office hours until December 13th during the second installment tax bill period. Taxpayers can bring in their Cook County Property Tax bills if they have questions about the various exemptions that they might be eligible including Homeowners, Senior Citizen, Senior Freeze, Home Improvement, Returning Veterans', Disabled Veterans' or Disabled Persons' Exemptions.

The office will be open on Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Also, the office will be open on Saturday November 20, 2010 and Saturday December 11, 2010 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Township Assessor's office is located at 846 Dodge Ave. Phone number is (847) 332-2465.

Also, visit the Cook County Assessor's web site for Tax Bill Related Questions at www.cookcountyassessor.com/LatestNews/LateNews.aspx?ID=528

Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood

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

Dec. 9th - No Meeting in lieu of the next day's meeting of Annual Holiday Party. Please make every effort to attend this special event.

Dec. 10th - Kiwanis Club of Northshore's Annual Holiday Party at Edgewater Beach Café.

Dec. 16th - Annual Courtenay Christmas Party

For membership and event information contact Ronald A. Heiderman, DDS at 773-561-0455.

Norwood Park Seniors Club

at 5801 N Natoma Chicago meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month. We play pinochle and bingo, have parties on special occasions. Meetings start at 10:30 with coffee and a sweet roll. Call Joan at 773-774-7075.

High Ridge YMCA to Offer American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Course

What: The High Ridge YMCA will offer a Red Cross Lifeguard Training course that will certify students for three years.

To qualify for the course, participants must be 15 years old and be able to swim 300 yards continuously. Topics that will be covered include an overview of a lifeguard's duties, patron surveillance and rescue methods. Also, students will learn life-saving skills such as First Aid, how to check for head or neck injuries, how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) machine.

The cost of the class is \$225. For more information or to register for the class, please call the High Ridge YMCA at 773.262.8300.

Where/When: High Ridge YMCA, 2424 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL, www.highridgeymca.org

Dec. 27- 30, 2010

March 7- 11, 2011

April 18-May 1, 2011

May 13- 15, 2011

May 20- 22, 2011

ATTENTION U.S. MILITARY VETERANS and ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 is having a meeting on Thursday December 9TH starting at 7:30PM at the Edison Park Field House located at 6755 Northwest Hwy. (just west of Harlem Ave.) Chicago. We are a medium size, friendly active post with members from all over Chicagoland. As part of our activities we host BINGO parties for the extended care patients at Hines V.A. Hospital, provide snacks and refreshments for the O'Hare U.S.O., involved in awards to local school graduations and more.

Feel free to stop by and sit in at our meeting. If you've been thinking about joining a veteran's post, we might be what you've been looking for.

For additional information please contact: Post Commander Gerald Skotzko at 773-693-3448 Sr. Vice Commander Robert Fuggiti at 773-736-8738

Veterans Shown Appreciation

McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, Skokie, and Bears of Hope joined together on November 7, 2010 to thank veterans for their service to our country. The restaurant gave veterans a complimentary meal and Bears of Hope gave them a special patriotic bear. Bears of Hope is a voluntary organization that makes handcrafted bears for sick and needy children and adults. Bears Founder, Carolyn Reiner, said "Making patriotic bears is a special project we do yearly for the men and women who have been or are serving in the military". Each bear is made with patriotic fabric and is unique, since no two bears use the same fabric.

Veterans from all military branches came to the restaurant. Many served either in World War II; Korean War; Vietnam; Desert Storm; or Iraq. When one Vietnam veteran received his bear, he replied, "It moves me greatly to hear your thanks. My son is in the Army and stationed in Afghanistan. I'm going to send him this bear and let him know how much he is appreciated for what he is doing to protect our country".

Story after story was told to Bears volunteers as they thanked the veterans and passed out the patriotic bears. Hal Winer, a World War II veteran, said he joined the Army when he was 18. After basic training, he was on a ship in the Pacific heading to Okinawa to prepare to invade Japan. Germany had just surrendered and soon after, two Atom bombs were dropped on Japan. His unit was then sent to Korea. "I felt my service was a worthwhile positive experience and I still hear from 'buddies' I served with." remarked Winer.

An Air Force veteran who served for nearly 40 years said he can count the times on one hand when he was so touched by the appreciation for his contribution to our country through the military. Bears of Hope claimed a spot on that list Sunday night.

Kevin Finegold, executive general manager at McCormick & Schmick's said, "This was the 12th annual Veterans Appreciation Event at McCormick & Schmick's restaurants. We are honored to be able to pay tribute to our veterans. Having Bears of Hope at our Skokie location was a huge part of the event that meant so much to the vets."

Contact Bears of Hope at bears@bearsofhope.com or 847-673-4098

Contact McCormick & Schmick's, Westfield Old Orchard 847 763-9811



Above: Two Bears volunteers thanking three veterans for their service to our country.

Right: Two veterans with their patriotic bears.

Below: World War II veteran, Hal Weiner, center, with Carolyn Reiner, Bears of Hope, and Kevin Finegold, McCormick & Schmick's.



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Mike's Barber Shop

6680 Northwest Highway, Chicago

Los Magueyes Tapas Restaurant

3115 North Central, Chicago

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE SEEKS DONATIONS OF TOYS FOR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

Paul C. Odrobina, Vice President of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) announces that the PNA, Alliance Printers & Publishers and PNA Bank will be accepting donations of new toys and games or monetary donations for local needy children at Christmas.

There will be collection boxes in the lobbies of the Polish National Alliance Home Office located at 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, Alliance Printers & Publishers, located at 5711 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and both PNA Bank Locations 7840 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois and 4800 S. Pulaski Avenue in Chicago, Illinois for the toy donations until Friday, December 10, 2010. After the deadline, the donated toys for the children will be delivered to local needy children in the Chicago area, in time for Christmas.

Monetary donations will be collected from Vice President Odrobina's Office, where the money will go to purchase additional toys and gifts for the children in the name of the donor.

For additional information, please call the Polish National Alliance at 1-773-286-0500 ext. 316. or visit the PNA Website at www.pna-znp.org (a link is on the main page).

The Polish National Alliance is the largest Polish Fraternal Organization and founded in 1880.

State Representative

Michael McAuliffe, 20th District
and

Alderman Brian Doherty, 41st Ward

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

YOUNG CHICAGO DANCERS SELECTED TO PERFORM WITH MOSCOW BALLET IN DEC. 18 GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER

Christmas will come early for 40 young ballet dancers from Chicago's SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory) this year as they have been selected to share the spotlight with members of the Moscow Ballet in the production of the Great Russian Nutcracker. The holiday classic is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sat., December 18, 2010, at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Tickets for the production start at \$27.50 and are available by calling the theater box office at 847-671-5100 or Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.nutcracker.com or at www.ticketmaster.com.

The critically acclaimed production of the Great Russian Nutcracker features exquisite dancing, sumptuous costumes and the breath-taking artistry of Moscow Ballet principal dancers Ekaterina Bortykova as Masha and Akzhol Mussokhanov as the Nutcracker Prince. The production is directed by Andrei Litvinov and is created to delight audiences of all ages.

The large-scale production features a number of important character roles which have been cast with 40 talented young dancers ages 6-14 from Chicago's SPACE under the direction of SPACE co-founder Altin Naska.

"The children who have been selected to perform in this production of the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker gain a once in a lifetime experience by working alongside award-winning Russian dancers," said Naska. "This opportunity provides these young dancers with the experience of participating in a professional production along with the opportunity to perform in front of thousands of people."

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 range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program. SPACE's dance program includes instruction in ballet, tap, modern, jazz, ballroom, Latin and hip-hop.

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

Evanston Winter Break Camps

Send your young explorer to EcoFreeze Camp over Winter Break. Just one of the Recreation Division's many winter break camps (which can be found at www.cityofevanston.org/recreation), EcoFreeze Camp will have your child (grades K-5) exploring the natural wonders of the world, including the Great Barrier Reef, Mt. Everest, and more. Camp is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 to Friday, Dec. 24 AND/OR Monday, Dec. 27 to Friday, Dec. 31. The cost is \$225/resident and \$235/nonresident per 5-day session. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8260.

Send your young filmmaker to Media Camp over Winter Break. Just one of the Recreation Division's many winter break camps (which can be found at www.cityofevanston.org/recreation), Media Camp will have your child (ages 6 to 13) writing, directing, filming, editing, and starring in his/her very own holiday special that can be posted on YouTube to show friends and family. Camp is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Dec. 23. The single-day cost is \$65/resident and \$70/nonresident, while the four-day cost is \$225/resident and \$250/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8260.

Evanston Children Events

Introduce your child to the wonderful world of science with Small Fry Science at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. These one-day sessions teach children ages 4 to 6 about different animal groups through experiments, crafts, stories, and other activities. The Reptiles session is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 and costs \$12 per child/caregiver couple. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 847-448-8256.

Could your child be the next Houdini? Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to take a one-day Magic Class where they can learn fascinating tricks from a professional magician! They will use cards, ropes, coins, "mind-reading" and more. The class meets from 6:45 to 7:40 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 at Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St. The fee is \$20/child and includes a magic kit to take home. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8258.

Camps Enrich Your Child's Winter Break in Evanston

Whether it's sports, nature, games or art, there is a Winter Break Camp offered by the City of Evanston's Recreation Division that will stimulate the imagination and keep your child interested and active. This year, there are twelve camps to choose from, including everything from the Ecology Center's EcoFreeze Camp to Volleyball Camp to Media Arts Camp. New this year is LEGO Camp, where children ages 4 to 7 can build and create with the popular blocks.

With camp options that range from one week or two, and half-day or full-day, there is a camp to satisfy almost every interest and schedule. Specialty camps such as Ultimate Adventure Camp (nothing but field trips!) and single-sport camps such as Hoops Camp are also exciting options. Most camps begin Monday, Dec. 20, although some start Monday, Dec. 27. Times, age levels, and fees vary per camp. For more information, visit www.cityofevanston.org/recreation, view the Winter Recreation & Arts Activities Guide, or call 847-866-2900.

NILES WEST STUDENT SELECTED FOR ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL'S ALL-STATE PRODUCTION FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Niles West High School senior Becca Levy has been selected as a crew member for the 2011 Illinois High School Theatre Festival All-State Production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods." This is the second consecutive year in which Levy has been selected as a crew member; last year she was chosen for the All-State production of "Urinetown." Students go through a rigorous application, portfolio and interview process before being selected to participate in the largest and oldest non-competitive high school theater festival in the world.

The All-State production is one of the many events at the 36th annual Illinois High School Theatre Festival. "Into the Woods" will be performed January 7 and 8, 2011 at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. The All-State production brings together a company of students and staff from all areas of Illinois. The cast, crew and orchestra of more than 70 students put together the entire production in less than 20 rehearsals.

NILES WEST DEBATER PLACED 14TH AT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TOURNAMENT

The Niles West Debate Team competed at the University of Michigan Debate Tournament in Ann Arbor, Michigan from November 5 through 7. Eight teams of two from Niles West debated in the Novice Division of the national tournament. Over 120 teams competed in the Varsity Division and 70 teams competed in the Novice Division; schools from several states were represented.

The Niles West team of Sarika Malani and Fiona Mohan had a 4-3 record, 16th seed, and advanced to the Round of 16 before being eliminated. "To advance to the elimination rounds at the first national competition in which they have competed is almost unheard of. Malani and Mohan should be commended for this achievement," noted Niles West Debate Team sponsor Eric Oddo.

In addition, Malani was the 14th place speaker out of more than 120 speakers.

Members of the Debate Team who competed: Emma Lazar and Vinay Patel, Ari Hoffman and Jonass Placitis, Jessie Amgalanjargal and Lia Isono, Kris Trivedi and Liam Waters, Rimsha Baig and Jerry Varghese, Amanda Muir and Sana Khan, Alyssa Guzman and Breana Brill.

The Debate Team is coached by Niles West teachers Eric Oddo and Matt Fahrenbacher.

Share the Gift of Learning

Many adults need help with basic English reading, writing, or speaking skills. Share the gift of learning!



A required three part training will be held in Skokie on Jan. 4 & 6 (6:15-10 pm), and on Feb. 5 (1:30-3:30 pm).

Call Oakton Community College at 847-635-1426 for an interview.

LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

MAYOR DALEY, CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO OFFICIALS LAUNCH 'REINVENTION' OF SYSTEM TO ENSURE STUDENTS ARE READY TO COMPETE FOR JOBS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Mayor Richard M. Daley and officials of the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) today launched the reinvention of the 99-year old community college system set in motion by Daley last March with the goal of ensuring its students have the skills that make them ready to compete for the jobs of the 21st century.

"The bottom line is that we need to get the highest possible return on our investment in City Colleges to ensure Chicago's economic future," Daley said in a news conference held at Richard J. Daley College, 7500 S. Pulaski Rd.

"That's why earlier this year, I named new leadership for the City Colleges of Chicago and challenged them to reinvent the system from top to bottom so that it better prepares our students to meet the economic challenges of today and the future," he said.

Daley was joined at the news conference by his new CCC leadership appointees, Chancellor Cheryl Hyman and Board Chairman Martin Cabrera Jr., who detailed their plan to remake City Colleges.

They said that through a highly-collaborative multi-staged process, faculty, staff, and students will team with external advisory councils to explore eight key areas of CCC's educational and operational practices to develop and then implement solutions to ensure students are prepared to succeed in the 21st century economy.

"They have taken strong first steps and have accepted the challenge I asked them to meet," Daley said. "This reinvention is a work in progress, but it's important to stay on the timetable they have set out and to demonstrate to all Chicagoans that

there is a new day at City Colleges."

The Reinvention effort is led by Hyman, who began to measure City Colleges' performance based on student outcomes quickly after being appointed to her position by Mayor Daley. Early findings pointed to the needs for this deeper, systemic review.

Hyman said just sixteen percent of students transfer to a four year institution, and only 4-5% earn a bachelor's degree. The City Colleges loses more than half of its degree-seeking students before completion of their first 15 credit hours.

"If students are not getting the credentials they come here for," said Chairman Cabrera, "then the burden is on us to figure out what programs, operations and services need to change to make sure they will succeed."

A preliminary diagnostic review conducted this summer and fall found eight priority areas for improvement, including:

- Program portfolio review: increase the economic value of credentials and the number of transfers to higher education.
- Remediation: improve outcomes for students needing remediation, including more swiftly moving students into credit programs, and creating partnerships with Chicago Public Schools and others.
- Adult Education: improve programs so that students are on the pathway to completion of their program and successfully transfer to college credit courses.
- Student support and pathways: improve advising, tutoring, job placement, and transfer and other wraparound supports.
- Faculty & staff development: create development programs that better support faculty and staff in their service to students, establish performance goals and evaluation methods.
- Operational excellence and optimization: improve the return on non-instructional related investments, and build an investment strategy that supports student success.
- Technology: drive significant improvement in both instructional and non-instructional technology and data integrity to ensure students, faculty and staff have the tools necessary to succeed.
- Strategic capital planning and investments: modernize our facilities and ensure we have the resources and technologies to prepare students for success in their new careers.

A task force of faculty, students and staff will work in each of these areas. The taskforces will be advised by external advisory councils made of leaders from academia, business, civic and foundations, community and capital planning experts.

Co-chairs of the external advisory councils include:

Academic: Brian Fabes, The Civic Consulting Alliance and Jesse Ruiz, Illinois State Board of Education

Business: Gerald Roper, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and Omar Duque, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Capital Planning: James Frankenbach, formerly of Rush Northshore Medical Center and Elzie Higgenbottom, East Lake Management & Development

Civic & Foundations: Lester McKeever, Washington, Pittman and McKeever and Whitney Smith, Joyce Foundation

Community: Martin Castro, Castro Synergies, LLC and Phil Jackson, the Black Star Project

The task forces' work will be tracked publicly online, and success will be measured by the ability to reach four student-centered goals:

- Increase the number of students earning college credentials of economic value.
- Increase the rate of transfer to bachelor's degree programs following CCC graduation.
- Drastically improve outcomes for students requiring remediation.
- Increase the number and share of ABE/GED/ESL students who advance to and succeed in college-level courses.

The Reinvention effort has received generous support from local and national foundations, including the Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Joyce Foundation. Extensive pro bono support is also being provided by the Civic Consulting Alliance and their partner, private sector firms from across Chicago.

Hyman said that change is already underway with a number of exciting initial projects in the works:

For the first time, City Colleges is reaching out to 15 thousand students identified as being at risk of failing one or more classes and are working with them to develop plans to help them successfully pass their courses.

Also for the first time, CCC is systematically identifying students who may soon be eligible to graduate and proactively offering transfer and job placement assistance.

CCC has launched many technology upgrades that the district needs to best be able to support student success both inside and outside the classroom.

CCC has begun a pilot project with the Chicago Public Schools to determine which of our incoming students are in need of remediation in their senior year and then support those students prior to CCC enrollment so they can maximize their time by taking full college credit courses as soon as possible.

Members of the public are invited to offer their ideas and monitor the progress of the Reinvention effort at www.ReinventingCCC.org.

Saint Hyacinth Basilica School Giving Tree Toy Drive for Children's Memorial Hospital

Saint Hyacinth Basilica School students are participating in The Giving Tree Toy Drive. Our families are donating and collecting from local businesses toys and monetary donations for over 40 children at Children's Memorial Hospital. We hope to bring joy to these children during this Christmas Season. We are asking for anyone who is in the season for giving this year, to please help us help others in need! Please contact the school at: 773-342-7550; email us at: info@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org; or drop off any gifts at: 3640 W. Wolfram St. Chicago, IL 60618.



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Provides local families a quality, faith-based education for children in 3 year-old preschool through eighth grade for nearly 100 years.

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OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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GREAT OUTDOORS

Green-up Your Clean-up

Prepare for a greener spring cleaning by attending this session from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. You will make your own non-toxic, eco-friendly cleaners out of simple ingredients, as well as take home recipes for more. The cost is \$15/EEA member and \$20/nonmember. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8256.

Research Study Shows That: Hand Washing of Cars at Home is Harmful to Automobile Finishes

The International Carwash Association working through a special Carwash Research Foundation Grant to the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas, has conducted extensive car washing tests this past year to determine the effect on car finishes by comparing various car washing techniques ranging from professional car washing to the bucket and sponge used by many auto owners.

Hand washing is extremely harmful to automobile finishes - Tests conducted by the University of Texas to compare surface disturbances showed that a single home hand wash on an automobile can produce scratches that penetrate as deep as 1/10 of the total thickness of the automobile's paint.

These test findings at the University of Texas substantiated tests done over ten years ago by the Technical University of Munich, Germany, in association with Mercedes-Benz, which at that time showed that similar damage was done to an automobile when using detergent, low water volume commonly found in hose nozzles at home, buckets of water, sponges and towels used in the average home car washing.

Specific scientific tests at the University of Texas further showed that hand car washing can produce so many marks on a car's finish that they cannot even be counted. The tests showed that in all hand washing temperatures, surface reflectance readings steadily declined, with some hand washing techniques being considerably worse than others. By contrast, when cars were washed by professional full service car washes, there was virtually no change in the surface reflectance or shine readings.

The tests showed that the average backyard hose is not able to supply enough water along with the detergent action to avoid damaging the car's finish. The most harmful method of washing cars was found to be the special "car wash" brushes that hook on to a garden hose and are purchased from local hardware stores or automotive supply dealers. The use of this type of brush with the low water pressure that comes out of the garden hose is the most destructive on the finish of an automobile. The tests also showed that techniques used at professional car washes are virtually harmless to automobile finishes. Findings from the University of Texas research study indicate that with the large amounts of water and specialized detergents used in professional car washes, sophisticated gloss and reflectance meter readings from new finishes used on automobiles were virtually the same before and after the equivalent of several months of normal washings in a professional car wash.

The professional car wash is able to provide and use tremendous amounts of water along with specialized detergents and appropriate mechanical action from cloth pads and curtains which the backyard hose and bucket hand car wash is not able to supply. This important and interesting research study performed by the University of Texas found that today's automobile owner is much wiser to have their car washed by a professional car wash, rather than washing it at home in their own backyard.

*Submitted by Fast Car Wash
(See our ad on page 1)*

New InstaGreeter Outpost Opens on the Magnificent Mile

Free Guided Tours begin Friday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

The Chicago Office of Tourism's Chicago Greeter Program, a free visitor service led by friendly, knowledgeable volunteer Chicagoans. InstaGreeter is an offshoot of the popular Chicago Greeter program, offering on-the-spot walkabouts on a first-come, first-served basis to visitors and locals alike.

Just in time for the holidays, Chicago Greeter is teaming up with the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association to present free, informal, one-hour walking tours of the Mag Mile and the surrounding area. Get an "insider's orientation" to landmarks like the John Hancock Building and the former Playboy Mansion, historic hotels and cathedrals, and the best of holiday decorations and shopping.

Service launched Friday, November 12 at 10 a.m. Operates 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through February, excluding Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Last tour departs at 3 p.m.

Water Works Visitor Information Center, Historic Pumping Station 163 E. Pearson (at Michigan Avenue).

Skokie Commission on Family Services Community Garden Initiative Provides Fresh Produce to the Niles Township Food Pantry

The Village of Skokie Human Services Division and the new Commission on Family Services have initiated their first project to benefit the Niles Township Food Pantry. Together, the Human Services Division and the Commission are committed to providing fresh vegetables to families in need. Over two thousand pounds of produce has been donated this summer through the generosity of municipal gardeners and farmers at the Skokie Farmers' Market.

The municipal gardeners maintain personal garden plots, where they grow their own vegetables. Multiple gardeners have joined this effort and provided donations of their harvest on a weekly basis. Also, four vendors from the Skokie Farmers' Market are participating in the effort. Gardeners and farmers were invited early in the season to share their surplus produce with the Niles Township Food Pantry.

The Commission on Family Services has made it convenient for gardeners and farmers to share their produce by offering collection dates and then delivering the donations directly to the food pantry.

The Niles Township Food Pantry serves thousands of Township residents each month and a large percentage of them are Skokie residents. The community garden project has helped to boost the amount of fresh vegetables available to food pantry patrons.

Residents who wish to contribute produce from their personal gardens or who would like more information should contact the Village of Skokie Human Services Division at 847/933-8208 or visit www.skokie.org.

Celebrate the New Season at North Park Village Nature Center

WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL -
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 FROM 6 - 9 P.M.

The Chicago Park District's North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd., welcomes winter with a special annual event, the Winter Solstice Festival, which celebrates the change in season on Saturday, December 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free for all ages. No registration is necessary.

The Winter Solstice Festival is a delightful opportunity to explore the North Park Village Nature Preserve during the evening hours. The festival includes walks along the nature trails lit by luminaries, a visit with critters from Big Run Wolf Ranch, seasonal music and chestnuts roasted on an open fire. Guests can help create edible holiday ornaments for the animals that make the Nature Center their home.

SIXTH ANNUAL POLAR ADVENTURE DAYS OFFER FAMILIES THREE DAYS OF WINTER FUN AT NORTHERLY ISLAND

The Chicago Park District presents the sixth annual Polar Adventure Days from 12 - 4 p.m. on three Saturdays, Dec. 11, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26, at Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr., on the Museum Campus. The program is admission free.

Polar Adventure Days offer families the opportunity to explore

Northerly Island and come face-to-face with live animals, engage in winter activities, watch ice sculpture carvings, and create nature-inspired crafts. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather as events take place both outdoors and inside the visitor center.

The following features and activities will be available at Polar Adventure Days:

- The first 500 visitors receive a complimentary Polar Adventure Day mug filled with hot chocolate while supplies last. Limit one per person
- Nadeau's Ice Sculpture transforms blocks of ice into magical creations.
- Various live animals will be on site to discover, such as birds of prey.
- Siberian huskies will be present and adventurers will talk about their Iditarod dog sled race experiences.
- Live entertainment from the Old Town School of Folk Music.
- Arts and craft tables for making nature-inspired creations.
- Free snowshoe rental for exploration of the island if there is enough snow.

Please call to confirm scheduled activities for Polar Adventure Days as activities are subject to change. For more information, call 312-742-PLAY (7529).



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Lira Ensemble Polish Holiday Concert at the Raue Center in Crystal Lake

The Lira Ensemble, renowned for its performances of Polish music and dance, brings a joyful holiday concert to Crystal Lake: "Polish Carols, Song and Dance", Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 8pm. The Raue Center for the Arts, 26 North Williams Street in Crystal Lake, IL

The Lira Dancers and Lira Singers Quartet will perform Polish folk songs and dances plus beloved Polish carols in an array of authentic, colorful regional costumes during this performance that also includes piano and vocal music of Frederick Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski. 2010 marks to honor the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth as well as the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the world renowned pianist and statesman who lived much of his life in the US. A few authentically American carols will complete the program.

The holiday concert will be narrated in English by Lucyna Migala, Lira's artistic director and general manager, who will share some Polish holiday traditions and will offer a bit of the history and tradition behind the music and dance performed. Iwona Puc is choreographer and dance director of the Lira Dancers, who will perform historic Polish court dances, and dances from Polish operas, as well as folk dances from several regions of the country. Piano soloist and accompanist for this concert is Philip Seward. The Lira Singers Quartet is made up of Lira soloists Katarzyna Dorula, Ewa Kowcz-Fair, Anna Krawczyk and Susan Smentek.

The Lira company is artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago and is the nation's only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, song and dance. Its mission is to bring the best of Polish culture into American life.

The December 11th concert is co-sponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago and by the Lira Society-Group 816 of the Polish Women's Alliance of America. It is funded in part by grants from the Alphawood Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council – a state agency.

Tickets for "Polish Carols, Song and Dance" are very reasonably priced in light of the current recession – from \$40, \$35 and \$30 and half price for children under age 16 in all price ranges. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Lira Ensemble at 773-508-7040 or the Raue Center box office at 815-356-9212. Lira recordings will be available for purchase in the lobby on December 11th. Free parking near the Raue Center is available at 4 lots with entrances from Brink Street. For details, visit www.rauecenter.org or all 773-508-7040.

Don't Miss Out on this Holiday Fantasy Event Join-In The Party at White Eagle for their 12 Days of Christmas Buffet



The White Eagle in Niles Welcomes Holiday Parties of all sizes to help Save Santa at the Join-In Party Sunday, December 12th.

Christmas is coming soon and rumor has it that even Santa might be taking a leave of absence this year. The last thing we need is for the economy to ruin Santa's Magic or infringe upon Christmas Celebrations.



We've Got The Solution.

Sunday, December 12th, from 1 pm until 6 pm

Businesses and Families of all sizes can take part in the

White Eagle's First Annual Join-In Party

Whether your group has 5 or 50 members, come to enjoy excellent food and entertainment in a festive atmosphere at a price you can afford.

- Customized dining area for your special group
- Lavish buffet and sweet table – 12 Days of Christmas – 12 Items
- Entertainment - DJ and Live Santa (Sunday 1-2 and 5-6)
- Cash Bar • Holiday linens and flowers on your tables

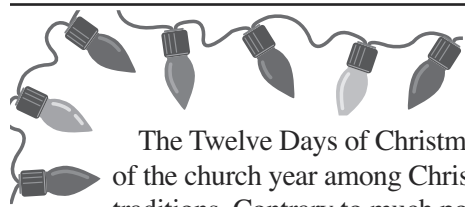
Hurry – Reserve your place today – Space is limited.

Call 847-647-0660 or e-mail us at whiteeglesales@thewhiteeagle.com

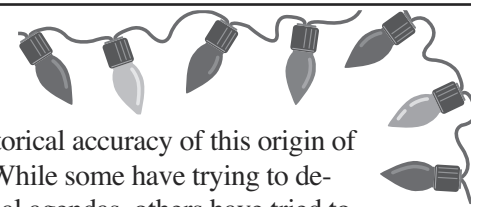
Our lobby is beautifully decorated for the holiday season

Only \$22.00 per person - Kids \$12.00 (3 to 12)

plus 18% service charge and applicable sales tax



The Twelve Days of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days before Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of December 25th with the following day considered the First Day of Christmas (December 26th). In these traditions, the twelve days begin December 26 and include Epiphany on January 6.

The origin and counting of the Twelve Days is complicated, and is related to differences in calendars, church traditions, and ways to observe this holy day in various cultures. In the Western church, Epiphany is usually celebrated as the time the Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). Traditionally there were three Magi, probably from the fact of three gifts, even though the biblical narrative never says how many Magi came. In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American culture, January 6th is observed as Three Kings Day, or simply the Day of the Kings (Span: la Fiesta de Reyes, el Dia de los Tres Reyes, or el Dia de los Reyes Magos; Dutch: Driekoningendag). Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is often the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Since Eastern Orthodox traditions use a different religious calendar, they celebrate Christmas on January 7th and observe Epiphany or Theophany on January 19th.

By the 16th century, some European and Scandinavian cultures had combined the Twelve Days of Christmas with (sometimes pagan) festivals celebrating the changing of the year. These were usually associated with driving away evil spirits for the start of the new year.

The Twelfth Night is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th). In some church traditions, January 5th is considered the eleventh Day of Christmas, while the evening of January 5th is still counted as the Twelfth Night, the beginning of the Twelfth day of Christmas the following day. Twelfth Night often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations. Many European celebrations of Twelfth Night included a King's Cake, remembering the visit of the Three Magi, and ale or wine (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some cultures, the King's Cake was part of the celebration of the day of Epiphany.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song for children with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

However, many have questioned the historical accuracy of this origin of the song The Twelve Days of Christmas. While some have trying to debunk this as an "urban myth" out of personal agendas, others have tried to deal with this account of the song's origin in the name of historical accuracy (see Snopes on The 12 Days of Christmas). There is little "hard" evidence available either way. Some church historians affirm this account as basically accurate, while others point out apparent historical and logical discrepancies.

However, we need to acknowledge that the "evidence" on both sides is mostly in logical deduction and probabilities. Lack of positive evidence does not automatically provide negative evidence. One internet site devoted to debunking hoaxes and legends says that, "there is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was created or used as a secret means of preserving tenets of the Catholic faith, or that this claim is anything but a fanciful modern day speculation. . . ." What is omitted is that there is no "substantive evidence" that will disprove it either.

It is certainly possible, in fact probable, that this view of the song is legendary or anecdotal. Without corroboration and in the absence of "substantive evidence," we probably should not take rigid positions on either side and turn the song into a crusade for personal opinions. That would do more to violate the spirit of Christmas than the song is worth. So, for the sake of historical accuracy, we need to acknowledge the likelihood that the song had secular origins.

However, on another level, this should not prevent us from using the song in celebration of Christmas. Many of the symbols of Christianity were not originally religious, including even the present date of Christmas, but were appropriated from contemporary culture by the Christian Faith as vehicles of worship and proclamation. Perhaps, when all is said and done, historical accuracy is not really the point. Perhaps more important is that Christians can celebrate their rich heritage, and God's grace, through one more avenue this Christmas. Now, when they hear what they once thought was only a secular "nonsense song," they will be reminded in one more way of the grace of God working in transforming ways in their lives and in our world. After all, is that not the meaning of Christmas anyway?

*On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me... A Partridge in a Pear Tree
On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Two Turtle Doves
On the 3rd day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Three French Hens
On the 4th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Four Calling Birds
On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Five Gold Rings
On the 6th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Six Geese A-laying
On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Seven Swans A-swimming
On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Eight Maids A-milking
On the 9th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Nine Ladies Dancing
On the 10th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Ten Lords A-leaping
On the 11th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Eleven Pipers Piping
On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me... Twelve Drummers Drumming*

Submitted by Dennis Bratcher

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Help Evanston Families in Need this Season

Be a part of the annual holiday toy and food drive sponsored by Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl and local community organizations. Please bring new, unwrapped toys and/or non-perishable food items to the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Your donation will be collected in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Room 1100, through Dec. 20. Make the holiday season joyful for as many families as possible! For more information, 847/448-8138.

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS THE 2010 HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES

The Chicago Public Library presents its annual Sounds of Our City: 2010 Holiday Concert Series on selected dates during the month of December. The free, lunchtime holiday performances feature some of the best Chicago area children's, grade school, and high school choirs. As an additional treat, performances by the Chicago Bar Associations' talented De Minimus Brass Ensemble and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus are also scheduled.

All of the concerts are held at 12:00 p.m., in the Grand Lobby of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street.

2010 HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES:

Thursday, December 2, Orr Academy High School Concert Choir, Ora Dobbins, Director

Friday, December 3, Inspired Youth Singers, (Ages 6 to 18), Beth Palmer, Director

Monday, December 6, South Wood Middle School Gifted Choir, British Thomas, Vocal Director

Tuesday, December 7, Lincoln Park High School Chamber Singers, Tim Cooper, Director

Thursday, December 9, St. Richard Parish Children's Choir, Daniel Stucker, Teacher & Director of Music

Friday, December 10, Curie Metro High School Concert Chorale, Michael Gibson, Director

Monday, December 13, De Minimus Brass Ensemble, from the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) Orchestra, Michael Poulos & Arthur Carvajal, Coordinators

Tuesday, December 14, Members of The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Patrick Sinozich, Director

Wednesday, December 15, Jones College Prep High School Concert Choir, Gaye Klopach, Vocal Director

Thursday, December 16, Walter Payton College Prep High School, "Sounds of Sweetness" (Male a cappella group), Jeffery Weaver, Director

Friday, December 17, Schurz High School Advanced Mixed Chorus, Anna Ljubcic, Director

For more information and schedule, please visit the website at chicagopubliclibrary.org or call the Chicago Public Library Press Office at (312) 747-4050.

Jewish Art Calendar 2010/2011 Available

Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie has published the Skokie Jewish Art Calendar 2010/2011 for the New Year. The Jewish Art Calendar includes detailed information on upcoming holidays, educational messages, Shabbat and Holiday candle-lighting times, traditional Jewish recipes, and popular thematic artwork by famed artists including Yoram Lukav, Michael Muchnik, Baruch Nachshon, Chenoch Lieberman and Zalman Kleinman. To receive your free copy, call 847-677-1770 or e-mail calendar@SkokieChabad.org.

Levy Shower Singers Caroling

Enjoy caroling with the Levy Shower Singers at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14 in the Levy Center lobby 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Spread cheer while listening to or singing along with your favorite holiday tunes.

ST. THECLA CHURCH

6725 West Devon Avenue, Chicago (773) 792-3077



Immaculate Conception of Mary

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Vigil - Tuesday, December 7th, 2010
8:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Mass in Polish),
7:30 p.m.

Day - Wednesday, December 8th, 2010
7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Mass in
Polish), 7:30 p.m.

No Anticipation Mass will be held on
Saturday, December 25, 2010

Liturgy of the Hours (Vespers)

Sunday, December 5, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 12, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 19, 4:00 p.m.

Penance Services

Parish Penance Service
December 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Service in English & Polish

CELEBRATE THE 2010 HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PARKS

Visits with Santa, Flower Shows & More Make the Sea- son Bright

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



Holiday highlights this winter include:

Winter Flower and Train Show Friday, Nov. 26– Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011; Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Dr., 312-742-7736; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, All ages, admission free

Several model trains, including an old-fashioned steam engine, freight train and trolley, wind their way through a miniature village set in a field of vibrant red, delicate white and soft pink poinsettias. The village, comprised entirely of natural materials including willow, spruce and birch woods, features a variety of Chicago-style homes and famous buildings such as the neighborhood bungalow, Chicago Theater and Chicago Water Tower Place.

Ice Skating Saturday, Nov. 27 – Sunday, Feb. 27, weather permitting. Various locations and times; Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change.

Contact the individual ice rinks, call 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

The Chicago Park District operates 10 ice rinks. Hours and skate rental prices vary. Please note there is an admission fee at The Rink at Wrigley and at McFetridge Sports Center in California Park, an indoor rink that is open year round except August. All other rinks offer free admission. Concessions are available at select rinks. Rink rental is also available for special events and parties; contact the rink manager.

Chicago Sports Fest Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 18-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; McCormick Place, 2301 S. Martin Luther King Dr., 312-744-3315; All ages, admission free

The largest indoor playground returns to Chicago and gives youngsters a chance to move around no matter the weather outside. Wrestling, tumbling, table tennis and gymnastics join a roster of team sports such as volleyball, soccer and floor hockey to fill a million square feet with fun.

Do It Yourself Nutcracker Sunday, Dec. 5, 2 – 3 p.m.; Indian Boundary Park & Cultural Center, 2500 W. Lunt Ave., 773-764-0338; All ages, admission free

Audience members star in this holiday classic dancing alongside the cultural center students and professional dancers.

Holiday Ornament Making Workshop Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Bell Park, 3020 N. Oak Park Ave., 312-746-5008; All ages, admission \$10, limited registration

Create ornaments and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

Holiday Ornament Making Workshop Friday, Dec. 10, 4-5:30 p.m.; Mayfair Park, 4550 W. Sunnyside Ave., 773-685-3361; Ages 6-12; Admission \$7 per person, pre-registration is recommended

Create ornaments for holiday decorating and enjoy hot chocolate.

Chocolate House Making Workshop Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Eugene Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway Ave., 773-478-9744; All ages, child must be with adult; \$28 per house, must register in advance

Parents and children get their creativity flowing as they create a holiday chocolate house out of delicious ingredients.

Holiday Ornament Making Workshop Saturday, Dec. 11, 10-11 a.m.; White (Willye B.) Park, 1610 W. Howard St., 773-262-5051; All ages, admission \$5 per child, pre-registration is required

Create ornaments for holiday decorating.

Parents' Night Out Friday, Dec. 17, 6-8:30 p.m.; Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., 773-685-3351; Ages 6-12, admission \$10 per child

Parents can complete their last-minute holiday errands and drop off their kids to a pizza dinner and craft project session.

Roller Skate with Santa Friday, Dec. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Margate Park, 4921 N. Marine Dr., 312-742-7522; All ages; admission \$5

Come out for a night of roller skating in the park's gymnasium. Fee includes hot dog, beverage, popcorn and skate rental.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce

in collaboration with

The Cook Italy Educational Foundation

Invite you to

CHRISTMAS EMOTIONS

A Holiday Reception Featuring:

An exclusive GOSPEL CONCERT by a premiere Chicago Choir & A superior tasting of WINE & DELICACIES from more than eight of Chicago's best Italian restaurants Within a unique Italian-inspired atmosphere

Monday, December 6, 2010 at 6:30pm at The Chicago Cultural Center - Preston Bradley Hall (3rd Floor) 78 E Washington, Chicago, IL 60602

Space is limited, RSVP required. For more info and to RSVP please contact Gina Shermetaro email: gshermetaro@iacc-chicago.com; phone: 312-553-9137 ext. 14

Skokie Community Giving Program

Please consider participating in the Village of Skokie Human Services Division Community Giving Program designed to assist Skokie families with limited financial resources that might not otherwise be able to celebrate winter holidays with their children. Families receive gift certificates for area businesses which they use to purchase holiday food and to buy items specific to each child's needs and wants. Those interested in making a donation this year are asked to do so by December 10, 2010. In 2009, the Skokie community generously donated more than \$35,000 to this program.

Please make checks payable to the Village of Skokie (please put Community Giving Program on the memo line) and send it to the Human Services Division, 5120 Galitz, Skokie, IL 60077. For further information or to make a donation please contact the Human Services Division at 847/933-8208.

The Austrian Mixed Chorus Performs at "Christmas Around the World"

By Maria Bappert

For many years now, the Austrian Mixed Chorus has been participating in the annual "Christmas Around The World" program at the Museum of Science & Industry, and this year is no exception. The date is Sunday, December 5, at 4:00 pm. The chorus will wear their uniforms consisting of long red dirndls for the ladies and grey jackets with black trousers for the gentlemen, their white shirts accented with red ties. As you know, red-white-red is the color of the Austrian flag, but red is also one of the big colors for the Christmas season.

The chorus will begin its program by singing four Austrian and German folk songs. For the benefit of those in the audience who do not understand German, Trudi Nika will give a brief introduction of each song so that people get an idea what the song is all about. Then the chorus will sing six favorite Advent and Christmas songs, followed by a sing-along of well-known English carols. The grand finale is "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night"), the best known and favorite Christmas song ever, originating in Austria, of course. Three verses will be sung in German, and everyone will be invited to sing along on the first verse in English.

While at the Museum of Science & Industry, do not miss inspecting the Christmas trees beautifully decorated by various ethnic groups from the Chicago area. Each and every one has something special to display. The Austrian tree was lovingly decorated by Trudi and Karl Nika, assisted by Stefan Huegel, Walter Fruehwirth, Irma and Konrad Becker, and Elise Schag. It is Nr. 30 and is located right outside the Holiday Café and Holiday Stage. The main ornaments are wooden hearts representing Austrian towns, rivers and famous Austrians from the past to the present. In conclusion, we say "Frohe Weihnachten" ("Merry Christmas") from the Austrian and German communities to everyone. May the New Year bring everyone good health, happiness and peace.

AMERICAN LEGION HOSTED THANKSGIVING FOR GREAT LAKES RECRUITS

The American Legion Post 134 in Morton Grove hosted fifty recruits from the Great Lakes Naval Training Center on Thanksgiving Day.

The Legion provided a full day of activities for the young recruits, most of whom were far away from home for the first time. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings were served. In addition to the extensive menu, members of the Legion, Women's Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and others from Morton Grove and the surrounding communities provided a variety of foods and delicious desserts.

It was "all hands on deck" as Legionnaires and volunteers took time from their own families to serve and entertain the sailors. Donated goods and services include free bowling for the recruits at Classic Bowl in Morton Grove; a performance from the Chicago Rush Dancers; a sing-along from the Chicago Metro Harmonic Society; gifts from Best Buy in Arlington Heights and Euclid Video in Mount Prospect; food and beverages donated by Deans Foods in Franklin Park; Costco in Niles (Jon Eggers, Manager); Maiers Bakery in Morton Grove; Village Creamery in Niles; Produce World in Morton Grove; Jewel Foods in Randhurst Mall (Chuck Murphy, Manager); Pennant Foods in Northlake; photography services from Bill Klewitz; and Bud Swanson of the Morton Grove Civic Center. Transportation provided by the Cook County Bus Company. Free national and international telephone service will be donated by AT&T so the recruits can call their families and loved ones anywhere in the world at no cost. According to Post 134 Commander Bill Smith, "This is an important annual event for the Morton Grove American Legion. We want to show these young men and women how much we appreciate their service and commitment to our country. Everyone is looking forward to making this an enjoyable and memorable event for these new sailors."

The Morton Grove American Legion and the Morton Grove Civic Center are located at 6144 West Dempster Street in Morton Grove. For more information call (847) 965-9503 or (847) 212-5336. Email Joe Hedrick at: hedrico@juno.com

Between Friends' Young Professionals Group Holiday Social

Join the Young Professionals Group of local nonprofit agency Between Friends for food, drinks and merriment at their 2010 Holiday Social!

The event will take place at Fado Irish Pub, located at 100 West Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60654, on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

There is a \$25 cover charge, which includes appetizers and two drink tickets. Additionally, \$10 of every admission goes toward the purchase of gift cards, which will be donated to domestic violence survivors to empower them to make choices for themselves and their families.

Between Friends' Young Professionals Group (YPG) is a volunteer network of young men and women dedicated to supporting Between Friends in breaking the cycle of domestic violence and abuse.

If you have questions or would like to request further information, visit BetweenFriendsChicago.org or our Facebook page at Facebook.com/bfyppg.

Celebrate Kwanzaa Evanston-style

This year, you can celebrate two ways! At 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26, see local youth and adults perform in a "Kwanzaa vs. Christmas" themed play written by Gloria Bond Clunie at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St. At 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 27 at Fountain Square (Davis St. and Sherman Ave.), join friends and neighbors in lighting the Kinara, singing traditional songs, and reciting Kwanzaa principles. Admission to both events is free. For more information, call 847-448-8254.

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(773) 342-3636

SACRED Concert

December 11, 2010 8:00 p.m.
Ticket Information: 773-571-6444 or
708-691-0665
St. Hyacinth Basilica - 773-342-3636

FREE - Sacred Concert - College Students

December 12, 2010 7:30 p.m.
(No tickets necessary)
12/19 - Sunday - 8:00 p.m.
12/20 - Monday - 8:30 a.m.
and 7:30 p.m.
12/21 - Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.
and 7:30 p.m.
12/22 - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.
and 7:30 p.m.

12/24 & 12/25 and 1/1/11 -
The priests will NOT be available for
the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

MASSES for the HOLYDAYS

12/24 - MASS is NOT scheduled
12/25 - Liturgy (English) - 7:30 a.m.;
10:45 a.m.; & 5:00 p.m.
12/25 - Liturgy (Polish) - 9:00 a.m.;
12:30 p.m.; & 6:30 p.m.

MASSES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

01/01/11 - Mass is NOT scheduled.
01/01/11 - Liturgy (English) - 7:30
a.m.; 10:45 a.m.; & 5:00 p.m.
01/01/10 - Liturgy (Polish) - 9:00
a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; & 6:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Beloved Holiday Ballet Skates on Ice

Nutcracker on Ice takes to the ice December 10-12 at the Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. For four performances, hundreds of skaters of all ages will tell the familiar tale of Clara and her musical holiday adventures. Exquisite costumes, Tchaikovsky's familiar music, and exciting special effects bring the characters to life, making this the perfect family show to spread the holiday spirit.

Evanston residents skating solo parts are: Iana Baker, Annie Bennett, Imani Bourne, Elnora Bracey, Matthew Bracey-Sherman, Madeline Brooks, Emma Caroli, Christelle Chavannes, Rachel Chery, Blythe Chesney, Eleanor Clark, Ryen Delaney, Lauren DeMaria, Alexa Dolinko, Maya Fagen, Olivia Gerasole, Emma Grenzebach, Olivia Grenzebach, Theresa Grodsky, Miara Handler, Emily Hosman, Reyanna James, Anna Keeva, Eva Kennedy, Amanda Kulczewski, Ella Lambert, Linwan Lewis, Ron Lopez, Mya Loughlin, Mallory Mancini, Heather Millikan, Olivia Mitchell, Beth Morgan, Sophie Paradi, Zoe Parrilli, Isabel Reiches, Seth Reynolds, Emily Richards, Chelsea Ridley, Earin Ridley, Grace Robertson, Maggie Schermerhorn, Remi Schreder, Ariel Simmons, Paul Simmons, Sofia Simon, Leia Sohn, Abby Stein, Mathilda Sullivan, Morgan Sweeney, Anatolia Syed, and Zoe Wilson.

Performances of Nutcracker on Ice are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Tickets are \$8.50 for general admission and \$9.50 for reserved seats. Group discounts are available. For more information, call 847-448-8258.

Free Downtown Evanston Holiday Parking

At the October 11th Evanston City Council meeting, the City Council approved free holiday parking in the City's three downtown self-park garages at Sherman Plaza, Maple Avenue and Church Street along with Lot 60 located at 1234 Chicago Avenue for the month of December.

The free holiday parking will start November 25th and go through the first weekend in January, ending Saturday, January 1st, 2011. Hours of free parking are weekdays after 5 p.m. to midnight and all day on Saturdays.

The free holiday parking is to encourage residents and visitors to patronize the downtown and the Dempster/Chicago business areas and to utilize the convenient parking in the garages to enjoy Evanston's shopping, fine dining, and entertainment during the holiday season. Remember, Sundays are already free in the parking garages

Fancy Yourself a Comedy Star?

Try a Taste of IMPROVE-isation! Before the class starts in January, try this FREE sample session of laugh-filled improvisation techniques. The session meets from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15 and consists of interactive games and exercises that utilize creativity, quick-thinking, and social interaction. The class is taught by Teri McEvoy, who studied at Second City and is now a professional actress and improv teacher. Remember: you're never too old to have fun! For more information and to register, call 847-448-8250. Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston.

Be a Karaoke Superstar!

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre's Family Karaoke and Poetry Slam Night returns this month from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St. Spend quality time with the family singing your favorite tunes and slammin' your hippest poetry. The music is provided by Phat Katz Karaoke. Admission is \$5 per family; add a slice of pizza and a soft drink for \$1.50 per person. For more information, call 847-448-8254.

Visit a Winter Wonderland!

Take a magical trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden to view the 10,000-square-foot exhibit of 16 miniature trains. The trains wind around 80 mini replicas of Chicago's favorite landmarks. After the exhibit, you are free to explore on your own. The trip is from 10:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, and the cost is \$10/Levy member and \$15/nonmember. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8250.

The Evanston Children's Choir Debuts with the Evanston Symphony!

See the Evanston Children's Choir in its debut performance with the Evanston Symphony Orchestra in An Evanston Symphony Christmas, directed by Lawrence Eckerling.

Sunday, December 5th, 2010, 3:00, Evanston Township High School Auditorium. Tickets: Adults \$25, Children \$10. For tickets, call (847) 864-8804 or visit www.evanstonsymphony.org

Announcing the Evanston Children's Choir's Holiday Concert 2010!

Join Directors Gary Geiger and Kathryn Crabb with Pianist Evelyn Dias as they lead the ECC in our most popular concert of the year, celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in typical ECC style! Guest artist: Miah Logan of S.O.U.L. Creations

Sunday, December 19th, 4:00, Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston
Wheelchair accessible

This concert is FREE, but voluntary donations are graciously accepted at the door. This concert made possible, in part, by the City of Evanston, Cultural Arts Division. For more information, call (847) 733-0814 or visit www.evanstonchildrenschoir.org

Lincolnwood Holiday Craft Fair

The Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 11, from 9AM-3PM, at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood. Please call the Recreation Office at 847-677-9740 for more information.

The German-American Children's Chorus Concert

The German-American Children's Chorus, together with the German-American Singers of Chicago, are pleased to announce their annual Christmas concert. It will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 12th, 2010 at 2:30 PM. The concert will be held at the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

The choral presentation will feature songs both in English and in German. The admission price is \$9.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door for adults; children under 14 are admitted free. The ticket price includes admission to the party immediately following the concert. Food and beverages will be available at a moderate price. There will be music and fun for all.

For tickets or information, please visit our website: www.dakinderchor.org

SUZANNE PETRI IN "CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH MARLENE" DECEMBER 20, 2010, 7:30 PM

Millennium Park Debuts Its "Cabaret With a View" Series Where Audiences Get to Sit on the Stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion

Cabaret comes to Millennium Park this winter with an all-new series, Cabaret with a View, where audiences have a chance to sit on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion to experience music in an intimate setting and a climate controlled environment. Presented by Millennium Park, the new series kicks off on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. with Suzanne Petri in a one-woman tribute to screen legend Marlene Dietrich called "Celebrate the Holidays with Marlene."

Cabaret with a View continues with Hollis Resnik in concert on Monday, January 24, 2011 and Shelley MacArthur in concert on Monday, February 14, 2011. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497) or by visiting www.millenniumpark.org.

In a tour-de-force concert that showcases her performing versatility, Petri will take the audience on an eclectic musical journey. She will be joined by Jim Cox on bass and Dez Desormeaux on reeds with Bob Moreen as Musical Director, performing Dietrich classic songs including Boys In the Backroom, Falling In Love Again and Jonny.

A passionate advocate of cabaret, Petri is the president and a founding member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals (chicagocabaret.org). She has been honored with Chicago's "After Dark" Award for Outstanding Cabaret Artist and CCP's Gold Coast Award. Her cds, Das Grand Tour, A Marvelous Party and Marlene Muzik: Live at the Skokie Theatre, are available online as well as on sale at the performance.

EDISON PARK GIFT CERTIFICATE NOW AVAILABLE!

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of the Edison Park Gift Certificate! This gift certificate will make a great holiday gift for friends, family, co-workers, and teachers! The Edison Park Gift Certificate can be purchased online at www.edisonpark.com or at the Chamber office located in the Edison Park Train Station at 6730 N. Olmsted. The Edison Park Gift Certificate can be used at any of the participating chamber members. For a complete list of participating businesses, visit www.edisonpark.com. For more information, contact the Chamber office at (773) 631-0063 or email info@edisonpark.com.

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Public Libraries

EDGEBROOK BRANCH

5331 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646 (312) 744-8313

A member of the **Lyric Opera's** award-winning Education Corps will entertain and educate with a lecture and musical highlights from *The Mikado* on Friday, December 17th at 11 a.m. In Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, there is too much flirting going on in the town of Titipu—and it is against the law! So the Mikado (emperor of all) decrees that heads must roll. But fear not—this is a comedy that keeps you smiling and humming the tunes for weeks.

Winter may seem like a very quiet time in nature, but there is a lot happening outside if you know where to look. Explore the season of winter at *Signs of the Season!* on Saturday, December 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. This interactive program will feature stories, crafts and activities for children ages 7 and up. No registration is required.

The Melikin Puppets are back at the Edgebrook Branch for a very special holiday show! On Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m., the Melikin puppeteers will present the holiday classics, "The Shoemakers and the Elves" and "The Night Before Christmas." This program is made possible by a grant from the Edgebrook Historical Society. No registration is required.

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston IL 60201 847-448-8646

Library Announces Wireless Internet & Computer Upgrades

The Evanston Public Library recently upgraded its wireless internet service along with many upgrades to computers throughout thehedrich-blessing3.jpeg Library. Laptop users will find this much needed and anticipated upgrade to our wireless connection a welcome enhancement. They will experience faster Internet connections, fewer dropped connections and more consistent access on all floors. Likewise, customers using the Library's new PCs will find improved access to the various resources available.

Through funding from the City of Evanston's Capital Improvement Program, the Information Technology Division has made significant improvements to the computer network infrastructure at the Main Library.

"State of the art wireless access points have been installed throughout the Main Library. These access points will increase the types of clients they can accept and give Library customers better Internet stability and speed. This system upgrade allows the Library to more effectively meet the current and changing needs of on-line users," said Evanston Public Library Director Mary Johns.

Twenty-five new replacement computers were installed in the Children's Room on the first floor, the Training Room on the third floor and the public computer area on the third floor. Some of the older PCs were re-purposed to be catalog stations elsewhere in the Library.

The PC reservation system is now available in the Children's Room in addition to being used on the second and third floors of the Main Library. The reservation system replaces the handwritten method of signing up for computer time. Customers register to use the computer and the reservation system monitors the time and manages printing functions.

EPL Big Book Sale! Dec 9-12

Named "Best Used Book Sale" by the Chicago Reader, the next BIG Evanston Public Library book sale will be held Dec. 9-12 in the third floor Book Sale Room. The sale preview will open at 3 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 9th with a \$5 admission until 5 p.m. The sale closes at 8 p.m. on Thursday. Sale hours are 10 am to 5:30 pm on Friday, December 10th and Saturday, December 11th. All books will be half price on Sunday, December 12th from noon to 5:30 p.m.

There will also be an enormous clearance book sale in the Community Meeting Room on Friday, January 7th from noon until 5:30 pm, Saturday, January 8th from 10 am until 5:30 pm, and Sunday, January 9th from noon until 5:30 pm. All books will be 50 cents. There are many great books at bargain prices and all proceeds benefit the Library. Special thanks to the great volunteers who work long and hard to support the library! For more information, call 847/448-8600.

Neighbors for Peace Presents

ISRAEL and PALESTINE: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Joel Finkel of Jewish Voice for Peace presents an overview of the troubled history of the region. Moderated discussion to follow. Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Evanston Public Library. SATURDAY, December 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

4613 N Oketo, Harwood Heights, IL, (708) 867-7828

The Adult Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, December 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. or Tuesday, December 8 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Attend either session to discuss *Deja Dead* by Kathy Reichs. Copies in both regular and large type are available at the library.

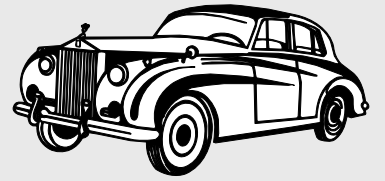
Bus Trip to ChristKindle Mart and the Chicago Cultural Center \$25.00 Shop and eat at the Kriskindlemart, Chicago's traditional Christmas market, in Daley Plaza. Then attend the radio play presentation of *Gift of Laughter* at the Chicago Cultural Center. Wednesday, December 8, 3:30 - 9 p.m.

Please register for all programs by calling (708) 867-7828 and asking for the Answers Desk, or register online at eisenhowerlibrary.org. You must register for fee-based programs through library staff.

Career/Jobs Corner

I am a Personal Driver,

looking to work for a family. I am a U.S.citizen with a perfect driving record and 20 years of experience.
773-712-1123



In Need of a Nanny for Your Children?

I have 20 years experience, am a U.S.citizen with a perfect driving record. Excellent references 773-616-6551

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Let us run a FREE Classified for you.
Call (847) 675-6127

Skokie TeenLink Program

The Village of Skokie offers the TeenLink program to unite Skokie residents who are in need of outside seasonal yard work, including snow shoveling, raking and lawn care, with Skokie teens who are available for hire to do the work.

The TeenLink program list provides contact information for Skokie teens available to do seasonal yard work. The list includes the name and address of the teen, days available, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email.

The resident is responsible for contacting the teen and for making financial and scheduling arrangements.

If you would like the TeenLink contact list please call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257. Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the TeenLink program by contacting the Village Manager's Office or visiting www.skokie.org to download an application.

Illinois Inspector Training Institute

Start a new career or enhance your current one!

Interested in becoming a Licensed Building Inspector? Know someone who is? The Illinois Inspector Training Institute is the best choice to pursue this field. We'll fully prepare you to take the State of Illinois Exam, guarantee you'll pass AND provide career mentoring!

RSVP to an upcoming Open House today to learn more and meet the instructors!

The following dates & time are scheduled:

IITI Open House

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Monday December 20, 2010

All are from 7:00pm-9:00pm

DROP-INS WELCOMED!

Directions: The Open Houses will be held at: 1613 North Mohawk, Chicago

Be sure to bring yourselves and all of the questions you may have about our course, our school and the home inspection career.

Parking: Street Parking is available with Permits. Permits will be distributed at the Open House.

JEFFERSON PARK BRANCH

5363 W. Lawrence Ave., (312) 744-1998

Wednesday, December 8 and 15 Join our preschool and toddler story times.

Toddlers (ages 18 months to 3 years) meet from 10:15 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Preschoolers meet from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for stories and crafts. No pre-registration is required. Contact the children's librarian for more information.

Thursdays, December 9, and 16, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The social worker is in! Are you confused about the maze of social services and assistance programs? Library Volunteer Susan Fox-Larkin, LCSW, is a professional social worker with 20 years of experience. She will be able to refer you to the proper agency or service for help.

Monday, December 6 at 4:15 p.m. Join our family reading club as they discuss *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* by Nick Bruel. Ages 6 to 9 (grades 1 to 3) and their parents. Call to reserve a copy.

Wednesday, December 8 at 2 p.m. The Wednesday afternoon book discussion group will feature *If Looks Could Kill* by Kate White. Call to reserve a copy.

Thursday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Join our pre-teen book discussion as they discuss *The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer. Ages 10-14. Call to reserve a copy.

Saturday, December 11 at 3 p.m. Join Chicago tour guide Maureen Callaghan as she talks about Chicago's famous and infamous women.

Monday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office will conduct a review of the Rules of the Road drivers' exam. No appointment is necessary.

Monday, December 13 at 4:15 p.m. Calling Extreme Explore's to join our Science Kids Club! This is the second of a 3-part series exploring land, air, and water. Compare and contrast extreme adaptations of exotic and local wild life with books, games, and hands-on activities. Ages 6 to 9. Registration is required.

Local Arts and Entertainment

Skokie is the Background for a Feature Film

The Village of Skokie was the back-drop to the filming of the movie Contagion, a thriller that features many Hollywood A-listers including Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Kate Winslet and Gwyneth Paltrow. Film crews were centralized at the Illinois Science + Technology Park (IS+TP) at Lamon Avenue and Searle Parkway. Filming took place from Tuesday, November 9 through Friday November 12, 2010.

Snow production for the film began the afternoon of Friday, November 12. Powdered snow covered the manicured lawn of the IS+TP and a staged sign depicting the Minnesota Center for Disease Control was erected for the film project.

The film Contagion will tentatively hit theaters in October 2011.

The Village of Skokie was the location for other A-lister movies such as Home Alone 3, Risky Business, Sixteen Candles, The Weather Man, The Breakfast Club and Skokie.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation

847-677-7761
7924 N. Lincoln Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
www.skokietheatre.com

Plenty of free parking!

Group Rate Available

Ticket prices do not include service fees

Buy tickets online at www.skokietheatre.org

December 3 at 8:00pm The Edge Comedy Club

December 4 at 8:00pm Our Kind of Sound: Artemis Singers Celebrates 30 Years

December 5 at 2:00pm John Van Keulen IN "Merry & Gay" The Holiday Show

December 5 at 6:00pm - 8:00pm NorthShore Shorts Film Festival

December 6 at 1:30pm Ester Hana presents MUSIC OF THE WORLD

December 10 at 8:00pm Shout Section Big Band Presents: "Duke The Halls" a Holiday tribute to America's greatest jazz legend

December 11 at 8:00pm Rob Dorn: Wonderland

December 12 at 7:30pm North Shore Opera Hour presents Christmas at the Opera

December 15 at 1:30pm Tony Bernard's CHRISTMAS CROONERS

December 17 at 8:00pm Catherine O'Connell

December 18 at 8:00pm Ava Logan presents Girls Night Out

December 19 at 2:00pm Jimmy Niteclub does DOO WOP CHICAGO STYLE

December 19 at 7:00pm June's Got the Cash

December 25 at 7:00pm at 9:00pm KFAR Jewish Arts Center presents... JEW-MONGOUS! featuring Sean Altman and special guest Cindy Kaplan

December 31 at 8:00pm Tony Bernard presents "Rock 'n Roll is Here to Stay"

December 31 at 10:00pm Jack Miuccio in "Forever Frank: The Sounds of Sinatra"

DANK-HAUS GERMAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

4740 North Western Avenue, 5th floor, Chicago, IL 60625
773.561.9181 www.dankhaus.com

Kultur Küche Cooking Series

KulturKüche will resume February 4 2011 with Krapfen making - the super nummy Karneval treats - get ready to be covered in sugar. Reserve today!

Silvesterball

Formal New Year's Eve ball - includes 2 entree buffet dinner, appetizers inc herring, desserts, late nite snack, champagne toast, coffee, balloon drop, bleigiessen, feuerzangenbowle, party favors and dancing all night. Also includes entry to madness in Ballroom

Dinner 7-9pm, DJ's Music Source begin 8pm

\$60 before Dec 15, 2010, \$80 after Dec 15, 2010

Reserve your tickets today!

Polkaholics Blow Out

C.'mon out and celebrate at our annual NEW YEAR'S EVE blowout!

And the admission price is going to be a mere \$4.99 for the first 200 people (that's right - \$4.99 - save the penny to ride the CTA home!).

After that, the admission price will be \$9.99. As in years past, we will be raffling off a BRAND NEW EPIPHONE ELECTRIC GUITAR!!

Where else can you go on New Year's Eve, spend less than \$5 or \$10 at the door, get a chance to win a new guitar, and dance the polka all night long?

Adventmusik - 5 Dec 3pm

Bach and Beyond Ensemble presents "Advents-und Weihnachtsmusik bei Kerzenschein"

Advent and Christmas Music by Candlelight in the Marunde Ballroom
Celebrate Bach and Beyond's 10th Anniversary with Fabulous Food and Music

Advance tickets - \$18 Adults \$15 DANK Members \$12 Seniors

At the door all tickets are \$23

Neighborhoods Go Green! New Chicago Architecture Foundation Exhibition Opens

Neighborhoods Go Green! Scaling Up Sustainability opens Nov 19 at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S Michigan. The exhibition is free and open daily from 9:30 to 5 pm daily through February 15, 2011.

Designed to bring attention to the need for sustainable neighborhoods, the exhibition includes suggestions to select a "smart" site as well as creating livable neighborhoods, all while reducing energy consumption. Examples of sustainable neighborhoods in the United States and Canada describe neighborhoods that have good public transportation, affordable housing, and places where people can walk and bike without having to drive a car.

"This exhibition demonstrates our commitment to sustainable growth," said Lynn Osmond, Chicago Architecture Foundation President and CEO. "It gets people thinking about what they can do to improve their communities and encourages future growth that is responsible."

The exhibition identifies the obstacles to creating sustainable communities and introduces the Chicago Challenge - a group of planners, architects, environmentalists, local governments and institutions hoping to transform the Chicago region into a global leader of green neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods Go Green! Scaling Up Sustainability focuses on the national standard for rating and certifying sustainable neighborhoods known as Leadership in Energy Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND). It was curated by the US Green Building Council and Farr Associates. Its opening coincides with the AAO and Greenbuild conferences, taking place in Chicago in November 2010.

Programs that coincide with the exhibition include The Promise of LEED Neighborhood Development Jan. 26 at 12:15. www.architecture.org has additional programs.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Current exhibition is Chicago Model City with a large scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions, and youth and adult education programs. For further information visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432 or become a facebook fan:

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MAYOR DALEY, CONVENTION OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION SHOW WILL STAY IN CHICAGO 2012-16

Show Annually Brings 66,000 Visitors, \$100 Million Economic Impact

Mayor Richard M. Daley and city convention officials announced the National Restaurant Association has signed a five-year agreement to keep its annual convention in Chicago from 2012 through 2016.

"One of the most important parts our city's economy -- historically, in the present and in the future -- is our convention and tourism industry. If it isn't healthy, it costs us jobs, revenue and other economic activity," Daley said in a news conference held at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Indiana Av.

"This is a real victory for Chicago and it builds on the other successes we have achieved since we re-structured our convention operations," he said.

The Restaurant Association has held its annual show in Chicago for 61 consecutive years. It brings 66,000 attendees to the City, books 45,000 hotel room nights and generates direct expenditures each year of more than \$100 million.

Daley pointed to state legislation passed earlier this year that re-invented Chicago's tourism and convention efforts at Navy Pier and McCormick Place as a major factor in the decision of the Restaurant Association -- and other organizations -- to sign agreements to meet in Chicago.

"That legislation will save jobs, create new ones and bring much-needed new revenue and other economic activity to Chicago and our region," he said.

In June, the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau announced that six customers had re-committed for future years and three new shows had committed as a result of the McCormick Place Reform Legislation.

In August, it was announced that the International Manufacturing Technology Show -- with more than 82,000 attendees -- had re-committed to holding the show in Chicago in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Two weeks ago it was announced that the BIO International Convention -- the global event for biotechnology -- will return to Chicago in 2013 and 2016.

"There's no doubt we have great momentum right now and it's the job of our convention leadership to keep it going. We're now as competitive as ever and we have a new system and new leadership in place to take our convention industry to the next level.



Open Studio Project -- Give Back This Holiday

Here at Open Studio Project, we believe that everyone can make art and realize its benefits. This has certainly proved true for all of us here at the Studio, as well as the nearly 3,000 participants we served during 2010.

Working and learning at Open Studio Project, I've seen how art can change everything. My time in Connecting with the Creative Process provides a two hour break each week from the stresses of daily life. My fellow participants and I have used the Open Studio Process to evaluate personal, financial, and relationship concerns in the creative and safe space of the studio. One of the most comforting parts of the process for me is sharing our writing and artwork at the end of each class. This process of sharing, free from commentary and judgment, builds a network of support which I carry out into my life.

In 2010, we served more clients at OSP in more ways than ever before. In addition to tried and true favorites such as Connecting to the Creative Process and Art & Adventure for children, we added new programs geared toward both kids and adults. Create & Skate, a new OSP program for preteens, allows participants to design and paint one-of-a-kind skateboards, celebrating art in motion. Another new OSP group offers creative self-expression and support to LGBT teens, who face much higher risks for violence and suicide; these workshops enact our belief that, with art, it can get better. A new Open Studio Process Facilitator Training Program, which began this past summer, educates participants from across the country in OSP's methodology as well as deepens their personal practice, through a series of weekend intensives.

Although this year has been full of growth at OSP, we also face serious challenges in the year ahead. In these uncertain times, more and more people are turning to art as a means of personal growth. Because this has been a tough economic year for everyone, many more of our participants need full or partial scholarships. In fact, three out of four of our clients receive free or discounted services. To fulfill the needs of our clients and avoid having to cut programming, we are cutting costs and reducing staff hours. We are doing all we can, but we need your help!

In order to continue to provide the services necessary to our community, we need to raise \$29,000 dollars during this annual campaign. We depend heavily on your donations to provide outreach programs, scholarships, gallery shows, even paint and other supplies. Without your generous donations, we could not continue. As always, we are grateful for your support.

Anne Canter

To make a donation you may mail a check to: Open Studio Project, 903 Sherman Ave, Evanston, IL. 60202

"A Theater Review"

"The Music Man"

Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Marriott Theatre is bringing for the holidays the all time favorite Meredith Wilson musical "The Music Man" to end its 2009-2010 season.

Gary Griffen can take a bow on his direction as can Matt Raftery on his awesome choreography.

The show is loaded with veteran performers of the theatre as well as some young fresh new faces.

Bernie Yvon is a perfect Harold Hill ragtime con man who has quite a reputation selling seventy-six trombones. Marian the Librarian is played in the capable hands of Johanna McKenzie-Miller.

With a cast that includes Mary Ernster, Andrew Lupp, John Reeger, Adrian Aguila, Roger Anderson, Cory Goodrich, Jameson Cooper, Holly Stauder, Ericka Mac, Tammy Mader and Paul Pement along with the others -- How could the production go wrong?

The show has a beautiful score that includes "Goodnight My Someone," "Seventy-six Trombones," "My White Knight," "Till There Was You" and "Lida Rose" to name a few of the musical numbers.

When Marian meets Harold she has strong feelings that he isn't what he pretends to be and yet as the story goes she does fall in love with him.

Wilson comes from Iowa and probably for that reason the locale of the show is River City, Iowa. Reeger and Lieberman play the mayor and his wife and have some funny scenes. These two professionals play to perfection and you can't help but enjoy their performance.

The show takes two hours and thirty minutes to tell but it is fast-moving and on opening night there wasn't a peep out of the many under the age of ten.

It's a "don't-miss" production for the holidays. "The Music Man" runs through January 9th. For performance days, show times and reservations call 847-634-0200. Tickets range from \$40 to \$48.

-Four Stars-

20th Edition of Chicagoland's Media Guide Tracks Changing Media Landscape

Expanded Online News Section, Reporters' Twitter Accounts, Journalists by Issue Area, Just a Few Features of New Guide

As traditional media shrinks and online news grows, it can be difficult to find the right reporter at the right outlet in the ever-shifting media landscape. Released this week, the 20th edition of the Chicago area's most comprehensive media guide tracks the changing industry and offers subscribers up-to-date reporter contact information at Chicagoland media outlets, big and small.

Produced by the nonprofit Community Media Workshop, the 300-page 2011 Getting on Air, Online & Into Print media guide boasts an expanded online news section, reporters' twitter accounts, and lists of journalists by issue area in addition to contact information for more than 4500 reporters and editors at traditional outlets.

"People may think there's no one left to pitch at the Chicago Tribune, but that's not the case. The staff may be smaller, but there's still a need for good stories about our communities," said Thom Clark, president, Community Media Workshop. "This year's guide reflects the expansion of online news and includes contact information for some of the most recent online endeavors including Patch.com and the Chicago News Cooperative. It's an invaluable--and, compared to other guides, affordable--resource for anyone trying to reach Chicago-area and Midwest reporters."

Visit www.communitymediaworkshop.org/mediaguide to order the 2011 Getting on Air, Online & Into Print media guide or call the Workshop at 312-369-6400.

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What are the Odds?



Chester M. Przybylo

What are the Odds your family will need estate planning? Well, anyone who will die someday needs to plan for that eventuality—that is everyone! In addition, anyone who will ever be disabled or incapacitated needs to plan for that eventuality, as well. Even for those in their 20s and 30s, the odds of at least a 3-month disability prior to age 65 are over forty percent.

Of course, none of us think that this will actually happen to us. We think we will have a warning and can prepare then. Of course, if we knew when, where, and how we might meet our fate, we could put our affairs in order

at the last minute. We could even modify our behaviors to avoid what we knew to be our fate. Even if we could wait to the last minute, doing so would add immeasurable pressure, stress, and difficulty during an already difficult time in our lives.

None of us know how we will meet our end. But, here are some statistics as to the odds:

Cause of Death	Lifetime Odds
Heart Disease	1-in-5
Cancer	1-in-7
Stroke	1-in-23
Accidental Injury	1-in-36
Motor Vehicle Accident	1-in-100
Intentional Self-harm (suicide)	1-in-121
Falling Down	1-in-246
Assault by Firearm	1-in-325
Fire or Smoke	1-in-1,116
Natural Forces (combined)	1-in-3,357
Electrocution	1-in-5,000
Drowning	1-in-8,942
Air Travel Accident	1-in-20,000
Flood	1-in-30,000
Legal Execution	1-in-58,618
Tornado	1-in-60,000
Lightning Strike	1-in-83,930
Snake, Bee or other Venomous Bite or Sting	1-in-100,000
Earthquake	1-in-131,890
Dog Attack	1-in-147,717
Asteroid Impact	1-in-500,000
Tsunami	1-in-500,000
Fireworks Discharge	1-in-615,488

But, whether you are destined to die from a common cause, like cancer or heart disease, or a rarity, like a tsunami or asteroid impact, planning is essential. Without planning, you have no voice or control over what happens to your family and your property once you are gone. Your property would go where your state says it should go. The court would also appoint a guardian to care for your minor children without any indication from you regarding who would be good in that capacity.

Let your voice be heard and have things set up now to accomplish your ultimate goals. You will rest easier. Your family will have less difficulty dealing with any problems down the road. When health issues arise, a well laid-out estate plan is priceless. A qualified estate planning attorney can help you identify and achieve your ultimate goals.

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. Please visit our website at www.PlanOurEstate.com



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Social Security Fast-Track Disability Processes Get Even Faster

by Andrew Salata, Public Affairs Specialist

New Rules Will Further Speed Benefits to Tens of Thousands of Americans with Disabilities

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that the agency has published final rules that will further reduce the time it takes to decide applications for disability benefits from those persons with the most severe disabilities—a process that currently takes less than two weeks on average. The new rules allow disability examiners to make fully favorable determinations for adult cases under the agency's Quick Disability Determination (QDD) and Compassionate Allowance (CAL) processes without medical or psychological consultant approval. It also will help the agency process cases more efficiently as it will give medical and psychological consultants more time to work on complex cases where their expertise is most needed.

"The new rules we are publishing today will help us get disability benefits to the most severely disabled Americans even faster," Commissioner Astrue said. "This year, more than 100,000 people benefited from our fast-track disability processes and received decisions in a matter of days rather than the months and years it can sometimes take. I am pleased that our fast-track processes will now be even faster and help speed much needed benefits to our most vulnerable citizens."

Under Social Security's QDD process, a predictive computer model analyzes specific data within the electronic disability file to identify cases where there is a high likelihood that the claimant is disabled and we can quickly obtain medical evidence. The CAL process currently identifies 88 specific diseases and conditions that clearly qualify for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits and can be fast-tracked.

The final rules, 20 CFR Parts 404 and 416, can be accessed through the Federal Register online at www.regulations.gov. They will be effective on November 12, 2010.

Additional information about Social Security's Compassionate Allowances process is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Lincolnwood Parks and 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 (847) 677-9740.

CJE SENIORLIFE CO-HOSTING MEDICARE PART D CONSULTATIONS AND SIGN UP AT SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Skokie Public Library, in cooperation with the Village of Skokie Human Services Division, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky's Office, and CJE SeniorLife is offering free assistance to older adults enrolling in Medicare Part D to select a plan that best suits their needs and to answer questions, on Monday, Dec. 6, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., at the Library's Community Services Office (near the West entrance), 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. To schedule a 30-minute appointment, interested individuals should call 847/324-3148.

Participating seniors should bring their Medicare and Medicare Part D insurance cards as well as a current list of medications being taken and daily dosages.

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.

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Santa Paws

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Evanston Winter Workouts

It's the perfect time of year to take a figure skating class! Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., offers dozens of figure skating classes ranging from 3 Years Beginner to Adult Freestyle and everything in between. Specialized classes, such as Ice Dancing and Off-Ice Ballet for Skaters, are also offered. All classes begin the week of December 13; class times and fees vary. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8258.

Get in shape for the winter! The Fleetwood-Jourdain Center Fitness Room, at 1655 Foster St., is a bright, beautiful place to work out with everything you need to stay fit. Machines include: Tunturi exercycles, Precor Ergocycles, AeroStep Steppers, and a Trotter treadmill. Membership options for adults age 18 and older are one year for \$210, six months for \$100, and one month for \$35. The daily, non-member fee is \$10. The Fitness Room is open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Call 847-448-8254 for more information.

Learn the original mixed martial art: Hapkido. Gain control and leverage through footwork and body positioning in this martial art that combines both long and close range fighting techniques. Students age 16 and older will employ dynamic kicking, hand strikes, pressure point strikes, joint locks and throws. Beginners are welcome. The class meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays from Dec. 8 to Jan. 26 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave. The cost is \$93/resident and \$103/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8250.

Want to improve your volleyball skills or just learn the basics? Attend a one-day volleyball clinic from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St. A seasoned volleyball professional will teach students and adults age 12 and older the correct techniques for improving their game. This clinic does not focus on competition. The cost is \$60/resident and \$75/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8254.

November 21 Marked 30th Anniversary of the Deadly MGM Grand Hotel and Casino Fire Inadequate Building Design Contributed to Deaths of 85 People in Las Vegas High-Rise

In the early morning of November 21, 1980, a fire broke out at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a result of this catastrophic fire, 85 people died and hundreds were injured.

The fire, which occurred 30 years ago, still remains one of the deadliest hotel fires in the history of the United States. The deadliest hotel fire was in 1946 at the Hotel Wincoff in Atlanta Georgia were 119 people died.

"Poor fire protection design was a major contributing factor to the significant number of deaths and injuries," said Chris Jelenewicz, Engineering Program Manager with the Bethesda, Maryland-Based Society of Fire Protection Engineers. "Many lives were lost on the upper floors of the hotel when smoke and toxic gases spread to the upper floors of the building via stairways, elevator hoistways and the building's heating ventilation and air conditioning system."

It was estimated that about 3,400 hotel guests were in the 23-story high-rise hotel/casino complex at the time of the fire. The building had a large ground floor level that included the Casino, restaurants, and a convention center. The hotel was located on 21 floors that were above the ground level. There was also an arcade level below the ground level that had a movie theater, shops, service areas and a parking garage.

"The MGM fire reminds us of the threat that is posed by fire and the importance of designing buildings that that keep people safe from fire," said Jelenewicz. "The fact of the matter, however, is that today most hotels are much better protected. This is in large part due to the fire-safety strategies and systems designed by fire protection engineers that make our world safer from fire."

What is a Fire Protection Engineer?

According to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, a fire protection engineer applies science and engineering principles to protect people, homes, workplaces, the economy and the environment from the devastating effects of fires. Fire protection engineers analyze how buildings are used, how fires start and grow, and how fires affect people and property. They use the latest technologies to design systems to control fires, alert people to danger, and provide means for escape. Fire protection engineers also work closely with other professionals, including engineers of other disciplines, architects, state and local building officials, and local fire departments to build fire safe communities. Fire protection engineers are in high demand. The number of available jobs far exceeds the supply.

About Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Organized in 1950, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) is the professional organization that represents engineers engaged in fire protection worldwide. Through its membership of over 5,000 professionals and 65 international chapters, SFPE advances the science and practice of fire protection engineering while maintaining a high ethical standard. SFPE and its members serve to make the world a safer place by reducing the burden of unwanted fire through the application of science and technology.

More information about SFPE can be found at www.sfpe.org.

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