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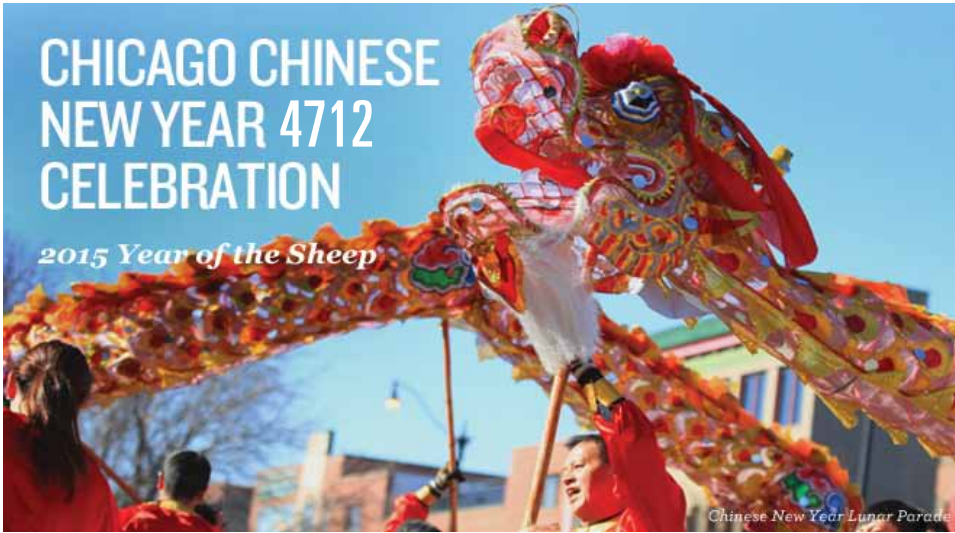
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Issue 3
February 9, 2015



CHICAGO CHINESE NEW YEAR 4712 CELEBRATION

2015 Year of the Sheep

Celebrating its 31st year, the Chinese Fine Arts Society kicks off the Year of the Sheep with a festive display of Chinese dance, music and martial arts. Be dazzled by the movements and sounds of lion dancers as they beat their drums to scare away evil spirits and bring good luck for the New Year, and take in the beauty and elegance of traditional Chinese dance and music presented by some of Chicago's finest artists. Don't forget to wear red for good fortune!

Dates: February 19, 2015; Hours: 12 Noon - 1 pm
Location: Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall,
3rd Floor South, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602
Admission: FREE
Website: For more information, visit the Choose Chicago website



Accessibility: The following services are available for persons with disabilities:
Accessible entrance, 77 E. Randolph St.
Accessible restroom facilities
Wheelchair loans, see information desk for availability or call in advance
ASL interpreters are provided with 72 hours notice
Assisted Listening Devices available for public events



Mayor Emanuel On The Passing Of Cubs' Great Ernie Banks

Ernie Banks was more than a baseball player. He was one of Chicago's greatest ambassadors. He loved this city as much as he loved -- and lived for -- the game of baseball. This year, during every Cubs game, you can bet that No.14 will be watching over his team. And if we're lucky, it'll be a beautiful day for not just one ballgame, but two. My deepest sympathy to his wife, Liz, family, and friends.

(See Page 5 For More.)



LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18TH

(Find The 1st Of Our Lenten Recipes On Page 11.
Watch For More In Upcoming Editions.)



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Fat Tuesday Crazy Hat Night Mardi Gras Party



with Russ Phillips and His "Windy City Jazz Ensemble"

Featuring Vocalist

Jeannie Lambert



Tuesday, February 17th — 8:00 P.M.



Special Mardi Gras Menu

Catfish — BBQ Ribs
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... and much more

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Kurt Summers In Lincoln Square & Norwood Park

Chicago City Treasurer Kurt Summers visited Lincoln Square and Norwood Park as part of his tour of Chicago's 77 communities in 77 days.

Summers, who has been on the job for two months, organized community meetings across the city to engage, discuss and learn about the unique development needs and investment opportunities each community faces. He completed his tour of all 77 communities on Saturday, Jan. 31.

In Lincoln Square, Summers met with small business owners, many of whom belong to B Corporation, an organization committed to "use business as a force for good". Mightybytes, a web design company, hosted the meeting, which also included representatives from the Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce,

the Ravenswood Community Council and the Old Town School of Folk Music. During the hourlong meeting on January 20, Summers shared his plans to help empower the city's "delegate agencies" so they can provide more one-stop shopping for businesses.

Those in attendance expressed their willingness to help other neighborhoods in need of greater resources, which Summers was encouraged to hear. As part of his 77 in 77 events, Summers is identifying "thought leaders" who are interested in staying engaged throughout the year, so the Treasurer's Office can "have a lasting relationship" with residents in each community.

Summers visited Norwood Park on Thursday, January 28. He gathered with about a dozen people, including rep-

resentatives from the Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at Mather's-More Than a Cafe. Summers shared his plan to leverage the city of Chicago's scale and purchasing power to help lower the cost of doing business for non-profits and small business.

Summers, who was appointed by the Chicago City Council to fill a vacancy, is running unopposed for the Treasurer's office in the Feb. 24 municipal election. Summers used the 77 events to learn first-



hand about the needs of each community and how he can be most helpful to Chicago's residents in his new role as City Treasurer.

AGT The Safe Money People Providing Full-Service Retirement Planning

AGT The Safe Money People is a financial services company dedicated to helping our clients preserve their wealth. We specialize in working with older adults, for whom the highest financial priorities are safety and growth. We help our clients preserve the wealth they have accumulated over their working lifetimes, and are proud of the fact that when the markets crashed in March 2000 through October 2002 and again in October 2007 through March 2009, none of our clients lost a penny in the avenues we recommended.

We work with our clients to develop guaranteed income plans that they cannot outlive and that provide financial security, regardless of global economic conditions. We utilize financial vehicles that, first and foremost, are safe and guaranteed. Second, these vehicles supply enough growth to consistently overcome inflation and taxes. Our expertise is to provide the best-performing safe vehicles available.

We provide the most efficient life insurance tools for protecting wealth beyond your lifetime for the sake of your spouse and/or the next generation. Once you've secured your finances against the risk of loss, it's important to consider the possibility of your assets being depleted, either during your lifetime by long-term care, or after your lifetime in the form of income tax liability to your heirs. We create plans that minimize the tax burden to your beneficiaries and protect you against draining your assets to pay for long-term care.

Illinois law mandates who will get your assets if you die without a will. Without proper planning, a court will decide who gets your assets and in what proportion. We spend our whole life building a "nest egg" and striving to protect our assets from devastating losses, but then we ignore the absolute necessity of having an estate plan that suits our specific wishes. A properly crafted estate plan goes hand-in-hand with a well-conceived financial plan. Both plans are best served with the help of your financial planner and an attorney.



Pictured left to right: Kevin Mix Tax Attorney & CPA, Tina Walasik Vice President, Aryeh Goldbloom Chief Executive Officer, Simcha Safran Chief Operating Officer, Frank Greenfield Estate & Elder Law Attorney

The basic components of an estate plan are a will, a durable power of attorney, and a health care directive. In addition, regardless of the size of your estate, circumstances often dictate establishing a living trust. A living trust serves a multitude of purposes, including the management of a bequest to a child or grandchild, insuring that your assets stay in your bloodline, and eliminating the cost and public exposure of a lengthy probate court proceeding. If you have an estate plan but do not really understand what it says or why it takes so many pages to say it, you owe it to yourself to talk to an attorney who speaks in terms you understand. No one should ever sign a legal document they don't understand, period.

AGT encourages its clients to have an estate plan as a key component of their financial plan. Over the past several years, Frank Greenfield, an attorney with more than 40 years' experience, has advised hundreds of AGT clients in the area of estate planning. Frank is an extremely knowledgeable attorney, who will explain complex legal documents in a respectful and understandable manner. Contact us to make an appointment, not an excuse.

Our knowledge, background and resources with taxes gives our clients a distinct advantage in financial and income planning. Our CPAs and Certified Tax Preparers perform tax preparation at a substantial discount for seniors. All returns are reviewed by 2 preparers to insure the utmost accuracy.

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Illinois Residents Visit The Field Museum Free In February

What: The Field Museum is granting free Basic admission for all Illinois residents throughout the month of February. This is a savings of 62 dollars for a family of four! Free February is an excellent opportunity to discover – or rediscover – the wonders of the Museum from Haitian Vodou to ancient mummies to cretaceous creatures.

When: February 1-28, 2015; 9am to 5pm

Where: The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

Details: With proof of residency, Illinois residents can enjoy free Basic admission throughout February. Families wanting to upgrade to an All-Access Pass, which includes Vodou: Sacred Powers of Haiti, Underground Adventure, and a 3D movie can do so at an exceptional value of 18 dollars for adults and 13 dollars for children ages 3-11. Seniors and students may purchase All-Access Passes for 15 dollars.

Vodou: Sacred Powers of Haiti goes beyond Hollywood stereotypes and manufactured images and explores the vital spiritual and social force in Haitian daily life. Visitors will discover that Vodou honors the spirit of resistance that has sustained the country through centuries of hardship.

Underground Adventure shrinks visitors to the size of a bug, allowing them to discover a diverse and immersive environment of worm tunnels and soil chambers. After regaining their regular size, visitors can investigate how life above connects to the ground below.

Opening February 19 is The Field's latest exhibition, City Windows: The Chicago/Beijing Panoramic Paper Cuts of Professor Qiao Xiaoguang, featuring original paper cuts created for the Chicago O'Hare Airport project. The entire work consists of 15 panels depicting Chicago landmarks such as Navy Pier and Willis Tower as well as iconic Beijing scenes like the Forbidden City and the Bird's Nest from the 2008 Olympics. City Windows is included in Basic admission, so visitors may check it out entirely free!

Polish National Alliance Seniors To Meet On Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Paul C. Odrobina, Vice President of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) announces that the PNA North Side Seniors will resume and conduct their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at the PNA Home Office Cafeteria, 6100 N. Cicero Ave. Chicago, Illinois. Doors will open about 9:15 a.m. This will be a general meeting. We ask for those who would be attending to call the Vice President's Office at 1-800-621-3723 ext. 316 by Monday February 9, 2015.

All seniors ages 55 and over (members and non-members) are encouraged to join us for a morning of fun and fraternalism. Refreshments will be served. There is plenty of parking available in the lot behind the PNA building.

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

For additional information about the PNA Seniors Group and their activities, please call the PNA (773) 286-0500 ext. 316, or visit the PNA website at www.pna-znp.org.

2014/2015 University Guild Program Calendar

Northwestern University Campus, Scott Hall, in the Guild Lounge
601 University Place, Evanston

All programs are held on Monday and begin at 1:30 pm (unless noted)

Tea, coffee and cookies are served after the program.

February 16 — The Art of the Ballet: Degas, Diaghilev, Cornell

Art Committee; Guests: University Circle & the Alumnae Board

Jeff Nigro

Adjunct Lecturer, Art Institute

Adult Education Seminars Instructor, Newberry Library

Even though artists have been inspired by the human figure in motion for centuries, it took some time for great artists to take ballet seriously enough to engage with it in their work. Jeff Nigro is a frequent speaker at the Art Institute and has been a successful speaker at the University Guild.

**Belmont-Central Chamber, Northwest Connection Chamber
Portage Park Chamber, Greater Avondale Chamber**

Invite you to Join Us for

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Tuesday, February 17th, 2015

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cafe Milano

3930 W. School St., Chicago, IL
(near Milwaukee and Pulaski)

\$10 includes appetizers, beads, free raffle ticket,
cash bar and music of New Orleans!

RSVP by February 10th.

Please call the Belmont-Central Chamber to RSVP at:

773-647-1644



PACZKI ALERT

To order please call 773-282-1324 or email barb@polish.org.

Polish American Association's Annual Paczki Day fundraiser is just around the corner.

Fat Thursday is on February 12 and Fat Tuesday is on February 17, 2015.

Once again we will be selling our delicious paczki donated by Bogna Solak's Oak Mill Bakery (www.oakmillbakery.com) for \$3 each. To make it easy for everyone to get the paczki, we will make them available for sale at 8 locations (Fat Thursday, February 12) and 2 locations (Fat Tuesday, February 17) throughout Chicago metro area. Please visit our website www.polish.org for selling locations.

If you order 3 dozens we will deliver them to you within Chicago downtown area. Some paczki will include a sweet surprise inside, donated by Adam's Jewelry.

Property Tax Bills Due March 3 Show Local Government Debt

The latest property tax bills show local government debt and have a due date of Tuesday, March 3, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

Pappas said taxpayers can pay online at cookcountytreasurer.com, and noted that county offices will be closed on Monday, March 2, for Casimir Pulaski Day.

Property owners can pay:

- Online at cookcountytreasurer.com, from a checking or savings account
- At nearly 400 Chase Bank locations in Illinois (Chase will be open on Pulaski Day)
- From an account at some 200 participating community banks
- By mail with a U.S. postmark no later than March 3, 2015

Payments received or postmarked after March 3 will be charged 1.5 percent monthly. Partial payments are accepted. Taxpayers must reference their 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN) located at the top of each tax bill for all payments and must write their PIN on the face of each payment check.

Pappas said the First Installment bills for tax year 2014 now being mailed show every unit of government (taxing district) that has levied a tax on a home or other real property. The information listed is:

- Money Owed by Your Taxing Districts
- Pension and Healthcare Amounts Promised by Your Taxing Districts
- Amount of Pension and Healthcare Shortage
- Percentage of Pension and Healthcare Costs Taxing Districts Can Pay

"Taxpayers have a right to know how much debt is owed by the governments that tax them," Pappas said, adding that further financial information was on her office's website at cookcountytreasurer.com.

Foster/Harlem Meeting

The Foster Harlem Property Owners Association's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 19th at 7:00pm at St. Monica's Beyenka Hall, 5101 N Mont Clare.

The Association will host the aldermanic candidates for the 41st Ward to discuss their position on policies in a forum setting. This will not be a debate and open questions will not be allowed during the forum. Candidates are encouraged to stay after the Association meeting to answer questions.

St. Thecla Seniors Meetings

St. Thecla Seniors located at 6725 W. Devon meet at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Queen of Peace room. There is a short meeting followed by sweet rolls and coffee. Bingo and cards are played. We have parties!!! Please join us as you may like us! For information, please call Joanie at 312/608-4092.

Evanston/Skokie Valley Metropolitan Family Services - Giving Hope And Opportunity To Families

With your help last year Metropolitan served more than 53,000 individuals and families in the Chicago area, helping them become more self-sufficient and strengthening family bonds. Learn more about our organization by visiting our website, metrofamily.org.

Norwood Park Seniors Club

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

SKOKIE ART GUILD

FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOPS

Saturday Sessions 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Live models / no instructor

Fees per session SAG Members \$12.00;

non-members \$20.00. For information: Steve Gal 847/673-4450





February Health Events For Area Residents

Community First Medical Center, 5645 West Addison Street, Chicago, will offer the following health events in February.

In honor of National Wear Red Day®, Friday, February 6, hospital staff that day will provide free blood pressure screenings and free heart health information outside the cafeteria from 11a.m. to 1p.m.

Maryville Crisis Nursery will present a parenting session titled "Ready, Set Go! Having Fun with Your Kids," Tuesday, February 17, at 6 p.m. A free dinner and childcare service will be provided. Registration is required by February 16, at 3 p.m., by calling 773-205-3637.

Heart disease is not just a man's disease. According to the American Heart Association, each year one in three women die of heart disease and stroke. To learn about your risk for heart disease, attend a free lecture titled "Women's Heart Health," Thursday, February 26, at 2 p.m. Mary Schlitter, R.N., will discuss symptoms of a heart attack and how to reduce heart disease risks. To register or get more information, call 773-794-8486.

"Benefits Of Home Care" Is Timely Talk At Norwood Crossing On Feb. 18

Caring for an elderly friend or relative can be very demanding and exhausting. To distinguish between providing caregiving and deciding when to hire a private caregiver requires an understanding of many factors. To find out more about what you need to provide and when the need exceeds your ability to provide assistance, attend the Timely Talk, "Benefits of Home Care." The event will take place at 2:00 p.m., on Feb. 18, at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago.

Libby Davis, Executive Director of Norwood Seniors Network, and Bea McDonough, Director of Sales for Norwood Seniors Network, will make the presentation.

A question and answer session, door prize drawing and light refreshments will follow the talk. Please RSVP by calling (773) 577-5323 or emailing info@norwoodcrossing.org.

Become A Star Or An Ambassador! Rewarding Volunteer Opportunities Await At Presence Resurrection Medical Center

Volunteering at a medical center carries unique rewards for individuals of all ages, and Presence Resurrection Medical Center (PRMC) encourages community members to explore the possibilities.

Younger people can gain valuable work experience to build a resume and expand their network of contacts. Adults can obtain the spiritual rewards of giving back to the community while providing a helping hand to the needy.

PRMC provides a variety of opportunities for volunteers. The two most prominent are:

Guiding Stars – who greet visitors and provide them passes at the information desk, while helping them find their way around the facility

Patient Ambassadors – who engage patients and family members in conversation and provide company, as needed, to help ease the stresses of hospitalization

Other roles that volunteers commonly fill include delivering flowers and newspapers to patients, transporting patients to an entrance after discharge, and working in offices throughout the medical center.

For more information about how to get involved as a PRMC volunteer, call Grace Babel at (773) 792-5110.

Random Acts Of Flowers Opens Chicago Branch Non-Profit Brings Hope And Smiles To Windy City And Surrounding Communities

Random Acts of Flowers (RAF) hosted a press conference today at the Prentice Women's Hospital on the campus of Northwestern Memorial Hospital to announce the launch of its branch in Chicago. Larsen Jay, RAF's founder and CEO, Natalie Berg, RAF-Chicago's executive director, RAF board members, volunteers and members of the media were in attendance, and the first official delivery of flowers to patients at Northwestern Memorial Hospital occurred immediately following the announcement.

"This new branch gives Random Acts of Flowers an opportunity to share kindness and compassion to individuals in the Chicago area," said Jay. "After one of our first deliveries, I remember thinking about how cool it was that we just changed someone's life with someone else's garbage."

According to Jay, RAF-Chicago's office and floral workshop is located in Evanston. The recycling "green" nonprofit organization will partner with healthcare facilities throughout the greater Chicago area and with the help of its dedicated volunteer teams, recycled and repurposed flower bouquets will be delivered to patients who would not normally receive flowers or visitors. "With our first volunteers already trained, our Chicago branch is ready to implement our unique mission of nourishing the health of the environment, individuals, and the community simply by delivering beautiful bouquets and smiles," explains Jay.

"RAF is a one-of-a-kind organization," said Natalie Berg, RAF-Chicago's executive director. "Giving flowers is a universal gesture. It may be the only flowers someone receives, and if we can be the cause of a smile, we've done our job."

Founded in 2008, RAF has delivered more than 58,000 bouquets and has continued to grow from its headquarters in Knoxville, Tenn. to other locations throughout the nation including Chicago, Greeneville, Tenn., Pinellas Co., Fla., and Silicon Valley, Calif.

To learn more about ways to give or how to get involved with RAF-Chicago, visit www.RAFChicago.org or call (847) 430-4751.

From The Neighborhood. For The Neighborhood.

By George Howe

For more than 50 years the fabric of the 47 ward community has been loyalty to family, friends and neighbors, the foundation and cornerstone for most of this proud, north side hamlet. With time, things change. New employment can take people away from their roots. Yet, that strong bond that one never loses and a sense of pride and nostalgia that washes over when someone ventures back into the neighborhood are undeniable. For many of the current and original longtime residents, the feeling is that the existing leadership of the ward has consciously tried to change the identity and landscape without their best interests in mind.

Rory Fiedler, a lifelong resident wants to bring back the ward to the people, and announced his candidacy for Alderman of the 47 ward. "My special interests are that of the residents that I will gladly represent," explained Fiedler. "I will be a 'full time' Alderman, in my office and available, he added. His sense of family values and community are deeply rooted in him from early on. Growing up in a Catholic household, he and his eight siblings attended elementary school at Queen of Angels. Fiedler went on to Lane Tech High School and the Art Institute of Chicago. Once elected, how often do you run into your representatives in the neighborhood? Fiedler is a regular guy. He'll greet you with a hardy handshake and a smile. Approachable and unpretentious, not fitting the traditional politician mode. "I recently met Rory for the first time at the local grocery store and he's the real deal," said ward business owner Bill Waring. "After talking for a bit, I felt like I've known him for quite sometime." That's a good quality especially for a potential elected official, Waring added.

Once elected, Fiedler's immediate initiatives are to explore the possibility of reinstating the much needed #11 Lincoln Avenue bus route. Identify and procure properties that may be viable as a play lot, Dog Park, and community garden or other green space. To work with the city to try and curb the very serious rat problem. Fiedler fully supports an elected school board, so that decision makers are accountable to all. "I will hold regularly scheduled meetings, where we can deal with the issues of the 47 ward together," said Fiedler.

With the redistricting of the city wards back in 2012, for the 2015 elections, the area from Wolcott to Ashland and Addison to Belmont avenues formerly of the 32 ward is now part of the 47. "I want to welcome those constituents of that area and to let them know that my style and accessibility for them is consistent with the quality representation that they are used to from Alderman Scott Waguespack," said Fiedler.

Fiedler is confident that come election day Tuesday, February 24 the voters will let their voices be heard and help him on his journey and mission to make the ward an even safer, more livable and vibrant community. "I love this ward and believe someone who knows it, its resident's hopes and concerns, should represent it."

For more information please visit fiedlerforthe47.com. Or [fiedlerforthe47](https://www.facebook.com/fiedlerforthe47) on Face Book.



Northtown Garden Club News

Again, let me remind you of our up-coming Arts and Crafts Fair on Sat. May2, 2015. We are still looking for artists. The information is on our web-site or you can contact me at mannaberg@yahoo.com or Ginny Davis at gdavis2431@sbcglobal.net.

Last but important, we will be expecting all club members to take an active part in the Arts and Crafts Fair. You can help setting up in the evening on May 1, you can help on the day of the event, you can help by passing out fliers at work, church, amongst your friends and neighbors. We need all hands on deck to make this a success. Eva

Northtown Garden Society, www.northtowngardensociety.org

Kiwanis Club Of Ravenswood – February, 2015



The Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood meets at Noon every 2nd & 4th Thursday (with some exceptions) at the Hilltop Restaurant, NW corner of California & Foster Avenues, Chicago. Plenty of FREE PARKING is available in the lot west of the restaurant, on the north side. To confirm the meeting dates please call Maria Bappert at 773-728-8127. Thank you.

FEBRUARY, 2015 DATES – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Thursday, February `12 - Regular Club Meeting followed by a Board Meeting.
February 14 – Valentine's Day. Yeah!
February 16 – Presidents' Day – Honor our Veterans – Fly the Flag!
February 18 – Ash Wednesday-Lent begins.
February 26 – Regular Club Meeting with Guest Speaker Alexander Brown, Interim Executive Director of the Friedman Place, 5527 N. Maplewood Avenue.
February Anniversaries & Birthdays - None of record.
February Flower: Violet. Birthstone: Amethyst.
February Media Topic suggested by Kiwanis International: "We Love Kids!"

And Here Is Our Tribute To Valentine's Day:

LOVE

LOVE puts the music in laughter, the beauty in song,
The warmth in a shoulder, the gentle in strong.
LOVE puts the magic in memories, the sunshine in skies,
The gladness in giving, the starlight in eye.
LOVE puts the fun in together, the sad in apart,
The hope in tomorrow, the joy in a heart.
(Words from Anonymous, that prolific poet.)

Looking ahead to March, please mark your calendar for Thursday, March 5, and join your Fellow Kiwanians at Ann Sathers Restaurant on Belmont Avenue for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person. RSVP with Leah Steele at 773-742-2488.

Cubs And City Of Chicago Announce Plans For Public Memorial For Ernie Banks

The Chicago Cubs and Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced that Ernie Banks' Wrigley Field statue was on display at Daley Plaza the week of January 25th, allowing fans to honor and remember the Hall of Famer. Banks passed away Friday night after suffering cardiac arrest at the age of 83.

Banks became the first player in Cubs history to be honored with a statue at Wrigley Field in 2008. Mayor Emanuel and the City of Chicago will host the statue, which has been temporarily removed from its home at the corner of Clark and Addison during the



current phase of the Wrigley Field restoration project. The statue is being transported from a facility outside of the city where it is being restored and will be placed in Daley Plaza upon arrival in Chicago.

Mayor Emanuel called Banks a friend who was a great ambassador for the City.

"Ernie Banks' legacy extends far beyond his Hall of Fame stats. He was beloved by generations of people for the way he played on the field and – more importantly – for the kind and warm person he was off the field," said Mayor Emanuel. "We are bringing Ernie's statue to Daley Plaza to honor not just one of the best ballplayers of all time, but a great man who made our city proud from the day we first met him in 1953."

"Ernie Banks was a great player and an even better person," said Tom Ricketts, Chairman of the Cubs. "He was a kind, gentle man who loved his fans as much as they loved him. We couldn't think of a better way to honor Ernie than to allow those fans a way to pay their final respects

to this great man."

Inducted into Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1977, Banks was a lifelong Cub who played for 19 seasons. He was a 14-time All-Star and back-to-back National League Most Valuable Player in 1958 and 1959.

Banks hit 512 home runs in his career, and his 277 home runs as a shortstop remain a National League record.

The greatest player in franchise history, among Cubs, Banks ranks first in games played (2,528), at-bats (9,421), extra-base hits (1,009) and total bases (4,706); second in home runs (512), RBI (1,636) and hits (2,583); third in doubles (407); fifth in runs scored (1,305); seventh in triples



(90); and eighth in walks (763).

He was the first Cub to have his number retired in 1982, was voted to Major League Baseball's All-Century Team in 1999, and was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.

Friedman Place to Ring Wedding Bells

Friedman Place, a supportive living community for adults who are blind and visually impaired, today announced that wedding bells will soon ring for a pair of their residents. The private nuptials will occur in the main dining room from 2-4 PM on Saturday, February 7th. Friedman Place is located at 5527 N Maplewood Ave (at Lincoln), Chicago, IL.

Interim Executive Director, Alexander Brown was happy to learn (but not surprised) that Miquel "Mike" Franco and Maria "Ree" Hunt announced their engagement. "It's not the first time residents have met, fell in love and gotten married at Friedman Place. But it's a first since I've been here," said Brown who took on the leadership role in 2013. "When Mike and Ree asked to have the wedding here so both their outside families and their Friedman family could attend, we were delighted to accommodate them. As the decorations go up, we can't stop smiling and can't wait to see Mike and Ree walk down the aisle."

"It was love at first sight!" said Mike and Ree. The pair met for the first time during a tour of Friedman Place. The pastor from the church where Ree works and worships took her on the tour. "I had to grip his arm. It was like an arrow went straight through my heart. My knees buckled just a little bit. I whispered to my pastor, he's handsome isn't

he?" asked Ree, who despite her total blindness couldn't deny that instant chemistry. That was all she wrote for Ree, and Mike admits the same. "She's beautiful," Mike said was his first thought of her. Mike benefits from some vision, and when he heard Ree sing for the first time he found her even lovelier. "Although, when she hits her high notes, oh my ears!"

As it turns out, both Mike's and Ree's mothers knew each other and both moms thought the pair should meet. "I met Mrs. Franco too, we became fast friends. Mrs. Franco tried to fix me up with Mike. It just never happened," said Ree. "When I heard Mike's name for the first time, I thought, no way!" Finally many years later and after each of their mom's had passed –Cupid finished the task, which proves that a mother's heart is always with her children.

Friedman's aim is to provide housing and supportive services to adults who are blind or visually impaired. Friedman Place emphasizes resident self-determination, independence, and interaction within the community.



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Local Artist Tests the Limits of Painting

Haberman Exhibit Part of Broader Campaign to Revitalize Northwest Side Arts Scene

The work of painter and Northwest Side resident Jared Haberman will fill the walls of the Perkulator coffeehouse January 5 through February 14. The exhibit will be presented in conjunction with the Northwest Arts Connection, a grassroots organization dedicated to highlighting the area's cultural opportunities and talents.

Haberman is best known for painting intense colors, on repurposed vintage windows. Other work incorporates ripped pieces of paper from newspaper comics, old prayer booklets, music sheets and even old phone books. Each piece challenges audiences to think beyond the norm and realize that practically anything can serve as a painter's canvas, including book pages, windows or plexiglass.

For Haberman, the unconventional use of materials was an early trademark. "I always carried a sketchbook on me and a Precision tipped black pen to sketch with," he said, reflecting on a childhood obsession. "I filled books and books full



of sometimes the same drawing over and over again, front to back, both sides of the paper. I would frequently run out of paper and have to use the back of an old poster, or in my most recent ventures, phone book pages, and now, onto windows."

The Haberman exhibit will be one of many planned collaborations between the Northwest Arts Connection and Perkulator, which opened last fall in the heart of Portage Park's Irving-Austin business district at 6032 W. Irving Park Road.

For more about Jared Haberman, visit <http://jaredhaberman.blogspot.com>.

For more information about the Northwest Arts Connection, contact Marlena Ascher.

marlenaascher@sbcglobal.net



It's your turn to vote for the next Skokie Idol

By Wayne Mell – Managing Director

The Skokie Idol competition jumped into high gear last week, as over 70 hopeful auditionees came to town for their chance at the coveted title. The judges selected 26 of them to compete in three age brackets, and now they need your help. Each Saturday at noon, from February 7 through March 21, the sing-offs are held at Skokie Theatre. Audiences will vote along with the judges on who moves forward, and one or more contestants in each age bracket will be eliminated. On Saturday, March 28, the last two contestants in each division will face off in a grand finale sing-off at 7:30 p.m. and the Skokie Idols will be chosen.

The three Skokie Idols will appear in concert at IMODS Wednesday's on the Green on July 8. Additionally, the Top Note Music Academy at Old Orchard will help them prepare with free voice lessons and will present them with a professional recording of the concert at the end. The winners will also receive a \$50 gift certificate from IMODS to be used in downtown Skokie stores.

Although contestants were primarily from the immediate area of Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, and Niles, everyone in the Chicagoland area was invited to participate. One registration came from as far away as St. Charles. Some



Stephan Ivanescu Paduraru auditions for Skokie Idol.

people have been waiting months for the competition, while others learned of it recently. Grade schooler Olivia Rainey was the first contestant to register last November. High-schooler Hannah Williams came to cheer on one of her friends and ended up registering that morning.

All of the auditionees were given prizes by local merchants. Sweetie Pies Bakery on Lincoln Ave. offered free coffee, and That Burger Joint on Dempster donated free French fries to everyone. Top Note Music Academy gave all the contestants a free studio session. And of course there were free and discount theatre tickets provided by Skokie Theatre.

The 26 contestants chosen by our judges are Alexis Apontem, Arlene Armstrong, Ovinabo Banerjee, Rawad Baz, Turrell Brown, Pam Connolly, Gabriel Daoud, Vanesa Elias, Hector A. Figueroa III, Roy Gantz, Natalie Garza, Andre Gloeckner, Leila Hoxha, Sae Eun Lee, Ericka Laire Manrique, Elizabeth Marcus, Tricia Pabst, Stefan Iovanescu Paduraru, Krish Om Pahan, Olivia Rainey, Leah Rubinberg, Lori Schneider, Katie Somers, Gabrielle Joy Ubaldo, Hannah Williams, and Jillian Yu.

Judges include MadKap Executive Director Wendy Kaplan, Myrna Petlicki from Chicago Cabaret Professionals, comedian Caryn Bark, Broadway, Our Way's Debbie and Lizzie Brodsky and local musicians and performers including Darryl Nitz, Carla Gordon, Ken Press, Jessica Lauren Fisher, Kevin Wood, Chelly McKanna, Charlene Brooks, and Top Note Music Academy's Teacher Dan Rosa.

The contestants can not progress without your help. Admission to the sing-offs is \$5 at the door. For more information, visit SkokieTheatre.org. Come choose the next Skokie Idol.

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The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day--and the story of its patron saint--is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl -- possibly his jailor's daughter--who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine

legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and -- most importantly -- romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Love Goes Through The Stomach

By Maria P. Bappert

Moms and brides and wives know, Everybody far and wide knows That love goes through the stomach. When our love we wish to show, To the grocery store we go	And our budget we do blow, Buying the choicest of ingredients To cook and bake for our family and friends. NOW THAT IS LOVE!
--	---

LOVE (Anonymous)

LOVE puts the music in laughter, the beauty in song, The warmth in a shoulder, the gentle in strong. LOVE puts the magic in memories, the sunshine in skies,	The gladness in giving, the starlight in eye. LOVE puts the fun in together, the sad in apart, The hope in tomorrow, the joy in a heart.
---	---

Happy Valentine's Day!

Staying Healthy With Chocolate For Valentine's Day

By Nicole Domico
Independent Chocolatier with Dove
Chocolate Discoveries

Research has shown us that chocolate can be healthy for us. We have all heard that dark chocolate is the healthiest but many are not sure why that may be. The source of all nutrients in chocolate comes from the cacao tree or cocoa bean. Dark chocolate is healthier because the cocoa bean goes through less processing than when making milk chocolate.

The cocoa bean contains many nutrients including antioxidants. Antioxidants help our body's cells fight damage that can cause illness or disease. One of the most interesting nutrients found in a cocoa bean is actually a phytonutrient called cocoa flavanols.

Flavanols are found in several foods we eat daily such as chocolate, apples, grapes and even red wine. Cocoa flavanols are specifically from the cocoa bean and are very unique. Cocoa flavanols when consumed daily can support healthy living by

increasing our blood circulation. When we have a free flow of our blood it helps prevent clotting and heart disease. Healthy blood circulation also helps our bodies bring more oxygen to our bodies. More oxygen can increase our body's endurance and overall health.

Recent studies have even shown that cocoa flavanols when consumed regularly and in higher doses than in a regular chocolate bar, can also help with age related memory loss. Dove Chocolate Discoveries™ has a product containing 150mg of cocoa flavanols called Vitalize. Otherwise, get your daily dose from dark chocolate, apples, grapes and a glass of red wine.

Dark chocolate is the way to go when your health is concerned; less processing, more goodness. All in moderation of course. Happy Valentine's Day!



normal. Chris is from Lincolnwood and attended Niles West High School, while Renee is from Chicago and attended Regina Dominican in Wilmette.

Last August Renee Grass didn't know if her husband Chris LaPak would live to see August 4, but weeks later they celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary and they're about to celebrate their 30th Valentine's Day as a married couple. Chris died of a heart attack while underwater in New York on August 3, but 11 minutes later he was brought back to life. Chris & Renee credit many first responders, plus doctors & nurses for saving him. Chris did need heart surgery and a defibrillator, but since then he has been back to

Celebrate Valentine's Day in the Parks with Dances and Parties

The Chicago Park District celebrates Valentine's Day in February with numerous dances and parties throughout the city including the traditional daddy-daughter/mommy-son dances. Most events feature recorded music, refreshments, photo opportunities, games and an arts and crafts station.

Many programs are admission free or have nominal entrance fees. Please go to www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312/742-7529 for additional information.



Did You Know...?

It seems only natural that February is National Weddings Month. After all, Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year for wedding proposals.

The second-most popular day to "pop the question" is New Year's Eve.



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SACA Installs its Officers for 2015-2016 on February 11th at Monastero's Ristorante & Banquets

By Leonard F. Amari & Katherine O'Dell

The 20 year old entity, the Sicilian American Cultural Association (SACA), will install its 2015-2016 officers on February 11th at Monastero's Ristorante & Banquets located at 3935 W Devon along with a hosting a wine tasting dinner. The officers were elected at its regular meeting of its Board of Directors on August 14, 2014. Succeeding the wonderful year prominent family law attorney Samuel Cannizzaro had as president, beginning in January 2015, is long time member and director, Katherine (Amari) O'Dell. Other officers include Rosemary Pagano, 1st V.P., retired Circuit Court judge, Gloria Coco, 2nd V.P., continuing on as treasurer is Dino Porto, founding member, and as secretary, Martha Monastero. All were elected by unanimous vote.

O'Dell, the new president, will assume her responsibilities after the first of the year. "Following Sam Cannizzaro in this role will be very difficult, he kept us on track of our mission statement, promoted our usual and successful cultural events, with some innovative ideas and programs," says Mrs. O'Dell. Katherine, past president of the Justinian Society of lawyers, as well as The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association, is a senior associate with the real estate tax reduction firm of Amari & Locallo. She has served through all the chairs of the association before assuming its presidency.

SACA, the Sicilian American Cultural Association, was incorporated in the State of Illinois on September 8, 1994, by a handful of proud Sicilians, leaders in their professions and in our ethnic community and all highly respected, Dino Porto, Alfred E. Gallo, Vincent Inserra, the Hon. Anthony Scariano, brothers Joseph and Salvi Monastero, Sr., Emilio Venuti and others. SACA's mission has and continues to be to support, publicize and promote a greater public awareness of, and interest in Sicily, its art, history, traditions, culture and its people, and to increase the mutual understanding and friendship of its members and others.

It was the avowed purpose of these altruistic community leaders that SACA's only mission was cultural and eleemosynary and with the only motivation to enhance the Sicilian experience. Since its inception SACA has worked very hard to demonstrate how much Sicily has contributed to the world culturally. It has become an important player on the Chicago's cultural scene with its two extravaganzas over the years, and other noteworthy events, Vivitalia I and II, held respectively at the Arie Crown Theatre and Medinah temple. Other events include trips to Sicily, Italian language classes, cooking demonstrations, book readings and reviews, opera, etc.

SACA also has an eleemosynary agenda, making charitable contributions. Just a few of the beneficiaries include Loyola University Chicago (the Italian Studies program, spearheaded by Prof. Dominic Candeloro), scholarship funds at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, and sending \$1,000.00 each year to the Franciscan outreach program, to feed the hungry.

In 1994, SACA welcomed friends from Sicily from the province of Agrigento, known as the Valley of the Temples. They traveled to Chicago to help celebrate the inauguration of the cultural association. This included Agrigento's famous folkloric dancers and singers who



Outgoing President, Sam Cannizzaro; Medal of Merit honorees: Paul Ciminello, Josette Weber, Dominic Candeloro; and myself, President, Katherine Amari O'Dell

performed the traditional dances and music of Sicily.

In 1995, SACA sponsored "Vivitalia Festival." This included folkloric dancers and singers from eight different regions of Italy. This was an enormous undertaking. They performed at the Arie Crown Theater at McCormick Place before thousands of people. By proclamation, then Mayor Richard M. Daley declared that day as Vivitalia Festival Day. It was a great source of pride for all Italian Americans in the Chicagoland area.

SACA also sponsored a Champagne Brunch honoring all Italian American Appellate Court Justices in Illinois, highlighting the significant career of the first ever Italian American Illinois Supreme Court Justice, Moses W. Harrison II (his mother's maiden name was Darfado). Until his passing a few years back, Justice Harrison always said the SACA award was one of the most appreciated of all the recognitions and awards of his distinguished career.

Another example of SACA events and activities is a spectacular program entitled "Impressions of Sicily." This included Paul Simon, former US Senator from Illinois; Abner Mikva, former Justice of the US Court of Appeals and Anthony Scariano, former Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court and their wives. They all had visited Sicily and they shared their experiences to this fun-filled and historic island of the sun.

Another is when they hosted a Sunday Brunch program entitled "Taste of Opera." The renowned Mary Petro, a lyric soprano, and Mark McCrory, a baritone, gave a wonderful performance, presenting recognizable and beautifully presented arias.

In 2001, SACA celebrated the distinguished careers of Italian-American past presidents of the 37,000 member Illinois State Bar Association, including this writer, Ralph Gabric, Michael Coccia, Cheryl (Ippolito) Niro and the late Larry Pusateri.

Annually, this wonderful organization sponsors a Medal of Merit brunch, honoring various community leaders, contributors and folks of repute. The social events are usually held at the wonderful Monastero's restaurant (3935 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL), that serves magnificent food in tasteful ethnic surroundings - Sicilian, of course. Honored over the years were leading lawyers and judges, successful businessmen and entrepreneurs, actors, a Consul General of Italy, Presidents of universities and law schools, and from time to time, the folks that aren't well known on a broader scale, but are to the leaders of our organizations, the folks that do all the work to make the rest of us look better. Along with this this article are a pot-pourri of brunch photos taken over the years, almost all of the honorees recognizable to us.

SACA's agenda for the remainder of the year promises to be an exciting one. They meet about ten times a year for a monthly dinner meeting at beautiful Monastero's in Chicago (Joe Monastero always plans a special Sicilian meal), which has long been the home of SACA. The dinner meetings are steeped in Sicilian/Italian culture and music. The dinners are open to all, not just members, and at very reasonable prices. They are educational and entertaining and the food as prepared by the Monastero's is exceptional. Everyone is invited to attend. SACA membership is open to all persons of good reputation, regardless of culture, origins or ethnic backgrounds, provided they are dedicated to the same principles, goals and objectives as embraced by SACA. To make a reservation for the upcoming Installation dinner, or for further information regarding upcoming events, details, or for membership information, contact SACA secretary Martha Monastero at belcantojo@aol.com or 773-588-2515.

Lutheran Unity School Open Houses & Shadow Days

Lutheran Unity School is holding Open Houses in February for both campuses. The East Campus is located at 3740 W. Belden Avenue in Chicago and the West Campus is located at 5650 N. Canfield Avenue in Chicago. The dates for the Open Houses are

East Campus, Feb. 25th 5-7PM
West Campus, Feb. 24th 5-7PM

We will also be holding a Shadow Day for both our East and West campuses. The date for the Shadow Day is February 17th. Have your child(ren) visit us and attend our school for the day. Lunch will be provided. Since space is limited, registration is suggested. To register or for more information, contact Lisa Tuchel at 708-867-5044 or ltuchel@lutheranunity.com. Open House dates and Shadow Day Registration Forms are also posted on our website www.lutheranunity.com.

03.15.2015

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Winter/Spring 2015 Adult Enrichment Course
"In the Name of Freedom"

Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm February 10 & 24 and March 10 & 24
The cost is \$50 - to register for the course, please contact Alisa Martorano at 773.775.6616 Ext 142 or amartorano@reshs.org.

This course will address the events and causes that led to the American Revolutionary War and the struggles of the thirteen colonies to work through different constitutions after defeating the British. In addition, the course will explore the American, British and French quest to save the culture of democracy, including significant artifacts, during the World War II era. There will be an emphasis on the moral issues facing the men and women who helped to form the United States in the Revolutionary years and the continued American and European struggles for freedom and democracy. The course will be taught by Resurrection faculty member Mike Longo, Religious Studies teacher and Chamber Orchestra director, who holds a Master's degree in Music and Humanities from DePaul University and a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Loyola University.

The resources used in the course will include the books *1776* by David McCullough, *The Story of American Freedom* by Eric Foner, and *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* by Robert M. Edsel, as well as the documentary film *The Rape of Europa*.

The course is offered in conjunction with the Summer Adult Historical Trip to Williamsburg, Yorktown and Jamestowne that will take place in July 2015. The Adult Enrichment Course and weekend trip are designed to complement each other, but both the trip and the course are offered separately.



Summer 2015 Adult Enrichment Weekend
Historic Williamsburg, Yorktown & Jamestowne
July 10 - 12, 2015

Step back in time with Mr. Mike Longo as your guide for a three-day, two-night trip to explore America's Historic Triangle and the people, places and events of the Revolutionary period. Discover Williamsburg to learn about the struggles and daily life of colonial people, walk in the footsteps of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas at Historic Jamestowne and visit the place where independence was won for the United States at Yorktown.

The three-day, two-night trip will include round-trip airfare and ground transportation, accommodations, admission charges and guided tours. The cost is approximately \$1,000 to \$1,150 (depending on single or double occupancy) and a deposit of \$200 per person is required to hold a space. Please contact Jim O'Malley at Diplomat Travel Agency at jmo6835@aol.com or 773.774.2727 to reserve a space, for a complete itinerary or with any questions.

Participants for the weekend trip need not have taken the "In the Name of Freedom" course in order to attend.

7500 West Talcott Avenue | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | 773.775.6616

Perseverance, Heroism, Restitution And A 70-Year Love Story Are Some Of The Topics Of Chicago Public Library's February Authors Series

The doldrums of winter are set aside as Chicago Public Library presents several interesting author programs as part of its ongoing monthly Authors @ the Library Series. Unless otherwise noted, all of the author events take place in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, lower level, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.

J. IVY; Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

Hip-hop's favorite poet and Grammy-winning performer J. Ivy, reflects on his definition of heroism and his personal heroes, as he discusses his book *Dear Father: Breaking the Cycle of Pain*. This event is offered as part of the One Book, One Chicago program. One Book, One Chicago is presented by Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Public Library Foundation, Allstate and BMO Harris.

BERNADETTE ATUAHENE

Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

Author and Chicago-Kent College of Law professor Bernadette Atuahene discusses her book, *We Want What's Ours: Learning from South Africa's Land Restitution Program*, a detailed study of South Africa's attempts to rectify the deprivation of land suffered by thousands of people under the colonial and apartheid regimes.

ROBERT SIMS AND CHRISTOPHER BROOKS

Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.

Authors Robert Sims and Christopher Brooks discuss

their new book *Roland Hayes: The Legacy of an American Tenor*. Hayes was the first African American man to reach international fame as a concert performer. After the discussion, Mr. Sims will perform a selection of spirituals arranged by Roland Hayes.

ART SHAY; Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.

Renowned Chicago photojournalist Art Shay appears with Chicago Tribune columnist Rick Kogan and Chicago artist Tony Fitzpatrick, to discuss *My Florence: A 70-Year Love Story*, Shay's poignant collection of striking moments drawn from his shared life with his beloved wife. Mr. Shay is famous for immortalizing some of America's most compelling 20th century figures including John F. Kennedy, Muhammad Ali and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Bezazian Branch Library, 1226 W. Ainslie St.

(312) 744-0019

LOWELL "RACEMAN" THOMPSON

Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

Author and former advertising executive Lowell "RaceMan" Thompson discusses his book *RaceMan Answers: America's Toughest Questions on Race, Inequality and More*. Mr. Thompson's book conveys his extensive experience from 35 years of creating TV, radio and print advertising for many of America's leading ad agencies.

Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St.

(312) 747-6921

RICHARD D. BENSON II

Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Richard D. Benson II, Ph.D. leads a discussion on his book, *Fighting for Our Place in the Sun*, including discussions on Malcolm X and the radicalization of the Black Student Movement. Dr. Benson is an assistant professor in the Education Studies Program at Spelman College in Atlanta.

Since 1873, the Chicago Public Library (CPL) has encouraged lifelong learning by welcoming all people and offering equal access to information, entertainment and knowledge through innovative services and programs, as well as cutting-edge technology. Through its 80 locations, the Library provides free access to a rich collection of materials, both physical and digital, and presents the highest quality author discussions, exhibits and programs for children, teens and adults. CPL recently received the Social Innovator Award from Chicago Innovation Awards; won a National Medal for Library Services from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and was ranked number one in the U.S. and third in the world by an international study of major urban libraries conducted by the Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf in Germany. For more information, please call (312) 747-4050 or visit chipublib.org.

Chicago Public Library Announces One Book, One Chicago Online CPL first Library in the nation to offer this feature

Chicago Public Library will launch the One Book, One Chicago Online reading experience today, making it the first public library in the nation to offer free, in-browser, social reading of a full novel. For the first time, Chicagoans can have a social experience while reading the One Book, One Chicago (OBOC) selection on a desktop, tablet or phone with internet connection, without downloading an app. To use the feature, Chicagoans only need a Library card, available in one of 80 branches across the city or online at chipublib.org.

"Yet again, the Chicago Public Library is the first Library in the nation to offer a one-of-a-kind experience. This new feature serves as just another example of Chicago pioneering the modern 24/7 library for residents and students," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "Throughout its 139-year history, the CPL has always encouraged Chicagoans of all ages to make reading a priority, and One Book, One Chicago Online fits perfectly with the library's timeless mission."

Supported by the Chicago Public Library Foundation, OBOC is an award-winning, nationally recognized city-wide reading initiative that brings diverse Chicagoans together around one central book and theme.

This year's selection, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* by Michael Chabon, will be released online at www.onebookonechicago.org in six serialized installments beginning today through May 3rd. Library cardholders will have access to the first installment of the online reading segment until May 3rd. Each subsequent installment will be available for two weeks at a time. This serialized experience allows Chicagoans all over the city to read the book online at the same time.

The full schedule is as follows:

- Part 1: Monday, February 2 – Sunday, May 3
- Part 2: Monday, February 23 – Sunday, March 8
- Part 3: Monday, March 9 – Sunday, March 22
- Part 4: Monday, March 23 – Sunday, April 5
- Part 5: Monday, April 6 – Sunday, April 19
- Part 6: Monday, April 20 – Sunday, May 3

The online reading experience will be enhanced for users by allowing readers to highlight passages, post their favorite quotes to Twitter from within the reader and invite friends to read with them. This collective experience of Chicagoans will be emphasized with 'reading sprints' to encourage people to read together and finish the book. Reading sprints are designated times for people to read online and then join a collective conversation by tweeting their opinions, favorite quotes and reactions to the narrative. The first reading sprint will take place on Thursday, February 5th and the schedule can be found at onebookonechicago.org.

"We love being able to engage our patrons in one-of-a-kind experiences like online reading of *Kavalier & Clay*," said Commissioner Brian Bannon. "Providing free access to Library card holders enhances our existing One Book, One Chicago programming and allows more people to join the conversation, expand their knowledge and inspire ideas, and connect to people in a different, digital way."

Upcoming Events at CPL's Edgebrook Branch

Adult Book Discussion

Wednesday, February 25, 2015,
6:30-7:30 p.m.

The group will discuss *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. Contact Edgebrook branch at (312) 744-8313 or email the branch at edgebrook@chipublib.org for a copy of the book.

Mask-Making Workshop for Tweens

Thursday, February 26, 2015,
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Explore your creative side in a fun mask-making workshop. For ages 10-13. Registration is required and is limited to 10 participants. Please call (312) 744-8313 to register.

The above events will take place at:
Chicago Public Library
Edgebrook Branch
5331 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60646

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay is storytelling at its best. Set amidst the backdrop of the rise of fascism and years leading up to World War Two, Michael Chabon transports readers into an exciting world of comic books, heroes and superheroes. Readers are left wondering about their own personal transformations and what it means to be a hero. Chicago Public Library has focused this season's OBOC programming around the subject of Heroes: Real & Imagined. Programs throughout the city, including exhibits, book discussions, panel discussion, musical performances and storytelling began in October 2014 and continue through April 2015. For program details, including times and locations, please visit onebookonechicago.org or pick up a program guide at any Library location.

The One Book, One Chicago program, which has been replicated in more than 150 cities across the country, is made possible by Allstate and BMO Harris, through the Chicago Public Library Foundation. The exciting OBOC Online pilot is a partnership with BiblioCommons.

For more information and to access OBOC Online, visit www.onebookonechicago.org or call 312.747.4050.

Join The Arbor Day Foundation In February And Receive 10 Free Blue Spruce Trees

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone from Illinois who joins the Foundation in February 2015 will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

"The blue-green hue and distinctive shape of Colorado blue spruce trees will help beautify Illinois for many years to come," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees will also add to the proud heritage of Illinois' existing Tree City USA communities."

The Tree City USA program has supported community forestry throughout the country for more than 35 years.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book*, which contains information about planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2015, or visit arborday.org/february.

FREE GED CLASSES at Austin Irving Public Library

Spring 2015 Semester: February 13 – May 8, 2015

Complete Interest Survey to get the process started here.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/publibged>

On day of registration and testing bring identification with name and address to verify residency: Illinois State I.D., Illinois Driver's License, Matricula, or utility bill.

Please do not bring children.

All testing will be conducted at Wilbur Wright College.

Classes will be held at the Austin Irving Branch of Chicago Public Libraries.

- Bring identification with name and address to verify residency: matricula, state ID, or utility bill.
- You will complete intake forms and make an appointment for placement testing.
- Classes schedules are available day, evening and weekends.
- Please do not bring children.

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Tomato, Tomahto... Are All Estate Planning Attorneys the Same?



Chester M. Przybylo

It is a bit amazing that individuals may research the best motor oil to use in their car, or the best school for their children to attend, but when it comes to their estate plans, they feel any attorney can do it. Let's face it, you have spent a lifetime accumulating your assets, and just because you may not be a millionaire, it doesn't mean your assets aren't important. In fact, the opposite can be true. Since every asset in your estate is hard-won, you want to make sure you do the best you can in protecting it from the costs of probate (the legal process which transfers legal title from the deceased to the appropriate beneficiary), or guardianship (the legal process in which the court appoints a guardian to look after an incapacitated person).

That brings us to selecting the best estate planning firm for your needs. Many individuals feel that the only way to get the best estate plan is to go downtown. However, a big firm may not suit your needs. Besides usually being expensive (those big offices mean high rent), a big firm may be impersonal, as you are just one of many, many clients. And unless you live downtown, getting there may not be convenient.

What about an attorney, or firm that handles every imaginable legal situation— estate planning, divorce, D.U.I., etc.? The truth is, estate planning takes in many aspects of the law...and it is important that the attorney is up to date on any changes in those laws. With only 24 hours in a day, it is pretty near impossible to develop expertise in all those areas of the law. However, a firm that concentrates in estate planning can zero in on the areas of estate planning that affect their clients.

Don't be afraid to ask questions of a prospective attorney when you meet. How many estate plans have they done? Dozens? Hundreds? Thousands? Like any other area of life, the more familiar an individual is with a subject, the more sophisticated they become in handling unusual situations. How many hours of continuing education does the attorney take annually in the area of estate planning? Members of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys must take at least 36 hours annually.

Are there experienced paralegals in the firm? If you have a question, will you have to wait for an attorney to return your call, or can most inquiries be handled by the paralegal? Will you actually get to meet the paralegal?

You can also get a feeling for the law firm by visiting its website...in fact many of your questions may be answered as you navigate the site. And you will get a feeling for the firm before you even call for your first appointment.

Just remember, when selecting a parachute, fire extinguisher, or estate planner, you may only get one chance to get it right. So do your homework!

Chester M. Przybylo is a founding member of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, a nationally acclaimed organization whose members are dedicated to the highest standards of estate planning and elder law. His Chicago-based firm, Chester M. Przybylo and Associates, has served its clients for over 45 years. Visit the firm website for helpful information on estate planning: www.PlanOurEstate.com, or call 773-631-7100 for an appointment.

Watch for Upcoming Seminar Dates and Locations in The Next Edition of Our Village

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Punxsutawney Phil Sees Shadow: More Winter Weather Ahead Tips for Safe Snow Shoveling from the Snow & Ice Management Assoc.

On Groundhog Day Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow-- predicting six more weeks of winter. With snowfall pounding the Midwest today, the Snow & Ice Management Association (SIMA), the North American trade association representing snow removal professionals has tips for shoveling snow safely.

"Shoveling snow has a number of health risks associated with it, including the most serious one--a heart attack," said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, Executive Director, SIMA. "Other more common health risks include dehydration, back injuries, pulled muscles, broken bones and frostbite. But the good news is there are ways to safely shovel snow,"

Here are SIMA's tips for safe snow shoveling:

TIP #1: Stay on top of the snow. No we aren't suggesting that you make snow angels but when there's a heavy snow, the best advice is to stay ahead of the storm. SIMA recommends that to prevent snow and ice from adhering to the sidewalk or street, clear the snow every few inches instead of waiting for the snow to stop falling before you head outdoors.

TIP #2: Wear breathable layers. Layering is typical cold winter weather advice. We suggest wearing layers of loose clothing so you can peel a layer off if you get hot. Avoid wearing heavy wools, manmade materials or other materials that don't allow perspiration to evaporate. Better choices are cotton and silk.

TIP #3: Watch your feet. No you aren't on Dancing with the Stars, but nonetheless, you need to pay attention to what's on your feet when heading outdoors to shovel snow. SIMA suggests wearing quality outdoor winter wear such as water-proof boots with good traction. Good traction is critical to ensuring that you don't slip and fall.

TIP #4: Take a few minutes to stretch. Shoveling snow is a workout so you need to stretch to warm up your muscles particularly because you are shoveling snow in the cold weather. Stretching before you start shoveling will help prevent injury and fatigue.

TIP #5: Push don't lift. Sounds like something a high school wrestling coach may say but if you push the snow to the side rather than trying to lift the snow to remove it, you exert less energy thereby placing less stress on your body.

TIP #6: Drink up! Water that is. SIMA recommends taking frequent breaks and staying hydrated. You should drink water as if you were enduring a tough workout at the gym or running five miles.

TIP #7: Don't play in traffic. Sometimes people get so focused on the task at hand they don't pay attention to their surroundings. When shoveling snow near streets, pay attention to the traffic since vehicles may not have good traction in the snow and ice.

TIP #8: Call and text. We're not suggesting that you make calls and text while shoveling snow, but it is important to have your cell phone on you so you can make a call in event of an emergency.

Following these seven tips will help ensure that you survive and thrive through winter. For more snow and ice removal tips, visit SIMA.



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Village Cooking Corner

Lenten Menu Ideas

With Lent approaching, Village Cooking Corner will be presenting a series of delicious recipes to serve as a main course for your table or as a compliment to any meal.

Broccoli Lasagna

Makes 10 servings

- 2 10-3/4 oz. cans condensed cream of broccoli soup
- 1 10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli
- Salad Oil
- 3 carrots, thinly sliced
- 1 lg. onion, diced
- 3/4 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 12 lasagna noodles (8 is enough)
- 2 8oz. pkgs. Shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 15 oz. container ricotta cheese
- 2 lg. eggs.



About 2 1/2 hours before serving:

In 2 qt. saucepan over med-low heat, heat undiluted broccoli soup, frozen broccoli until broccoli is thawed.

In 10" skillet over med-high heat in 1T hot salad oil, cook carrots and onion until lightly browned. Reduce heat to low; stir in 1/4 cup water. Cover and simmer 15 min. or until vegetables are very tender; remove to bowl.

In same skillet over high heat, in 3T hot salad oil, cook mushrooms until lightly browned and all liquid has evaporated; stir in carrot mixture.

While veggies. are cooking, prepare noodles as label directs; drain. In bowl, mix mozzarella, ricotta and eggs.

Preheat oven to 375°. In 13" x 9" dish spread 1 cup broccoli sauce. Arrange half of noodles over sauce, top with half of cheese mixture, then all the carrot mixture and half remaining sauce. Top with remaining noodles, cheese mixture, then sauce.

Bake 45 min. or until hot. Let stand 10 min. before serving..

From the kitchens of Rose Suter

Baked Haricot (Butter) Beans

- 1 lb of large dried haricot (butter) beans
- 3/4 cup of olive oil (Greek preferred)
- 1 medium sized onion
- 3 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 3 ripe (or canned) tomatoes
- parsley, finely chopped
- salt & pepper



Having soaked the beans overnight, change the water and boil beans until soft. Then drain and allow to dry for a while. Put the oil into a frying pan with chopped onion and garlic.

If using fresh tomatoes, cut as fine as possible; add these to the pan along with the parsley. Bring the ingredients to a boil.

Put the beans into an oven dish, pour over them the boiled sauce and bake in oven at 325 degrees for three quarters of an hour, or until cooked.

VARIATION;

If you wish, you can put all the ingredients into a roasting pan without having cooked them in the above manner, however, it takes longer this way.

Cooking time: 45 minutes/Makes 6 portions/1 portion is 410 calories

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

Snow, Wine, Cupcakes, and Bark in the Park!

It's no surprise that February brings frigid weather to Chicago, which is why it is important to be aware of the hazards that accompany this month. We are here to fill you in on some tips to keep your pet safe during this time of year. Everything from frost bite, to salt irritation, can be found in the Pet Health section of our website. Click here to learn about how to keep your pet safe this winter season.

February is shaping up to be a busy month for The Anti-Cruelty Society! We have a lot of fun events taking place throughout the whole month that will help raise much-needed funds to care for Chicago's animals most in need. If you are a wine lover or baker, visit the event section below to see how tasting wine or baking cupcakes can translate into support for our four-legged friends!

If you love taking long walks with your dog, consider signing up for Bark in the Park, Chicago's largest dog party of the year! This will be the Society's 21 Bark in the Park and the first time ever that it will be on the first SUNDAY of the month rather than the first Saturday. Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3 and sign up today at www.barkinthepark.org.

Events to Support the Society

Cupcake Day

When: Monday, February 16

Where: Anywhere and everywhere!

What: All you'll need to rock the world of our shelter pets is yourself, cupcakes, and some serious promotion! We'll help you get there – just go to www.cupcakeday.org to learn the ropes of baking and selling cupcakes that will help support the great work we do.

On February 14 and 15 swing by our main adoption center located at 510 N. LaSalle to pick up a cupcake during our bake sale from noon to 5 p.m. Our PetSmart Charities (TM) Everyday Adoption Center located in the South Loop PetSmart will also be hosting a bake sale from noon to 5 p.m. on February 14 and 15 with cupcakes from the famous Magnolia Bakery. Additionally, stop by Lincoln Park's West Elm store to purchase a cupcake from the Skinny Piggy while you shop for furniture from noon to 5 p.m. on February 15.

Pour Your Heart Out

When: Thursday, February 26, 6-8:30 p.m.

Where: Union League Club

65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

What: Join us for a wine and spirits tasting adventure, complete with delicious appetizers and a silent auction. Pour Your Heart Out is a wonderful opportunity to sample a variety of wine and spirits, to let your taste buds become accustomed to the different flavors and characteristics, and to discover what you truly like. And, best of all, the proceeds from this special evening will support the animals and programs of the Society.

Tickets: \$55 in advance or \$65 at the door.

Purchase tickets here: <http://bit.ly/1FQlx5w>



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