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*Have a Very Merry
Christmas, a Happy
Hanukkah & a Happy
and Prosperous New Year
From Village Publications*



Great News! The DANK HAUS Facade is Almost Complete!

The DANK Haus in Lincoln Square will hold an official opening celebration of its \$370,000 first floor facade renovation on Saturday January 21, 2012 between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The festivities will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, Alderman Ameya Pawar, invited, refreshments provided by local Lincoln Square merchants, unveiling of the donor recognition wall (rendering), live music and an exclusive first look at the newly refreshed "Lost German Chicago" exhibit in the Museum.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations for this outstanding contribution to the local and German American communities are still being accepted. Donations received before February 28, 2012 will be included on the donor recognition wall to be placed in the main lobby.

DANK Haus is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting German culture, heritage and language. Located in Chicago's traditionally German Lincoln Square neighborhood, DANK Haus represents Americans of German descent, their friends and families and the community in general. The DANK Haus offers German language instruction for both children and adults. Core programming such as Stammtisch, Kino, German Cinema Now, Oktoberfest, regular Fine Art installations, literary readings, classical and traditional musical performances and Sylvester Ball on New Year's Eve add to the rich, cultural heritage celebrated at DANK Haus.

DANK Haus is located in the heart of Lincoln Square in Chicago at 4740 N. Western Avenue. The Museum is open to the public every Saturday, from 11 am - 3pm and is available during the week by appointment only. For more information about DANK Haus, visit www.dankhaus.com or call (773) 561-9181.

Happy Holidays! Vielen Dank!



HOLIDAY EVENTS

Go to Pages 5-8

WINTER

BEGINS
December 21st

**NEW Business/Government Page
See Page 4**

TOPINKA DELIVERS SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CHILD LINK

Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka (center) delivers school supplies to Child Link President and CEO Malia Arnett (right) and Child Link Fundraising and Donor Development Coordinator Amanda Kluscynski (left). Photo by: Teresa J. Potasiak



Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka recently delivered boxes of school supplies to Chicago-based Child Link, a not-for-profit foster care agency. Donated by Topinka's Chicago staff for area students, the supplies are intended to assist Child Link in providing resources for the state's most vulnerable residents.

"Child Link provides a wonderful and necessary service for children and families in our state, and we were proud to be able to make a small donation this holiday season," Topinka said. "I trust that students will make good use of these supplies, and I look forward to continuing to partner with Child Link on future endeavors involving our youth."

VITA Tutors Needed Share the Gift of Learning

Many adults need help with basic English reading, writing and speaking skills.

Call Oakton Community College at 847-635-1426 to learn how to become a VITA tutor.

A required three part training will be held at the Skokie Campus on January 5th, 10th & February 11th.



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Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers January Health Programs

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

The **Diabetes Support Group** will meet Tuesday, January 3, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center A. These free sessions are tailored for adults who have Type 2 diabetes and focus on the emotional side of diabetes, allowing participants to share coping strategies, feelings and problems in living with diabetes. For further information about the Diabetes Support Group and the Outpatient Diabetes Program, call 773-794-8329.

A free **Healthy Aging Program** will be held Friday, January 13, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. This program for individuals aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and guest lectures. Emerita Burgess, R.N., director of the Extended Care Unit, and staff will discuss what an extended care unit is and what social services are available for seniors. Registration is not required.

Free **blood pressure screenings** will be offered Monday, January 16, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., in the hospital's main lobby. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

Free informational sessions about **bariatric surgery** will be held Tuesday, January 17, starting at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, January 25, starting at 6 p.m. Bariatric surgeons will discuss the benefits of bariatric surgery for obese individuals and will explain available procedures and eligibility requirements. For these events only, register by calling VIP-RHC-THIN (847-742-8446).

Eating healthy in 2012 is the topic for a program on Wednesday, January 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, when Geoffrey Magsaysay, executive chef, will share tips on eating healthy. He will perform a cooking demonstration on how to reduce fat and calories in recipes for a healthier new year. Participants will be able to taste the food the chef prepares. There is a \$5 to cover the cost of food. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

The **Pacemaker/Cardiac Device Support Group** will meet Wednesday, January 25, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center C. This free support group provides mutual support and education. Cardiology staff will conduct sessions and answer questions related to pacemakers and internal cardiac defibrillators (ICD). Registration is not required.

Diabetes screenings will be given Thursday, January 26, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. This screening is for HbA1C (glycohemoglobin) that tests blood sugar average over the last two-three months. No fasting or preparation for the test is needed. Test results will be mailed in one week. There is a \$10 fee. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

The **Arthritis Support Group** will meet Thursday, January 26, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required.

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

CJE SENIORLIFE AWARDED FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION FUNDS TO IMPROVE CARE FOR AT-RISK SENIORS

It is not uncommon for frail older adults with chronic medical conditions to fall through the cracks of our difficult-to-navigate health care system. This leads to many unnecessary hospital readmissions and emergency room visits, resulting in poor patient outcomes and costing the Medicare program upwards of \$12 billion dollars annually. CJE SeniorLife is one of seven awardees nationwide—and the first in Illinois—to receive federal demonstration funds to lead a Transitional Care Collaborative in partnership with three Chicago area hospitals – Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Saint Joseph Hospital and Saint Francis Hospital. The partnership is designed to improve the quality of health care for some of the frailest patients through strong care coordination and patient empowerment, as they leave the hospital and return home.

When the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced in April that it was inviting hospitals and community-based organizations to partner together to bridge gaps in patient care following hospitalization, Mark D. Weiner, president and CEO of CJE, jumped on the opportunity. "We are thrilled to be selected by CMS to implement the CJE Transitions Collaborative; A Healthcare Reform Demonstration Project. Working with our hospital partners, and other local organizations, CJE will take a leading role during the next two years in developing, testing and measuring ways to improve patient outcomes."

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2012, CJE SeniorLife is a nationally-recognized, progressive agency that serves nearly 19,000 older adults and their families in metropolitan Chicago by integrating healthcare and social services. According to Weiner, CJE has extensive experience in providing transitional care through its comprehensive network of programs and services for older adults.

CJE's partner hospitals are equally excited about this opportunity to test an innovative model program. "Collaborating with a pioneering community-based organization like CJE SeniorLife, recognized as one of the first seven recipients of the CMS Transitions Program awards, will support our Project BOOST efforts to enhance hospital discharge transitions through coaches and other resources," according to Dr. Mark V. Williams, professor and chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Roberta Luskin-Hawk, CEO of Saint Joseph Hospital, is also delighted to be part of CJE's transitional care demonstration project. "It gives us an opportunity to improve patient outcomes while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. It is consistent with our mission to coordinate care for all patients, especially seniors."

As part of the model program, CJE transitional care nurses will be located in each of the three partner hospitals and will be specially trained to 1) provide knowledge, skills and confidence to selected patients and family caregivers before and after hospital discharge; 2) assist patients with access to community-based supportive services once they return home; and 3) monitor a patient's progress and potentially catch any problems before they become acute and require another hospital visit.

Frail, elderly individuals with multiple chronic medical conditions are particularly at risk of readmission because they are often overwhelmed when they are hospitalized and confused about how to manage their conditions when they return home.

The concept for a Community-Based Transitional Care Program is an initiative of the Partnership for Patients, a new public-private partnership created by the new Affordable Care Act. The Partnership's two goals are to reduce harm in hospital settings by 40 percent and to reduce hospital readmissions by 20 percent over a three-year period. The CJE Transitional Care Program will launch in spring 2012 with patient outcomes carefully measured over a two-year period.

CJE SeniorLife is an innovative provider of community-based and residential programs, and services for older adults throughout the Chicago area. Over the past 40 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 of Metropolitan Chicago. For more information about CJE services, call 773/508-1000 or visit www.cje.net.

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OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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POLISH FRATERNALS JOINS IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

The Polish National Alliance, The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, The Polish Women's Alliance, The Polish Falcons of America, along with the affiliates of the PNA, The Polish Daily News (Dziennik Zwiazkowy), WPNA 1490 am Radio, and both PNA Bank locations, are joining in the support of the "Cell Phone For Soldiers" program by having drop off boxes at their locations.

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and are away from their families. Cell Phones for Soldiers and the PNA, PRCUA, PFA and PWA are calling on everyone in the area to support these brave men and women by donating your unused cell phones.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Berquist from Nowell, Massachusetts with \$21.00 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non profit organization has raised almost \$1 million dollars and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone, enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad with prepaid calling cards.

Vice President's Paul Odrobina (PNA), Sharon Zago (PWA), Anna Sokolowski (PRCUA) and Robert Gorny (PFA) are chairing and hosting official drop off locations along at their offices with the PNA Affiliates.

Local Residents can support the collection drive by donating their phones at the following locations:

Polish National Alliance – 6100 N. Cicero Ave. – Chicago, IL 60646 -

(800) 621-3723

Polish Roman Catholic Union-984 N. Milwaukee Ave.-Chicago, IL 60642-

(800) 772-8632

Polish Women's Alliance – 6643 N. Northwest Hwy. – Chicago, IL 60631-

(888) 522-1898

The Polish Daily News – 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave. – Chicago, IL 60646-

(773) 763-3343

WPNA 1490am Radio – 408 S. Oak Park Ave. – Oak Park, IL 60302- (708)

524-9742

PNA Bank – Niles Location – 7840 N. Milwaukee Ave. – Niles, IL – 60714

(847) 966-7900

PNA Bank – South Side Location-4800 S. Pulaski Rd.-Chicago, IL 60632

(773) 376-3800

Donations are accepted at these locations starting from December 1 until March 1, 2012 during the regular office hours. For additional information about the Cell Phones for Soldiers program, visit their website at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com or visit www.pna-znp.org or call the PNA at 1-773-286-0500 ext. 316 or 373.

Access All JCFS Offers with One, Easy, Toll-Free Number

Jewish Child & Family Services has launched the Access Team and 855-ASK-JCFS (855-275-5237), a single, toll-free number to access all of the many programs and services offered by JCFS across all locations. A new email address, ASK@jcfs.org, also is available for those who prefer to contact the agency via email. The goal is to make sure that all new callers get comprehensive access to JCFS services, as well as linkage and referral to other resources in the community. Any questions? Just ask JCFS by calling 1-855-ASK-JCFS.

Do You Have the Courage to Quit? Village of Skokie Stop Smoking Clinic

The Skokie Health Department is offering a stop smoking clinic for those who live or work in Skokie.

A \$15 course fee will be refunded to participants who complete the program.

The six-week clinic takes place at 7 p.m. on Mondays from January 9 through February 13. This clinic will be held at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

Advance registration is required for the stop smoking clinic. For more information or to register for the clinic, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

Quigley Calls for Poland's Inclusion in Visa Waiver Program

Today, U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (IL-05) testified before the House Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement in favor of expanding the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to include Poland and other U.S. allies.

"This is an issue of fairness and equity for a longstanding friend and partner, Poland," said Rep. Quigley. "Expansion of the Visa Waiver Program will improve our international diplomatic relationships, create jobs, stimulate the economy and strengthen national security. It's time to expand outdated travel standards to include our proven allies."

Expansion of the VWP would bring increased revenue to the travel industry at a time when America's economy needs it most. In 2008, the countries in the VWP generated more than 16 million visits to the U.S., accounting for 65 percent of all overseas arrivals that year. VWP travelers spent more than 51 billion dollars in the U.S., which generated an estimated 512,000 jobs, 13 billion dollars in payroll and 7.8 billion dollars in taxes for the U.S. economy.

"This nation must keep its doors open. Foreign travelers who come to America gain an understanding of what makes America great, and they share these positive experiences with their neighbors," said Rep. Quigley.

Poland is a member of both the EU and NATO but remains one of the few major democratic allies excluded from the VWP. The VWP enables citizens of 36 countries to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without obtaining a non-immigrant visitor visa. The program was established to eliminate unnecessary barriers to travel, stimulate the tourism industry and permitting the Department of State to focus consular resources in other, high risk areas. Today's hearing marks the first House Judiciary Committee hearing solely dedicated to the issue in nearly 10 years.

Quigley introduced legislation to expand the Visa Waiver Program to include Poland that has been endorsed by President Obama and has worked tirelessly to promote Polish-American relations during his two terms in Congress. In 2010, he traveled to Poland and attended a conference in Krakow commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Community of Democracies.

Illinois' 5th Congressional District is home to more than 100,000 citizens of Polish ancestry. More than 1 million Poles call Chicago home, making it the highest concentration of Poles of any city outside of Warsaw.

Rep. Quigley is currently serving his second term in the House of Representatives, where he sits on the House Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform. He is also the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services, and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs.

SARA LEE CORPORATION TO MOVE NORTH AMERICAN BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS DOWNTOWN

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced today that Sara Lee Corporation will relocate its new North American Meats corporate headquarters in early 2013 to Chicago's 400 S. Jefferson Street, bringing at least 500 positions to the City. Sara Lee Corporation announced earlier this year that it will split into two separate pure-play companies in the first half of calendar year 2012, an International Coffee and Tea business and a North American Meats company. Names for the two companies will be unveiled at a later date.

"This is a huge win for the city of Chicago, as Sara Lee Corporation has chosen the city to be the home of the new North American Meats company," said Mayor Emanuel. "The new company will bring these high-paying jobs to the city, as well as its first-class brands and leadership in this key sector."

At the new headquarters, the company will locate at least 500 jobs, and up to 650 total jobs. Sara Lee will receive between \$5 million and \$6.5 million in TIF assistance, based on the number of jobs created, pending Community Development Commission and City Council approval.

There is hope on the part of Sara Lee that this effort will form a new industry cluster, centered on food-related companies. The company plans to work with the city of Chicago to encourage other food-related companies to relocate to Chicago, from around the surrounding area and throughout the nation.

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BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

Business License Online Renewal

The Ravenswood Community Council would like to inform local businesses about a workshop for important changes for business license renewal in 2012.

As of January 1, 2012, all City of Chicago business license renewals must be processed online. An "Online Business License Renewal Tutorial" workshop will be held on Friday, Dec. 23, from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in room 805 of City Hall.

The workshop will consist of a demonstration on how to use the Online Business License Renewal System, and a discussion about the various things to keep in mind when renewing your business license. You will find that the online license renewal process is fast, easy and secure.

More tutorials will be held in early 2012. Stay tuned for dates and times.

For more information go to <http://www.cityofchicago.org/>.

Skokie's 2011 Tax Levy Marks 21st Year of Property Tax Freeze

The Skokie Village Board is considering a 2011 property tax levy that is identical to the Village's 1990 levy, marking the twenty-first consecutive year of the Board's self-imposed property tax freeze. The 2011 tax levy presented to the Village Board on December 5 for first consideration amounts to \$15,456,695, which is identical to the 1990 levy. Approval is expected at the December 19, 2011 Village Board meeting.

"The Village Board approved a five-year property tax freeze in 1991. Due to prudent budgeting and pro-active economic development, the Village has been able to sustain the property tax freeze for an additional 16 years, with 2011 marking the twenty-first year of the Village Board's commitment to hold the line on the Village's share of property taxes," commented Mayor George Van Dusen. "In 1990, the Village's share of an average Skokie property tax bill was 15.22%. In 2010, the Village's share was an average 7.15%. This has been sustained through austere financial times, without an impact on Skokie's excellent municipal services. I commend my colleagues on the Village Board and all Village staff for their hard work to continue Skokie's property tax freeze in light of challenging economic times."

Without a property tax freeze, annual increases could have mirrored changes in the consumer price index. Had the Village of Skokie adjusted its levy annually for inflation since 1990, the 2011 levy would have been \$26,600,178, which is \$11,143,483 higher than the actual 2011 levy of \$15,456,695. It also equates to a nearly 72.1% increase over the 2011 levy, and would have resulted in an average \$326 increase to the average annual residential property tax bill.

Tax bills contain a number of different components, with different government agencies responsible for the various components. For example, the Cook County Assessor determines property value, assessment level, assessed value, equalized assessed value and exemption for homeowners, senior citizens, etc. The only level of control the Village of Skokie has over property tax bills is relative to its annual tax levy. For more information on Skokie's portion of property taxes visit www.skokie.org.

Skokie Mayor and Board of Trustee Meetings 2012

All Village Board of Trustee meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted (*) at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie. Listed below are the January 2012 dates.

An agenda is posted on the on Village web site, www.skokie.org, each Friday before the meeting. The document can be viewed online, or downloaded for further reading.

January 3* Tuesday due to New Year's Day Holiday

January 17* Tuesday due to Martin Luther King Day

LINCOLNWOOD SEEKING NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

The Village encourages citizen involvement in local government. One way for residents to become involved is to become a member of an appointed Village Board or Commission. Boards and Commissions consist of residents that are appointed by the Village Board to act as recommending bodies regarding various matters and issues concerning local government.

The Village is currently accepting applications for a vacancy in the Telecommunications Advisory Commission. The Telecommunications Advisory Commission advises the Village on telecommunications regulations, cable franchise agreements, and other related matters. The Commission does not have a regular meeting schedule but typically meets two to four times per year. The Commission consists of five members who serve three-year terms. Experience in engineering, technology, or telecommunications-related business is desired, but not required.

Interested residents can download an application online at <http://www.lincolnwoodil.org/boardandcomm.cfm> or can apply in person at the Village President's Office in Village Hall. Applications should be e-mailed along with a resume to the Village President at jerry@tury.net or via fax at 847-673-9382. For questions regarding the Commission, please contact Douglas Petroschius at 847-745-4711. For more information on the Telecommunications Commission see the Ordinance in Chapter 3 of the Village Code at <http://www.ecode360.com/LI3005> or visit their webpage at <http://www.lincolnwoodil.org/telecommunications.cfm>.

Chicago Union Station Master Plan

Ideas to be Presented at Public Meeting

The Chicago Department of Transportation and Amtrak held a public meeting from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at Union Station to discuss possible improvements suggested by the Chicago Union Station Master Plan study.

The meeting was an open house, with experts and visuals explaining ideas to increase capacity for more trains, people, and traffic on nearby streets. A narrated presentation was made at 4:30 p.m. and again at 6 p.m., allowing commuters to attend before boarding trains home. The study, which has been in progress for about one year, has been a collaborative effort led by the City of Chicago's Department of Transportation with extensive participation from Amtrak (the station's owner), Metra (the station's primary tenant), and other stakeholders.

Union Station now often operates close to capacity. Continuing growth in both commuter rail service and Amtrak long distance and intercity passenger rail service, combined with the potential for future growth in high-speed intercity passenger rail, has compelled the City and affected railroads to consider future options for accommodating further growth in station traffic.

The Master Plan Study has identified potential ideas for adding tracks and platforms, as well as possible opportunities for improving passenger flows. Short, medium, and long-term opportunities have been identified ranging from re-purposing platforms originally designed for handling mail, to better connections to other rail and transit services, to the construction of new multilevel subways.

Union Station is one of the region's key transportation facilities and economic drivers. It is the third-busiest railroad terminal in the United States, serving over 300 trains per weekday carrying more than 120,000 arriving and departing passengers – a level of passenger traffic that would rank it among the ten busiest airports in the U.S. Most travelers at Union Station take Metra commuter trains. The station is also the hub of Amtrak's network of regional trains serving the Midwest as well as most of the nation's overnight trains, which connect to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts. Today's station originally opened in 1925, and significant alterations were made to the Concourse level, located east of Canal Street, in 1970. Most passenger station activities today take place in the Concourse. Soon after Amtrak was established in 1971, it concentrated all intercity passenger train operations in Chicago at Union Station. Amtrak gained ownership of Union Station in 1984 and completed a major re-modeling in 1992. Amtrak is planning further improvements to both the concourse and the headhouse in 2012 and beyond. CDOT's planning efforts will assist Amtrak in preparing for these improvements.

Streets for Cycling Plan 2020 Open House

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), in partnership with the Chicago Loop Alliance and the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council, an open house was held for the Streets for Cycling Plan 2020 on December 10th, 2011 at 23 E. Madison St. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Streets for Cycling Plan 2020 will identify roadways throughout Chicago for bicycle facilities to provide Chicagoans, from children riding to school to senior citizens riding to the grocery store, a safe and comfortable experience bicycling on city streets.

"Our efforts to develop the Streets for Cycling Plan 2020 depend on the input, ideas, and experiences of residents in many communities," said Gabe Klein, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. "We want the public to help identify streets for new types of on-street bikeways, including protected bike lanes. It's going to be a plan developed by current bicyclists and those interested in bicycling."

CDOT has partnered with eighteen community advisors to gather additional input from their communities to heighten grassroots involvement in this process outside of the public meeting.

The Open House event featured maps of nine city sections allowing citizens to point out existing conditions such as barriers, destinations, gaps in the system and assets in their communities. Similar opportunities for comment and plan information will be provided at each of the public meetings and webinars.

Additional Meetings Scheduled in Neighborhoods

Wednesday, January 18th, 2012 Garfield Park Conservatory – Jensen Room, 300 N. Central Park Avenue. 6 – 8 p.m., presentation begins at 6:30

Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 Woodson Regional Library – Auditorium, 9525 S. Halsted Street. 6 – 8 p.m., presentation begins at 6:30

Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 Sulzer Regional Library – Auditorium, 4455 N. Lincoln Avenue. 6 – 8 p.m., presentation begins at 6:30

Friday, February 3rd, 2012 Webinar, 12 – 1 p.m. RSVP required via goo.gl/CGq6M

Monday, February 6th, 2012 Webinar, 6 -7 p.m. RSVP required via goo.gl/iLphG

People can follow all plan activities through www.facebook.com/StreetsForCycling2020 and submit comments both through Facebook and by emailing streetsforcycling2020@gmail.com. The plan is anticipated to be complete by summer 2012.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Chanukah Wonderland

Bring the kids for a rollicking good time at Chanukah Wonderland at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie where your kids will enjoy:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dreidel bounce | Face painting |
| Make your own donut | Take a picture with Judah Maccabee |
| Dreidel Crafts | Make a card for an IDF soldier |
| Chanukah gelt | And much more! |

Join us on Sunday, December 25, 2011, from approximately 11:00a.m. until 1:00pm at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster Street in Skokie.

\$10 Advanced Admission \$12 at the door

For more information, please contact us at 847-677-1770 or via the website, www.SkokieChabad.org.



Anti-Cruelty Society

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

Ways To Give

We always have a variety of ways for you to support us. Here are couple of ideas for this holiday season:

'Tis the season of giving! In place of giving a pet for a gift this holiday season, give a gift certificate to The Anti-Cruelty Society that can be used for many things, including adopting a pet, training classes or our retail store. We have all of the things that a pet owner needs: toys, food, crates, poop bags, leashes, litter boxes, scratching posts and fashionable attire to show your support.

Honor the people on your gift list with a donation to support our work. It's a great way to show your commitment to our community of caring, helping pets and educating people, and a wonderful way to honor the animals or animal lovers in your life! We will even send a card for you!

Check out our holiday store to see our ornaments and holiday cards that we have available to purchase for yourself or for others. Proceeds from each product go directly to the Society.

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

To make this holiday season safe and happy, we want to remind you to take extra care of your pets. Here is a list of cold weather hazards to be aware of as the temperatures begin to drop.

Cold Weather Tips

When winter temperatures dip below zero, we need to take extra steps to ensure our pets' well-being. The following tips will help you keep your pet safe and warm in sub zero temperatures.

Bring All Pets Indoors: The Anti-Cruelty Society recommends that all of your pets live indoors with you. If you do have a pet that spends most of his/her time outdoors, bring them indoors for the next few days during these sub-zero temperatures. Frostbite can set in very rapidly and may lead to death.

Most dogs need to go outdoors to eliminate. Make their time outdoors as brief as possible, allowing him/her to eliminate and go back indoors.

Frostbite: Even though companion animals have a fur coat, most cats and dogs cannot endure the cold of winter for more than 10 to 15 minutes. A companion animal left outdoors can get frostbite and even freeze to death. Signs of frostbite include skin that is pale and cool to the touch, with decreased sensation in the affected area. If you suspect frostbite, gently warm the area with warm, not hot, water and then take the animal to your veterinarian. Once an area has been frozen it can become cold and frostbitten again more easily.

Ice, Salt, and Snow: Jagged ice and sidewalk salt can injure or irritate your dog's foot pads. After you return home from a walk, check the foot pads and wipe off any salt or ice with a damp towel. Also dry your dog thoroughly whenever he or she comes in from the snow.

Anti-Freeze: Animals are attracted to this substance by its sweet taste. It can be fatal if ingested, so keep all anti-freeze bottles out of your pet's reach. Also be sure to clean up any spills in your garage or driveway immediately. If your cat or dog should swallow anti-freeze-or any poison-contact your veterinarian immediately.

Car Engines: In cold weather, cats allowed outdoors crawl beneath cars and climb up inside the engines seeking warmth and shelter. This can lead to injuries or death when the engines are started. To prevent such an occurrence, keep your cat indoors at all times. To protect stray cats, knock on your car's hood or sound your horn before starting the car in cold weather.

Skokie and SWANCC Provide a Holiday Light Recycling Program

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the Village of Skokie are offering a free Holiday Light Recycling Program.

All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at the Skokie Public Works Department, 9050 Gross Point Road, December 5 through January 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. Elgin Recycling is processing the material, www.elginrecycling.com.

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427.

HANUKAH CONCERTS IN LAKEVIEW

☪ NORTH SHORE

Join us in the city's Lakeview neighborhood or on the north shore in Skokie as KFAR celebrates the light and joy of the Hanukah season with concerts by Even Sh'Siyah, Jewmognous and Soulfarm!

With the year's end approaching, I also want to take a moment thank you for your continued generous support of KFAR Jewish Arts Center. See you at the show!

Adam Davis, Executive Director, KFAR Jewish Arts Center - 773.362.4760

Light the Night Hanukah Concert by Even Sh'Siyah Bring in the Hanukah season with the music of Evën Sh'Siyah! From the moment they take the stage, the souls of the Allman Brothers harmonize with the ancient Israelite prophets as their soaring voices bring the heavens to Earth and their rhythms reveal that which is hidden. Evën Sh'Siyah's grooves echo Lynard Skynard and Grateful Dead with Hebrew and English lyrics for a "Gefilte Phish." sound. It's the Way Jews Rock! 8pm (7pm doors) Sunday, December 18th

Schubas, 3159 N. Southport, Chicago \$10 advance / \$15 door (21+ show)

Jewmognous! Unkosher Comedy Songs Ex-Rockapella star Sean Altman's comedy song concert JEW MONGOUS is "tuneful and sharply witty" (Los Angeles Times) and "bawdy with a wicked modern streak" (Washington Post), combining "the tunefulness of the Beatles and the spot-on wit of Tom Lehrer" (Boston Globe). Altman, who "writes hilarious and irreverent acoustic rock songs about his awakening Jewish awareness" (Jerusalem Post), founded Rockapella and led it during its heydays on the Emmy-winning PBS-TV series "Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego?" for which Altman co-wrote the famous theme song. Last year sold out get tix early! 8pm & 9:30pm (two shows!) Sunday, December 25th

Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln, Skokie \$18 advance / \$25 door (all ages show)

Soulfarm! in Skokie for Hanukah Soulfarm was founded in Israel by Grammy Award winner lead guitarist C Lanzbom and guitarist and lead singer Noah Solomon Chase. Their live shows are full of Mediterranean flavor, captivating guitar leads, dance rhythms and strong percussion breaks. Soulfarm has a wide range of influences from rock and Latin, to Hebrew and Celtic folk music. Their sound has been dubbed as New American music, full melodic song writing and progressive modern arrangements. 8pm (7:30pm doors) Tuesday, December 27th

Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln, Skokie \$15 advance / \$20 door (all ages show) For more information and tickets, go to <http://www.kfarcenter.org/>.

Holiday Safety Tips Regarding Children and Food Safety

The holidays are an exciting time of year for children and families. To help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are just a few tips from the Skokie Fire and Police Departments as published in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) regarding toy, food and visiting safety:

Toy Safety

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Keep batteries and magnets away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.
- Children under age eight can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.
- Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length.
- Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids' toys away from young children.

Food Safety

- Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same.
- Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.
- Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.
- Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.
- Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
- Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Happy Visiting

- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots and clean up immediately after a holiday party.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or babysitters are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222.
- Maintaining your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

For more information or additional safety tips please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or visit www.skokie.org.

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Christmas in Greece

by Eleni Andritsakis

There are two sides to Christmas in Greece; one is religious and, while the other is festive and glamorous. Both of them have their charm. Most towns in Greece are decorated with bright lights, bells, angels and other Christmasy objects. According to Christmas traditions in Greece, the patron saint of the holiday is Saint Nicolas, who is also the protector of sailors. For this reason, you will often see boats decorated with many sparkling lights, rather than the traditional Christmas trees. The Christmas season in Greece begins on December 6th, which is Saint Nicolas day, and ends on January 6th, which is the Feast of the Epiphany (Theophania).

Christmas shopping in Greece is an absolute delight. Streets are packed with people buying Christmas gifts for their loved ones, as well as Christmas carolers singing Christmas songs. Since gifts are traditionally given on New Year's Eve, Christmas shopping in Greece continues way after the 25th of December. Shops are decorated with all the usual Christmas ornaments, and an upbeat atmosphere is apparent as you walk along the streets and in the shops.

Christmas caroling is very popular, and although you might hear them being sung at any given moment during the holiday season, there are actually three "official" caroling days. The custom is that children go from house to house singing the carol, with the accompaniment of a triangle, and residents of the houses give them a small amount of money.

In many parts of Greece, people hang a pomegranate above the front door of their house. By the New Year, when the fruit will have dried, Greeks throw it on the ground so it breaks, and step into their house on their right foot. According to tradition, this brings good luck for the year to come.

In the past years, Christmas turkey has become very popular as the main dish of the holiday. Traditionally, the main course of Christmas dinner in Greece is roast pork, with a variety of side delicacies.

Village Cooking Corner

Walnut Cake "Karithopita"

1/2 cup butter	2 cups of sugar	1 tbs. lemon juice
1 tsp. soda	2 cups chopped walnuts	1 1/2 cups dry bread crumbs
1 cup sugar	1 cup of water	1 tbs. orange juice
2 tbs. cognac	1 tsp. cinnamon	1 1/2 cups flour
5 eggs	2 tbs. cognac	1 cinnamon stick
Syrup:	1/4 tsp. ground cloves	3 tsp. baking powder
1 cup milk		

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter and flour a 13 x 9 baking pan. In a bowl combine the walnuts, cinnamon, cloves, bread crumbs, flour, and baking powder. In a small glass, dilute the soda with the cognac. In a large bowl of a mixer, cream the butter with the sugar and then add the eggs. Mix in the soda with cognac, and add the milk and the walnut mixture, beating until well combined. Spread into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 45-60 minutes, or until the center is firm. Prepare the syrup by mixing all the ingredients together in a medium sauce pan. Bring it to a boil and pour it over the baked cake. Let the cake cool completely before serving.

by Eleni Andritsakis

Keeping Your Holiday Budget on Track: The Better Business Bureau Offers Help

If Black Friday was the start for your Holiday shopping and more lies ahead, it's still not too late to think about a budget. There is a tendency for consumers to overspend during the holidays, but by planning ahead they can lessen the impact when their credit card bills start rolling in. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) and Clearpoint Credit Counseling have teamed up to offer financial tips and an online Holiday Planner Calculator to help make sure your holidays are merry and bright!

"The holidays are a joyous time, but it's important to remember to stay within your budget," said Steve J. Bernas, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and northern Illinois. "You don't want to find yourself struggling to pay the bills after the holidays."

The Holiday Planner Calculator, at <http://video.bbb.org/clearpoint-holiday-tips/clearpoint-holiday-budgeting-calculator.html>, can help determine an overall budget, decide how much to designate for each category (gifts, parties, travel, food and donations), then get into details like how much to spend on each person or budgeting for parties and travel. Creating a budget and sticking to it can be a challenge, but being more conscious of your holiday spending habits will help you start the new year without a lot of new debt.

The BBB offers more ideas for sticking to a budget:

Less Is More: Cut down on gift-giving. For work gatherings, have everyone draw a name and give one gift. Set limits with family members and then get creative about finding something in your new, lower price range. For the person who has everything, consider making a charitable donation in his or her name.

Do It Yourself: Homemade crafts and decorations can be fun to make and to give. Consider baking or canning your gifts this year. Give gift certificates for future services (babysitting, dog walking, leaf raking) or special events after the holidays (shows, ice skating).

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Use less of everything, because little things add up. Is it necessary to gift wrap that huge box? How about putting a "clue" under the tree instead and have the recipient find the present hidden someplace else in the house. Reuse gift bags - they are sturdy enough to be used five or six times. Make your own gift tags and decorations. Spray paint old candle holders gold or silver instead of buying new ones.

Trim Energy Costs: Switch to LED lights and you'll not only burn less energy, you'll need fewer strands because the lights are brighter. Turn off your outside decorations when you go to bed. Turn down the thermostat when no one is home. Combine shopping trips and errands, and carpool to family gatherings.

For more information on holiday shopping and finding businesses you can trust, visit www.bbb.org

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NEW YEAR'S EVE!
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 773.463.1962
Eat, drink and be German.
www.mirabellrestaurant.com

ST. THECLA CHURCH

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Day,
Sunday, December 25

Christmas Eve,
Saturday, December 24

8:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. – Mass

4:00p.m. – Family Mass

11:30a.m. – Mass in Polish

10:00p.m. – (Pasterka) Mass in Polish
 Carols begin at 9:30p.m.

12:00a.m. – Midnight Mass
 Carols begin at 11:30p.m.



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

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Mike's Barber Shop

accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys until December 23

773-775-2771 • 6680 Northwest Highway, Chicago

SANTA CLAUS HAS COME TO TOWN

Visit the jolly man in the red suit in his Midwest headquarters. The UL Santa House is open for business and children can share their wish list with Santa Claus and take a photo with him. Visitors will be able to download their free photos when they visit the UL website, SafetyAtHome.com.

Santa House hours are: Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 18 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. December 19-23 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Remember, Santa takes a break each day, 3pm-4pm, to feed his reindeer. Then on Christmas Eve, December 24, Santa will be at his UL Home from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m so he can begin his big night.

The UL Santa House is located just east of the City of Chicago Christmas Tree, the winning candidate chosen by Chicagoans and donated by Spangler Family of Western Springs.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- LEAVE VARIOUS LIGHTS ON THROUGHOUT YOUR HOME.
- ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS TO WATCH YOUR HOUSE IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE GONE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
- DON'T USE SHORTCUTS THROUGH ALLEYS, TAKE WELL LIT AND TRAVELED AREAS.
- IF YOU CARRY A PURSE, KEEP IT CLOSE TO YOUR BODY WITH THE CLASP NEAREST YOU.
- IF POSSIBLE, USE A SMALL PURSE OR WALLET WHICH MAY BE CARRIED INSIDE YOUR POCKET.
- NEVER ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DISTRACTED WHEN OPENING YOUR PURSE.
- WALLETS AND CHECKBOOKS SHOULD BE CARRIED IN AN INSIDE POCKET.
- CASH SHOULD BE CARRIED IN A FRONT PANTS POCKET.
- TAKE ONLY THE CASH AND CREDIT CARDS YOU WILL BE USING.
- DO NOT DISPLAY LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH.
- NEVER LEAVE YOUR PURSE IN YOUR SHOPPING CART UNATTENDED.
- TRANSFER ALL VALUABLES TO THE TRUNK OF YOUR AUTO.
- NEVER LEAVE ANYTHING IN PLAIN VIEW IN YOUR AUTO.
- PARK AS CLOSE TO YOUR DESTINATION AS POSSIBLE.
- CLOSE AND LOCK ALL OF YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS.
- NEVER CARRY YOUR KEYS IN YOUR PURSE. IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A PURSE SNATCHING, THE OFFENDERS HAVE YOUR IDENTIFICATION WITH YOUR ADDRESS ON IT, ALONG WITH YOUR KEYS. KEEP YOUR KEYS IN YOUR POCKET.
- DO NOT PUT YOUR PURSE ON HOOKS OR HANDLES IN PUBLIC RESTROOMS.
- WHEN RETURNING TO YOUR HOME OR AUTO, HAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR HAND READY TO OPEN THE DOOR. USE YOUR PANIC OR ALARM BUTTON.

Submitted by State Representative Michael P. McAuliffe

16th Annual Christkindlmarket

Experience a traditional German Christmas at the 16th Annual Christkindlmarket, inspired by the famous Nuremberg Christmas market dating back to 1545. Presented by the German American Services, Inc., this outdoor market offers exquisite handmade gifts, unique ornaments, rare European fabrics and textiles and the opportunity to devour German delicacies like brats, goulash, potato pancakes, cookies and Gluhwein (a warm spiced wine). For Christkindlmarket hours visit www.christkindlmarket.com. Admission to all these events is free. For more information please visit www.explorechicago.org/dc or call (312) 744-3316. For details about Christkindlmarket please visit www.christkindlmarket.com.



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Seasons Greetings From State Representative, 20th District Michael P. McAuliffe

Be Safe While Holiday Shopping and Watch for Children on Their Holiday Break While You are Driving, Especially on Slippery, Snow Covered Streets

5515 N. East River Road
Chicago, IL 60656
Phone: 773-444-0611



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year From Chicago Brauhaus

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| ■ Pork Shanks | ■ Fresh Fish of the Day |
| ■ Roast Duckling | |

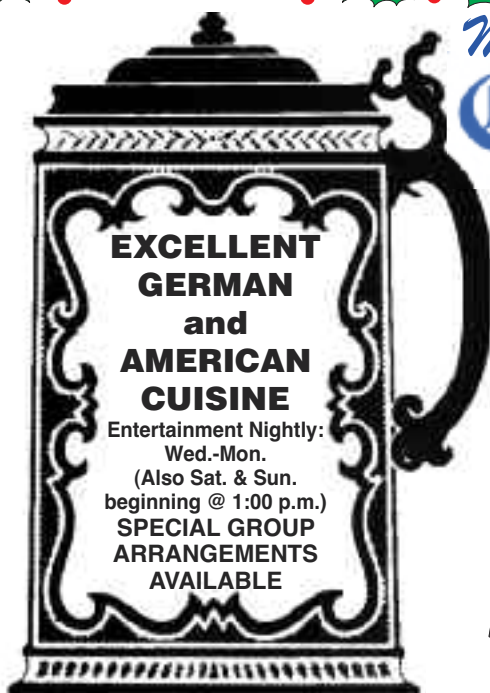
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Holiday Hours:
Dec. 24: 11 am - 5 pm
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 11 am - 5 pm
Jan. 1: Closed



HOLIDAY EVENTS

Keeping Christ in Christmas

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

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

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

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

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

A more pertinent question may be whether we are able to keep Christ in our own Christmas. How strange and ironic it would be if we invested so much energy and money into retaining the name of Christ in our holiday but neglected to

see the significance of His birth for ourselves. Indeed, this seems a predictable battle strategy that Satan would employ to turn Christmas on its head: encourage the anxiety and worry that others are driving Christ out of Christmas so that you will invest huge amounts of energy, money, and anger to retaining rightful ownership of the day. How quickly we can lose our perspective on the season.

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

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

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

Author Unknown



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 tried 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

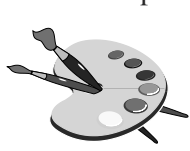
Submitted by Dennis Bratcher

Local Arts and Entertainment

SKOKIE ART GUILD

FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOPS

Saturday Sessions started 9/10 and continue every week 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Thursday evening sessions have been eliminated) Live models / no instructor
Fees per session SAG Members \$12.00; non-members \$20.00
For information: Steve Gal 847/673-4450



Devonshire Cultural Center
4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, IL 60076
www.skokieartguild.org Members: \$12.00 / Non-Members: \$20.00

NILES WEST'S ZILEWICZ TO EXHIBIT AT MORTON GROVE LIBRARY

Niles West High School visual arts instructor John Zilewicz was selected to exhibit his artwork at the Morton Grove Public Library from December 5 through 30. Pieces include two-dimensional and three-dimensional assemblages that deal with phobias, along with abstract work. The Morton Grove Public Library is located at 6140 Lincoln Avenue in Morton Grove.

"A Theater Review"

"Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein"
Royal George Theatre
1641 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard A. Eisenhardt

Hershey Felder has brought his new show "Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein" to Chicago's Royal George Theatre and it is a fascinating piece of theater on this man's life.

Felder has brought the life of Gershwin, Chopin, Beethoven and now Bernstein to Chicago and I feel very fortunate to have seen all of them. Felder is brilliant as he is an actor, singer, a terrific pianist, writer, composer, producer and his lector on these men is most entertaining.

Bernstein was a complicated man and a controversial man if you read any of the biographies on his life by Humphrey Burton, Joan Peyser and Meryle Secrest.

Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on August 25th, 1918, and he passed away in New York on October 14th, 1990. His parents were Russian-Jewish immigrants.

Felder takes on around twenty or thirty roles to tell and examine Bernstein's life from training as a musician, his childhood and the education he had.

Joe Zwick, once again as the director of Felder's one-man shows, has done a huluva job with "Maestro."

Bernstein is probably best known for "West Side Story." Two other Broadway musicals he is known for are "On the Town," and "Wonderful Town," the musical version of "My Sister Eileen."

You'll find like many artists Mr. Bernstein was a bi-sexual who had a twenty five year marriage to actress Felicia Montealegre and they had three children together. He may have suffered guilt for his relationship with a man after he left his wife and that relationship only lasted one year.

During his early years his chief mentor was Serge Koussevitsky and on his recommendation to Rodzinski he became assistant conductor at the New York Philharmonic.

I was familiar with Bernstein but I learned so much about this artist and yet it is difficult to cover his life completely. We don't find out all of the controversy of his politics but that really is not all that important.

You'll hear a lot of terrific classical musical numbers besides the familiar ones from his Broadway shows. For me it is a "Don't Miss" production.

"Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein" runs through December 31st. For show days - show times and reservations call 312-988-9000 or stop by the box office. Tickets are \$55.

-Four Stars-

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December 21 • 1:30pm Jack Miuccio's HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 24 • 8:00pm & 10:00pm Caryn Bark Kosher Style Comedy

December 25 • 4:00pm Greater Chicago Jewish Festival: Kumsitz with the Rabbis

December 29 • 7:30pm DuBois at 80: 80 years and counting of Phil Woods and his music

December 31 • 8:00pm Tony Bernard in Rock Around the Clock

December 31 • 10:30pm Jack Miuccio in THE ONE MAN RAT PACK

PARKS AND RECREATION

TAI CHI FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH ARTHRITIS

The Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department will be holding two Tai Chi demo classes on Wednesday, January 4 at 11:00am - 11:30am and 6:30pm - 7:00pm. Tai Chi consists of fluid, gentle movements that are slow temp. It improves strength, flexibility, balance, well-being and overall fitness. This form is especially ideal to free up stiff joints and muscles. Participants have reported better balance, significant pain relief, increased sense of well-being, and improved physical ability. This class is taught by Arthritis Foundation Certified Instructor Renee Gatsis.

Our full session classes will run 1 hour in length and begin on Wednesday, January 11, and end on Wednesday, March 7. All classes will be held at the Lincolnwood Community Center. Please pre-register by visiting the Parks and Recreation Office or calling 847-677-9740.

BREAK A SWEAT, NOT THE BANK DURING ONE WEEK OF FREE ADMISSION TO CITYWIDE FITNESS CENTERS

Promotion Runs Jan. 3-9 at 71 Locations

Kick off the New Year in great shape by working out for free from Jan. 3-9, 2012, at any of the Chicago Park District's 71 fitness centers located throughout the city.

"We encourage Chicagoans to take advantage of this special incentive," said Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Mike Kelly. "Physical activity is one step toward leading a healthy lifestyle."

During the promotion from Jan. 3-9, patrons who extend the complimentary one-week period into either a three-month or annual gold card membership will receive a complimentary Nike cinch bag, while supplies last. The new gold card membership allows patrons the ability to workout at any of the Chicago Park District's 71 citywide fitness centers.

Another new feature in 2012 includes monthly, three-month or annual memberships. Registration for memberships can be made through the Chicago Park District's new registration system beginning Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012. Patrons must set up an account prior to registering online or in-person for a membership.

Membership rates to the Chicago Park District's fitness centers are affordable and range from \$30-\$60 for three months, a fraction of the cost of commercial gyms. Accessible equipment for people with disabilities is available at 45 fitness centers. Hours of operation vary per location.

The Chicago Park District fitness centers feature state-of-the-art equipment including: computerized treadmills, cross trainers, upright and recumbent bicycles, free weights and benches, cable cross-overs, multi-station weight machines and core-focused weight equipment.

The Chicago Park District encourages residents to enjoy a week of free membership at any of the following fitness center locations:

Amundsen Park, 6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave., 312.746.5003 (includes accessible equipment)

Broadway Armory Park, 5917 N. Broadway St., 312.742.7502 (includes accessible equipment)

Brooks Park, 7100 N. Harlem Ave., 773.631.4401

Clarendon Park Community Center, 4501 N. Clarendon Ave., 312.742.7512 (includes accessible equipment)

Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland Ave., 312.742.7518 (includes accessible equipment)

Dunham Park, 4638 N. Melvina Ave., 773.685.3257

Eckhart Park, 1330 W. Chicago Ave., 312.746.5490 (includes accessible equipment)

Garfield Park, 100 N. Central Park Ave., 312.746.5092 (includes accessible equipment)

Haas Park, 2402 N. Washtenaw Ave., 312.742.7552 (includes accessible equipment)

Hamlin Park, 3035 N. Hoyne Ave., 312.742.7785

Hiawatha Park, 8029 W. Forest Preserve Drive, 312.746.5559 (includes accessible equipment)

Homan Square Park, 3559 W. Arlington St., 312.746.6650 (includes accessible equipment)

Independence Park, 3945 N. Springfield Ave., 773.478.3538 (includes accessible equipment)

Kelvyn Park, 4438 W. Wrightwood Ave., 312.742.7547

Lake Shore Park, 808 N. Lake Shore Drive, 312.742.7891 (includes accessible equipment)

Margate Park, 4921 N. Marine Drive, 312.742.7522 (includes accessible equipment)

McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave., 773.478.2609 (includes accessible equipment)

Mozart Park, 2036 N. Avers St., 312.742.7535

Norwood Park, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., 773.631.4893 (includes accessible equipment)

Peterson Park, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd., 312.742.7584

Pottawattomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers Ave., 773.262.5835

Rutherford Sayre Park, 6871 W. Belden Ave., 312.746.5368 (includes accessible equipment)

Shabbona Park, 6935 W. Addison St., 773.685.6205

Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave., 312.742.7511 (includes accessible equipment)

Willye B. White Park, 1610 W. Howard St., 773.262.5051

For more information, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312.742.PLAY, 312.747.2001 (TTY).

Don't Overlook Personal Property When Creating Your Estate Plan



Chester M. Przybylo

Planning for all of life's contingencies is a difficult task, yet one which must be attempted. This is especially true when dealing with your death. Prudence suggests that you create an effective Estate Plan delineating your wishes as to the care of your minor children, your burial arrangements, and the disposition of your assets, to name a few. However, even people who meticulously prepare their Estate Plans often overlook their personal property, which can cause problems. Here's an example of how things can go wrong: Several years ago, a widower passed away. He thought he planned out every detail of what would happen after he was gone. He had family discussions about how his major assets were to be divided, but the widower never considered his personal property in his plan.

His children are still not talking to each other because of disagreements regarding how to distribute items that were dear to them. The daughters were especially embittered over their mother's art collection. Friends and relatives demanded furniture and tools that they claimed the widower had promised them. The family remains divided.

In addition, the executor of the widower's estate faced an overwhelming task. Past financial records were mixed with correspondence, other documents, and photos. Everything was stored in paper sacks. It took the executor over six months of tedious work to go through the papers and documents. The widower's family and the executor suffered hardship and anger that could have been avoided had the widower paid as much attention to his personal property as he did to his other property.

Other problems can also arise from ignoring personal property in preparing and maintaining your Estate Plan. Often, family or friends quickly take personal items before the estate is settled. This can be a significant hindrance in assessing the estate's value, especially if items of substantial value are taken before a proper inventory is conducted.

Luckily, with proper planning, these complications can be avoided. For example, an elderly couple took steps to ensure such disputes were kept to minor arguments. The couple created a proper Estate Plan with a Living Trust and Health Care Powers of Attorney. They categorized all of their assets and discussed their complete financial status and necessary actions with the child who lived closest to them. They discussed their personal property with their family and close friends, learning each one's preferences for personal items. The couple took an inventory indicating who was to receive each piece of personal property. They made copies of certain photos and family documents, and designated who would retain the original. They referred to this handwritten and signed inventory in their Estate Plan.

The husband and wife passed away within a short time of each other. The estate was distributed without incident. Family and friends were thrilled the couple had thought enough of them to include them in the dispensation of their personal property.

With some effort on your part, you too can minimize the complications that could arise after you're gone. To accomplish this, you can create a legally enforceable document assigning items of importance to someone by name and note how items not designated for anyone should be disbursed. For example, the elderly couple directed that all of their clothing be given to the Salvation Army. In addition, you may want to address what will happen should an item mentioned in the document no longer be a part of your estate at your death.

You may also want to include a photo with your inventory, or make a video inventory, describing the objects as you film them and stating who should be the recipient.

As with every aspect of your Estate Plan, you should seek the assistance of a qualified expert in estate planning to make sure your plan is legally acceptable and meets your desires. Additionally, communicate with your executor or trustee, your family and other loved ones to make sure everyone knows your desires. You can choose how your personal property will be distributed. You can ignore it and force those you leave behind to decide how to distribute items of a personal nature as the widower did. Or, like the elderly couple, you can be prepared and minimize resentment and frustration among family and friends.

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. To register for an upcoming seminar, call the 24 hour reservation hotline at 1-800-638-7878 or register online at www.PlanOurEstate.com.

Patty Duke Turns 65, Applies Online for Social Security and Medicare Benefits

After years of telling people they can apply online for Social Security in their pajamas, Patty Duke has taken her own advice. Duke, who turned 65 recently, applied online for retirement and Medicare benefits from home.

"All of us at Social Security wish Patty a very happy birthday," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "She's a Hollywood legend and an American treasure who reaches a very important milestone today. True to form, she is the one giving us the birthday present by showing her fellow baby boomers the easiest way to apply for benefits."

"While I just applied for retirement benefits, I'm not retiring from being a Social Security spokesperson," Duke says. "I urge my fellow baby boomers to go online to www.socialsecurity.gov. If you're not sure how to get started on the computer, ask a loved one to help you out. I did, and it was so easy."

The Twelve Sites of Social Security

by Andrew Salata, Public Affairs Specialist

During the holiday season, it's hard to walk in a public place without hearing a Christmas carol or two. One of the most popular traditional songs is "The Twelve Days of Christmas." It's been a holiday favorite since it was published in 1780. Here's our take on the song: "The Twelve Sites of Social Security."

For the first site of Social Security, we present to you: our home page, www.socialsecurity.gov. It's the place to go for all things Social Security. Everything you could want — from online services and screening tools to publications and press releases — can be found easily from this starting place.

On the second site of Social Security, we present to you: an easy way to get or replace your Social Security card using our online application at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

On the third site of Social Security, we present to you: an online application for retirement benefits that you can complete and submit in as little as 15 minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/about.htm.

On the fourth site of Social Security, we present to you: a secure, convenient way to apply for disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

On the fifth site of Social Security, we present to you: five estimates of your future Social Security benefits! Or one, or as many as you would like using different scenarios. Get instant, personalized estimates of your future benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

On the sixth site of Social Security, we present to you: an online application for Medicare that lets you complete an application for Medicare benefits in as little as 10 minutes, at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly.

On the seventh site of Social Security, we present to you: Extra Help with prescription drug costs. You can learn more and apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

On the eighth site of Social Security, we present to you: our convenient publication library with online booklets and pamphlets on numerous subjects, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

On the ninth site of Social Security, we present to you: popular baby names. Learn about popular baby names and trends based on child Social Security card applications over the years at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/babynames.

On the tenth site of Social Security, we present to you: the location of your nearest Social Security office, no matter where you are, at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator.

On the eleventh site of Social Security, we present to you: a way to get your Social Security forms online, at www.socialsecurity.gov/online.

On the twelfth site of Social Security, we present to you: services for people who are currently receiving benefits, like the ability to replace your Medicare card, get or change a password, request a proof of income letter, or check your Social Security information or benefits. You can do these and other things at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/getservices-change.htm.

Get all your Social Security services and information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Are You Ready For Winter Weather in Skokie? Check out the Alternate Side Parking Guidelines

The Village of Skokie would like to remind residents, business owners and visitors about the Village's Alternate Side Parking program. When there is snow accumulation of two inches or more on the pavement, the Village's Alternate Side Parking Program will go in to effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. The snow removal program is a minimum two-day operation.

· On even-numbered days of the month, after two inches or more of snowfall, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with even-numbered addresses.

· On odd-numbered days of the month, after two inches or more of snowfall, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses.

Residents should call 847/675-SNOW (7669), visit www.skokie.org, sign up for email alerts through Skokienews, tune to 1660 AM, or the SkokieVision cable station to confirm that the program is in effect and for program updates.

Certain Village streets are exempt from the Alternate Side Parking Program on Saturday, Sunday and some holidays. There also are streets in Skokie that are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation or Cook County, and those agencies are responsible for plowing.

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

RESURRECTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Seventeen students from Resurrection College Prep High School have been named Illinois State Scholars. The Illinois State Scholar Program recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement. Students ranking in the top 10 percent of the state's graduating seniors are recognized as Illinois State Scholars. Rankings are based on a combination of ACT test scores and GPA at the end of the sixth semester in high school.

The students who were honored for their academic achievements as Illinois State Scholars included the following Resurrection seniors: Kathleen Burke '12 (60631), Alison Casey '12 (60631), Rachel Cunningham '12 (60631), Donna Gawron '12 (60656), Sara Imburgia '12 (60631), Christine Janci '12 (60631), Kaitlyn Kanakes '12 (60634), Anne Elyse Larsen '12 (60656), Lauren McNeela '12 (60631), Lauren Neja '12 (60631), Jessica Ordinario '12 (60630), Margaret Powers '12 (60631), Nicole Raia '12 (60646), Faith Stachulski '12 (60630), Briana Torres '12 (60630), Samantha Traczyk '12 (60630) and Amanda Willner '12 (60631).

Resurrection College Prep High School, located at 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, is the largest all-girls Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school on the north side of Chicago. Since its founding in 1922, Resurrection has graduated over 13,000 alumnae. For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call 773.775.6616 Ext 129 or visit www.reshs.org.

You Can Choose the Next Vehicle Sticker Design!

Annual City Clerk Art Contest Drew 240 Entries, Public Now Votes on Favorite Design from Top 10

Nearly 240 high school students from 44 Chicago high schools vied for a coveted spot as a Top 10 finalist in the 17th Annual City Vehicle Sticker Art Design Contest. Now, it is up to the public to choose from the narrowed field and decide which sticker design honoring the theme "Chicago's Heroes" will appear on next year's vehicle sticker.

The 2012 – 2013 city vehicle sticker honors Chicago's first responders: Chicago's police, fire and paramedic personnel. Chicagoans can cast their votes for their favorite sticker design from Dec. 4 through Dec. 11 at chicityclerk.com. During the week votes also will be accepted at a computer kiosk in Room 107 of City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The art contest is a great way for our students to be involved in their city government," said City Clerk Susana Mendoza, whose office implements the sale of the city vehicle sticker. "Last year more than 20,000 Chicagoans voted on their favorite city sticker design. Each of our students worked very hard on their creations and I hope all Chicagoans take a minute to visit our website and cast a vote for their favorite city vehicle sticker!"

Art contest finalists include: Tyrell Bismillah, Sophomore at Lawrence Hall Youth Services; Kristen Brennan, Senior at Resurrection High School; Dan Caddigan, Senior at Brother Rice High School; Michael Chao, Sophomore at St. Patrick High School; Caitlin Henehan, Senior at Resurrection High School; Sung Lim, Sophomore at Mather High School; Michael McCray, Senior at Gage Park High School; Frank Mondragon, Senior at Gallery 37 and Mather High School; Herbert Pulgar, Freshman at Lawrence Hall Youth Services; and Monserrat Rafael, Senior at Steinmetz Academy Centre.

The student with the winning design will receive a \$1,000 savings bond and the winning artwork will appear on the 2012 – 2013 vehicle sticker beginning in June 2012. Second place receives a \$500 savings bond and third place receives a \$250 bond. The seven remaining finalists each receive a \$100 savings bond.

DISTRICT 219 APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT NILES WEST

The Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education appointed Lanée Walls as the new Director of Special Education at Niles West High School, effective July 1, 2012. Walls will succeed Patricia Costigan, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Walls will bring to D219 17 years of K-12 educational experience, most recently as Superintendent of Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District 428, where she developed statewide educational programs for incarcerated students with disabilities. Walls oversaw the district for three years as she re-designed the district curriculum to integrate technology, differentiate instruction and introduce distance learning options.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Walls join our administrative team," said Pete Marcelo, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services. "She has proven leadership in finding innovative ways to intervene on behalf of some of the state's most at-risk students and their families, and we welcome the expertise that she will bring to our special education program."

Walls was an elementary school principal for four years in Chicago Heights School District 170 and also served as director of that district's alternative school program. She is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Loyola University Chicago and an Adjunct Professor of Special Education at Saint Xavier University. Walls earned her doctorate in education from Loyola and holds master's degrees in educational administration from Governors State University and in school psychology from Eastern Illinois University. She is also a certified special education teacher. Walls resides in Chicago with her husband, James, and two sons, Lawrence, 13, and Langston, 11.

Better Business Bureau Warning: Beware of Fraudulent Dear Santa Websites

More than 60 domain names are registered in the name of Santa Claus, offering children a wide range of opportunities to email St. Nick. Sadly, some of the websites aren't always so trustworthy and can potentially be a dangerous way to share personal information. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is advising parents to do their homework before letting their child write to Santa this holiday season.

Letters to Santa may seem innocent and fun, but it is very important for adults to carefully review websites to determine who is seeking information, how it will be used and whether it will be shared with third parties.

"Writing Santa is a favorite tradition for many families," said Steve J. Bernas, president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and northern Illinois. "Unfortunately, some of these Santa sites do not have the best intentions, and will misuse information handed over by children."

All websites directed to children - or websites designed with a special children's section - should have a privacy policy that explains the site's information collection practices. The privacy policy should include the name of the company and the company's complete contact information.

It should also state whether the company shares information with third parties, including advertisers, and whether the company publicly discloses the information or retains the information for any future purpose.

The BBB offers the following 'Dear Santa' site review tips:

Check to see what they are seeking. Websites directed at children should not ask a child to disclose more information than is reasonably necessary to participate in the activity.

Limit the personal information children share online and omit physical addresses. In many cases, there really shouldn't be a need to share this information. Instead, provide just a first name and email address.

Check websites for unwelcome content. Some sites are geared toward adults and may contain language or advertising adults may not want children to see.

Check the links. Since hyperlinks can allow children to move seamlessly from one site to another, investigate the hyperlinks to assure children don't access inappropriate content.

For more business information you can trust, visit www.bbb.org

KRAFT GREAT KIDS PROGRAM OFFERS CHILDREN ENRICHMENT IN NUTRITION, FITNESS, LITERACY AND THE ARTS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RUNS DURING SCHOOL YEAR

Parents looking for safe learning opportunities for their children ages 6-12 during the school year are encouraged to sign up for the Kraft Great Kids program offered at 12 Chicago Park District sites from Jan. 17-May 25. The Kraft Great Kids Program is a partnership between Kraft, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Public Libraries, and After School Matters that provides children meaningful after-school experiences in nutrition, fitness, literacy and creativity.

During the Chicago Public School year, the program consists of organized after school activities in four categories including:

Homework help: Instructors are available Monday - Thursday after school for two hours each day.

Nutrition: Staff works with children on gardens that were planted over summer. Healthy snacks are also provided either through a state-funded program or the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Fitness and Creativity in Great Kids@Play: Instructors use dance to promote fitness. Participants will also keep moving while playing nutrition games through a partnership with the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago's Children (CLOCC).

Literacy: The dance and fitness curriculum also incorporates literacy concepts. As coordinated with the Chicago Public Library, dinner and family activities take place monthly from October – May that promote literacy and healthy lifestyles.

Kraft Great Kids operates at the following Chicago Park District sites:

Amundsen Park, 6200 W. Bloomingdale, 312-746-5003

Columbus Park, 500 S. Central, 773-287-7641

Davis Square Park, 4430 S. Marshfield, 312-747-6107

Dvorak Park, 1119 W. Cullerton, 312-746-5083

Gately Park, 810 E. 103rd St., 312-747-6155

Gill Park, 825 W. Sheridan, 312-742-7802

Kelvyn Park, 4438 W. Wrightwood, 312-742-7547 or 7492

Kosciuszko Park, 2732 N. Avers, 312-742-7546

Lindblom Park, 6054 S. Damen, 312-747-6443

Palmer Park, 201 E. 111th St., 312-747-6576 or 6577

Russell Square Park, 3045 E. 83rd St., 312-747-6651

Woodhull Playground Park, 7340 S. East End Ave., 773-256-1903

For more information, call (312) 742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

What's missing from this picture?



Broadway Armory Park

Work out for **FREE** January 3–9, 2012
at all 71 Chicago Park District fitness centers!

Plus, if you register January 3–9 for a 3-month or annual fitness center membership, you'll get a free Nike gift, while supplies last.

For more information about your Chicago Park District visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com, or call 312.742.PLAY (7529) or 312.747.2001 (TTY).



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