



OUR VILLAGE

Next Edition
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FREE

FREE

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P.O. Box 31391,
Chicago, IL 60631

Issue 24
December 15, 2017

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



happy hanukkah



To All Of Our Jewish Friends And Neighbors
(Turn to Page 2 for a "Chanukah Wonderland")

Holiday Magic at the Brookfield Zoo

Regular parking and admission fees apply. Free with zoo membership.

Chicagoland's largest lights festival surrounds you in the cheer of over 1,000,000 twinkling lights, caroling to the animals, ice carving, laser light shows, and live entertainment. You're sure to feel the magic of the holidays!

Many of our indoor exhibits will be open for viewing favorite animals, plus there will be Singing to the Animals and special Zoo Chats. In addition, the zoo restaurants and food stands will be open with full menus and holiday treats, and gift shops will have hundreds of unique items for those hard-to-shop-for loved ones.

Visit the website for details: www.czs.org/Brookfield-ZOO



Christmas Around The World And Holidays Of Light

Experience the Museum of Science and Industry's beloved annual holiday tradition, now in its 75th year.

It began in 1942 with a single tree. Today, the Museum's beloved annual celebration features a four-story, floor-to-dome Grand Tree, surrounded by a forest of more than 50 trees and displays decorated by volunteers to represent the holiday traditions from cultures around the globe. On the weekends, you can enjoy live holiday performances, take-home LEGO® activities, and optional photos with Santa. It's the one-of-a-kind experience that brings a whole world of holiday joy under one roof.

Go to msichicago.org for details and to purchase tickets. Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.



ST. THECLA CHURCH

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



Confessions:

Sat. after the 8:30am Mass -
in English

Sat. 4:00pm - 4:45pm -
in English & Polish

Sun. 11:15am in Polish before
the 11:45am Mass

**Christmas Eve Family Mass
at 4:00pm**

**Christmas Solemn Night Mass
at 10:00pm**

**Christmas Day in English
8:00am & 10:00am**

(Midnight-Polish)

**Bożonarodzeniowa Pasterka
12:00 am (po polsku)**

**Koledowanie zaczyna się o 11:45pm
(11:45 Polish) Msza "wieta**

**Bożonarodzeniowa 25 Grudnia
o 11:45am (po polsku)**

**WINTER
BEGINS DECEMBER 21ST**



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Worship Services December 24

Holy Communion at all Services
7:00PM - Candlelight Service
11:00PM Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship December 25

9:30AM Service - Holy Communion

5650 N. Canfield Avenue, Chicago (Norwood Park)
708/867-5044

**Carter-Westminster
United Presbyterian Church**
4950 West Pratt, Skokie, Illinois • 847-673-4441

Christmas Eve Services
Join us for a time of fellowship, eggnog,
coffee and refreshments at 4 pm
followed by our Christmas Eve
Vesper Services at 5 pm.

All Are Welcome!

**ST. HYACINTH BASILICA
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Phone: 773-342-3636 • Fax: 773-342-3638
www.sthyacinthbasilica.org

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL
Sunday, December 24**
9:00 pm - Shepherds' Mass in English
12:00 am - Shepherds' Mass in Polish

**CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday, December 25**
7:30 am - Mass in English • 9:00 am - Mass in Polish
10:45 am - Mass in English • 12:30 pm - Mass in Polish
5:00 pm - Mass in English • 6:30 pm - Mass in Polish

Immaculate Conception Church
7271 W. Talcott Ave, Chicago
(773) 775-3833

MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25
4:00 P.M. THE VIGIL MASS CHORISTERS, YOUTH CANTORS & HANDBELL/ CHIMES ENSEMBLE, CONTEMPORARY SETTINGS OF TRADITIONAL HYMNS	7:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL HYMNS FOR CANTOR AND CONGREGATION 9:30 A.M. ADULT CHOIR 11:15 A.M. ADULT HANDBELL ENSEMBLE AND KEYBOARD
12 MIDNIGHT THE SOLEMN MASS DURING THE NIGHT SCHUBERT MASS IN G MAJOR, GUSTAV HOLST IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, STILLE NACHT/SILENT NIGHT AS ARRANGED BY RICHARD PROULX, ADULT CHOIR SINGING TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CLASSICS WITH STRING QUARTET	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD DECEMBER 31 5:00 P.M. JANUARY 1 7:30, 9:30 AND 11:15 A.M.
CHRISTMAS PRELUDE MUSIC BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M. CONCERTO GROSSO IN G MINOR "FATTO PER LA NOTTE DI NATALE", OP.6 No.8 "CHRISTMAS CONCERTO FOR STRINGS AND HARPSICHORD"	

Community First Medical Center December Health Events



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

**Sunday, December 17, 24 and 31
Alcoholics Anonymous – 9:30– 10:30 a.m.
Community First Medical Center,
Conference Room A, 7th Floor.**

Alcoholics anonymous is a group of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they solve their common problem. If you think you have a drinking problem, please join our free AA Group.

**Monday, December 18
CFMC Blood Drive. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.,
Community First Medical Center,
Conference Room C, 7th Floor**

Please schedule your appointment online at www.heartlandbc.org. Contact Ginamaria Briseno at (773) 794-7648 with questions or details. Photo ID needed, Drink plenty of fluids, Walk-ins are welcome. All Donors will receive along sleeve t-shirt!

**Thursday, December 21, and 28
Overeaters Anonymous – 7:00 p.m.
Community First Medical Center,
Café Meeting Room**

A fellowship of individuals who through shared experience, strength and hope are recovering from compulsive eating. If you think

you may be a compulsive eater, please feel free to attend our free meetings.

**Thursday, December 28
Arthritis and Total Joint Replacement –
Taking the Right Steps, 10:00–11:00 a.m.,
Community First Medical Center,
Community Education Room, 2nd Floor.**

These free sessions will be conducted by Carleen Nunez, R.N., B.S.N., O.N.C., along with staff from rehabilitation services.

Attendees will receive educational materials, get questions answered, learn what to expect from surgery and meet some professional staff. To register, please call 773-794-4640.

**Friday, December 22 and 29
11th Step Mediation – 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.,
Community First Medical Center,
Conference Room C, 7th Floor**

Silent mediation, a brief positive talk or reading followed by 12 step sharing. Open AA meeting format, everyone is welcome to attend. Coed, non-smoking. This is a fellowship open to learning how the art of listening leads to developing an improved "real" relationship with their higher power and our fellows. For all who seek through prayer and meditation to improve their conscious.

Traditional Hearing Aid or High-Tech Hearable: Which One's Right for You?

If you've heard of the new market of hearables, then you might be wondering how this new technology compares to more traditional hearing aids. We hear this question a lot, so we thought we'd cover some of the basics.

First, a couple of definitions: a traditional hearing aid or hearing device is a medical device meant to improve hearing for those who are suffering from hearing loss. A hearable, on the other hand, coming from the word wearable, is a recent type of over-the-counter technology meant to enhance hearing for anyone who is interested in such a device. A hearable, for instance, can be used to improve hearing at a sporting event by an individual who doesn't suffer from hearing loss.

One great thing about hearables is that by coming from the tech industry, they've introduced things like bluetooth integration, automatic hands-free phone use, and mobile app interfaces that help you customize the device and the hearing experience to your needs and to the environment you're in. Now, traditional hearing aid manufacturers also understand how important these features are to patients, and these features are being incorporated into many traditional hearing devices as well.

Obviously, there is middle ground between these two types of devices, because they both

aim to enhance hearing. With that being said, each excels at different sides of the spectrum.

For those with moderate to significant hearing loss, traditional hearing aids offer more options for customization and have specialized technology that is too niche to be included in mass-market hearables. They also have the power and strength to provide enough amplification to aid someone's hearing so that conversations will be easier.

On the other hand, if you suffer from mild hearing loss and consult with a doctor of audiology, you may be able to use a hearable to achieve the same effect as a traditional hearing aid, and possibly at a lower cost.

So, it all comes down to the question, does this hearable offer sufficient customization to work with my particular type and severity of hearing loss?

Only an audiologist has the expertise to make that call, so, while it may be tempting to purchase an affordable hearable device over the counter, you may ultimately be doing your hearing a disservice. Dr. Marie Vetter can provide you with the proper recommendations as well as the proper devices to help you hear at your best.

Have a question about traditional hearing aids or hearables? We're here to help! Call 773-685-9202 or email info@chicagohearingservices.net to set up a consultation!



Marie Vetter-Toalson, AuD is the owner and audiologist of Chicago Hearing Services. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota and her Doctorate of Audiology from The Ohio State University. Dr. Vetter-Toalson is involved in the American Academy of Audiology, the Illinois Academy of Audiology, and Big Shoulders Fund Chairman's Advisory Council. Chicago Hearing Services has served northwest Chicago since 1990.

Need A Lawyer?

The Chicago Bar Association Can Help

Talk To A Lawyer For Free On Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

Attorneys with the Chicago Bar Association's Call-A-Lawyer Program will be available to take calls from the public and offer brief legal advice on Saturday, December 16th, as part of an ongoing legal public service program offered by the CBA.

Calls will be accepted December 16th from 9 a.m. to noon at (312) 554-2001. Call-A-Lawyer events are typically held on the third Saturday of each month in the morning hours.

Citizens can call in and briefly explain their situation to an attorney who will then work to suggest self-help strategies or provide advice to help resolve their issues. If callers need further legal services, or have questions beyond the scope of the attorney's practice area, they will be advised to contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service during the week for a referral to an attorney in the appropriate area of law.

The CBA's Lawyer Referral Service has more than 200 prescreened, qualified lawyers experienced in almost every area of law that offer their services to the public. When contacting the LRS during normal business hours Monday through Friday, callers can be referred to attorneys practicing in numerous areas of law including:

- Domestic Relations, including divorce, custody, support and other family law matters);
- Personal Injury (including auto accidents, slip and falls, products liability, wrongful death, malpractice and other types of injury cases.
- Estate Planning, including will and trust drafting, probate and will contest.
- Real Estate, including buying or selling real estate, foreclosure defense and landlord/tenant issues.
- Employment Law, including wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination.

Additionally, the CBA offers an after-hours On-Call service which provides callers' access to attorneys in three different areas of law at any time after normal business hours. You can reach a lawyer 24/7 for help with criminal defense, personal injury and family law matters by calling (312) 554-2001.

Cell Phones For Soldiers

Representative D'Amico has partnered with Cell Phones For Soldiers, a nonprofit serving troops and veterans, to collect gently used cell phones for members of our military. Donated phones will be used to provide free communication services to military members so they can connect with their loved ones. Donations will be accepted in Representative D'Amico's public service office located at 4404 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL 60630. Office hours are 9 AM to 4:30 PM.



B"H Brought to you by Chabad Israeli Center and Chabad of Northbrook

CHANUKAH WONDERLAND

2171 Northbrook Ct
Sunday - Monday
Dec. 10, 11 | 11am-6pm
Dec. 17, 18 | 11am-6pm
We will be open during off hours to accommodate private groups. By appointment only.

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Chanukah mug craft
Dreidel canvas painting
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Make your own Chanukah candle
Build your own Menorah with Home Depot
Live Olive Press demonstration
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Get into the holiday spirit while you shop!
For more details or to schedule a group please call
Feige 847-264-6185 or Chana 224-425-8629
www.ChabadNorthbrook.com ~ www.ChicagoIsraeliCenter.com

Honor Flight Chicago - "Operation Locate A Hero"- 2018 Season Planning Underway

Honor Flight Chicago (HFC), part of the National Honor Flight Network, was founded to recognize our Veterans – most specifically our WWII Veterans with a day of Honor, Remembrance, and Celebration from a proud and grateful Nation. HFC is currently working on the 2017 season flight schedule - with projected monthly flights from Chicago Midway to Washington, DC to visit their WWII Memorial. The trip is provided at (no) cost to the Veteran.

There are approximately (21,000) WWII Veterans remaining in the Chicago area – which HFC is requesting assistance from the public to help locate these WWII Heroes.

For more information please contact Jac Charlier at jac.charlier@gmail.com or visit (www.honorflightchicago.org)

Honor Flight Chicago is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of flying our World War II veterans to Washington DC to see the WWII Memorial built in their honor.



OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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CHICAGO HEARING SERVICES
Established In 1990
chicagohearingservices.net

Community First Hospital Professional Building
5600 West Addison, Suite 502, Chicago, IL - 773-685-9202

Helping Our Friends And Neighbors Over The Holidays

Chicago Bar Association Sponsoring Holiday Drive For Shelter Animals



This holiday season the Chicago Bar Association is working to make the lives of Chicago shelter animals a little brighter by sponsoring a drive to collect much-needed supplies to help feed and comfort animals confined to shelters.

The CBA's Animal Law Committee is asking members and the public to remember the plight of shelter animals by donating food, supplies and toys for the benefit of Chicago animal shelters and their furry friends. Tracy McGonigle, Chair of the Animal Law Committee, said donations being sought include unopened pet food and treats and supplies such as blankets, towels, toys, collars and leashes.

"There are so many shelter animals who won't be waking up in a loving home on Christmas morning. Any donation, big or small, will provide much-needed support," said McGonigle.

Donations can be dropped off or messengered to the Chicago Bar Association at 321 S. Plymouth Court in Chicago. Financial contributions can also be made by check made out to Chicago Animal Care and Control and mailed to the Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, 60604, Attention CBA Animal Law Committee Holiday Drive.

Area Communities Declare December as 'Niles Township Food Pantry Awareness Month'

The number of American households facing food insecurity in the U.S. continues to be more prevalent than it was before the Great Recession. In Niles Township, residents may be surprised to learn that nearly 1 in 3 District 219 high school students are going to bed hungry, and going to school without enough food in their bellies.



Thankfully, the Niles Township Food Pantry is there to help.

Providing assistance to roughly 1,800 households and distributing 100,000 lbs. of food each month, the villages of Skokie, Niles, Morton Grove, Golf and Lincolnwood have declared December as 'Niles Township Food Pantry Awareness Month'.

"Simply put, no one deserves to go hungry," said Niles Township Clerk and Food Pantry Foundation President Charles Levy. "We want people to know that for just 44 cents, they can help provide a fellow Township resident a day's worth of meals. Our statistics show that it may very well be your next-door neighbor who you are helping."

During November, Niles Township Government trustees and others who serve on the non-profit Food Pantry Foundation board will visit area businesses in the hopes of placing donation canisters to raise awareness as well as much-needed financial support to assist the Food Pantry's operations.

"Right now, there are residents in Niles Township facing this life-threatening dilemma each and every day," said Food Pantry Manager Tony Araque. "As Americans, we call our network of food pantries and soup kitchens the last line of defense against hunger. We're here doing everything we can every day, but we need the help of the community now more than ever."

For more information on the Niles Township Food Pantry or to learn how you can help during Food Pantry Awareness Month, call (847) 983-0073 or visit <http://ntfpfoundation.com>

Wreaths Across America

In its 26th year, Wreaths Across America has grown into a massive organization, honoring veterans and their families. Each year a convoy with thousands of wreaths makes the trek from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery to lay them on the graves of fallen soldiers. It was first started by Morrill and Karen Worcester when their wreath company had a surplus of 5,000 wreaths, and they wanted to do something special with them. Today, they send more than a million wreaths across the country to remember, honor and teach. We join them on their week-long tour.



Sponsor Remembrance Wreaths In Your Local Communities

We're on a mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. Join us by sponsoring a wreath to be placed in honor or in memory of a veteran this December. Help us ensure that the sacrifices of our heroes are never forgotten.

Honor and Remember

A child, a parent, a neighbor, a friend: What better way to honor the service of a loved one and remember their sacrifice than by sponsoring a wreath in their honor or in their memory?

Pairs: Give a Wreath and Get a Wreath

When you sponsor a Patriot Pair, one wreath will be placed at one of 1,200 cemeteries across the nation and a second wreath will be sent to the address of your choice.

Go To www.wreathscrossamerica.org or call (207) 470-0967 or Toll Free: (877) 385-9504 for information on how to participate and donate.

Support the 2017 Assist-A-Family Program

Please consider participating in the 2017 Skokie Assist-A-Family Program that helps Skokie families struggling with limited financial resources celebrate the winter holidays. Families receive gift cards for area businesses which they use to purchase food, household necessities and other items specific to each family member's needs and wants. Last year nearly 200 families received gift cards through the program.

Those interested in making a donation this year are asked to do so by Friday, December 1, 2017. Please make checks payable to the Village of Skokie, and add Skokie Assist-A-Family Program on the memo line. Send donations to Village of Skokie, Human Services Division, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077. For further information, please contact the Human Services Division at 847-933-8208.

Are you a Teen that likes to help out your neighbors? Join the Skokie TeenLink Program!

If you're a teen who likes to assist neighbors and friends in their time of need, then the Skokie TeenLink Program is for you. The program is a database list of Skokie teens that are available to do outside yard work, including snow shoveling, which is provided to Skokie residents upon request. Teens are paid for their service by the resident they assist and it is a great start to a résumé.

Many residents who request the TeenLink list are unable to do physical outdoor yardwork themselves, are unable to afford the cost of a professional contractor or only need assistance once in a while. The TeenLink list provides contact information for Skokie teens including the name, phone number, email address and address of the teen, days of availability, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents receive the list by mail or email.

Skokie teens, sign up for the Skokie TeenLink now! Applications and additional information are available at www.skokie.org or by contacting the Village Manager's office at 847/933-8257.

'Tis the Season for Free Holiday Parking in Evanston!

To encourage community members and visitors to shop and dine in Evanston this holiday season, the City will offer free evening and weekend parking in downtown self-park garages and several business district parking lots starting Thursday, November 23, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018.

Free holiday parking will be provided in the Sherman Plaza, Maple Avenue and Church Street parking garages on weekdays, between 5 p.m. and midnight, and all day on Saturdays. Additionally, City Lot 60 (1234 Chicago Ave.), Lot 4 (Central Street and Stewart Avenue), Lot 15 (720 Main St.) and Lot 24 (727 Main St.) will provide free two-hour parking after 5 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Please note that it is always free to park in Evanston garages and lots on Sundays.

For a map and listing of parking facilities, visit cityofevanston.org/residents/parking/lots-and-garages. To learn more about shops, restaurants and entertainment in downtown Evanston, visit downtownevanston.org.

For more information, please call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents may simply dial 3-1-1 in Evanston.



Visit SamaritansPurse.org or call 800-528-1980



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Volunteer to be a VITA Literacy/ESL Tutor at Oakton Community College.

Help adults learn to read and/or speak English. Learn about methods and materials especially suited for tutoring individuals new to the U.S. or American-born residents who need help improving their reading and writing skills.

Required four-part training at the Skokie Campus:

- Thursday, January 11 - 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 16 - 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.
- Saturday, February 10 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 24 - 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Call 847.635.1426 for information about Winter/Spring classes.



7701 N. Lincoln Avenue,
Skokie, IL 60077



Merry Christmas



Traditional Greek Christmas

On Christmas Eve, the children go from house to house to sing Christmas carols. They knock on the door and when the host/hostess opens, they ask: "May we sing?" They have to ask because if there is a recent death in the family, they are not allowed to sing. When the host/hostess answer "go ahead, sing" they begin. In Greece, the Christmas liturgy is done on Christmas Eve around midnight. When the liturgy is over and the parishioners return home, many families eat chicken soup with egg and lemon (avgolemono), Christmas bread, and pastries, such as kourapiedes and melomakarona. The traditional Christmas dinner is stuffed turkey. In Greece they do not exchange gifts Christmas day but New Year's Day. Christmas cards are not exchanged between members of the same family living together nor among friends who live near enough to be wished in person; instead cards are only sent to those friends and relatives who live far away. As elsewhere, the Christmas tree is a recent innovation and formerly (and indeed still on some islands today) a Christmas ship was decorated and had the place of the tree. Traditional Greek Christmas.

The Christbread is blended with special attention and patience, by the housewives, during Christmas Eve. This bread is blessed because it will bring strength to the family.

On Christmas day, during lunch, the father makes the sign of the cross over the Christ bread and after cutting it, gives a piece of cake to each person. This procedure is a revival of the Eucharist. The custom of the Christ bread is kept alive in few regions of Greece, especially in Crete. This custom has deep roots, and is considered to be an exclusive Christian custom.

Greeks place much emphasis on the first day of the New Year; They believe that if the first person they see on New Year's Day is a good person, they will have a good year. In contrast, if the first person they see is not a good person, then the year will not be as good.

In addition, Greeks also pay much attention

to who will come to their house that day; therefore, many times they invite people they care for ahead of time to come, so that they can be the first people to come to the house. Also, they pay attention to how their New Year's Day weather is; if it is good weather, and then the following day will be good. In contrast, if it is cloudy on New Year's Day, then it will be a heavy winter. Many games that test one's luck are played on this day as well; whoever wins is going to be the luckiest during the year.

The cake that is eaten on New Year's Day is called the "Vasilopita," and contains a hidden coin or trinket which gives good luck to the receiver. It is made of a variety of doughs, depending on regional and family tradition, including tsourekki. On New Year's Day families cut the Vasilopita to bless the house and bring good luck for the new year. A coin is wrapped and hidden in the bread by slipping it into the dough before baking. A piece of cake is sliced for each member of the family and any visitors present at the time, in order of age. Slices are also cut for various other people or groups, depending on local and family tradition.

None of the annual customs is continued so inflexibly by the Greeks (all over the world), and has not so deep roots through the years, as the New Year's cake. Because always, the hidden coin represents the fluke of luck, which shows the fortunate of the New Year.

Truly, Greeks, as members of a family, a fellowship or a society or organized people, do not celebrate the coming of the New Year without the cutting of the Vasilopita. In the collective conscience of our nation, the vasilopita, sweet or salty, with sugar or meat, refers to a new year's symbol with great attributes, not only revelational, but also determinative for the luck of the people, the animals and the possessions of the Greek family.

*Best wishes, and Happy Holidays.
("Kales Giortes")
By Eleni Andritsakis*

A German Christmas

I was born in Germany, 1935. During the second world war, my father was drafted as a soldier, and my mother raised us children as best she could. But all our Christmases were wonderful. On Christmas Eve, we had a nice dinner of potato salad and Frikadellen. Frikadellen are hamburgers without the buns. We drank punch without alcohol. After dinner, we all went to church later in the evening. I always loved to walk to church and sing the old German Christmas songs. I still love to sing them today. Later, as we children were sleeping, my mother decorated the small Christmas tree that we had brought home a few days before from the nearby forest. On Christmas morning, my mother lit the candles with a match, and called us to come into the kitchen. Oh we were so happy to see the candles burning. For my sister, my brother and me, there was a decorated plate full of candies, chocolate, marzipan, cookies and fruits. We children painted pictures for our mother and made ornaments for her. My mother baked all cookies by herself, and we were invited to help her. I always volunteered to lick the baking utensils clean. We did pray a lot so that my father would come home soon and join us for Christmas. My mother was a tailor, and she made clothing every year for us for Christmas. I remember getting a pair of roller skates one year. As I tried them on, I ran into the Christmas tree and it tipped over because I could not stop early enough. That was after the candles were extinguished, but several

glass ornaments got broken. One year I got a box full of metal pieces. I could build wagons, houses and many other things with tiny screws. One year my brother and I received a train set, which we had to share. The train ran on 220 volt, and often we received electrical shocks by touching the tracks. We kept that train set for many years. We did not have a TV then, so my family did a lot of singing at Christmas time. My mother played a Mondolin and she accompanied us. We told many stories too, and read books. It was especially nice when we put more firewood in our stove and we could see the top glowing red hot. We could put apples on top of the stove and bake them. They tasted very good. When the kitchen light was turned off, it was always a cozy atmosphere on winter nights. When it was time to go to bed, my mother always had a brick heated up inside the stove. Each of us got a hot brick wrapped in a towel and we used it to warm our feet under the thick cold feather comforter.

My Christmases now are shared with my wife, children and grandchildren in the suburbs of Chicago, but the memories of those far away days are still as vivid as my Mother's smile and the happiness she brought to us through her caring and efforts in the not-so-daisy times.

*From my family to yours,
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
Gerhard Pils*

Millennium Park - McCormick Tribune Ice Rink

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium park will kick off the winter season on Friday, November 17 (weather permitting), on the same day as the 104th Annual Chicago Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration. The rink will open to the public at noon and remain open through Sunday, March 4, 2018.

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink is located in Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Street. Skating is FREE and open to the public, with skate rentals available for \$12 Monday-Thursday and \$14 Friday-Sunday/Holidays.



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Holiday Traditions



Christmas Around the World

(excerpts taken from the World Book, 1999 Edition)



Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth, but most Christians observe Christmas on December 25. On this day, many go to church, where they take part in special religious services. During the Christmas season, they also exchange gifts and decorate their homes with holly, mistletoe, and Christmas trees. The word Christmas comes from Cristes maesse, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ.

The word Xmas is sometimes used instead of Christmas. This tradition began in the early Christian church. In Greek, X is the first letter of Christ's name. It was frequently used as a holy symbol.

Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. Churches are decorated with evergreen branches, red poinsettias, and scenes of the Nativity. Churchgoers listen to readings from the Bible and join in singing Christmas carols.

Christmas is the happiest and busiest time of the year for millions of Christians throughout the world. People of different countries celebrate the holiday in various ways, depending on national and local customs.

In the United States and Canada, people decorate their homes with Christmas trees, wreaths, and ornaments. City streets sparkle with colored lights, and the sound of bells and Christmas carols fills the air.

A traditional Christmas dinner includes stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and a variety of other dishes. Some families have ham or roast goose instead of turkey. Favorite desserts include mince pie or pumpkin pie, plum pudding, and fruitcake. Eggnog is a popular Christmas beverage in many homes.

In some parts of the United States and Canada, various ethnic groups observe Christmas customs of their ancestors. For example, Spanish traditions are popular in the Southwestern United States. Many families in the province of Quebec follow French customs. Some black Americans combine Christmas with Kwanzaa, an Afro-American holiday. Kwanzaa lasts seven days, from December 26 through January 1. Each day, families light a candle symbolizing one of seven principles, including creativity, faith, and unity.

The cultural celebrations of Christmas are as varied as the groups themselves. The following is a sampling of those traditions.

In the British Isles. On Christmas Eve, children hang up stockings for Father Christmas, the British version of Santa Claus, to fill with presents. On the afternoon of Christmas Day, most British families watch their monarch give a special Christmas message on television. In England, dinner on Christmas Day features roast turkey and dessert of mince pie and plum pudding.

Visitors sing carols in return for a drink from the wassail bowl. The bowl contains hot punch made from ale, apples, eggs, sugar, and spices. The word wassail comes from Was Haile, an old Saxon greeting that means "Be Healthy."

In Ireland, people put a lighted candle in their window on Christmas Eve as a sign of welcome to Mary and Joseph.

Most Scottish families decorate a Christmas tree and sing carols, but most hold their main celebrations on New Year's Day.

In France, children put their shoes in front of the fireplace so Pere Noel (Father Christmas) can fill them with gifts. Many families attend midnight Mass and then have a festive supper called Le reveillon. Large numbers of French families also decorate their homes with small Nativity scenes. In these scenes, clay figures called santons (little saints) portray the story of Jesus' birth.

In Germany, Saint Nicholas visits children's homes on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, and delivers candy and other sweets to be opened on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. Most German families have a Christmas tree that they decorate with lights, tinsel, and ornaments. Spicy cakes called lebkuchen are made in various shapes and used as decorations.

The "Christmas Tree" dates back to medieval times in Germany and was introduced in America by the German immigrants who settled here. Most countries now have some form



of the tree as wreaths or boughs, decorated with red and green. Evergreens symbolize the strength of life over the forces of winter. Each culture has its own decorating techniques, but a star at the top of the tree is a constant, representing the Star of Bethlehem which led the magi to the Christ Child.

The Christkindl (Christ Child) Market first originated in Nuremberg, Germany, and has become a popular tradition in many parts of the world during the weeks before Christmas. People of all nationalities buy their special holiday gifts, decorations and foods. The Market is held outdoors and is a festive gathering place for sharing good times, music and togetherness.

In Spain, people dance and sing in the streets after midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Most Spanish homes and churches display a miniature Nativity scene called a Nacimiento. During the evening of January 5, children put their shoes on a balcony or near a window. The next day is Epiphany, the last day of the Christmas season. It celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. According to legend, the Wise Men arrive during the night before Epiphany and fill the children's shoes with small gifts.

In the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, according to legend, Saint Nicholas gives presents to children on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, which they open on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. Wearing a red robe, he arrives on a boat from Spain and rides down the streets on a white horse. His servant, Swarte Piet (Black Pete), accompanies him. Saint Nicholas goes down the chimney of each house and leaves gifts in shoes that the children have put by the fireplace.

In Italy, most homes and churches have a presepio (Nativity scene). On Christmas Eve, the family prays while the mother places a figure of the Bambino (Christ child) in the manger. Many Italians serve eels and other fish dishes for dinner on Christmas Eve. They also bake a Christmas bread called Panettone, which contains raisins and candied fruit. Italian children receive gifts from La Befana, a kindly old witch, on the eve of Epiphany.

In Poland, people attend Pasterka (Shepherd's Mass) at midnight on Christmas Eve. Many Polish families follow the Christmas tradition of breaking an oplatek, a thin wafer made of wheat flour and water. Nativity

scenes are stamped on the oplatek. The head of the family holds the wafer, and each person breaks off a small piece and eats it. The Christmas Eve meal features fish, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, and beet soup.

In Denmark Norway, and Sweden, Christmas dinner includes rice pudding, called julgrot, which has an almond in it. According to tradition, whoever gets the almond will have good luck throughout the new year.

In some countries, especially Britain, France and the Scandinavian nations, many families burned a Yule log at Christmastime. The log was a large piece of a tree trunk, and people kept an unburned part of it to light the next year's log. Early Europeans believed the unburned wood had magic powers. It was thought that bad luck would follow if the Yule log fire went out.

In Latin America, the nine days before Christmas have special importance in Mexico. These days are called posadas, which means inns or lodgings. On each day, Mexicans reenact Mary and Joseph's search for lodgings on the first Christmas Eve. After each posada ceremony, Mexicans feast and celebrate. Chil-

dren enjoy trying to break the piñata, a brightly decorated paper or clay figure containing candy and small gifts.

In Asia there are relatively small numbers of Christians, and so Christmas is not widely celebrated there, but in the Philippines people attend Misas de Gallo (Masses of the Cock), which are celebrated early each morning the nine days before Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Filipinos parade through the streets carrying colorful star-shaped lanterns called parols. These lanterns are also displayed in the windows of most homes.

On Christmas Eve, Christians from throughout the world gather for midnight Mass in Bethlehem, the town near Jerusalem where Jesus was born. They kneel to kiss the silver star that is set in the ground at the spot where Jesus' birth is believed to have taken place.

The traditional colors of Christmas are green and red. Green represents the continuance of life through the winter and the Christian belief in eternal life through Christ. Red symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed at His Crucifixion. Christmas decorations that feature these colors include the Christmas tree, the Christmas wreath, holly, and mistletoe.

The first Christmas card, was created in 1843 by John Calcott Horsley, an English illustrator. It featured a drawing of a family enjoying Christmas together. Smaller drawings on the card showed people helping the needy. About 1,000 copies of Horsley's card were sold. Today, of course, millions of people send greetings to family and friends by way of Christmas and Seasons Greetings cards sent through the mail.

No matter how one celebrates Christmas, it is a time of year when we feel charity toward our fellow man. The spirit of the season has always evoked joy, peace and good will.

The Adler Planetarium

Second Annual Pop-Up Programs Give Guests the Gift of STEAM
Fun This Winter Break at the Adler Planetarium

This winter break (December 26-30) guests visiting the Adler Planetarium can enjoy STEAM-focused (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programming from partners across the city during our second annual Pop-up Programs event. Each day, three to four different programs designed to spark engagement, curiosity, and fun for the whole family will "pop-up" throughout the museum. Pop-up Programs are included with regular admission. Additionally, guests can stay and enjoy all the Adler has to offer even longer with extended open hours from 9:30 am-6:00 pm the whole week (Dec. 26-Jan. 1)!

While no two-days of Pop-up Programs will be the same, guests can enjoy a drop-in engineering or art workshop in Curiosity Classroom from 11 am-3 pm every day, as well as science experiments, technology and coding, dancing and physical games, and other hands-on activities in exhibit spaces on the upper level of the museum. For detailed activity descriptions and more information, visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/pop-up-programs>

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Tis the season for estate planning!



Izabela Czajkowska and Michael Otte

When you think about the holiday season, estate planning may not be the first thing that comes to mind. However, if you really think about it, this is a time when everyone is gathered together. It is a perfect time to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss your estate planning wishes with your family.

How you approach the discussion depends on the generation. If you are a parent of adult children and you are a new grandparent, you might want to discuss with your child the importance of having a plan in place to take care of your grandchild in the event something happens to both parents. This includes planning for your minor grandchild's financial security as well as making sure that an appropriate guardian to care of the grandchild is designated.

It may be worth it to use this opportunity to discuss with the appropriate person or persons may be among the family members that are present at the holiday dinner table.

If you recently finalized your estate plan or if you are just thinking about creating one, you may want to have an honest discussion with your family about who you would like to be in charge in the event that you become incapacitated or die. Discuss with them what the expectations are with respect to the role that you would like them to have as well as your wishes for your medical choices and disposition of your property. You may want to discuss any current pre-paid plans that you have in place, such as prepaid burial arrangements, long term care insurance, life insurance or other financial or health plans. You should also tell your loved ones that are part of your estate plan who your advisors are, including your attorney, accountant and financial advisors. Your family should know how to get in touch with these individuals in the event that something happens to you.

In addition to thinking through and discussing your estate plan with your loved ones, the end of the year is a great time to make and update your lists. Do you have the most recent asset list such as a balance sheet and income statement? Are there specific items of personal property that you wish to give to your loved ones after your passing? Are there any particular assets that you own that need to be transferred during life?

If this holiday is the time that you decide to finally talk to your family about your estate plan or encourage them to create their own estate plan, please remember that you will need an expert to help you finalize the important details. Please contact one of our attorneys at Otte & Czajkowska LLC at 773-631-7100 or info@oclawyergroup.com. Our office is located at 5339 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60630. We will be happy to assist you.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!



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Pappas Makes It Easier Than Ever To Prepay Next Year's Taxes

Beginning Tuesday, December 12, 2017, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas is accepting online prepayments of next year's First Installment property tax bill.

For taxpayers who prefer to pay by mail or in person, Pappas will also enable taxpayers to download and print a prepayment bill themselves.

The improvements are being made as the number of prepayment requests surges this year.

Under state law, Tax Year 2017 First Installment taxes, due March 1, 2018, are 55 percent of the prior year's total tax. To prepay, taxpayers must have their 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN), which can be found at the top of the most recent tax bill, near the amount due. Taxpayers can also use their property address to look up their PIN on

cookcountytreasurer.com.

Here's how to prepay:

- Online—Go to cookcountytreasurer.com and select "Prepay Your 2017 Taxes."

You can use your bank account or credit card to pay

- Download your bill—You can print a copy of your prepayment bill by choosing "Download Your Bill" on the homepage and entering your PIN or property address

- By mail—Send the prepayment bill and your payment to:

Cook County Treasurer
PO Box 805436

Chicago, IL 60680-4115

- In person—Submit the prepayment bill and payment at a Chase branch bank or the Treasurer's Office, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago

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 bingo, have parties on special occasions. Meetings start at 10:30 with coffee and a sweet roll. Call Joan at 773-774-7075.

Roadside History of Illinois

This is the twelfth in a series of monthly short articles about places in Chicago, nearby suburbs and elsewhere in the state that can be visited by those who seek to learn more about local history. The articles are partial excerpts from the book, *Roadside History of Illinois* (Mountain Press, 2013), by Chicago author and Illinois native Stan Banash



William Howard Taft High School and Its Contribution to Pop Culture

An unlikely historic site in Norwood Park is William Howard Taft High School, on Chicago's far northwest side. In addition to the school's unusually high number of famous (and at least one infamous) alumni, it is well known as the model for the hit musical, *Grease*. The show's co-creator, Jim Jacobs, graduated from Taft in June 1960.

Jacobs was a part-time actor and an office boy at the Chicago Tribune when he met New York native Warren Casey in the 1960s. Inspired by the rock n' roll music of their high school days, the pair came up with the idea of a musical about teenagers in the 1950s. The show, titled *Greased Lightning*, portrayed people and places from Jacob's old neighborhood, featuring such hangouts as Superdawg, Canale's Pizza Parlor, Skip's Drive-In, and the Hub Roller Rink. In the show, Taft High School was called Rydell High in honor of singer Bobby Rydell.

Greased Lightning opened on February 5, 1971, at the Kingston Mines Theatre on North Halsted Street. Two New York producers, Ken Waissman and Maxine Fox, saw the show and asked Jacobs and Casey to rewrite it as a full-scale musical production. The new show, retitled *Grease*, opened on February 14, 1972, at

the off-Broadway Eden Theater in lower Manhattan. As *Grease* gained popularity, it moved to Broadway, where it ran for years; revivals in 1994 and 2007 were also very successful both critically and commercially. The original script, which had much vulgar dialogue and a grittier theme, was cleaned up for publication. A sanitized script was also used for Paramount Pictures' 1978 movie version, and the setting was moved from Chicago to southern California. In 2011 the original script was used in a production called *The Original Grease*, presented by Chicago's American Theater Company.

Other famous Taft High alumni include actress Donna Mills; 1960s NFL running back Jim Grabowski; longtime Chicago Bulls manager Jerry Krause; and Terry Kath, guitarist for the band Chicago. The school is not so proud of its alumnus Robert Hanssen, an FBI agent who in 2001 was discovered to have been a spy for the Soviet and Russian governments since 1979. Hanssen is now serving a life sentence in a maximum-security prison in Florence, Colorado. Several films, including the 2007 movie *Breach*, have portrayed Hanssen's shady career and the events leading to his capture.

Copies of *Roadside History of Illinois* may be obtained at Amazon.com or through your local bookstore. More information about the author can be found by visiting his website www.stantexbanash.com.

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.

Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert



Photo by Chris Lee

20th Annual Concert in Chicago Strauss Symphony of America

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C.A.R.E.'s WINTER Safety For Pets By Janice Cha, C.A.R.E. volunteer

Winter can be hard on pets as well as people. Owners sometimes forget that their pets are just as used to indoor warmth as they are. Some owners leave pets outside for extended periods, thinking that all animals are adapted to live outdoors—but instead put their pets at risk from illness, frostbite, hypothermia or worse.

Coats, Boots And Fur

Keep your short-haired pets inside as much as you can when the mercury plunges. When you take them out, stay outside with them. When you're cold enough to go inside, they probably are too. A coat helps somewhat, but don't depend entirely on that to keep her warm. Pets lose much of their body heat through the pads of their feet, ears and respiratory tract.

Frostbite affects animals as well as people. Feet, nose and ear tips are the most vulnerable. During cold-weather walks, watch for signs of discomfort. Consider using doggie boots (strapped on tightly with Velcro) to protect feet from ice and salt. Companies like Ruff Wear make good-quality warm and waterproof coats for those winter walks.

Road salts will burn paw pads. "Protect paws by using weather booties (Mutt Luks are awesome) or using paw wax such as Musher's Secret," advises Angela Love, CPDT-KA, C.A.R.E. Canine Medical Director for three years and a nine-year C.A.R.E. volunteer. "Be sure to use pet friendly snow-melting salts when clearing your own walkways."

Health And Age

Health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease and hormonal imbalances can impair a pet's ability to maintain body heat, making your dog more sensitive to cold than in their younger years..

Very young and very old animals are also vulnerable. Be particularly gentle with elderly, arthritic pets. The cold can leave joints stiff and tender.



C.A.R.E. dog Clyde, modeling a warm dog jacket, is available for adoption. Clyde is a big, bouncing boy, great with other dogs, super well-mannered thanks to living with a dog trainer, and always ready to chase squirrels and cats. Clyde's dream family has a fenced-in back yard plus another dog or two to be Clyde's friend, and no small kids (because of Clyde's exuberance). Learn more about Clyde at carenorthshore.org.

*Photo credits: Angela Love
C.A.R.E. Medical Director and Dog Trainer*

Make sure they have warm, soft beds. Also, be cautious with older dogs when you walk them outside: a slip on the ice can cause significant injury – for them AND for you!

Water And Fire

Less obvious winter pet hazards include bodies of water, cars and heat sources.

If you live near a pond, lake or river, be extremely cautious about letting your dog off-leash. Once a dog falls through the ice, it's difficult for them to escape on their own. It's equally difficult—and dangerous—to stage a rescue.

Cats will curl up against almost anything to stay warm, including car engines. Cats caught in moving engine parts can be seriously hurt or killed. Before you start your vehicle, check beneath the car or make noise by honking the horn or rapping on the hood.

Indoors, fireplaces and space heaters can attract pets. Make sure that no tails or paws come in contact with flames, heating coils or hot surfaces. Pets can burn themselves or even knock over a heat source, putting the entire household in danger.

Holiday Challenges

Holiday decorations are beautiful but can be hazardous to pets. If swallowed, tree tinsel and garland can intestinal obstruction which may require surgery to remove. Ornaments can cause a choking hazard or can cut mouths or paws if broken, and unstable Christmas trees can (and do!) come crashing down thanks to curious cats.

"Always manage pets around decorations and secure them away from decorations when you're not home," Angela notes.

Also, never use gift ribbon as a "toy" for your cats, and make sure that ribbon-decorated presents under the tree are covered. Finally, make sure the dog has no access to holiday chocolate or other people treats.

Be sure to keep eggnog well away from your pets. "Eggnog is high in fat, which can lead to pancreatitis, a serious condition that requires hospitalization," Angela adds. "And hard eggnog contains rum, which can be deadly for dogs and cats."

High Anxiety

Finally, as much as we may want to include our pets in the holiday festivities, we need to consider if our pet should or wants to be included. "Dogs with anxiety or fear issues may find a house full of strangers overwhelming," Angela cautions. "Also, the constant opening of the front door provides many escape opportunities. Make sure your pets have a safe place to relax away from guests."

Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.) is a Skokie-based, volunteer-operated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization founded in 1987. C.A.R.E.'s mission is to rehome companion pets into safe forever homes; to serve as an educational and counseling resource; and to work to reduce pet overpopulation. C.A.R.E. plans to open an animal rescue facility at 4927 Main St., Skokie, in Spring 2018. Learn more about C.A.R.E. by visiting online at CAREnorthshore.org, or at [Facebook.com/CAREevanston](https://www.facebook.com/CAREevanston).

We Celebrate The Ethnic Diversity Of Chicago This Holiday Season Village Cooking Corner

Tamales

Submitted by Laurie Atkeisson

Forget the fruitcake and nix the nog. In Texas, it wouldn't be Christmas without tamales.

While shoppers from Washington to Maine swarmed the malls the day after Thanksgiving, many Texans were lining up to order — or make — Christmas Eve tamales. The corn masa-and-meat bundles — individually wrapped in corn husks and then steamed — are part of the traditional Mexican celebration of las posadas, which commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before the birth of Jesus.

Rhett Rushing, folklorist at San Antonio's Institute of Texan Cultures, said tamales have been traditional Christmas Eve fare for centuries because they're portable, easy to store and inexpensive to make for large gatherings.

Through the years, the preparation of the labor-intensive food became a social event, called a tamalada, as womenfolk from ranches across Mexico and what's now the American Southwest gathered to prepare the Christmas Eve feast.

A LATINO STAPLE

Historians speculate the creation of tamales dates to 8,000 to 5,000 B.C. Tamales were served at great Aztec banquets and in the streets and homes of the Americas long before the arrival of the Europeans. Tamales were actually some of the original "fast food," since their corn husk wrappers kept them warm and made them easy to carry.

The tamal has evolved over the years and versions still vary from town to town in Mexico and South America, where some use banana leaves instead of corn husks.

But the basic is the same — a corn masa is spread on a leaf wrapper, filled with meat or another dish, wrapped up tight and steamed or boiled.

Despite how they are made or what they are filled with, tamales symbolize more than just a meal to Latino families.

Although tamales can be made year-round, they became a dish saved for special occasions such as Christmas or large family gatherings when a 'tamalada' is held. That's because of all the time and work it takes to make them.

In a tamalada, each family member takes on a different task to prepare the tamales and the older generations share their skills and tradition with the younger generation. Several books and stories have been written of the tradition of making tamales and the joint effort it takes from families to make them.

When you talk about tamales, the plural of the word is, of course, "tamales." But a single one isn't a tamale, it's a tamal! If you want to show off a bit of your knowledge of Mexican culture, it's good to use the right --and rarely used-- word for a single tamal!

Oakton Community College is seeking qualified instructors to teach in the Adult Education Program.

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New Year's Eve Fun For Everyone

By Wayne Mell, Artistic Director

I don't think it's been a shock to anyone that Charlene Brooks' New Year's Eve concert sold out before the Thanksgiving leftovers were gone. But it has been a disappointment to many, who are now trying to figure out what to do to celebrate the demise of 2017. Never fear, have we got a show (or two) for you.

Wendy and DB's New Year's Eve Countdown

We know that the kids have a better chance of lasting until midnight than we do, but we're holding their party at 12:30 in the afternoon anyway.

Wendy Morgan has been performing children's music on the North Shore for over 10 years and has been a singer/songwriter for over 20 years, while Darryl Boggs has been making music professionally for over 30 years. So who is better suited to plan a New Year's Eve celebration like no other. They're bringing the Funn Band, which includes Dean Rolando on Piano, Geoffrey Lowe on Bass and Dennis Calito on percussion/drum, for an afternoon of interactive music that is guaranteed to have your kids standing and dancing in the aisle. They're also planning fun activities, face painting, and plenty of surprises.

Wendy and DB are popular favorites on the North Shore, and a guaranteed hit with parents. Karen Yoshi from the Wilmette Library wrote them and said, "You do such a wonderful job of getting the children and caretakers to participate... everyone was comfortable jumping right in to sing, dance and play instruments." Another parent wrote, "Wendy & DB are fun for the whole family. My kids can sing and dance along from beginning to end. And as a mom, I love that Wendy & DB's songs have such a strong, positive message!"

The party starts at 12:30 pm on Dec 31 and tickets are only \$10.

Comedy-Magic with Trent James on Dec 30

Trent does not have over 20 years experience. In fact, the young man can't really buy beer yet. But that's what makes him so impressive. He has received over a dozen "high honor" awards and is the youngest recipient of The Milbourne Christopher Award, past winners of which include David Copperfield and Penn & Teller. And his unique sleight of hand magic and fun personality have made him a huge hit around the country, performing in cities like Las Vegas and New York. You don't want to miss this show!

Trent brings a fresh feel to the "classic magic show". Trent's high-energy performance combines mind-boggling magic with gut busting humor, and earned rave reviews in over twenty states.

Trent James will bring his unique blend of comedy and magic for two shows on Sat, Dec 30, one at 3:00 pm and again at 8:00 pm. Tickets range from \$15 - \$25, so you can afford to bring the entire clan.

Fan Favorite Sean Masterson brings Timeless Magic on Wed, Dec 27

What do we need to say about Sean Masterson that hasn't already been said by the Chicago Tribune, North Shore Magazine, and the Chicago Reader. Our fan-favorite is back on Wednesday afternoon with his new show "Timeless Magic" Sean astonishes his audiences with deft manipulations, a mind reading puppet and objects that float right out of a spectator's hands. He combines sleight-of-hand illusions with skilled storytelling to create an experience that is both amazing and entertaining.

Don't forget that the kids are out of school. This Wednesday afternoon treat is a perennial favorite for a mid-week outing. And at \$13 per ticket, you can afford to learn why.

Tickets for all events can be purchased by calling our box office at 847-677-7761, or visiting us online at SkokieTheatre.org

Looking for a holiday gift? Skokie Theatre gift certificates can purchased for any amount. Call 847-677-7761 for details.

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Founded in 1991, Anatomically Correct Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to showcasing works by visual and performing artists. This project is sponsored in part by the Skokie Park District, the Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission and the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois and Blick Art Materials.

Happy Holidays From All Of Us To All Of You!



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