



# OUR VILLAGE

Next Edition  
Jan. 4th

FREE

FREE

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December 21, 2016

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



**WINTER**  
BEGINS DECEMBER 21ST

**Christmas Trees and Holiday Displays in  
Pappas' Office**

**happy hanukkah**  
Free Menorah Lighting Kit Available



Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie is once again providing FREE menorah lighting kits for this Chanukah season.

We provide these kits to help fulfill the mitzvah (Jewish commandment) of lighting the menorah on Chanukah. Each kit contains everything necessary for the ritual - a menorah, candles, and step-by-step instructions and blessings for lighting the Chanukah candles.

To receive your FREE kit, call 847-677-1770 or contact us via the website, www.SkokieChabad.org/Chanukah..

## 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](http://www.czs.org/Brookfield-ZOO)



Nearly 90 Christmas trees and religious displays that show Chicagoland's great ethnic diversity are on display in the office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

Pappas said she is proud that this is the 13th year of "Christmas Trees from Around the World," the display of trees decorated by members of ethnic communities to show their cultural heritage, and of other religious and cultural traditions.

The display can be seen through the Christmas and New Year's period, to January 4, 2017, in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago.

The three-foot-high Christmas trees stand on counters in the Treasurer's Office, with a Christian Nativity scene and other cultural displays: African American Kwanzaa Kinara, Hindu Prayer Thali, Jewish Menorah and Muslim Ramadan Mubarak.

While American trees usually carry ornaments, tinsel and lights, these Christmas trees were decorated with animals, flowers, fruit, balls, candles, plates, boats, stars, flags dolls and other items showing cultural variety.

"Ours is one of the most diverse regions in the country, and these trees and cultural displays show it in heart-warming fashion," Pappas said. The countries and traditions represent include: African American, Albania, Assyrian, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Barbie, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Canada-Quebec, Carpatho-Rusyn, China, Colombia, Cornwall, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India Catholic, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Native American, Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam, Wales.

## "The Christmas Tree Ship" Docks in Chicago Again This Year On December 3rd.

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, Mackinaw, sailed into Navy Pier this year carrying 1,500 Christmas tree to continue the tradition by re-acting the voyage of a Great Lakes schooner, Rouse Simmons, the "Original Christmas Tree Ship", captained by Herman Schuenemann, which sank in 1912 in route to Chicago. Each year the arriving trees are distributed to organizations which provide them to the Families in need throughout the Chicagoland area.



See Page 9 for the History

**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
Mike's Barber Shop accepting donations  
of new, unwrapped toys until December 23  
773-775-2771 • 6680 Northwest Highway, Chicago

**Resurrection**  
COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL  
*Caritate et Veritate*

**Entrance Exam**

Saturday, January 14, 2017 ~ 8:00 am to noon

**Shadow Days**

8<sup>th</sup> grade girls ~ Shadow Days available on select days.

7<sup>th</sup> grade girls ~ "Experience Res" Day on Friday, February 10, 2017.

Entrance Exam details,  
more information or to  
register for a shadow  
experience, visit  
[www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org)  
or call 773.775.6616 Ext 129.

7500 West Talcott Avenue,  
Chicago 60631



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COUNSELOR and ATTORNEY AT LAW

*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!*

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Law Offices of Chester M. Przybylo and Associates



# Community First Medical Center December & January Health Events

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



**• Tuesday, December 27**

Learning Interventions Family Education (LIFE) – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Community First Medical Center, Café Conference Room, Ground Floor.

A Compassionate Recovery Education curriculum specializing in “Helping Family and Individuals Navigate the Recovery System”. This free training will provide education to family members to help them improve their personal understanding of the recovery process. To register, please call 708-536-8775.

**• Wednesday, December 28**

Courage to Quit Smoking - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Community First Medical Center, Community Education Room, 2nd Floor.

Pablo Castillo, RRT, Director, Respiratory will provide sessions on how to have enough courage to quit smoking.

**• Thursday, December 29**

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

**• Tuesday, January 3, January 10, January 17, January 24 and January 31**

Learning Interventions Family Education (LIFE) – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Community First Medical Center, Café Conference Room, Ground Floor.

A Compassionate Recovery Education curriculum specializing in “Helping Family and Individuals Navigate the Recovery System”. This free training will provide education to family members to help them improve their personal understanding of the recovery process. To register, please call 708-536-8775.

**• Thursday, January 5, 12, 19 and 26**

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, January 5**

Diabetes Support Group - 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Community First Medical Center, Community Education Room, 2nd Floor.

This free support group aims to provide mutual support and education.

**• Sunday, January 7, 14, 21 and 28**

Alcoholics Anonymous – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Community First Medical Center, Conference Room A, 7th Floor.

Alcoholics anonymous is a group of men 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, January 9**

Balance and Gait – 1:00 p.m. - Mather’s More than a Café on Higgins, 7134 W. Higgins, Chicago.

Presented by Carrie Stalec, PT, DPT, physical therapist from Community First Medical Center. Learn how to use exercise to improve balance and reduce the risk of falls, and also what you can do to improve stability in everyday life. To register, please call 773-774-4804.

**• Thursday, January 12 and January 26**

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, January 13**

Free Healthy Aging Program - 1:00 -2:00 p.m., Community First Medical Center, Conference Room A, 7th Floor.

This program is for individuals aged 55 and older and consists of social time, health topics and guests lectures. Come for fun and games for the annual holiday party. Registration not required.

**• Tuesday, January 17**

Skin Lesions & What You Should Know – 1:00 p.m. - Mather’s More than a Café on Higgins, 7134 W. Higgins, Chicago.

Presented by Belmina Michael, M.D. from Community First Medical Center. To register, please call 773-774-4804.

**• Wednesday, January 18**

The Foot Care Clinic: Lecture and Screening – 11:30 a.m.– Mather’s Café on Central, 3235 N. Central Avenue, Chicago

Chicagoland Foot Care. - Attend a half-hour lecture followed by a private, free foot screening. To register, please call 773-205-3300.

**• Friday, January 20**

The Secret Ailment: Incontinence – 1:30 p.m.– Mather’s Café on Central, 3235 N. Central Avenue, Chicago

Presented by Carrie Stalec, PT, DPT, physical therapist from Community First Medical Center. Learn some causes and types of incontinence, as well as treatment options. To register, please call 773-205-3300.

**• Thursday, January 26**

Courage to Quit Smoking - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Community First Medical Center, Community Education Room, 2nd Floor.

Pablo Castillo, RRT, Director, Respiratory will provide sessions on how to have enough courage to quit smoking.



Happy holidays from the staff at Mather’s—More Than a Café in Portage Park (3235 N. Central Avenue). Best wishes to all our neighbors for a warm and wonderful holiday season and a terrific 2017!



## Resurrection Celebrates The Season With Giving & Cheer



Resurrection students and staff have been spreading Christmas cheer and generously sharing their time, talent and treasure this Christmas season. Students and staff provided Christmas gifts for fifteen families and books to children of all ages through Catholic Charities’ Sponsor-A-Family “Celebration of Giving” project; Resurrection hosted the fair trade store, Ten Thousand Villages; the Scrubs Club hosted a Spirit Apparel Day to support heart surgeries for children in Bolivia with the organization Solidarity Bridge; and students raised over \$4,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by writing letters to Santa as part of Macy’s annual fundraising campaign.

The Resurrection Parents Club hosted an evening of shopping, visiting and refreshments at their Jingle & Mingle event on December 1, 2016. Over 400 people enjoyed the annual Breakfast with Santa hosted by the Resurrection Alumnae Association on December 10, 2016. Also on December 10th, the Sisters of the Resurrection hosted a Christmas Open House at the Sisters’ Provincial Home, opening their doors to alumnae and community members to view a collection of Nativity sets from around the world. And throughout the month of December, the Resurrection Fine Arts department hosted concerts by the Resurrection/Notre Dame Concert Band and Jazz Band, the Resurrection/Notre Dame Concert Choir, the Resurrection Chamber Orchestra and performances by Resurrection Drama and the Resurrection Dance students.

**THIS YEAR THINK OUTSIDE THE BOXES AND SHOP LOCAL!**  
*Let's All Support Our Local Merchants and Restaurants During This Holiday Season, As Well As Throughout The Year To Come!*  
 Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas from Our Village News

## The Chicago Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service



### Need Legal Help? Don't Call Just Anyone.

We've been making referrals to local attorneys for more than 70 years. Our lawyers are screened and have an average of 20 years of experience. We can help **YOU** find the right lawyer!

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**312-554-2001 (M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)**

**312-554-2055 (for the hearing impaired)**

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Visit [www.chicagobar.org/LRS](http://www.chicagobar.org/LRS) for 24-hour referrals.



Se Habla Español.



**312-554-2001 or [www.chicagobar.org/LRS](http://www.chicagobar.org/LRS)**



# 'Tis The Season For Giving



## Helpings Of Hope: Franciscan Outreach To Host Premiere Tasting Event To Benefit Those Who Are Homeless In Chicago

Hosted by Franciscan Outreach, the 4th Annual Helpings of Hope is a premiere tasting event featuring specialty food creations made by local chefs/restaurants. The three-hour fundraiser will include live music, signature dishes, specialty wines and craft beer. Participating restaurants include Altiro, First Slice, Hutch, Madison & Rayne, Milts, Signature Plates, and more. It's the perfect opportunity to start the holiday season in a meaningful way.

The annual event raises funds to benefit those who are marginalized and homeless in Chicago, providing people with the critical services they need to make positive changes in their lives.

### When:

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 10, 2016

### Where:

Salvage One

1840 W. Hubbard Street,

Chicago, IL 60622

312-733-0098

### Tickets:

\$100 per person and may be purchased at [www.franoutreach.org/helpings-of-hope](http://www.franoutreach.org/helpings-of-hope) or by calling (773) 278-6724, ext. 20. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$125 per person.

### Franciscan Outreach:

Franciscan Outreach is a nonprofit organization that, for more than 50 years, has provided thousands of people with meals, shelter, and vital case management services, while offering guidance as they strive to gain stability, security and independence in their lives. It serves the largest number of people who are chronically homeless in the City of Chicago. Last year, Franciscan Outreach served more than 266,000 meals, provided 118,000 nights of shelter and assisted 267 people as they transitioned into permanent supportive housing.

### Franciscan Outreach

1645 W. LeMoyné St.

Chicago, IL 60622

[www.franoutreach.org](http://www.franoutreach.org)

## Kiwanis Of Ravenswood



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

Important change: Kiwanis International sent out an email announcing that they are changing their name to KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND. According to this message, this new name better conveys the purpose of the organization, "we serve the children," and describes how funds are raised to support Kiwanis initiatives.

### Logan Square Boys & Girls Club

### Christmas Party & Children's Fund

Christmas Party of the Logan Square Boys & Girls Club which will take place on December 22. If you are able to attend, please call John at 773-342-8800.

*The Kiwanis Club Of Ravenswood Wishes Everyone A Blessed Christmas, As Well As Good Health, Happiness, Joy And Peace In The New Year.*

## Honor Flight Chicago – "Operation Locate A Hero" - 2017 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](mailto:jac.charlier@gmail.com) or visit ([www.honorflightchicago.org](http://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.



## 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 starting today, May 1, 2015 to May 29, 2015 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.

## Phone For Legal Advice At No Cost

The Chicago Bar Association (CBA) Lawyer Referral Service hosts Call-A-Lawyer on the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteer attorneys will give free legal advice over the phone to Chicagoland residents who call (312) 554-2001.

Attorneys will be available to answer general questions on a variety of legal issues including (but not limited to) bankruptcy, domestic relations, immigration, personal injury and Social Security. Callers can explain their situations to attorneys who will suggest self-help strategies to resolve their legal issues. If callers need further legal services, they will be advised to see their attorney or to contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service.

The CBA Lawyer Referral Service is one of few bar associations in the country to meet the American Bar Association Standards for lawyer referral and approved to use its logo and slogan, "The Right Call for the Right Lawyer™." For referral to an experienced attorney, the public can contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service at 312-554-2001 during business hours or through the Web site at [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

## Drop Off Bin Locations For Non-Perishable Food

Ada's Market & Deli (front of store)  
6165 N Northwest Hwy, Chicago 60631

US Bank (entry lobby)  
6100 N Northwest Hwy, Chicago 60631

Roden Chicago Public Library (entry lobby)  
6083 N Northwest Hwy, Chicago 60631

Merrimac Park (fieldhouse)  
6343 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago 60634

First Midwest Bank (entry lobby)  
7181 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago 60634

Presence Resurrection Medical Center (employee health center)  
7447 W Talcott Ave, Chicago 60631



Presence Resurrection Nursing Center (reception lobby)  
1001 N Greenwood Ave, Park Ridge 60068

Mather's - More Than a Café (reception lobby)  
7134 W Higgins Ave, Chicago 60656

Park Ridge Farmers Market (reception tent - seasonal)  
15 Prairie Ave, Park Ridge 60068

New Hope Methodist Church (Monday and Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30 am)  
7115 W Hood Ave, Chicago 60631

## Give Thanks by Sharing Your Blessings

Here at The Salvation Army, the holidays are always a busy time. This Thanksgiving, we expect to be even busier than usual, with more of our neighbors coming to us for help.

There will be families – hardworking moms and dads struggling to keep up with bills, and worried about how they'll keep food on the table and a roof over their children's heads. We'll ease their burden with the food they need, along with words of hope and encouragement.

There will be seniors - lonely, sometimes coping with illness, and often challenged to stretch a limited income far enough to cover both food and medications. We'll brighten their Christmas with nutritious

food, fellowship, and compassion.

There will also be men and women who are homeless - hurt, hungry, and almost without hope. We'll offer them food, nourish their spirits, and restore their A hope by letting them know that someone cares.

You are also someone who cares. As a compassionate person, you can make this Christmas even more meaningful – with a generous gift to The Salvation Army. By sharing your blessings with people in need, you'll honor the spirit of the holiday. What a wonderful way to give thanks! Please consider making a special Christmas gift.

Thank you, God bless you, and may you and yours enjoy a merry Christmas.

## 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](http://www.skokie.org) or by contacting the Village Manager's office at 847/933-8257.



## Anti-Cruelty Society

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

### Holiday Hazards

To make this holiday season safe and happy, we want to remind you to take extra care of your pets. Go to [www.anticruelty.org/holidayhazards/](http://www.anticruelty.org/holidayhazards/) for a complete list of holiday hazards to be aware of as the hustle and bustle begins.

## Niles Township Food Pantry Serves Over 4,000 During November



The issue of food insecurity is a growing concern, and the Niles Township Food Pantry consistently addresses it, providing supplemental groceries to residents in need. During November the Pantry served 4,581 residents a total of 114,471 pounds of food.

Niles Township Clerk Charles Levy, who also serves as President of the Township Food Pantry Foundation stated, "In addition to the residents that received their normal food allotments, we also served complete

Thanksgiving meals to 1,426 families. The generosity of donors and the work of our staff and volunteers strengthens Niles Township."

The Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation, a 501 c 3 not-for-profit supports the food purchases for the Pantry, is seeking donations as it prepares to serve Pantry families during the December holiday season. Individuals or businesses that are interested in making monetary donations can visit <http://ntpfoundation.com> or phone the Niles Township office at (847) 673-9300.

Since 1850, Niles Township Government has been dedicated to improving life for its residents. Niles Township is located in the northeast corner of Cook County. With a population of over 105,000 the Township includes the villages of Skokie, Lincolnwood and Golf, and sections of Morton Grove, Niles and Glenview.



# Holiday Messages



## “My Favorite Christmas Story”

Let me share with you, my greatest Christmas story. As often as I reflect on it... I have reason to ask myself... who, what and where? Wally was nine years old and in the second grade, though he should have been in the fourth. He was big and clumsy, slow in movement and mind, but well liked by the other children in class, all of whom were smaller than he. At times the boys did have trouble hiding their irritation when the uncoordinated Wally would ask to play ball with them. He would stand by – not sulking, but HOPING – always a helpful boy, willing and smiling, the natural protector of any child he felt was being mistreated.

As Christmas time approached, plans were made for the annual school pageant. Children were being assigned their parts – angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary, Joseph. Wally stood by EXPECTANTLY – then suddenly his joy knew no bounds, for he heard the teacher say, “Wally, I want you to be the innkeeper.” (Not many lines to learn, she reasons – and his size would make his refusal of lodging to Joseph more forceful). Little did the teacher dream the lesson that such a tender hearted boy would teach to all who would attend that program!

Then came rehearsals – the cloaks and manger, beards, crowns, halos and a stage full of squeaky voices. Most caught up in the magic of the night was Wally. He would stand

in the wings, watch the performance with fascination; his teacher had to make sure he did not wander onstage before this cue.

Finally came the long awaited night, and Wally stood holding a lantern by the door of the inn, watching as the children who portrayed Mary and Joseph came near him. “What do you want?” Wally asked with a brusque gesture. “We seek lodging.” “Seek it elsewhere – the inn is filled.”

“Sir, we have asked everywhere in vain. We have traveled far and are very weary.” “There is no room in this inn for you.” Wally looked properly stern.

“Please, innkeeper, this is my wife. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She’s so tired.”

Now, for the first time, the innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. With that there was a LONG PAUSE – the audience became a bit tense: “No, begone!” the prompter whispered in the wings. “No, begone!” Wally repeated automatically.

Joseph sadly placed his arms around Mary, and Mary laid her head upon her husband’s shoulder, and the two of them started to move away. The innkeeper, however, did not return inside his inn. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his brow creased with concern, his eyes filling unmistakably with

tears.

And suddenly this Christmas pageant became different from all others.

“Don’t go, Joseph.” Wally called out. “Bring Mary back.” And Wally’s face grew into a bright smile. “YOU CAN HAVE MY ROOM!”

A burst of laughter – then silence – then tears flowed freely as the message came through to the listeners. Wally, the boy con-

sidered “slow,” had made room for Jesus. He could not turn Mary and Joseph away – God’s only begotten Son would be welcomed by him! His tender heart had made room for the Savior.

Have you made room for Him, Who loved you so much to even die on the cross?

*Prayfully,*

*Rev. Francis S. Rog, C.R.  
St. Hyacinth Basilica Parish*

## Rabbi Yochanan Posner’s Chanukah Message

*Dear Friend,*

I am excited! As soon as the weather begins to get colder, I begin to look forward to Chanukah. I wait for the tastes and the smells, the warm cozy glow of the menorah, and family as well as communal events and celebrations. But most of all I love the message. The image of the Jewish people standing tall and confident despite being weak militarily, and the Jewish people living steadfast to conviction although it may be socially unpopular, resonates with me.

It is sometimes easy to fall into a victim mindset. We look about and see the dangers of anti-Semitism in its various forms and permutations, and it is very real, and it can affect our feelings about ourselves.

We laud the fine organizations and individuals which combat anti-Semitism in our country, in Israel, and around the world. But the message of Chanukah goes beyond that. Chanukah isn’t only about fighting anti-Semitism on the outside, rather it is about fostering pro-Semitism on the inside. It is about nurturing within ourselves an enduring and fiery love for our Jewishness, for Judaism, and for the Jewish people, and the confidence to display that to the world.

The Chanukah Menorah reminds us to be like Yehuda the Maccabee. To be a Jewish hero standing tall and resolutely telling the world, “This is who we are, and this is what we do.” We are Jews and we observe the Torah, and it won’t be taken away from us by evil tyrants who want to kill our bodies, or by the friendly beckoning of assimilation which wants to rob us of our souls.

When I light my menorah and its rays illuminate the darkness, it is my way of standing tall and strengthening myself to negate any opposition to our way of life.

Please join us at one or several of our renowned Chanukah celebrations this year. The Interactive Chanukah Story Time and Craft for preschoolers will be on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2pm, at the Barnes And Noble in Old Orchard shopping center. The Chanukah Wonderland for kids will be on Sunday, December 25, 2016 in the morning. There will be several events for teens. The adults-only Chanukah Lounge will be on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. The public Menorah lighting with the Mayor and village trustee will be on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 6pm at the site of Civic Pride on Krier Plaza at Oakton and Niles Center Road in downtown Skokie. The Chanukah booth at Westfield Old Orchard mall will be open on Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30 and on Sunday, January 1, 2017.

We are proud of the many large outdoor menorahs decorating Skokie, as well the menorahs on the roofs of cars. Our volunteers will be visiting all of the local senior residences and the hospital.

We are committed to bringing the spirit of Chanukah to as many Jews as possible. Please call our office to request a free menorah lighting kit for yourself or a friend, and we will gladly deliver one to your door.

*Sincerely, Rabbi Yochanan Posner  
Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie y*

## Feast of the Nativity, 2016

*Dearly Beloved,*

Our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord is more than a recollection of the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem of Judea some two-thousand years ago. Our hymns of Christmas make numerous references to “Today...” The reason is simple: while God the Word was born to the Virgin Mary long ago, the Lord Jesus Christ is constantly born anew into the world through us. This is why we sing in the present tense, “Christ is born, glorify Him!”

It is by the birth of Christ today in the world that peace and goodwill is established, and the current events of our nation and throughout the world indicate the profound need for these. We have often noted the violence and terror rampant in the world. Yet we need not look overseas to notice the absence of peace. We see it in the incivility of our public discourse as publicized by the press, or through the hostile negativity and insults expressed on social media. We see it in the suffering of our neighbors in need, and in the anxieties of our own souls.

It may seem that we are incapable of effecting peace on such a national or

global scale, but this is untrue. Praying for the salvation of all, even for those with whom we disagree, is the beginning, but not end. Our goodwill extends to every act of kindness, charity and love: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, striving for justice and righteousness everywhere at every moment, even our smile to others. Peace on earth begins today with the goodwill we can express in our interactions with family, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, fellow citizens and those strangers we encounter daily. Peace is, indeed, a gift “from above,” for which we pray at all our services, but it is implemented by Christ, in Christ, and through Christ—His Body, the Church, of which we are the members. The Lord grants, through us, “peace and goodwill” to the whole world.

Let us make today a worthy celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus in the world by sharing our goodwill and love, for then our heartfelt prayer for you and all our faithful to enjoy a very, merry Christmas will come true!

*With Paternal Blessings,  
+Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago*

## Jewish Art Calendar 2017 Available

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**Better!** We have also made improvements to the methods used to calculate the times so that it is even more precise.

Of course, what isn’t changing is the large size and usability of the calendar, or any of the other popular features.

Please feel free to express your appreciation for the calendar by making a donation at [www.SkokieChabad.org/donate](http://www.SkokieChabad.org/donate). Thank you!

*Sincerely, Rabbi Yochanan Posner*

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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 mæsse, 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. Children 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.

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# 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 tsoureki. 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 infrangibly 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 sever-

al 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.

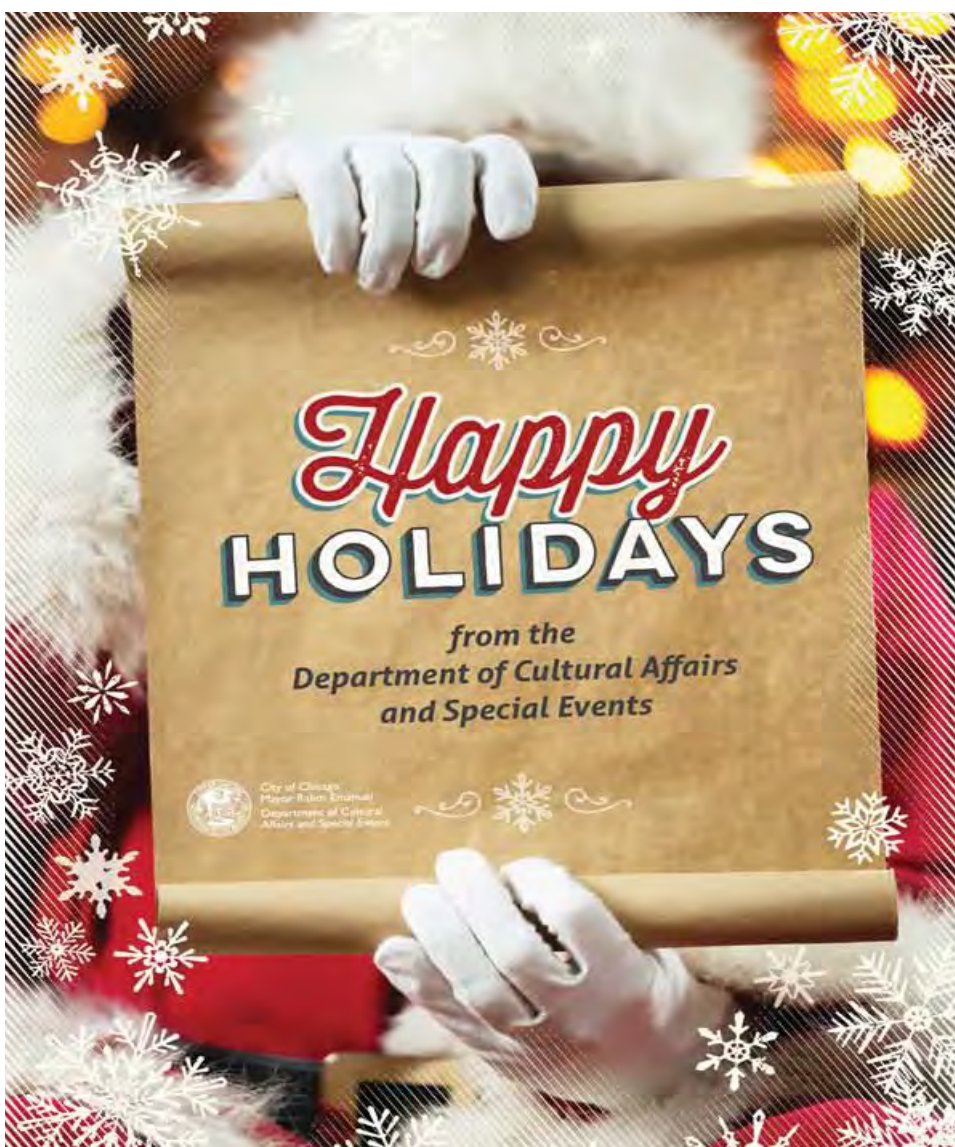
*From my family to yours,  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
Gerhard Pils*

## History of the Christkind

The Christkind, a fairy-like being, dressed in gold and white robes with a crown upon her golden locks, is the namesake of the Christkindlmarket Chicago. Christkind folklore dates back to the 1500s and stems from traditional customs: parades during the holiday season were guided by one "grand" angel, the Christkind. Since then, and still today, she is the bearer of gifts to most children in German speaking countries, much like Santa Claus is in the United States. Traditionally, gifts are exchanged December 24th and delivered by the Christkind, who leaves gifts under the Christmas tree and disappears before the children can catch a glimpse of her.

For further information on the Christkindlmarket and the Christkind herself, please visit the official Christkindlmarket website at [www.christkindlmarket.com](http://www.christkindlmarket.com) or call us at (312) 494-2175.

<p><i>Music For Christmas</i> <b>Mildred L. Jarrell</b></p> <p>Let us have music for Christmas ... Sing out the carols of old, Rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child, The most wonderful story e'er told.</p> <p>Sing with a heart filled with gladness And love for the Heavenly King ... Lift up your voice with song and praise Until the rafters ring.</p> <p>Let us have music for Christmas In the glow of candlelight, Mingled with snow and mistletoe And shepherds that watch by night.</p> <p>Sing of the star and wise men, too, And angels watching above ... Bring once again to the homes of men The give of wondrous love.</p> <p>Let us have music for Christmas ... Sound the trumpet of joy and rebirth; Let each of us try, with a song in our hearts, To bring peace to men on earth.</p>	<p><i>The Music of Christmas</i> <b>Author unknown</b></p> <p>The music of Christmas is not just confined To piano or trumpets or drums ... It's heard in the laughter and pattering foot- steps of children when Santa Claus comes. It echoes in all of the "oohs" and the "aaahs" At the sight of a brightly lit tree ... The clinking of glasses and talk 'round the Table combine in a sweet symphony ... The music of Christmas resounds in the joy All loving hearts willingly share, And we are the instruments playing together To spread Christmas cheer everywhere</p> <p><b>Both Songs Submitted by Maria Bappert</b></p>
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# Merry Christmas



## 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

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord, make the New Year a happy one ...

Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes. Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.

Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.

Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help ...

God, make our year a happy one!

(From the January, 1991 edition of the VOICE of LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH in Chicago's Lincoln Square Neighborhood.) Submitted by Maria Bappert

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**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> SUNDAY, 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 / <i>IN</i> 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 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 5:00 P.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 7:30, 9:30 AND 11:15 A.M.
CHRISTMAS PRELUDE MUSIC BEGINS AT 11:30 P.M. CONCERTO GROSSE IN G MINOR 'FATTO PER LA NOTTE DI NATALE', OP. 6 NO. 8 "CHRISTMAS" CONCERTO FOR STRINGS AND HARPSICHORD"	

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**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Sunday, 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

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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)**



# Holiday Traditions



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## Skokie Theatre New Year's Eve Celebration

By Wayne Mell, Artistic Director

What are you doing for New Year's ... New Year's Eve? That's the question asked by the old song. By the time you read this the Hanukkah candles will have been lit, and the Christmas presents will have been wrapped, and possibly unwrapped. Before you can even breathe, you have to plan yet another holiday. We can help you with that.

On December 31, Skokie Theatre will be holding a New Year's Eve Celebration, from 7 – 9:30 pm, featuring a jazz trio, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, some of your favorite cabaret singers, and a champagne toast to herald in the new year.

The fun starts at 7 pm, where we will serve complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts in our lobby. A jazz trio will be led by Aaron Kaplan, who was the music director for our recent production of *Funny Girl*, and they'll play all through the cocktail hour. We'll be serving hors d'oeuvres for those who will be dining after the show, and desserts for those who are coming straight from dinner.

At 8 pm, we'll move into the theatre where we will be entertained by a bevy of our favorite cabaret stars. Bob Moreen will take to the piano and you'll hear from Judy and Bernie Rice, Debra Criche Mell, The Boomer Babes - Pam Peterson and Jan Slavin, and Carla Gordon – the creator of *Blacklisted*, the runaway hit which sold out three performances last summer.

At 9 pm, we'll have a complimentary champagne toast and drop the ball to herald in 2017. Yes, it's early for us, but it will be midnight in Greenland. After a couple of more songs, the show will conclude and we'll be on our way at 9:30. Plenty of time left for a late dinner, to attend that special party, or to go home and snuggle up for a long winter nap.

Tickets are only \$30 and it's a party you won't want to miss.

But that's not the only thing we're going to help you plan. At this point, you have at least a week before the kids go back to school. You need help. And we have just the thing.

Magician Sean Masterson returns to Skokie Theatre with his Magic Matinee on Wednesday December 28 at 1:30 pm. Sean is a perennial favorite at Skokie Theatre, and entertains audiences annually with his theatrical magic show that combines sleight-of-hand illusions with skilled storytelling. It's a highly visual magic show that appeals to a multi-generational audience and includes much participation.

Chris Jones from the Chicago Tribune says that Sean is "a fine close-up magician, a warm performer, and it's hard to figure out how he does what he does."

Tickets for Magic Matinee are only \$12. It's a wonderful way to entertain an otherwise house-bound family.

Tickets or information on all of our events can be found at [SkokieTheatre.org](http://SkokieTheatre.org), or by calling our box office at 847-677-7761.

There's still time to visit us before the new year. We hope to see you soon..



**Skate Millennium Park**

**MCCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK**  
THROUGH MARCH 5  
weather permitting (check website for hours)

Now in its 16th season, the Chicago winter tradition offers lessons and special programming weekends and during the Chicago Public Schools winter break.  
**FREE admission; skate rental \$12.**

Grant support for Winter Workouts is provided by McDonald's Active Lifestyles Endowment, managed by the Millennium Park Foundation

#SKATEMP

[MILLENNIUMPARK.ORG](http://MILLENNIUMPARK.ORG)

## ArtsHop

The First Fridays ArtsHop tours cultural destinations throughout Lincoln Square and Ravenswood on the (you guessed it) First Friday of every month. Each Hop takes place from 5pm to 8pm and features a rotating selection of artists, venues, and specialty retailers. Events range from coffee shop exhibitions to gallery openings, and in most cases guests will have the opportunity to meet the artist and purchase their work. Art Hops aren't just hoty-toity affairs - they're neighborhood parties! Select Hop Stops will feature wine and hors d'oeuvres, live music, poetry readings, dance, gallery lectures, and more.

Visit our website to view details on future ArtsHop:  
[www.lincolnsquare.org/artshop](http://www.lincolnsquare.org/artshop)



## Wonderland Express At The Chicago Botanic Garden



Dec 16 – Jan 2, 2017; 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
**EARLY CLOSING DAYS:**

December 2, 9, 24: closes at 3 p.m.

December 25: closed all day

TripAdvisor.com: "Don't miss!"

Chicago magazine: "The warmest kind of holiday fun."

Examiner.com: "A magical adventure!"

WMAQ-TV: "Fun for the whole family."

Wonderland Express is one of the Chicago area's top holiday "must-sees,"

and a family-friendly, made-for-memories experience.

Bring the smartphones and video cameras, as our holiday exhibition delights children and parents, friends and families. Kids, look out for Thomas the Tank Engine.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is located at 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL

Please visit our website at: [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)





# Holiday Traditions



## The Original Christmas Tree Ship

The story of the beginning of the Christmas Tree Ship is the story of the Schuenemann family, and most particularly the story of Capt Herman Schuenemann and his last ship, the Rouse Simmons.

In approximately 1885 August and his brother Herman Schuenemann moved to Chicago to seek out their fortune. Chicago's Harbor was one of the busiest in the world at this time with over



20,000 vessels entering and leaving annually. As competition was fierce, the brothers became excellent businessmen as well as sailors. Although they made a relatively good living, two-thirds of their annual income was generated between Thanksgiving and Christmas with the sale of trees. August had become a truly competitive trader and by 1895 had a well-established reputation as a Christmas tree merchant. In early November of 1898, August was in Sturgeon Bay looking for trees that he would bring

to Chicago on a ship named the S. Thal. He purchased 3,500 trees and on November 9th departed with 3 crewmembers for Chicago's Harbor. A few days later the S. Thal was caught in a horrific storm off the coast of Glencoe, IL and perished. There were no survivors. Herman did not sail with his brother that year, probably due to the birth of his twin daughters in October.

Continuing with the efforts of his and Augusts, Herman now had a business without a partner. Herman sailed further and further north with each passing year. This allowed him to purchase better quality trees at a lower cost but this also made Herman and his crew incur poor and unpredictable weather the further north they sailed. Over the next few years Herman had lost one ship and almost lost another. This triggered him to purchase larger ships (the largest measuring 130 feet long and 26 feet wide.) With the larger and more stable ships, Herman went as far north as the Soo Canal to purchase his trees from the Indians. Eventually, he would hire his own crew to cut and prepare the trees for the journey back to Chicago. In 1910 Schuenemann had established the "Northern Michigan Evergreen Nursery" whose address was given as the "SW corner Clark Street Bridge." This allowed him to lower his expenses by selling his cargo directly from the deck of his ship. No longer would Capt. Schuenemann pay laborers to carry trees to store owners and local grocers. He was trying to eliminate as much of the middleman as possible. While Herman sold trees and greens on deck, his daughters worked below by the warmth of the cabin stove making wreaths out of cut greens. In order to even further lower his expenses, sometime between 1910 and 1912 Herman purchased 240 acres in upper Michigan. In salaries for tree cutters, crew, provisions, towing fees and miscellaneous expenses, a single trip would have cost him approximately \$3,000. Any failure to return with trees would leave Herman flat broke. In order for Herman to cover all of these expenses as well as make the bulk of his annual income, he now had to transport as many trees as possible with each journey.

By 1911, Schuenemann owned a large vessel named the Rouse Simmons. A ship of her magnitude could carry more than 5,000 trees that were lashed down tightly. The weight of these trees would not become a factor unless they became wet and froze. If this was to happen the weight could now become detrimental to the journey's success. Schuenemann had the Rouse Simmons recaulked during his passage to Chicago in 1911, but failed to recaulk her prior to leaving Chicago for his 1912 adventure. The neglect to recaulk the Rouse Simmons in 1912 was probably due to financial strains caused by Schuenemann being sued for failure to repay an old debt. The decision not to recaulk the Rouse Simmons would be a fatal one. She was last seen on November 23, 1912, between Kewaunee and Two Rivers Wisconsin, with distress signals flying. Capt. Schuenemann and his crew of 16 went down just 30 miles south of his boyhood home of Ahnapee, Wisconsin. Throughout the years that the Schuenemann's made their living from the Maritime

## Chicago Park District Ice Rinks Open

The Chicago Park District ice ribbon at Maggie Daley Park, and the Chicago Blackhawks ice rinks at parks citywide, will open for the season Friday, November 25, weather permitting.

Patrons can visit Maggie Daley's skating ribbon, 337 E. Randolph St., rent skates (or bring their own) and enjoy an amazing view of Chicago's skyline, while skating laps on rolling hills twice the length of a normal ice rink.

Admission to the Skating Ribbon is free. Skate rental is available for those who do not own skates, Monday through Thursday (excluding holiday periods) for \$12. Rental is available on weekends and holiday periods for \$14.

This year, in response to customer feedback, visitors will be able to purchase "Fast Passes". The "Fast Passes", which cost \$35 for one person, include free admission to the ribbon, skate and locker rental and the ability to skip the line. There will also be a \$90 "Fast Pass" for two skaters and comes with two collectable Maggie Daley Park beverage tumblers. Passes will be available beginning in December and in limited quantities during peak hours.

"The Chicago Park District is always excited to open a new season of skating at Maggie Daley Park" said Park District Superintendent and CEO Michael Kelly. "The ribbon is a great place where families can come and skate while enjoying the beautiful skyline of Chicago."

Events returning to the skate ribbon include the annual Skate with Santa and the Ugly Sweater Skate. The Ugly Sweater Skate, taking place December 10, encourages visitors to

skate in their favorite holiday sweater. Participants will be entered in a raffle to win holiday prizes. On December 17, visitors can come skate with Santa around the ribbon. Children ages 2-16 can come enjoy a skate with Santa, play games and take photos in the field house. Children must be registered in advanced. To register please visit the Park District website.

Chicago Blackhawk Neighborhood ice rinks

The Chicago Park District will also open its seven neighborhood Blackhawks outdoor ice rinks November 25, weather permitting. Please contact individual parks for ice rink hours of operation. Locations include:

Riis Park, 6100 W. Fullerton Ave., 312-746-5363

Rowan Park, 11546 S. Avenue L, 773-646-3180

Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave., 773-262-6314

Skating is free for children and teens 17 and younger and \$5 for adults. Skate rental is \$6 for children and teens and \$4 for adults.

The Chicago Park District's Blackhawk rinks will enjoy free Blackhawk skating clinics and Silver Skates competitions on the following days:

Silver Skate Competitions

Rowan Park, January 10

Riis Park, January 18

Warren Park, January 19

Blackhawks Hockey Clinics

Riis Park, February 4

Warren Park, January 7, 11 and 14

For more information about the Chicago Park District and its ice rinks please visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

Christmas Tree business, it rose, peaked and by 1912 was fading. What began as an informal barter system evolved into big business controlled by the high-volume wholesalers. As the railroads and improved highways were now the most efficient way of moving Christmas trees throughout the Midwest, old wooden bottomed vessels became obsolete.

Chicagoans remembered "Christmas Tree" Schuenemann for at least the next generation. In December of 1934, in the height of the depression, three middle-aged women opened a store on the Near North Side of Chicago. The sign, which brought back many good times and feelings, read CAPTAIN AND MRS. SCHUENEMANN'S DAUGHTERS.

Passerby's entered the store, shared stories of their childhood on the docks and bought the tree they were to display in their parlor. That was the only year that the daughters had a shop. That was probably due to the depression, but it was said that so few people had given so much joy to so many people, as did the Schuenemann family, just for doing their job.



## Today's "Christmas Tree Ship"

Chicago's boating community reenactment of the olden days of the Rouse Simmons landing in Chicago is now portrayed by the US Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw. The trees are offloaded from the Mackinaw by local youth volunteers, including Sea Cadets, Venture Crews, Sea Scouts and Young Marines and loaded onto trucks for distribution to more than a thousand deserving families throughout Chicago by Ada S. McKinley Community Services. The gift of Christmas trees to deserving families is made possible by the generous financial support of our sponsors, donors and contributors.

## Educational Programs

Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee hosts educational programs for local area schools aboard the USCGC Mackinaw and tall ship Windy. More information can be found in the events section of our website.

## Volunteer Efforts

The Mackinaw's arrival is a culmination of efforts by the Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee, working together with the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Chicago's Navy Pier, private individuals, volunteer groups and the hard working generous boaters of the marine community to help make Christmas special for deserving Chicago families.

## Join Adler Planetarium during the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

### Pop-up Programs, Extended Hours

For the week of December 26-January 1, the Adler Planetarium will be partnering with organizations around the city to bring guests fun, hands-on "pop-up programs" including experiments and STEM-focused activities for all ages. And, everyone can enjoy the fun for a little bit longer with extended hours at the Adler this week, 9:30 am-6:00 pm.

### Milestones in Space Exploration

In November, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Gemini 12. Each Gemini spacecraft had an interior volume of approximately 80 cubic feet—about the same amount of space as the front seat of a car. The astronauts, Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. and Colonel Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr., PhD, were in space for just under four days inside these tight quarters. Visit Mission Moon to see the real Gemini 12 craft and learn about this historic journey. You can learn about other space journeys as well like humanity's final steps on the Moon during the Apollo 17 mission, which marks its 44th anniversary on December 7.

## Doane at Dusk in December

Adler is hosting Doane at Dusk. Home to the largest aperture telescope available to the public in the Chicagoland area, Adler's Doane Observatory provides visitors a unique opportunity to see a variety of celestial objects like the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and more! At Doane at Dusk, guests enjoy nighttime telescope viewings and related discussions with Adler astronomers after regular museum hours. Doane at Dusk events are free, weather permitting and based on first come, first served—no tickets required.

## 'Scopes in the City

Can't make it to the Adler, but want to check out some cool things in the night sky? Adler astronomers and educators are bringing the museum—and the Universe—a little closer to you! With 'Scopes in the City, Adler astronomers and staff lead free telescope observing programs in Chicago neighborhoods. Depending on the dates, times and locations of the 'Scopes in the City events, attendees may be able to observe the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, and more!

## About the Adler Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, more than 550,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.

For more information and to plan your visit, please visit: [adlerplanetarium.org](http://adlerplanetarium.org).

## Art Institute of Chicago

111 S. Michigan Ave.

Admission to the Art Institute of Chicago is free to Illinois residents every Thursday evening from 5-8pm. Additionally children under age 14 are always free and the public can enjoy the following museum areas free of charge: The Ryan Education Center in the Modern Wing, as well as all programs for families and children within the center, the North and South Gardens (accessible from Michigan Avenue), the Nichols Bridgeway and the Bluhm Family Terrace on the 3rd floor of the west pavilion of the Modern Wing are.

In addition, The Art Institute participates in the Museums for All program which offers LINK and WIC cardholders free general admission to the museum. Present your card along with a valid photo ID to receive free access for you and your family.

# Do You Know Who Your Designated Beneficiaries Are?



**Chester M. Przybylo**

It's likely you already have a comprehensive estate plan in place and probably spent hours contemplating the decisions you made in your plan. You also placed a great deal of thought towards the distribution of your estate assets, your choice for executor of your Will, Trustee of your Trust, and guardian for your minor children. You covered everything right? Well maybe not. All too often, people forget one important aspect of estate planning – beneficiary designations.

## What Are Beneficiary Designations?

Although you may not realize it, beneficiary designations govern many of your most valuable assets. Life insurance policies, retirement plans, and investment and bank accounts, as well as mutual funds and brokerage accounts all may have beneficiary designations. In some states, even personal property, such as your vehicle, may carry a beneficiary designation. These designations dictate who

will inherit the asset in the event of your death not withstanding a provision to the contrary in your last Will and testament or a Trust agreement.

## The Forgotten Beneficiary

The problem with beneficiary designations is that we often forget about them. Frequently, a beneficiary designation is filled out as an afterthought without giving any consideration to how the designation fits into an overall estate plan. For example, when you opened your bank account you likely filled in a designated beneficiary; but do you even remember doing so? Do you remember who you designated? Or, when you filled out that stack of paperwork you were handed after being hired for your current job, you likely designated a beneficiary for your employer-sponsored retirement plan and life insurance policy. Again, do you remember designating a beneficiary? The answer is probably “no.” People fill out beneficiary designations all the time without giving the choice of beneficiary much thought. Unfortunately, the consequences can wreak havoc with your overall estate plan in two important ways:

1. Failing to change your beneficiary designations – just as your comprehensive estate plan should be updated when certain events in your life occur, your beneficiary designations should be as updated well. For example, if you filled out your retirement plan and life insurance beneficiaries ten years ago and named your boyfriend/girlfriend as your beneficiary, it could be a problem if you are now with someone else. Conversely, you might have named your mother as a beneficiary on your mutual fund account but have now married. Either way, someone you would not want to inherit your assets stands to do so in the event of your death because you failed to change your beneficiary designations upon the occurrence of a life event that should have triggered a review of your beneficiaries.

2. Missing beneficiary designations – missing beneficiary designations are also problematic. Maybe you never got around to filling out the beneficiary designations for your retirement account or maybe your original beneficiary has since died and you failed to designate a successor or contingent beneficiary. Either way, if there is no living named beneficiary, the assets controlled by the beneficiary designation will not go as intended. The assets will go as laid out in the underlying contract. For example, the life insurance policy, custodial agreement, or other contract might provide that the assets go to the surviving spouse, to blood relatives, or to the estate of the deceased. Someone you did not intend might receive the assets instead of people you would have preferred. Additionally, traditional IRA and retirement plan assets are tax-deferred, meaning they are taxed when distributed. If there is no designated beneficiary, the assets must be distributed more quickly than otherwise, and, therefore, taxed more quickly.

## Don't Let This Happen to You!

As you can see, beneficiary designations play an important, yet often forgotten, role in any comprehensive estate plan. With that in mind, take some time to review who your designated beneficiaries are. Then, make a point to review those designations periodically and every time a life event calls for a review of your estate plan. If you have questions or concerns regarding your beneficiary designations, be sure to consult with an experienced estate planning attorney in your area to make sure the plan you've carefully put in place will always reflect your planning goals.

## Happy Holidays from Chester M. Przybylo and his Staff.

*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 45 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](http://www.PlanOurEstate.com).*

# Practice Safety First With Household Pets During Cold Snap

Cook County Animal and Rabies Control has issued an alert to pet owners to take extra precautions with their household pets due to the early-winter Arctic cold snap we are now experiencing.

With temperatures dipping not just below the freezing mark but expected to bottom out below zero by the weekend, Dr. Donna Alexander, Animal and Rabies Control Administrator, cautioned that dog owners in particular need to take additional care to ensure the safety of their pets.

“Whereas some dogs are bred to withstand extreme cold conditions, if they have been raised in the County’s temperate environment they may not be able to adjust,” Dr. Alexander said, noting that keeping dogs outside in this kind of weather can prove fatal to them.

While laws in some municipalities may require only that pet owners provide food, water and a shelter, an outside dog house may not be enough this weekend., Dr. Alexander said.

She urged not only pet owners, but all residents to be alert to pets being left outside for extended periods and, if they see or hear something that seems amiss in this kind of weather, to contact local authorities, including the Department of Animal Control (708-974-6140).

# Resurrection Entrance Exam And Shadow Days

## Entrance Exam - Saturday, January 14, 2017

Resurrection College Prep High School invites eighth grade girls to take the Class of 2021 Entrance Exam on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 7:45 am to noon. No pre-registration is necessary – students should bring two #2 pencils and a \$25 testing fee (cash or check payable to Resurrection College Prep). The exam will begin at 8:00 am and end at approximately noon. Water and snacks will be provided to testers. Calculators and language translators are not permitted during the exam. Students must test at Resurrection to be eligible for the Block Scholarship for Top Testers and other scholarships opportunities at Resurrection. Information regarding limited accommodations on the Entrance Exam may be requested by contacting Registrar Mary Kaye Ulczak at [mulczak@reshs.org](mailto:mulczak@reshs.org) or 773.775.6616 Ext 127 with documentation submitted no later than January 10, 2017. On the day of the exam, testers will receive a packet of information that includes materials necessary for application to Resurrection College Prep.

Parents are welcome to attend an optional Parent Information Session at Resurrection at 8:00 am on the day of the Entrance Exam. Parents can learn about the curriculum and programs at Resurrection, including AP and college credit classes, technology initiatives, the advantages of single gender education and the unique Resurrection Practicum Job Shadowing Program. Information will also be presented about athletics, tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities.

Shadow Days are available for girls to spend the day at Resurrection to experience the school first-hand. Select days remain for eighth grade girls to spend the day at Resurrection to shadow a current student.

## 7th Grade “Experience Res” Day - Friday, February 10, 2017

Seventh grade girls are invited to a special “Experience Res” Day on Friday, February 10, 2017. As seventh graders rotate through the nine academic areas at Resurrection, students meet with teachers, learn about the curriculum, clubs and activities and get a taste of life at Resurrection. Registration and additional information is available on the Resurrection website at [www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org) or by contacting Nancy O’Leary at [noleary@reshs.org](mailto:noleary@reshs.org) or 773.775.6616 Ext 129.

# Property Tax Rebate Program Extended To Friday, December 30

To ensure as many Chicago homeowners as possible can participate, the City of Chicago is extending the application deadline for the Property Tax Rebate Program until the end of the year -- Friday, December 30.

“By extending the application deadline, we are ensuring that even more eligible working- and middle-class families are able to apply for a rebate in time for the holiday season,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “This City-funded property tax rebate program is an important program for the City and provides hardworking homeowners some property tax relief.”

The Program was launched on October 1, 2016, and since then, over 11,000 Chicago homeowners have applied for their rebate. The average rebate amount is \$109 with a total of over \$1.2 million already scheduled to be provided to homeowners. Those homeowners that already applied for a rebate will be receiving their rebate checks beginning this week.

The Rebate Program provides Chicago homeowners with a household adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less with a rebate to help offset the increase in their property taxes. The rebate is a fixed amount between \$25 and \$200, determined using the increase in the homeowner’s City property taxes and the homeowner’s income.

The program also includes a senior supplement and an enhanced grant. The senior supplement provides additional relief to certain long time senior homeowners experiencing increased property taxes due to increases in their home values. The senior supplement is a fixed amount of \$150. The enhanced grant provides additional property tax relief to eligible homeowners who are experiencing significant hardship. To be eligible for the enhanced grant, Chicago homeowners must meet at least one of the following requirements: enrolled in IL Benefits Access Program (Circuit Breaker), IL Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps), and/or IL Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); or receiving IL Unemployment Insurance; and/or Social Security Disability. Enhanced grant amounts are calculated by staff at the processing sites and verified by City of Chicago staff before rebate checks are mailed. The combined rebate amount is capped at the lesser of \$1,000 or the amount of the increase in the City of Chicago portion of the property tax increase.

The City is utilizing third party agencies with community-based services and citywide reach to administer the rebate program. These agencies are staffing over 20 neighborhood locations Monday through Friday and many on Saturday as well. Additionally, these agencies assisted with over 15 special neighborhood events that include processing rebate applications and outreach around the program. These agencies will continue to support these special processing and outreach events citywide in the month of December.

Residents can apply for a rebate by visiting any one of the over 20 neighborhood locations. Chicago residents should bring a photo ID (Driver’s License, State ID, Consulate ID, Passport), their 2015 income tax returns or social security award letter, and the 2015 2nd installment property tax bill.

Additional information can be found at [www.cityofchicago.org/ChicagoPropertyTaxRebate](http://www.cityofchicago.org/ChicagoPropertyTaxRebate)

# The Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce Announces Winter Camps For Kids

## Dovetail Studios - 2853 W. Montrose Avenue

Join Dovetail Studios for their Holiday Camp December 26th-30th, 9am-1pm!

Camp includes music, dance, art projects, play time and more!

60.00 per day or 275.00 for the full camp. Sibling discounts available.

## The Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club - 2501 W. Irving Park Road

Attend NBGC Winter Break Camp the entire break, or just for a day. Afternoon snacks are provided, but BYO lunch. Cost \$50 Non-Trip Days and \$60 on Field Trip Days.

Click here for more details.

## Bit Space - 2541 W. Lawrence Avenue

Have a kid who’s interested in making something over Winter Break? Choice from single day camps or multi-day projects. Create Bluetooth speakers from scratch, board games, or any other number of cool things.

Visit the website for details & pricing: <https://bit-space.camp/programs/winter-break-camp/>

# OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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## New Year's Eve at the DANK Haus

Ring in the New Year has been a tradition at DANK Haus and due to popular demand we are bringing back our New Years Eve party!

We are very honored to have legendary Upbeat Orchestra join us this year!! The Upbeat Orchestra has played for an impressive list of clients, such as Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium, Taste of Chicago, and many other iconic Chicago institutions who know how to throw a party! Their eight band members will have you dancing your shoes off under the DANK disco ball with everything from Sinatra to Santana, they offer a balanced mix of today's latest, and classics spanning the last five decades, including swing/jazz, R&B, Motown, Rock, Funk, Disco, Salsa, ballads, and maybe even a little Adele, Rihanna and Justin Bieber.

The party will get you started with delicious a heavy hors d'oeuvres buffet and an open bar featuring premium German beer, wine and cocktails. At midnight were serving a champagne toast, so that you can cheer with your besties and set the tone right for 2017.

Our Champagne Room will be open during the party so that you can enjoy the stunning sky-



line view and the fireworks bedazzling the city. No dress code required, but we encourage festive attire - flappers, feather boas, fedoras and fun accoutrements!

Reserve your tickets here: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2710263>

**Location:** DANK Haus German American Cultural Center

4740 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60625

**Parking:** Metered parking on Western Ave.

After business hours, guests are welcome to park in the MB Financial parking lot at Western & Gunnison.

**American Legion Edison Park Post #541 members would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

We also want to thank you for your support at our Edison Park flea market in August. Not only for your purchases but also those that brought donated items to be sold. We also want to thank those that attended the various events:

- Monument Park rededication, your attendance was inspiring.
- Hines Hosp. extended care Bingo.
- Supporting our annual Poppy donations.

**THANK YOU**  
American Legion  
Edison Park Post #541 Members

## First Night Wristbands Now On Sale All Over Evanston!

It's a New Year's Eve celebration that brings together a great community. You'll experience an incredible range of music, dance, poetry and more from some of the world's finest artists, many of whom live right here in Evanston. It's a family friendly event too, featuring an afternoon of exciting musical and variety performances geared to families and young children as well as cool teen bands and a teen improv performance in the evening.

Performance venues include some fantastic acoustic spaces in some of Evanston's classic houses of worship.

Evanston is an eclectic, diverse community that celebrates the many different elements that come together to make a uniquely cozy community. We love creativity. We love community. We love each other. And First Night Evanston is an event where we can come together and celebrate with everyone who shares our inclusive vision and our love of music, culture and fun.

So bring the family and make a night of it! Enjoy a fine pre-or post-show meal and libations at any of Evanston's excellent dining establishments. Don't miss the last great event of the year.



Watch the Food Network's upcoming episodes of Coast-To-Coast Chow featuring Harry Kempf, owner, operator and chef of the Chicago Brauhaus.



## 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 English language skills.

**Required four-part training at the Skokie Campus:**

Thursday, January 12, 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 11, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 25, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Call 847.635.1426 for information about Winter/Spring classes.



7701 N. Lincoln Avenue,  
Skokie, IL 60077



## Village Holiday Cooking

### Kugel

8oz. of egg noodles      1/4 lb. butter      1 tsp. salt  
1 cup milk      1 large cream cheese      4 eggs

1/2 cup sugar  
1 large can crushed pineapple

Boil & drain noodles. Rinse in cold water. Soften cream cheese & add eggs one at a time. Mix salt, sugar & milk. Melt butter. Mix noodles with mixture. Add drained pineapple. Put in 13 x 9 pan. Add topping.

Topping:

3/4 cup crushed corn flakes      1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon      1/4 cup sugar  
Mix together, spread on top. Bake at 375 for 1 1/2 hours.

*From The Kitchens of Chris*

### Hot Cranberry Wassail

2 1/2 quarts cranberry juice      1 quart grape juice  
2 cups sugar      4 teaspoons ginger  
3-5 ounce cans frozen orange juice      4 quarts boiling water

Pour boiling water over other ingredients. Heat to boiling point. Serve HOT  
Quantity: 2 gallons. 60 to 70 punch cup servings

*Submitted by Mrs. Charles Porter*

## Top Ten Tips for Holiday Food Safety from the Illinois Poison Center

As families and friends across Illinois make plans for their holiday feasts, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) is offering its top ten tips for proper food handling techniques this season. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 76 million people experience foodborne illness each year.

"Holidays are a time of celebration and joy, but holiday feasts can be tricky; home chefs are often preparing a meal they don't normally cook, and they're preparing it for a larger group than usual," said Dr. Michael Wahl, M.D., IPC Medical Director. "By following basic food safety preparation and storage tips, however, you can avoid foodborne illnesses and enjoy the festivities."

According to the IPC experts, the top ten ways to safe this season include:

1. Use a meat thermometer to confirm that meat, pork and poultry are properly cooked; visit [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov) for proper temperatures.
2. Keep preparation and storage areas, including countertops, stovetops and refrigerators, clean.
3. Wash hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 to 20 seconds before preparing any foods, and especially after handling raw meat, poultry, fish or eggs.
4. Wash utensils between each use. Never reuse utensils without washing them, because dirty utensils can be a source of contamination.
5. Thaw meat and poultry in the refrigerator or microwave, not at room temperature. This may take several days for a large turkey.
6. Do not prepare food if you are sick or have any type of nose or eye infection.
7. Store raw food below cooked food in the refrigerator so it cannot drip onto and contaminate cooked food.
8. Use separate cutting boards for meats, poultry and fish.
9. To ensure that leftovers are safe the next day, properly seal and store food in the refrigerator as soon as possible.
10. If you are unsure about how long perishable food, particularly meat, poultry and dairy,

have been left out, throw the items away to eliminate your risk of food poisoning.

"One of the biggest sources of foodborne illness during the holidays is salmonella from handling turkey and other poultry," said Wahl. "Salmonella bacteria can result from raw or undercooked poultry, and may be particularly harmful to people in poor health, young children and the elderly."

People who develop food poisoning may experience symptoms that include nausea, fever, vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhea. Depending on the exact type of food poisoning, symptoms may last from several hours to several days.

The IPC is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, including holidays. If you think you or someone you know has food poisoning, please call the IPC at 1-800-222-1222 for expert treatment recommendations.

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