



# OUR VILLAGE

Next Edition  
Jan. 4th

FREE

FREE

Volume XXII 773/633-4059  
contact@ourvillagechicago.com

www.OurVillageChicago.com

P.O. Box 31391,  
Chicago, IL 60631 Issue 22  
December 19, 2018

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



## WINTER BEGINS DECEMBER 21ST

### Snow Route Parking Restrictions

Chicago's annual Winter Overnight Parking Ban begins Saturday, December 1 at 3:00 am. The parking ban, indicated throughout the city with signage, will be enforced along 107 miles of critical arterial streets through March 31, 2018. The parking ban does not allow vehicles to park on marked arterial streets from 3:00 am to 7:00 am, regardless of snow.

Cars violating the overnight parking ban restrictions prevent critical routes from being fully plowed and salted when it snows. Vehicle owners are also eligible to receive a minimum \$150 towing fee, a \$60 ticket, and a storage fee of \$20 per day when they violate the overnight parking ban.



### Christmas Around The World And Holidays Of Light



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

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

Go to [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org) for details and to purchase tickets.  
Museum of Science and Industry  
5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.

### 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)



### Pappas' Office Decorated With 90 Christmas Trees And Holiday Displays For 15th Year

Ninety Christmas trees and religious displays that show different ways of celebrating the holidays will be on display in the downtown Chicago office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

This is the 15th year of "Christmas Trees from Around the World," the display of three-foot-high trees which are decorated by members of ethnic and religious communities to show their heritage. Also on display on counters in the Treasurer's Office are a Christian Nativity scene, an African American Kwanzaa Kinara, a Hindu Prayer Thali, a Jewish Menorah and a Muslim Ramadan Mubarak.

"Diversity is one of the Chicago area's great strengths. It is very powerful when people come together," Pappas said. "We see that unity in the way different ethnic groups decorate trees for the same vital holiday."

The trees are adorned not only with ornaments, tinsel and lights, but also animals, flowers, fruit, balls, candles, plates, boats, stars, flags, dolls and other items. The display will be up from Nov. 26, 2018, until Jan. 2, 2019, in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago.

The countries and traditions represented by the trees include:

African American, Albania, Armenia, Assyrian, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Barbie Doll, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cajun-New Orleans, Canada, Canada-Quebec, Carpatho-Rusyn, China, Colombia, Cornwall, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Esperanto, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany.

Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Native American, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam, Wales.



### "The Christmas Tree Ship" Docks in Chicago Again This Year On December 1st.

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, Mackinaw, sailed into Navy Pier this year carrying 1,200 Christmas trees to continue the tradition by reenacting 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.



All Christmas trees will be donated to families in need.

The tradition began in 2000 as a reenactment of Chicago's original Christmas Tree ships from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

See Page 9 for the History

### CTA Holiday Train

Santa is coming to the Brown Line! The Allstate CTA Holiday Train is a holiday tradition unique to Chicago, which, due to popular demand, is now accompanied by the Elves' Workshop Train. Two trains provide twice the amount of fun and festivities to make your holiday extra special.

Just as dazzling and decked out as the Holiday Train, the Elves' Workshop Train is a six-car train of magic and memories, just like its popular counterpart. It follows the Holiday Train on Saturdays, which are the busiest days, to help ensure everyone has an opportunity to experience this one-of-a-kind, tradition.

Visit [transitchicago.com/holidayfleet](http://transitchicago.com/holidayfleet) for a complete schedule, travel tips and more.



### Ride the Allstate CTA Holiday Train on the Purple Line December 12, 14, 15 and 20

The Allstate CTA Holiday Train will visit Evanston on the Purple Line on December 12, 14, 15 and 20, bringing food baskets to local community organizations as well as good cheer to any passerby. On Saturday, December 15, the Elves' Workshop Train will follow directly behind the CTA Holiday Train to help ensure everyone has a chance to enjoy this exciting tradition.

The Holiday Train usually operates from about 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. Normal CTA fares apply.

Santa and his elves will personally be visiting every stop along the respective lines passing out holiday cheer. The Holiday Train shines with bright lights and seasonal images, sparkling and twinkling its way along its route. The interiors of the train cars are just as festive, featuring lights, bows, garlands and even some candy canes for the younger passengers.

In addition, the Allstate CTA Holiday Bus will travel through Evanston during the afternoon of Saturday, December 1 on the #97 Skokie route. The bus will depart the Howard Terminal at 12:40 p.m. Visit [transitchicago.com/holidayfleet](http://transitchicago.com/holidayfleet) for a complete schedule, travel tips and more.



### Get Tickets for First Night Evanston 12/31



First Night Evanston is a family-friendly community celebration of the arts that takes place on New Year's Eve around Raymond Park near downtown Evanston. For one special night, several churches become stages as the community celebrates with music, dance, the spoken word, and arts & crafts, and ring in the new year together. First Night Evanston strives to make the event accessible, welcoming, and affordable to all. Visit our website for more info: <http://firstnightevanston.org/wp>

## Holiday Recipes

See page 11

# Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary To International Fashions By Ingrid

## "The Little Shop On The Corner"

Beginning her 41st year in business, Ingrid Kaltenbach continues with her main goal of offering her customers the finest quality and selection of traditional and contemporary fashions and accessories from Germany and Austria for both the ladies and the gentlemen.

This unique setting is a cornerstone of the Lincoln Square neighborhood which has been, for so many years, the hub of German and Austrian culture and heritage. Lincoln Square is still a destination point for dining and shopping, but not the extent of experiencing the same ethnically based business community.

Ingrid continues to help keep those traditions alive through her unwavering commitment to the German American Immigrants who were a great part of making our City great and have given us such an asset as the new generations carry on those memories and devotion to hard work and steadfastness. Ingrid's contributions to that heritage is well known and she is admired for her dedication to tradition and for being a part of perpetuating the culture of these inspiring base of people.

But, admiration for Ingrid goes beyond her style and work ethic. When most of us, at the age of 17, were relishing in experiences of the day like excitement over our first drivers' license, in our first dates, and planning for our high school proms and future studies, Ingrid was planning her escape from East Germany. That's right!! This was still the time of the existence of a divided Germany after World War II.

She, along with so many at that time, had only one desire – for freedom and for many of those, to be able to participate in and contribute to the American Dream. At age 18, she began her dangerous journey, first to East Berlin. With the help of people who assisted by smuggling folks across the border, Ingrid made her dangerous and courageous trip over the lines to West Berlin. In the



*Ingrid at 17 Years*



*Ingrid Today In Her Shop*

next few years she migrated to Bremerhafen where she met Karen Steiner, who would become her lifelong friend. They made their trip together to America in 1964.

Ingrid and her friend Karen remained close as Ingrid found her way to Chicago and to the large German immigrant community in Lincoln Square. In 1969, she joined the sales staff of a shop in the neighborhood, which her future Mother-In-Law, Carina Kaltenbach, owned.

In 1978, the torch was passed to Ingrid and she became the owner and operator of this establishment. Through her regular buying trips to Europe, she has insured that her shop is still carrying the latest in fashion, in the quality that is almost impossible to find these days anywhere else.

We are grateful and honored that Ingrid's incredible journey of life brought her to us, and that International Fashions by Ingrid endures to this day as her gift to all of us. The dreams of this once 17 year old have been attained in ways which have gone far beyond her dreams. She is an indispensable presence in Lincoln Square.

When you have an opportunity to visit this historically laced area of Chicago, you will be warmly greeted in the true German fashion as you enter International Fashions by Ingrid. You may even entice her to expand on the exceptional story of her life.

We wish Ingrid and her iconic shop the best of luck as her 41st year in business begins, and in the many years to come as well as much health and happiness in the New Year!!

International Fashions by Ingrid is located at 4714 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. She may be reached by calling 773/878-8382. Visit her website, [www.fashionsbyingrid.com](http://www.fashionsbyingrid.com) for all of her latest arrivals.

## Holiday Flower Shows At Garfield Park & Lincoln Park Conservatories Each Feature Over 500 Poinsettias In A Variety Of Colors

### 2018 Holiday Flower Shows "Tickled Pink" & "Holiday Memories" Run Through January 6

Both holiday shows open to the public Friday, November 23 and run through Sunday, January 6 from 9am - 5 pm; and on Wednesdays from 9am to 8pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave.

Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Dr.

Garfield Park Conservatory's Holiday Flower "Tickled Pink" is a celebration of pink poinsettias. In addition to the traditional holiday evergreens, this year's show features non-traditional varieties of poinsettias in pink and blush. Pink lights and other pink plants cast a rosy glow for all holiday visitors. There are 12 different kinds of pink poinsettia plants that adorn the green house's Show Room. Guests are invited to come and search amongst the 600 pink holiday plants for the Luv U Pink, Freedom Pink, Polly's Pink and Venus Hot Pink poinsettias.

Lincoln Park Conservatory's Show House turns into a Winter Wonderland filled with more than 700 poinsettias, trees, sparkling lights, and model trains that traverse through the plantings. Bright red, green and white poinsettias create a majestic backdrop, while Radio Flyer Red Tricycle and wagons add to the whimsical and vintage-inspired holiday display. For this year's "Holiday Memories" showcase, exhibit curators dug out photos taken at the Conservatory in the 40s, 50s and 60s. These memories of holidays past are highlighted by a sky-high tree that is decorated with old-fashioned lights and Christmas ornaments of all colors, shapes and sizes. This winter, everyone is invited to come and make their own holiday memories at the Conservatory.

Admission to the 2018 holiday flower shows is free.

For more information, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

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

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

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

Thursday, January 10, 2019, 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 - 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 2, 2019 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 16, 2019 - 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Call 847.635.1426 for information about upcoming classes.



7701 N. Lincoln Avenue,  
Skokie, IL 60077



## Skokie Idol Begins January 12, 2019

By Wayne Mell, Artistic Director

We'd like to divert your mind from the holidays for a moment. The 5th Annual Skokie Idol competition is coming. Our annual winter event is open to everyone, regardless of what community you are from or how much experience you have. Contestants can come from everywhere. We've had students and retirees, business people and home makers. Since we're surrounded by lots of local talent, we're sure it's going to be an exciting contest.

Contestants will compete in one of three divisions based on age: Junior Division (Grades 4 - 7), Teen Division (Grades 8 - 12), and Adults (Everyone else). People bring in their very best songs and can be accompanied by a karaoke tracks on a CD, the piano at the theatre, another musical instrument they bring in, or they may even sing a Capella.

Auditions are held at the theatre on January 12, 2019. Contestants perform in front of our judges and the top contestants in each division will be selected to return for weekly sing-offs.

Weekly sing-offs will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 on Saturday afternoons starting January 26, and are open to the public. In fact, the public is crucial. Each week, the audience vote along with a smaller panel of judges and select the contestants in each category that are invited to return the next week. This continues until March 16 (with March 9th off for spring break). The last three contestants left in each division will move on to the finals.

Contestants can come from anywhere. We've had students and retirees, business people and home makers, professional singers and enthusiastic new comers. Audience votes determine who moves forward, so everyone has an equal chance. Since we're surrounded by lots of local talent, we're sure it's going to be an exciting contest.

Every week there is a different theme for the sing-offs. Last year, Saturday audiences were entertained themes such as 50's week, Elvis week, Broadway week, Country week and even the Billboard Top 100 from 1999. Many contestants have



*2018 Jr. Division Winner Molly McDonagh*

said that the most fun part of the contest is getting to sing songs in a style they don't normally pick for themselves.

The final round for the Junior Division will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 7:30 pm. The final round for the Teen and Adult divisions will be held on Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 pm. The finals will consist of 3 songs to be sung by each contestant with a special guest accompanist. The winner of the finals from each category will win the GRAND PRIZE, a solo program during the winner's concert on July 10 as part of Skokie's Wednesdays on the Green.

The contest will be held at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave in Downtown Skokie and it open to everyone, regardless of where they live or their experience. There is a \$25 registration fee. For complete contest rules and registration, please visit [SkokieTheatre.org](http://SkokieTheatre.org) or call the Skokie Idol Hotline at 847-677-7761 ext. 4.

## Brush With Nature – Art Exhibition

The artworks that are displayed in this exhibition were created by local plein air artists who created their pieces while outdoors at the Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie, IL.

Exhibiting Artists include: Adrienne Aaronson (Highland Park), Zhanna Biletska (Chicago), Laura Frisch (Morton Grove), Steve Johnson (Chicago), Debra Nichols (Skokie), Naomi Pollack (Skokie), Talia and Clare Prilutsky (Wheeling), Amanda Roman (Evanston) and Aruna Sarode (Round Lake).

The juried exhibition will be on display in the Emily Oaks Nature Center Gallery at 4650 Brummel Ave, Skokie, IL 60076 from November 16, 2018 through February 24, 2019. Regular viewing hours are Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm; Saturday 8 am - 4 pm; and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Phone (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 for more information.

Brush with Nature is sponsored in part by the Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Founded in 1991, Anatomically Correct is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to showcasing works by artists in alternative spaces in a combined effort to educate, diversify, and promote community awareness of the visual and performing arts. <http://www.brushwithnature.org>



*Dreamy Pond - Zhanna Biletska*

## The Adler Planetarium See the Moon In a Whole New Light This Winter



The Moon has always inspired creativity, imagination, and exploration as a source of wonder for all of human history. This winter and coinciding with the 50th anniversary of NASA's Apollo missions, the Adler Planetarium will celebrate our cosmic companion with programming, events, and a new sky show premiering in January. Come see the Moon in a whole new light, and make your own special connection to the Universe.

**Infinite Possibilities installation:** Featuring Moon by UK artist Luke Jerram, this installation located in our north and south stairwells shines a light on humanity's fascination with the Moon throughout history, the exploration it inspires, and the mysteries it still holds.

Opens December 8, 2018. Included in museum admission.

**Full Moon Fest** (in partnership with the Museum of Science and Industry):

Celebrate the last Full Moon of 2018 with a nighttime, all-ages festival curated to launch your curiosity more than 200,000 miles above Earth's atmosphere. MSI's Full Moon Fest blasts off after the Sun goes down—Join Adler astronomers in the Smart Park for telescope viewing (weather permitting), by the Apollo 8 spacecraft to hear stories from the mission, and to take on a space-related design challenge.

December 22, 2018 at MSI; 5:00-9:00 pm

**The Presence of the Moon Google Arts & Culture exhibition:**

This online exhibition tells the story of the Moon through a selection of lunar depictions from the Adler's collections.

Coming December 19, 2018

For more information, visit: <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/choose-the-moon/>

**Adler Planetarium**

1300 South Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605  
312.542.2424 • [adlerplanetarium.org](http://adlerplanetarium.org)

# Helping Our Friends And Neighbors Over The Holidays

## Chicago Bar Association Bringing Christmas Comfort To Shelter Animals Red Door Animal Shelter To Receive Donations

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

The CBA's Animal Law Committee is asking members and the public to remember the plight of shelter animals by donating food, supplies and toys. Proceeds from the drive will go directly to Red Door Animal Shelter, a no-kill shelter on Chicago's north side that is committed to promoting respect for animals in need through education, rescue, sheltering and adoption. The primary focus of Red Door Shelter is on cats, dogs and rabbits, the three most popular pets in the United States.

Tracy McGonigle, Chair of the Animal Law Committee, said donations being sought include unopened pet food and treats and supplies such as blankets, towels, toys, collars and leashes.

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

Donations can be dropped off or messengered to the Chicago Bar Association at 321 S. Plymouth Court in Chicago.

## Footprints To Recovery Nationwide "Socks Of Love" Campaign To Donate 10,000 Pairs Of Socks -- Least Donated Item -- To Homeless Shelters In Time For Holidays Clients At Five Treatment Centers Across U.S. To Hand-Deliver Donations As Part Of Recovery Process

"SOCKS OF LOVE" VISION:

Footprints to Recovery is launching the first-ever national Socks of Love campaign and aims to donate 10,000 pairs of socks. This goal involves extensive outreach in local communities, plus social media and email awareness campaigns using the #SocksOfLove hashtag. Socks are the least commonly donated items and therefore one of the most needed items at shelters.

Those who donate include not only community members but also Footprints to Recovery staff, clients, clients' families, alumni and business partners. Some individuals order/donate socks online and ship them directly to one of the five treatment centers, while others prefer to purchase socks then drop them off in person at one of the locations.

Footprints to Recovery clients and alumni process incoming donations and coordinate their delivery. Each treatment facility will provide socks to local homeless shelters. In addition, the treatment facilities located in major metropolitan areas will assist clients in delivering some of the socks to public spaces that serve as shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Illinois Drop Off Point:

Alcohol & Drug Outpatient Treatment Facility (PHP, IOP, OP)  
3265 N Arlington Heights Rd, Suite 303, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

## Holiday Food Drive

Drop-off at the New Hope Community Food Pantry any Monday between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

To make additional special arrangements for drop-off of food, please contact Rev. Marilyn K. Doering, at director@newhopechicago.org



## Honor Flight Chicago - "Operation Locate A Hero"- 2019 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 2019 season flight schedule - with projected monthly flights from Chicago Midway to Washington, DC to visit their WWII Memorial. The trip is provided at (no) cost to the Veteran.

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

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

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



## Evanston Help Lines:

If you or anyone you know are in need during the Holiday Season or beyond, please call 847/448-4311 or in Evanston, dial 311

## 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.

## Veterans Honored for Their Service

For the past 11 years, Bears of Hope has been giving their handmade patriotic bears to veterans at community veteran events held in November. Bears Founder, Carolyn Reiner, said, "It's our way of thanking veterans for their service to our country." On Sunday, November 11, 2018, Bears of Hope joined The Carrington at Lincolnwood, a senior living residence in Lincolnwood, Illinois, for its Veteran's Day Concert. The concert was open to residents and the public.

The Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra under the direction of artistic director, Phillip Simmons performed the concert. Works by Chopin, Mozart, Dvorak and ever-popular military works by George M. Cohan and John Phillip Sousa were enjoyed by Carrington residents and friends.

Veterans came to Bears of Hope's table before and after the concert. They represented all branches of service and served either in World War II; the Korean War; or Vietnam. Bears volunteer, Jamie Reiner, felt humbled to meet six World War II veterans. She said, "The veterans were pleased and surprised by our expression of gratitude for their service. I enjoyed meeting them." One WWII veteran told Jamie, "I'm looking forward to going on the 'Honor Flight' next spring. Maybe I'll even meet a 'buddy' I served with." Carrington Director of Life Enrichment, Loree Kilian, commented, "Having Bears of Hope added so much meaning to today's event. I appreciated them being here. The bears are great!"

Bears of Hope's patriotic bears are also given to Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care's VA Hospice Unit for terminally ill and dying veterans. Stacey Matschegg, Rainbow's Volunteer Coordinator, responded, "The bears give them comfort. They are thankful people care about them and what they did for our country."

Bears of Hope is a Skokie based all-volunteer organization. Its main focus is making handmade fabric bears for sick children and adults. Local social service agencies are given bears, at no cost, for those under their care struggling with difficult health issues. Making patriotic bears is their special project to honor veterans. Bears volunteers make the bears. Individuals and businesses financial gifts provide what's needed for bears. Bears of Hope has no paid staff; everyone is a volunteer! Since its beginning in 2007, over 2,500 bears are being loved by children and adults who need something to cuddle whenever they feel ill, hurt, sad or lonely. Bears of Hope bears certainly bring them comfort!

For more information: www.BearsofHope.com

## Cell Phones For Soldiers

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

## How To Book A Free AFSP IL Speaker

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Illinois Chapter speakers are available to speak for free thanks to the generosity of our walkers, donors, and volunteers. To request a free AFSP Illinois volunteer speaker at your company, organization, club, religious center, meeting or other group complete the simple form at www.AFSPILSpeaker.org. For free AFSP materials and resources thanks to the generosity of Walkers like you go to www.AFSPMaterials.org. To donate to support AFSP go to www.Chicagowalk.org.

If you are in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at:

**1-800-273-TALK • 1-800-273-8255**

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

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

## A Call For Teens! Help Your Neighbors and Earn Cash - Join the Skokie TeenLink Program!

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

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

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



## HELP DISASTER VICTIMS

Visit SamaritansPurse.org or call 800-528-1980



Samaritan's Purse®, Franklin Graham, President  
P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607  
1-800-528-1980 | samaritanspurse.org  
Facebook: SamaritansPurse Instagram: @SamaritansPurse Twitter: @SamaritansPurse  
© 2017 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.

# Governor Waives Penalties, Interest For Taxpayers Affected By Tornadoes, Severe Weather

## Waiver To Help Victims Of This Month's Storms In Christian County

Gov. Bruce Rauner announced today that individuals and businesses devastated by tornadoes and severe weather in parts of Christian County on Dec. 1, 2018, may request waivers of penalties and interest on state taxes if they cannot file their returns or make payments on time. The waivers apply to individual and business income taxes, withholding taxes, sales taxes, and specialty and excise taxes.

"Families and businesses affected by the storms may need additional time to gather essential paperwork to file and pay their taxes," Rauner said. "The waivers help give taxpayers the time they need to recover and get their affairs in order. This is another way we can help them deal with the destruction caused by the storms."

Taxpayers seeking waivers of penalties and interest for taxes should send a brief written explanation of why they cannot timely file or pay to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Taxpayers should provide their full name, account number (if using a Social Security number, include only the last four digits), mailing address, and an estimate of when they believe they can file or pay their taxes.

Requests may be sent electronically to REV.DisasterRelief@Illinois.gov or via postal mail using the address on the return. Taxpayers who mail their request to IDOR should write Tornado – December 2018 on the top of the return in red and include their explanation for penalties and interest abatement request.

## Gov. Rauner And First Lady Get Flu Shots, Encourage Illinoisans To Protect Their Health

Gov. Bruce Rauner and First Lady Diana Rauner got their flu shots today and highlighted the importance of Illinoisans protecting themselves this flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend shots for everyone over the age of six months. Influenza activity often increases in October and tends to peak between December and February. Last year's flu season was one of the more severe seasons in recent years. It is estimated that flu vaccination prevents millions of flu illnesses and tens of thousands of hospitalizations.

"Diana and I encourage Illinoisans to safeguard their health by getting a flu shot," Gov. Rauner said. "It's the best protection against the influenza and it especially helps protect those most vulnerable to sickness like the elderly and young children."

## Pappas: March 1st Cook County Property Tax Bill Is Online If You Want To Pay This Year

In response to a high volume of requests by taxpayers, accountants and tax advisors, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today she has posted next year's First Installment property tax bill to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com), nearly three months before the due date.

This is the earliest that First Installment payments have been accepted. Property owners should consult with a tax professional about income tax deductions for 2018.

Tax Year 2018 First Installment taxes, due March 1, 2019, are 55 percent of the prior year's total tax.

You may look up your tax bill on [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) by using your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN). Here's how to pay:

- Go to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and select "Make an Online Payment"
- Download and print your bill from the website and either:
  - Mail it to the Treasurer's Office, or
  - Pay in person at a Chase bank branch or the Treasurer's Office

## Holiday Travel Tips And Storm Preparedness

DOT advises drivers to take extra precautions when driving during storms – slow down and watch for snow plows. Also keep an emergency kit in each of your vehicles in case they break down or get stuck during severe weather.

A basic safety kit should include the following items:

- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery powered radio
- Water
- Snack food, including energy bars
- Matches and small candles
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt, sand or cat litter for traction
- Jumper cables
- Emergency flares and reflectors
- Fluorescent distress flag and whistle to attract attention
- Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter

### Kit tips:

Reverse batteries in flashlights to avoid accidentally switching them on and running down the battery.

Store items in the passenger compartment in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut.

### Other tips:

Gas tanks should be kept at least half full. Travelers should always tell someone where they're going and the route they'll take.

Stranded drivers should stay with their vehicles; walking in a storm can be very dangerous. Other vehicles may not see you or you may become lost or exhausted.

Always check conditions in and around your vehicle; snow can plug a vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter the car.

If stranded for a prolonged period, only run the engine for 10 minutes an hour to conserve gas and make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow.

Keeping a window open a crack while running the engine, is advised to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Mayor Emanuel Announces New Investments In Homeless Services

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler today announced a \$1.1 million investment in the 2019 budget to support homeless residents in Chicago. Funding will support a pilot to support homeless residents living in encampments, as well as supportive services for homeless families transitioning into Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) housing.

"Every resident should have a roof over their head, and every child should have a safe space to call home," said Mayor Emanuel. "This investment will help build on the gains we've made for the city's homeless population in a holistic, comprehensive and compassionate manner."

The Encampment Response pilot will provide intensive outreach and supportive services to homeless encampment residents with a goal of transitioning residents to permanent supportive housing.

CHA has also pledged to provide rental subsidies to homeless families and youth through its Project Based Voucher program. Additional funding in the 2019 budget will provide those households with the supports they need to maintain housing and become independent.

Increased funding for the city's homeless residents comes as Chicago has experienced a nearly four percent decrease in homelessness over last year, the lowest number on record since 2007. The decrease, as reported in the city's annual Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Survey Report, found that 5,450 people in Chicago are experiencing homelessness as compared to 5,657 last year. This is third year in a row that saw the number of homeless residents in Chicago decline.

## Pappas: There's Help For Senior Citizens Struggling To Pay Cook County Property Taxes

With prescription prices and utility bills rising faster than Social Security payments, a tax-relief program can help senior citizens who are hard-pressed to pay their property taxes, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

Seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less can apply to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program for loans to cover property tax payments.

"When property taxes are due, too many of our elderly are forced to make difficult choices about which bills to pay," Pappas said. "This program is one way to ease their worries."

The State of Illinois issues the loans, which do not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the homeowner dies. An interest rate of 6 percent per year is charged by the state. The maximum loan is \$5,000 per year. To qualify, homeowners must be at least 65 years old by June 1 of the year in which the application is made.

To apply:

- Download the application from [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com)
- Submit the completed application and copies of the required documents to the Treasurer's Office
- The deadline is March 1, 2019. Applications after that date cannot be accepted
- Homeowners must reapply every year

## Free Clinic to Reduce Your Phone, Gas and Electricity Bill

The Skokie Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Commission with the support of the Consumer Affairs Commission and in conjunction with the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is hosting a free consultation event to advise residents on reducing electric, natural gas and both landline and cell phone bills. Space is limited! To reserve your spot, please call CUB at 312-263-4282 ext. 111 or email CUB at [events@citizensutilityboard.org](mailto:events@citizensutilityboard.org) using the subject line, "Skokie 01/15"

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

"The key to saving money on your utility bills is simply to read them," CUB Executive Director David Kolata said. "At a CUB clinic you can sit down with an expert who can explain all the confusing charges, answer your questions, help you avoid scams, and give you ways to slash your costs. You can't find a free service like this anywhere else."

At CUB's clinic, consumers will get information on:

- How to spot unnecessary charges on natural gas, electric and phone bills.
- Energy efficiency programs and rebates that can help people cut their utility bills.
- ComEd's new digital electric meters and programs such as Peak Time Savings and Hourly Pricing that could save consumers money.
- Utility rates, and making the right choices in the electric and gas markets.

CUB services, including its toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-669-5556.

A representative from the Illinois Treasurer's iCash program will be present to help registrants see if the state has any unclaimed property they're entitled to: <https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/>

Participants should bring current copies of gas, electric and telephone bills for CUB to review. CUB is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to representing the rights of utility customers across the state of Illinois.

For more information please contact the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257

## Holiday Safety Tips Regarding Children and Food Safety

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

### Toy Safety

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

### Food Safety

- Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same.
  - Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.
  - Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.
  - Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.
  - Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
  - Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.
- ### Happy Visiting
- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots and clean up immediately after a holiday party.
  - Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or babysitters are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222.
  - Maintaining your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

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

## 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 is 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

This is Father Rog's "50th Year" of Christmas Greetings, but this one from 2010 is one of our favorites.

## "My Favorite Christmas Story"

From Rev. Francis S. Rog, CR

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 considered "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?

## ST. THECLA CHURCH

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



### Confessions:

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

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

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

### Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

**Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve**  
• 4pm—Family Mass, will be celebrated by  
**Bishop Mark Bartosic**  
• 10pm—Mass, will be celebrated by  
**Fr. Mike Grisolano**

**Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day**  
• 8am—Mass, will be celebrated by  
**Fr. Dan Fallon**  
• 10am—will be celebrated by  
**Fr. Greg Rom**

**Tuesday, January 1**  
**Feast of the Solemnity of Mary**  
• 9am—Mass



## Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24th @ 5pm



**Carter Westminster**  
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie  
847-673-4441



## ST. HYACINTH BASILICA BAZYLIKA ŚW. JACKA

3636 West Wolfram Street, Chicago, IL 60618

Phone: 773-342-3636 • Fax: 773-342-3638

www.sthyacinthbasilica.org

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ŚWIĄTECZNY ROZKŁAD MSZY ŚWIĘTYCH

**CHRISTMAS EVE - Monday, December 24**  
**WIGILIA BOŻEGO NARODZENIA - 24 grudnia**

6:00 AM Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

7:00 AM Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

8:00 AM Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

9:00 PM - *Shepherds' Mass in English/Pasterka po angielsku*

12:00 AM - *Shepherds' Mass in Polish / Pasterka po polsku*

**CHRISTMAS DAY - Tuesday, December 25**

**BOŻE NARODZENIE - Wtorek, 25 grudnia**

7:30 AM - Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

9:00 AM - Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

10:45 AM - Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

12:30 PM - Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

5:00 PM - Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

6:30 PM - Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

**ST. STEPHEN - Wednesday, December 26**

**ŚW. SZCZEPANA - Środa, 26 grudnia**

6:00 AM Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

7:00 AM Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

8:00 AM Mass in English / Msza po angielsku

12:30 PM Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

7:00 PM Mass in Polish / Msza po polsku

**NEW YEAR'S EVE - Monday, December 31**

**SYLWESTER - Poniedziałek, 31 grudnia**

7:00 PM - Mass in Polish

**NEW YEAR'S DAY - Tuesday, January 1**

**NOWY ROK - Wtorek, 1 stycznia**

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



# 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.

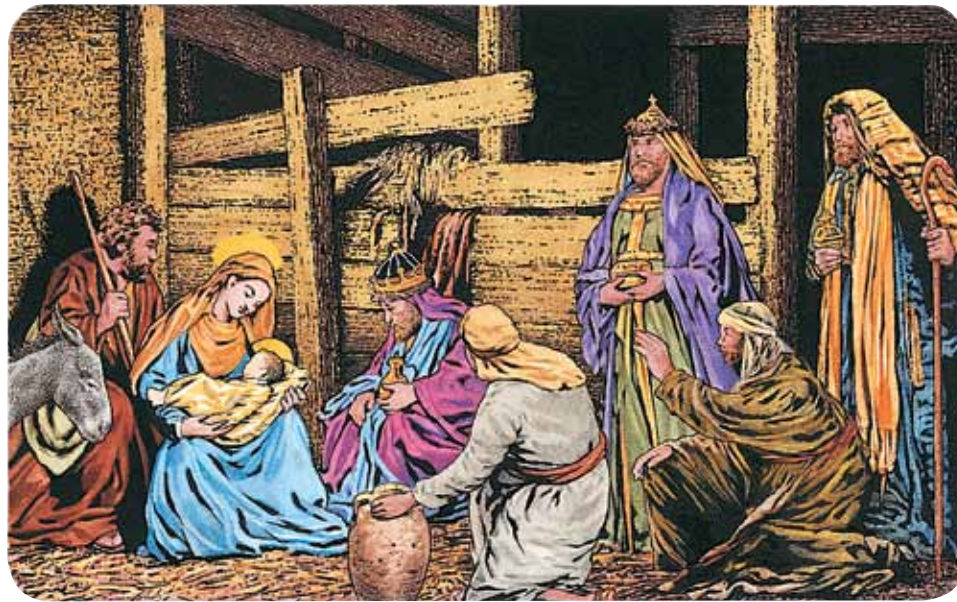
**In the British Isles.** On Christmas Eve, children hang up stockings for Father Christmas, the British version of Santa Claus, to fill with presents. On the afternoon of Christmas Day, most British families watch their monarch give a special Christmas message on television. In England, dinner on Christmas 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 *julgrøt*, 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.



## The Twelve Days of Christmas



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

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

However, on another level, this should not prevent us from using the song in celebration of Christmas. Many of the symbols of Christianity were not originally religious, including even the present date of Christmas, but were appropriated from contemporary

culture by the Christian Faith as vehicles of worship and proclamation. Perhaps, when all is said and done, historical accuracy is not really the point. Perhaps more important is that Christians can celebrate their rich heritage, and God's grace, through one more avenue this Christmas. Now, when they hear what they once thought was only a secular "nonsense song," they will be reminded in one more way of the grace of God working in transforming ways in their lives and in our world. After all, is that not the meaning of Christmas anyway?

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

Submitted by Dennis Bratcher



# Holiday Traditions



## 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 extin-

guished, but several glass ornaments got broken. One year I got a box full of metal pieces. I could build wagons, houses and many other things with tiny screws. One year my brother and I received a train set, which we had to share. The train ran on 220 volt, and often we received electrical shocks by touching the tracks. We kept that train set for many years. We did not have a TV then, so my family did a lot of singing at Christmas time. My mother played a Mandolin 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*

## 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 answers "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 melomakaron. 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 intransigently 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*

## Skating Theme Nights at the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink

**Admission Is Free, Skate Rentals Available**

Skating with a twist (and a twirl) at ice skating parties hosted by local Chicago DJs. Costumes encouraged!

- November 29: Charlie Brown Classics (jazz music)
- December 6: Ugly Sweater Soul-mas (soul and R&B music—and wear your ugliest Christmas sweater)
- December 20: Christmas Classics (all holiday music)
- December 27: Homecoming (house music)
- January 3: Bling in the New Year (90s hip hop music)
- January 17: Totally Tubular (80s pop and rock music)
- January 31: Soul Train (70s disco, funk and soul music)
- February 7: Purple Passion (all Prince)
- February 21: Mambo Mania (40s & 50s latin music)
- March 7: It's a Wrap-sody (all Queen)



## Maggie Daley Park Skating Ribbon Maggie Daley Park

### Skating Ribbon

**Friday, November 18 - March**

- Monday - Thursday: noon-8pm
- Friday: noon -10pm
- Saturday: 10am-10pm
- Sunday: 10am-8pm

In the heart of downtown Chicago, with the City's skyline as a backdrop, a ribbon of ice winds through a rolling landscape providing an ice skating experience unlike any other. The skating ribbon is dramatically different from typical civic ice rinks, creating a multisensory activity that is integrated into the landscape. Skaters can experience "alpine in the city" as they lace up their ice skates and follow a path twice the length of a lap around a traditional skating rink. Complementing the ribbon are places to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and rent skates. FREE Admission; Skate rental is \$13 Mon-Thu and \$15 Fri-Sun/Holidays. \$40 Fast Passes are available.



## I ♥ Christkindlmarket 2018



NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 24  
OPEN DAILY AT DALEY PLAZA



NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 24  
OPEN SELECT DAYS  
AT NAPER SETTLEMENT



NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 31  
OPEN DAILY AT FISERV FORUM



For more information:  
[www.christkindlmarket.com](http://www.christkindlmarket.com)

# Salute to Vienna

## New Year's Concert



Photo by Chris Lee

### Strauss Symphony of America

featuring Chicago Philharmonic

Oliver Ostermann, conductor (Vienna)

Beate Ritter, soprano (Vienna) • Brian Cheney, (New York)

Waltzes, Polkas & Operetta Hits

European Singers, Ballroom Dancers & Ballet

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018 at 2:30 pm

ORCHESTRA HALL  
SYMPHONY CENTER

312.294.3000 • [cso.org](http://cso.org)

[salutetovienna.com/chicago](http://salutetovienna.com/chicago)

Produced by Attila Glatz Concert Productions. Artists subject to change without notice.

# Tis the season for estate planning!



**Izbela Czajkowska and Michael Otte**

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

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

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

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

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

If this holiday is the time that you decide to finally talk to your family about your estate plan or encourage them to create their own estate plan, please remember that you will need an expert to help you finalize the important details. Please contact one of our attorneys at Otte & Czajkowska LLC at 773-631-7100 or [info@oclawyergroup.com](mailto:info@oclawyergroup.com).

Our offices are located at:

5339 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago and 7667 W. 95th Street, Hickory Hills.

We will be happy to assist you. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*



**Otte & Czajkowska**  
Estate Planning & Elder Law

- Formerly known as Chester M. Przybylo & Associates -

**Call (773) 631-7100**

Learn more about us by visiting [www.oclawyergroup.com](http://www.oclawyergroup.com).

## St. Thecla Seniors Meetings

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

## Norwood Park Seniors Club

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

*Protecting families since 1880.*

- Life insurance ♦
- Retirement plans ♦
- College scholarships ♦
- Community events ♦

**1-800-621-3723**

[www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org)

**Polish National Alliance**  
of the U.S. of N.A.  
6100 N. Cicero Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60646

## New Year's Eve

Gourmet four-course dinner at Oceanique Restaurant, Evanston December 31, 2018

with MUSIC THEATER WORKS

Join general manager Bridget McDonough, artistic director Rudy Hogenmiller, music director Roger Bingaman and producing artistic director designate Kyle Dougan for dinner on New Year's Eve before Into the Woods.  
Monday, December 31 ~ 5 pm dinner  
(Will be finished in time for the 8:00 performance at Cahn Auditorium.)  
(You may attend the dinner even if you do not have tickets to the show.)  
Oceanique Restaurant ~ 505 Main Street, Evanston  
\$100 per person (Dinner only — includes tax and gratuity)  
Cash Bar ~ Valet parking available • RSVP by December 21: (847) 920-5360  
\$25 of price is tax-deductible ~ No cancellations after December 26  
(Tickets for "Into The Woods" may be ordered at the above number, also)

MUSIC THEATER WORKS

Formerly LIGHT OPERA WORKS

Administrative Office and Rehearsal Center  
516 4th Street, Wilmette IL 60091-2829 • (847) 920-5360  
[news@light-opera-works.org](mailto:news@light-opera-works.org) • [www.musictheaterworks.com](http://www.musictheaterworks.com)

## Tickets on Sale for Brew Year's Eve at Lake County's Only Destination Brewery, Buffalo Creek Brewing

In celebration of its first full year producing extraordinary craft beer, Buffalo Creek Brewing in Historic Downtown Long Grove (only 35 miles NW of Chicago) is hosting a special Brew Year's Eve party. Lake County's only destination brewery, popular year-round for its Bavarian-themed taproom and scenic entertainment space centered around the art of brewing, invites beer aficionados to ring in 2019 with brewmaster Mike Marr and friends. Beginning at 7:30 pm on December 31, the festive night will include unlimited fresh brews, a hometown Chicago BBQ menu cooked onsite by Steamboat BBQ, and live music featuring the DAMJAX. Tickets are available by calling the brewery at (847) 821-6140.



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



Edison Park 541 of The American Legion invites Veterans and Sons of Veterans on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., to attend our informational meeting. Location is Edison Park Field House 1st floor North at 6755 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631. The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) squadron are looking for Sons of Veterans to be members. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion. This is an informational meeting. All Veterans are invited and if you qualify we would love for you to join us. Veterans qualifications are for service during the periods stated above. Contact: Past 9th District Commander Bob Fuggiti 847-921-8738 Edison Park Post 541 — AmerLegion541@aol.com 6755 W. Northwest Highway, Chicago - Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.



## Calling All Seniors

Join the Senior Polka Association North. Yearly membership \$10.00. Meets at the Lone Tree Manor: 7730 North Milwaukee, Niles, IL on the first Tuesday of the month. Live Polka music from 5-6pm. There is a short meeting at 6pm followed by cake, coffee, and bingo. Join us for an enjoyable evening. Call Richard 847-209-1385.



## Young At Heart Ballroom Dancing



Young at Heart Ballroom dancing for dancers of all ages. We are a not for profit organization and have been in existence for 18 years.  
Dance Friday nights from 7:30pm - 10:30pm at the American Legion, 9757 W. Pacific, Franklin Park, Illinois. Doors open at 6:30. Admission - members \$10, guests \$12 - Cash Bar.  
Dances every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.  
We are a friendly group, large dance floor, plenty of free parking.  
For more information or directions please call Char at 773-203-2053.

May the peace and joy of the holiday season lift your spirit.



8057 Niles Center Road, Skokie, IL 60077-2599  
Phone: (847) 673-6111 / Fax: (847) 673-8976



## 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 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.

### The Original "Christmas Tree Ship"

The Rouse Simmons was the original "Christmas Tree Ship" that came to Chicago at the beginning of the holiday season for over 30 years in the early 1900's. The "Christmas Tree Ship" was a three masted schooner that was easily recognized by waiting crowds when they saw a Christmas tree tied to her main mast and her decks loaded with thousands of Christmas trees destined for Chicago families. For more of the story visit our website at [www.christmasship.org](http://www.christmasship.org).

The Chicago's Christmas Ship Executive Committee wishes to thank all that made this year's event a tremendous success! The 2015 Chicago's Christmas Ship will be Saturday, December 5th, 2015.

We couldn't make this happen without the help of individuals and groups that support us through financial and in-kind donations. 100% of donated funds are used for the purchase of Christmas trees.

### 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 off-loaded 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.

## Winter Farmers Market in Jefferson Park

December 23, 2018, January 27, 2019, April 7, 2019, May 5, 2019. Hours 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Produce, Canned Goods, Meats, Crafts & More! Brunch available - Cash Bar. Also see [www.JeffersonParkSundayMarket.com](http://www.JeffersonParkSundayMarket.com)

### Visit the Evanston Indoor Farmers' Market this Winter!

The Ecology Center Indoor Farmers' Market returns for the season with a variety of vendors selling wintertime goods! The market will be at the Ecology Center every Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, until the end of April. Free parking is available in the lot at Bridge Street and McCormick Boulevard.

## Prepping Car for Winter Driving

**Winter tires** – when temperatures drop, changing to winter tires is smart:

- Winter tires provide increased traction, braking and handling.
- When you equip your car with winter tires, you're prepared for changing road conditions.
- Cold temperatures decrease the elasticity of the rubber compound in tires, contributing to a reduction in traction. Winter tires are designed to remain flexible in cold weather, which allows the tire to conform to the road surface and maintain grip on snow and ice.

**Winter car care** – prevention and maintenance is key to keeping your car moving in harsh weather:

- Check your tire pressure – Although you want to do this monthly, it is especially important to check tire pressure in win-

ter weather. For every 10 degrees the temperature drops, your tires can lose about 1 pound per square inch (PSI) of pressure. It's quick and easy to do. You can find the manufacturer's specific tire pressure on the inside of the doorjamb.

- Turn on your headlights – In inclement weather, visibility is oftentimes less than perfect. Turning on your lights allows you to see, and just as important, to be seen by others. Remember this general rule: Wipers On - Lights On.
- Keep a roadside emergency kit and necessary supplies in your vehicle during the winter months. We suggest carrying:
  - Hand/feet warmers
  - A stocking cap and a blanket
  - LED flashers/flares
  - A spare phone charger
  - Kitty litter
  - Food/snacks

## C.A.R.E.'s WINTER Safety For Pets

By Janice Cha, C.A.R.E. volunteer

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

### Coats, Boots And Fur

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

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

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

### Health And Age

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

Very young and very old animals are also vulnerable. Be particularly gentle with elderly, arthritic pets. The cold can leave joints stiff and tender. Make sure they have warm, soft beds. Also, be cautious with older dogs when you walk them outside:

a slip on the ice can cause significant injury – for them AND for you!

### Water And Fire

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

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

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

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

### Holiday Challenges

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

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

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

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

### High Anxiety

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

*Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.) is a Skokie-based, volunteer-operated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization founded in 1987. C.A.R.E.'s mission is to rehome companion pets into safe forever homes; to serve as an educational and counseling resource; and to work to reduce pet overpopulation. C.A.R.E. has opened its animal rescue facility at 4927 Main Street in Skokie this past Spring.*

## XFINITY STORE TO OPEN IN EVANSTON

### New store to open at 1608 Sherman Ave.



Comcast announced today that an Xfinity Store is set to open in Evanston, IL, at 1608 Sherman Ave. around the end of 2018. The new store will give visitors hands-on experience with Xfinity's range of products and services, from the company's mobile phone service, Xfinity Mobile, cable TV and high-speed Internet, to its home security platform, Xfinity Home.

The store also will feature iPads and other mobile devices visitors can use to explore Xfinity's Android and iOS apps. Apps range from: Xfinity Stream, which allows customers to watch live TV anywhere at home over WiFi, watch more than 200 live channels outside their homes, stream more than 70,000 On Demand choices on-the-go and download movies and TV shows; and Xfinity WiFi, which allows customers to search for locations of the network's more than 19 million hotspots across the country and more than 1.7 million in the region; to xFi, which allows high-speed Internet customers to personalize and control their home networks.

"The stores are awesome places to visit and learn more about Xfinity products and services from the trained store staff," said John Crowley, Comcast's Greater Chicago Region senior vice president. "Visitors are welcome to come in and experience our products and services like they would at home."

"I'm pleased to welcome Xfinity to downtown Evanston," said Mayor Stephen Hagerty. "I think customers will be really pleased by the new design of the Xfinity store which will fit in well with the new activity in the area including Fountain Square, the new Target store, Uncle Dan's and Colectivo Coffee. This location will make it easy for residents to get information about Xfinity's communications and technology services, while contributing to the economic vitality of our community."

Along with product and service demos, customers will be able to pay bills, pick up and return equipment and get assistance from trained, knowledgeable sales and service consultants. Store hours will be Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m.

For more information about Xfinity products, services and retail stores, call 1-(800)-XFINITY or visit [www.xfinity.com](http://www.xfinity.com).

## Ascension Living's Presence Resurrection Life Center Named to Best Nursing Homes List

Presence Resurrection Life Center an Ascension Living owned skilled nursing facility located at 7370 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, has named by U.S. News and World Report as one of "America's Best Short-Stay Rehabilitation Centers." U.S. News and World Report identified the Best Nursing Homes for 2018-19 after evaluating more than 15,000 homes nationwide, in every state and nearly 100 major metropolitan areas.

"This designation is a testament to the dedication, personalized care and service provided by every member of the Resurrection Life Center team who are driven by a commitment to delivering quality care and living out our mission," said Gayle Trupiano, president and chief executive officer, Ascension Living. "It truly is an honor to have Resurrection Life Center as one of the 14 Ascension Living communities nationally recognized by this leading publication."

For the 2018-19 ratings, U.S. News debuted a new Short-Stay Rehabilitation rating. This rating was created to help patients who stay less than 100 days have a better understanding of the quality of care provided by skilled nursing facilities (or nursing homes) to short-stay patients requiring rigorous rehabilitation or skilled nursing care after a hospital stay and before they return home after a surgery, stroke, accident or illness. The Short-Stay Rehabilitation rating was determined by nine measures of facility quality, counting three measures of short-stay outcomes – hospital readmissions, emergency room visits and successful discharges – as well as data on staffing of registered nurses and physical therapists, the number of verified grievances per patient, and other metrics.

"Every year we strive to improve upon the information we offer to caregivers making critical health care decisions for their loved ones," said Ben Harder, Chief of Health Analysis at U.S. News. "We understand that nurse staffing is among the most important predictors of nursing home quality. With our new methodology and Short-Stay Rehabilitation rating, we have taken several steps to ensure that nursing homes that consistently provide high-quality care to residents are highlighted."

To learn more about Ascension Living communities, visit [www.ascensionliving.org](http://www.ascensionliving.org) and [www.presencehealth.org/lifeconnections](http://www.presencehealth.org/lifeconnections).

## Governor's Mansion Publishes History Curriculum Guide Endorsed By The State Board Of Education

### Resource Packed With Student Lessons, Activities Connected To The People's House

A new Illinois Governor's Mansion curriculum guide contains scores of suggestions for activities, online resource links and ways to engage today's students in yesterday's lessons for a better tomorrow, state officials said.

The 44-page guide, released today, provides a variety of learning activities connecting K-12 math, science, art, music, reading and writing lessons with the rich history surrounding some of the movers and shakers who occupied the Governor's Mansion dating back to the Civil War and through the early 1900s.

"We want everyone in Illinois to visit the People's House, a site of history, culture and civic pride," First Lady Diana Rauner

wrote in a prefacing letter for the guide. "It offers a wonderful journey through our past, and its lessons need not be confined to a place.

"This guide is a means of extending the Illinois Governor's Mansion's education mission to inspire students and teachers to look deeper into our history as a way to inform the future and define their roles in it," added Mrs. Rauner, who also is the chairwoman of the nonprofit mansion association, which undertook extensive renovations of the 1850s-era structure in recent years.

Learning activities in the Illinois State Board of Education-endorsed guide correspond with exhibits on display at the

mansion, located at 410 E. Jackson St. in Springfield.

Gov. Bruce Rauner hailed the guide as a terrific compilation of ways for teachers to bring Illinois history to life in their classrooms.

The guide also includes historic maps of Springfield, an extensive civics books list divided by grade and subject, and myriad links to online learning resources as well as references to correlating Illinois State Learning Standards.

State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith called on teachers to avail themselves of the new resource.

## Mayor Emanuel And Choose Chicago Announce Conde Nast Traveler's Names Chicago As Best Big City In The U.S. For Second Year In A Row

### The Travel Publication's Top Accolade Comes As Choose Chicago Releases Third Quarter Of Record High Tourism Levels In 2018

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and David Whitaker, President & CEO of Choose Chicago, today announced that for the second consecutive year, Conde Nast Traveler's readers have voted Chicago as the best big city in the U.S. Last year was a first for Chicago and once again, the publication's Reader's Choice Awards voted the city to the top spot in its annual survey.

Condé Nast Traveler is a luxury and lifestyle travel magazine published by Condé Nast. The publication's Readers' Choice Awards are billed as the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry and are commonly known as "the best of the best of travel."

"Congratulations to all of our residents who worked to make Chicago the best big city in America. From our award-winning restaurants, to world-renowned cultural institutions and every exciting

neighborhood in between, this recognition is as much about their efforts as it is about our strong tourism industry. Together, we'll continue highlighting all the best our City has to offer, making sure Chicago remains a top tourist destination for years to come," said Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry and are commonly known as "the best of the best of travel." Conde Nast readers have been rating their travel experiences via the publication's Readers' Choice Awards since 1988.

This recognition affirms the continued positive momentum being generated by Chicago's Hospitality and Meetings Industry.

## Mayor Emanuel And The James Beard Foundation Announce Awards Ceremony To Be Held In Chicago Through 2027

### The "Oscars of the Food Industry" Extends Stay in Chicago for Six Additional Years

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and James Beard Foundation CEO Clare Reichenbach announced today that Chicago will continue to host the James Beard Foundation Awards, an annual event honoring the best of the best in the food and restaurant industry, for an additional six years. The James Beard Foundation Awards successfully made the move to Chicago in 2015, with the support of the city, Choose Chicago, and the Illinois Restaurant Association, amongst many other city and state supporters. Currently slated to complete its run in 2021, today's announcement ensures that the James Beard Foundation Awards will call Chicago home each year through 2027.

"The opportunity to host the James Beard Awards for an additional six years is testament to the city of Chicago's reputation as a culinary capital and cultural destination," Mayor Emanuel said. "Chicago's world-class culinary scene is an important part of the city's economy, supporting tourism, jobs and economic opportunities in neighborhoods across the city. We are proud to continue hosting this prestigious event and look forward to showing even more visitors what our city has to offer."

The 2019 James Beard Awards celebrations will begin in New York City on Friday, April 26, 2019, with the James Beard Media Awards, a celebratory event honoring the nation's top cookbook

authors, culinary broadcast producers and hosts, and food journalists that will take place at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers.

The events then move to Chicago, beginning with the Leadership Awards Dinner on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at which honorees will be recognized for their work in creating a more healthful, sustainable, and just food world. The James Beard Awards Gala will take place on Monday, May 6, 2019, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. During the event, which is open to the public, awards for the Restaurant and Chef and Restaurant Design categories will be handed out, along with special achievement awards Lifetime Achievement, Design Icon, and America's Classics. A gala reception will immediately follow, featuring top chefs and beverage professionals from across the country.

"We are thrilled that Chicago will serve as home to the James Beard Awards through 2027," said Sam Toia, President and CEO, Illinois Restaurant Association. "The ceremony's continued presence in Chicago punctuates our leadership in the world's culinary landscape. We look forward to welcoming the Foundation and the visitors who travel here for the Awards, and to celebrating the impressive accomplishments of the restaurant industry's finest."

## Evanston Expands Divvy Bike Share Program with Three New Stations



Community members will enjoy improved access to the City's Divvy bike share network with the installation of three additional docking stations, the City announced today.

Evanston residents and visitors can now access Divvy bikes at 14 stations throughout the city. New station locations include:

- Levy Senior Center, Dodge Avenue at Mulford Street
- Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Ridge Avenue at Leonard Place
- Central Street at Lincolnwood Drive

The City purchased the stations, along with 30 bikes, at a significant discount from Motivate International, Inc., operator of the Divvy system, after the Village of Oak Park ended its participation in the program. The three stations and 30 bikes were purchased for just under \$34,000, while one new station and 10 bikes typically costs a minimum of \$55,000.

"Divvy ridership continues to grow in Evanston, decreasing congestion on our streets and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions," said Mayor Stephen Hagerty. "Expanding the Divvy bike share program will significantly improve access for residents in west and northwest Evanston, ensuring that more riders can take advantage of this healthy, convenient and sustainable transportation option. The City also expects that new sponsorship agreements in place in 2019 will allow the program to operate at no cost to taxpayers, making this a win-win for the whole community."

So far in 2018, Divvy riders have pedaled more than 54,000 miles on trips originating in Evanston, offsetting 36,753 pounds of carbon pollution. As of August 2018, 1,170 Evanston residents held Divvy memberships, an increase of more than 12 percent over the previous year.

In August, the City and Divvy announced the expansion of the Divvy for Everyone program to Evanston, providing \$5 Divvy memberships to income-qualified residents. All annual memberships include unlimited rides of 45 minutes or less anywhere within Divvy's network. With the launch of the Divvy for Everyone program and installation of three new stations, the City expects membership to continue to grow.

For more information, visit [DivvyBikes.com](http://DivvyBikes.com) or call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents may simply dial 3-1-1 in Evanston.

## OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

Published by Village Publications

P.O. Box 31391, Chicago, IL 60631 • 773-633-4059

[www.ourvillagechicago.com](http://www.ourvillagechicago.com) • email: [contact@ourvillagechicago.com](mailto:contact@ourvillagechicago.com)

Copyright ©2018 *Our Village*. All rights reserved as to entire content. All articles, letters, pictures sent to Village Publications are at own risk.

# Village "Holiday" Cooking Corner

Enjoy these great ideas for your Holiday entertaining. Don't forget to begin the New Year by partaking of a bit of Pickled Herring. It will bring you good luck!!

## Mini Cannoli Dessert

20 cannolis  
2 pounds Sorrento ricotta cheese  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
2 ounces white crème de cocoa liqueur  
1 ounce vanilla extract  
6 ounces cool whip  
1/2 cup chocolate chips  
1 cup chrused pistachio  
20 mini cannoli shells (find in any italian store)

In a bowl, mix together 2 pounds Sorrento ricotta cheese, 1/2 ounce granulated sugar, 2 ounces white crème de cocoa liqueur and 1 ounce vanilla extract, mix for 2-3 minutes. Add 6 ounces cool whip and 1/2 cup chocolate chips, mix until equally combined. Fill mini cannoli shells. Finish by sprinkling crushed pistachio on each end of the cannolis.

Submitted by Vines Italian Restaurant, Harwood Heights

## Water Chestnut Hors d'oeuvres

Soak drained, whole water chestnuts in soy sauce 1/2 hour. Roll in sugar. Cut strips of bacon lengthwise, and crosswise wrap bacon around chestnuts, securing with toothpicks. Bake: 400 20 minutes. Drain Grease and Bake again: 350 5 minutes.

From the Kitchen of Laurel Atkisson

## Rock Cookies For The Holidays

Raisins, dates, nuts and spices such as cinnamon and cloves are classic ingredients in Holiday baking, along with brown sugar. These drop cookies will become one of your favorites, and with ingredients such as raisins, dates and nuts, they are not just delicious, but healthy as well. you can substitute dried cranberries if you want to.

Ingredients: 1 tsp. baking soda dissolved in a little warm water  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 cups flour  
1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
8 oz. each raisins & dates  
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts  
2/3 cup butter, 2 eggs  
1/2 tsp. cloves

Preparation: Cream butter with sugar and eggs until fluffy. Slowly beat in flour which has been sifted with the cinnamon and cloves. Add the dissolved baking soda. Stir in chopped nuts, raisins and diced dates. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes at 375 degrees.

From the kitchen of Maria Bappert

## Piquant Meat Balls

2 pounds ground beef  
1 egg  
2 tablespoons bread crumbs  
1 teaspoon salt  
pepper to taste  
12-oz. bottle of chili sauce  
6 ounces grape jelly  
Juice of 1 lemon

Combine meat, egg, bread crumbs, and seasonings. Shape into balls the size of a walnut. Heat chili sauce, jelly, and lemon juice in a heavy skillet or Dutch oven until blended. Add the meat balls, cover, and simmer for 30 minutes. Uncover and cook 15 minutes longer, stirring frequently to prevent sticking. Serves 8 to 10. Keep hot in a chafing dish.

From the kitchen of Rose Suter

## Wassail of Old England

3 qt. apple cider  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 tbsp. honey or brown sugar  
1 bottle brandy  
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg  
2 tsp. whole cloves  
1 stick of cinnamon  
Apple Slices, Lemon Peel

Simmer the cider and spices for a few minutes. Then warm the brandy slightly. Pour 24 jiggers of brandy in the bowl and set ablaze. Then pour the cider and spices into the bowl. Float the apple slices and lemon peel on top.

From The Kitchens of K. Roberts

## Apricot Bar Cookies

A number of years ago, our family received a big plate of these bar cookies from a good friend, Fran. I asked her if she would share the recipe with me, and she agreed. The Apricot Bar Cookies are absolutely yummy and easy to make. Add them to your "Cookies" file folder.

Ingredients: 1 cup butter, 2 cups sifted flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup chopped walnuts, 2 egg yolks and 1 - 12 oz. jar apricot preserves.

Method: Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add yolks, blend well. Then add the flour and nuts and mix until blended. Grease and flour a 9 x 13" pan. Spread half of the mixture with fingers into the pan (flour on your hands helps). Spread the preserves to 1/4" from the edges, then cover with the remaining flour mixture. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Cut into small squares while warm. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar if desired.

From the kitchen of Maria Bappert

## Boursin Cheese

8 oz. cream cheese  
1 clove crushed garlic  
3 tsp. fresh minced parsley  
1 tsp. basil leaves  
2 T chopped chives  
1 T dry white vermouth  
lemon pepper

Blend cream cheese and garlic and add everything else. Serve with crackers or in celery.

From the kitchen of Rose Suter

## Walnut Cake "Karithopita"

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

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

By Eleni Andritsakis

## Kugel

8oz. of egg noodles  
1 tsp. salt  
1 large cream cheese  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 lb. butter  
1 cup milk  
4 eggs  
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  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 cup sugar

Mix together, spread on top. Bake at 375 for 1 1/2 hours.

From The Kitchens of Chris

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

As families and friends across Illinois makes 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.

**WE ARE BUYING...**

**Christmas Pre-1970 Antique/Vintage Ornaments  
Decorated Glass and Beaded  
Santas! Snowmen! Elves! Reindeer!  
Ceramic Lighted Christmas Trees • Aluminum Trees  
Christmas Tree Pins and Holiday Jewelry**

MON-SAT 10:30 - 4:30  
(hours can change depending on Holidays)

773-631-1151 7214 N. Harlem Ave  
Chicago IL 60631

**Juju's  
Vintage  
Antique & Resale Shoppe Inc.**

**WE BUY: Vintage Jewelry • Fine • Sterling • Costume  
Antique Treasures & Fun Doo Dads • X-Mas Ornaments & Valentines**

**www.JujusVintageAntiqueandResale.com**

## Kiwanis Of Ravenswood

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, and we will have Mr. Jeffrey Sadowski, the Executive Director from the NBGC. He will bring along a young man, a former NBGC member, who will soon be working for them. We look forward to their visit.



*We wish all of our Kiwanis Friends  
a Blessed Christmas as well as Good Health and  
Happiness in the New Year.*

**AMERICA'S BEST  
CONTACTS & EYEGLASSES.**

Visit Our Portage Park location at:  
**4068 North Milwaukee Ave  
Chicago, IL 60641**  
Our direct phone number is:  
**224.714.5621**

**2 Pairs of EYEGLASSES \$69.95**  
as low as

including a **FREE Eye Exam!**

**BRING IN THIS AD AND RECEIVE  
10% OFF!**

Cannot be combined with insurance.

**JOIN THE EYECARE CLUB**

- Free Eye Exams
- Contacts from \$14.99 per box
- 10% OFF Contacts & Eyeglasses

**GREAT MUSIC. GREAT THEATER. THE WORKS.**

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S  
**Into the Woods**

With full orchestra  
**December 22-31**  
 Cahn Auditorium, Evanston  
 Tickets from \$34  
 25 and younger 1/2 price  
 (recommended for 8 and older)

**MusicTheaterWorks.com**  
 (847) 920-5360

**MUSIC THEATER WORKS**

Formerly LIGHT OPERA WORKS

emerald city theatre  
 presents

**FANTASTIC Mr. Fox**

Adapted for the stage by **David Wood**  
 From the book by **Roald Dahl**  
 Directed by **Jacqueline Stone**

**You're invited to a fox's feast!**  
**DECEMBER 9, 2018 - JANUARY 12, 2019**  
 at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago

**Tickets are on sale now!**  
 Call 773.871.3000 or visit [EmeraldCityTheatre.com](http://EmeraldCityTheatre.com)

VICTORY GARDENS THEATER YOUR WORLD ON STAGE

THE ORIGINAL STAGE PRODUCTION THAT HAS  
 TERRIFIED OVER 8 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD  
 IS NOW LIVE IN CHICAGO!

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK  
 IS A HIT!**

★★★★★

"A TOE-CURLING SHOCKER! THE  
 SCARIEST SHOW IN TOWN!"  
 Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

"GLORIOUSLY CHILLING! THE  
 TENSION IS PALPABLE. ALL IN ALL,  
 VERY SCARY AND GREAT FUN!"  
 Dan Zeff, Chicagolandtheaterreviews.com

SUSAN HILL'S  
**THE WOMAN  
 IN BLACK**

ADAPTED BY STEPHEN MALLATRATT DIRECTOR ROBIN HERFORD

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT!  
 PERFORMANCES THROUGH FEBRUARY 17

ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE  
 1641 N HALSTED, CHICAGO

312.988.9000 [ticketmaster](https://www.ticketmaster.com)  
[www.thewomaninblack.com](http://www.thewomaninblack.com)

**"AVENUE Q IS A HIT AT MERCURY THEATER!"**  
 -Highly Recommended, Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

**"A MIX OF WARMTH & NAUGHTINESS!"**  
 Hedy Weiss, WTTW's Chicago Tonight

**Avenue Q**

PARENTAL ADVISORY  
 PUPPET NUDITY ON STAGE

MERCURY THEATER CHICAGO  
 3745 N. Southport Ave

773.325.1700  
[mercurytheaterchicago.com](http://mercurytheaterchicago.com)

f t i #AvenueQChi