



# OUR VILLAGE



FREE

FREE

Volume XIII

P.O. Box 31391,  
Chicago, IL 60631

[www.OurVillageChicago.com](http://www.OurVillageChicago.com)

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Issue 24  
January 29, 2010

## Local Youths Place First in Junior National Skating Championships

Angelina Giordano and Christopher Davis are the 2010 United States Juvenile Ice Dance Champions. They placed first out of 12 teams at the Junior National Championships which were held December 15-19 in Cleveland, Ohio. Angelina and Christopher both learned to skate at the Robert Crown Center in Evanston during practice ice sessions. The team is coached by staff Skating Professional Christopher Hyland.

Manol Atanassov is the 2010 Bulgarian Junior National Champion. He won the Bulgarian junior national title this past weekend on January 10. Manol has been skating at Robert Crown since 2006. He was the Nutcracker Prince in our annual production of "The Nutcracker on Ice" in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Manol is coached by staff Skating Professional Nick Belovol.



Christopher Davis and Angelina Giordano "United States Juvenile Ice Dance Champions" from the U.S. Junior National Figure Skating Championships in Strongsville, Ohio.

## CHICAGOLAND RESIDENTS: MAKE 2010 A YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

When making your list of New Year's resolutions for 2010, how about including a fun one? Chicagoans can show off their neighborhood pride and give back to their community by volunteering for the Chicago Greeter program, a free, informal tour service in which locals introduce visitors to more than 40 special interest topics and 25 neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

As volunteers, Chicago Greeters give two-to-four hour "insider introductions" to their favorite parts of Chicago—topics can range from hidden gem restaurants in the Loop to public murals in Pilsen. Visitors are matched with Greeters based on the individual's interests, availability and language. Greeters are encouraged to personalize visits with their own experiences and specialties, taking guests across the city, demonstrating its walkability and the user-friendliness of its public transportation system.

The Chicago Office of Tourism is actively recruiting new Chicago-area volunteers to join the program in 2010. All potential Greeters are welcome to apply through the Chicago Greeter website, at [www.chicagogreeter.com/apply](http://www.chicagogreeter.com/apply).

New Greeter interviews and training will be conducted through spring 2010. Greeters are most needed in the following areas:

- Knowledge of Bronzeville and African American history in Chicago
- German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and other foreign language skills
- Familiarity with south side neighborhoods such as Bridgeport, Hyde Park and Beverly
- Familiarity with north side neighborhoods such as Albany Park and North Center

Ideal Greeters are friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the city. Becoming a Chicago Greeter requires no additional experience—just a passion for Chicago. Basic training is provided by the program. Visits are generally scheduled between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Chicago Greeter program requests a commitment of at least six visits per year.

Since April 2002, Chicago Greeter has been a resource for visitors as well as locals entertaining visiting family and friends. Chicago Greeter currently has 190 volunteers, representing dozens of languages. There have been over 8,000 Greeter visits to date, servicing visitors from 80 different countries. Chicago Greeter visits originate at the Chicago Cultural Center's Visitor Information Center, 77 East Randolph Street.

Visitors and Chicagoans planning to entertain out-of-town guests can receive Chicago brochures, reserve hotel accommodations and receive trip-planning assistance by calling toll-free 1.877.CHICAGO (1.877.244.2246), or visiting [www.ExploreChicago.org](http://www.ExploreChicago.org). Brochures and information on Chicago's events and activities are also available at the Visitor Information Centers. The centers are located at Chicago Water Works, 163 East Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue and the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 East Randolph Street. The TTY toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1.866.710.0294.

## ST. HYACINTH BASILICA SCHOOL

Invites Everyone To The

### First Annual Family Fun Night!

All St. Hyacinth Families and the Community are Welcome FOR FREE!

Friday, February 5, 2010  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

School building located at 3640 W. Wolfram St., Chicago  
There is plenty of parking.

Questions? (773) 342-7550

*This is not your typical Catholic School Open House during Catholic Schools Week...*



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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- See our new additions to the school and curriculum

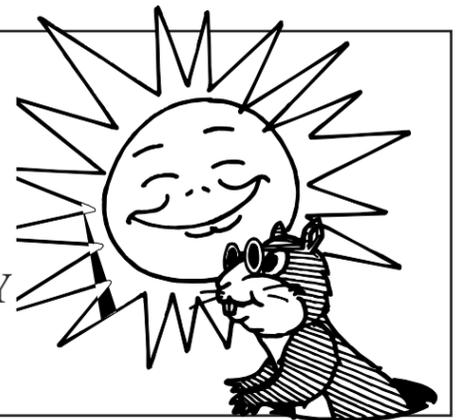
And... Did we mention this event is completely **FREE FOR EVERYONE?!?!**

We also invite everyone to join our **All School Mass** to kick off **Catholic Schools Week** at St. Hyacinth Basilica on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 10:45 a.m.

## 50% OFF Early Bird Registration

If your family registers for the 2010-2011 school year on January 31st after the 10:45am Mass or on February 5th at the Family Fun Night, registration will only be \$50.00!!! (Registration is normally \$100.00) This applies to current and new families!!!

WATCH FOR YOUR SHADOW ON GROUNDHOG'S DAY FEBRUARY 2ND



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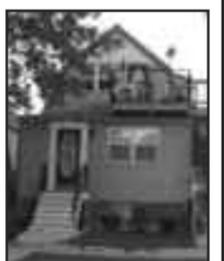
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## Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers February Health Programs

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

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

**Cardiac check-ups** will be offered at HeartFest on Saturday, February 6, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For \$30, participants will receive an electrocardiogram interpreted by a board-certified cardiologist, cholesterol and blood glucose screenings (12-hour fasting recommended), blood pressure screening, consultations with a registered pharmacist about medications and a registered dietitian about healthy eating and good nutrition. Complimentary health information will be available, including "Act in Time for Heart Attack" signs, and refreshments will be provided. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

A free **Healthy Aging Program** will be held Friday, February 12, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. This program for individuals aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and guest lectures. A respiratory therapist will discuss respiratory illness. Registration is not required.

**Free blood pressure screenings** will be offered Monday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

**The Arthritis Support Group** will meet Thursday, February 25, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required. Free parking is available in the hospital's parking facility on Addison Street.

## Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers Prenatal Program for Uninsured and Uninsured Women

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison St., Chicago, is offering prenatal care. The New Beginnings Prenatal Program is aimed at assisting uninsured and underinsured pregnant women by providing them with quality prenatal care, counseling and emotional support. The program is located on the second floor of the hospital. Appointments can be made by calling 773-527-5850.

Each woman who participates is offered the following services: a multilingual staff, including Polish and Spanish; an initial exam and routine office visits; lab and ultrasound tests; nutrition counseling; childbirth, infant care, parenting and breastfeeding classes; and assistance in filing forms for Medicaid and the state's All Kids program that covers children and mothers who need health insurance. A free infant car seat will be provided to those who qualify.

Labor, delivery and postpartum care take will place in The Family Birthplace at Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, with expert care, modern delivery capabilities and pleasant, comfortable birthing suites.

## 41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board Meeting

The 41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board will not meet at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at Olympia Park Fieldhouse, 6566 N. Avondale Avenue, Chicago.

There are no items on the Agenda.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alderman Brian G. Doherty's office at 773-792-1991.

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## CJE SENIORLIFE CO-HOSTING FREE PANEL DISCUSSION ON OBTAINING HEALTH INSURANCE WHEN YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED

With unemployment across the State of Illinois hovering near 10 percent, one of the biggest concerns of individuals and families is maintaining their health insurance coverage. Being unemployed, however, doesn't necessarily mean the end of the line for your health insurance. There are options available.

Through Project Connect, a panel of experts from CJE SeniorLife, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) will host a free program, "Obtaining Health Insurance When You are Unemployed" on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m., at the Bernard Horwich Building, 3003 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago. Attendees will learn about health insurance options, including COBRA, state benefits and buying insurance coverage, as well as how credit rating impacts individual's ability to purchase health insurance. Information about other community resources will also be available.

Those interested in attending must RSVP to Tracey Lipsig Kite with JCFS at 847/745-5411 or LEN@jcfs.org.

CJE, JVS and JCFS, all affiliates of Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, have seen a large surge in financially struggling clients in Chicago communities as a result of the contracting economy. To respond most efficiently to community needs, these three social service agencies have joined forces through Project Connect. Together these agencies are helping clients navigate the wide array of support services they may need to combat and survive these difficult economic times. Project Connect is being piloted in Chicago and in Skokie with generous grants from the Polk Bros. Foundation and the Jewish Federation's J-HELP initiative.

CJE SeniorLife is an innovative provider of community-based and residential programs, and services for older adults throughout the Chicago area. Over the past 38 years, CJE's wide range of services has grown to include assisted living, counseling and care management, long-term skilled nursing, Alzheimer's care, home health, wellness programs and much more. CJE is a partner in serving the community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation. For more information about CJE services, call 773/508-1000 or visit [www.cje.net](http://www.cje.net).

### LINCOLNWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY 4000 W. Pratt Ave., (847) 677-5277 [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org)

**Humanities Treasures.** This free discussion group meets Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. at the Lincolnwood Library to explore current events and selected readings. Humanities Treasures is affiliated with the Oakton Community College Emeritus Program.

"You Have a New Digital Camera, Now What?" Liberty Bank for Savings is offering a FREE workshop for those who want to learn how to operate a digital camera. Bring your camera, owner's manual, cables and batteries to this hands-on workshop.

Reservations are required. Call 773-489-4471 or make your reservation online at [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

#### CHILDREN & TEENS

**Afterschool Café.** Mondays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Students of all ages can buy a snack and relax before tackling homework.

**Acting Class.** Mondays beginning Feb. 1, 2 p.m. Games, skits, bit parts and more "acting out" for students in 3rd-5th grade, directed by Debbi Brodsky. Possible show in April. Register with Lincolnwood Library's Youth Services Department, 847-677-5277 x234 or [youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org](mailto:youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org).

**Stories & More.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Children ages 3-5 enjoy language-rich activities including fingerplays, songs, and crafts during each 45-minute session. Siblings welcome.

**Beginning with Books.** Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Stories, songs, and activities for infants to 2-year-olds and a caregiver. Families are welcome to stay for Playtime program that follows.

**Playtime at the Library.** Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. A friendly, social time for young children, ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Toys and snacks are provided for the children.

**Chess Club.** Sundays, 3-4:30 p.m. Students in grades 1-6 are invited to learn chess, improve skills, and play against friends.

**Knitting for All Ages.** Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. Adults and children, ages 10 and up, can learn to knit or work on a project.

#### CLASSES

**Knitting for Adults.** Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults can learn to knit or work on knitting projects. All skill levels welcome.

#### CLUBS

The Friends of Lincolnwood Library meet the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

The Adult Stamp Club meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

The Mac Users Club meets the second Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

## 2010 US Census

According to the 2000 Census, 15% of all Americans consider themselves German or 42.8 million people.

The 2010 Census is upon us - you can participate by :

1. Taking the time to participate in the census (and tell them you are German!)
2. Work for the Census. Walk in testing is available at the DANK Haus at 10am and 12:30 pm  
Payscale between \$16 and \$19, flexible hours, paid training.

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## FREE - WORKSHOP TO APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

35TH WARD REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION, WALTER ZARNECKI  
COMMITTEEMAN, INVITES ALL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN  
RE-ASSESSED.

WHERE: St. Hyacinth Basilica School Cafeteria in Resurrection Hall  
2845 N. Lawndale Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60618

WHEN: Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 7:00 p. m.

Members of the Cook County Board of Review will assist you. Bring your Assessment or property tax bill.

Polish and Spanish interpreters provided.

## The Foster Harlem Property Owners Association

The Foster Harlem Property Owners Association's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 18th, 7:00pm at St. Monica's Beyenka Hall, 5101 N Mont Clare. The Association will host Commander David McNaughton of the 16th District and Cynthia Fox, Manager of Community Relations for Friends of the Chicago River. All are welcome to attend.

## "BORN IN MAUTHAUSEN: EVA CLARKE'S STORY" SURVIVOR DISCUSSION

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will welcome Eva Clarke, one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust, to the Museum to share her mother's inspiring story on the strength of the human spirit. Eva was born on a train en route to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. She owes her life to her mother's tenacity and the arrival of American GI liberators when she was only three days old. Come join us as we listen to Eva's story and engage in a history lesson from the woman who lived it.

Thursday, February 18  
6:30 p.m.

Tickets: Museum members: \$10 / Non-members: \$20 Museum admission included.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED -- Call 847.967.4889 or visit [www.ilholocaust-museum.org](http://www.ilholocaust-museum.org).

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Museum Hall, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

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## State Requires Calculation Increase in First Installment for New Property Tax Bills

### Due Date is March 2, 2010, for New Property Tax Bills

The state of Illinois has mandated a change in how First Installment property tax bills for tax year 2009 are calculated, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

Bills for about 1.7 million parcels of real estate across Cook County have been mailed, and payment is due March 2, 2010, Pappas said. Late payment receives a penalty of 1.5 percent per month.

Pappas said that the new bills are the first affected by a law passed by the Illinois Legislature ordering that the First Installment be calculated at 55 percent of the previous year's property tax obligation. The calculation rate had been 50 percent for previous First Installment bills.

The remaining property tax obligation for tax year 2009 will be calculated in the Second Installment bill later this year. Pappas said that due date cannot be determined until other agencies review some 400,000 assessment appeals.

If that appeals process is delayed, the Second Installment due date could be as late as December, 2010, or January, 2011, according to projections during county budget hearings in the fall.

Property owners can visit [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and enter their Property Index Number to see how much their current bills are, whether they have received proper exemptions, and whether they are due a refund.

Payment info also is available at 312.443.5100 in English, Polish and Spanish.

Pappas said payment can be made:

- Electronically, at [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com).
- At any of more than 370 Chase Bank locations.
- From personal accounts at some 220 participating community banks.

## Evanston Ecology Center Great Backyard Bird Count

Your backyard is filled with nature's splendor! Join the Ecology Center from Feb. 13-16 in a joint project of the Cornell Ornithology and Audubon Society in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Inspire the bird watcher in you while helping the environment at the same time. Drop by the center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday February 12th or Saturday February 13th, at 2024 McCormick for a brief training on what to look for and how to record your information.

For more details, call 847-448-8256.

**Correction:** The time frame for families to pick up packets and receive training for the Backyard Bird Count is incorrectly listed in the Rec Calendar. There are actually only two available days, these being Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th. The times remain the same.

# TAX PREPARATION SPECIAL

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# LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

## St. Hyacinth Basilica School

Catholic Schools Week is a time we celebrate our students and all their hard work. It is also a time for us to thank our Parents for their commitment to our schools. For this school year our students will enjoy many exciting activities. Everyone in the community will also be able to celebrate our students' accomplishments as we invite you to come and see what St. Hyacinth has to offer. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour of the school, please contact the school office at (773) 342-7550.

**Sunday, Jan. 31: All School Mass** with families at St. Hyacinth Basilica. The Mass is at 10:45 a.m. and all are welcome to join us.

**Monday, Feb. 1: Mix Match Day** – Students can come to school wearing clothes that do not match. All classes will have time to relax and enjoy movies as a way to show our Student Appreciation!

**Tuesday, Feb. 2: Career Day** – Our students will be able to dress up like professionals in the fields they are interested in. The Student Council will be having a Bake Sale. St. Hyacinth also appreciates our great teachers and their hard work.

**Wednesday, Feb. 3: Hat Day** – Crazy hats, tall hats, sport caps, or any kind of hat are what our students will be wearing. Later in the day our students will be playing all school Bingo with many prizes to choose from.

**Thursday, Feb. 4: Science and Art Fair in Resurrection Hall.** Look at what kind of experiments our students are doing at school, and the beautiful and creative art work! If you see double today it's because today is Twin Day at school!

**Friday, Feb. 5: Spirit Day** is a day students will be able to rally and compete not only against grades but also against teachers and staff! Students will be able to wear jerseys and sports paraphernalia and play their favorite games! Please come to our First Annual Family Fun Night! It is open to all in the community and it is FREE! This year our families and the community can come and enjoy a fun evening playing board games together, or camping out with sleeping bags in pajamas while reading books. Family Fun Night starts at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served for a minimal cost. We want families to enjoy a fun time together!

**Saturday, Feb. 6:** Come out and support our Huskies as they play an away game against Queen of All Saints (Gold) 6222 N. Lamont at 11:00 a.m.

Happy Catholic Schools Week to all Catholic Schools and their students!

**(Please refer to our ad on page 1 for registration discount.)**

## GUERIN PREP STUDENTS AMONG WINNERS IN TRITON ART CONTEST

Guerin Prep students earned 22 ribbons at the recent annual Triton High School Art Competition including seven second-place ribbons and 15 third-place ribbons. Their artwork will be on display at the Triton Fine Arts Gallery through the awards ceremony on Feb. 10 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Sponsored by Triton to showcase art of area high school students, the contest awards first-, second- and third-place prizes in various categories in addition to Best of Category and Best of Show. Each art teacher from the participating high schools may submit 35 student entries. Approximately 600 student entries were submitted from all participants this year.

Guerin Prep's three art teachers sent entries in the categories of drawing, ceramics, computer-generated art, painting, photography and sculpture.

Guerin Prep's second-place ribbons went to Rhiannon Taylor and Chantel Mysliwiec of Chicago for computer; and Anna Chomiak (2), Danielle Killingsworth and Alexandra Paul of Chicago and Taylor Greene of River Grove for photography.

Third place ribbons went to Manuel Covarrubias of Chicago for ceramics; Adriana Flores (2), Rudy Melgar, Chantel Mysliwiec and Rhiannon Taylor (4), all of Chicago, for computer; Jake Alm of Chicago for mixed media; Agatha Waranka of Elmwood Park for painting; Elaisa Vargas of Chicago, Taylor Greene of River Grove and Agatha Waranka of Elmwood Park for photography; and Alyssa Aquino of Chicago for sculpture.

Guerin Prep art teachers include Mrs. Kathy Zelm, photography and computer art; Mr. Tom Susin, drawing and painting; Ms. Christen Martin, ceramics and sculpture.

## GUERIN PREP STUDENT'S ARTWORK IN TOP 10 OF CITY STICKER DESIGN CONTEST

Artwork by Guerin Prep Sophomore Gioia Marzullo earned one of the top 10 entries among the 300 sent submitted by students from 39 different schools in the Chicago area in this year's contest for a new Chicago City Vehicle Sticker.

Marzullo received an honorary resolution presented to her by Clerk Miguel del Valle at an awards ceremony at City Hall in January and a \$100 savings bond prize for her efforts.

"This year's contest theme, 'Burnham's Chicago,' encouraged students to study the work of architect Daniel Burnham," said Clerk del Valle. "I am proud of all the students who participated in the contest."

More than 300 students in grades 9–12, representing 39 Chicago high schools, entered the vehicle sticker design contest. A panel of honorary judges narrowed the entries to the top 10 designs. The public then voted online and at City Hall computer kiosks to choose the winning design. Nearly 17,500 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's contest winner.



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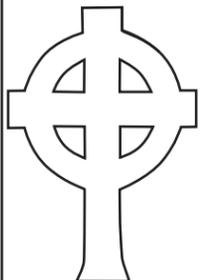
Sunday, January 31st,  
10:45 am - 12:45 pm



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Sunday, January 31st, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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# The Complications of Caregiving

By Jeremy Barewin

Informed sources say that a growing number of us are taking care of someone who is aging, ill or both. CNN reports that “one out of every four American families cares for someone over the age of 50.” Whether you are a spouse caring for a husband or wife or an adult child caring for your mother or father, it is quite common to struggle with the many challenges presented by caregiving. When it comes to managing an illness as painful and unpredictable as dementia, feelings and frustration can run particularly high.

A couple real-life situations paint a common picture of the challenges faced by family caregivers:

Don had been tenderly caring for his dementia-stricken wife Sue for four years. She seemed to get worse no matter how attentively he provided for her. As time passed, he became angry, and was confounded with doubt and uncertainties about what to do. “We had so many plans for our retirement, all out the window,” he said. “All I can do is watch while she slips away. What am I supposed to do for her, and for me? I’m only 68-years-old, and have so much living to do.”

Ilene, a happily married mother of two in her late 40s is the main caregiver for her mother, who in the early stages of dementia, is having increasing memory loss. She wonders how to best explain the situation to her children who are unable to comprehend their grandmother’s plight. “She has always been a wonderful mother and is a caring and generous grandparent,” Ilene explained. “But recently she forgot the kids’ birthdays and isn’t able to engage them in conversation like before. As a family, how do we care for her and show her the respect that she deserves? How do my husband and I help our kids relate to her now?”

The demands of living with a loved one with dementia are considerable. Caregiving can be a rewarding, yet draining, deeply lonely experience. In most cases, one cannot talk things over with their loved one anymore to make the situation better. Healthcare professionals have come to understand that support for caregivers is every bit as important as patient care.

Dementia is a progressive condition, which gradually takes away the essence of the person it afflicts. It is common, normal in fact, for caregivers in the family to grieve this type of loss, passing through the stages of mourning (denial, anger, guilt, sadness and acceptance, as identified by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, M.D.) just as when a loved one dies. Concern should set in if the process gets “stuck,” meaning that the caregiver becomes incapacitated by their negative, angry feel-

ings and resentment, unable to put emotions into perspective. Should this happen, outside help may be needed.

What can a caregiver do to maintain this balance? Joan Richman Ente, AM, LCSW, a geriatric care manager with CJE SeniorLife in Chicago, offers some guidance to address the many caregiving needs and emotions that often arise over the course of time.

Don’t fight your feelings; face them for what they are. Allow yourself to feel sad, angry, conflicted or guilty as you move through the grieving process. Know that it is normal to feel love and anger at the same time. Only by “feeling the feelings” can you begin to heal and gain better perspective.

Accept the limits and circumstances that are beyond your control. Determine what level of caregiving is realistic for you to provide and make sensible decisions about securing outside assistance. Respite care services are available from many senior health care agencies in your area. These services provide caregivers with temporary or intermittent care, allowing for relief from the daily responsibilities of caring for a loved one.

Give yourself permission to go on living and to tend to your own healthy aging. Take care of yourself and sustain yourself by seeking out activities, comforts and routine that you enjoy. Exercise can be particularly important. Stay active physically to remain in balance emotionally.

Make connections and ask for support from others. Friends, other family members, and professionals in the field of aging are all potential sources of problem-solving help and comfort. Try to connect to others in

similar circumstances, through in-person or online support groups to ward off isolation and loneliness and to become better educated about dementia and caregiving.

In all likelihood, we will all be caregivers for a loved one at some point in our life. The unpredictability of dementia and how it will affect an individual makes caregiving tasks that much more difficult. Accepting the wave of emotions that come with the caregiving role and finding the needed support can help make a difficult situation that much easier.

Many helpful family caregiving tips and resources are available on the Web at [www.caregivinghelp.org](http://www.caregivinghelp.org).

*Jeremy Barewin, M.A., is senior associate of public relations and marketing at CJE SeniorLife in Chicago. He can be reached at [Jeremy.Barewin@cje.net](mailto:Jeremy.Barewin@cje.net) or 773.508.1000.*



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The DANK-Haus in historic Lincoln Square will present "Blue Angel Kabaret", a fundraiser supporting the Fine Arts Committee.

Crooner Elizabeth Doyle of Pump Room fame does her best Marlene Dietrich across the baby grand. Champagne cocktails, grasshopper, pink ladies. Flickering candlelight, black dresses, smoky stares.

The event is Saturday February 27, 2010 at 9:00 pm. Doors open at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$35, which include one glass of champagne.

**KINDERFASCHING**

KinderFasching, a winter celebration of the 5th season of the year - Carnival season!

Come in costume - we'll have free face painting, a parade lead by the Prince & Princess, balloon artists, treats, performances by the Paloma band and the Amazonen Dance Corps.

It's a great way to spend a snowy afternoon and let the kids have a ball. Refreshments available, especially krapfen - a traditional sugar doughnut prepared on site by our Culture Kitchen. Krapfen are 2 for \$1

You don't have to be German to enjoy this day of silliness!  
February 6, 2010 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Children under 13 Free Guests 14 and over \$4

**German Cinema Now**

Your favorite contemporary films with English subtitles will be the 4th Friday of every month in 2010.

**February - Aquirre: Wrath of God**

As always - free admission, free popcorn, refreshments available

**Lost German Chicago Exhibit**

Saturdays 11am - 3pm

Come remember the institutions and establishments no longer with the Chicago community. The inspiration piece for the exhibit is 30 feet of wood-carvings from the East Dining Room of the Germania Club, closed since 1987. The carvings were rescued by the Oscar Mayer family from a private home in Logan Square in 1963 and have never been publicly displayed. They depict Wagner's operas in supreme German woodworking style.

Exhibit Free and Open to the Public. Open through Sept 2011.

Weekday visits by appointment.

**DOG & PONY THEATRE COMPANY  
PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE  
OF THE TWINS WOULD LIKE TO SAY AS  
PART OF GARAGE REP, STEPPENWOLF'S  
VISITING COMPANY INITIATIVE**

Promenade Performance Based on True Story Runs Feb. 21 - April 25

Following the 2008 success of As Told by the Vivian Girls, Dog & Pony Theatre Company presents The Twins Would Like to Say, a devised, promenade performance based on the true story of the Gibbons sisters. This world-premiere production is written and directed by Seth Bockley and Devon de Mayo and is presented as part of Garage Rep, a Steppenwolf Visiting Company Initiative.

Garage Rep features three productions from some of Chicago's most innovative theatre companies, presented in rotating repertory in Steppenwolf's Merle Reskin Garage Theatre, 1624 N. Halsted St. Garage Rep includes: Adore by XIII Pocket, punkplay by Pavement Group and The Twins Would Like to Say by Dog & Pony Theatre Company.

Garage Rep press performances take place in a marathon run Sunday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. (XIII Pocket); 4 p.m. (Dog & Pony) and 8 p.m. (Pavement Group).

Dog & Pony's The Twins Would Like to Say breathes life into the extraordinary true story of identical twins June and Jennifer Gibbons. The young girls made a secret and powerful pact that went unbroken for more than 20 years: speak to no one but each other, do everything in unison. But in the privacy of their room, the girls' fantasy life blossomed as they wrote novels of teenage lust and rebellion.

**Schedule & Ticket Information**

Two performances of The Twins Would Like to Say run on selected dates from Feb. 21-April 25 according to the following schedule.

Previews: Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 27 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.

Press performance: Sunday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. (also a show at 5:30 p.m.) as part of three-show press performance marathon.

**Regular run**

March: Saturday, March 6 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 7 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 13 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 14 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 20 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 21 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 25 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Friday, March 26 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.

April: Thursday, April 1 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Friday, April 2 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 8 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Friday, April 9 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 11 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 18 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 21 at 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 25 at 4 & 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20, \$12 for students and are available through Steppenwolf Audience Services, 1650 N. Halsted St., by calling (312) 335-1650 or online at [www.steppenwolf.org/garagerep](http://www.steppenwolf.org/garagerep). Every Wednesday performance is "pay what you can." A three-show Garage Rep marathon at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. takes place on the following Sundays: Feb. 28, April 11, 18 and 25. A three-play Garage Rep pass is available for \$45. Group discounts are available by calling (312) 932-2422.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS:**

Skokie Art Guild's 49th Annual Art Fair. July 10-11, 2010. Fine Art. Held downtown Skokie on the Village Green, 5211 Oakton (next to the Library). Prizes and Awards! APPLY NOW! For information/application: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) 847-677-8163.

The City of Evanston is seeking artists for its two summer arts festivals, the Ethnic Arts Festival, July 17-18, and the Lakeshore Arts Festival, Aug. 7-8. Set against the scenic backdrop of Evanston's lakefront, both festivals are held in Dawes Park, Church St. and Sheridan Road.

Artist applications for both festivals are now available online at [www.cityofevanston.org/arts](http://www.cityofevanston.org/arts). For more details, call 847-448-8260.

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# “A Theater Review”

## The Theatre School Showcase:

### Contemporary Plays and Classics Presents: A RAISIN IN THE SUN directed by Phyllis E. Griffin From February 1959 to February 2010 - A Chicago Story on Stage Where it Debuted

The Theatre School at DePaul University's Showcase Series of Contemporary Plays and Classics presents A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry, directed by Phyllis E. Griffin. This American theatre masterpiece opens Friday, February 5, and runs through Sunday, February 14, 2010 at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on February 3 and 4 at 7:30 PM.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and celebrating its 50th Anniversary, A RAISIN IN THE SUN is the fiercely moving portrait of an African-American family in Chicago's South Side in the 1950s. This seminal American play, the first by an African-American woman ever to be produced on Broadway, is a searing and timeless drama of family, hope, and inspiration.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN held its Chicago debut at the Blackstone Theatre in February of 1959. The Blackstone Theatre was renamed the historic Merle Reskin Theatre in 1992. The Theatre School at DePaul University is delighted to present this home-town story on the same stage where it premiered in Chicago.

Tickets are \$15. Subscriptions and group rates (6 or more people) are available at (312)-922-0999. Seniors (over 60), DePaul employees and alumni, and college students receive a discount (with ID). Previews are FREE for any college student (with ID). Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre is located at 60 E. Balbo Drive at Michigan, Chicago. There are several parking lots near the theatre, and the theatre is also accessible via numerous CTA bus and train routes. Please call the Box Office for more information, directions, and suggestions to help plan your trip.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** An Opening Night Party will be held after the performance on February 5. A post-show discussion with the cast and members of the production staff will be held on Sunday, February 7. The performance on Sunday, February 14 (2 PM) will be interpreted in American Sign Language. TTY call (773) 325-7975. On DePaul Night, February 10, tickets are \$3 for all students and \$6 for DePaul alumni and employees with valid ID. For details, photos, or more information visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu> or call (773) 325-7819.

## SONIC Opens Franklin Park Drive-In

Chicago area residents have another reason to stay in – stay in their cars that is. SONIC®, America's Drive-In®, a restaurant where you order your meal and eat right from the comfort of your own vehicle, opened its first drive-in in Franklin Park, Ill.

“We are thrilled to open this drive-in in Franklin Park,” said Seth Wolken, franchisee of the Franklin Park SONIC Drive-In. “We have been serving metro Chicago since 2008 and look forward to continuing the unique Carhop service SONIC Drive-Ins are known for in this community.”

The Franklin Park SONIC Drive-In is located at 10440 Grand Avenue, and officially opens at 6:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 18, to serve customers. With the full menu available all day, customers can enjoy a Breakfast Burrito to start their morning or as a late night snack. The new SONIC will feature 24 drive-in stalls, 48 patio seats, and a drive-thru. The Franklin Park SONIC Drive-In's regular hours of operation will be from 6:00 a.m. to midnight daily with extended hours for the drive-thru.

SONIC has a total of nine drive-ins in the metro Chicago area including locations in Franklin Park, Bartlett, Aurora, Montgomery, Country Club Hills, Lockport, Crest Hill, Lake Zurich and Algonquin.

SONIC, which specializes in made-to-order fast food, is known for its specialty menu items and personal Carhop service. Unique drink combinations make SONIC Your Ultimate Drink Stop!

SONIC's slow-melting ice, helps drinks stay cool and keeps them cooled longer while maintaining flavor. Favorites include TOASTER® Sandwiches (sandwiches served on thick Texas Toast), Ex-Long Cheese Cones (hot dogs with chili and cheese), Tater Tots and a variety of Frozen Favorites® treats and Fountain Favorites® drinks. SONIC's ever-growing menu is full of options to satisfy every taste, such as Fresh Fruit Smoothies.

SONIC, America's Drive-In (NASDAQ/NM: SONC) started as a hamburger and root beer stand in 1953 in Shawnee, Okla., called Top Hat Drive-In, and then changed its name to SONIC in 1959. The first drive-in to adopt the SONIC name is still serving customers in Stillwater, Okla. As the nation's largest chain of drive-in restaurants, SONIC has more than 3,500 drive-ins coast to coast. More than a million customers eat at SONIC every day; and with more drink combinations than any other quick-service restaurant – more than 168,000 – SONIC is Your Ultimate Drink Stop®. For more information about Sonic Corp. and its subsidiaries, visit SONIC at [www.sonicdrivein.com](http://www.sonicdrivein.com). Through a new program, Limeades for Learning®, SONIC and its franchise partners have donated more than \$638,000 dollars to public school classrooms in local communities across the country. Visit [www.limeadesforlearning.com](http://www.limeadesforlearning.com) to learn more about SONIC's commitment to education.

## “Funny Girl”

### Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre Drury Lane Road Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre is now presenting “Funny Girl,” the life of Fanny Brice.

One thing about this production that I don't understand is why it took three directors to stage it?

The show has been conceived by Gary Griffin and William Osetek. Osetek is a talented director who could have handled the production by himself being the theatre's artistic director. Griffin is tops at what he does but when you have so many fires on the stove it can hurt a show. Besides being a co-director of “Funny Girl” he has directed “Private Lives” for Chicago Shakespeare and “The Merry Widow” for Lyric Opera and he is an Associate Producer of Drury Lane Oakbrook. Also listed as Associate Director is David New, a talented actor in his own right.

The show offers three newcomers to Chicago and they are Sara Sheperd, Paul Anthony Stewart and Jameson Cooper, along with a stellar cast of Chicago actors.

For me the show didn't come up to the high standards I've been seeing at the Oakbrook venue. And that is no fault of the cast. I blame that on the three directors and in the capable hands of Osetek the show might have come up to higher expectations.

Standouts were Sheperd, Cooper, Iris Lieberman, Catherine Smitko, Marc Grapey, Adam Pelty, David New and the dancing feet that Matt Raftery has staged for his ensemble that include Tammy Mader, Ariane Dolan, Nicole Hren, Michael Accardo, Holly Stauder to make up the twenty six in the cast. I would rate it two and a half stars but to be honest the acting, singing and dancing of those mentioned it gets a slim but higher rating.

New as Mr. Renaldi, has a small role and I found no chemistry with Paul Anthony Stewart as Nick Arnstein. I didn't feel his singing was strong but his acting I didn't have much of a problem with. The show has music by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill with a book by Isobel Lennart.

The show offers some strong songs with “Don't Rain on My Parade,” “People,” “If a Girl Isn't Pretty” and “I'm the Greatest Star.”

Jason Cooper as Eddie Ryan is a bright new talent to the Chicago Theatre scene. Marc Grapey is a perfect Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., as is Iris Lieberman as Mrs. Strakosh, Adam Pelty as Tom Keeney and Catherine Smitko as Mrs. Brice.

If you remember Fanny Brice as Baby Snooks of radio fame and want to know more about her start on the stage and her personal life you'll come away enjoying this show. “Funny Girl” runs through March 7th. For show times and performance days as well as reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets range from \$29 to \$38. There is free parking and the Martinique Restaurant offers excellent dinners. I know as I've eaten there many times.

-Three Stars-



# Preserving Your Independence



**Chester M. Przybylo**

As we get older, it often seems that time accelerates. Where does all the time go? Aging is a normal part of life. Unfortunately, as we age later in life we are no longer as able-bodied as when we were younger. What would happen if your health took a turn for the worst? This article discusses planning for the future using a Medicaid Income Only Trust. This type of trust can help preserve your financial independence, but there are certain guidelines that must be followed. Plan to protect your independence, see a qualified estate planning and elder law attorney today and discuss your options.

As we get older, it often seems that time accelerates. It seems the children were in diapers just yesterday. But, how they've left home and they have kids of their own. Where does the time go?

Aging is a normal part of life. The infant becomes a toddler. Later the teenager becomes an adult (thankfully). Unfortunately, as we age later in life we are no longer as able-bodied as when we were teenagers. Gradually, we all get more aches and pains. But, what would happen if something serious were to occur? Let's take a look at Betty's situation.

Betty is 66 and has worked hard all her life. Betty and her husband, George, retired a few years ago. George died after only a year in retirement. Betty and George had a wonderful life together and raised two children, Alice and Mark. Not a day goes by that Betty does not miss George terribly. However, she has decided to live life fully and has had an active, fulfilling life. She travels and she spends a lot of time with friends and family—especially her adorable grandchildren. She was visiting Alice and the grandchildren in the Northeast when she had difficulty walking and talking. She was having a stroke. She was rushed to the hospital. After a week in the hospital, her condition stabilized and the doctors sent her to a nursing home for recuperation, which they expected to take three years.

Not only does Betty have a lot of hard work ahead of her, much of her life savings will be wiped out by the nursing home bills. Betty thought she had it covered with Medicare. But Medicare only covers the first 100 days of a nursing home stay. And there is a big daily co-payment after the first twenty days. After 100 days, she has to pay it all. Betty wants to be close to Alice and the grandkids during her recuperation. Unfortunately, the average nursing home in that area costs well over \$8,000 per month. The total stay will be over \$280,000, even after Medicare pays its portion. Over a quarter of a million dollars! This will wipe out most of Betty's lifetime of savings and cause her to become financially dependent on her children. Instead of being able to help with her grandchildren's future, she'll be a financial burden on her children.

There must be a better way! Well, there is. Betty could have planned ahead by gifting her money into a Medicaid Income Only Trust. The income of the trust would have been available to Betty, but the assets themselves would not be considered available to pay the nursing home expenses and would not have to be used up. As a result, Betty would have qualified for Medicaid. While she needed the nursing home assistance, the income she received from the trust would go toward her "share of cost" for the nursing home. But, the principal of the trust would remain intact and could go to Betty's children or grandchildren at her death. Unfortunately, this strategy does not work if you wait until the last minute. Medicaid has a five-year look-back for gifting. Any gifts made within that five-year period are totaled and divided by the average monthly nursing home cost to determine the "penalty period." Betty would be ineligible for Medicaid during the penalty period.

If Betty had planned ahead, she could have preserved her independence, avoided being a financial burden on her children, and helped with her grandchildren's future. And, she would have had the exact same care! Avoid Betty's fate. Eat healthily and exercise, but also plan to protect your independence and your family's future. A qualified estate planning and elder law attorney can help you plan to preserve your financial independence.

*Chester M. Przybylo has been elected to the Board of Governors of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and has been engaged in the practice of law for the last 40 years. For more information or to attend an upcoming seminar, call (773) 631-2525.*

# Social Security: LOWER INCOME MIGHT MEAN LOWER MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM

By Andrew Salata Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

If you have Medicare coverage and you pay a higher Part B premium due to your higher income, here's some news that may be comforting during these troubling economic times.

If you have experienced a significant reduction in your overall income, Social Security might be able to reduce the amount of your Medicare Part B premium as well.

The significant reduction in income can be as a result of a number of changes: marriage, divorce or annulment, death of a spouse, work reduction, work stoppage, reduction of income due to a loss of income-producing property, and loss or reduction of certain forms of pension income.

If any one of these events has happened to you, just provide Social Security evidence of the event and tell us how it has reduced your income. Evidence could be a death certificate, letter from your employer about your loss of work, or something of that nature. If you filed a federal income tax return for the year in question, we'll need to see your signed copy of the tax return. If your income will not change until the following year, you can give us an estimate of what you think your income will be.

Once you show us evidence of the event and provide proof or an estimate of your reduced income, Social Security will update the records and, if appropriate, adjust your Medicare Part B premium. You can request a new decision and ask that we use more accurate tax return information if:

You amended your tax return for the year we used to determine your premium and it changes the income we count;

You provide proof from IRS of an error in the tax return information we used to make our decision; or

Your tax filing status for the year we used to determine your premium was "married filing separately" and you did not live with your spouse at any time during that year.

If you wish to report a significant reduction in your income so we can adjust your Medicare Part B premium, visit the Social Security website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/mediinfo.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mediinfo.htm), or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.

To learn more about Medicare Part B coverage, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).



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## CHASE PARK THEATER'S YOUNG ACTORS PERFORM "CINDERELLA" FEB. 6-7 & 10

Stir your childhood memories while introducing your children to one of the world's most enduring and timeless folk tales of Cinderella. The Chase Park Theatre's Young Actors program will stage a production of Cinderella on Feb. 6 & 7; 2p.m. and Feb. 10; 6:30 p.m. at Chase Park Theatre, 4701 N. Ashland Ave., 312.742.7518.

Under Karen Fort, the director of Chase Park Theater, audiences will experience a delightful adventure of fantasy with their children. The audience is encouraged to sing-a-long to the familiar songs from both the Broadway show and the Disney movie. Following the show children are invited up onto the stage and will be given a backstage tour!

Cinderella (Bailey Boyle) is treated like a servant by Stepmother Grizella (Kristy Arrington) and stepsisters Anastasia (Madi Torum) Rosella (Amy Esposito), Fredericka (Nicole Culver) and Theodora (Emayli Holmes). When her friends the mice, Jackie, (Sariah Vavricek) Gus, (Justin Burns) and Meester (Dane Holmes) tell her to stand up for herself, she just obeys and endures. Children in the audience help her sing her songs. When the Turtledove (Nicole Esposito) and Blackbird (Madison Peon) help the mice tailor her old dress for the ball, her stepsisters tear it apart. But the Fairy godmother (Samuela Nematchoua) and her little friends help her go to the ball where she and the Prince (Jatin Kapur) fall in love. But at midnight the spell ends and the prince must search to find the girl whose foot fits the glass slipper. They find each other and live happily ever after. The production is professionally costumed by Diane Hamm, with lights, sets, music and with a golden carriage made from a shopping cart!

Tickets are \$4-\$7, children, seniors, and students \$4, and may be reserved by calling the box office at 312-742-4701 or purchased at Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland, prior to the show. For more information on programs or special events at Chase Park stop by and visit with park staff or checkout the Chicago Park District's website @ [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) or call 312-742-PLAY or 312-747-2001 (TTY).

### EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT 4613 N Oketo, Harwood Heights, IL 60706 (708) 867-7828 [www.eisenhowerlibrary.org](http://www.eisenhowerlibrary.org)

**Paid computer Classes:** Introduction to Excel, Parts 1 & 2, Tuesday February 2 and Thursday, February 4, 7-8:45 p.m. \$20.00 fee. PowerPoint, Parts 1 & 2, Tuesday, February 16 and Thursday, February 18, 7-8:45 p.m.

**Classic Films** continue at Eisenhower: Ride the High Country with Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea, directed by Sam Peckinpah, February 4; Tootsie with Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lang, directed by Sydney Pollack. Discussions with Ralph J Amelio. Free popcorn at all movies!

**Bus trip to the Adler Planetarium** to see the sky show Cosmic Collisions Tuesday, February 16, 9-2:30. Cost \$25.00 per person. Limit 25. Narrated by award-winning actor, director, and producer Robert Redford, Cosmic Collisions launches visitors on a trip through space and time to explore the hypersonic impacts that drive the continuing evolution of the Universe. This new space show focuses on the full range of collisions, from catastrophic planetary impacts to the merging of massive galaxies. There will be time to explore the museum after the star show. Lunch on your own.

**The On-Line Job Search.** It's harder and harder to get a job without the on-line skills you need to apply. This is the place to learn computer-based elements for your job-search. Bring a copy of your resume and a thumb/USB drive. If you're new to computer job-searches, this is the class for you. Participants must have familiarity with Microsoft Word. Saturday, February 13, 1-4 p.m. Limit 12.

**The Illinois & Michigan Canal: Past and Present** will take a look at the long prelude to the building of the canal, starting with the first exploration of the future corridor by French-Canadians Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, through today's control of the area by the Federal government. Included will be a discussion of the protection of the area by Fort Dearborn, and the succession of treaties with the Native Americans. The promise of the canal, which would create an unbroken navigable highway of water from the Great Lakes to the vast Mississippi River system, led to such decisions as where to draw the border between the new state of Illinois in 1818 and the Wisconsin Territory to the north. Let Dave Clark, the Windy City Warrior, take you on a tour through history. Wednesday, February 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

Please register for all programs by calling (708) 867-7828 and asking for the Answers Desk.

## African Sausage Tree Fruiting 20 Pound Fruits at Lincoln Park Conservatory

A tree called the sausage tree, also known as *Kigelia africana*, which originates from the southeastern region of Africa, is currently fruiting at the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive. Located in the Palm House near the main entrance of the Conservatory, this tree's unique fruits can weigh upwards of 20 pounds each, measuring as large as 2.5 feet in length and look like giant sausages hanging from long stalks.

"The Lincoln Park Conservatory's plant collection features unique species of plants like the sausage tree so that visitors of all ages can discover a world outside of Chicago," said Mary Eysenbach, Chicago Park District Director of Conservatories. "Virtually all continents from around the world are represented at either Lincoln Park or Garfield Park conservatories."

Found on riverbanks, along streams, on floodplains, and open woodland, from KwaZulu-Natal to Tanzania, the sausage tree boasts flowers that are long, open, large, wrinkled, maroon or dark-red, trumpet-shaped that are velvety on the inside and virtually overflow with nectar. The tree's short, squat trunk has light brown, sometimes flaky bark and supports a dense rounded to spreading crown of leathery, slightly glossy foliage. The huge, grey-brown fruits fruit from December to June.

In Malawi, roasted fruits from this tree are used to flavor beer and aid fermentation. The tough wood from this tree is used for shelving and fruit boxes and dugout canoes are made from the tree in Botswana and Zimbabwe. The roots yield a bright yellow dye. Traditional remedies prepared from crushed, dried or fresh fruits are used to deal with ulcers, sores and syphilis. The fruit has an anti-bacterial activity. Today, beauty products and skin ointments are prepared from the fruit extracts. The fresh fruit from this tree cannot be eaten because it is a strong purgative and causes blisters in the mouth and on the skin. Green fruits are said to be poisonous. In time of scarcity, seeds are roasted and eaten.

Experience nature inside the warmth of the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.

### JEFFERSON PARK BRANCH 5363 W. Lawrence Ave. (312) 744-1998

The Library will be closed on Friday, February 12 in honor of Lincoln's birthday and on Monday, February 15, in honor of Washington's birthday.

**Wednesdays in February.** Join our preschool and toddler story times. Toddlers (ages 18 months to 3 years) meet from 10:15 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. Preschoolers meet from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for stories and crafts. No pre-registration is required. Contact the children's librarian for more information.

**Thursdays in February from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.** The social worker is in! Are you confused about the maze of social services and assistance programs? Library Volunteer Susan Fox-Larkin, LCSW, is a professional social worker with 20 years of experience. She will be able to refer you to the proper agency or service for help.

**Friday, February 5 from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.** The Chicago Public Schools will conduct their ChildFind developmental screening program. No appointment required.

**Wednesday, February 10 at 2 p.m.** The Wednesday afternoon book discussion group will feature *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. Call to reserve a copy.

**Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Join our pre-teen book discussion group as they discuss *Freedom Walkers* by Russell Freedman. Ages 11-14. Call to reserve a copy.

**Saturday, February 13 at 2 p.m.** Join historian and air pilot Nick Selig as he recounts Chicago's rich and colorful aviation history. Co-sponsored by the Northwest Chicago Historical Society.

**Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m.** The Tuesday evening book discussion group will discuss *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Call to reserve a copy.

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## Bosley Bad Bones

Happy New Year My furry friends! I hope that everyone has recovered from the craziness of the Howlidays! Was Santa Paws good to everyone? If not, maybe you should work on begin a better pooch this year; just a friendly suggestion!

Barking about being better, I have a bone to pick with my Human. Last year my pack and I were on our best behavior, we truly put up with a lot from he!. With her new business venture she put us last. Being the understanding pooch that I am, I know why; she tells us how she is making a better life for us; but enough already!

I was participating in agility classes and love it. I miss the class and my furry friends! I have been good and pawtient so we should go back, right? So, I have a plan in mind! Since being good isn't working, here comes Bosley Bad Bones! I am going to show her; so I have devised a plan! What drives my human mad is stealing food from the counters. She has worked hard teaching us that the counters are off limits. So, this will show her! I will wait and steal something good!

Wait a minute! She is packing the agility bag! What is going on I wonder? Then she tells, "Well, guys next week we are finally going back to class!" Woof! Woof! I am so excited and now I don't have to be bad! However, I will keep that idea just in case because you never know when your Human needs a lesson!

Bosley Bad Bones (my alter ego)

Submitted by Bosley's mom, Nicole Carfora, CMG, owner of Canine Corral.



## Join us for Bark in the Park Anti-Cruelty Society's 16th Annual Walk for the Animals

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 5k Walk steps off at 9 a.m. with or without your dog

Lincoln Park at Montrose Harbor (exit 4400 north Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, head east to the Lake and look for the tents).

Activities Include canine obstacle and agility courses, demonstrations, exhibits, and free product samples from our small business sponsors, family fun in the Arts & Education tent—plus free snacks, souvenir photos, 50/50 raffle, contests with prizes awarded, and much more!

Proceeds benefit: Chicago's comprehensive, open-door humane society and SPCA of Illinois, celebrating 111 years of our commitment to caring for the animals and with a mission of building a community of caring by helping pets and educating people. We are a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we receive no government funds or funds from the HSUS or ASPCA.



## Anti-Cruelty Society

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



**Alex the Dog** Hi, I'm Alex. I am a friendly, 1-year-old boy looking for the perfect home! I absolutely love attention and will even try to sit in your lap or "hug" you – All 53 pounds of me! I like other dogs, and would prefer to live in an all adult home with a family who has another dog or who has had a dog in the past. I'd really like to go to dog training classes, so I can bond with my new forever family, so I can learn new things and work on becoming more confident in everyday life. I'm a really sweet guy who already knows how to sit! Come meet me today at the Adoption Center. Just ask for me, Alex, Tab Band #691179.

## The Story of Florence

A few months ago a car was traveling through the alley next to The Anti-Cruelty Society. As the car was trying to maneuver the alley, the caring person saw what looked like a bag near the building and thought something didn't look right.

After a closer look, he realized the bag was moving. He quickly contacted one of our staff who retrieved the bag. You can't possibly guess what or who was inside that bag! It was a precious grey and white tabby cat. It was cold outdoors and we don't know how long she had been there but thankfully no one harmed her.



We named her Florence. Florence was very frightened and needed some time to adjust, so she stayed in the office of our one our shelter managers who gave her lots of space and lots of love. Several weeks later, Florence was given a physical exam and placed in Charlotte's Cat Corner (our cage less cat adoption room) and made available for adoption. Florence got along fine with the other cats in the room, and waited patiently for her new forever family to walk in the door. Finally, after several weeks it happened. A wonderful family that had adopted 2 kitties from us previously, came in and met Florence and she won their hearts. They have a large home where Florence will be able to roam around and adjust to her new life and family. We couldn't be happier for Florence and her new family.

## The Anti-Cruelty Society's After School Program

This year, we started a new after school program, "Exploring the Link". The goal of this program is to help students gain insight into how violence and cruelty affects their community, their selves, and animals.

Daily opportunities in this program include:

- Interacting with dogs, cats, and each other at The Anti-Cruelty Society
- Learning about training methods, socialization, and the various functions that the shelter and clinic at The Anti-Cruelty Society serve
- Exploring animal welfare issues with hands on activities to broaden their understanding while giving them a sense of purpose and achievement
- Creating presentations on the effects of violence in society and they will be encouraged to give these presentations in their schools; especially to younger classes (enabling the teens to become mentors and role models in their own communities)
- Producing (or add to) their own resume

We are now accepting applications from high school students for this fun and exciting after school program. CTA passes will be provided for students to travel to and from the shelter and this is a great way to earn service learning hours.

The After School Program will start February 2, 2010 and will meet at The Anti-Cruelty Society (169 W. Grand Ave.) every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30p.m. - 7p.m., February 2 - April 13, 2010. (there will be no class February 11th, March 30th, or April 1st)

Applications can be obtained by contacting Helen Jones-Mayer at [hjones-mayer@anticruelty.org](mailto:hjones-mayer@anticruelty.org) or 312-644-8338 extension 333.

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# GREAT OUTDOORS

## KILBOURN PARK ORGANIC GREENHOUSE WINTER ORGANIC GARDEN SERIES

Discover the wonderful world of nature! Spark your curiosity and explore the fun & educational offerings at Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., the Chicago Park District's only park with a teaching organic greenhouse. The 2010 winter series is designed for adults 18 & over in mind. Register for winter programs in-person at the park.

### Seed Starting Basics Nancy Benjamin, Master Gardener

Saturday, February 13, 10- Noon Fee: \$20

Craving unique vegetables? Want those old fashioned French marigolds? Like the delicate herb chervil? Want to show your children the wonders of plants? Sometimes, to get the plants you want--when you want them--you just have to grow them yourself. Master Gardener and organic advocate Nancy Benjamin will show you the basics of seed starting. Discover seed sources, trays, growing mediums, lights, as well as germination tips and times for a whole variety of vegetables and flowers.

### Early Spring Greens Bill Shores, Shores Garden Consulting, Inc.

Wednesday, February 24, 6:30-8:00pm Fee: \$20

Come learn about the colorful and tasty world of early spring greens. Urban grower Bill Shores will present a slide show and discussion of how to get a jump start on the growing season with salad and braising greens. Simple season extension techniques and the best greens for early planting will be discussed. Go home inspired and ready to garden!

### Rain Barrels and Rain Gardening Cathy Breitenbach, Chicago Park District and Sarah Abu-Absi, Chicago Department of Environment

Saturday, March 13, 10 am -Noon Fee: \$20

Interested in harvesting rainwater for your garden with a rain barrel or cistern? How about installing a basic rain garden in your yard? Cathy Breitenbach from the Chicago Park District and Sarah Abu-Absi from the Chicago Department of Environment will discuss the benefits of using rainwater for your garden. Participants will receive a rebate form from the City of Chicago to receive a \$30 discount on a rain barrel.

### Landscaping with Native Plants Rebecca Schillo, Chicago Park District

Saturday, March 27, 10-Noon Fee: \$20

Landscaping with native plants is creating a new buzz in the gardening world! Native landscapes create backyard habitat for birds and butterflies while offering gardeners unique, beautiful plant selections. Native habitats require less water, fertilizer, and energy to maintain than their ornamental counterparts and can help increase storm water infiltration and carbon sequestration. In this class, Becky Schillo of the Chicago Park District will discuss practical design and planting techniques for introducing natives into the home landscape. Topics will include site considerations for native landscaping, appropriate plant selection, basics of maintaining native landscapes, and where to find native plants in the Chicago area.

Kilbourn Park is located at 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., just west of Milwaukee Ave., and Addison St. in Chicago. Questions call Kirsten Akre at 773.685.3359 or [kirsten.akre@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:kirsten.akre@chicagoparkdistrict.com).

## Urban Wildlife Coalition: Feeding the Birds

Q: Our family fills the birdfeeder all winter because we want to help our feathered friends. But, we noticed that while the sparrows, cardinals, and what I think are chickadees (and squirrels!) are all enjoying the buffet, I almost never see robins. Any suggestions? Elaine L.

A. Some robins migrate to warmer climes to escape our brutal Chicagoland winters. But some do stay. Worms and insects are the cuisine of choice for robins, but these "treats" become less plentiful during the winter months. You are absolutely right; robins generally do not favor seeds as much as other birds do. They do like berries though. Try poking berries (frozen will do just fine) onto branches where robins may already be accustomed to finding fruit. Or, even better, plant a winter fruit-bearing tree or shrub such as American high bush cranberry, black chokecherry, sumac, or apple. Crabapples are a good choice, too, but some hybrids bear fruit that birds cannot eat. A note about seed mixes for your other feathered friends: prepared mixes may not be the value they seem because they include filler seeds not favored by Midwestern birds. If you only want to purchase one type of seed, black-oil sunflower seeds are probably your best choice. With easy-to-crack-shells and a high fat content (especially important in the winter), these are especially good for attracting cardinals, sparrows, chickadees, and others.

Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife. For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit [www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org](http://www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org). Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at [urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com).

*Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife. For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit [www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org](http://www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org). Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at [urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com).*

## Learn Which Sweet Treats Grow on Trees at Garfield Park Conservatory's 2nd Annual Sweet Saturdays

Sweet Saturday's returns to the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. two consecutive Saturdays in February (Feb. 6 and 13) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.

"The Chicago Park District and the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance are excited to celebrate the return of Sweet Saturdays," said Mary Eysenbach, Director of Conservatories. "This family friendly event focuses on highlighting the plants in our collection that help create the different varieties of candy we love so much."

Sweet Saturdays will focus on plants that provide the key ingredients to some favorite sweet treats. The Garfield Park Conservatory, a veritable plant-based candy show, is home to many living sweets such as bananas, vanilla beans, cinnamon bark, and chocolate trees. Visitors of all ages can sample the facts, the flavors and the fun of some of the most tantalizing tropical treats. Experience the following sweet activities at each Sweet Saturday:

- Tropical Treat Stations: Throughout the Conservatory visitors will learn a fact and sample a flavor.
- Live Music: Visit Horticulture Hall's Sweet Saturdays' Tropical Café and take in the warm confines of the Conservatory while listening to live music that highlights the different native tropical regions of the Conservatory's sweet plants.
- Hands-on Activity Stations: Visitors of all ages can participate in designing a scratch and sniff necklace with cinnamon and sandpaper, designing a "leaf rubbing" Valentine's day card, making a chocolate sachet with the sweet-smelling shells of cocoa beans, and other drop-in stations, such as a cozy Sweet Reads book nook.
- Learn: Discover the process of making both vanilla and honey from special guests located in Sugar from the Sun exhibit.
  - o Feb. 6 - Enjoy honey tasting, brought to you by the Garfield Park Conservatory Volunteer Beekeepers, who care for the Conservatory's 12 hives
  - o Feb. 13 - Enjoy vanilla tasting, brought to you by Nielsen-Massey Vanilla Specialists of Waukegan, Illinois

· **Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance "Members Only" Chocolate Lounge:** Members of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance can enjoy special perks and activities. The lounge will be open on Feb. 6 and 13 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. and includes the following sweet activities:

- Discover your inner chocolate spirit by venturing on a self-guided chocolate "taste test" quest.
  - Enjoy mixing up a yummy chocolate concoction ala marshmallows, whip crème, and cinnamon at our self-serve cocoa bar, while relaxing in our "members only" seating area.
  - Play candy-themed board games that sweeten the eye, while sharpening the mind.
  - While in the lounge, be sure to enter your name into a drawing to win your very own edible chocolate pod to take home and show off to your friends.
  - Receive a special variety of mint plant (choose from chocolate mint, lemon mint, and more!) to take a little bit of the Sweet Saturdays event home with you.
  - Use the Chocolate Lounge's free coat check available only to members.
- If you or someone you know is not already a member, memberships can be purchased on the day of each Sweet Saturday event or online at: [www.garfieldconservatory.org/join\\_online.htm](http://www.garfieldconservatory.org/join_online.htm).

Interested in volunteering at our Fact & Flavor Stations during these fun-filled Sweet Saturdays in February? Contact Mattie Wilson at: [volunteer@garfieldconservatory.org](mailto:volunteer@garfieldconservatory.org), 1-773-638-1766 ext 26.

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