

FREE



# STREET LEVEL

FREE



“Where Life Happens”

Volume II P.O. Box 31391,  
Chicago, IL 60631

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

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Issue 14  
April 17, 2009

## CTA to Host Public Presentation on the Yellow Line Extension

The Chicago Transit Authority is scheduled to hold a public meeting at Niles North High School Auditorium from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2009 regarding the Yellow Line alternatives analysis study. The meeting will present for public consideration and input Screen 2 findings of the study and the preliminary recommendation of a locally preferred alternative to CTA's Yellow Line to Old Orchard Road. Niles North High School is located at 9800 North Lawler Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60077. For further information please contact the CTA at 1/888-968-7282 or 312/836-7000.

## Pay Tribute to Mother Earth, April 25

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day together starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. and the nearby Ladd Arboretum. This free, family-friendly afternoon includes nature crafts and games, music, organic food and information stations to help guide residents to reduce their environmental footprint. Back by popular demand is the "Stump the Arborist" game, featuring Evanston's arborist, Mark Younger. Bring your tree-related questions and see if you can stump the pro. For more information, call 847-448-8256.

## Eco-Garage Sale May 2 at Evanston Ecology Center

Help protect the environment by recycling and reusing. An Eco-Garage Sale will be held 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2, at the Evanston Ecology Center, 2400 McCormick Blvd. The sale of gently used or new items will benefit the Evanston Environmental Association. Admission to the sale is free, and browsers are welcome. Donations may be dropped off April 27-May 1 at the Ecology Center. For drop-off details or for more information about the sale, call 847-448-8256.

## BEGINNING APRIL 25TH, VILLAGE IVY, OUR NEW ONLINE EDITION

will join *OUR VILLAGE* and *STREET LEVEL* newspapers as your local, grassroots, family-friendly, neighborhood communicators. We invite you to share your thoughts, submit your events and happenings of interest, as well as stories from your Chicagoland communities.

To access this new exciting venue, go to our website at [www.ourvillagechicago.com](http://www.ourvillagechicago.com) and click on **VILLAGE IVY**.

Thank you,  
**The Editor**

## Village of Skokie Receives National Financial Reporting Recognition for 21st Consecutive Year

For the twenty-first consecutive year, the Village of Skokie has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Village received the recognition for the comprehensive financial report it developed for the fiscal year that ended on April 30, 2008.

“Receiving this prestigious GFOA recognition for the twenty-first consecutive year is an extraordinary honor for the Village of Skokie,” commented Village Manager Albert J. Rigoni. “I also wish to congratulate Finance Director Robert Nowak on his receiving an individual Award of Financial Reporting Achievement. In addition to Mr. Nowak, Assistant Finance Department Director Sandra Collins and all Finance Department staff are to be commended for a job well done.”

The Village's financial report was reviewed by an impartial GFOA panel that determined that the report met the highest government reporting standards and demonstrated a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” that clearly presented the Village's financial information in an informative, entertaining manner. The Village of Skokie received its first such financial reporting recognition in 1988.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C., that serves approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

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# The Village of Skokie offers Car Seat Loans and Proper Installation Programs

The Village of Skokie Health Department offers a short-term infant/toddler car seat loan program. The program is available to Skokie residents and is ideal when young guests are visiting.

A \$10.00 cash deposit is required for each seat borrowed. The participating resident receives \$5.00 of the deposit back once the seat is returned in good condition. Health Department personnel are able to assist residents with ensuring the proper installation of loaned seats. Seats are loaned subject to availability and are loaned for up to six weeks. Please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 for additional information or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

The Skokie Police Department also invites residents to make appointments to check for proper installation of child safety seats. The proper installation and use of the child safety seats is critical and the process takes approximately 20 to 45 minutes. To make an appointment for this free community service, please call the Police Department at 847/982-5996.


## Lincolnwood Social Club (55+) Chicago History Museum Trip

Discover Chicago's transformation from a smelly swamp to a thriving metropolis touring highlights of our permanent exhibition, Chicago: Crossroads of America. Experience the city's greatest triumphs and trials. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the past as you climb aboard 'L' Car No. 1. Feel history come alive as you explore innovations in fashion, entertainment, and architecture. Discover how the city changed with each crisis—from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 to the riots of 1968. Celebrate the city's love affair with its sports teams.

Tuesday, April 21, 11:15am Bus Departs  
Location: Chicago History Museum, 1061 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL  
Fee: \$55 Members, \$69 Non-Members Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

### \$PEND LOCALLY AND \$AVE!

It is possible to pinch pennies and still have a good time! One easy way to trim budget bulge is to dine, shop, and play in our own neighborhood. A visit to your favorite local boutique, bowling alley, movie theater, and restaurant saves gas money and is more affordable than a trek to a downtown counterpart. Best of all, spending locally is a vote of confidence and an investment in the future health of our neighborhoods.



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# Participate in SWANCC's At Home Pick-Up Program

The Village of Skokie and SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) encourages recycling or donating materials to reduce waste whenever possible. To assist Skokie residents with this effort, SWANCC now offers an At Home Pick-Up Program for personal computers and various other home electronics. This option is convenient for residents that would prefer to have their equipment picked-up from their front steps rather than drive to a drop-off location.

Any SWANCC area resident who has front door access can either log on to [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) or contact SWANCC at (847) 724-9205 to arrange for a pick-up. The program is not available to those in multi-family buildings without direct front door access. Scheduled monthly pick-ups can be made beginning in May through October 2009. Residents are required to pay \$25 via credit card to offset program costs, and can recycle six items per pick up. Individual item cannot exceed 50 pounds. Cell phones and calculators do not count as "items", and do not have a limit on the amount accepted in the scheduled pick-up.

On the scheduled pick-up day, items must be placed on the front porch or steps, tagged with provided signage, by 7:30 am.

For more information on recycling in the community contact SWANCC at 847/724-9205 or at [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org). For information regarding residential recycling collection in Skokie, contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

## Martin Lyons Accepts Evanston Assistant City Manager Position

Interim City Manager Rolanda B. Russell announces the appointment of Martin Lyons as Assistant City Manager. Lyons assumed this position effective March 23, 2009.

Lyons came to Evanston in August 2008 to assume the position of Finance Director. Previous to coming to Evanston, Martin Lyons was an Area Vice President for Gallagher Benefit Services for six years and was the Director of Finance and Information Services for the Village of Downers Grove, Illinois for nine years.

Lyons replaces Assistant City Manager Judy Aiello, who retired in May of 2008. He will assist the City Manager's Office managerial team with professional, budgetary, finance, and administrative operations. He will coordinate budget planning, human resources, finance, information technology, and library services for the City.

Lyons holds a Master's Degree in business administration from Keller Graduate School and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Russell stated, "Marty is a strategic thinker and will continue to carefully guide the City's budget in a positive direction. I would like to thank Doug Gaynor and Joellen Daley who accepted temporary assignments to assist me in the City Manager's Office after 80% of the senior level staff retired last year. They will return to their previous positions effective April 12, 2009."

### Monthly Lunch Bunch

This month's lunch bunch is going to be a late lunch, or an early dinner, it is a Fundraising Benefit Night for our club. 25% of what the group spends on dinner, the restaurant will donate back to our organization. Make sure to go out and support our group! Not only will this help our organization, but the food is great too! All those who attend will be responsible for transportation to and from the restaurant. Each member will also be responsible for paying for their own lunch.

Wednesday, April 29, 5:00pm  
Location: Graziano's, 5960 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, IL  
Fee: FREE – Lunch & Transportation are on your own  
Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

### Blue Man Group Trip

Blue Man Group is a creative organization dedicated to creating exciting and innovative work in a wide variety of media. Blue Man Group is best known for their wildly popular theatrical shows and concerts which combine music, comedy and multimedia theatrics to produce a totally unique form of entertainment. The blissful party atmosphere created at their live events has become the trademark of a Blue Man Group experience.

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 11:00am Bus Departs  
Location: Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL  
\$65 Members, \$80 Non-Members  
Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.



# Liberty Bank CFO to Discuss Economy and Seniors at Expo

Joseph J. Moravecek, Senior Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer of Liberty Bank for Savings will present on “Seniors and the Current Economy” at the third annual Maine Township Senior Expo. The financial presentation is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on Friday, Apr. 24, and will be held in Golf Mill Shopping Center’s Community Room. The expo and presentation are open to the public and at no charge.

The presentation will cover many topics of interest to those with financial concerns, but will focus on older adults and their unique needs. Coverage of housing, stock market and interest rate issues will provide valuable insight. The presentation will also outline ways in which seniors and others can protect their cash and investments by understanding FDIC coverage for deposits, SIPC coverage for broker funds, the delay of IRA distributions and other market risks to watch.

Moravecek has been Liberty Bank’s Chief Financial Officer since 1982. Liberty Bank has offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood. The bank celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2008. For more information on other Liberty Bank events or classes, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

For more information on the Senior Expo exhibitors, entertainment, and educational sessions, call 847-297-2510 or visit [www.maintownship.com](http://www.maintownship.com).



# Millennium Park is Focus of Oakton Emeritus Class

A prominent Chicago park is the focus of a class offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton Community College this spring. This single-session course meets at Oakton’s Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Artists, Architects, and Engineers of Millennium Park (ART H19-71) examines the creative geniuses behind Chicago’s popular tourist attraction. Completed in 2004, the park is admired as an example of successful urban planning and has won numerous awards for its design and construction. Course meets 1 – 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22. Course fee is \$20.

For more information about the Emeritus Program, including costs of featured lectures,

call 847-635-1414 or 847-982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit [www.oakton.edu/emeritus](http://www.oakton.edu/emeritus).

# More Details on the Bicycle Commuter Benefit

Bicycle commuters have been waiting for guidelines on implementing the Bicycle Commuter Benefit. Here’s the official word: Employers can provide up to \$20 per month to encourage bike commuting, making the incentive itself no longer taxable. Expenses can include a commuter bike, upgrades, repairs and bike parking. You can’t use the \$230 transit benefit (up from \$115 thanks to the recently passed stimulus package) or the \$220 parking benefit in months when you use the \$20 bike benefit. Get more details on [www.activetrans.org/](http://www.activetrans.org/)

# Evanston Marks Children’s Day on May 3

Answering the ages old question: When is Children's Day? Evanston will officially celebrate Children's Day on Sunday, May 3, with an afternoon dedicated to boys and girls age 2-13. The fun begins at 2 p.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Youth and their parents are invited to drop by any time to get their faces painted, play games, enjoy food and just have lots of fun together. Everything is free. For more information, call 847-448-8254.

# Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center to Officially Open Doors with Public Grand Opening Ceremony

*Former President Bill Clinton, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Senator Dick Durbin, Governor Pat Quinn, local Holocaust survivors and several thousand guests as new Museum officially opens its doors to the public*

**WHAT:** The greatly anticipated Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, will officially open its doors with a public grand opening ceremony featuring a keynote address by former President Bill Clinton. Special remarks will also be given by Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Senator Richard Durbin, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, foreign dignitaries, Holocaust survivors, Museum leadership and more.

Likely the last international institution of its kind to be built with the active participation of Holocaust survivors, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will be the largest institution in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and to teaching current generations to fight hatred, indifference and genocide in today's world.

The public grand opening event will also include video presentations by President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Steven Spielberg, a special performance by Grammy Award-Winning violinist Miri Ben-Ari, and performances by the Soul Children of Chicago.

**WHO:** President Bill Clinton, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, German Ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth, Senator Richard Durbin, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen Richard S. Hirschhaut, Museum Executive Director, J.B. Pritzker, Museum Capital Campaign Chairman, Sam Harris, Museum Board President and Holocaust survivor, Sara Bloomfield, Director, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Steven Nasitir, President, Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Rabbi Herman Schaalman, Father John Pawlikowski, Cantor Steven Stoehr

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 19, 2009, 12:00 p.m. Ceremony begins

**WHERE:** Tent outside of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, Illinois, \*\*Parking information will be provided upon RSVP\*\*

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# GREAT OUTDOORS

## Preseason Beach Token Sale Begins April 1

Beginning Wednesday, April 1, Evanston and Skokie residents can save money on 2009 beach tokens during the annual preseason token sale. Beach tokens will be sold at the discounted resident price of \$22/person through June 12. Fee assistance is available to help qualified Evanston residents with the purchase of tokens. In addition, a limited number of free tokens are available to residents who meet income guidelines. For more information, call 847-866-2900.

When Evanston's five swimming beaches open for the season on Saturday, June 13, token prices will increase to the regular season rate of \$30 each for residents. Daily beach passes will be sold at beach entrances for \$8 for those age 12 and older and \$6 for children age 1-11. Children under one year of age are admitted free. Tokens can be purchased at all community centers and the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave. To obtain the discount, proof of residency is required at the time of purchase.

## National Wildlife Federation

### Historic Public Lands Protections Become Law

Thanks in part to the tens of thousands of messages sent to Congress from NWF's wildlife advocates, last week the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 was signed into law.

This sweeping legislation includes more than 160 separate public lands proposals that would secure wilderness designation for more than two million acres in nine states, protect over a thousand miles of rushing rivers and permanently establish a 26-million acre National Landscape Conservation System.

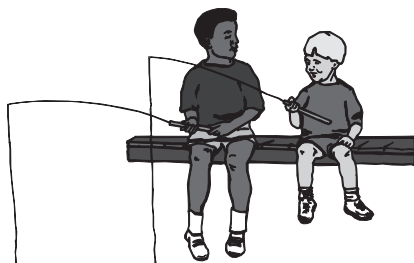
Contact us at [info@nwf.org](mailto:info@nwf.org) | 1-800-822-9919 | National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston VA, 20190.

National Wildlife Federation *Adapted from materials provided by USDA/Agricultural Research Service. Contact us at [info@nwf.org](mailto:info@nwf.org), 1-800-822-9919, National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston VA, 20190. © 2008 National Wildlife Federation. All rights reserved.*

## Free Youth Fishing Program Returns May 2

Once again this summer, young anglers, age 5 to 15, can grab a pole and fish for free on Saturday mornings at the pond in Lovelace Park, Gross Point Road at Thayer St. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this is a catch-and-release program designed to give youth a chance to experience firsthand the fun of fishing. Free equipment and bait are provided, and staff from the Evanston Ecology Center are on hand to offer their expert advice.

This fishing program is held from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday, May 2-Oct. 31. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fishing licenses are not needed for those under age 16. For more details, call 847-448-8256.



## Employers Battle to be Healthiest During Bike Commuter Challenge

Chicagoland companies will again go helmet-to-helmet to earn the honor of having the healthiest and most active employees during Bike to Work Week June 13-19.

Registration is open for the 2009 Bike Commuter Challenge at [www.activetrans.org/commuterchallenge](http://www.activetrans.org/commuterchallenge). The Challenge is a weeklong event where companies compete for the highest percentage of employees that bike to work during Bike to Work Week.

"It is easier than ever for companies to boost staff health and morale," said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance. "The recently passed bike commuter benefit, coupled with this event, is the perfect time to make the office more bike-friendly."

Here is how the Challenge works:

Get a crew: Each company's Team Leader pumps up their office mates and gets the crew ready for the big Challenge. Active Trans equips Team Leaders with all the information and tools their team needs to commute by bike.

Bike! After hyping up the entire office, from CEOs to staff, the Team Leader tracks how many people bike at least one trip during Bike to Work Week.

Celebrate: Active Trans will announce the winners, will relish in bragging rights and fabulous prizes.

In 2008, more than 350 companies fought for the bragging rights.

"We expect at least 500 companies to compete this year," Sadowsky said. "More people are escaping from costly and frustrating commute to one that is good for their waistline and their wallet."

The Bike Commuter Challenge is part of Bike to Work Week, when we celebrate the two-wheeled commute. Cyclists can fuel up with free air and coffee at Bike Commuter Stations located at suburban Metra stations and along Chicago bike routes. Times and locations will be posted at [www.activetrans.org/biketoworkweek](http://www.activetrans.org/biketoworkweek).

*The Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit, member-based advocacy organization that works to make bicycling, walking and public transit so safe, convenient and fun that we will achieve a significant shift from environmentally harmful, sedentary travel to clean, active travel. The organization builds a movement around active transportation, encourages physical activity, increases safety and builds a world-class transportation network. Formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, the Active Transportation Alliance is North America's largest transportation advocacy organization, supported by more than 6,000 members, 1,000 volunteers and 35 full-time staff. For more information on the Active Transportation Alliance, visit [www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org) or call 312.427.3325.*

## Urban Wildlife Coalition

### Landscaping to Deter Wildlife

The rabbits are in the lettuce again! It's hard not to be bothered when wildlife comes nibbling in our backyards. But, it is important to remember that rabbits, deer, squirrels, and others truly are not trying to annoy us. As we humans destroy more and more of their natural habitats, they are simply doing their best to adapt, to feed themselves and their families. A bit of patience and good humor, along with some humane and natural deterrents, can go a long way toward a peaceful coexistence with our wildlife neighbors.

Incorporate undesirable plants around the perimeter or woven in between plants they want to eat. Rabbits are not fond of the smell or taste of pepper plants; most animals do not like strongly aromatic plants like peppermint or sage; many animals are deterred by fuzzy (lamb's ear) or thorny (rosebush) plants.

Install fences or barriers. For rabbits, chicken wire fencing, two feet high – be sure to sink posts half-foot or so into the ground.

Save a little something for them. Lure them away from your vegetables with a small garden all their own.

Remove cover. Most animals like to dine near an exit. They seek bushes and other hiding spots near their food source.

Some say soap (Dial seems to work especially well), hung around plants and moved periodically, will deter deer and other animals.

Consider motion-activated lights (for nocturnal animals) and sprinklers.

A word about capsaicin (a hot-pepper compound). Because we believe in finding humane deterrents, and since it is impossible to determine the level of discomfort caused to animals, we do not recommend capsaicin-based products. Same is true coyote (or other animals') urine as a deterrent. Any conscientious person must wonder under what circumstances the urine is collected from these animals.

We're happy to answer specific questions about attracting or deterring wildlife in your garden and we encourage you to share your tried-and-true suggestions with us! Please contact [urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com) or 773-545-8136. Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife. Special thanks to Michael Repkin, co-founder of Urban Habitat Chicago for sharing his expertise on landscaping to attract or deter animals. For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit [www.urban-wildlifecoalition.org](http://www.urban-wildlifecoalition.org).

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### FOR KIDS - Summer Youth Program

Summer Youth Program Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door.  
 Niles Township residents only \$2 unless otherwise listed.  
 July 8 · 10:30 am My Dreams : Victor Pacini  
 July 15 · 10:30 am The Spellbinder - Walter King  
 July 22 · 10:30 am Jeff Bibik - "The Magician"  
 July 25 at 1pm, August 1, 8 , 15 at 1pm, Somebody Come and Play Tickets are \$15 each for adults, \$10 each for kids 13 and under. Somebody Come and Play - a musical anniversary celebration of 40 years of Sesame Street. No puppets, or Big Bird, just the music from the classic American television show Sesame Street. The show features such songs as "Bein' Green," "Rubber Ducky," "I Love Trash," "C is for Cookie," "I Don't Want to Live on the Moon" and many more. Perfect for the whole family. Featuring Heather Currie, George Howe, Dan Michel, Daryl Nitz, and Melissa Young.  
 July 29 · 10:30 am Magic That Quacks You Up from Steve Belliveau

### POP/JAZZ/FOLK

April 15, at 1:30pm Dean Martin Songbook starring Peter Oprisko Tickets are \$10.  
 April 17, at 8pm Chuck Salvo Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.  
 April 19, at 2pm & 7:00pm Kate The Great: The Music and Times of Kate Smith Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.  
 April 22, at 1:30pm The chairman and his board starring Peter Oprisko - The Music of Sinatra and friends Tickets are \$10.  
 April 24, at 8pm "COLE PORTER MADE ME GAY - AGAIN" starring John Van Keulen Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door  
 April 25, at 8pm Charlene Brooks presents: Side By Side by "Gershwin" Performing original arrangements from George Gershwin and Stephen Sondheim. Think of the fun, the beauty, the drama, as the versatile consummate singer and story teller, Charlene Brooks creates an evening of humor and beautiful music by blending the talents of two of America's most brilliant song writers.  
 Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.  
 April 26, at 2pm Randy Sabien & Mike Dowling Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.  
 April 29, at 1:30pm Come to the Cabaret Tickets are \$10.

### COMEDY

June 5-20 Mike Toomey's TV & ME Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Showtimes: 6/5/09 8pm, 6/6/09 8pm, 6/12/09 8pm, 6/13/09 8pm, 6/19/09 8pm, 6/20/09 8pm

CALL FOR ARTISTS

## Evanston Festivals

The City of Evanston is seeking artists for its two summer arts festivals, the Ethnic Arts Festival, July 18-19, and the Lakeshore Arts Festival, Aug. 1-2. Set against the scenic backdrop of Evanston's lakefront, both festivals are held in Dawes Park, Church St. and Sheridan Road.  
 The Ethnic Arts Festival is a juried festival open to all ethnic, folk and fine artists whose work expresses the heritage of a national, regional, tribal or language group. Exhibitor fees are \$240 and the nonrefundable jury fee is \$35. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, April 6.  
 Always held the first weekend in August, the Lakeshore Arts Festival continues to earn its reputation as one of the North Shore's premiere fine arts summer festivals. Also a juried event, it is open to all fine visual artists and crafters. Exhibitor fees are \$310 and the nonrefundable jury fee is \$35. Applications for the Lakeshore Arts Festival must be received by Friday, March 6.  
 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. The Ethnic Arts Festival and Lakeshore Arts Festival are produced by the City of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division and are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

## SKOKIE ART GUILD

Skokie Art Guild's 48th Annual Art Fair. July 11/12, 2009. Fine Art. Prizes and Awards. \$150.00 Booth Fee. 75 Exhibitors. Held on the beautiful Village Green, downtown Skokie, IL., 5211 W. Oakton. APPLY NOW! Contact: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) Tel. 847-677-8163

## Poet Janet S. Wong to Read at Hirshfield Awards on April 19

Janet S. Wong, a nationally recognized children's poet, will read from her poetry on Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. in the Evanston Public Library's Community Meeting Room. Wong is the judge for this year's Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue in downtown Evanston. The competition winners in the adult, high school, middle school, and elementary school categories will receive their awards at this event and will read their award winning poems.  
 Wong's successful switch from corporate law to children's literature has been the subject of several articles and television programs, most notably "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and the Fine Living Channel. Janet and her books have received numerous awards and honors, such as the International Reading Association's "Celebrate Literacy Award" and the prestigious Stone Center Recognition of Merit, given by the Claremont Graduate School. Janet's poems and stories have been featured in many textbooks and anthologies, and also in some more unusual venues. Poems from Behind the Wheel have been performed on a car-talk radio show. "Albert J. Bell" from A Suitcase of Seaweed was selected to appear on 5,000 subway and bus posters as part of the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority's "Poetry in Motion" program. Wong also travels to schools and universities across the country sharing her talents and conducting poetry workshops.  
 This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Library's Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Fund sponsors the award competition.

## Hand Made Prints, Exhibit Continues at Noyes Gallery Through April 30

Printmaker Julian Cox, director of One Horse Press, is curator of the exhibit, Hand Made Prints, which features a wide variety of prints from across the United States and Canada. It will be on display on both floors at the Noyes Gallery through April 30.  
 The Noyes Gallery, at 927 Noyes St., is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; admission is free.



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# Lincolnwood Memorial Day Event

Monday, May 25 -The Lincolnwood event is a cooperative effort between the American Legion Post 1226 and the Village of Lincolnwood. Parade, step-off at 10 am from the Kow-Kow Restaurant located at the corner of Pratt and Cicero in Lincolnwood. The parade ends at Proesel Park in Madeleine’s Garden along Morse between Lincoln and Kostner at the south side of the park. It is short parade featuring the Niles West Marching Band, Community Groups and Dignitaries

Following the Parade a ceremony is held in Madeleine’s Garden (the garden dedicated to the memory of Madeleine Grant, former Mayor of Lincolnwood), featuring speakers and the Niles West Marching Band playing patriotic music. A Community Picnic may follow, but details have not been discussed or confirmed.

For more information call the Village of Lincolnwood at 847-673-1540.

# Oakton Emeritus Classes Focus on Fitness and Films

Stretch your body and mind this spring in classes offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton Community College. Featured course meets at Oakton’s Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

Beginning Hatha Yoga (PED S10-73) demonstrates how to practice stretching, breathing, and relaxation techniques from an instructor certified by the Himalayan Institute. Students are asked to bring a small pillow and a mat or towel to class. Five-week course meets 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, starting April 29. Course fee is \$60.

Intermediate Hatha Yoga (PED S11-72) is for those who wish to advance in their practice. Five-week course meets 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, starting April 29. Course fee is \$60.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down (HUM E74-72) allows film buffs to gather to critique the latest movies. Four-week course meets 1 – 3 p.m., Friday, starting May 1. Course fee is \$60.

For more information about the Emeritus Program, including costs of featured lectures, call 847-635-1414 or 847-982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit [www.oakton.edu/emeritus](http://www.oakton.edu/emeritus).

# Evanston Cultural Fund Grant Recipients Announced

Fifteen Cultural Fund grants totaling \$37,000 have been awarded by the City of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division and the Evanston Arts Council. The grants are designed to encourage and support arts projects that serve Evanston residents.

The 15 recipients include not-for-profit arts organizations and individual artists. Those receiving grants are: Dan Anthon, Enid Smith, Art Encounter, Block Museum, Evanston Art Center, Evanston Dance Ensemble, Evanston In-School Music Association (EISMA), Evanston Symphony Orchestra, Light Opera Works, Literature for All of Us, Music Institute of Chicago, Musical Offering, Next Theatre Company, Open Studio Project and Shanti Foundation for Peace.

Cultural Fund Grant applications are available each fall through the Cultural Arts Division. For more information, call 847-448-8260. The Evanston Cultural Fund Grant Program is administered by the Cultural Arts Division, a division of the City of Evanston's Department of Parks/Forestry & Recreation, and the Evanston Arts Council. The Cultural Fund is supported by the City of Evanston and partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

## Open Studio Project Children's Art Classes Art & Adventure

Support your child's creativity in an open, playful atmosphere where adventurous use of materials is encouraged. Children will explore a variety of 2-D and 3-D projects. Taught by Jan Ellenstein who has been making art fun for children for the last 30 years.

Age Level: 2-5 yrs (parent/child class)  
Fee, 4-week class: \$80 non-membe, \$75 OSP member, \$70 sibling  
Fee, 6-week class: \$125 non-membe, \$115 OSP member, \$90 sibling

Tuesday Mornings May 5 - June 2; 4 weeks  
Wednesday Mornings Apr 29 - Jun 10; 6 weeks (no class 5/13)  
Wednesday Afternoons Apr 29 - Jun 10; 6 weeks (no class 5/13)  
Call to register - (847) 475 - 0390.

**Adult Art Classes Connecting with the Creative Process**

New & Continuing Students Take time to open the window to your creative side. No prior art or writing experience necessary - just an open mind.

Cost \$165 non-members, \$155 OSP members.

Tuesday Nights 6:30-8:30pm April 14 - May 19  
Friday Mornings 10:00am-12noon April 17 - May 22  
Sunday Afternoons (last chance for the Sunday class until the fall!)  
1:00-3:00pm April 19 - May 31 (no class 5/24)  
Thursday Mornings (Extended Class) Cost \$200 non-members, \$190 OSP members 10:00am-12:30pm April 16 - May 21  
Call to register - (847) 475-0390.

**The Talking Pictures Festival (May 1 - 3)**

...is Evanston's first film festival and will highlight independent films from around the world mixed with brand new offerings by local filmmakers. The three day festival is jam packed with animated shorts, documentaries, feature films and shorts that promise to engage and entertain North Shore audiences. The full schedule of films will be posted mid April at: [www.talkingpicturesfestival.org](http://www.talkingpicturesfestival.org)

On Friday May 1, 2009 at 6pm The Talking Pictures Festival will feature the documentary 1000 Journals at Block Cinema on Northwestern University's campus.

1000 JOURNALS (USA, 2007, 88 min.) Dir: Andrea Kreuzhage

San Francisco artist Someguy became a kind of 21st century Johnny Appleseed when he released 1000 blank journals into the world with an invitation for others to fill them. The blank pages fostered both creativity and a community that has grown into the thousands as the books pass from hand to hand and country to country. Andrea Kreuzhage's fascinating documentary 1000 Journals traces the journey of several of these journals as they circle the globe and return to Someguy filled with art, personal musings, rants, illustrations, messages, and stories by absolute strangers.

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## “This is my new favorite shop!”



*Jules and Suzanne*

“This place is amazing! There is so much fun and interesting stuff to look at and it is very organized! This is my new favorite shop!” That is one of the many testimonies often expressed at the Antique and Resale Shoppe. Over 32 years in business, the owners Suzanne and Jules are constantly trying to make it a fun place to shop.

Let’s start with the atmosphere. There is always good old music playing in the background. Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Louis Prima, and Ella Fitzgerald are a few favorites. Then of course there is the merchandise. The store is chock full from old costume jewelry, vintage clothing, hats, purses to decorative ware, quilts, linens and colorful kitchenware.

But! But! But! It’s not a store just for the ladies! For the strapping male customer there is pocketknives, pens, postcards, old toys, photographs, watches and more.



But! But! But! It’s not a store just for “seasoned” shoppers! For the hip and groovy trend setter there are gobs of new jewelry, scarves, and purses. The atmosphere of the store also include the owners and their friends who often are dressed up in wacky vintage ensembles, hats, and are wearing piles of costume jewelry. Don’t ever ask them if you have on one too many pieces of jewelry with an outfit. The answer will almost always be “Look at me! You’re asking the wrong girl!” or “The more the merrier!” or a simple answer “NO!” Suzanne and Jules aren’t the only charmers in the store. Their two friendly dogs are the greeters and are in charge of customer service!

Times have changed in the world of antiques. The once popular cut glass and fine china interest has been replaced with people searching for more whimsical items or things that remind them of their own past. Linens that have to be ironed are no longer in vogue. Who has time to iron anyway! The colorful fruit and floral pattern tablecloths and dishtowels are more desirable. One saying that always rings true is, “just because it’s old does not mean that it is a desirable antique!” Someone has to want to buy it.

Suzanne and Jules buy vintage and antique items from people downsizing, moving, or cleaning out a relative’s home. They buy all sorts of goodies prior to the 1960’s. Costume jewelry, vintage clothes, compacts, purses, pottery, toys, quilts, chenille spreads, old xmas ornaments and military items are always desirable. Skeleton keys, eyeglass frames, old unknown family photos, and funny swim caps are just some of the unusual things bought at The Antique and Resale Shoppe at 7214 N. Harlem

773-631-1151.

The Shoppe has been featured on WGN and in the Tribune and should be on Wild Chicago! If you want to see what fun looks like....Come visit the Antique & Resale Shoppe with 15,000 sq. feet of inventory amazingly organized into a 1,200 sq. foot store, listen to great music, and meet the Wonderful Wacky Gals behind the Counter!

## Israeli and Palestinian Teens Communicate

**WHAT:** Now in its seventh year, Hands of Peace brings teens from Israel and the West Bank to the Chicago area for two weeks every summer. Together with American teens, they engage in a coexistence program of dialogue, team-building exercises and cultural activities to build friendship and understanding.

**WHY:** Money is being raised to pay the expenses of the Israeli and Palestinian youth

**WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church, 700 Sheridan Rd Lake Forest IL

**WHEN:** April 21 7:30 to 9:00 pm

**HOW:** A Lecture by Ron Miller entitled  
A Bigger God: Addressing THE NEW ATHEISTS ....Atheism is back! It has, of course, long been part of the modern theological conversation . Ludwig Feuerbach's philosophical reflections fathered atheists as diverse as Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Jean - Paul Sartre. In the wake of 9/11 and the realization that religion in the Muslim world and in the Christian West could shape politics (or was it really politics shaping religion?), a new breed of atheists has arisen, including writers like Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens. We'll respond to their arguments and try to place them in a larger context.

**WHO:** Ron Miller, PhD is widely recognized for his ability to communicate the meaning of sacred texts to people of all backgrounds. He has lectured at hundreds of churches, synagogues, and mosques throughout the United States. He is the chair of the Religion Department at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest Illinois, where he has taught for thirty years, and co-founder of Common Ground, an adult education group for interfaith religious study and dialogue since 1975. He is vice president of the Interreligious Engagement Project 21.

Hands of Peace 1000 Elm St Glenview, IL 60025 847.559.1864; 847.559.1124 fax. Visit our web site: [www.hands-of-peace.org](http://www.hands-of-peace.org)

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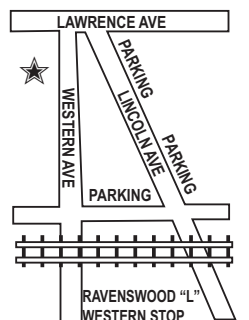
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**CAMP TO BELONG INTERNATIONAL  
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TO THIRD ANNUAL “SING FOR SIBS”**

**Share in a great family evening of music and merriment while supporting a wonderful cause**

For the third year in a row, Camp To Belong International will host “Sing for Sibs,” a wonderful family event to raise money to send children in the foster care system to camp and raise awareness about the importance of keeping sibling connections intact. The event will be held at Blumen Gardens, located at 403 Edward St., on Friday, May 29, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

The entertainment line-up for the evening includes bluegrass band Tavern Hill Liars and Johnny and the Boomers, a local blues band. A silent auction will feature more than over 100 items ranging from box seats to a White Sox game, jewelry, stained glass and pottery to a one-week timeshare vacation in Orlando, Fla.

“The lifetime of shared memories that are created over a week at camp, reuniting brothers and sisters who have been separated in foster care or other out-of-home care, is truly priceless,” said Andi Andree, Camp To Belong board member. “Thanks to the wonderful support of the Sycamore community, we can provide valuable childhood memories to these siblings through our ‘Sing for Sibs’ fundraising effort.”

Advance pricing for this event is \$10 per adult or \$15 for two (\$5 more at the door). Youth 8-18 are \$5 each and children under 8 are free. Tickets for “Sing for Sibs” are available for purchase at Ben Franklin Crafts at 341 W. State St. in Sycamore, via phone at 815-895-6247 or by email at [info@camptobelong.org](mailto:info@camptobelong.org).

**ABOUT CAMP TO BELONG:** Camp To Belong is an international non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to reuniting siblings placed in separate foster homes and other out of home care for events of fun, emotional empowerment and sibling connection. Founded by Lynn Price, herself separated from her sister Andi in the foster care system, the organization is approaching its 15th year and has helped over 2,800 brothers and sisters reunite. Supervised by volunteer counselors, the campers' days are filled with fun and meaningful activities that give siblings the opportunity to experience new things together, such as horseback riding, rafting, swimming and wall climbing. They strengthen relationships while experiencing the storybook adventures that a summer camp provides. **CAMP TO BELONG:** P.O. Box 1146, Marana, AZ., 85653, (520) 413-1395 [www.camptobelong.org](http://www.camptobelong.org)

**Evanston Public Library**

**1703 Orrington Ave.  
847-448-8610**

Join us for a “**Wonderful Whirl of Puppets**” and stories from around the world—folktales and parables and stories from Marilyn Price’s imagination and experience. Many are stories that are familiar and reconstructed to suit the audience—but the drama is kept intact and the message is always clear. Countries of story origin may include: Africa, China, Indonesia, Spain, Mexico, England, North and South America and the Middle East! New stories and countries are always being added. Price weaves a finely-crafted performance filled with storytelling, puppetry and wisdom. Her puppets, an art form themselves, have drawn praise from her peers. As a teacher, historian, craftsman, or entertainer, the result is always the same: Marilyn moves her hands, tells the story, and the audience comes to life. The program starts at 2PM on Saturday, April 25 at North Branch Library located at 2026 Central Street. Suitable for all ages.

**Shakespeare in Love** (1998, 122 min, rated R) is the featured film on Friday, April 24 at 3PM in the Main Library Community Meeting Room.

William Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes), a struggling young playwright, suffers writer's block in this witty romantic comedy set in Elizabethan London. When Shakespeare meets and falls in love with the beautiful Viola (Gwyneth Paltrow), his creative powers are unleashed in the form of "Romeo and Juliet," one of the greatest love stories of all time. Judi Dench co-stars in her Academy Award winning performance as Queen Elizabeth I.

Evanston Public Library North Branch will join the **Central Street Merchants for Retail Therapy**. Check out our fabulous finds: film, fiction and facts. Create a book mark and pick up a list of recommended reads. Come visit us at 2026 Central Street on Thursday, April 23 6-8PM.

**Join folksinger, teacher and Shakespeare lover** Tim Duggan as he performs his original songs based on Shakespearean stories. Dr. Duggan is a noted singer-songwriter and educator who has performed his adaptations of Shakespeare and other classic literature for audiences in several states. A lively, entertaining program for all ages! The program begins at 3PM on Sunday, April 26 in the Main Library Community Meeting Room located at 1703 Orrington Avenue.

**Teens are invited to Word Slam and Gaming on Friday Night**, April 24, 6:30-9PM in the Loft at the Evanston Public Library. Rap, rhyme and/or read a poem! And if that isn't enough, Friday night gaming is back. For teens ages 13-18. Free bus ride home!

This event is sponsored by Evanston Public Library Young Adult Services, City of Evanston Youth Engagement Initiative and Evanston Parks/Forestry & Recreation Department.

Just in time for Shakespeare's birthday comes this **screening of She's the Man**, a modern take on Twelfth Night. This comedy follows Viola who, when her soccer team gets disbanded, poses as her twin brother at his school which has an active soccer team. Things get complicated when she falls in love with her new roommate, Duke, and then finds herself the object of affection of the beautiful Olivia, the girl whom Duke loves. Rated PG-13. 1 hour, 45minutes. The movie will be shown at 2PM on Saturday, April 25 in the Loft at the Main Evanston Public Library. Teens only.



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# Caring for Your Spouse....Even After You're Gone



Chester M. Przybylo

Your spouse has been there with you through thick and thin. They have been your rock, the foundation upon which you've built your life. Your spouse has probably been your friend, confidant, and true partner.

If your spouse is ailing now, there are ways that you can protect them, even after you are gone. Let's say your spouse has a slowly degenerative disease, like Alzheimer's disease. Hopefully, their illness may be kept at bay. As long as you are there, you may intend to care for your spouse at home.

But, what if you die first? At least one

study has shown that caregivers themselves often get sick or die early because of the stresses on them.

If you die first, your assets would pass to your spouse. Then, without your support, your spouse may need nursing care and would need to spend the resources you've built over a lifetime together to pay for that care. Eventually, they would have "spent down" those resources and would qualify for financial assistance. But, then they would have little money left for incidentals and luxuries, like birthday gifts for the grandchildren.

There is a better way. You could leave your assets to your spouse in a "Testamentary Special Needs Trust," which is a unique kind of Special Needs Trust. The assets in the Special Needs Trust may not be used for items covered by government assistance, such as medical care. However, the assets may be used for whatever costs government assistance does not cover, such as a special medical procedure, extra therapy, a private room in the hospital or nursing home, travel, an art class, birthday gifts for the grandchildren, and in some cases, even everyday living expenses.

A Special Needs Trust is a good strategy for any loved one needing substantial care. However, a Special Needs Trust for your spouse can only take effect upon your death. Further, it must be set up in a precise manner to qualify, so that the assets you leave to your spouse will not be deemed "available resources" when seeking government assistance and have to be "spent down" before the government will help with the bills.

You would do anything for your spouse. But, statistics show that you may go before your spouse. Plan now to protect and provide for your spouse, even after you are gone. A qualified estate planning and elder law attorney, one who focuses his or her practice in that area, can help you set up a plan that meets your concerns and your spouse's needs.

*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.*

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## DON'T BE AN APRIL FOOL WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAYMENT

*By Andrew Salata, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Chicago, IL*

No one likes being the target of an April fool's prank. If you're receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, don't let anyone fool you regarding your special one-time recovery payment of \$250 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

To make sure no one does, we'll state this as clearly as possible:

- All Social Security and SSI beneficiaries who are eligible for the special one-time recovery payment will have their payment issued in May;
- The payment is automatic; no action is required on your part; and
- There are no requests to make, no applications and no fees to pay.

If you receive a visit, call or email from anyone claiming to want to help you obtain your payment, be skeptical. Do not pay anyone to help you receive your payment. And do not reveal any of your personal information to them, such as your full name, date of birth, or Social Security number. If someone requests this information for this purpose, it's more likely they're "out to get you" than out to get your payment for you.

In addition to people who receive Social Security and SSI benefits, people who receive benefits from Veterans Affairs and the Railroad Retirement Board will receive one-time payments of \$250. Note, however, that only one payment of \$250 will be made per person, regardless of any combination of benefits that may be received.

How will your recovery payment be made? They will be paid the same way that your regular monthly payments are made. People with direct deposit will receive their payments electronically. Those who receive paper checks will receive their payments in the mail. People who receive regular payments through the new Direct Express debit card will receive their one-time payments through the card. We will send your one-time payment separately from your Social Security or SSI benefit.

To assist in processing the payments as efficiently as possible, please do not contact Social Security — unless you have not received your payment by June 4. More information is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payment](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment) and will be updated as needed.

Rest assured that your special one-time recovery payment will be sent to you automatically. And if it's not received by June 4, there's only one place you need to contact: Social Security, at your local office, or 1-800-772-1213.

## Evanston Acts to Stem Foreclosures

Despite Evanston's desirable housing stock, the City is not sheltered from the foreclosure crisis and is taking action to combat future increases in foreclosures. In 2008, lenders filed more than 250 foreclosure complaints on City of Evanston properties. Although nearly every neighborhood has experienced a number of foreclosures, the majority are concentrated in a few wards.

In response, the City is taking a multi-dimensional approach to curtail a rise in foreclosures. The City has heightened its property standards enforcement of vacant buildings and will apply for federal funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to turn around vacant or foreclosed properties. In addition, the City provides information and resources on its website, and is reaching out with an informational brochure to property owners who receive foreclosure notices.

The City posts updated resources and information at [www.cityofevanston.org/foreclosurehelp](http://www.cityofevanston.org/foreclosurehelp). The website includes general information on the foreclosure process, resources for free foreclosure counseling and updates on federal programs aimed at reducing foreclosures. Not only does it urge owners to take proactive steps to address the problem, but also to be wary of ads and solicitations offering help for a fee. Free resources, links to other websites and an alert from the U.S. Housing & Urban Development department about mortgage rescue scams are among the current web page listings.

The City also wants to make homeowners aware of a recent federal initiative, Making Home Affordable, which was announced in early March. The program encourages lenders to modify existing mortgages for owners who cannot afford the mortgage payments and provides modification guidelines. Plus, it expands mortgage refinancing options for owners in good standing who have lost equity in their property but want to refinance to get a lower rate.

Homeowners or renters who have any questions or concerns about foreclosures can contact the City of Evanston to speak with Donna Spicuzza, Housing Planner, at 847-866-2928, x2264, or Evonda Thomas, Director of Health & Human Services, at 847-866-2969.

# "A Theatre Review"

*“Curtains”*

*Drury Lane Theatre*

*100 Drury Lane Rd.*

*Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois*

*Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt*

“Curtains,” the new musical murder mystery on view at the Drury Lane Theatre thanks to Kyle DeSantis, Drew De Santis and William Osetek and they have done it again as they have a new winner on their hands.

The musical played over 500 performances on Broadway and Drury Lane is the first regional theatre to get the rights before a road show tours the country.

The show has a book by Rupert Holmes with songs by Kander and Ebb based on a book and concept by Peter Stone.

William Brown is directing his first musical and is a Jeff Award winning actor who has assembled a dynamite cast of actors, singers and dancers. The show has fantastic choreography by Linda Fortunato and the show is under the musical direction of the amazing Doug Peck.

All I can say is Nancy Foigts as Carmen Bernstein the producer of the musical that is being staged when the leading lady gets murdered Jessica Cranshaw played by Paula Scrofano is a standout and Sean Fortunato as Detective Frank Cioffi all give an award winning portrayals. John Reeger as the British director Christopher Belling shows audiences why he is in demand whether it’s a musical, comedy or a drama. Christine Sherill and James Rank as Georgia Hendricks and Aaron Fox as the estranged song writing partners have both beautifully trained voices and great acting skills. It’s great to see Mark David Kaplan as one of the show’s investors and Jim Corti as Sidney Bernstein, the husband of the producer and the second murder victim back on Chicago stages. Jessie Mueller as Niki Harris an actress in the show and is a performer audiences should watch as she is talented with a capital ”T” who has a big singing voice and is a terrific actress.

Niclle hren as Bambi who is the daughter of the producer is fun to watch in her role. The ensemble of eleven others, some of whom are Matt Raftery, Joey Stone, Gary Carlson, Angie Schoofs and Cessa Lee Martinez sing and dance up a storm.

Other standouts are Michael Parker Ayers, Eric Parks and Jeff Cummings. I won’t reveal who the murderer is – you have to see this entertainment to find out.

“Curtains” runs through May 17. For show dates, times and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets are \$29 to \$35.

*“Mary Poppins”*

*Cadillac Palace Theatre*

*151 West Randolph Street*

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt*

The world famous nanny with her umbrella in hand has flown into town and it’s a show one shouldn’t miss. It might have its dark moments but it is an absolute delight and it brings with it two of its original stars. Chicagoans cannot only thank Disney but the London producer Cameron Mackintosh and Thomas Schumacher.

If audiences like “Wicked” and kept it here for three years, then this show should draw audiences for that long. And not just until July 12 as it is now scheduled. It’s a show as much for adults as it is for the kids but then maybe I’m a kid at heart.

Ashley Brown as Mary Poppins won the Outer Critics, Drama League and Drama Desk nominations for the role. Gavin Lee as Bert the Chimney Sweep played the role in London and New York and received Tony and Oliver nominations. The show has a cast of 38 and features 16 songs. The show runs two hours and forty five minutes and I didn’t want the evening to come to an end.

The musical is based on books by P.L. Travers and has been adapted by Julian Fellowes. The songs are by Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman whose songs you’ll remember from the movie and there are new songs by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

The sets, costumes, special effects, choreography and direction are awesome and incredible.

I was very impressed with the charismatic performance of Ashley Brown as Mary Poppins as she can act, dance and sing like a Lark. As Bert her friend says when a day is gray and ordinary Mary “makes the sun shine bright” and it does just that.

The Banks family are well cast and Karl Kenzler the father George is much darker than portrayed in the movie and Megan Osterhaus is Mrs. Banks and the children are Abigail Droeger as Jane and Christopher Flaim as Michael are all a delight.

The special effects are amazing as you watch the multi-talented Gavin Lee limb the wall and ceiling of the theatre and once Poppins’ job has been completed with her umbrella in hand ascends into the air and disappears into the balcony.

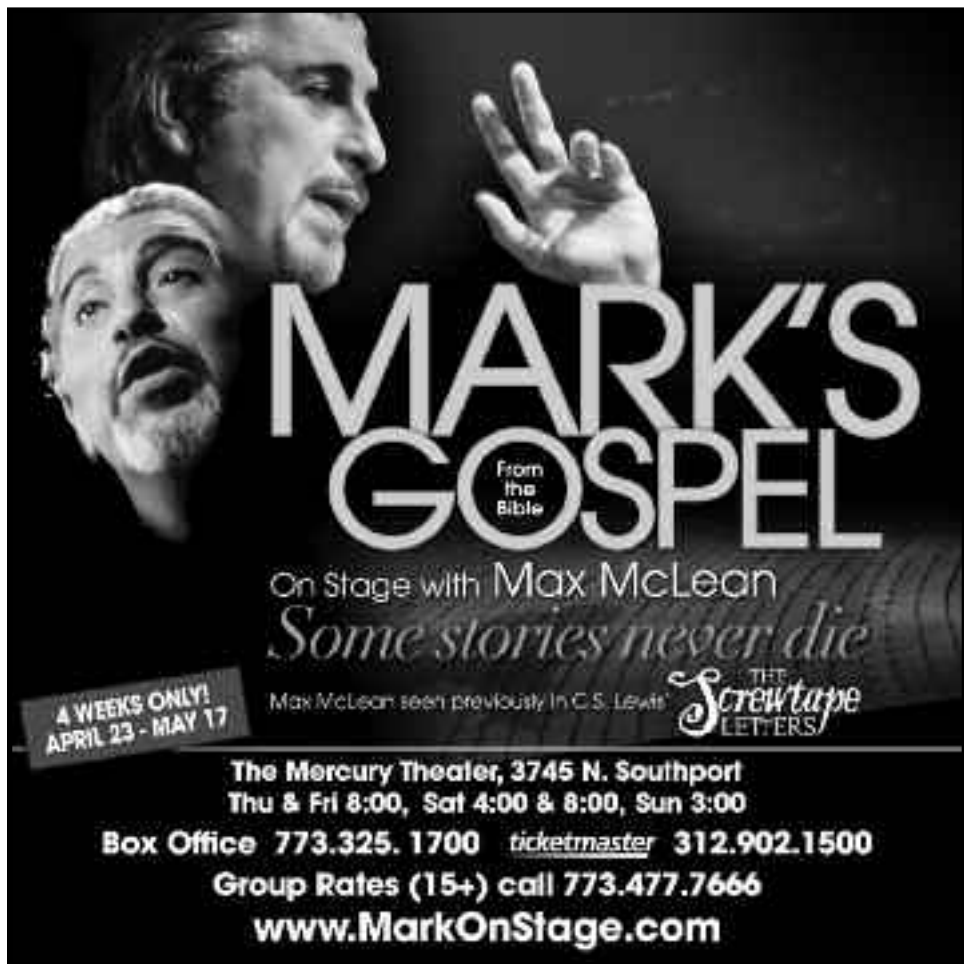
The supporting cast that includes Chicagoan Michael Gerhardt are all tops and also deserve a standing ovation.

It’s a perfect show for our troubled times. Mary Poppins runs until July 12. For show times and reservations call 312-902-1400. Tickets are \$25 to \$90.

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## We R What We Eat!?

By Bosley

Hello my furry friends, I hope that everyone is doing well! Any itching and scratching out there? Been licking those paws raw? How about ear infections? Raise your paw if it is happening to you right now! Unfortunately, many of you are suffering from the effects of allergies. I stress I am not a Veterinarian, but I have noticed a trend and have done some research that I think is important. So, I want to share my new knowledge with my friends.

Spending my days in my Human's Dog Spa, I see too many friends suffering from allergies. I believe allergies can be caused by 1) Genetics which we can't do much about 2) The Environment, well not much we can do there either unless we move to another state, which actually not a bad idea because I am sick of this cold. Opps got on the wrong subject, anyway 3) you're Dog Food, which we CAN do something about. Yes, your hearing is correct I said the Dog Food. We are what we eat, and when we don't eat healthy things in our body go weird, i.e. allergies or irritations on our skin, ears, and eyes occur.

Did you know that we dogs have wolves as ancestors? Our wolf cousins hunt and kill their food making them carnivorous. Therefore, we are too! Thankfully we don't have to kill our food because this Poodle thinks that is gross! The majority of our diet needs to be a meat protein. Many of the new dog food commercials are showing all the vegetables that are great for us, well really are they? If we our carnivores then we really don't need the veggies in large quantities. I know that I am just a Poodle, but that makes sense to me!

Here is the hard part; you have to educate your Human on dog food. Not all dog foods are created equally, and just because they advertise that it is great for us, doesn't mean that it is. I will help you in my next few articles educate ourselves. Our Humans want the best for us, but sometimes don't have the knowledge to do so. So, we are now taking matters into our own paws and educating them! Keep your ear pricked to hear what I have discovered. In the meantime, read the ingredients of your current bag of dog food, what are the first 5 ingredients? You may be surprised!

Stop licking those paws! Bosley

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

## Evanston Dog Beach Opens May 1

Evanston's dog beach, located north of the Church Street boat launch facility, opens for the 2009 season on Friday, May 1, and will remain open through Oct. 31. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. All dogs using the beach must have a pass. The fee for a 2009 dog beach pass is \$50 per dog owned by an Evanston resident and \$100 per dog owned by a nonresident. Applications for dog beach passes as well as dog beach rules and regulations are available at the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., or on the City's Web site at [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org). Before obtaining a dog beach pass, owners must show written proof that their dogs are current on their vaccinations and have been examined within the past year for any communicable diseases. In addition, dogs must be currently licensed in Evanston or the city where the dog lives. For more information, call 847-866-2900.



## Recognizing Illness in Pet Birds

*Continued from last issue*

*Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS*

### Beak

The beak grows constantly and with normal activity should wear down, if this does not occur and the beak overgrows it must be trimmed. However, if the beak quality changes or if the beak suddenly grows rapidly and abnormally it could serve to indicate disease. For example, in fatty liver disease (mainly in budgies eating an all seed diet) the beak overgrows, deteriorates and black/brown spots of hemorrhage are noted on the beak and toenails. Therefore, do not be fooled into thinking that an overgrown beak is strictly due to "not using the cuttlebone". Always check for any unusual crustiness, scaling or enlargements around the beak and mouth.

### Feet/Legs

Infections of the feet occur despite precautions. Pressure sores on the bottom of the feet may develop from improper perch sizes and could lead to ulcerations/bumblefoot. Keep the perches clean, vary the sizes, and provide a soft or non-rigid type perch. If you notice weight shifting, redness, swellings, sores on the feet/legs or lameness, veterinary care should be sought quickly.

The sole purpose of the leg band is for identification, it should be removed to prevent problems. We very often see irritation of the leg due to the band or injury (such as fracture or dislocation) if the band becomes caught on an object. If the leg band is necessary always check the leg for free movement of the band and any unusual irritation.

Unusual crustiness/flakiness on the legs may indicate a nutritional or parasitic condition and should be properly evaluated. One strong caution-care must be taken whenever cream or ointment are applied to a bird. Never apply it to the feathers as it will spread and destroy the insulative properties of the feathers. If it is to be used on the feet or legs, use it sparingly.

### Respiratory Tract

When a bird breathes there should be very little effort. Breathing hard while at rest or heavy breathing for prolonged periods after exercise/exertion can indicate a problem. Any noises heard while breathing such as clicking, wheezing or frequent sneezing are signs of sickness; a bird should breathe with no noticeable respiratory sounds.

Upper respiratory tract infections are very frequently seen in birds. A nasal discharge may appear as fluid in the nostrils or staining of the feathers above the nostrils. Conjunctivitis (pink eye) may also be seen with swollen, red-deney eyelids and discharge around the eyes. Frequent blinking or partial closing of the eyes for prolonged periods may indicate early signs of conjunctivitis. If the condition worsens into a sinusitis there can be swelling around the eyes. Early recognition of respiratory disease in birds is important because pus in birds is not liquid, rather it becomes "cheesy." Thus when the pus builds up in the sinuses and air sacs removal is very difficult.

A bird that is dyspneic (difficult breathing) with mouth open and gasping is extremely ill and must be handled with extreme caution, if at all. Not all dyspneic birds have a respiratory tract infection. One possibility is a space occupying mass in the abdomen that may prevent full expansion of the air sacs so that air flow through the lungs is greatly reduced. Tail bobbing is another sign of an impaired respiratory tract, whether it is a primary respiratory disease or abdominal enlargement. Heart disease can also cause labored breathing.

Extreme breathing difficulty can lead to the development of cyanosis, indicated by a bluish color of the skin, legs and beak. However, do not be fooled by the normal bluish color of the legs of some birds, particularly budgies.

The incessant, high-pitched squeaking sometimes heard in budgies may be due to goiter and pressure of the enlarged thyroid gland on the syrinx (voice box)/trachea (windpipe). The condition responds nicely to iodine therapy.

### Digestive Tract

Food Consumption - A bird that is not eating well is at great risk due to its very rapid metabolic rate and its condition can deteriorate rapidly. It is important to check daily that your bird is eating, and if so, how much. A bird may be picking at the food cup and not actually eating. You must determine if the seeds are being hulled or if they are just being scooped out of the dish onto the floor of the cage. Sometimes a bird may hull the seed but not ingest it. Check the seed cup and bottom of the cage for seed hulls as well as making sure there is not an increased amount of hulled seed present.

If there is hulled seed on the bottom of the cage it must be determined if the bird is not ingesting the seed, regurgitating or vomiting. Regurgitation is a normal part of the courtship behavior. During courtship, regurgitated seeds may be seen on or near the mirror or toys. The bird may even begin to regurgitate to you in a courtship gesture. However, vomited seeds can be seen in sticky clusters throughout the cage - often adhering to the bars of the cage. Further evidence of vomiting is that the head feathers of a vomiting bird are pasted together with vomitus, and this can occasionally mixed with seed.

*Continued next issue*

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