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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

Dec 20th, 2014

Vol. 2, No. 18



LEGGINGS?

With left over yarn, this young lady and a few other residents of the White Town Homes have made this oddly pruned tree into a festive sculpture. It's located on the corner of 9th and Federal in Dearborn Park I.



WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST OF
HOLIDAYS . . .
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY HANUKKAH!

In this Issue



On page 4, Bonnie McGrath Laments the loss of the Chicago Fire House Restaurant



Beth Finke, on page 8, challenges the seniors in her memoir writing class



Two years later . . .
A touching essay.
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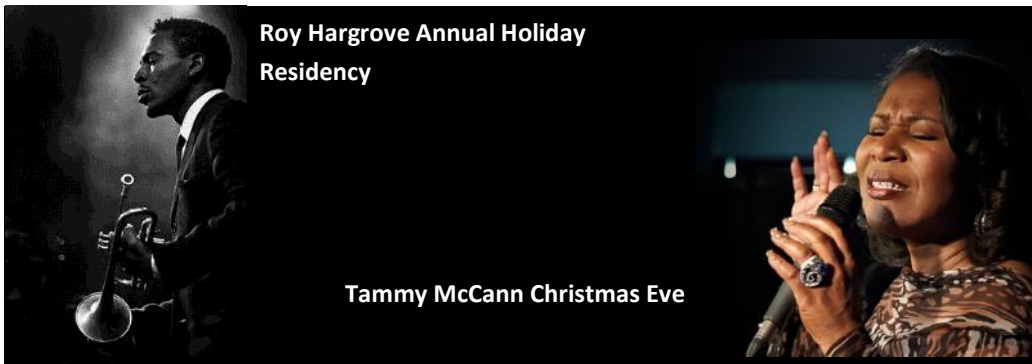
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COMING TO THE JAZZ SHOWCASE

Sun, Dec 21—4 & 8 pm.....	Saxophonist Benny Golson Qt
Mon, Dec 22, 8 & 10 pm	Saxophonist Mark Colby Qt
Tues, Dec 23, 8 & 10 pm	Vocalist Rose Colella "Cocktail" CD Release Party
Weds, Dec 24, 8 & 10 pm.....	Vocalist Tammy McCann Home for the Holidays w/Ryan Cohan Piano, Eric Schneider Tenor Sax, Marlene Rosenberg Bass, Cliff Wallace Drums
Thurs - , Closed for Christmas	
Fri, Dec 26—Tues, Dec 30th	Roy Hargrove Quintet Annual Holiday Residency at The Jazz Showcase
Weds, Dec 31 New Years Eve	Roy Hargrove
Thurs, Jan 1—Sun., Jan 4 8 & 10 pm.....	Roy Hargrove Quintet Annuyal Holiday Residency at the Jazz Showcase
4, 8, & 10pm on Sunday	



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South Loop Neighbors

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan.

www.Southloopneighbors.org



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OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

The Chicago Firehouse: the first day of the rest of its life

By **Bonnie McGrath**, December 11, 2014 at 2:53 am

The [Chicago Firehouse](#) caught [fire yesterday](#). Extra alarms. Scores of firefighters. I could smell the smoke at my house at Roosevelt and State from the fire at 14th and Michigan. I could hear the never-ending sirens. And the helicopters capturing it live for the news.

They say it was an accident. Workers. And Propane tanks. On the roof.

The Chicago Firehouse--a real firehouse that has been a restaurant for the last 15 years in the South Loop--was built in 1905 and served in its heyday as the firehouse for the famous residents of [Prairie Avenue](#)--"the sifted few." It's an historic landmark.

It was renovated and opened as a restaurant by [Matthew O'Malley](#). And for that, he deserves kudos. I remember when it was brand new; a neighbor and good friend was talking on the phone to a relative in St. Louis and she said--about an anniversary dinner that night with her husband--"We're going to dinner in a converted firehouse in the neighborhood this evening. It should be interesting."

And I thought to myself, I sure am proud to live in a neighborhood with cherished historic landmarks, glad that neighbors proudly tell others that an adaptive reuse a few blocks away is special. I recommended it to many people.

The Chicago Firehouse may be dead now. Beyond resuscitation. Gone. Finished.

The roof caved in after the firefighters put the fire out. The inside is gutted. I heard a wall collapsed. As one of my friends just said in an email, "I don't know if it can be salvaged. I'm not a structural engineer."

I wonder what happened during the fire to the original fireman's pole that was still inside. And the bright lights that lit up the outside at night. And I wonder what *will* happen to the car hikers, the bartenders, the waitstaff, the kitchen staff....

The Chicago Firehouse, no matter what anyone ever said about [its politically connected proprietors](#), its food, drinks, decor or anything else, was a South Loop institution. A place unlike anything else in the neighborhood. Understated and overstated all at the same time. With a beautiful walled-in patio in the



summer where one night I saw (for the third time) "[Julie & Julia](#)" as I ate dinner. My boyfriend ordered the [Beef Bourguignon](#); I had fish and mashed potatoes and Stoli Martinis with a lemon twist--under the trees in the breeze on 14th street.

I've gone to many dinners and [birthday parties](#) and meetings and luncheons and bridal showers at the Chicago Firehouse, celebrated so many occasions I have totally lost count.

"I went to a wedding there," a friend said yesterday. "Not just the reception. The wedding, too."

I spent time with so many friends and relatives and neighbors and community groups at the Chicago Firehouse that I feel like someone I knew well died. Or is at least severely ill.

Having the firehouse in the neighborhood was a joy. A comfort.

And yes, I got very mad at it when it hosted a birthday party--thrown by regular customer Richie Daley--for George W. Bush several years ago. How could it? I demanded to know. But it did. And that publicity probably brought in some business. And lost some, too.

The Chicago Firehouse may be over. Although [O'Malley says he will rebuild](#).

I just hope the rebuilding doesn't mean a high-rise with a restaurant off the lobby.

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: <http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-pignant/>





Where am I Contest.

Answer: Springfield, IL in the Illinois State Capital Building.

Winner: Christine Hunt \$10 gift certificate to SRO

Letter to the Editor,

As you know, I have read every issue of the Dearborn Express since it started, but never has there been a more insightful and intelligent piece than Bonnie McGrath's on the Lucas Museum. It offers a totally balanced and realistic argument about the pros and cons of this proposal. Where others have vented personal criticism or political diatribe, she has offered specific alternatives and absolutely hit the nail on the head. I hope all those debating this museum's future will heed her words and act in the best interest of our cultural community.

Mel Theobald
Dearborn Park

OBIT

Marjorie Swift, 85, known as the "Mayor of the Chicago Homes of Dearborn Park", retired real estate manager, formerly of Winnetka, passed away December 11, 2014. Devoted mother of Lesley (Henry) Wolff and Stephen and Robert (Carol) Swift; proud grandmother "Nana" of Joshua Wolff and Matthew, Richard "Alex", David, and Michael Swift; sister of Stanley (Patti) Silver. Daughter of the late Harry Silver and Lillian Batowsky Silver. Faithful companion of her beloved goldenpoodle Coal. Celebration of Life, Spring, 2015. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to PAWS, www.pawschicago.org or Friends of Jones at Jones College Prep, <http://friendsofjones.com/donate/>. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com.

Next Edition,

Sat., Jan 10, 2015



Loopy Yarns



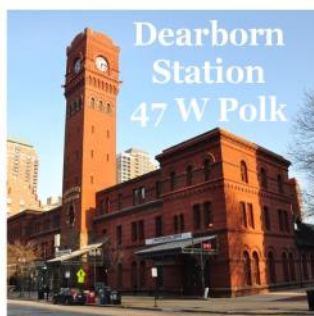
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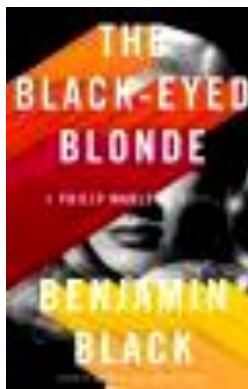
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The Black-eyed Blonde A Philip Marlowe Novel By **Black, Benjamin** (Book - 2014)

Benjamin Black channels Raymond Chandler in this top-notch mystery featuring Philip Marlowe. Clare Cavendish hires Marlowe to find her former lover who's been missing for weeks. To a married woman of considerable means, money is no object, and Marlowe can hardly resist. Of course, as he begins to investigate it becomes clear that Mrs.

Cavendish is being far from upfront with him about her intentions. Can Marlowe get to the bottom of the case without getting involved with the beautiful Clare, or is he in over his head from the beginning? Black captures the classic noir feel and breathes new life into Chandler's iconic PI. Not to miss for fans of crime fiction.

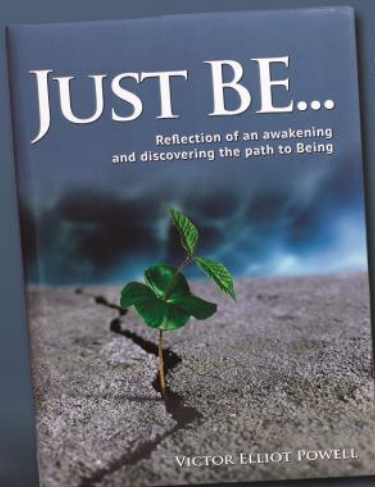
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Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.wordsmith.com>



Thanks, but no thanks

Published December 5, 2014 [memoir writing](#)

In honor of Thanksgiving, I asked seniors in my memoir-writing classes to write on the subject "Thanks, but No Thanks." To explain what I was looking for, I said, "Say you were offered an opportunity, a job, a marriage proposal, a real estate purchase, an adoption, anything, and are sorry you refused that offer, you could write about that." I told them that on the other hand, if there was something in their lives that they were oh so thankful they said no to, they could write about how relieved they are that they said thanks, but no thanks to that offer.

Seniors worked on their essays over Thanksgiving and read them aloud in class this week. Shunned lovers and refused marriage proposals showed up in many of their stories. Other essays were about job offers they'd refused or schools they'd decided not to attend.

Ninety-four-year-old Wanda wrote that while she *has* learned how to use a computer to send email and write essays for class, she has no interest in tweeting or apps or looking at photos on instagram. When asked to embrace technology, she says "Thanks, but no thanks." Judy wrote about how proud she was of the sit-upon she made while she was a Brownie, how intrigued she was by the wood-burning stoves they made from tin cans and cardboard toilet paper rolls once she'd "flown up" to Junior Girl Scouts, but then, when it came to joining a high school troop, she said no.

I can only think of one writer who wrote about regretting he'd said no to an opportunity, but even that essay had a happy ending. Dave hadn't yet visited a foreign country by the time he graduated from college, but when he moved to Texas and a bunch of his buddies asked him to join them on a trip to Monterrey, Mexico, he decided not to go. His pals came back with all sorts of amazing stories. "I've regretted that decision ever since," he wrote, but then acknowledged that foregoin Monterrey changed his life in a very positive way: he's been adventurous ever since, taking on just about every travel opportunity that comes his

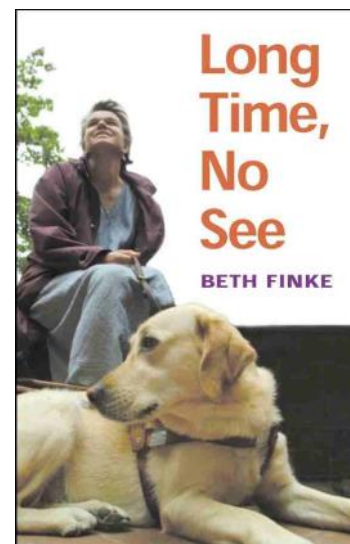
way. Mary's essay was inspired by the title story in M. F. K. Fisher's book *Sister Age*. Mary wrote that she noticed *Sister Age* visiting her 60-year-old mother, "softly draping a shawl around her shoulders on cold winter nights, fixing a breakfast of warm milk toast drenched in honey and butter, accompanying her to multiplying trips to doctors and hospitals, and comforting her in attending increasing numbers of funerals of old friends." Mary's mother died when she was 99 years old, and Mary said that by then "Sister Age was her constant companion and nurse."

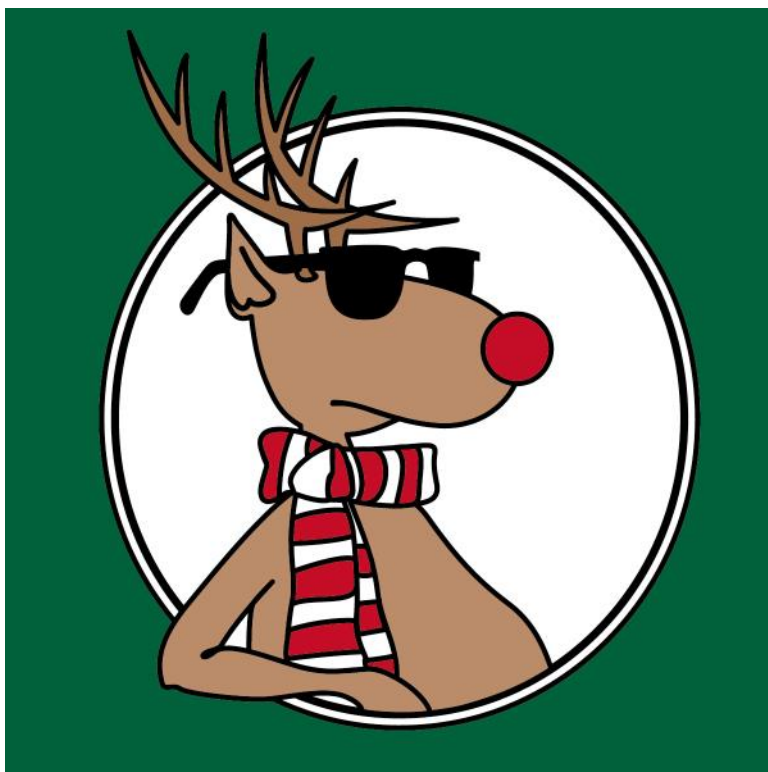


Now Mary sees Sister Age at her own door. "She brings pills and appointments with physical therapists for my hands that move with more difficulty and my joints that stiffen and creak, eyesight that requires stronger prescriptions, nostalgic conversations with friends from high school and college, rooms full of memorabilia from Japan and all our other travels around the world, and a list of things I want to do before I am slowed to a standstill."

Mary explained how she knows Sister Age is there: she hears her knocking at the door, and when she peers out, she sees Sister Age through the peephole. "But I resist welcoming her completely into my life and accepting her invitation to pass the threshold into my consciousness," Mary wrote at the end of her essay. "I want to say to her thanks, but no thanks - but I know that I cannot do that forever."

Beth Finke's books: "Safe and Sound" and "Long Time No See" can be purchased at Sandmeyer's Book Store.





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Second anniversary of Newtown tragedy recognized in 'personal reflection'

By [Dylan Stableford](#) December 14, 2014 12:34 PM Yahoo News

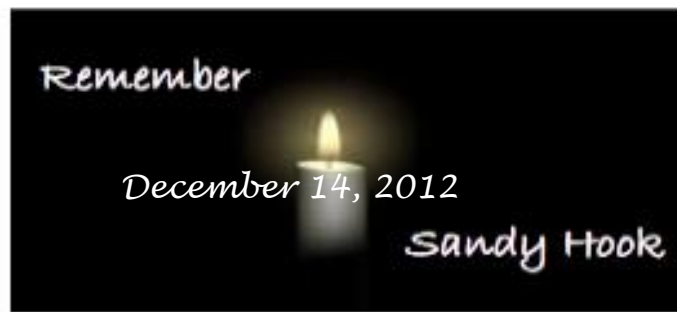
Nicole Hockley, whose son, Dylan, was killed in the shootings, wrote an open letter to "the mom I used to be":

Two years ago, you were happy and whole. You had a plan for life — start a new business, get involved in the school PTA, teach your sons how to ride bicycles and play sports, spend as much time with your friends and parents as possible, watch your children mature, grow old with your husband. You were optimistic — a "glass half full" person who saw the silver lining in every cloud and often felt so much joy you thought you would burst. You always looked forward — never backwards, no regrets. You smiled and laughed a lot. You danced.

You aren't that person anymore.

Two years ago, on December 14, 2012, the world changed and you changed with it. A disturbed young man with access to high-powered firearms went to your sons' school and killed six educators and twenty first-graders. Your eldest son Jake survived, but was changed by the day he discovered some monsters are real. He describes it as the day "when hell came to my school." Your youngest son, Dylan, your beautiful baby boy who you thought of as pure love, with his captivating eyes, infectious giggle and warm deep cuddles, was killed. Shot multiple times, dying instantly in the arms of his special education assistant who also died while trying to protect him.

The tragedy changed every single aspect of your life, not only because of the obvious absence of your child, but because of the constant hole inside you that can never be filled. Your eldest son has been forced to grow up way too fast because of the unfathomable loss of his baby brother. The pain has altered the lines on your husband's face. The way you look at the world has changed. Your interactions with friends and family seem foreign. You've become much harder. No longer brimming with optimism, you are now someone far more realistic and still. And you look back so much more.



You view life through the prism of "before" and "after." Jake's fifth grade photos came recently. They are still sitting on a table because you haven't put them in the frame that sits next to Dylan's last school photo. It's too hard for you — too soon. Jake is getting older. But Dylan is frozen in time forever. Even after two years, there's this denial that is still very present inside you. You have Dylan's baby teeth and a lock of his hair on your bedside cabinet, beside the urn holding his ashes. That's all you have of your little boy now.

It hurts. It just hurts. You suppress your feelings as much as you can because you fear if you really let it out, you would never recover. If you started truly crying, you would never be able to stop. It would destroy you.

Hockley called on parents to take action to protect children from gun violence.

"For all the Moms and Dads reading this now — this doesn't have to be you," she wrote. "Because every gun-related death is a preventable death. These are not random acts. You can't ever say, 'This will never happen to me.' It can happen to anyone, at any point, at any place. You have to care enough and be insightful enough to do something before it's too late."

<http://news.yahoo.com/newtown-sandy-hook-shooting-2-years-later-173444284.html>

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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Presents: The Holiday

Whether you're early Ebenezer and hate the holidays, or late Ebenezer and adore them, one thing is definite. Like death and taxes, they're inevitable. So why not make the best of them? We're used to mediating both Scroogean extremes in our household, and we've discovered a couple of things: try to cut through the commercialization of the season, and relish the finer ideals of the time (charity, peace, family); and, if you must buy gifts (and who does not?), shop local. Not only will you feel better about keeping your money in our ecosystem and supporting the efforts of a mom and pop you know, but you'll actually enjoy yourself. And so, contemplate our mix of stories (and advertisers!) and let us help you find your way to "keep Christmas well." Or Kwanzaa, or Hannukah or... (Brian Hieggelke) - See more at: <http://newcity.com/2014/11/28/presents-the-holiday-issue-2/#more-11382>



[Passion's Fruits: Local Holiday Gifts for Food Lovers](#)

[Grand Theft Noel: Tis the Season for Familial Larceny](#)

[All I Want: Another Misanthropic Christmas Essay](#)

[A Buddhist's Holiday: Shambhala Day Well-Wishes from a Wounded Would-Be Warrior](#)

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REGISTER TODAY

By Bob Fioretti |
December 13, 2014 Op Ed
piece published in the
Chicago Sun Times



The talk around City Hall is that we're broke and the sacrifices we have made over the last few years, the increased fines and fees, and the shuttering of schools and mental health clinics are needed. But that narrative ignores what many agree is an area that needs reform: TIFs. The city has an estimated \$1.4 billion in TIFs — a program few voters comprehend in full — just waiting to put our fiscal house in order. This is money stripped from our property taxes in the name of economic development, but at the cost of our most basic and essential city services.

TIFs — Tax Increment Financing districts — were originally designed to improve blighted areas. They have become a slush fund for all manner of private development, enriching some at the cost of many. When a TIF is declared in an area, that means revenue generated for schools, parks, and social services are frozen for at least 23 years, despite inflation or normal wear and tear.

Our central business district is hardly blighted. Yet, the Loop, Near North Side, Near South Side and Near West Side have taken nearly \$1.56 billion of the \$2.45 billion in TIF dollars spent from 2004 to 2008. Only \$4.8 million was spent collectively in Pullman, Riverdale, Roseland and West Pullman, far South Side communities where blight is prevalent and economic development scarce.

Yet, the non-blighted South Loop is to be the home of a new hotel to which \$55 million in TIF money will be contributed. This hotel, mind you, is owned by the Marriott Corp., an international company with more than \$12 billion in revenue last year. Originally, the \$55 million was to go to DePaul for a related stadium, but the university chose another finance option when public outcry reached a fevered pitch. Now it will go to Marriott instead.

That's just one recent and egregious example of our city's poor priorities: building arenas or hotels when we have closed our public schools in record numbers.

TIFs exploded in the 1990s and 2000s to claim more than \$6 billion from city property taxes. Now more than 150 TIFs devour \$500 million each year that should pay to educate our children and the care of our most fragile citizens.

The first step in addressing our city's financial crisis is to use TIF money for its original purpose: lifting our least-developed neighborhoods out of blight and poverty to create opportunities across all of our communities

We should demand a full audit and accounting of Chicago's TIF fund and declare a surplus with the vast sum that is not committed to any specific projects or debt. That money is the beginning investment we need to restore our public education program, guarantee the retirement we promised to our teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees, and put Chicago back on track to financial health for all. *Bob Fioretti, alderman of Chicago's 2nd Ward, is a candidate for mayor in the Feb. 24 municipal elections.*



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Christmas Eve Carols, Candles, Communion Service – 8 PM

Christmas Day Communion Service (with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church/South Loop) – 10 AM

The First Sunday after Christmas Day / Dec 28 — 8 AM Morning Prayer and Communion; 10 AM Lessons and Carols, and Communion

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM (40 min) Quiet Communion Service

10:00 AM (60 min) Communion Service with Music

10:00 AM (60 min) [Godly Play](#), starts September 21

11:30 AM (45 min) Faith Formation for Adults, most Sundays

WEEKDAYS

Wednesday Nights – 6:00 PM (55 min) Centering Prayer



HOLY TRINITY IN THE LOOP BRINGS TRADITIONAL LITURGY, PROGRESSIVE THINKING TO SOUTH LOOP.

Meets need of rapidly growing neighborhood.

Holy Trinity in the Loop, an extension of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wrigleyville, began weekly Saturday evening services in February, 2014. **Holy Trinity in the Loop meets Saturdays at 5 pm at Grace Place in the South Loop and is member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).**

All are welcome at Holy Trinity in the Loop. At every service, Pastor Craig states, "Whoever you are, whatever the color of your skin, whoever you love or marry, or whatever you think of organized religion, you are welcome here."

The new worshiping community offers wine receptions following most services and anticipates volunteering in the South Loop neighborhood in the future.

Local Christmas Services



Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago



Christmas Eve at Second Presbyterian Church

Second Presbyterian Church will host its annual Christmas Eve Candelight service at 7:00 p.m. The service will include the traditional hymns of Christmas, the reading of the nativity story (Luke 2: 1-20) and the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent Night". A festive Christmas Table with hot dishes and desserts from the season will precede the service at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

South Loop's East-West University Praised for Low Student Debt

By Ted Cox on December 17, 2014 5:42am

SOUTH LOOP — A little-known private university in the South Loop has won praise for sending its students out into the world with the least amount of debt.

[East-West University](#), at 816 S. Michigan Ave., came in second to the City University of New York's Jamaica campus in a national study of student debt conducted by the Student Loan Project of the Institute for College Access & Success, based in Oakland, Calif., and [published by Credit.com](#) earlier this month.

The average East-West graduate last spring amassed \$4,100 in student debt. The average graduate at schools nationwide had \$28,400 in debt.

It's no accident, said Cesar Campos, East-West director of financial aid.

"The mission of the institution is pretty simple," said Campos. "We serve the underserved, the students. We help families get their kids through college with the least amount of debt possible."

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"The mission of the institution is pretty simple," said Campos. "We serve the underserved, the students. We help families get their kids through college with the least amount of debt possible."

East-West was founded in 1980 as a private, non-profit, four-year college with a "global, multicultural orientation." Campos said it aspires to compete with the University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University and Robert Morris, as well as Columbia College, which has a number of buildings in the immediate South Loop area occupied by East-West. "The quality of the education has to be comparable," Campos said. "The level of education should be as good or better" than at those schools.

The university has about 700 or 800 students a quarter, with tuition just over \$6,000 a quarter, according to Campos. Enrollment peaked at 1,100 four years ago, not coincidentally at the depths of the Great Recession. It typically graduates about 100 students each spring.

A fully accredited university, its specialties are business, biology, electronics and engineering, Campos said, adding,

"The faculty is good, and I think they deliver a high-quality education."

"We're also an open-enrollment institution," said university spokesman Joel Inwood. That means that, if you have a high school diploma, you're accepted. "There are very few of them left in the state," Inwood added. Joel Inwood and Cesar Campos say it's no accident East-West University graduates students with little debt.

Campos said he's not concerned with potential competition from [Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to offer free tuition to the City Colleges](#) for Chicago Public Schools graduates with a B average.

"I think it's an excellent idea," he said, "as long as they're willing to continue. ... I want them to not stop at the associate level" with just two years of college.

Inwood said the school's graduation rate and transfer rate are about the same at one-third, comparable to competing niche schools like Chicago State and Northeastern Illinois University. The news from the Student Loan Project study counters an earlier report citing East-West grads for a [high default rate on student loans](#), which critics said at the time was based on old data. East-West hopes making the list of lowest amassed student debt does much to repair the school's image.

If East-West turns away no eligible students, does it have a maximum enrollment? "We would like to find that out," Campos said.

www.dnainfo.com/chicago/about-us/our-team/editorial-team/ted-cox



SOUTH LOOP SCHOOL NEWS

South Loop School recently participated in a debate tournament featuring 50 students from several schools. Three South Loop School students made the top ten: first place, Meghan Hamond; fourth place Salma Elgamal; Elgamal; and tenth place, Caelan Reeves. Hammond and Elgamal also finished in sixth place in the team competition.

The Chicago Sun-Times recently listed rankings for Illinois's top performing school South Loop School ranks among the top ten Chicago neighborhood elementary schools. It ranks 72nd in the state, up from 195th last year.

The school is located at 1212 S. Plymouth Ct. Call (773) 534-8690.





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Dear Chicago resident,

Earlier this fall, I launched CHIdeas.org - an online community forum for Chicago residents and businesses to share ideas about improving City services, creating initiatives in our neighborhoods, and enhancing quality of life. On this site, you can respond to specific questions from the City or comment on ideas from your fellow residents.

I encourage you to review the different topics and share your ideas and feedback with us. Each round, I will select ideas from you to implement. In response to the topics posted on the site previously, I selected six ideas from residents, including expanding our small business expos and creating healthy food programming for families.

Current Topics

Supporting Small Businesses - How can local Neighborhood Business Development Centers better support small businesses?

Emergency Preparedness - How can we help communities prepare for emergencies (e.g., severe storm) or public health crises (e.g., H1N1 outbreak)?

Great Reads - If there was one book you could give to every Chicagoan to read, what would it be and why?

Picture Chicago - Send us your Chicago pictures! Select submissions will be included in a collage to be displayed at City Hall.

We will continue to post new discussion topics, so be sure to check back often. Please share this new platform with your family, friends and neighbors, and encourage them to join the conversation.

Kind Regards,



[Visit CHIdeas.org](http://CHIdeas.org)

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Happy New You Manifesting for 2015 with Jane Albright

12/30/2014 6:15 – 8:15 pm

Grab some leftover mistletoe and get ready to kiss 2014 good-bye as we welcome in the Happy New You! of 2105. Join Jane Albright, Equilibrium's resident Joyologist and Mistress of Manifestation, as she brings you to greater awareness of your current year closures, new energetic openings, and New You meditation techniques to propel you into your newness! Learn how to energetically own and radiate your personal frequency of joy, love, clarity, kindness and compassion as a healing for yourself and for others. Then set space and step into your own individually handcrafted energy for 2015, with greater joy and ease, and the knowingness that you are ready to have it! \$30, members \$27.

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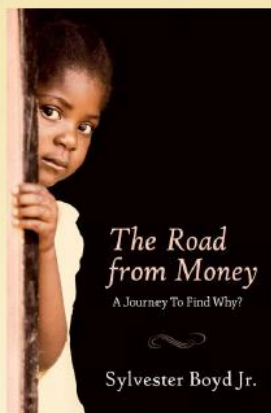
Winter Clothing Drive
Second Presbyterian Church is conducting its annual Winter Clothing Drive. We are seeking sweaters, coats, hoodies, caps, gloves, scarves and mittens to provide warmth in this season of winter. Items will be distributed to guests in our Lunchbag Program three days a week. Please drop off articles of clothing Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-- 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office [\(312\) 225-4951](tel:3122254951).

Next Month:

- ◇ New building Development News
- ◇ Columbia College Theater
- ◇ Au Bon Pain Opening

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The Road from Money **BOOK REVIEW**

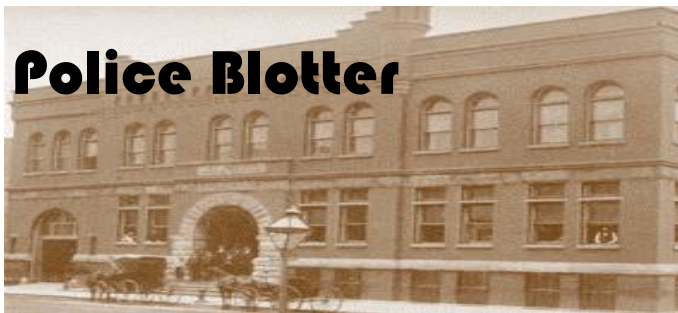
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review - September 7, 2014 "Although a work of fiction, it is a story that has deep factual roots in the African American Experience. Superbly crafted from beginning to end, The Road from Money: A Journey to Find Why?-- is as thoughtful and thought-provoking as it is solidly entertaining throughout making it very highly recommended for personal reading lists and community library general fiction collections."

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Police Blotter



Man Punches Woman After Asking for Her Number on CTA: Prosecutors

By [Erica Demarest](#) on December 3, 2014 8:35am | *Updated December 3, 2014 8:40am*

COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE — When a Bridgeport woman riding the "L" refused to give a man her phone number Monday, he followed her to another train car before putting her in a headlock and trying to steal her phone, prosecutors and witnesses said.

The incident unfolded shortly before 9 p.m. Monday when Denzel Rosson, 24, asked a 21-year-old woman to give him her number, according to Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto.

The woman refused, Scaduto said, but Rosson wouldn't leave her alone. The woman moved to another train car and Rosson followed.

The woman exited the train at Roosevelt, where Rosson followed her to the sidewalk in the 1100 block of South Wabash Avenue, Scaduto said. As the woman tried to call 911, Rosson allegedly made his move.

According to witnesses and police, Rosso

According to witnesses and police, Rosson got the woman in a headlock, punched her in the face and tried to steal her phone and purse before he ran away.

A witness who asked not to be named said he saw the attack unfold while sitting in his auto at a stoplight at Roosevelt and Wabash. He drove after Rosson, who ducked into a nearby restaurant on State Street. Several other bystanders were chasing Rosson on foot, the witness said.

Police arrested Rosson in the restaurant a few minutes later, court records show, and both the victim and several witnesses positively identified him as the attacker. Rosson, who lives in the 2300 block of Spruce Road in south suburban Homewood, was charged with battery and attempted robbery.

On Tuesday, Cook County Circuit Judge Maria Kuriakos Ciesil ordered Rosson held in lieu of \$200,000 bail.



South Loop Referral Group

Meets every other Friday at 7:30 am
At Dearborn Station Atrium

Next Meeting
Fri, JAN 9 at
Blackies
Polk and
Clark At 7:30

South Loop Referral Group is a professional organization, made up of individuals with a high level of skill and passion for serving their community. The members all live and work in the south loop area: which means they are well known locally with many resources and testimonials. A referral groups goal is to have only one representative from each category. The quality of their work and the care they provide makes them truly unique, and whether you are looking for a printer, a banker or a contractor, you can be sure whomever you hire from our group, will be attentive, on time, and competitively priced.

The group also serves as a rainmaker, encouraging local business development and supporting a thriving professional community in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood through motivation, communication, and education.



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Governor Quinn Launches Get Covered Illinois' Second Open Enrollment

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle today announced that the second year of open healthcare enrollment under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will begin on Saturday, Nov. 15. The announcement comes as Illinois plans to build on the program's successful first year in which more than 700,000 people across the state gained access to health coverage. The second open enrollment period is a three-month window running from Nov. 15 through Feb. 15. The announcement is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to ensure all people have access to quality healthcare.

More information about open enrollment events around the state can be found by visiting GetCoveredIllinois.gov/events/. For additional information on healthcare options, call (866) 311-1119.

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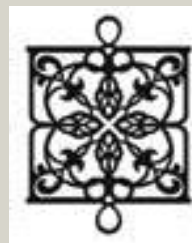
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SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY CALLS ON ALDERMAN TO SAVE 1352 S. UNION AVENUE

Preservation Group Urges Retiring 11th Ward Alderman James Balcer to Withdraw Zoning Change Support

Save the German Schoolhouse, an ad hoc committee organized earlier this year to help preserve the historic 145-year-old former school building and its surrounding grounds at 1352 South Union Avenue in Chicago's historic Maxwell Street Market/University Village neighborhood, is calling on Alderman James Balcer (11th) to immediately withdraw his support for the zoning change request pending before the City Council that would permit a controversial rental apartment development to rise on this site.

In both public and private meetings over time, Balcer had repeatedly and unequivocally insisted that he would not permit any redevelopment to proceed on this parcel unless it had the approval of the community; and that community approval would be mandatory.

There is enthusiastic, demonstrable support in the neighborhood to preserve, restore and re-adapt the long-vacant German Schoolhouse – the last remaining intact pre-Fire Maxwell Street Market era structure, designed by the distinguished Augustus Bauer in 1869 – into a revenue-generating, self-sustaining, multi-purpose community center, complete with wide outdoor lawns and seasonal patios.

Last June, to great surprise and disappointment, Balcer reneged on his long-standing promise to first obtain community approval for any proposed redevelopment when he announced his support of an unpopular concept set forth by New York real estate company Property Markets Group to build a glass and steel 7-story, 130-unit rental building, lot line-to-lot line, too large for the site with a too-small garage, incompatible in appearance with the character of the neighborhood, and requiring the demolition of the schoolhouse. It also requires a zoning variance, since the parcel is not currently zoned for residential construction.

Consensus approval from nearby residents simply does not exist for this project. Members of Save the German Schoolhouse attended numerous University Village neighborhood meetings over the summer and spoke with countless residents, in groups and one-on-one, collecting over 300 petition signatures of 11th Ward constituents who live near Union and 14th Street. Strong opposition prevails. The objections are specific: increases in population density and parking scarcity; heightened residential transiency, noise and congestion; a permanent removal of much-needed green space; no guarantee of improved neighborhood security; and the unavoidable loss of the schoolhouse. The Maxwell Street Foundation and Preservation Chicago share the community's resistance to this plan.



© 2014, *Save the German Schoolhouse and Matthew Wicklund*
Proposed Vision for the German Schoolhouse
1352 S. Union Avenue, Chicago

Last August, Balcer revealed another surprise: He is not running for re-election. By the spring of 2015, he'll be replaced.

"We urge Alderman Balcer to respect the wishes of his constituents, as he earlier promised he would, and immediately withdraw his support for the zoning change required for this rental apartment complex to go forward. It's the responsible, civic-minded course to take, since he is not running for re-election and will be out of office soon. This is a matter best left to his successor. For the sake of good governance and positive community relations, the alderman should exert the influence of his aldermanic prerogative and effectively put this redevelopment on hold by removing his support for the pending zoning change," said Lori Grove, a member of the Save the German Schoolhouse committee. "He told us in September that he'd consider such a move. We'd like him to give us his decision."

"Clearly, many people who live in University Village are unhappy with the redevelopment proposal and the alderman's apparent rejection of their opposition to it. We've encouraged them to express these concerns to him and to the Plan Commission," said Mary Gerace, another committee member. "We are perplexed as to why Alderman Balcer, who has often stated he supports preservation, would want as part of his elective office legacy the loss of another significant piece of architectural heritage in a city that's suffered far too many such losses. The building has been empty for several years. What's another few months? The next 11th Ward alderman should mediate the fate of this unique, irreplaceable property."

Contact: Mary Gerace 708.345.8045

mary@marygerace.net

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our features and publish every 20 days. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us:

thedearbornexpress@gmail.com