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Grateful

We are grateful for those who contribute content to the Dearborn Express. Those who provide columns include **Bonnie McGrath** who has been in every issue starting in February 2013, 114 issues. Then **Beth Finke**, author and memoir writing teacher joined us September 30th, 2013. Brian Heigleike has allowed us to use content from Newcity, the well written cultural arts magazine which is based in Printers Row. **Mike Knesovich** Monday's with Mike blog appeared on a regular basis starting November 10th, 2014. In the later part of 2015, **Lorraine Schmall** started providing her insightful book reviews. The Dearborn Express was evolving into more thoughtful, sometimes humorous, and yes, controversial content because of the contributions of our columnist, all of whom, have journalism backgrounds. You can read their bio's on the dearbornexpress.net web site. In September of 2017, **Marianne Goss** was added to the line up with her column, "Retired in Chicago." It is for readers who like me have jumped to the other side. So at the end of seven years, I am grateful for the support of these contributors who have added consistent, interesting perspectives to every issue. And I would be remiss to not mention the Assistant Editor, Janice Koeber who helps gather original information for the publication.



Dec 20, 2019

Vol. 7, No. 16

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COMING (See page 19 Photo Page) TO THE JAZZ SHOWCASE

Fri-Sat, Dec 20-21, 8pm & 10pm[Tim Warfield's Jazzy Christmas w/ Terell Stafford](#)
Cyrus Chestnut, Stefon Harris, Rodney Whitaker, Clarence Penn and Lucy Yeghiazaryan

Sun, Dec 22, 4pm, 8pm & 10pm.....Tim Warfield's Jazzy Christmas w/ Terell Stafford
Cyrus Chestnut, Stefon Harris, Rodney Whitaker, Clarence Penn and Lucy Yeghiazaryan

Mon, Dec 23, 8pm & 10pm.....The Jeff Kier Quartet featuring: Jeff Kier-piano,
Mike Hershenson-guitar, Lanny Grilly-drums, Rafe Bradford-bass

[Tues, Dec 24, 8pm & 10pm.....Vocalist Rose Colella Special Christmas Celebration](#)

Wed, Dec 25.....Merry Christmas! Closed

Thurs-Sat, Dec 26-28, 8pm & 10pm[Trumpeter Nicholas Payton Quintet](#)

Sun, Dec 29, 4pm & 8pmTrumpeter Nicholas Payton Quintet

Mon, Dec 30, 8pm & 10pm.....Trumpeter Nicholas Payton Quintet

Tues, Dec 31, 8pm & 11pm.....Trumpeter Nicholas Payton Quintet

Weds, Jan 1, 8pm & 11pmTrumpeter Nicholas Payton Quintet.



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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

South Loop Neighbors

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The South Loop is a vibrant neighborhood and as it continues to grow, it becomes increasingly more important for residents to support local small businesses. The benefits of shopping local are documented through a number of studies.

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Jaqi@JaqiGreenInteriors.com



 Christine M. Hunt, P.C.
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Estate Planning
Business Formation

899 S. Plymouth Ct.
Suite G 10
Chicago, Illinois 60605

312-583-0847
ChristineHuntJD@gmail.com
www.HuntLawChicago.com

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.

Impeachment Day: bring out the fainting couches, the hankies and the smelling salts for the oh, soooo sanctimonious

Bring out the fainting couches, the hankies for the brow and the smelling salts, *dear Cha-lotte*. Oh, those sensitive little House Democrat flowers with their fluttering eyelashes, their mouths agog (especially Nancy's). Their sensibilities so disturbed by Trump asking Ukraine to see if the Bidens, father and son, were corrupt. Someone said on one of the talk shows, if this were the standard for impeachment, FDR would have been impeached 25 times. At least. And at least a handful, if not more, for all the others. They don't smell like flowers at all, these holier-than-thou dems. Quite the opposite. Because they're full of you-know-what. Oh, I wish I had a penny every time one of those syrupy liars, those political thespians said in recent days that it was because of their integ-ri-ty, their oaths, their loy-al-ty to the Constitution. That's what's making them do it. Whoosh. Bring the smelling salts. Quick! This time, *I'm* going to faint.

The conceit! Their idiotic reasoning, their faces scrunching over to the side, eyes popping out of their sockets. Even people in the country who'd like nothing better than to throw Trump off the American continent and into a prison in Russia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia or North Korea know the House dems' modesty levels are less than zero. They know a saccharine syrupy sauce when they see it. And it doesn't cover up the rotten smell beneath it. No wonder the polls are going the other way. And the direction for bipartisanship is, too; word is, a few dems are ready to switch parties. Less people want this impeachment than don't want this impeachment.

The dems want people to believe their aerie morals--so much higher than the goofs who voted for Mr. Perfect Phone Call to begin with--are what's making them do it. Except when you look at their faces, and their besotted records--and the districts they represent that are overrun with people living in the streets, diseases being spread among the homeless, as well as human excrement--it's quite obvious it's something else. You'd think they'd be ashamed and want all the help they could get to fix it all. Instead they impeach. It's contempt. Of a reality TV star, who outsmarted everyone and moved into the White House. And got all the attention. By beating a candidate they didn't have the sense or the guts to beat themselves. Especially after Barack Obama beat her eight years before. Now he's beating them with low unemployment, high yield on their investments and black support--of him--that's surging. And the Dems? They're ignoring infrastructure improvement, immigration reform (Mexico is doing it for us) and all the other problems we have. The dems have their forked tongues, their pitched forks and their butterfly nets out to do damage, but not a tool in the toolbox to fix a thing that's truly important.

Does anyone really believe we're losing our democracy? What a cliché! We had plenty until this asinine impeachment started. "No one's above the law," they say. "Everyone has to be held accountable." Blah, blah, blah. Except them.

If we're losing our democracy, it's because of the impeachment-crazy among us. They just don't want him. And I understand that. When the polls showed in the Fall of 2016 that there was a good chance he'd win--and polish off Hillary Clinton once and for all, even I said, fine, let him win, get rid of her and then they can impeach and remove him asap for talking like an idiot. But that was then, all I had to go on was the non-impeachment of Nixon and the impeachment of Clinton. I didn't understand impeachment, high crimes and misdemeanors or what the framers intended. Now I do. And this wasn't it.

But they're stuck. Even after the impeachment, they're still going to be stuck. For at least 10 more months. And maybe another four

years after. And this impeachment will be one of the reasons why. Deep inside, I think they love him. Why wouldn't they? People who don't like him fill their coffers with money. [Nancy herself asks me via email for chump change several times a day](#) to "beat him." And impeach him. It adds up. Even if you just ask for a dollar. If you ask 50,000,000 people in an email.

Everyone knows they've been cooking up impeachment since the day he came down the escalator. They were ready even before they found out about the fateful phone call, on which many were listening in and which amounted to nothing.

As Maureen Dowd described in a column just before he moved into the White House, the regulars in Washington (yes, the Deep State) were waiting for him to arrive, shaking in their boots, as though they were in a horror movie and they were waiting, scared to death, for the monster to arrive and.... And.... And.... Screaming....And.... Black-out!

And maybe the timing of the impeachment, maybe it all had another motive. They knew the the FBI lying game in the FISA Court ([the scheme they had so they could tap his wires](#)) was being uncovered little by little and was due, in all its glory at some point soon. And those lies *were* formally uncovered about the same time that the impeachment blossomed, just as the guy with the *real* morals, the white knight IG named Horowitz arrived on the scene--for all the world to see.

Yikes. Was the impeachment a pre-emptive strike? Or maybe it was a sneaky way to shine light on the Biden family corruption by making it look like it was simply a Trump impeachment--so Biden would have to leave and they could get a frontrunner that was a better money-raiser, a better orator and a better color?

Every time I see a dem get up and say "we have to do this" with a cracking voice, and a heart so heavy it's weighing their loftiness down, way below their tear-filled eyeballs and their mother love for the constitution and our democracy, I get the urge to hurl. And so do the voters in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, it seems, if you believe the polls.

What High Crime? What bribery? What treason? Why can't they just wait 10 months for the election? I think that's what they're saying in those states, as well as the other 47. An election will be here in a blink. That's the way to get rid of a president. We don't need any help from a bunch of phony baloneys.

The way things were going, he was going to lose. Now, his numbers are up. You should have backed off, and put your hearts into doing something for the country, democrats. Or are you really scared of this monster among us with an id on overdrive who says things that no one in his right mind would ever say? Only think.

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/



OPINION

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Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | Dec 9, 2019

[Goodbye again](#)



Like you loyal readers, I was touched by [Elisse's guest blog last week](#)—and I already knew the story!

Something about reading the blog made it all more real—I was at a work conference with very little time for contemplation. But when I got back last night, at some point, I felt how much I'm gonna miss Beth's companion.

It's not going to be a new experience—but it's never easy. The thought of the joy she's going to experience in her retirement and the joy Whitney will undoubtedly give makes it all good.

And, for all you good folks who are following along, everything is now official. Beth will arrive at the Seeing Eye on January 6, 2020. She'll be matched to a new companion—her fifth dog—and they will train until January 23, when Beth will bring her new helper to his or her new home. And I'll be waiting.

Before then, we will deliver Whitney to her new Pennsylvania home. And then Beth and I will head to New Orleans for her Birthday. Beth will be dogless for a few days before she heads to the Seeing Eye, but I'll do my best.

A headsup: Although the training at the Seeing Eye is thorough and intensive, in a real way the training begins here at home. And Beth and her new friend and I have to pretty rigidly follow some prescriptions. In our house, the dog will be leashed to Beth constantly. If Beth gets up from her desk to get another cup of coffee, she'll have company. For a good while we will not bring her out to places with lots of people. For awhile Beth cannot go anywhere without the dog—so if we're a little less social than normal, that's why.

The first few weeks home are also when the paws meet the road as the new dog learns Beth's haunts. We'll see how she behaves at the pool where Beth swims, for example. Hanni would sit leashed to a poolside table and patiently watch Beth do her laps. Beth would get out, put Hanni's harness on, and head to the locker room. The other dogs couldn't stand watching Beth in the water without them—they have stayed with the patient locker room attendants while Beth swims. Beth gives the attendant a time to come fetch her, she hooks Whitney up at the desk, and they head to the locker room.

In the city we use elevators a lot. Whitney acquired an uncanny ability to spot elevator button panels and get Beth to them. On the other hand, where other dogs were good at ignoring other dogs, Whitney needed a lot of work.

They're all different and each is better at some things. And every one of them has been an incredible gift to Beth and to me. With that, if you're making year-end decisions about what

and where to send your support, I hope you'll give [The Seeing Eye](#) a look.



THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

We welcome letters to the editor.

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. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us: thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

www.dearbornexpress.net

MOST RECENT EPISODES

PODCAST

Tribalism, Anger and the State of Our Politics

If solidarity and the recognition of mutual self-interest are the keys to moving past our fractious moment, it can be hard to see how we'll get there. Anger and tribalism appear to be at an all-time high, creating political and societal rifts that seem unbridgeable. Indeed, it is hard to believe that only 70 years ago, the country was deemed by political scientists to be not polarized enough. In 1950, the American Political Science Association put out a report that suggested that the parties were not distinct enough and that it was making people's political decision making too difficult.

Over the next few decades, they became distinct alright. Lilliana Mason is a political psychologist at the University of Maryland. When we spoke to her last fall, she told us that most people *think* they know exactly what each party stands for — leaving us with two

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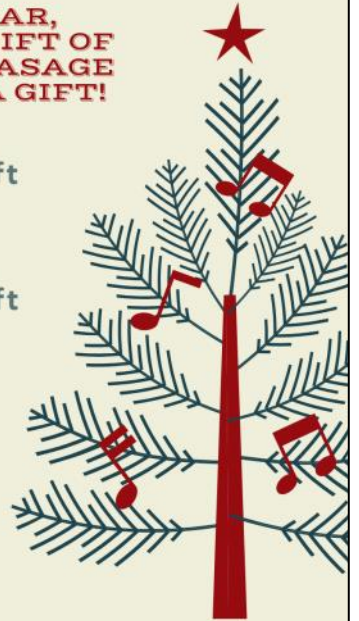
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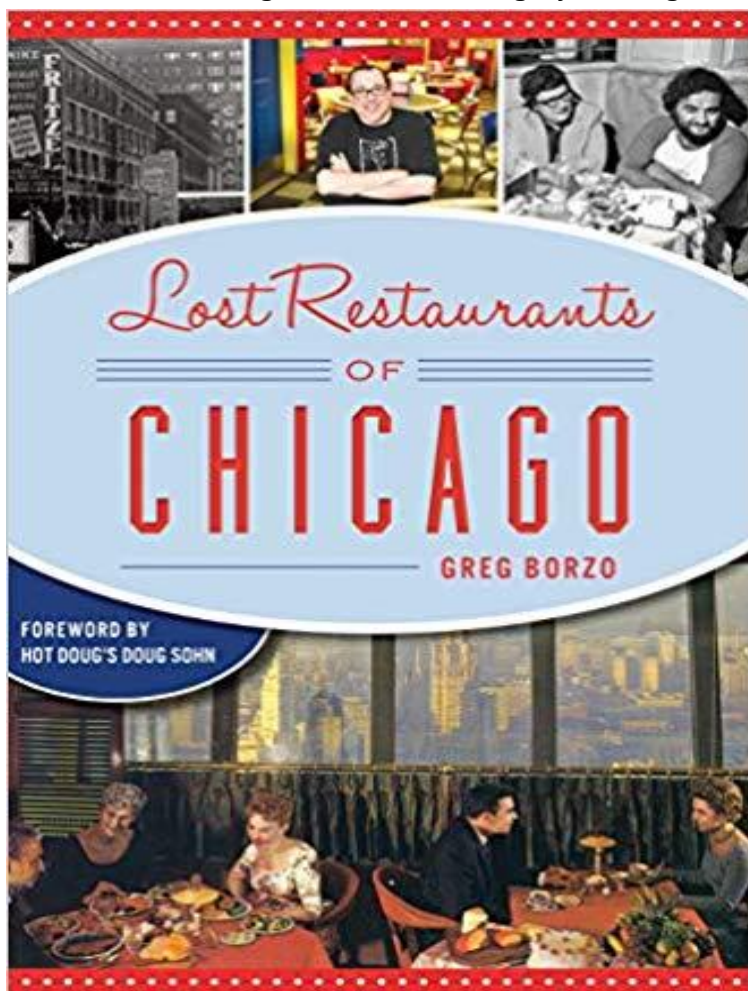
When Penis Envy Was All the Rage: **The Topeka School** by Ben Lerner ([Farrar, Straus and Giroux](#) 2019).

The ancients thought mental illness meant deific displeasure or demonic possession. Hippocrates called it a disease, but suggested bloodletting as a treatment. Mental disturbances were attributed to lack of faith, bad humours, or unfortunate physiognomy. Patients suffered beatings, institutionalization, cranial surgery or euthanasia. By the early twentieth century, though, Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis—using talk therapy and hypnosis to draw out a patient's repressed unconscious memories (supposedly emanating from sex abuse and penis envy) became popular across Europe. American Puritans were shocked by Freud's theories, ("One word: filth") but in 1919, Dr. Karl Menninger brought Freud to the heartland. His real foundation becomes the fictional 'Foundation' in **The Topeka School**, stuffed to the gunwales with psychoanalysts from New York and Vienna, who fill their couches and sanatorium with mental patients treated in this novel way. Among them, Adam, a winning high school debater, who lives with his psychotherapist parents: Jane, a feminist author hailed by Oprah but scorned by her colleagues as a "trumpeting virago" and by anonymous phone-callers—"The Men"—as a castrating harridan; and Jonathon, who dropped LSD and uses avant-garde filmmaking to reach "intelligent middle-class white kids from stable homes who were fine until they weren't: the lost boys of privilege." One 'lost boy' who stays lost slips in and out of the book as both harbinger and victim of tragedy. Talking is

critical to the Foundation—and the plot. "[Adam's] parents... were much less afraid of open conflict than the prospect of a kid withdrawing...[A]s long as there was language, there was processing." Readers, like the graduate students at the Foundation, get to sit behind one-way mirrors and eavesdrop on the truth-telling—or obfuscation. In debate competitions, Adam aims not to communicate but to dominate. His male classmates use language to insult, to compete or to "get laid," but never to connect. Foundation habitués are as likely to opine about cooking as confess their innermost sins; a best friend can become their psychiatrist or their spouses's lover; their mentor can transfigure from father-figure to cuckold; their sons can be empathetic or violent. The characters display what our current president seems to know: "the key was to be a bully, quick and vicious and ready to spread an interlocutor with insults at the smallest provocation." Critics say this book is about the rise of rhetoric, the fault of psychoanalysis, "fragile masculinity" and how we got to Trump. You might agree. It's disturbing and difficult; hyper-intellectual and antifeminist; but suspenseful, interesting and historical enough to tackle.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park, December, 2019



Susan Bass Marcus writes and illustrates fiction, essays, and reviews. Her Dragonwolder fantasy novels, *Malevir: Dragons Return* and *Where Dragons Follow*, offer a world of dragon clans, an enigmatic menace the Malevir, sprites, goblins, questing humans, and magical giants. Her musings appear weekly on her blog, "About Susan Marcus," <https://susanbassmarcus.net>. Both paperbacks are available at Sandmeyer's Bookstore.

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Writing Out Loud

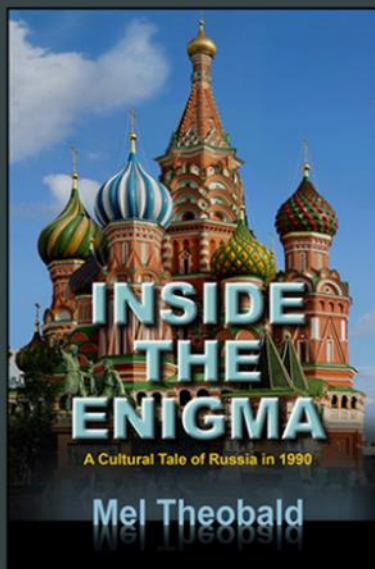
what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors

Beth Finke

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by Mel Theobald



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Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



[I dig this Marcus Roberts cat](#) 12.15.2019

I spent last Sunday afternoon with my husband Mike and friends [Jim Loellbach](#) and [Dr. Janet Smith](#) enveloped in holiday music. Not your everyday stuff – this was the [Marcus Roberts Trio with the Chicago Philharmonic](#), playing holiday classics arranged by Duke Ellington. A Concerto written by George Gershwin. Holiday jazz.

I love jazz and am especially fond of jazz piano. The first time I recall hearing Marcus Roberts was back in the 20th century. (Yikes.) Mike and I were lucky enough to walk into a record store in Champaign called Record Service when they happened to be playing one of his albums. We've been fans ever since, listening to Marcus Roberts recordings and hearing him perform live with Wynton Marsalis Jazz at Lincoln Center bands and later, with his own trio. At one of those trio concerts, Mike kindly nudged me and whispered, "You know he's blind, right?"

He's blind?! I *didn't* know. Quirky fact: Without having sight, it's hard to know if someone else can't see, either.

My fondness for Marcus grew after that. We bought more of his CDs, and I finally got to meet him in person: Mike and I were still living in Urbana 20 years ago when Marcus Roberts did a weeklong artist-in-residence gig at the University of Illinois. The public was invited to come and listen. I stalked him at every workshop and performance he gave. Not an easy feat for a blind woman, but well worth the trouble.

Between tunes at the first workshop, Marcus told us what it was like to grow up blind, how he first learned to read Braille music, and the frustrations he faces when traveling to and from gigs.

"When our plane landed this morning, I stood up. The flight attendant brought in a wheelchair." He paused for a moment. He was looking at us, I could tell. "I was STANDING. You with me?!" he finally continued. "I wonder, do they give white canes to dudes who need wheelchairs?"

I was spellbound. So, it seemed, was the rest of the audience. We all broke out in laughter.

Marcus went on to explain how he communicates to his trio during a performance without being able to see them. Drummer Jason Marsalis demonstrated the cadence he uses to cue a key change. Marcus showed us a pattern he plays on the upper register to cue bass player Roland Garons for a solo. Afterward, we were encouraged to ask questions. I directed mine to Jason and Roland. "When Marcus approached you to play in his trio, did you hesitate at all?"

No answer.

"I mean, knowing there might be extra work involved, him being blind and all."

They both stayed quiet for a while. Finally, Jason piped up. "In jazz, when you're offered a gig, you take it."

Roland asked to add something to that. He'd played with a lot of musicians over the years, he said, and a lot of them get lazy. "But with Marcus, he's always coming up with something new. And when you play with Marcus, you really have to listen. I think we're better for that."

Amen.

Marcus and I had a chance to talk after a performance later that week. "Have you always talked about your blindness like that?" I asked him.

"Oh, man, no!" he answered. What a voice! "I used to do what so many other blind people do — pretend it doesn't exist, it's no bother."

I nodded my head in agreement. You might think you have to be able to see to know if someone is nodding, but we know. "What made you decide to start talking about it, then?"

"About five or six years ago, I just thought, man, I deal with this every day. I might as well talk about it."

What a relief it was to hear him talking so candidly about blindness.

At that time I'd been writing a book about losing my sight as an adult. [Long Time, No See](#) was in the midst of reviews and editing just then, due out in a couple months. "I'd like to read it," Marcus said.

I got his address, contacted rehab services at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and they agreed to print a Braille version of the advanced copy. Marcus liked the book so much, he agreed to do a blurb for the cover.

So there you have it. My brush with fame. I haven't spoken one-on-one with Marcus since then, but his performance from that Chicago concert stage of Gershwin's Concerto in F last Sunday? It spoke to me. What a sensational way to start celebrating the holidays this year.

A different [version of this post](#) originally appeared last week

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



Writing Out Loud

what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors

Beth Finke

[It's here! Free audio version of Writing Out Loud now available to people who are blind or visual-](#)



Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago's South Side is the first book devoted to the South Side's rich and unfairly ignored architectural heritage. With lively, insightful text and gallery-quality color photographs by noted Chicago architecture expert Lee Bey, *Southern Exposure* documents the remarkable and largely unsung architecture of the South Side. The book features an array of landmarks—from a Space Age dry cleaner to a nineteenth-century lagoon that meanders down the middle of a working-class neighborhood street—that are largely absent from arts discourse, in no small part because they sit in a predominantly African American and Latino section of town better known as a place of disinvestment, abandonment, and violence. \$30.00 at Sandmeyer's

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Specializing In Printer's Row Properties

Urban Optimism: A Conversation with Lee Bey and Amanda Williams



Pride Cleaners sign, 558 E. Seventy-Ninth Street, 1959/Photo: from "Southern Exposure" by Lee Bey.

December 6, 2019 at 10:00 am by [Yetta Starr](#)

On a clear October evening, a full house gathered at the Newberry, Chicago's world-renowned independent research library, to listen to a conversation between author, photographer and former Sun-Times architecture critic Lee Bey and visual artist Amanda Williams.

In his new book, [Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago's South Side](#), Bey documents the physical attributes of significant architecture with striking photographic images portrayed at their best under the bright, blue skies of morning light. Throughout the book he thoughtfully weaves a cultural and social narrative elevating these environs to their rightful importance while criticizing forces and policies that have ignored the South Side's rich architectural heritage. Echoing Bey's visual cues, architecture-trained visual artist Amanda Williams' foreword sets a joyful tone comparing the exuberance of Bey's work to the happy crescendo of one of her favorite musical pieces: Native Chicagoan Donny Hathaway's 1970 hit "This Christmas," with its heartfelt message, "I'm gonna get to know you better," resounds with the camaraderie and experiences both she and Bey have had with South Side culture.

To put the significance of this book project in perspective, Bey's ascribed South Side represents an area that makes up more than half the city's land mass. Approximately bounded by Cermak Road, 138th Street, Lake Michigan and Western Avenue, the area is vast and includes work by architecture and design luminaries, businesses run by notable black entrepreneurs, pioneering artists and a South Side community representing over thirty neighborhoods and a population of nearly 800,000.

Click here for the rest of the story:

<https://design.newcity.com/2019/12/06/urban-optimism-a-conversation-with-lee-bey-and-amanda-williams/>

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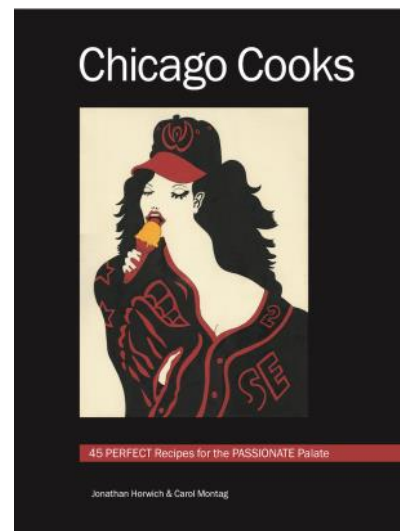
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In *Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate*, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

Not every food category is included here, but the ones we have chosen represent a foundation any cook will need to provide for a family or to entertain brilliantly. We hope you will trust us and try these recipes so that you can experience food made with care and passion, food that stimulates your palate, and inspires you to share each recipe with those you love.

The two authors are long-time residents of Chicago. Returning to Chicago after 40 years in California as a jazz producer and recording engineer, **Jonathan Horwich** has continued pursuing his passion for music and high quality sound. **Carol Montag** grew up in St. Louis, MO and came to Chicago to attend The University of Chicago and never left. She has been an educator for 52 years as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and educational coach.

<https://www.chicagocooks.net/>
Available at Sandmeyer's and Amazon.



Annual Public Meeting

Fri. Jan. 17

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn St.

At this meeting, we will have a hands on presentation by an expert in the field of **Crime & Safety**. The presentation will focus on how you can recognize and avoid dangerous situations and hopefully prevent victimization. There will also be an overview of current crime statistics in the neighborhood. The annual election of SLN Board officers will take place and participants will have an opportunity to meet with SLN Community Builder members, local businesses who actively support the efforts of the SLN!

The One Minute Restaurant Review

Giglio's State Street Tavern \$\$\$ out of 4

825 S State St, 312.957.0995

Large open modern restaurant with lots of TV screens.

Italian Food—Quality Good to Excellent

Two of us had the Rigatoni Ala Vodka, very good.

Appetizers

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Above, photo of a loft apartment in the Pope Building at 633 S Plymouth. The main feature here are the floor to ceiling windows , 12 ft ceilings.

At right, the holiday decorated loft apartment in the Transportation Building. A collecton of memorabilia from Marshal Fields store.



South Loop Neighbors Loft Walk, 2019.



At right, one of two fabulous Christmas trees in the apartment in the Transportation Building.

At left, Donna Hippensteel and Kathy Carney enjoy the spectacular view from a raised floor in the sitting area in a studio apartment at 899 N. Plymouth Ct.



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Monday, December 9, 2019

Another Pizza Joint - Paisans Pizzeria & Bar - Coming to Printer's Row Area

A reader writes:

The mystery of just what is coming to the space just north of Burnham Pointe has been answered. I was never able to figure it out from the original construction permit for the exterior work, but a new building permit for the interior build-out just went up that reveals the space is going to be a [Paisans Pizza](#), a suburb brand that's expanding into the city.

It's kind of wild that 2 pizza restaurants are mid-construction within a stones's throw from each other (Roots Pizza around the corner), both outside-chicago restaurants that are expanding into the city for the first time. Are there enough pizza eaters in printers row to sustain the business? Maybe.

It's a good question. With the Old Post Office filling in and the accompanying residential developments around the river, it seems like these restaurants are betting that demand continues to pick up. Will it be enough to sustain so much pizza pie is a fair question and something to keep our eye on.



Regarding the building, we believe it was a car wash but has sat vacant for awhile:

<http://www.sloopin.com/>

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Past Issues . . .
Archives at:



<http://dearbornexpress.net/>

It's between Burnham Pointe and the [build out going on for the Church of Scientology](#).

South Loop Memory Café

The South Loop Memory Café is a monthly social gathering for persons living with dementia and their family, friends and care partners.



Meeting Place:
Second Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
1936 S. Michigan Ave.
(corner of Michigan and Cullerton)
Chicago IL, 60616

Meeting Time:
2:30 pm-4:00 pm
(second Thursday each month)

Registration:
Please register
For more information or to register, please visit:
southloopvillage@gmail.com
Or call:
312.225.4406

Activities:
Art
Hands-On Activities
Easy Yoga
Lectures
Movement & Dance
Music
Live Performance

2019 Meeting Dates

- *Aug 8 Experience India
- *Sep 12 In development
- Oct 10 Sing-a-long
- Nov 14 Cooking Demonstration
- Dec 12 Holiday Music Program

*South Loop Farmers Market dates—plan to stay a while after the meeting and shop!



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.



Retired in Chicago

Suggestions for a white elephant gift exchange

By **Marianne Goss**, Nov. 25th, 2019

My family is doing Christmas giving differently this year for everyone but our parents.

At recent Christmases everyone received what they asked for, which ensured presents were wanted but lacked surprise and imagination. This year, instead of buying what the person whose name we drew asked for, each of us will be challenged to think of a \$25 gift that will appeal to a boy, girl, man, or woman between 12 and 71.

Opening the gifts should be entertaining because we'll make a white elephant game of it. (White elephant doesn't have to mean used.) After we draw numbers, person #1 will start us off by choosing and opening a package from the pile of wrapped gifts. We'll continue in order, with numbers 2 through 14 either opening a gift or stealing an opened gift. A person whose gift is snatched can take another's or open a wrapped gift. After the last gift is opened, person #1 will have a chance to steal a gift and force someone to accept his or her unwanted gift.

I must be excited about the change because I've been researching gift possibilities for a while. Here are some of my favorite ideas, not including cellphone accessories, which are numerous enough for another post. Specific sources of gifts for the most part aren't recommended; you can Google to find options. (Note to any of my family members reading this: Don't assume my gift is listed.)

- A piggy bank or money jar, with coins if needed to reach the spending target: This could encourage kids to save and give adults somewhere to stash loose change until taking it to the bank. Digital coin banks count the contents. Money jars with save/spend/share compartments promote conscientious money management for all ages. Piggy banks are decorative enough to come off the bedroom dresser top.

- A collapsible cup and reusable straws for environmentalists (but maybe not exciting for a 12-year-old): I am ashamed of how many McDonald's soft drink cups and straws I've collected. A collapsible cup and reusable straws fit into backpacks and larger purses. Starbucks will allow cups to be brought in; the recipient will have to check about other businesses. If you haven't reached the spending target, add a reusable shopping bag that folds down to envelope size. An environmentalist likely has one, but it will need replacing eventually.

- A vacuum-insulated stainless steel water bottle: A water bottle is essential for staying hydrated on the go. A vacuum-insulated stainless steel bottle will keep cold drinks cold and hot drinks hot for hours. You can find ones that have straps, that fit into standard container holders, that are designed for various activities, etc.

<http://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/>

- One-size-fits-all slipper socks: It's the rare person who wants to go barefoot indoors in winter, especially on hard floors. Slipper socks not only keep feet warm, but their no-skid soles also guard against falling. They're also more wearable in bed than slippers. With a \$25 budget, you can buy several colors and lengths from ankle to knee.

- Continuing the warmth indoors theme, a one-size-fits-all blanket hoodie: □ A wearable blanket keeps head, neck, and torso warm while leaving hands free. Google shows one on sale now for under \$25.

- Unisex lip balm: Unscented and unflavored lip balms with SPF 30 are good for everyone; men don't need a "masculine" product for chapped lips. Since you can find them for a few dollars, the practical among us might scoff at spending more. On the other hand, some editors at *Health*, *Prevention*, and other magazines swear by higher-priced brands; you can find recommendations on the magazine websites.

- A water and stain repellent: It protects shoes made of leather, canvas, suede, nylon, or synthetics from water stains. It can be used on handbags and gloves, too.

- Something with a family photo: If you've taken a group photo recently, why not put it on a pillow, a blanket, a mug, or whatever? Or maybe you have an ancestor's photo that would stimulate conversation if displayed on a pillow or in a frame. (Admittedly, your nondescendant in-laws might not care to get the photo.)

- A novelty beach towel, blanket, or throw: Funny throws and blankets range from a mermaid tail blanket to a throw with an image of a \$1 million bill. Food themes — pizza slices, a gigantic strawberry, a pineapple, etc. — abound on beach towels and blankets, but it may be best to avoid a hot dog theme if you have vegetarians in the group.

- Sponsoring an animal: For a \$25 donation, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary lets you choose a specific dog, cat, horse, pig, goat, or bird to sponsor and supplies a card describing the animal.

- Movie passes: My relatives still go to the movies.

- Games: You know — don't you? — what your relatives might enjoy.

- Shares of stock: The website Stockpile.com sells fractions of stocks for as low as \$5, giving kids and risk-averse adults a cautious way to experience the ups and downs of the market. Givers can present a card redeemable for stocks the recipient picks.

I still need to ask my family members whether we'll own up to what we brought. As I understand white elephant rules, the packages are anonymous. Note to my sister-in-law: A bow will be a giveaway.

ANTI-TRUMP QUOTATIONS: 90TH IN AN ONGOING SERIES

"But even if, for the sake of argument, censure rather than impeachment might normally be appropriate and sufficient punishment, it would be pointless given this president. Censure is a form of shaming, but this president cannot be shamed. That would require an ability for honest self-appraisal."

— *Chicago Sun-Times* editorial, December 1

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Second Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Winter Coat Drive during the months of **November through February**. Donations of warm clothes, sweat shirts, hoodies, sweaters, coats, gloves, caps, scarves and mittens will be distributed to our neighbors in need. The church is located at 1936 S. Michigan Avenue. Donations are received **Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** For more information, please call the church office (312) 225-4951.

Printers Row Park Park Advisory Council

The next meeting, which will include the Advisory Council Election, for the Printers Row Park Advisory Council will be **Tuesday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm** at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn.

Grant Park Advisory Council

Meetings in 2019 and 2020 will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, except December, at 6:30pm at the Maggie Daley Field House. Next meeting is January 15, 2020.

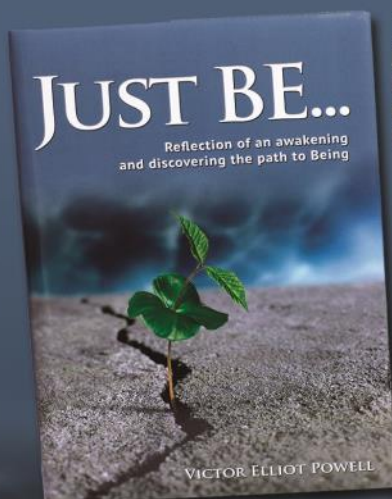


Progress on ROOTS PIZZA at Polk and Dearborn. Alderman Sophia King called for a community meeting to discuss Roots Pizza's request for a Public Place of Amusement License. This license will grant them the ability to hold select entertainment events (such as live music) at their new location. The meeting was held at the Columbia College new Student Center on Tuesday, December 17th.



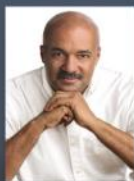
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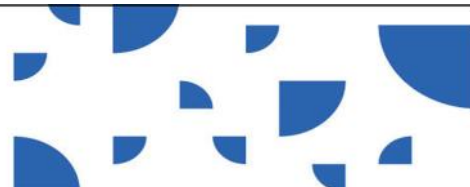
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Author Dan Egan: The Death and Life of the Great Lakes

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

[Add to Calendar](#)

Join One Book, One Chicago as we welcome climate expert Dan Egan. Dan Egan is a reporter at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, a senior water policy fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Sciences, and the author of the New York Times Bestseller *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*. He has twice been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and he has won the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, John B. Oakes Award, AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Award, and J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award. A graduate of the Columbia Journalism School, he lives in Milwaukee with his wife and children. His book, *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, is a portrait of an ecological catastrophe happening right before our eyes, blending the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come.

Doors to the Auditorium open at 5:00 p.m., and seating is first come, first served. Books are available for purchase, and the author will autograph books at the conclusion of the program.

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Mission Shop



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Theatre. . . . In the South Loop



failure: a love story

Written by: Philip Dawkins
Directed by: Susan Padveen

February 13-22, 2020

Studio 404
72 E. 11th Street

TICKETS

February 12 & 13 - Preview

February 14 - Opening

February 22 - Closing

Friday, February 21st 7:30 PM - There will be a talk back following this evening's show and will be led by the production dramaturg Tina Kim Nguyen.

Students, faculty, and staff may use the following code for tickets: **FAIL20**

Only one ticket per promo code can be reserved.

Nelly Fail died in 1928 and was preceded in death by her sisters Jenny June and Gerty that same year. Each was married to the same man before their untimely demise. As with so many things in life such as blunt objects, disappearances and consumption, they never saw death coming. *Failure* is a magical, musical fable that traces the sisters' triumphs and defeats. Set in the Fail family home and clock shop, a rickety two-story building near the Chicago River, this funny, moving, and profoundly wise play reminds us that only love remains in the end.

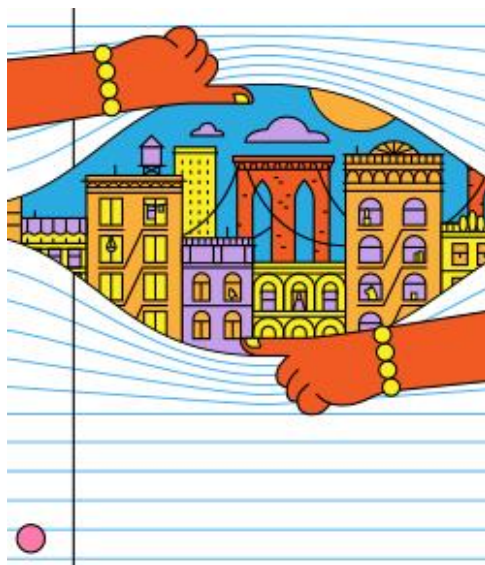
PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, February 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 14th, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 15th, 2 p.m. and 7:30

Columbia College



Brooklyn Bridge

by Melissa James Gibson
directed by Coya Paz

Follow Sasha as she ventures outside the boundaries her immigrant mother has set for her and into the maze of her Brooklyn apartment building. Sasha meets her mysterious neighbors, and she's convinced there are giants living upstairs! Sasha discovers the power of community as she races to complete her report on the Brooklyn Bridge. Recommended for ages 7 and up.

Jan. 16, 2020 - Feb. 22, 2020

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre
(312) 922-1999

The cast features Valentina Fittipaldi (Trudi), Laura Rojas (Talida), Sarah Dennis (Sasha), Patrick Romano (John), Kamari Saxson (Sam).

Accessibility Services and Interpreted Performances:

If you require wheelchair accessible and/or companion seating, or have any other hearing or vision needs, please let us know when you reserve your tickets so that we can make sure you visit to our theatre is an excellent one. Discounted tickets are available for patrons with disabilities, and their guests.

DePaul University



The Joffrey Ballet — "The Nutcracker"

Auditorium Theatre

50 E Ida B Wells Dr
Chicago
IL 60605

info@auditoriumtheatre.org
[312.341.2310](tel:312.341.2310)

The Joffrey's reimagined classic marks its fourth year as Chicago's favorite holiday tradition. Wheeldon's turn-of-the-century tale opens on Christmas Eve, 1892, mere months before the grand opening of the 1893 World's Fair, as young Marie and her mother prepare for a festive potluck celebration. The magic of the season takes hold when a visit from the charming Great Impresario sets off a whirlwind journey of romance and adventure through a dreamlike World's Fair.

A ballet in two acts set to Tchaikovsky's classic score, *The Nutcracker* features an award-winning creative team, including Tony Award®-nominated set and costume designer Julian Crouch, Caldecott Medal Award-winning author Brian Selznick, Obie and Drama Desk award-winning puppeteer Basil Twist, Tony Award®-winning lighting designer Natasha Katz and Tony Award®-winning projection designer Ben Percy. Choreography: © Christopher Wheeldon | Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Individual tickets go on sale Thursday, August 1 @ 10AM.

[Auditorium Theatre](#)

Through Dec 29th, 2019

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.

This is the **sixth year** in which the Dearborn Express has run this article in memory of the tragic loss at Sandy Hook.

So far in 2019, 454 people have been killed and 1614 wounded in 399 mass shootings. Updated Dec 20, 2019

<https://www.vox.com/a/mass-shootings-america-sandy-hook-gun-violence>

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>

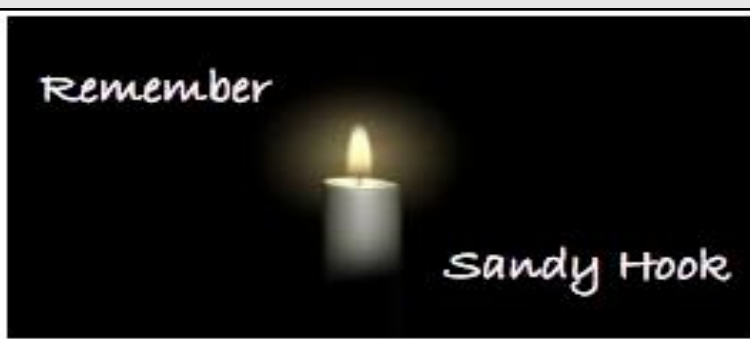




Photo shows the progress on the highrise apartment building on Clark St. just north of Polk. CMK Development is building it on the old Palmer Printing parking lot. The building that housed the printing plant will be converted to office space. They anticipate the topping off in 13 to 14 months from start date which was January, 2019. The original plan called for 349 units, 75% of which would be studio or convertible apartments. About 9% would be one and two bedroom units. The height will be similar to other buildings on Clark slightly shorter than the Burnham Point Building across the street, however, much higher than buildings in Printers Row.



Wednesday, December 11, 2019

[Chicago Tribune Architecture Critic Weighs in On Sloop's Tallest Building NEMA](#)

NEMA Chicago is nearly done and architecture critic Blair Kamin weighs in (via [Chicago Tribune](#)):

It's no coincidence that the nearly complete NEMA Chicago skyscraper, which at 896 feet is Chicago's tallest rental high-rise, bears a strong resemblance to Willis Tower. The architect, New York's Rafael Viñoly, is a fan of our muscular skyline giant.

The comparison is impossible to miss. Even the most casual observer can glimpse it in NEMA's resolutely right-angled geometry and the way its cluster of nine vertical sections gradually peels away, leaving one to soar to the summit.

Fortunately, the outcome is a vigorous reinterpretation of Willis, not a slavish copy. And that should come as a relief for anyone who cares about Chicago's skyline.

Apartment buildings are notorious for low budgets and lower aesthetic aspirations. A visual flop at NEMA's prominent site — on the south edge of Grant Park and near the busy corner of Roosevelt Road and Michigan Avenue — would have left a lasting, unavoidable eyesore.

Viñoly, whose previous works include a business school and hospital at the University of Chicago, avoided that trap by doing things the old-fashioned Chicago way: with a directness that verges on bluntness.

It's a good read (as usual) and he sums up the building in a succinct manner:

For now, we can be glad that NEMA has returned Chicago to its pragmatic architectural roots and endowed the skyline with a fresh shot of visual poetry. That's better than an ugly concrete stalk along Grant Park.

Ok, so maybe not a resounding win - but sounds like it could have been worse.

In our opinion the building does well. Viewed from almost every direction it is an impressive building. The view from the west is probably the worst, but hopefully that gets covered up if and when they build the second tower.

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BEAT 123

Tue, 03 Dec 2019 00:24 600 S State St
ARMED ROBBERY CTA Train

Wed, 04 Dec 2019 06:50 500 S La Salle St
STRONGARM ROBBERY No Weapon
CTA TRAIN

Wed, 04 Dec 2019 22:50 0 E 8th St
AUTO THEFT Street

Sun, 08 Dec 2019 10:20 1100 S State St
ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY TA Platform

Fri, 06 Dec 2019 05:45 1100 S State St
THEFT POCKET-PICKING CTA Bus

Wed, 11 Dec 2019 16:45 700 S State St
STRONGARM ROBBERY No Weapon School

Thu, 12 Dec 2019 03:46 700 S Federal St
BURGLARY Construction Site

BEAT 131

Sat, 07 Dec 2019 23:21 1600 S Wabash Ave AUTO
THEFT

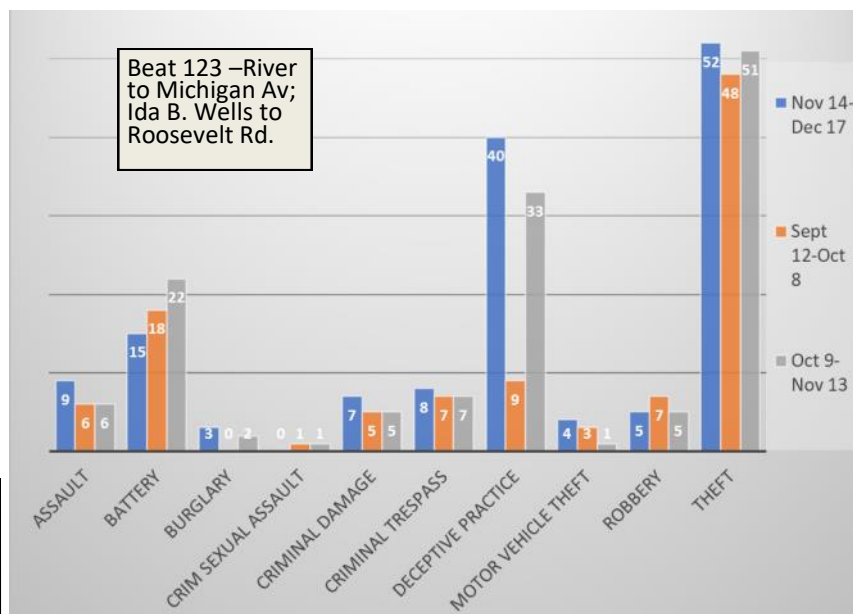
Sat, 07 Dec 2019 23:55 1200 S Wabash Ave AUTO
THEFT Parking Lot (non Resd.)

Sat, 23 Nov 2019 02:05 0 W Cermak Rd BURGLARY
Forcible Entry School Public Building

Mon, 02 Dec 2019 14:10 0 E Roosevelt Rd AT-
TEMPTED ROBBERY Small Retail Store

Mon, 09 Dec 2019 08:41 1300 S Federal St
BURGLARY Residence Garage

We focus on crime that is violent or may affect your physical safety. If you look at the graph on top of this column, you will see that the highest incidence of crime is theft, usually on the street or in restaurants (like cell phones stolen from tables). The crime shown on this page is based on Beat 123 131 and 132.



Man beaten, robbed by 8 people on Red Line train in South Loop

The man, 23, was riding the Red Line about 12:25 a.m. in the 600 block of South State Street when eight males approached and started hitting him near the Roosevelt Station, Chicago police said.

By [Sun-Times Wire](#) Dec 3, 2019, 2:23am CST

A man was beaten by eight people and robbed of his belongings Tuesday on a CTA Red Line train in the South Loop.

The man, 23, was riding the Red Line about 12:25 a.m. in the 600 block of South State Street when eight males approached and started hitting him near the Roosevelt Station, Chicago police said. They took his cellphone and shoes before fleeing in an unknown direction.

The man was bruised on the face and taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where his condition was stabilized, police said.

Police sources said the man would not give a description of his attackers and was not cooperating with officers.

Area Central detectives are investigating.



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\$338,000
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10/28/19

\$545,000
1349 S CLARK ST
10/25/19

\$396,000
1307 S WABASH AVE 402
10/24/19

\$250,000
711 S DEARBORN ST 204
10/22/19

\$290,000
1250 S MICHIGAN AVE 1805
10/18/19

\$306,000
901 S PLYMOUTH CT 1003
10/15/19

\$245,000
1101 S STATE ST 1505
10/11/19

\$312,500
1111 S WABASH AVE 1607
10/9/19

\$245,000
600 S DEARBORN ST 804
10/8/19

\$295,000
1250 S INDIANA AVE 707
10/7/19

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