



THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
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Memorial Day



Back when I was in high school in a far south suburb, I participated in a Memorial Day ceremony as a member of our high school band. A trombone player friend of mine, Lyle Hanson was there also. Today I remember him and honor him for making the ultimate sacrifice in Viet Nam. I was against the war but admired those who served for putting themselves out there for the greater good. I'm not sure what Lyle thought. He dropped out of college because his father became ill. His first obligation was to help support the family. Not having a student deferment, something many college males coveted, made him vulnerable to the draft. He was drafted, served his country, and died. He and many others deserve to be remembered. Maybe too many to remember all of them. But I'll remember him this year . . . and next year, and the year after that.

Memorial Day History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

A statue of Major General John A Logan is at the end of 9th Street at Michigan Avenue.

May 30, 2021

Vol. 9, No.7

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JAZZ SHOWCASE



Vibraphonist Jalen Bake

Thurs., June 3,8pm and 10pm
 Friday, June 4,,8pm and 10pm
 Saturday, June 5,..... 8pm and 10pm
 Sunday, June 6,4pm and 8pm



Trumpeter Corey Wilkes

Thurs., June 10 ,8pm and 10pm
 Friday, June 11,8pm and 10pm
 Saturday, June 12,..... 8pm and 10pm
 Sunday, June 13.....4pm and 8pm



Saxophonist Rajiv Halim

Thurs., June 178pm and 10pm
 Friday, June 18,8pm and 10pm
 Saturday, June 19,..... 8pm and 10pm
 Sunday, June 20.....4pm and 8pm



Dearborn Station

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Jazzshowcase.com

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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

South Loop Neighbors

Jim Wales- President
Benjamin Cottrell- Vice Pres.
Dorothy Miaso- Treasurer
Rob Degnan- Secretary
Dennis McClendon- Director of Planning and Development
Roger Marsh- director
Christine Hunt- director

Greg Borzo, Lana Reese and Jeremy Campbell have joined the Board.

South Loop Development Roundup

A reminder: Our Sept. 16 online meeting covered the development and planning issues active in the neighborhood. If you weren't able to attend, you can view [the entire presentation on YouTube](#).

The latest on all South Loop projects can always be found at southloopupdate.com

Dennis McClendon
Director of Planning and Development



899 S. Plymouth Ct.

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If it ain't broke, don't fix it, We'll take what you've got,
add what you want & make it great

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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.



Retired in Chicago

Resumed activities fall short: bad luck or a bad omen?

By **Marianne Goss**, May 17, 2021

During the pandemic, my friend Sandie and I have played Scrabble online twice a week, double the amount we used to play in person, and my book group has met via Zoom. The activity that I missed is Chicago Greeter, where I'd logged almost 1,000 hours giving tours to out-of-towners.

Chicago Greeter resumed operation in March. Once I was fully vaccinated, I signed up for a half-dozen tours.

The first two were canceled by the visitors the night before with no explanation.

The next was with a freelance travel writer whom I looked forward to taking around my own neighborhood, the South Loop. Heavy rain caused the visitor to call off the tour a third of the way through.

Next up was a woman who requested a tour of outdoor sculptures in the Loop. We were doing fine until she asked whether I go to church, what church, what religion I'd been raised in, and whether I had "a personal relationship with the Lord." Unprepared and startled, I responded more bluntly than an ambassador for the city should: "I don't want to talk about it."

The next week, two mother-daughter pairs asked to go to the Asian enclave on Argyle Street. I neglected to anticipate how time with them would be lessened by meeting at the Argyle Red Line station instead of traveling together from the Chicago Cultural Center (not yet reopened) as usual. When the tour ended after just an hour, I felt I'd shortchanged them.

The sixth tour was to be of the Loop for a first-time visitor. A couple of hours before we were to meet, the woman texted that she'd fallen down stairs and, although no bones were broken, thought she should stay off her feet the rest of the day. Of course she deserved more sympathy than I did, but I was disappointed.

Of six tours on the calendar, half didn't happen, and the other three fell short. I can't remember such a string of disappointment in 13 years volunteering with Chicago Greeter. I wondered whether these first postvaccine tours were a bad omen, foretelling that life after reentry would be something of a letdown.

After 14 months of self-denial, the excitement to return to once-loved activities is so high that we could set ourselves up for disappointment. On the other hand, maybe we're so eager to go somewhere other than the grocery store that most any excursion is going to be a lift.

Having six disappointing Greeter appointments in a row was just bad luck. Chicago Greeter is not normally a source of dissatisfaction, annoyance, and self-criticism. Probably 95 percent of my tours are satisfying. Tours have been canceled on me at the last minute before, and there have been guests (thankfully, very few) who I found less than great companions. "Oh, well," was my typical reaction in the past.

Tamping down high expectations is a good policy, but the pendulum needn't swing to the other extreme. Not expecting anything in particular might be best. When life returns to normal, it will be life: sometimes good, sometimes not so good, and usually somewhere in between. With restrictions lifted, there will be other outings to come. I'm checking the Greeter calendar to sign up for more tours.

NEW MASK GUIDANCE ALSO FALLS SHORT

I was happy to shed a mask outdoors after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave us fully vaccinated folks permission, but I agree with comments that the abrupt change of advice is ill considered.

As we were advised, in most outdoor and indoor situations the fully vaccinated can forgo masks, but the CDC says that the unvaccinated should not. Since the ranks of the unvaccinated contain those who downplayed the seriousness of COVID, opposed mask mandates, and don't intend to be vaccinated, why should they be expected to voluntarily don masks now?

I'm not worried about myself. I trust the science that says I'm safe. I'm concerned about those the unvaccinated non-mask wears put at risk, who include themselves.

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

Dearbornexpress.net/

OPINION

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Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | May 17, 2021

Around the world in a kitchen

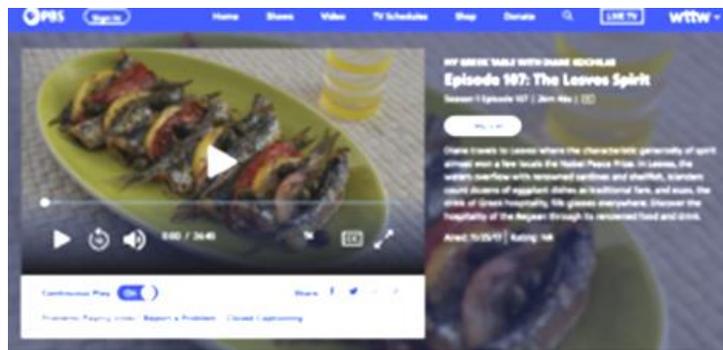


During our Covid year, I never got hooked on or binged any Netflix or other streaming shows. I did, however, binge watch cooking shows. Our PBS station, WTTW, stacks them pretty much all day long on Saturdays.

There's [America's Test Kitchen](#), which, in addition to recipes and techniques, also does a segment evaluating cooking tools and ingredients. From the best mixers to the best mayonnaise, it's kind of cook's Consumer Reports. Then there's Cook's Country. And Simply Ming. It's kind of a meditation to me. The pace, watching the process, even the predictable "Oh my God that's good" reaction after each dish is tasted is kind of soothing. (But just once I want someone to say "That's just awful.")

You can stream the segment on Lesvos, which includes the heroic fisherman, by [clicking here](#). Several other Saturday shows are a sort of flavor of Anthony Bourdain's stuff. They focus on a national cuisine, and they mix travel and cuisine with national and cultural history. And you learn about a lot more than cooking. Lidia Bastianich hosts [Lidia's Kitchen](#), which focuses on Italian cuisine, culture and customs. Lidia reminds me so much of my Italian-born grandmother it hurts. On [Milk Street](#), the hosts travel and bring home recipes from around the world. [Pati's Mexican Table](#) explores ... Mexico, so does Rick Bayless' [Mexico, One Plate at A Time](#). On [My Greek Kitchen](#), Diane Kocilis travels all around Greece exploring history, culture, and food. And there's one for [Poland](#), another for [Scandinavia](#).

Some of these shows have pivoted to filming in the home kitchens of the hosts, but it's largely been reruns over the past year. That's fine with me. I didn't start watching until lockdown, so it's all new to me. During last Saturday's My Greek Kitchen, host Kocilis visited with fisherman/chef Stratis Valiamos on the Greek Island of Lesvos. Remember the Mediterranean



refugee crisis from 2016? Well, Stratis Valiamos was one of the good souls who used his fishing boat to rescue countless refugees, many of them who couldn't swim. His description of those times were heartbreaking (his Greek was translated to subtitles.) He said that on more than one occasion, refugees threw their babies onto his boat—to be sure they made it on before it was filled to capacity.

Who knows how many lives he saved. [And he was nominated for a Nobel Prize](#) for his efforts. [Check out this interview](#). Totally humble and compassionate. And he can cook. That's one cool dude.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

CLICK HERE
ON **THE MEDIA**

I Would Prefer Not To May 26, 2021

We live in a time of sensory overload and overwhelm. A global pandemic, an ongoing climate catastrophe, and online discourse run amok. And a sense that we are powerless to do anything about any of it. In response, artist and writer Jenny Odell has a curious prescription: do nothing. In her 2019 book [How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy](#), Odell advocates for occupying a space of "critical refusal": rejecting the terms of engagement as they're handed down to us and removing ourselves from the clamor and undue influence of public opinion. With lessons from ecology, art, history and beyond, Odell tells Brooke about her own journey toward more context and contemplation, and offers listeners an alternative way to think and be in relation to an overstimulating world.

Friday, May 21, 2021

[Chicago Duplicate Bridge Moving Into Dearborn Station](#)

Not going to lie - don't know much about bridge, but looks like there is a new club coming to Dearborn Station:



Chicago's largest duplicate bridge club, Chicago Duplicate Bridge, is moving into Dearborn Station in the South Loop, in July. CDB was located on the near north side, until COVID caused it to close in March of 2020. The club holds afternoon games 7 days a week and evening games Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lessons for beginners and various levels of experienced players are also offered. The club should bring hundreds of people into the South Loop every week. CDB is taking over the space formerly occupied by the yarn store in Dearborn Station.

We're sure the businesses in the area like the sound of hundreds of people coming to the neighborhood every week.

As a reminder, [Yarnify moved to 633 S. Plymouth ct last year](#). With that a prime retail spot opened in Dearborn Station that faces Polk.

If you're a bridge player or curious about [Chicago Duplicate Bridge](#) you can check their webpage here.

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



Sat., June 5, 9:00 am to 3 pm

Location: Dearborn Park

South Loop Neighbors Annual YARD SALE next Saturday June 5th from 9A-3P in Dearborn Park (9TH & Plymouth)

Buy, sell, or browse! To reserve your spot, email: [HERE](#) or you can reserve a spot on our website [HERE](#)

SLN will have a table at the Yard Sale and will accept donations that morning. SLN will sell donated items as a fundraiser and any unsold items will be donated to a non-profit thrift store (not returned to donor)



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MEDITERRANEAN

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Tove Ditlevsen, The Copenhagen Trilogy
(1969, trans by Tijna Nunnally and Michael Favala Goldman, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux)

Before I read **The Copenhagen Trilogy**, I knew very little about Denmark. My mother told me that mermaids come from there. My daughter told me that it has the largest sperm bank in the world. My grandmother told me that's where her father abandoned his wife and children. So, I didn't know anything about **Tove Ditlevsen**, who wrote over 30 books of poetry, short stories, novels, memoirs, essays, radio shows and a weekly advice column— from age 18 until a few months before intentionally overdosing on drugs at 58. Her acclaimed memoir, newly translated in 2021, is a masterpiece of remembering. Despite being shaken, disconcerted and depressed by **The Trilogy**, I couldn't put it down. May is "Mental Health Awareness Month," and Ditlevsen's darkly honest memoir makes us disturbingly aware. When I read: "Childhood is long and narrow like a coffin, and you can't get out of it on your own," I was hooked on the book the way Ditlevsen described her addiction to "Demerol....The name sounds like birdsong. I decide never to let go of [something that] can give me such an indescribable, blissful feeling." Ditlevsen came by her depression honestly: her maternal grandfather "drank a whole bottle of schnapps every day," Ditlevsen's mother tells six-year-old Tove "and in spite of everything, things were a lot better for us when he finally

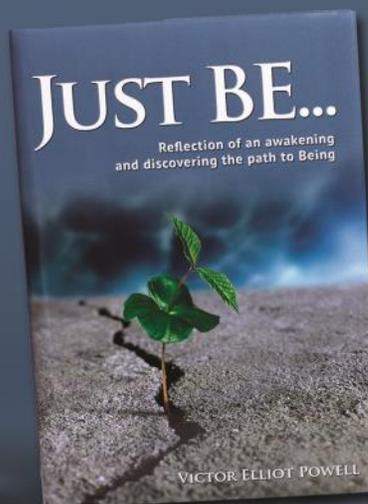
pulled himself together and hanged himself." Her surroundings are bleak; she suffers from rickets and diphtheria; she calls herself ugly, stupid, and coldly opportunistic. Her father loses his job shoveling coal and her brother hacks all day from the paint fumes he inhales as a young apprentice. Her mother is mercurial, unhappy, and violent. Her neighbors are drunks and sex-workers or serve in the Salvation Army. It's always cold, and frequently damp and dark. She's exposed to rapists and perverts, witnesses murders and learns that "death is not a gentle falling asleep as I once believed. It's brutal, hideous and foul-smelling." Yet, Tove calls childhood the *best* part of her life. Literary fame, lost love and devastation follow. She rues an unwanted pregnancy: Men "don't have any tender, soft organs where a blob of slime can attach itself like a tumor and completely independent of their volition, start living its own life." Writing, she knew from an early age, was her vocation and her protection, which drove her, "unwillingly, from those I should be closest to." Like other artists, she devoured and dissected herself, her family, her friends and lovers to tell us their stories. We ought not waste that abuse: Get her books.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park May 30, 2021



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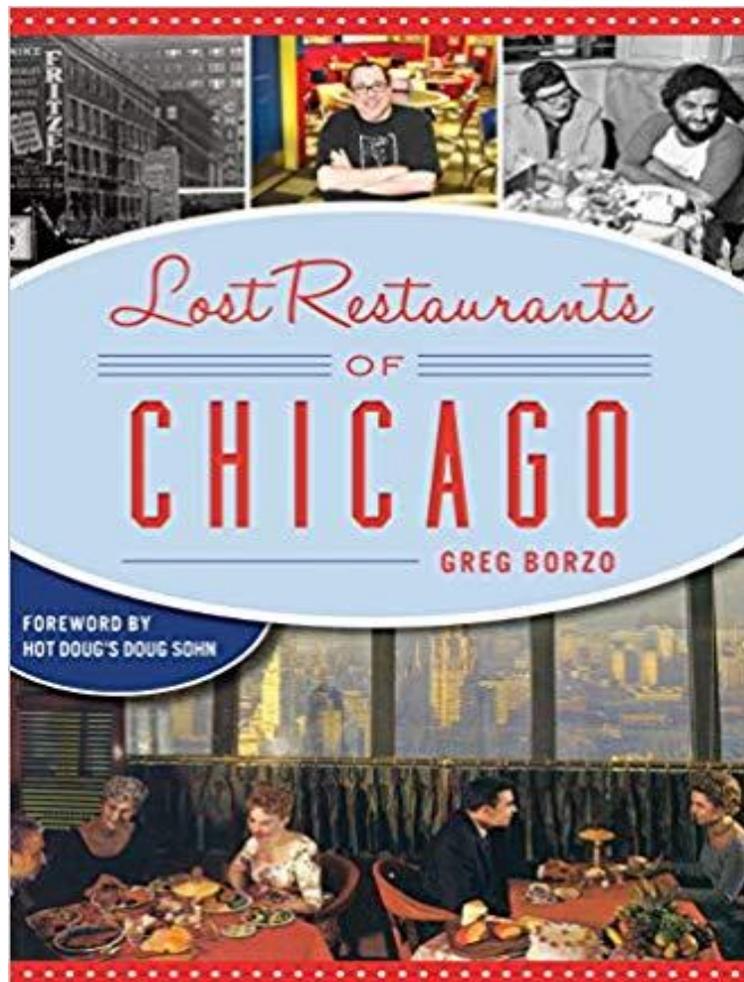
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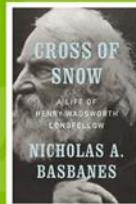


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NICHOLAS A. BASBANES



June 3
6:30 pm CDT



Nicholas A. Basbanes, "Cross of Snow: A Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow"

Nicholas A. Basbane discusses his new book *Cross of Snow: A Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*. This is a major literary biography of America's best-loved nineteenth-century poet, the first in more than fifty years, and a much-needed re-

assessment for the twenty-first century of a writer whose stature and celebrity were unparalleled in his time, whose work helped to explain America's new world not only to Americans but to Europe and beyond. [Order your copy of Cross of Snow](#) from our bookselling partner Seminary Co-op Bookstores. This program will be hosted online via Zoom, [register for the program here](#).



American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
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<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

Writing Out Loud

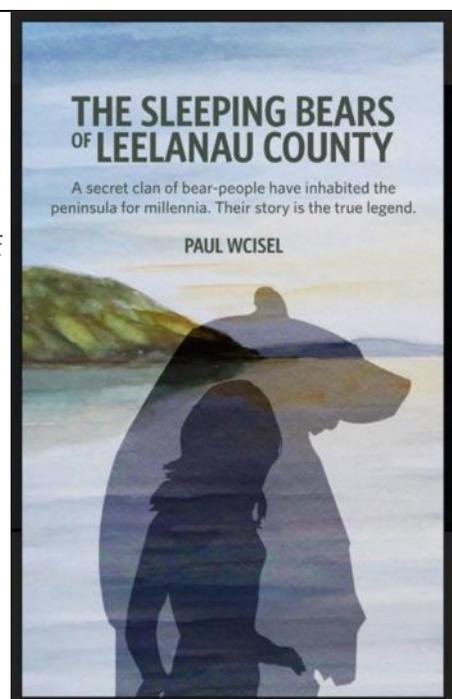
what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors

Beth Finke

A new novel by local author, Paul Wcisel (paulwcisel.com)

In a remote corner of northern Michigan, the residents of Leelanau County have a secret society that has been living on the peninsula for thousands of years. They are the bear-transforming descendants of tribes who crossed Lake Michigan millennia

ago to escape the destruction of their clan. One evening, a traveler has a chance encounter with a spirit bear and discovers he has a hidden history of his own. In the months that follow, he becomes deeply involved with the Sleeping Bear Clan and—depending on your point of view—a murder.



Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

Summer Break, Saturdays
with Seniors and Story 5/23/21

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



Starting tomorrow, May 24, all three of the memoir-writing classes I lead will be on summer break. What fun to think of these fully-vaccinated writers visiting and hugging their grandchildren, attending outdoor concerts, visiting museums, meeting friends for coffee, heading to beaches faraway... or beaches right here on Lake Michigan. If there's one thing we've all learned in the past year-and-a-half, it's how to adapt to change! With all of them taking advantage of these new pre-post-pandemic times, I'm giving our Saturdays with Seniors feature a summer break as well.

One change here I was sorry to hear about is the decision by StoryCorps to permanently close the StoryBooth that'd been located here at the Chicago Cultural Center for years. Here's an excerpt from a letter they sent me to break the news:

Dear Beth,

We're writing to share that after eight years at the Chicago Cultural Center, this September we will be ceasing operations at the Chicago StoryBooth.

Since we first opened in 2013, StoryCorps Chicago has recorded and preserved more than 4,000 facilitated interviews, including yours.

We are grateful to the Chicago Cultural Center and DCASE; to our Chicago-based funders; to WBEZ, our local station partner, and producer Bill Healy; to the many organizations we've partnered with which have enabled us to preserve so many voices of Chicago; and of course, to the Chicago participants like you who have shared their stories with us..

With gratitude,

The StoryCorps Chicago Team

In the eight years that StoryCorps was located here in Chicago, three interviews I recorded in the StoryBooth aired on Chicago Public Radio. Two were conversations with writers who were in the memoir-writing classes I lead:

In 2017 I [interviewed Giovanna Breu](#), a retired journalist who had a long career with *Life*, Giovanna had covered the funeral and burial of President John F. Kennedy for the magazine in 1962.

In 2019, StoryCorps [recorded a conversation I had with Wanda Bridgeforth](#). Among many other things Wanda talked about during that interview, she outlined the boundaries she grew up with on Chicago's South Side. "When I was a kid, if you crossed east on Cottage Grove Avenue, a policeman would come out of nowhere, ask where you were going and escort you right back across the street."



That's Wanda Bridgeforth and me after recording our StoryCorps conversation. The two of us are always happy to be together, can you tell? Photo courtesy

And then in 2019, when StoryCorps [contacted my friend Nancy Faust, the renowned retired White Sox baseball organist](#) to see if she'd be willing to let them record a conversation with her in the Chicago StoryCorps booth, Nancy agreed "as long as Beth Finke is the one who interviews me." What fun that interview was, and what an honor to be the interviewer Nancy Faust insisted on!

Earlier this month I received more news from StoryCorps Chicago: they will soon be featuring my conversations with Wanda Bridgeforth and with Nancy Faust in two separate [posts on their StoryCorps blog](#).

But still, I'm sorry to see our StoryCorps Chicago booth go, it was a privilege to be part of these conversations and to hear other fabulous Chicago interviews on WBEZ all these years. My appreciation goes out to Amy Tardif, Regional Manager of the Chicago StoryBooth for listening, to Bill Healy, the talented producer and great guy who put together the StoryCorps conversations that aired on WBEZ and to the entire StoryCorps Chicago team. Thanks for the memories!

Want to stay connected and celebrate StoryCorps Chicago over the summer? A limited number of public appointments are available at Chicago's StoryBooth now through June 30. I highly recommend it! It's easy to make a reservation online or over the phone by calling 1-800-850-4406.

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





36th Annual

PRINTERS ROW **LIT FEST**

Save the date: 2021 Printers Row Lit Fest is set for September 11 & 12. We urge you to support Chicago's independent bookstores and check this space for updates on the 2021 Lit Fest.

<https://printersrowlitfest.org/>



Presented by:
Near South
Planning Board



More than 70 juried artists will be showcasing their work in a variety of different mediums in Chicago's Printer's Row neighborhood!

About this event

Be part of a new cool vibe art festival, Printer's Row Art Fest, in Chicago's up and coming South Loop, a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community. Just one block from famous Michigan Avenue and a short walk to the world famous Art Institute, this festival will be the place to be.

The festival showcases the beauty, creativity and culture of the area. Held on Dearborn Street from Polk to Harrison, the Printer's Row Art Fest will be a buying opportunity for art lovers of all ages. There will be art from all price points by painters, street artists, jewelers, up-cycling artists, artisans of all kinds, photographers, and mixed media artists. Area restaurants and bars will be on hand to serve up their Chicago specialties. Live music will add to the atmosphere.

[Click Here for More Info & to Preview the Art!](#)

By reserving for a time slot, you are allowing Amdur Productions to contact you about future events. You may unsubscribe from our email list at any time.



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Is Alderman Standing In Way Of Muddy Waters Museum?

Ald. Sophia King continues to create obstacles for the Muddy Waters MOJO Museum, the museum says in a release, as well as Waters' great-granddaughter Chandra Cooper. The Muddy Waters home was on its way to a landmark nomination at the June 3 Commission on Chicago Landmarks meeting, but that decision was "disrupted" by Ald. King, who insisted that the home be pulled from the agenda. The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the MOJO Museum a \$50,000 grant from its African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and a nonprofit was formed to oversee development and operations. The group reports no difficult contractors, rising costs, or even complications because of the pandemic. "I'm calling on everyone around the world who has been influenced by my great-grandfather Muddy Waters to help us put a stop to this unfounded interference coming from Ald. King's office," Cooper says now. "My great-grandfather loved the city of Chicago, the culture and its people. This great city inspired his music and helped him to [affect] the world with his talent. He would be very proud of what we have accomplished and what we are working to do in his honor."



ART

Matthew Hoffman Says "You Got This" In South Loop

[Matthew Hoffman \(Newcity Design 50 Hall of Fame\)](#), best known as "custodian" of the ubiquitous "You Are Beautiful" sentiment, completes a permanent piece: "What an incredibly beautiful day to finish this permanent installation at Roosevelt Collection Shops in the South Loop. It gives me hope that better weather & better days are ahead!" [Hoffman posts on Instagram](#), along with an image of the twice-human-sized words, "You Got This" styled as handwriting in white against the grass and landscape and sky. The message, Hoffman says, "helps celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month."



Muddy Water's Mural, Chicago, IL by Eduardo Kobra, artist.
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NEWCITY newcity.com

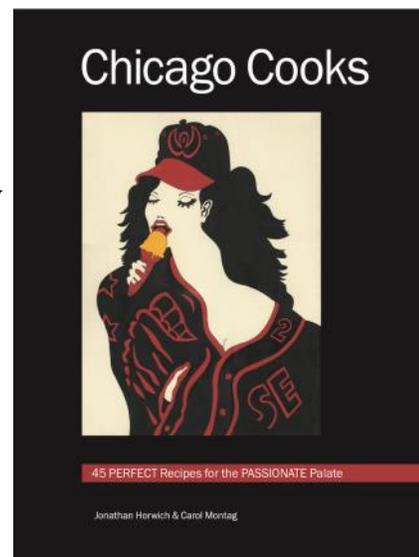
In Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

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.



Lori Lightfoot, take a page out of your predecessor Jane Byrne's political playbook and move to where the bullets are flying

Last weekend: 55 shootings. 11 dead. That was the score the weekend before this Memorial Day weekend. Few pay any attention. It's just a number happening somewhere else. Unless a bullet goes through your window. Or through a loved one's heart. Or....

Lori Lightfoot, you must do something. And I have an idea. You can take a page out of your only female predecessor's political playbook: While you can't move to an apartment in [Cabrini-Green](#) because they're gone, you *can* move to some other place where the bullets are flying. Like fighting Jane did. Temporarily. I have just the place for you. My good friend has a beautifully renovated apartment for rent on the first floor of a two-flat that she bought in [Englewood](#)—and she lives upstairs. Her tenants are leaving. Too dangerous to stay, they say. Because their son was riding his bike a fraction of an inch and a fraction of a second from where bullets flew and a murder took place. His father did take a bullet, though. He lived. He was not the intended target—but he was shot in the hand by a stray.

[Jane Byrne](#) calmed things down when she moved into Cabrini in the Spring of 1981, where there'd been 37 shootings and 11 murders over a three month period. Because she was there and the residents knew she meant business. I know because I was with her on a daily basis back then. I was working as a new reporter for the famous [City News Bureau of Chicago](#)—where every reporter worth his/her salt worked a stint to learn how to be the best.

And they assigned me to the morning Cabrini/Jane beat while she lived there. I had to be there early in the day when she came out in one piece (that was news) and I had to ask her a few questions to make sure there wasn't a bullet she was hiding anywhere on her person. Like, how'd ya sleep, mayor? Or, how was your breakfast? Or, what'd you make for your husband Jay for dinner last night? One morning, the limo waiting for her at Cabrini was scheduled to take her to O'Hare Airport where she and Jay were taking a plane to New York for a wedding. The union of [Hugh Carey, Governor of New York](#) and Evangeline Gouletas, semi-sleazy Chicago real estate developer. (The scoop was that he needed her money for his third campaign for governor of New York, which never came about. And they divorced a few years later.)

"Mayor, what are you giving them for a wedding present?" I asked. "Oh!" she demurred. "We're going to wait till we get there and check where she's registered and then decide."

Seemed reasonable to me—and I loved the girl talk.

My future husband—we wouldn't be married until the summer of 1982—the late esteemed journalist [Paul McGrath](#) had left the profession and was Jane's personal political advisor at that time. He had been Deputy Mayor briefly after she was elected in 1979, as he'd advised her right into office. And she felt she owed him. And she didn't want to lose his wisdom and instincts, which were considerable.

Later in 1979, though, he decided politics really wasn't for him and he took a job at Chicago Magazine as their political columnist. Late in 1980, Jane begged him to come back to work for her personally, not in City Hall. And to entice him, she gave him three years of salary in advance that was intended to last through the election of 1983. He said yes (I didn't think it was a good idea at all to leave Chicago magazine) and moved into an office and furnished it nicely—all at Jane's expense.

We were both right. It was a terrible idea. In a very short time, he and Jane didn't see eye to eye, and a few months into 1981, he quit. But he got to keep the the money because he shrewdly foresaw what could happen.

One day Eddie Vrodolyak called and asked if he could take over Paul's vacated office.

The irony overtook us.

This was exactly what Paul couldn't stand. Jane having anything to do with aldermen like [Eddie Vrodolyak](#) and [Eddie Burke](#)—and that's what basically caused the rift. She got there fighting against them and he felt she should continue to fight against them.

He'd insisted on those contractual terms with her (having all the money in advance) because he knew he wouldn't like being back if the Eddies were hanging out around her.

I seem to remember Paul advising Jane to make the move to Cabrini. However, at the moment it all happened, Paul and I were in the middle of a big breakup and we weren't communicating—so I never had a conversation with him about it in real time.

I recently asked my step-daughter if she remembered if he thought of the idea. Who else? She couldn't remember either. But she did say sneeringly, "I hope not." Which surprised me. It was a headline grabbing moment. Yes, full of show. But it seemed to calm things down. It was bravado. Which was a good thing.

Shortly after Jane left Cabrini Green and I was off that beat, in the late Spring, of 1981, I began working nights. Paul and I were still in the middle of our several weeks-long break-up. And one Wednesday afternoon I decided to see the play, "[Evita](#)" at the Schubert Theater because the matinee was playing just a few blocks from the City New Bureau office where I picked up my assignments for the evening shift, before heading to police headquarters at 11th and State. And the timing was perfect.

For some reason, all during the play, I kept thinking about Paul. I missed him. And afterwards, I kept singing "[Don't cry for me, Argentina](#)" in my head as I made my way through the Loop to check in before heading over to police headquarters. I kept hoping I'd see Paul on the street. The office Jane had him ensconced in was at Wells and Lake. City News was at Wells and Randolph.

As the music went through my head louder and louder, making me more and more emotional and drama-queen-like, I kept thinking about what a mistake this breakup was. And suddenly, there he stood. Right smack in front of me at Madison and LaSalle.

I stood there excited and stunned. And he said, "I saw a lot of you on TV on the morning news when you were out there every day talking to Jane. And I liked seeing you."

I knew him so well and I knew as he said that, that he missed me, too. But neither of us admitted it. At that moment. Instead, we said goodbye. And we went in opposite directions. But I knew it wasn't over.

When I got to 11th and State and entered the 7th floor press room—with some of the legends of the journalism world at the time, the now all deceased Henry Wood; and Phil Wattlely, who had just finishing his day shift and was walking out the door, both from the Tribune; and Tom Seibel from the Suntimes, a little "schicker" as my grandmother used to say (drunk). The first of a night's worth of cigarette smoke was creating the first cigarette haze of the night.

One of the many phones on my desk was ringing. It was the personal phone that was installed for us City News reporters to use for our personal conversations, if need be. All the other myriad phones on all of our desks had special purposes and were for various kinds of conversations: police business, the medical examiner cases, fires, certain kinds of crimes, phones that connected us to our respective news rooms and phones that related in some ways to sources for certain police stories. You *had* to use the right phone for the right story. But the personal phone was ringing and I wondered if, and hoped and prayed that it was Paul. I picked it up and it *was* him. [Click on the link below for the rest of the story.](#)

Bonnie McGrath

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





All of South Loop Elementary Families and our Donation Drive Challenge donors are invited to celebrate together at an End Of Year Dance-A-Thon with our favorite South Loop DJ/MC, DJ Vince Adams. Special guest appearances by admin & staff. If any class raised over \$3,500 you will see Ms. Shelton and Mr. Rhodes dance the TikTok dance of your choice, so get those [donations](#) rolling!

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Thursday, May 13, 2021

[GoGrocers Adding 3rd Location to the Sloop at 820 S. Michigan](#)

Looks like another convenience store is coming to Michigan Avenue:

Nice to see them adding another spot, that said it baffles us how much demand there is for these types of stores. Sure it's convenient to stay in your building and buy some basic stuff, but couldn't you just go a block or two in any direction? Guess not.



By our account, this is [GoGrocers 3rd location on Michigan avenue in the South Loop](#). All three are within 7 blocks of each other: 1255 S. Michigan, 1400 S. Michigan, and now 820 S. Michigan.

It's a nice store. Glad to see them continuing to invest in the neighborhood!

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

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Target Store Area Crime Reports

January 2017-April 2021

Recent crime activity near the Target store in the South Loop has raised issues regarding security arrangements in that area. In its 2021 Strategic Plan, Chicago Police District One identified the "Roosevelt Road Corridor" (from Michigan Ave to Des Plaines) as one of its three top priorities. The Target location at Roosevelt Road and Clark Street is in the middle of that corridor. This report will, hopefully, provide a statistical context for ongoing security discussions.

The statistics presented come from the City of Chicago's Chicago Data Portal. The Portal is publicly accessible at Data.CityOfChicago.org and provides consistent standardized information for every crime report filed with the Chicago Police Department. To provide a historic context for discussion, data was collected from every reported crime from January 1, 2017 to April 30, 2021 in the area bounded by West Roosevelt Road, South Clark Street, the Rock Island Railroad (Metra) tracks, and the access road from Clark St. to the entrance to the Target parking ramp. This includes reported crime in the store and its parking ramp as well as crimes on adjacent streets and sidewalks on the north side of Roosevelt Road and the west side of Clark Street.

The accompanying Excel file includes five spreadsheets for the years 2017-2021 and a tabulation chart. The chart presents monthly totals of all crimes and annual totals for selected crime types.

The top portion of the chart presents the total number of crime reports for each month. Data from the beginning of May 2021 was not included as it was still being collected and processed. Crime totals for 2017, 2018, and 2019 were amazingly consistent. The Covid year of 2020 witnessed a dramatic drop in total crime reports, possibly due to limited opportunities during the shutdown. Multiplying the crime totals for the first four months of 2021 by three, would suggest that the 2021 year-end totals might return to the average totals for 2017, 2018, and 2019. These trends are in line with data from across the South Loop and the entire city.

The lower portion of the chart shows differing results for specific types of crimes that are more violent or dangerous in nature. The FBI standardized definitions of crime types to enable inter-agency comparisons. Five crime types were selected by the FBI as "index violent crimes". Luckily, two of these types, homicide and criminal sexual assault, did not occur in the focus area during the focus time period. The other three types, assault, battery, and robbery* did occur, but did not show any increasing trends. Note that in the FBI crime types, vehicle hijacking* is considered a sub-category of robbery* instead of theft because of the likely confrontation between perpetrator and victim. In this report, hijacking* is listed separately and not included in the robbery* tabulation figures.

Crimes Reported in/near South Loop Target Store

Total Crime Reports	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	13	10	8	8	7
Feb	6	7	11	6	7
Mar	6	12	12	6	21
Apr	11	16	2	4	12
May	9	16	17	10	
Jun	15	10	18	3	
Jul	12	11	13	11	
Aug	9	9	10	15	
Sep	9	11	16	9	
Oct	15	8	5	1	
Nov	12	7	10	9	
Dec	8	5	5	2	
Total	125	122	127	84	47

Selected Crime Types

Assault	4	0	0	2	1
Battery	2	5	5	4	2
Burglary	0	0	1	1	0
Damage: Property	0	2	1	2	0
Robbery *	4	2	0	2	1
Damage: Vehicle	1	1	3	1	1
Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	4	1
Hijacking *	1	0	0	1	1
Total	12	10	10	17	7

Several other crime types (burglary, damage: property, damage: vehicle, and vehicle theft) are included in the tabulation because of the possibility that they might have occurred in the parking ramp, a particular area of security concern.

Vehicle theft reports first appeared in the 2020 report. Recent discussion in Chicago media relates decreases in other crime opportunities during Covid as a possible reason criminals have turned to vehicle theft and hijacking. An informative article on this subject, "Politics of Fear", appeared in the April 29, 2021 issue of the Chicago Reader.

The Roosevelt Road Corridor was named a top priority by Chicago Police District One because it was and is the location of a large proportion of the crimes committed in the South Loop, both violent and non-violent. The area including the Target Store is in the middle of that Corridor and deserves specific attention.



The Cruise ship the Odyssey is back providing sunset cruises. And sale boats are back.

Peach Cobbler (mini size)



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<https://notjustcookies.com/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BARBARA'S BASEMENT?

As we draw closer to the holidays, **Barbara's Basement Resale Shop** is beginning to decorate for Thanksgiving and Christmas with pumpkins, Christmas tree ornaments and floral arrangements.

Our store is stocked with a large assortment of new and used ladies and men's watches, bracelets, earrings, necklaces and rings.

Do you need extra dinner plates for the holidays? Check out our stock. Gift wrapping is available this year, beginning *December 1st (by appointment only)*. Please provide boxes if needed.

New Store Hours:
Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

All proceeds go to fund the mission and ministry of Second Presbyterian Church.



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Kasey's Tavern on Dearborn 



One year Ago, we saw plywood. Artists saw blank canvases



Fitness Gym next to South Loop Market on State and 9th.



South Loop Market Fanny Moy and Voluteers



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Roosevelt Collection



Artist Bear Pallasch working on a mural at Yarnify, 47 W Polk (now around the corner on Plymouth Ct.

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Columbia alum wins Chicago film festival

By [Rachel Patel](#), Staff Reporter
May 20, 2021

[Vicki Lei](#)

One of the six Columbia filmmakers in this year's CineYouth festival, 2020 interdisciplinary documentary alum Anna Lee Ackermann won the Chicago Award for 2021.

CineYouth is an annual Chicago film festival celebrating the creativity of young filmmakers by screening their work and offering workshops, discussions and panels.

Ackermann said her film "[As We Are Planted](#)" sheds light on the issues that neighborhoods without adequate access to healthy and sustainable food options face in order to destigmatize society's view of food pantries.

"Some of the main food sources might be a corner store like a 7-Eleven, and those often have unhealthy food options ... and the nearest grocery store isn't very close," Ackermann said. "When it comes to feeding mouths, what's cheapest and easiest is processed foods, and that affects health outcomes down the line."

Ackermann said hearing her film announced as the winner was a surreal feeling, and she was grateful to have had the experience.

"It felt like everything that I was doing for this film made sense and that I made this film for a purpose," Ackermann said.

Ryan Saunders, festival director of CineYouth at the Chicago International Film Festival, said this year's lineup included films from 2020 since last year's festival was postponed due to the pandemic. He said this year's festival was one of the largest yet with more than 100 films submitted.

Other Columbia students and alumni were also proud to be part of the film festival.

Jazmin Bryant, a 2020 cinema and television arts alum, directed her film "71 Seconds" to honor Trayvon Martin, his family and others who have lost their lives to police brutality, systemic racism and classism, she said.

"We really used this film to not only pay homage, but really shed light on his innocence and youthfulness that was taken away from him the night he was murdered by George Zimmerman," Bryant said.

Nikki Houston, a 2019 cinema art and science alum, filmed "Fear Frenzy," a satirical take on a '70s game show inspired by different television shows, for her "Directing Practicum" class.

Houston said she finished her film during the Spring 2019 semester. She initially wanted to shoot "Fear Frenzy" on celluloid film but ended up having to do it digitally because Columbia was beginning the process of phasing it out.

The film tells the story of a couple who have been longtime contestants on a game show until the wife realizes the show is trying to use her husband for reviews and ratings.

Nathan Marquez, a 2018 cinema art and television alum, said he made "The Wolf Comes at Night" during the Spring 2018 semester and chose it for his "Directing for Advanced Practicum" class.

The family featured in the film faces tensions throughout, but in the end they come together when trying to make ends meet. Marquez said he and his team were drawn to the dynamics of a dysfunctional family because he does not think any family is "perfect" but still wants to emphasize its importance. [FOR THE REST OF THE STORY CLICK LINK](#)

<https://columbiachronicle.com/columbia-alum-wins-chicago-film-festival>

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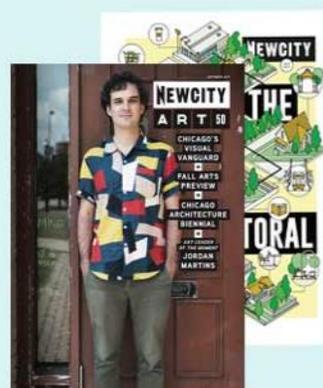
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Buckingham Fountain is back! Photos May 25, 2021



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<https://www.voaininois.org/hope-walk>



Bronzeville Journalist Creates Black Girl Magic With Children's Book 'Msomaji's Magic Carpet'



Tiffany Smith long dreamed of writing a book to help South Side kids who grew up like her dream big. She made it happen during the pandemic.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#)

May 14, 2021

Bronzeville journalist Tiffany Smith poses with her new children's book, "Msomaji's Magic Carpet," in an undated photo.

BRONZEVILLE — Growing up, Tiffany Smith was obsessed with Paris. She dreamed of picturesque days spent strolling the Champs-Élysées, of enjoying a decadent crepe in the comfort of an artfully decorated patisserie.

With Smith coming from modest means, it remained a dream until last year, when she booked her first trip to the City of Lights.

Then coronavirus interrupted her plans, turning what had almost been real into a dream once more.

So the South Side native took to her computer, bringing to life an idea that had been brewing inside her before the pandemic. Just like that, "[Msomaji's Magic Carpet](#)," her first children's book, was born.

"When I launched my food and travel blog in 2017, I knew there was a purpose much bigger than me going on vacation and talking about all the cool places I'd visited. Quite honestly, it was like, 'Oh, I'm going to write a children's book,'" said Smith, a journalist. "The more I began to write, the more this became a sort of inspirational and educational manual to encourage kids who had never seen the world to have dreams."

Msomaji — a Swahili name that translates to "seeker" — dreams of seeing the world, but her family doesn't have the means. Enter one magic carpet, ready to take the budding young traveler wherever she wants to go.

That Msomaji is a beautiful Brown girl with mahogany skin is intentional; the number of children's books featuring Black and Brown characters is something the author noticed, and the publishing industry [continues to struggle with representation](#).

"As I was getting deeper into writing the book, I saw there weren't very many chocolate girls on the covers of children's books, or at least not as many as there should be. Of course you have some, like Matthew Cherry's 'Hair Love,' but it's disproportionate," said Smith, a Kenwood Academy alumna who lives in Bronzeville. "People ask why the character doesn't look like me. And while the book is about me, I wanted girls to see themselves on the cover, be captured by it and reminded that they are beautiful and they deserve to be on the cover."

The book, released in late March, is already a hit with younger readers. Smith has spent the past month sharing Msomaji's story with students all over the city and holding weekly discussions with local nonprofits. [Burst Into Books](#) will host the author for its Virtual Story Hour Time 6 p.m. Friday, which will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

And there is a good chance Msomaji will be going on other adventures, as fans are clamoring for more stories, Smith said.

"What your reality looks like right now doesn't mean that is what is always going to be. You may not have the means to travel right now, but that doesn't mean you'll never be able to reach your goal," she said. "I wrote this book to make kids believe — especially kids from the hood — that anything is possible." Click to find where available.

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/05/14/bronzeville-journalist-creates-black-girl-magic-with-childrens-book-msomajis-magic-carpet/>



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Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke

Questions Kids Ask: What Was Your Favorite Activity When You Could See? 5/27/21



During our disability awareness presentations, one thing I like to get across to the school kids is that people with disabilities enjoy -- and engage in -- a lot of the same things they do. We just develop different skills (and sometimes use different "helping tools") to achieve our goals.

Two days ago Luna and I did what will likely be our last Zoom presentation for 3rd graders this school year. Our presentation was scheduled for late morning, and the weather was so beautiful in Chicago Tuesday that a dear neighbor invited me to come swim laps at his condominium's outdoor pool around noon.

Could I make it to my friend's pool on time? Well, yes. As long as I wore my swimsuit to the presentation. The 3rd graders would only see my head and shoulders on Zoom, right?

My Zoom talk that morning opened with my big announcement: this was the first time I'd ever worn a swimsuit to a school presentation. The kids were all muted, and without being able to see them, I chose to believe they found that absolutely hilarious. "Right after this presentation is over, I'm going swimming outside!"

My mentioning swimsuits and swimming provided an instant connection between me and these very bright eight- and nine-year-olds. Some of their questions:

- How long have you been swimming?
- What was your favorite activity when you could see, and what is your favorite activity now?
- Where'd you learn to swim?
- How can you Zoom if you can't see?
- How can you drive?
- How many Seeing Eye dogs have you had?
- Did any of your dog's ever bite someone?
- Have any of your dog's gotten sick?
- Did you ever use a stick?
- How many books have you wrote?
- Are you writing any books now?
- did you write those books when you were blind, or did you write them all when you were like us and still in school and you could see?
- Did you have to learn a lot of new things after you were blind?
- How many years have you been blind?

Doing Zoom presentations from the comforts of home has its benefits: no need to arrange for rides to faraway suburban schools, don't have to wake up early, it's okay to dress casual, you don't have to pack up your "helping tools" to bring along, Zooming takes less time, allowing the Zoomer to fit more things into their day. Like Swimming laps outside.

And yet.

I still prefer being in the room with the kids I'm visiting. I miss hearing their oohs and ahs when my Seeing Eye dog leads me into their classroom, the murmur of questions they ask even before the presentation begins, hearing "me! Me! Me!" when they hold up their hands to ask questions afterwards, and, especially, the joy they express when I take Luna's harness off afterwards and let them pet her. I'm holding out hope that at least *some* of the visits to schools next year will be in person, but who knows? Maybe the schools will decide sponsoring Zoom meetings for authors is easier for them. Like so many other issues during these pre-post-pandemic times, I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Or wait and hear!



Photo of then-new Seeing Eye dog Luna's first and last in-person school visits in early March, 2020, before you-know-what happened

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Al Hippensteel, editor
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Next CAPS Meeting June 14, 2021

3PM on Zoom

(Every 2nd Thursday)



Police Blotter

<http://home.chicagopolice.org/>

From the Chicago Police Dept CLEAR Map.

5/21/2021 at 2am Roosevelt and Wabash
ARMED ROBBERY w/handgun on Street Beat 131

5/21/2021 at 1am 600 S Plymouth Ct
ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT Sidewalk Beat 123

5/20/2021 at 3:08am State and E Harrison
AGGRAVATED BATTERY on Street Beat 123

5/15/2021 at 1am , 700 S Clark
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT on Street, Beat 123

5/11/2021 at 2am, 600 S Clark St
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT ON Street, Beat 123

5/10/2021 at 2:44 am, 600 S State
AGGRAVATED BATTERY on Steet, Beat 123

5/14/2021 at 4:10pm 1100 S Clark
STONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon Department Store,
Beat 123

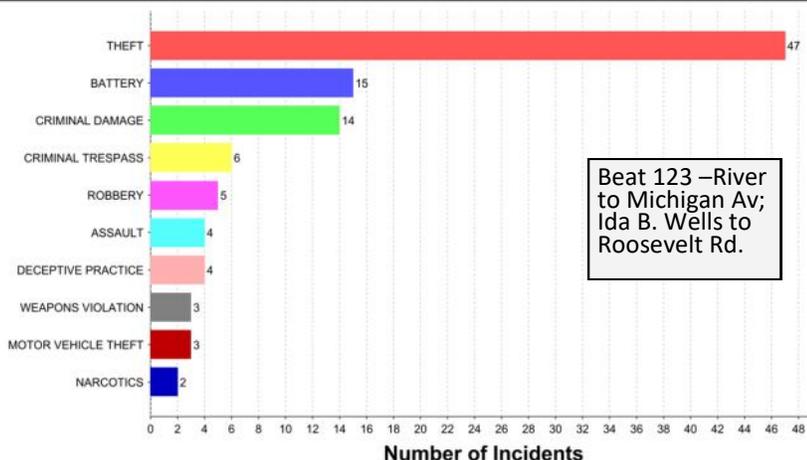
5/10/2021 at 2:44am 600 S State
AGGRAVATED BATTERY, Street, Beat 123

5/9/2021 at 11:10pm 700 S Clark
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY Sidewalk, Beat 123

5/9/2021 at 3:10am 800 S Wabash
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Parking Garage, Beat 123

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.

Top Ten Crimes From 12-Mar-2021 to 15-Apr-2021



Prosecutors: Man burglarized South Loop cellular store while wearing t-shirt encouraging people to “Be Kind”

[May 13, 2021 CWBChicago South Loop](#)

Andrew Panico | CPD

There are many things a burglar can do to minimize their chances of being caught. Commit the crime at night. Make sure there are no witnesses. Wear dark clothing. Don't leave evidence behind. But Andrew Panico apparently rejected all of those ideas when he allegedly burglarized a T-Mobile store in a bustling South Loop strip mall Monday afternoon.



Panico, sporting a Mohawk, a bright rainbow-colored blazer, and a t-shirt that said “BE KIND,” smashed the store’s front door around 4:36 p.m., according to a CPD report. Then, he allegedly reached in, unlocked the door, and went into the shop, which was closed for the day.

One of the many passersby who saw it unfolding on the 1200 block of South Canal whipped out her cellphone and started recording, prosecutors said. Then, she called 911. Police, armed with witnesses’ descriptions of the burglar, had no trouble finding Panico behind the shopping mall. Cops found his backpack inside the store, according to prosecutors.

Panico, 34, is charged with felony burglary. Prosecutors said he has a pending aggravated assault and trespassing case, too. Judge Susana Ortiz said Panico could get out of jail on his own recognizance in the burglary case, but he’ll need to post \$100 to go home for violating the terms of bond in the earlier matters. He’ll also need to stay in the house between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., the judge said.

A public defender who represented Panico during the bond court hearing said he has a bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Missouri.

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



Actions You Can Take Today

- **Action 1: Tell your state senator to support HB1872 to give prisoners in Illinois the right to vote**

Action 1: Tell Your State Senator to Support Prisoners' Voting Rights

The legislative session ends Monday, May 31st and we are so close to passing House Bill 1872, Voting in Prison! Chicago Votes' policy team has been busy lobbying in Springfield and they have 63 of the needed 60 votes in the House.

Now, it is time to do a roll call of senators in support of restoring the voting rights of people in prison. **But, we need your help!** [Please call your state senator to ensure they are supporting HB 1872!](#)

Script: *My name is _____ and I am calling to ask for your support of House Bill 1872, restoring voting rights to people currently in prison. Our democracy works better when more people are involved and having strong ties to the community through civic engagement reduces recidivism and makes us all safer. Will the senator vote yes on House Bill 1872?*

Action via [Chicago Votes](#)

Action 2: Tell Your Rep to Support the Illinois Way Forward Act

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) has an ambitious state agenda this year! **They are promoting a platform founded on racial equity that will make great strides towards making Illinois the most welcoming state in the country by advancing safety, healthcare and economic security for all.** [Click here to see the full ICIRR Everybody In 2021 State and Federal platform.](#)

The Illinois House will soon consider **SB 667, the Illinois Way Forward Act** and will be voting on a budget by the end of the legislative session this month! **SB 667 separates local law enforcement from the federal deportation pipeline.** Furthermore, our state must pass

a budget that fully funds immigrant services and expands access to the earned income credit to ITIN filers and caregivers in Illinois.

[Tell your State Representative to pass the Illinois Way Forward Act and Fight for Budget Equity](#)

Action via [ICIRR](#)

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