Neighborhood Watch forming
By Janice Koeber

At a community meeting held in the South Loop on June 21, many of the 400+ in-person and virtual attendees expressed a strong interest in actively participating in efforts to bring community members together, reduce crime, and promote improved quality of life in the area in which they live, work and recreate. As collective action by residents has proven to be one of the most effective strategies, three neighborhood organizations (South Loop Neighbors, Printers Row Park Advisory Council, and South Loop Referral Group) have taken up the charge and are working together to organize a Neighborhood Watch Group for Police Beat 123.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the cornerstones of Community Policing, helping unite the police and citizens in fighting crime. It is designed to bring communities together as neighbors regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or age; and provides training on how to be the eyes and ears for the police with a focus on being alert for suspicious behavior. Neighborhood Watch does not promote, encourage or condone ANY form of vigilantism.

National Neighborhood Watch was formed over 50 years ago and is the premier crime prevention and citizen mobilization program in the country. Many other local Neighborhood Watch programs have already been mobilized in other areas of Chicago.

Members of the Neighborhood Watch Police Beat 123 will be organized by buildings or blocks (Chicago River to Michigan Ave, Ida B Wells to Roosevelt Rd). Block captains will organize training sessions and events. A Citizen Advisory Board will provide overall guidance and assistance to block captains.

The only requirement for membership is an overriding desire for a safe, livable neighborhood AND a willingness to participate in being watchful and partnering with the police in a positive and constructive manner.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email (including your name, email address, phone number and street address) to:

southloopnwbeat123@gmail.com
Welcome to Jazz Showcase where Jazz lives in Chicago since 1947. Our exclusive 170 seat venue features the best Jazz acts you’ll find anywhere in the Chicago area. Tickets are now available online. Don’t forget to sign up for our e-mail newsletter so you don’t miss out on our upcoming shows!

**Dearborn Station**
312.360.0234
806 S. Plymouth Court
CHICAGO, 60605
Jazzshowcase.com

**Wed, Jul 21, 8pm**
Chicago Soul Jazz Collective Featuring Dee Allexander

**Thu-Sat, Jul 22-24, 8 & 10pm**
Saxophonist Rajiv Halim Quintet

**Sun, Jul 25, 4 & 8pm**
Saxophonist Rajiv Halim Quintet

**Mon, Jul 26, 8pm**
WDCB 90.9FM Presents Frank Russell Band

**Tues, Jul 27, 7pm**
Chicago Human Rhythm Project

**Wed, Jul 28, 8pm**
JIC Presents Juli Wood’s Little Rootie Tootie

**Thu-Sat, Jul 29-31, 8 & 10pm**
Altoizm CD Release

**Sun, Aug 1, 4 & 8pm**
Altoizm CD Release

**Mon, Aug 2, 5:30pm**
Chicago Jazz Orchestra

**Tues, Aug 3, 7pm**
Chicago Human Rhythm Project

**Wed, Aug 4, 8pm**
Chicago Soul Jazz Collective Featuring Dee Allexander

**Thu-Sat, Aug 5-7, 8 & 10pm**
Katz Quartet

**Sun, Aug 8, 4 & 8pm**
Katz Quartet

**Mon, Aug 9, 5:30pm**
Chicago Jazz Orchestra

**Tues, Aug 10, 7pm**
Chicago Human Rhythm Project

**Wed, Aug 11, 7pm**
JIC Gala

**Thu-Sat, Aug 12-14, 8 & 10pm**
Donald Harrison Quartet

**Sun, Aug 15, 4 & 8pm**
Donald Harrison Quartet

**Mon, Aug 16, 5:30pm**
Chicago Jazz Orchestra

**Tues, Aug 17, 8 & 10pm**
Vocalist Josie Falbo CD Release Party

**Wed, Aug 18, 8 & 10pm**
Chicago Soul Jazz Collective Featuring Dee Allexander

**Thu-Sat, Aug 19-21, 8 & 10pm**
Bobby Watson Quartet

**Sun, Aug 22, 4 & 8pm**
Bobby Watson Quartet

Welcome to Jazz Showcase where Jazz lives in Chicago since 1947. Our exclusive 170 seat venue features the best Jazz acts you’ll find anywhere in the Chicago area. Tickets are now available online. Don’t forget to sign up for our e-mail newsletter so you don’t miss out on our upcoming shows!
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.

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
I'm pretty sure ableism wasn't even a word when I lost my sight in 1986. Don't get me wrong here: ableism existed 35 years ago, but back then we just called it discrimination.

The 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act is coming on July 26, so now seems a good time to acknowledge the discrimination that existed before the ADA...and how it still exists today. So what does “ableism” mean, exactly?

This past year and a half, young people have taught me a lot about social justice, equity, and inclusion through their participation in marches, their Zoom talks, webinars, YouTube videos, and speeches. When it comes time for me to learn more about ableism, I am fortunate to have a young expert to go to: my 15-year-old friend Anja Herrman. I came to know Anja very well when she was nine years old and learning at home during a casting program (casts on both legs from her hips down to her ankles). She was schooled at home for two months back then, and I was her at-home writing tutor. Many of her completed assignments were published as guest posts here on our Safe & Sound blog, and you can read this post on the Easterseals National blog from 2016 to learn how and why she had all her posts back then published under the pen name DJ Mermaid. A high school student, published writer and disability activist now, DJ Mermaid goes by her real name.

Anja K. Herrman was the winner of the Primary Division Playwright Discovery Program at the Kennedy Center in 2019, and a keynote speaker at the #EachforEqual International Women’s Day Event in 2020. Her work has been featured in Magnets and Ladders, Input Magazine and the Huffington Post and is also forthcoming in the Disabled Writers blog.

Anja uses a power wheelchair to navigate her public school, and the stories she recounts in An Essay published in Rooted in Rights last month pretty much spell out what ableism is all about. Two examples:

1. She had to advocate on her own for automatic door buttons to be able to access the restrooms at her public school independently.
2. When the school elevator broke down, the school administrator in charge simply shrugged and said there was “nothing he could do.”

The broken elevator was particularly problematic, since many of Anja’s classes occurred on the second floor. The ableism comes out loud and clear with the administrator’s answer to the problem at hand. Direct from Anja’s writing:

Anja had to explain to the principal why this wasn’t suitable. “I wouldn’t be with my peers,” she writes in her essay. “And I was not getting educated to the fullest extent of the school’s duties.” The principal attempted to placate her, she says. “But basically he told me there was nothing he could do.”

So there’s the ableism: dismissing Anja’s needs, deciding that keeping the other students upstairs with their teacher took precedent over her educational needs. You’ll have to read her Rooted in Rights essay to find out what Anja did to advocate for herself here, but I’ll tell you this much: a week later, Anja’s classes were moved downstairs so she could participate.

Anja addresses the idea of allyship in her essay as well, acknowledging that being an ally to the disability community is “a complex dance of knowing when to speak up and when to keep quiet so disabled people can share their experiences.” In the essay she recounts a conversation with her high school theater director about making her costume accessible — tiny buttons don’t work for her. Everything was going along just fine until the director referred to Anja as differently-abled. “I started to do my whole spiel about how using that euphemism is offensive,” She writes. “It erases my identity as a disabled person...it forces me to conform to the ableist view that ‘disability’ is bad and we should avoid naming it at all costs.” Her director’s response was a pleasant surprise for Anja. “I get it,” he told her. “Your identity is yours to name, and I’ll refer to you the way you choose.”

“Either may not seem like much,” Anja writes, “but that was an example of allyship to a student in the disability community...my director listened to my concern and then chose to respect me, an expert on my own disabled body and identity, instead of doubling-down on his comment.” I learn a lot about ableism and allyship from my young talented writer friend Anja. To encourage you to read her Rooted in Rights essay in its entirety, I’ll leave you with one last wonderful excerpt:

Teachers, take note: being an ally doesn’t always have to be some grand gesture; something as simple as listening and changing your stance on an issue could be just as meaningful. But anyone can become an ally — even you! — by taking the time to listen.
Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, who is black, told a story recently about a trip he made as a young man to Stone Mountain, near Atlanta. Speaking to members of the Chicago Bar Association via zoom, he explained that while he was visiting the famous geological site, with its carvings in bas relief (the largest ever done) of three confederate generals on horses, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson—he got into a bit of trouble.

In those days, segregation was rampant in the south. At a public site like Stone Mountain, the restrooms and water fountains were clearly marked, “Colored Only” and “White Only.” And that’s just how it was. White said he walked up to the white drinking fountain—and a policeman came and told him he belonged at the other one. White said, “No, I’m white.” And the cop, as one would imagine, gave him an argument. But White argued back and wouldn’t budge. He stayed there, at the white fountain. Maintaining he was white.

The cop didn’t know what to make of it. So White pulled out his ID. “You see,” he said, “I am ‘White.’” Perplexed, and gotten the better of—because no one could dispute that White was White—the cop walked away. Maybe even a little amused.

Jesse White went on to become a college graduate, a renowned athlete, a US army paratrooper, an Illinois State legislator, Cook County Recorder of Deeds and Illinois Secretary of State—for the last 22 years and counting, the first African American to hold the job. And the longest serving secretary of state in Illinois history.

And in 1959 he also started a kids’ tumbling team that’s helped thousands of kids who may never have had the chance to shine if not for him.

The cop? We don’t know whatever happened to him. I remembered my own Stone Mountain story after I heard White tell his, which I hadn’t thought of for years. It was the early 1960s, and one of my best friends had moved to Atlanta. We missed each other very much and my mom let me visit her over the summer. On my first full day there, her parents took us to Stone Mountain, the magnitude of which was quite impressive.

And something happened that was even more impressive. Pam and I went to get a drink of water. And even though I’d never seen those signs, I knew about them. I knew about segregation. And institutional cruelty in the south. I studied it at school. And my mom, who spent a lot of time studying the history of everything (more on that in a minute) taught me a lot, too.

I read “Black Like Me,” a firsthand account of a journalist who darkened his skin temporarily with chemicals and found out what it was like to be a black man in the south firsthand. And all my friends read it, too.

“What the hell does this mean?” I asked Pam about the signs. I kept staring. And getting madder and madder.

“That’s just how it is down here,” said her mother. And suddenly I got this very bright idea! Let’s go drink out of the “colored” one,” I said. That’s why Pam and I were best friends and why we missed each other so much—because we loved pushing envelopes that needed pushing. Even though we weren’t even teenagers yet.

Maybe it was because I was Jewish that I had a strong sense of justice—Jews do, according to Albert Einstein, no less. And maybe that’s why I so loved doing stuff like this. We marched right over and drank a lot of water out of the colored fountain.

And a cop came. For all I know, it was the same one who hassled Jesse White a few years back. He came up to us and told us we were doing the wrong thing. And to stop and go to the other fountain.

But we were steadfast, just like Jesse White was. And we ignored him. We were willing to be arrested if that’s what it took.

But that was pretty much it. We didn’t listen to him and he gave up and tsk-tsk-ed himself away.

While it was nothing like getting hit over the head with clubs or, God forbid, getting killed in some horrid way for standing up for the rights of humanity, we felt we did do something very important.

I was a kid from Chicago, a city of big shoulders with lots of black people. A lot of whom we knew. (My parents were jazz buffs and they really knew a lot of black people.) And in a city that’s known as the world’s melting pot, blacks were just another ethnic group with their own neighborhoods, who we had a lot in common with and with whom we had other things not in common with.

We knew and befriended people from every ethnic group in Chicago—which was fairly easy since we lived in Uptown. And from every walk of life. From the lowest heroin addicts to the biggest real estate developers in town. And that was what life was like.

My mother interpreted everything for us through the eyes of history. She never stopped explaining why people were a certain way because of their history. She was the Guns, Germs and Steel of our household.

A couple of years after the Stone Mountain incident, we took a family vacation to Washington, DC, and Senator Paul Douglas invited us in to hear a Dixiecrat filibuster of the 1964 civil rights bill. My mom thinks it was Strom Thurmond we heard but I remember it being John Stennis. Maybe it was both. It was quite a show.

When my friend Elaine started a book club last year for the reading and discussion of all the new books about race that have come out recently, my fellow club members seemed surprised when I told them at one session that my mom talked about slavery a lot and its effects. And that we learned a lot about it at school, too.

My mom studied American history (and ancient Greek, philosophy and education, not too mention zither-playing and mosaics) and lectured the family constantly. When I was a little girl, she decided to go to college and take one class per semester. Until she graduated. She started at the University of Illinois at Navy Pier in the mid-50s. And she graduated in 1969, from Chicago’s Mundelein College, two years before I graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Bonnie McGrath

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

Continued on page 26
Bureau Pizza Co.
Moving Into Former Pauly’s Pizza Spot on South State
We posted in June about another pizza place moving into the old Pauly’s Pizza at 719 S. State and it looks like a name has emerged on the window:

So Bureau Pizza Company looks to be the name, but beyond that we’re unsure much about this spot. Their website has pretty limited info as of now with a splash page:

The immediate thought is whether this new Bureau Pizza Co. has any association with Bureau Bar + Restaurant further south on State (2115 S. State). Kenny Johnson, the owner of Bureau Bar + Restaurant, also had a small bar called The Bureau Bar at 75 E. 16th awhile back so maybe this is just another expansion of his operation?

If anyone has intel let us know.

Anyway, we’ll be watching this one. It is well documented that the neighborhood - and specifically the printers row area - has a lot of options when it comes to cheesy pie.

On Wednesday, July 14, our office attended an ice cream social in Printers Row Park, co-sponsored by the Printers Row Park Advisory Council and South Loop Neighbors. It was a fun event and a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved with the community. To get involved contact Colleen Wales at secprpac@gmail.com.

From Alderman’s King’s Newsletter July 17, 2021. ward04@cityofchicago.org

http://www.sloopin.com/
Cynthia Pelayo, Children of Chicago
(Polis 2021)

CPD detective Lauren Medina is a 25-year-old, bi-sexual Loyola grad with a Masters from Northwestern, who trades her books for a Beretta and honors her father by becoming a cop. She has a big brain but a bad attitude, a too-quick draw, and a dead family not-resting-in-peace. Chicago author Cynthia Pelayo—like her protagonist—“a Puerto Rican girl from the neighborhood,” has written what the New York Times calls a “Summer Horror Novel Guaranteed to Make Your Heart Thump and Your Skin Crawl.” I can personally attest to nightmares. Children of Chicago is more than a noir fantasy crime novel with a dogged but dirty detective, not-wholly-guilty perpetrators and the usual panoply of unsolved cases. Pelayo writes about Chicago—“the kind of place to breed and attract tragedy...something about this place seems to draw out the worst in people,” like the Devil in the White City, who killed at least 27 women employed at the Columbian Exposition; Roaring Twenties mass murderer Al Capone; John Wayne Gacy, who lured boys to their death and macabre burial in the crawlspace under his house; the Chicago Strangler who left as many as 75 women, mostly sex workers, dead from suffocation. Pelayo writes that Chicago birthed fantasy, as well; L. Frank Baum penned the Wizard of Oz in Humboldt Park beside a field house that resembles nothing so much as a gabled German castle, complete with witches and wicked stepmothers. Walt Disney was born in the Hermosa neighborhood nearby, whence he learned to refashion the grisly Brothers Grimm into stories with happy endings. The Children of Chicago have no happy endings, but they, too, refashion Grimms’ fables for their own modern ends. Blood is splattered on the first page, with terrifying details of the murder and mayhem suffered by DePaul College Prep students near Humboldt Park. Many more child murderers emerge, along with hallucinations, eerie music, drownings in the Lagoon, a faceless Trickster, ghosts, and graffiti that predicts more trouble. Not too far-fetched: read the papers. Pelayo’s setting boasts violent crime that is 311% higher than the national average. On one recent holiday weekend across Chi-town, 104 people were shot; 19 died; 13 children were among those statistics. Pelayo’s writing keeps us turning the page, but the confluence of fact and fantasy, though bewitching, is sometimes baffling. And, the proofreader needs another career. But the book is compelling and feels like home—a scary, surreal home. Read it and think.

Lorraine Schmall
Dearborn Park  July 20, 2021

R.O. Kwon’s debut novel *The Incendiaries* was named one of the best books of the year by more than 40 publications including NPR, *The Atlantic*, LitHub, PBS Books, and more. *The Incendiaries* is a powerful, darkly glittering novel about violence, love, faith, and loss, as a young Korean American woman at an elite American university is drawn into acts of domestic terrorism by a cult tied to North Korea. This novel, which the *The Guardian* called “a startlingly assured book by an important new writer,” is a fractured love story and a brilliant examination of the minds of extremist terrorists, and of what can happen to people who lose what they love most.

We spoke with Kwon via email ahead of the paperback release of *The Incendiaries* and her July 31 program right here at the American Writers Museum. Kwon shared insights into her writing process, book recommendations and why reading is crucial to developing as a writer. Read on to learn more and be sure to RSVP to our July 31 event with R.O. Kwon here.
I can’t remember any friends complaining that their spaces are too small. In fact, one of them likes to say, “I could have gone smaller.” These are among the advantages we’ve discussed about living small:

Less upkeep: Less time cleaning, fewer things to fix, and (for condos and apartments) no exterior maintenance.

Less clutter, fewer possessions: The less space, the less stuff you can accumulate.

Affordability: Smaller spaces are cheaper to buy or rent, furnish, and maintain. One friend also notes a less obvious cost advantage: Her 780-square-foot condo, the smallest size in the building, comes with the same amenities as the bigger units — a parking space, an identical storage room, and use of the swimming pool and other common areas.

Easier to decorate: You have only a few rooms to try to make just right. A friend who has achieved just right doesn’t understand why people ooh and aah over big spaces more than small ones. “A small place can look just as nice as a big one,” she comments.

Coziness: It’s easier to create a cozy feel in small spaces than in big rooms with tall ceilings.

More environmentally responsible: Our carbon footprint is small. We live in all of our space instead of having rooms used only occasionally.

There are signs that bigness may have run its course in the American housing market. The average size of houses built since 2015 is going down, and the National Association of Home Builders reports that the greatest demand is for affordable, practical housing. Some cities, including Minneapolis, have eliminated single-family zoning to make housing more affordable.

If those trends hold, we’ll be hearing more advice about how to maximize space in small residences. My friends and I would gladly pass along tips.

https://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/
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.
In the last couple years of his life, my dad's lifelong passion for his home state of North Dakota seemed to increase to even higher levels. Born and raised in Fargo, where he met my mother, who'd been raised on a farm 100 miles away, we moved away shortly after I was born so my dad could get his PhD at the University of Nebraska. Though we never moved back, we made lengthy visits each summer, splitting our time between Fargo and the family lake cabin just an hour away in Minnesota. Hometown, and home-state pride, was a constant part of my dad's life, even though he spent far more of it in and around Chicago than the twenty-two years he spent growing up in North Dakota. On our last visit, two summers ago when he was dying of cancer, we spent an hour or so in a used bookstore in downtown Fargo, where my dad went through their extensive collection of regional history books and eagerly bought a handful that he probably knew at some level he'd never read.

Though Fargo is the big city in North Dakota, it's on the eastern border, and much of the state's mythology is out west, in the Badlands. It's where Teddy Roosevelt bought a ranch and moved west in his twenties, shaping his reputation as a cowboy that would serve him so well on the national stage. For me personally, it's where my maternal grandmother was born. More recently, it's the area of the North Dakota oil boom and of the Standing Rock pipeline protests.

According to mom, dad never made it out to western North Dakota, he just visited in books. I am headed there today for the first time. Happy Father's Day.

Brian Hieggelke
Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!

The Mercy Clinic has moved out of Dearborn Station and in it’s place, starting August 2, 2021 will be the University of Chicago Medicine. We feel fortunate for the quick turn-around.

Caribbean Jerk Chicken Palace . . .

Gone for Good. We haven’t seen anything official but I received word from a reliable source that they are indeed closed on Dearborn Street for good and moving equipment out. It was a short and controversial venue. I never heard any complaints about the food but there were several incidents, the last being a fight and a gun discharged on a busy night. No one was hurt but it unified the community to demand more security from the police and the alderman.

Also Moving Out is Nice and Distressed, 723 S Dearborn, a store selling furniture, gifts, antique and collectibles items from days gone by.
We have kind of an aural household. As in, there’s lots of sound most of the time. It’s live radio, streaming radio, or the squawking of Beth’s computer. It’s Siri on Beth’s iPhone reporting her blood sugar levels, or the time of day, or the current temperature and weather forecast.

Never out of style.

I guess that’s predictable given Beth’s predicament—sound is more important to her than the average bear. But that’s not the whole story.

The world, awash in a sea of visual media, seems to have gone audio crazy. There’s more audio content than ever. That’s not all good, because every Joe and Jane Schmo seems to have a podcast ... whether or not they have anything to offer. And really, aren’t podcasts essentially TiVo-ed radio?

As someone who was present at the creation of the World Wide Web, I’m completely awed by the staying power of radio. TV didn’t kill it. The Internet didn’t kill it. Streaming just extends it. Somehow, it thrives.

Beth uses Alexa to stream a great station (KOZT) we found when we visited Mendocino, California a few years back. And to the fantastic New Orleans jazz station, WWOZ. Over the old-fashioned broadcast airwaves, Beth never misses Fresh Air on WBEZ, our NPR station. As a result, she’s always ahead of me in terms of popular culture and literature. Wait Wait ... Don’t Tell Me is a Saturday morning habit, though we sometimes waver and tune in Saturday Morning Flashback on WXRT.

I became addicted to WSCR over the pandemic. I stayed away from it until then (we called it sports hate radio) — but the on-air people humanized themselves during the pandemic. While none of the sports teams were playing, they began talking about, you know, things other than sports, because they had to. And they were good at it. I’m kinda missing those times. Now it’s back to spending hours talking about the same sports non-story ad nauseum.

(Who are the Cubs going to trade? Are the Bears moving to Arlington Heights? I really don’t give a rat’s ass.) My guess is that radio’s appeal is something like reading’s appeal. I think more thought has to go into writing or audio production than to producing TV, and as a result, it’s a richer experience than watching flickering images. Of course, there’s plenty of crap on the radio, too, especially the hateful political monkey hosts.

But if I want a quick hit of news, I can always tune in WBBM and get the story in a quick 30 minutes, without some freakish TV footage of a bear running loose in San Diego or the like. A toast to Guglielmo Marconi, and long live the radio!

A New Model for Local Journalism?

In the 1800s, New Bedford, Massachusetts was the world’s “center of whaling.” More than half of the world’s whaling ships in the 1840s came from New Bedford. The small city was so emblematic of a New England whaling town that it served as the setting for Herman Melville’s novel Moby Dick. According to the New York Times, it was then the richest city per capita on the continent. Now, more than a fifth of its approximately 95,000 citizens live in poverty.

But this exceptional historic town is representative of a phenomenon happening in small towns across the United States. It’s local daily newspaper, The Standard-Times, has been bought by Gannett, a hedge fund-backed news conglomerate and stripped down to barebones. It’s become what’s known as a “ghost newspaper,” called such for its trimmed down staff and scant original reporting. The mayor of New Bedford was quoted in the New York Times saying: “It used to be that I couldn’t sneeze without having to explain myself. Now, I have to beg people to show up at my press conferences. Please, ask me questions!”
South Loop neighbors take first steps in forming neighborhood watch

By Zachary Clingenpeel, Co-Director of Photography
June 23, 2021

In an attempt to connect concerned Loop residents with local law enforcement, several community groups are taking the first steps toward forming an official neighborhood watch in the South Loop.

In a public meeting held Monday, June 21, at 637 S. Dearborn St., South Loop Neighbors, a membership organization that addresses South Loop residents’ concerns, led a discussion about recent incidents of violent crime in the neighborhood and asked attendees to participate in future planning meetings to initiate the neighborhood watch.

“We have to come to a realization ... that it is as much our responsibility to fight crime as it is the police,” said James Wales, president of South Loop Neighbors. “And ... we have to be able to create the environment through that effort to where the bad people are afraid to come into our neighborhood and not the other way around.”

The proposed neighborhood watch would cover Police Beat 123, a boundary that goes from Michigan Avenue to the Chicago River and from Roosevelt Road to Ida B. Wells Drive.

The South Loop Neighbors were joined by the Printer’s Row Advisory Council, the South Loop Referral Group and two officers from the Chicago Police Department’s Chicago Alternate Policing Strategy unit. These organizations plan to form the neighborhood watch using the National Neighborhood Watch’s guidance and organizational structure.

The watch would be led by a citizen advisory board and a neighborhood watch coordinator, while duties would be carried out by block captains and neighborhood watch members. All positions on the watch would be voluntary.

Wales said he was unsure what the individual officers in the watch would be responsible for other than reporting crimes to local authorities; however, their specific tasks will be outlined in upcoming planning sessions. The first planning meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 25, is when interested residents will identify next steps. Wales says he hopes the neighborhood watch will be operational within a month.

“We absolutely are not looking for vigilanthism,” Wales said. “But what we are looking for is a partnership with the police where they tell us what they need, we tell them what [we] need and we work with them to identify and enhance the criminal justice system so that crime is positively impacted.”

Several South Loop residents attended the meeting in the hopes of addressing recent violent crimes in the area. Some attendees brought up a recent shooting that occurred on the 700 block of South Dearborn Street earlier this month, as reported June 6 by CBS Chicago.

South Loop resident Adam Navarro-Lowery, who attended the Monday meeting to learn more about the neighborhood watch plans, said he was across the street when the shooting happened. He said he was not sure in the moment whether or not it was an active shooter situation.

“I am here tonight because I am concerned about my safety and the safety of others,” Navarro-Lowery said. “I’m trying to figure out what’s actually going on in my neighborhood, what’s going on in my city and what’s going on in my country.”
Jazzin' at the Shedd Aquarium

B A C K  I N  A U G U S T

Jazzin' at the Shedd is back in August! There will be live music, fireworks, lakeside views, summer sips, and amazing animals. Member tickets as well as tickets for the public are on sale now. Find out more here.

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.

Fudgy Brownies w/walnuts

$24.99 Doz

See us at Daley Plaza Farmers Mkt

Website: https://notjustcookies.com/

Website: https://www.webinsightco.com

Services: Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Web Development, PPC, Cyber Security

We have had the opportunity of working with top rated companies that provide services in Law, HVAC, Insurance, Dentistry, Real Estate, Food & Beverage, Financial and other service-related industries. Companies like Berkshire Hathaway/ Koenigrubloff, Keller Williams, The Aladon Network, Kids First Pediatric Partners, Bob Oetting & Associates Insurance Agency and many other companies can testify that we get results. Since the inception of the brand, WebInsight has grown mostly by referrals offered by satisfied clients. We have helped many businesses grow in very short periods. Contact us by sending an email to brianna@webinsightco.com
Kids and Teens, Register for Summer 2021 Drop-In Programs

June 18, 2021

This summer, youth from birth to 18 can participate in fun programs with Chicago Public Library! Challenge yourself to read and learn this summer, or just tell us what you're already doing to make art or make change. Register online to get started right away or come into the library through August 22. Report what you've read and done this summer online or in the library, too!

Want to learn more about what's happening for kids and teens this summer? For kids up to age 13, find more information here. Youth in high school, check out this post.

“Touch & Go Chess” is a familiar sight every year just south of the Art Institute of Chicago on Michigan Avenue.
Thursday, July 8, 2021

Changes to Stalled 1000M High-Rise Gets Approved By City Council; Aims for Fall Restart

Looks like this is going to move forward (via YIMBY):

Groundbreaking is expected to occur this fall after the Chicago City Council has approved the revised design for 1000M, a long-planned residential skyscraper at 1000 S Michigan Avenue in South Loop. Fronting S Michigan Avenue, the project site is an infill site between E 9th Street and E 11 Street. Currently a stalled construction site, the development already has caissons in the ground. Time Equities and JK Equities are the developers behind the project.

This update design is one of multiple iterations since the building was originally approved as a Planned Development in 2016. Designed by the late Helmut Jahn and his office JAHN, the 73-story tower is now expected to rise 805 feet, reduced from the previous height of 831 feet. The entirely residential building will now hold 738 rental apartments instead of 506 condominiums and offer 325 parking spaces. Additionally 356 bike parking spaces will also be provided. There will be no retail space, with a leasing center for the building taking up the open space on the ground floor.

If it does in fact move forward, it’s unfortunate that there won’t be any retail opportunity. Curious why that isn’t happening as we would imagine Michigan Avenue retail space is pretty valuable these days and could add to the general street vibe.

The Chinatown Summer Fair Is Back And Bigger Than Ever, Aiming To Revive The Neighborhood

Rocio Villaseñor
Jul 13, 2021

CHINATOWN — The Chinatown Summer Fair is returning with an in-person celebration — and new highlights to welcome more people back to Chinatown, organizers said.

Last year’s event was called off because of the coronavirus pandemic, but this year the celebration is back. And the Chinatown Summer Fair will be even bigger, lasting two days — July 31-Aug. 1 at 2200 S. Wentworth Ave. — instead of the usual one.

The event regularly attracts more than 40,000 visitors, making it one of the largest Asian American heritage celebrations in the Midwest. CLICK BELOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY.


Click below for the rest of the story.

Close out sale!

Granite, marble, quartz for vanities, furniture tops and fireplace hearths. Make an offer. 411 North Paulina, Chicago. 11am-6pm

Call 312.953.2654

http://www.sloopin.com/

PRAIRIE SHORES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC
700 N. Sacramento Blvd. Suite 301
Chicago, Illinois 60612
773-878-3300 tel.
773-878-3306 fax

Chicago’s only condominium management firm specializing exclusively in vintage buildings.
Property managers for Peterson Lofts, Harrison Street Lofts and The Moser Condominiums.
February 25, 2021
The Honorable Lori Lightfoot Mayor of the City of Chicago
City Hall 121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Abraham Lincoln was one of the earliest members of the Illinois State Society of Washington, DC, which was founded in 1854. The oldest of the state and territorial societies in Washington, it represents former Illinoisans from all parts of the state, including Chicago. We and hundreds of historians, District of Columbia officials and local residents honor Lincoln at an annual birthday celebration at the Lincoln Memorial — the most popular of all the monuments here in the nation’s capital. We are proud to represent a state where every license plate bears the imprimatur “Land of Lincoln,” and we understand Chicago has felt that same pride. Chicago honored the 16th president of the United States by naming its largest park, at 1,200 acres, as a fitting tribute to this son of Illinois. Lincoln Avenue, one of the longest streets in Chicago, was renamed in his memory after his assassination. Part of Lincoln’s rise to the presidency began in Chicago when his fellow Republicans nominated him at the Wigwam, not far from the site of today’s Navy Pier. Our organization was shocked when the Chicago Monuments Project Advisory Committee, which you appointed, named five Lincoln statues as subject to its review. These five statues, in fact, resoundingly affirm the statement you as mayor made last summer that the city’s statues should “memorialize our shared values, history and heritage as Chicagoans…” Surely, President Lincoln, who led a successful effort to obliterate the inhumane institution of slavery through the force of arms, shared our values. Surely, President Lincoln was at the focal point of this nation’s history by placing human dignity ahead of political expediency. And surely, President Lincoln was part of Chicago’s heritage. He came to Chicago 25 times as a young lawyer and his family, including his two sons, settled in Chicago following his death. We urge you to immediately direct the advisory committee to drop the Lincoln statues from its review. They do not meet your well thought-out criteria. Removal of these statues should be an affront to every Chicagoan regardless of race. It would tarnish Chicago’s reputation as the “City of Big Shoulders.”

Howard S. Marks President
President, the Illinois State Society of Washington, DC,
777 7th Street, NW
Unit 624
Washington, DC 20001-5706
Explore the Current Exhibitions

**Much Unseen is Also Here**, an initiative of Toward Common Cause, brings together the works of two major artists who both consider the theater of the landscape, monumentality, cultural history, and representation. The exhibition is part of Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and The MacArthur Fellows Program at 40 initiative, organized by the Smart Museum of Art in collaboration with exhibition, programmatic, and research partners across Chicago.

**Martine Gutierrez** features work from Gutierrez’s independent art publication, *Indigenous Woman* (2018), a 124-page glossy magazine exploring how deeply sexism, colorism, racism, transphobia, and other biases are embedded and ubiquitous in popular culture and fashion photography. Disrupting beauty ideals of cisgendered whiteness, Gutierrez reappropriates pop cultural imagery to center herself as both artist and muse.

**Conversation: An-My Lê and Shahzia Sikander**
Thursday, July 22, 6 p.m.
Presented virtually on Zoom
Register [here](https://www.impactphysicaltherapy.com)
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 descend-ants 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.

Shred-A-Thon

SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS, ELECTRONICS, AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The dates and locations for the 2021 4th Ward Shred-A-Thon events have been secured. We will be providing safe and secure shredding services for paper documents as well as electronics (with the exception of tube TV's). The first one will take place on Please wear a mask. View more details here. The remaining Shred-A-Thons will take place:

- **Saturday, August 14** (8:30 AM-11:30 AM) at 700 S Dearborn
  Saturday, October 9 (9 AM-12 PM) at 35th and Rhodes

Join Our Community Advisory Councils

SAFETY COMMITTEES AND MORE

We are in the process of starting up Community Advisory Councils in Hyde Park, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, North Kenwood-Oakland, Douglas and the South Loop. We are looking for individuals motivated to help and empower their community. Find your community area on our website and join us or email us at ward04@cityofchicago.org.
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:
3:00 pm-4:00 pm
(second Thursday each month)

Upcoming Meeting Dates

July 8, 2021          HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA
August 12              CELEBRATE OUR PETS
September 9            FOR the LOVE of FALL
October 14             HALLOWEEN—SCARY!!!
November 11            GIVING THANKS
December 9             HAPPY HOLIDAYS

For more information or to register, please visit southloopvillage.org

Find us on Facebook
South Loop Village - Memory Café

A Member of the Dementia Friendly America Network

Supporting Healthy Aging Resource & Education

Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago

OAK STREET HEALTH
Again? Yes. Again.

The little two-story parking garage at 801 South Wabash, site of a murder, multiple gun seizures, and multiple drug busts since November, has racked up another one. And it’s a doozy.

Cops who walked through the structure around 12:40 a.m. Friday July 9 allegedly walked out with two guns, a cache of drugs, and more than $17,000 cash, according to prosecutors.

There were Xanax pills in the driver’s door and ammunition in the center console, prosecutors said. Inside the trunk? According to prosecutors, about a half-pound of pot, an ounce of cocaine, and $17,297 cash.

The driver, 26-year-old Genaro Galindo, 26, is charged with Class X armed habitual criminal, two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon with a previous conviction, felony cocaine possession, manufacture-delivery of cannabis, possession of a controlled substance with intent, resisting police, fleeing and eluding, and failure to give information after a traffic crash.

Prosecutors said he was convicted of state gun violations twice in 2014. He also received a 24-month federal prison sentence for firearm possession in 2016, they said.

The driver looked at them and tried to drive away, but he crashed into a CPD car and then ran, police said. Cops caught him nearby.

While officers chased him down, other cops looked into the vehicle. They saw a loaded handgun on the driver’s floorboard, another loaded gun on the driver’s seat, and a woman sitting in the passenger seat, according to prosecutors.

Police said they seized these guns, drugs, and cash from a vehicle on the top level of the parking garage at 801 South Wabash. | CPD

Erwin was the front seat passenger of a brand new BMW on the first floor of the garage when two masked men approached around 2:37 a.m., police said. The offenders opened fire, shooting him twice in his face. He was pronounced dead about a half-hour later at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. No charges have been filed in the case.

On April 27, police found a gun, pot, and LSD in a fanny pack when they investigated a carload of men who were drinking alcohol in a car at the garage, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors charged 20-year-old Juan Razo with armed violence, resisting police, and two controlled substance counts in that case. Burkhardt told Judge John Lyke that Razo was on probation in Lake County for a gun case and has two juvenile convictions — one for gun possession and the other for reckless discharge of a firearm.

Two nights later, around 9:10 p.m. April 29, cops wandered through the parking garage again and found a minivan running with no front license plate, prosecutors said. When officers looked inside the van, they allegedly saw a scale, 44 grams of cannabis, and small plastic baggies. Jacob Smith, 32, was in the driver’s seat, and the butt of a loaded handgun was sticking out of the back of a passenger seat, prosecutors said.

Smith is charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, manufacture-delivery of cannabis, and a motor vehicle title violation. Prosecutors said he’s on probation for another gun case that he pleaded down to a misdemeanor from a felony.

On May 9, witnesses reported hearing shots fired near the garage around 3:15 a.m. No one was injured, but police found shell casings inside the garage.

On June 1, a 23-year-old man was charged with having a gun in a car.

Three days later, police followed an allegedly stolen 2020 Range Rover through the Loop arrested its driver when he pulled into the parking garage, prosecutors said. Prosecutors said police found a loaded handgun in the driver’s door pocket and another loaded gun in the passenger door pocket. The vehicle identification number on the Range Rover’s dashboard was fraudulent, according to prosecutors.

Police arrested the driver, 20-year-old Larry Buford, and prosecutors charged him with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and criminal trespass to a vehicle.

His private defense attorney said Buford thought the car belonged to his friend. And, the attorney said, both of the guns in the car belonged to the passenger. The passenger was not arrested, according to a police spokesperson. In fact, CPD said their report doesn’t even mention the second gun or the passenger.

https://cwbchicago.com/

Parking Spaces for Rent

Dedicated outdoor parking spot near the intersection of 9th Street and S. Park Terr. available for rent immediately. $165/month.

Write to parking801@yahoo.com for more information.
Next CAPS Meeting June 14, 2021
3PM on Zoom
(Every 2nd Thursday)

Police Blotter

http://home.chicagopolice.org/

Sat, 7/03/2021 6:05 pm 1100 S Michigan Av
ARMED ROBBERY, knife Convenience Store
Beat 123

Tues, 6/29/2021 7:45pm 900 S state
CARJACKING on Street Beat 123

Mon, 6/28/2021 1AM 500 S Michigan
SEXUAL ASSAULT, Hotel Beat 123

Sun, 6/27/2021 11:39 AM 1500 S Michigan
ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, Knife Restaurant Beat 132

Fri 6/25/2021 10:30PM 2100 S Michigan
SEXUAL ASSAULT in Alley Beat 131

Mon, 7/05/2021 11PM 900 S Wells
AUTO THEFT, Parking Lot Beat 123

Sun, 7/04/2021 10PM 1100 S State
THEFT over $500 Subway Platform Beat 123

Sun 7/04/2021 7:54 PM 500 S State
ATTEMPTED THEFT CTA Platform Beat 123

Sun 7/04/2021 2PM 1000 S State
THEFT Restaurant Beat 123

Fri 7/09/2021 6AM 1200 S Wabash
ATTEMPT STRONG ARM ROBBERY Sidewalk
Beat 123

Sat 7/08/2021 3PM 1300 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 132

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 14-Jun-2021 To 08-Jul-2021

http://www.cwbchicago.com/

Tuesday carjackings: West Loop, South Loop, West Town June 30, 2021

Three men, two armed with handguns, carjacked a woman in the West Loop on Tuesday afternoon, police said. The hijacking was one of several reported in the city yesterday.

According to police, the 39-year-old woman was inside her red Ford Focus on the 400 block of North Morgan when the three men walked up to the car, and two of them displayed handguns around 3:35 p.m. She complied with their orders to surrender the car, and they drove away westbound on Carroll street with her vehicle, according to police. The men reportedly pushed the woman, but she was not injured.

They are described as three Black males between 16- and 19-years-old. One of them wore a black hat and blue jeans, according to the report.

Less than 45 minutes later, a young male offender displayed a handgun and took a driver’s car on the 2600 block of West Huron in West Town. That carjacker got away with a 2013 Honda CR-V, a police report said.

Another carjacking was reported Tuesday evening in the South Loop. There, two offenders walked up to a driver on the 1900 block of South State and implied they had a handgun around 7:30 p.m. They drove away northbound in the man’s black 2011 Toyota RAV4, according to a police report. The suspects were described only as two very young males.

Chicago police recorded 92 carjackings this month as of June 22, according to city records. By comparison, there were 84 carjackings during the same time period last year and only 34 in 2019.
Real Estate Transactions

$1,087,500
1330 S PRAIRIE AVE
6/2/21

$292,000
1 E 8TH ST 703
6/2/21

$1,015,000
7 W 15TH ST B
6/2/21

$299,000
531 S PLYMOUTH CT 201
6/1/21

$335,000
1305 S MICHIGAN AVE 712
5/27/21

$290,000
124 W POLK ST 906
5/26/21

$318,000
1101 S STATE ST704
5/20/21

$422,000
1243 S WABASH AVE 303
5/19/21

$210,000
720 S DEARBORN ST 1206
5/18/21

$264,000
40 E 9TH ST 1216
5/14/21

$260,000
1320 S FEDERAL ST D
5/13/21

Selling your home in the Chicago area?
WE WILL REPRESENT YOU FOR ONLY $299

BRADFORD MILLER LAW, P.C.
WWW.BRADFORDMILLERLAW.COM
NO FEE IF IT DOES NOT CLOSE!
855-897-9410/ www.bradfordmillerlaw.com
Located at 10 S. LaSalle, Suite 2930, Chicago, IL 60603

Dearborn Street Realty
Tom Feddor, 312.203.3841
tomfeddor@gmail.com

The Dearborn Express
To Subscribe
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com
Dearbornexpress.net/
801 S Plymouth Ct  412  
2 bed/ 1 bath  950 Sq Ft  
$240,000  
Anne Rosen  
Keller Williams  
312.545.7148  
Buyarosenhome.kw.com

40 E 9th St 805  
2 bed, 1 bath, 950 SF  
$242,900  
Anne Rosen •  
Keller Williams  
ONEChicago  
312.545.7148

523 S Plymouth Ct  #601  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1400 SF  
$399,900  
Steven Powers  
Century 21 S.G.R. Inc.  
312.375.1157

1305 S Michigan Ave  #1706  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1200 SF  
$399,000  
Daniel Kielbowicz  
Dream Town Realty  
312.242.1000

600 S Dearborn St  #2107  
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1100 SF  
$324,900  
Jacqueline Colando  
Redfin Corporation  
312.278.3428

1302 S Federal St Unit A  
3 bed, 2 bath, 1500 sq ft  
$565,000  
Terrie Whittaker  
Redfin Corporation  
312.488.1977

520 S State St #1516  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1265 sq ft  
$449,900  
Kevin Green  
@properties  
312.520.8485
Chicago Cubs fans always will remember the beloved 1969 team, yet the 1970 Cubs are, in many ways, more fascinating. Author William S. Bike tells their story in his latest book, The Forgotten 1970 Chicago Cubs: Go and Glow, which will be available from The History Press on May 17, 2021.

"In 1970, the Cubs added interesting characters like Joe Pepitone and Milt Pappas to the legendary nucleus of Billy Williams, Ron Santo, and Ernie Banks," Bike said.

"The team came closer to finishing first than in any year between 1945 and 1984—ending the season only five games out in one of baseball's hottest three-team pennant races ever."

Offering a fast-paced look at the season month by month, Bike moves beyond wins, losses, and statistics to relive Ernie Banks's 500th home run, the addition of "the basket" to the outfield walls, good trades and bad trades, how manager Leo Durocher's radio show caused clubhouse chaos, death threats against third baseman Ron Santo, outfielders Billy Williams's and Jim Hickman's best season, the great Cubs pitching rotation, and statistical and computer analyses of how the Eastern Division Cubs would have done playing in the Western Division—and in the playoffs and World Series.

The Forgotten 1970 Chicago Cubs: Go and Glow, published by The History Press of Charleston, SC, is available at Amazon.com, in bookstores, and at https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467149082

Dearborn Express
Al Hippensteel, editor
312.939.8888
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

(Continued from Page 5, Bonnie McGrath)
The nuns at Mundelein became her best friends. And invited her to parties. And she always took me.

No matter what was happening anywhere or at any time, my mom had a book or an article, a footnote or she knew of a documentary that was based on real research and real history. And she’d supplement it all with her lectures if anyone said anything about anyone that was inaccurate or ill-advised.

And that was my basic home education: my mother learning, recommending and passing knowledge down with facts. Sometimes conflicting facts. At which time we were on our own. No judgment.

If she thought a good lecture or reference reading was in order because of a stupid crack my father or I made, we’d get it. My brother, whose life was nothing but a bat and a ball, supplemented with a pool stick and billiard ball, never got any of that. He and my mom were on pretty different wave-lengths. But my mom could also lecture about her two favorite sports, ice skating—and in more recent years, NASCAR, of which she knows everything.

And so, this was my “racism” back then: Once I darkened a grammar school friend’s yearbook picture with a light lead pencil to see what she’d look like black.

Another time, when I was a prosecutor for the City of Chicago, I was upset with some of the young white male prosecutors who were overly nasty to older black men, who were jitney drivers, and who drove “cabs” on the south side where real cabs wouldn’t go. They were fined regularly by the City and added the fines into their cost of doing business. But I never told the young guys to change their tune. Which I regret.

One of my friends’ mothers took us on a vacation to Miami Beach and even took us to see the Supremes in one of the hotel nightclubs. This was the big time, as far as we were concerned. Until her mother got up and walked out in the middle, leaving us alone with the Supremes and the other nightclubbers.

We were thrilled. But never figured out if she didn’t feel good, or if the music was too loud, or if she had a date she didn’t want to tell us about or if she was a racist and decided she didn’t like the Supremes. I should have asked.

Today, I probably couldn’t write stories, which I often did about the goings on in black churches on the South Side like this one.

I also can’t say some of my best friends are black and always were. My Goddaughter is half black. Can’t say that either. Nor could my best friend and college roommate and I develop crushes on the two black basketball stars at U of I, like we really did back then. In this crazy atmosphere today, we’d be asked to suspect ourselves of... Of something. Once, my mom’s best friend Rita, who never said anything to anyone she didn’t mean, said to me, “You are the most objective person I have ever known.”

When times are tough intellectually and emotionally and I don’t know what to think about something, I remember her saying that and I realize that the reason I don’t know what to think is because I know an awful lot about it and I really can’t make up my mind because I’m too objective.

And then I call my 94-year-old mom to see how she is and ask her what she thinks. Anything strike her on the subject? What’s she thinking about whatever it is? She’ll tell me. And all I know is... I should listen.