



# THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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[Dearbornexpress.net](http://Dearbornexpress.net)



## Hellhole City

Darren Bailey, a state senator and GOP Gubernatorial candidate from southern Illinois, took a pot shot at Chicago, a city he once suggested should secede from the rest of the state.

"Let's just call it like it is. Let's think about Chicago: a crime-ridden, corrupt, dysfunctional hellhole, and no one knows that better than the friends and the people that live in Chicago," Bailey said. "Something's wrong. City leaders, they hate the police. At least they act like they do."

Why is he focusing on Chicago? His home town of Xenia is not far from East St. Louis, a city, according to FBI statistics, has more violent crime than Chicago. I'll take Chicago with it's world class museums (three within walking distance), a world class symphony orchestra, Opera, and more great restaurants than you could ever visit.

## Memorial Day from the Dearborn Express, May 30, 2021

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.

## The Janes

The Jane Collective was an underground organization that helped women access abortions before it was legal and even began providing the service themselves with the help of a local doctor. They were University of Chicago students and there is now a documentary telling their stories. A friend of mine, Patricia Novick of Dearborn Park, was a "Jane." Read the story on page 14.

May 30, 2022

Vol. 10, No.7

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# JAZZ SHOWCASE

Tue, May 31, 8pm & 10pm.....Christian Dillingham  
 Wed, Jun 1, 8pm & 10pm.....Luciano Antonio  
 Thu-Sat, Jun 2-4, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring Dee Alexander  
 Sun, Jun 5, 4pm & 8pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring Dee Alexander  
 Mon, Jun 6, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra featuring Paul Marinaro  
 Thu-Sat, Jun 9-11, 8pm & 10pm.....Organist Joey Defrancesco  
 Sun, Jun 12, 4pm & 8pm.....Organist Joey Defrancesco  
 Mon, Jun 13, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra featuring Bobbi Wilsyn  
 Tue, Jun 14, 6pm.....WDCB 90.9 FM presents Bobby Lewis & Russ Phillips  
 Thu-Sat, Jun 16-18, 8pm & 10pm.....Mike Stern Quartet  
 Sun, Jun 19, 4pm & 8pm.....Mike Stern Quartet  
 Mon, Jun 20, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra – A Tribute to Joe Williams  
 & Count Basie

Joey Defrancesco



Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring  
Dee Alexander



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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](http://www.southloopneighbors.org)

## South Loop Neighbors

Elected board

President – Jim Wales

V.P. of Planning & Development – Dennis McClendon

Vice President/Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell

Treasurer – Dorothy Miaso

Director – Christine Hunt

Director – Roger Marsh

Director – Greg Borzo

## Development update Presentation

A roundup of what's proposed and underway for the South Loop was the program at our annual meeting in January. You can [watch it on YouTube](#).



The latest information on planning and development in our area can always be found at our website [SouthLoopUpdate.org](http://SouthLoopUpdate.org)



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# OPINION

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

## Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) April 25, 2022

## The power of choice



The permutations of the circumstances around women's pregnancies are infinite. I can only speak of Beth's.

In 1985, shortly after we learned that Beth wouldn't ever see again, she was enrolled at the Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute, later to be nicknamed "Braille Jail" by Beth. Unfortunately, that moniker is less of an exaggeration than you might think.

It was a tough few months. Her family who lived in the burbs would spring her on some weekends. Otherwise I'd spring her and hang out for the weekend. Every Monday morning sucked, as I'd drop her back off at Braille Jail and drive home to Champaign-Urbana.

Finally, around Christmas, Beth determined she'd learned as much as she could there, and sprung herself. When she came home, it was a relief, and a comfort. And, well, one evening, we celebrated being together again in a particularly physical way. I was using very natural feeling protection, but the problem was it felt so natural that I didn't realize when it fell off.

Given our luck over the previous year, we kinda both knew that she was pregnant, and sure enough, she was. Beth had told me about the difficulty of bearing children if you have type 1 diabetes. We'd pretty much decided if we really wanted kids, we'd likely adopt.

So, to be perfectly frank, my baseline thought was that we'd have to run the gauntlet of abortion protesters that were outside the clinic every day. I grew angry just thinking of it—they not knowing a thing about Beth's circumstances (or mine, for that matter). And I girded myself for self-control and to not give them, if the time came, an object lesson in the difference between murder and abortion.

Beth and I never faced that situation. She saw an endocrinologist who assured us that it was possible to have a healthy pregnancy and birth under the right circumstances and with lots of finger sticks. To start, he said, Beth needed a battery of tests to check on the current state of her kidneys and other health indicators. If any of these came back bad, he said he'd recommend terminating the pregnancy for Beth's health's sake.

They came back clean. Which was good, but also put the onus of a decision on Beth and on us. I say us because although yes, it's a woman's choice, if she's in a relationship, it's not a decision made in a vacuum. She was cognizant of what I thought.

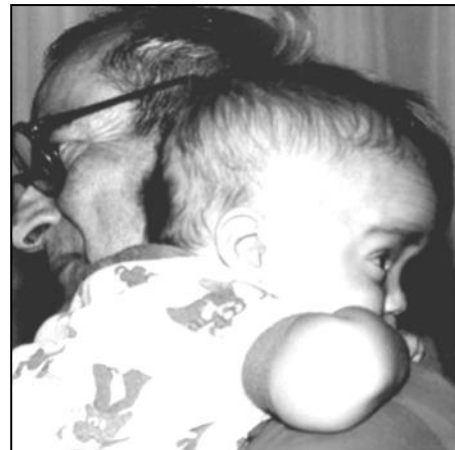
We'd had a hard time for a long time. At first an unplanned pregnancy seemed like bad news, but with Beth's health news it was suddenly potentially a light at the end of a long tunnel. Beth carried to term.

As many of you know, Gus was born premature, and very nearly died shortly after his birth. The doctor gave him a 50-50 chance at surviving his first night on earth. And he ultimately was diagnosed with an extremely rare genetic abnormality that HAD NOTHING to do with Beth's diabetes. It left him with developmental disabilities.

I can't speak for Beth, but for me, that fact that she and we had a choice in the matter made all the difference in the world in how I viewed our son. I almost felt a deeper responsibility to give him a good life..

Gus lives in a group home in Wisconsin now and will turn 38 this year.

And I've never supported the right of women to a safe and legal abortion more than I do today. That doesn't reflect ambivalence about how I feel about Gus. I love him and always have. What would Beth/we have done if we knew what was in front of us? Doesn't matter, We didn't.



That's my dad holding Gus.

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## Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

### Questions Kids Ask: Is This One Your Prettiest?

May 19, 2022



As always, lots of questions.

It's Disability Awareness Week at Red Oak Elementary School in Highland Park, Illinois, and when we arrived there Tuesday the third graders were eager to learn all they could about what it's like to be blind and use a Seeing Eye dog. Their questions were priceless. Here are some of them:

- Did you go from being able to see to only seeing in one eye and then being blind?
- How do you eat? Like, do you just smell it and know what is there?
- Are you married?
- Do you have a white stick, and if you do, when do you use it instead of your dog?
- How many Seeing Eye dogs did you have?
- Do they die?
- What were all your Seeing Eye dogs names?
- Is this one your prettiest?
- When you used your white stick and made that mistake, how did you know you were in the road instead of the sidewalk?
- How do you drive?
- Do you know what your husband looks like?
- Is it hard to be a blind author?
- When they told you that you were blind, did you think you would ever be independent again?
- When your dog gets tired of walking down the same street and crossing the same road all the time, is that when you get a new dog?
- How do you know that your dog sat down when you told him to sit?
- Does your dog ever go to sleep?

Do you know a second language?

That last question may seem out of nowhere until you learn that kids are taught in English and in Spanish at Red Oak Elementary: it's a dual-language school. And my answer to that question was yes. "Of course I do," I said with a smile. "I know Braille!"



(photo by Jamie Ceaser)

## MOST RECENT EPISODES

MAY 25, 2022

Click here

ON THE MEDIA

### Again and Again and Again and Again (and Again)

Last week's show was titled "Again and Again" and it led with an essay about the then latest devastating mass shooting, in Buffalo. We combed our archives for all those people we'd spoken to in the past about the tropes and mistakes that litter the coverage of these abominations. We didn't gather new tape because...honestly? We've said it all before. And then it happened again. This time in Texas at an elementary school.

August of 2019 saw *another* moment where 2 shooting rampages occurred within days of each other; one in El Paso, Texas and the next in Dayton, Ohio.

At the time, Washington Post columnist Margaret Sullivan [wrote](#), "When a mass shooting happens, even when it happens twice in a 24-hour period — even when the death tolls soars into the dozens — we reflexively spring into action. We describe the horror of what happened, we profile the shooter, we tell about the victims' lives, we get reaction from public officials. It's difficult, gut-wrenching work for journalists on the scene. And then there's the next one. And the next one. If journalism is supposed to be a positive force in society — and we know it can be — this is doing no good."

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



### Writing Out Loud

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

Beth Finke





## Yard Sale

**Jun 4, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Dearborn Park, 9th & Plymouth**

Buy, sell, or browse. To reserve your spot, email: [yardsale@southloopneighbors.org](mailto:yardsale@southloopneighbors.org) or reserve on our website.

SLN will have 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 nonprofit thrift store (not returned to donor).



**Monday, May 23, 2022**

## Gong Cha Coming to University Center on State Street (500 block of S. State)

Looks like a new tea place called Gong Cha is opening at University Center where Spanglish use to be:



We've never heard of this place, but apparently this is a huge franchise ([check their website for more info](#)): Founded in 2006 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Gong Cha, which translates to "tribute tea for the emperor" opened its doors to the bubble tea market. Gong cha's success in Taiwan launched our stores all over the globe with customers loving our premium quality tea, products & services:

- Fresh Tea brewed throughout the day
- Pearls (bubbles) freshly prepared to perfection continuously through the day
- Tea sourced from the finest tea estates in Taiwan

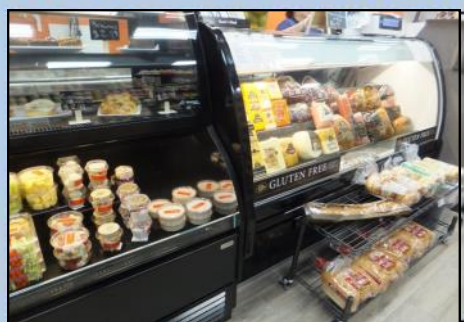
Strict quality controls for all ingredients

Gong cha is known across the world for its signature Milk Foam. Its creamy, sweet and savory flavor balance and whipped texture make it the perfect complement to our freshly brewed teas. Our delicious milk foam is hand-crafted for each customer and made from the freshest milk and highest quality, signature ingredients.

Interesting spot for their first location in the midwest - but glad to have them in the Sloop.

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

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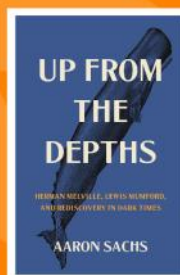
Come browse our extensive collection of new releases, travel guides and children's books. Whether it's a fresh copy of an old favorite or the latest bestseller, you're always going to find something good at Sandmeyer's

ONLINE

## AARON SACHS



June 7  
6:30 pm CDT



AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

## Aaron Sachs: Up from the Depths

Join us for an online conversation with writer and history professor **Aaron Sachs**. His new book, *Up from the Depths: Herman Melville, Lewis Mumford, and Rediscovery in Dark Times*, is a double

portrait of two of America's most influential writers that reveals the surprising connections between them—and their uncanny relevance to our age of crisis.

This program will take place virtually,

[register for the Zoom link here.](#)

American Writers Museum

180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor

Chicago, IL 60601

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>



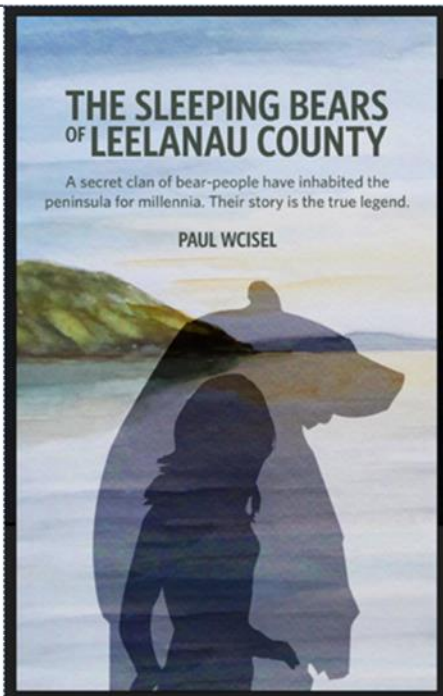
## A new novel by local author, Paul Wcisel

([paulwcisel.com](http://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.

Pick up a copy at Sandmeyer's Bookstore today.



## Writing Out Loud

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

**Beth Finke**



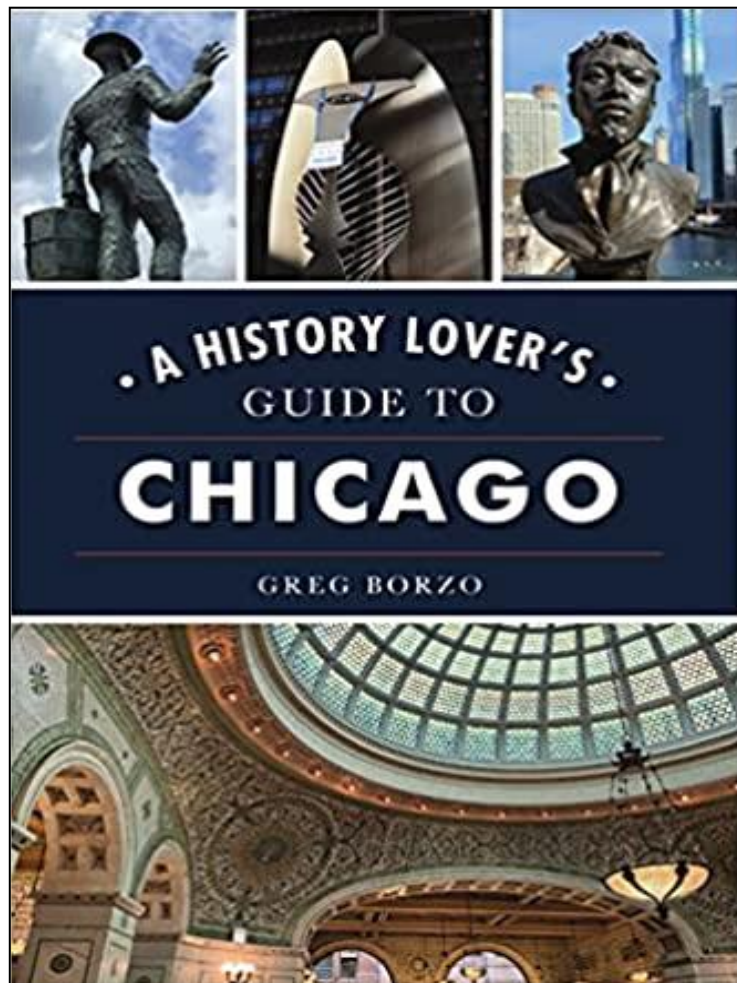
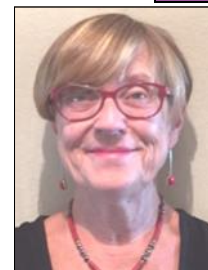
Abdulrazak Gurnah, **The Last Gift**  
(Bloomsbury USA 2014)

Thank God for the Nobel Committee, or we would have never found Abdulrazak Gurnah. Born in Zanzibar under a Sultanate, he and his brother fled to England in the 60's during a bloody revolt that killed off twenty percent of the Spice islands' population. Like many immigrants, he kept his head down, studied hard, and managed to find a meaningful job. Blessedly for us, "Writing [came] out of the situation that I was in,...poverty, homesickness, being unskilled, uneducated...out of that misery you begin to write things down." In **The Last Gift**, Gurnah writes with ease and beauty about an ordinary man who kept a lifelong secret. Suffering a series of strokes, Abbas might never be able to ease his conscience and tell the story his wife, Maryam, feared, and his children longed to know. Hannah and Jamal—proper, successful, Uni-educated British citizens—have made their way in life while always wondering of whom, and what, they came to be, concluding "they were... an odd family. Their mother was an abandoned baby who had no idea of her real parents, and their father never spoke about his." A true storyteller, Gurnah reveals the plot through narration, interior thoughts, conversations, phone calls, email and text messages—even rambling recollections on an old dictaphone. There are indignities particular to a family that migrates to the country that colonized theirs. Hannah is called a "jungle bunny" by her boyfriend's uncle, an Anglican cleric and former missionary to East Africa. Jamal is threatened repeatedly after 9-11. Maryam's birth certificate identifies her as a

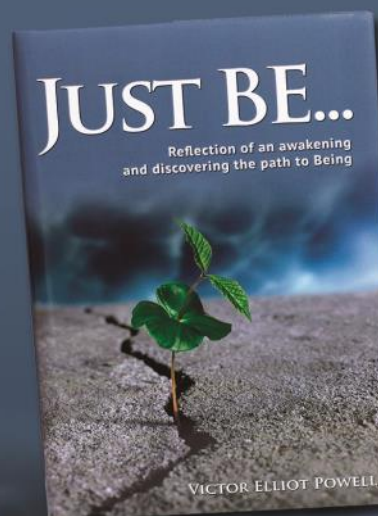
"darkie." Hannah complains "there are times when I hate that they brought me here.... Not because other places are free from cruelties and lies, but just to be saved from so much demeaning pretense." Abbas himself fears dying in a foreign place. "He's sometimes passed dark-skinned old men on their own... And he felt sorry for them. They looked so strange, these old men with their crinkly white hair and leathery dark skins walking English streets, like beasts out of their elements, pachyderms on concrete pavements." Although the setting is particular; the family's experience is universal. Like most of us, when Abbas falls sick he is embarrassed by the melodrama, ashamed by his weakness, full of self pity. His stroke made his children "solemn when they got home, but drew them closer together in a kind of mourning." Maryam felt anger, and betrayal, and exhaustion, as any wife would have, caring for an invalid with a secret. She muses, regretfully, as we may have: "Is this what parents do... study their children as they turn into men and women they learn to grow cautious of? And what do they think as they look at us? Do they think how difficult, how tedious, how she's failed me?" In this age where displacement and migration and acculturation is our biggest story, peek inside the lives of a special, but typical family, and learn what you can.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park  
May, 2022



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# OPINION

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## Retired in Chicago

### First swimming lessons at 73

By **Marianne Goss**, May 23, 2022

One in five Americans say they can't swim, according to the Red Cross. The next level up (barely swim?) is where I was. I had never had lessons but taught myself to float, tread water, backstroke, and manage a couple of weak freestyle strokes.

For some reason, it's embarrassing to not swim, almost up there with not being able to ride a bike or drive a car. Maybe it's the surprise that was the usual reaction to my confession of ineptness in the water.

My family never went to the beach or a pool because my dad feared water after he fell through the ice and almost drowned as a kid. In grade school I wanted to learn to swim at the YMCA, but my parents listened to the nuns who said that Catholics shouldn't patronize a so-called Protestant organization.

But why blame the nuns and my parents when I'd had a half-century on my own to learn? Swimming never seemed like a pressing need, however. I hoped that my limited skills would keep me from drowning in any water I was likely to be around.

Why the impulse arose to sign up for a swimming class at age 73 is a mystery. Our building has an outdoor pool, but I lived here nine years before thinking about swimming lessons. I don't expect to swim laps for fitness. Even if I were to become capable — a long shot — the pool isn't open two-thirds of the year. I can't see myself getting on a bus in the winter to go to a pool.

Strictly speaking, then, I didn't have much reason for swimming lessons, but I signed up for a seven-session Chicago Park District class this spring without thinking twice about it.

Five of us gathered in March for the first one-hour lesson at the Fosco Park pool in University Village. Since I had at least 30 years on the other four, I expected to be the worst student. Our instructor, Alex, reassured me that one is never too old to swim.

Alex began by asking our goals. I didn't realize I had a goal until "To swim one lap" popped out of my mouth. Since one lap could mean our building pool's 13-yard length and not Fosco's 25 yards, perhaps that was realistic.

That first session, Alex taught us proper breathing under-water (through the nose), correct body position (level), and flutter kicking (small and fast). "Keep your legs up; kick from the hips," Alex coached as we flutter kicked up and down the pool holding a kickboard. I returned home exhausted. The next lesson added streamlining (gliding with hands overlapped above our heads), treading water, and back floating.

Ricardo, our new teacher after Alex was transferred to another pool, started every lesson with a warmup of flutter kicking to develop stamina. It was disheartening to discover how little endurance I had in water. Apparently averaging about 10,000 steps a day is not adequate conditioning for swimming. Stamina in water is different from stamina on land, Ricardo explained.

Breaking down the parts of the front crawl, or freestyle, and the backstroke, Ricardo taught us to stroke, using one arm and then both arms, at the edge of the pool and then holding pool noodles. He added flutter kicking and, for the front crawl, side breathing. We then put all the pieces together but still used noodles for support. Starting by kicking off the wall and streamlining, we gradually increased our distance on both our backs and our fronts. Reminding us to keep our legs up and to look down when doing the front crawl, Ricardo said the body "is like a teeter-totter in the water; if the head goes up, the legs go down. You start to sink."

I had no trouble with the backstroke, probably because I could breathe normally with my face out of the water, but the front crawl was still a problem. When Ricardo had us toss the noodles and swim freestyle half the length of the pool, I did it but was out of breath, and I couldn't meet his next challenge of swimming the full length. I felt discouraged that I was where I'd started — I could do a backstroke but tired right away with the front crawl. I didn't know whether to fault my breathing, strokes, endurance, or all three, but I reminded myself that when I took up running, I didn't jog two miles immediately, and I was in my 20s then.

By that point, I had learned that there was another reason to achieve the 25-yard swim besides my goal of swimming one lap. It is the last of the Red Cross's [basic water safety competencies](#) that I needed. I watched videos for tips on technique and went to a CPD open swim once a week to build stamina. But the goal still didn't seem within reach in the seventh and last class when I stopped several yards short every time Ricardo told us to swim the front crawl the full length of the pool.

With a minute left in that final class, Ricardo had us do one last freestyle swim. I was flagging as usual but determined to keep going. When my hand touched the wall, I shouted, "I did it!" Ricardo and the other two students — there were only three of us stalwarts left — cheered. It wasn't easy, but I can work on endurance in our building's pool this summer, hoping that my neighbors aren't watching.

I don't expect to build up enough endurance, however, to swim for exercise. According to fitness websites, aerobic swimming begins at 500 yards — 20 times my hard-earned distance. I doubt that I will progress that far, and it's okay. I'm happy to have met the Red Cross's safety standard, and I'll always have walking, for exercise and transportation. The swim class upended my notion of how fit I am, and I've adjusted my expectations to my age. Another need is pressing. My joints are creaky when I get up from bed. Why did I stop doing yoga? Not sure, but it's time to resume.

<https://www.chicagow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/>

*Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!* is National Public Radio's Peabody Award-winning comedy news quiz show. Host Peter Sagal leads a rotating panel of comedians, writers, listener contestants, and celebrity guests through a rollicking review of the week's news. Contestants vie for the most coveted prize in all of public radio: a custom-recorded greeting by any of our cast members for their voicemail.



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Fine Arts Building requires all patrons to provide proof of full vaccination (14 days after last shot). Masks are required to be worn at all times while attending your event.



<https://www.wbez.org/events/wait-wait-dont-tell-me-tickets>

## Grills Night Out

**Jun 18, 6:00 PM**  
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## Editor's Letter: June, 2022

May 25, 2022 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

**I went to the music club Biddy Mulligan's only once or twice back in its hey-day**, in large part because of the distance to the Far North Side location from my South Loop home. Dave Hoekstra's feature in this issue makes me wish I'd spent a lot more time there, even as I am fortunate now to live vicariously through Dave's words. At the same time I was neglecting Biddy's back in the early nine-ties, I was reading Dave's writing on a regular basis in the Chicago Sun-Times. His quirky sensibility and prowess with the language made him the one daily newspaper writer who was in tune with the world that those of us in the alternative press lived in.

I also read Mary Wisniewski's writing in the Chicago Tribune for years. She profiles artist Tim Youd in this issue, who re-types classic novels in situ. What I find especially fascinating is where he says he's now writing his own novel because he's learned how to do it through this project. It's something often told to young writers: if you want to master the craft, find a favorite work and retype it. You'll learn more about how to put together a sentence than any college course can teach you. Daily journalism's loss, of Mary and Dave, is Newcity's gain, and we're ecstatic to bring you their work.

**We have our fourth movie opening this month, "Relative,"** and it's also our fourth to play the Music Box Theatre. And it's our first to play at the Gene Siskel Film Center, which will offer easier access to downtown, South and West Side audiences. You can find out more about the film at [Relativemovie.com](#).

Michael Glover Smith, its writer and director, somehow got this film made on a shoestring budget in the heart of the pandemic. Shot mostly at a glorious house in Rogers Park, but with some great scenes set around the area, especially at the Hopleaf, this movie exemplifies so much about what we all love about Chicago. Great acting, a compelling, heartfelt and funny story, and an ensemble of filmmakers that just loved making art together. And then to bring it home at the city's two premiere art-house theaters, well, swoon. See you there?

BRIAN HIEGELKE



Cover Design: Dan Streeting featuring a partial list of novels retyped by Tim Youd

Look for Newcity's June 2022 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](#).

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Frida's World

An exploration of the iconic artist through photography

#### The Retypist

Tim Youd performs classic novels as performance art

#### Crude

A life lived in oil's shadow in comics

#### From Biddy's to Billions

Lessons learned owning a once-iconic Chicago music club

#### Poetry

THE RADIOLOGIST SPEAKS AND DOESN'T

A new poem from S.L. Wisenberg

And so much more...

**NEWCITY** [newcity.com](#)

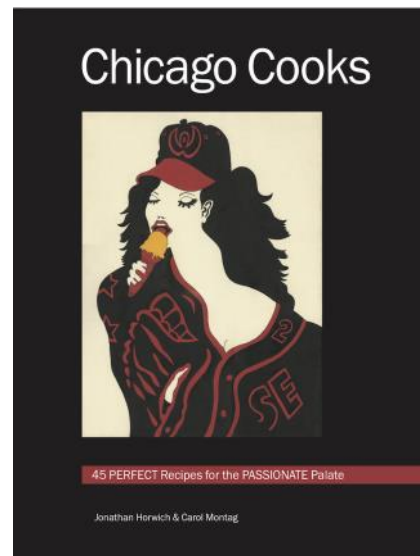
*In Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate*, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

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/>

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**NEWCITY** [newcity.com](#)

# OPINION

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

## Backstory Essays

### Regan Burke

May 25,, 2022

## Death by Choice



What's a crucifix doing on the wall?

The nurse told me I was in a Catholic hospital. I could have figured that out. I checked into Amita Health Saint Joseph, after all. I assumed Amita appropriated the name for brand continuity. Ok, it's Catholic, but do they have to display a crucifix on my wall?

A friend came by and said there's a cross on the wall.

"That's a crucifix, not a cross," I said.

She shrugged as if it makes no difference. But maybe she just didn't know the difference.

"It's a Catholic hospital," I said, "only Catholics hang crucifixes. Protestants hang crosses."

"What's the difference?" she asked.

In the late afternoon, the overhead fluorescent from the hallway shed enough light on the crucifix for me to see it from my bed. I said a few words.

*Thank you god for replacing my decaying hip with a shiny new titanium rod and ball and clean ceramic joint.*

He didn't answer. That's ok. He never does. Specificity was key in my gratitude. I needed to state out loud exactly what just happened to me, to visualize the medical miracle of supplanting the largest joint in my body.

Jesus' body hanging there with nails through his wrists and in his crossed feet started to take on a living drama. The nerve block and painkillers from my surgery were wearing off. We were in agony together. I fumbled through the sheets for the control button and banged on it to call a nurse.

She came. Later than I'd hoped.

"I'm in a lotta pain," I cried out.

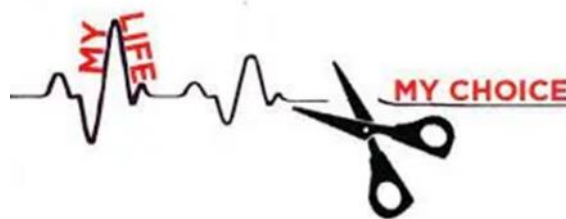
"I have your painkiller. Oh look, your ice pack slipped to the floor. I'll refill it. Be right back."

I looked at Jesus.

*How could you bear this? I can't stand it.*

I later opened my eyes to Sister Leticia peering down at me. After introductions and medical pleasantries, she fumbled through a sheaf of papers until she pulled out the Do Not Resuscitate form.

"I'm here to talk to you about your papers. Do you have one of these?"



"Oh yeah, I have a POLST."

"You do?"

She thumbed through her pile and pulled out a blank POLST, "Does it look like this?"

"Yes, I've got a copy here in my purse."

We spread my papers out on the bed—what I'd brought and those accumulated a few hours earlier when I checked into the hospital.

"There it is!" exclaimed Sister Leticia. She found the holy POLST among Amita brochures and post-op instructions. POLST stands for PRACTITIONER ORDER FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT. It's a DNR signed by a doctor and witnessed by a third party. Some say it's too final, a death warrant. Sister clucked with excitement at the sight of my POLST. She could then forego the talk on the tender subject of medical interventions to save my life if I stopped breathing or slipped into unconsciousness.

Sister Leticia ducked out of sight before I could ask if she, as a Catholic, approves of my choice about my body.

I looked at Jesus.

He seemed ok with it.

by Regan Burke [In That Number: One Woman's March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power \(And Beyond\)](#)

Available at Sandmeyer's Book Store and other places.





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SKATES is a coming of age story with a twist. It's 1994 and rock star Jacqueline Miller has a lot to celebrate. She's headlining her first national tour, has a hit record and is riding high. In the midst of this, she has agreed to kick off the gala re-opening of her beloved childhood roller rink, Windy City Skates.

When complications hit her head-on, she takes a retrospective journey back to 1977 and finds herself again when she meets up with her 12-year-old self and all of the people who have made her who she is.

From the wisdom of the Ouija Board, to the power of All-Skate Saturday, SKATES explores the magic and hope of finding your one true love while still being true to yourself.

#### **Ticket Levels:**

**VIP:** \$99 (*Includes 1 premium seat, 1 swag bag with a Skates poster signed by the cast, and other goodies!*)

**Premium:** \$79

**Main Floor:** \$65

46 – 99

## Natasha Stojanovska – Piano Recital

Natasha Stojanovska, Macedonian Pianist and Composer, has just completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at The Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University, Chicago IL in the studio of James Giles.



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## The Janes is a call to action

A new documentary about the underground abortion collective prefigures current events.

by **Kathleen Sachs** May 18, 2022

We Chicagoans are a proud bunch, and usually with good reason. For many, we're especially appreciative of our city's radical history, from the echoing impact of the storied Haymarket Affair to things happening now which will undoubtedly become part of our oppidan tapestry. The aptly named Windy City nevertheless endures as a weathered barometer of this country's leftist politics.

It's that past to which we look now, both for guidance and inspiration. "So many activist organizations were headquartered [in Chicago]," says documentary filmmaker Tia Lessin (who codirected *Citizen Koch* [2013] and the Oscar-nominated *Trouble the Water* [2008]), "between Students for a Democratic Society, the Young Lords, the Weather Underground, one of the largest Black Panther chapters was in Chicago . . . the Janes were really part of the fabric of that time."

She's referring to the Jane Collective, an underground organization that helped women access abortions and even began providing the service themselves, performing over 11,000 between 1969 and 1973. The motley crew of unlikely

outlaws are the subject of a new documentary, *The Janes*, which Lessin codirected with Emma Pildes. This timely ode opens the annual Doc10 Film Festival on Thursday with two sold-out screenings (it'll premiere on HBO on Wednesday, June 8); both directors will appear in person, as well as the largest reunion of Janes since 1973.

"I felt particularly thrilled to make a film about Chicago, and a film about Chicago at that time," says Pildes. "I'm sure there were a million interesting places on planet earth, and Chicago was certainly one of them."

Pildes has a personal connection to the film, which was codeveloped and produced by her half-brother Daniel Arcana. Arcana's mother, Judith, was a Jane, and their father was a lawyer who advised the group. Both appear in the film, along with other former members and several people who were associated with the collective either by giving assistance or by benefiting from their clandestine services.

The documentary features an inspired use of archival material threaded through the interviews. Per Lessin, these assets were sourced from a variety of places here in Chicago, including the Chicago Film Archives (she mentions the films of JoAnn Elam, an experimental filmmaker whose best work focused on labor and women's rights), Kartemquin Films, and even Chicago's favorite chronicler of the everyday.

"We were able to use some of the beautiful 8-millimeter camera work of Vivian Maier," she says, "whose really candid shots of people in the street were pretty extra special to us in painting a picture of what life was like in Chicago."

The film's crucial story is anchored by candid recollections charting the group's origins on the University of Chicago campus—where, in 1965, Heather Booth began referring women to a known abortionist, civil rights leader and surgeon T.R.M. Howard, after learning of a friend's sister's unwanted pregnancy—to the "official" establishment of its unofficial and highly illegal enterprise (including details of the labyrinthine process the Janes

Continued on page 18.

READER

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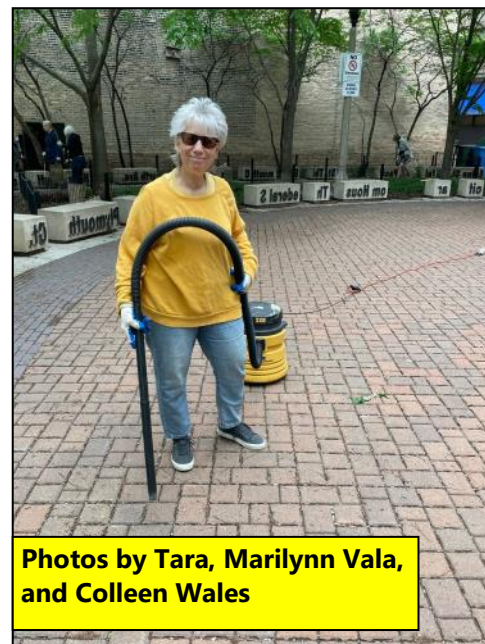
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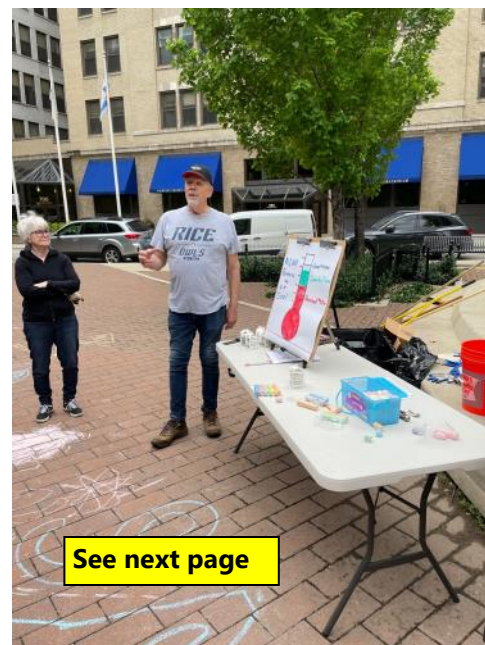


**IT'S YOUR PARK DAY!  
PRINTERS ROW PARK. MAY 21st, 2022.**

Upper left, Greg Borzo; Upper center, Hazel, Cora and Camilla; Upper right, Lisa Antonio; Lower right, Jim Rice; Lower center, the whole gang; Lower left Mary Ann Fischer.



**Photos by Tara, Marilynn Vala, and Colleen Wales**



**See next page**

## Printers Row Farmers Market Returns

Shoppers can also visit a new Grant Park location Thursdays starting in June.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#)

May 23, 2022



Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest joins the Printers Row Farmers Market this season at their Grant Park location beginning June 2. Photo Provided.

**PRINTERS ROW** — The Printers Row Farmers Market kicks off the 2023 season Memorial Day weekend. As in years past, the farmers market will operate from two locations on different days of the week.

On Sundays, shoppers can visit the 632 S. Dearborn St. site this weekend through Oct. 15. The Grant Park outpost, at the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road, will be open Thursdays June 2-Oct. 13. Among this year's vendors are plant-based empanada/hot muffin baker [Baskethouse Foods](#), [Gayle's Best Ever Grilled Cheese](#), [Gai Ghee Butter](#) and [Moody Tongue Brewing Company](#).

Chicago Botanical Garden's [Windy City Harvest](#), an education and jobs training program, will join the market this season, selling organic produce at the Grant Park location.

A full list of vendors can be found [here](#).



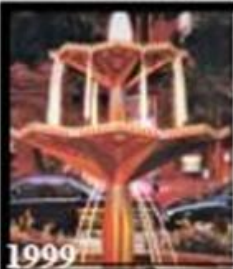
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## Contact Information

Contact for questions:

Jim Rice  
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*Tiles provided by:*



Please note that Chicago Park District policy only allows donor names. They do not permit poems, sayings, slogans, emojis, or company logos. However, they do permit "In Memory Of" for a loved one, if you so wish. All submissions will be reviewed by Chicago Park District for compliance with this policy prior to engraving.

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# OPINION

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## Memorial Day: This one's for you, Argentina "Tina" Jones, 1919-2022:

Some time after my daughter was diagnosed with autism in 1985, which was shortly after [Sly Stallone](#)'s son was diagnosed with autism, my mother gave me some advice.

I'd already had plenty of advice from arrogant doctors, old-fashioned psychoanalysts, people on the street, speech therapists—and the rotten stench of the late [Bruno Bettelheim](#), the “expert” who blamed icy mothers.

“Ok, mom,” I said, “whattaya got? More wonder drugs from GNC you heard about on TV?”

No, she said. “Why don’t you ask Tina what to do. She understands these things, maybe better than doctors. She’s wise and she may have an idea.”

Tina was our family housekeeper. She’d worked for our family since 1957, including our immediate family and my two aunts, and ultimately me, when I got married. Twice. And had two households in succession.

We all liked Tina. She was exotic, but very down to earth at the same time. She was worldly, but also folksy. And asking her did make some sense. Although it was a little weird.

Tina was honest and said she really couldn’t think of anything. But I did notice the way she treated [Molly](#) and the way she talked to her. She talked to her like she talked to all of us. And she treated her like nothing was wrong. And her example helped teach me to amend my ways. It came easy to Tina, not so for me.

My brother, who knew Tina since the day he was born, kept in touch with her after she retired, almost 30 years ago. He called her every so often to see how she was doing. But last week when he called, her phone was disconnected. “Something must be wrong,” he told me.

Tina had the same number as long as we knew her, and she would never let a bill go unpaid—or move, at this stage of the game. Her great-grandson, one of her many descendants, took care of her at home.

I googled her immediately and up came her [obituary and all sorts of family pictures](#) and information about her memorial service, which was held on what would have been her 103rd birthday on May 18th, which ironically was a few days after my brother called. (She actually died at the end of February.)

Through the 40 years she worked for our family she sometimes said she’d just come from, or was going to pay her burial insurance premium. And when I saw the funeral materials from the A.A. Rayner Funeral Home that was hosting Tina’s funeral at 318 E. 71st Street, I realized with all the months and years she ended up paying that premium, that she deserved quite a sendoff to heaven, a wonderful coffin and grave and a party to beat the band to send her on her way.

When Tina came to work for us back in the 50s, my mom said they were the the same age, and only three days apart. But I found out a few days ago, that while their birthdays were only three days apart, Tina was actually eight years older than my mom. And my mom was speechless when I told her the news a few days ago.

But it was true that their mothers really did have the same first name: Josephine.

Tina often told me about her life when she was getting ready to go home after work. She spent a lot of time in the bathroom getting cleaned up and beautifully dressed—from her underwear to her outerwear. And she applied an assortment of beautiful makeup made for black women before she left, after she fixed her hair up to the hilt, too.

It always intrigued me as to what all she was doing in the bathroom. So I would sometimes go into the bathroom with her, put the toilet lid down and and sit and watch her. And we’d talk.

When she was ready, she’d put on one of her beautiful jackets, and neatly fold one of the the short sleeveless house dresses she wore when she worked. And then put it—and the comfortable house slippers she wore while working—into a fancy tote bag filled with her wallet and a lot of magazines like Ebony and Jet and gossip and scandal newspapers that everyone loved back then. I always wondered what she’d be doing later, dressed and made up so beautifully for her trip home.

For many years, Tina had a gold cap on one of her front teeth with a star in the middle. That came off at some point (why I don’t know) and it took time to get used to her without it.

Sometimes she’d tell my mom things about her personal life (and I’m suddenly remembering the name of one of the serious boyfriends she had that she and my mom talked about) and she’d also tell my mom about her grandson who she was trying to keep out of the gangs. She lamented how hard it was to do that (even back then) but she finally sent him down south to live with relatives—where she’d lived before migrating north during the [Great Migration](#).

Speaking of which, I wish I’d asked Tina more about what it was like when she first got to Chicago and moved to the South Side.

She talked about baseball a lot with my dad. Tina knew as much as he did (and he knew everything) and they had a lot of fun talking about the players, the games and the scores. He loved to kid Tina about one thing or another, too—and she loved to laugh it up with him.

Tina had a sister named Myrtle, and Myrtle had a daughter named Jewel, and they both visited Tina now and then at our house—so Jewel and I could play together. We spent a lot of time playing [pick-up-sticks](#), marbles, card games like “War,” and dolls, and we knitted, too, and had hula hoop contests. My mom said recently that she’d heard way back when that Jewel became a computer programmer in the early days before anyone even knew what one was. That didn’t surprise me. She was very smart.

Once when Tina was cleaning the first apartment I was living in with [my second husband Paul](#), he had to run out one afternoon to be on a radio talk show about politics that was going to broadcast live. He was a journalist who had become Deputy Mayor under Jane Byrne and then became a political columnist at Chicago Magazine.

We said we’d listen—and we did.

We listened and the panelists quickly turned to the topic of race in Chicago. It was the early 1980s and the issue, like now, was a hot one. And I felt very uncomfortable sitting there with Tina listening. Neither of us said anything and I always wondered what she made of it, if anything.

I always wondered what went through her mind that afternoon. Because we often did—when they happened—talk about things like [the 1968 riots on the West Side](#) after Dr. Martin Luther King was killed.

And other news events that were all about race.

But this time we didn’t. We were silent.

I’ll never get the chance to ask her if she remembers that day. And our silence. And I’ll never know. But I can sort of speculate—if I could ask her about that day sitting by the radio in 1981—what she might say.

**Bonnie McGrath**

Visit my blog: [www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/](http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/)



The Janes continued from page 14

undertook to evade authorities), to the 1972 police raid that resulted in several members being arrested. As luck would have it, their lawyer was able to delay the judicial process, biding time in anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision on *Roe v. Wade*.

Diane Stevens was one of the Jane members arrested during the bust. She'd joined the group after getting her own abortion—a legal, “therapeutic” abortion she procured in California after pleading her case with two psychiatrists and a doctor. She says she was spurred by her desire to help women in the same situation she had been in.

“We were the women . . . there wasn't a separation,” she says. “That was something we felt strongly about. In my group, ‘professionalism’ was like, where you think of yourself and the doctor, in a white coat, probably male, so apart from you. That wasn't the case [with us]. These women, we were in it together. We explained everything to them, we provided them with the education, and they trusted us. They opened up their lives to us. We were together.”

Her experience with the Jane Collective inspired her to pursue a career in health care, specifically helping underserved communities. A likely career for an unlikely abortionist, in more ways than one.

“[The police] kept asking where the doctor was,” she recalls about the raid. “Where are the men? Where's the doctor?” And of course there weren't any.”

Recently a draft opinion scribed by Justice Samuel Alito foretelling the potential abrogation of *Roe v. Wade* was leaked to the press, resulting in widespread panic over the future of reproductive (and potentially other) rights in the United States. The times they are a-changin', no. Rather, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

“On the 50th anniversary of the bust of the Janes . . . May 3,” points out Lessin, “that was the same day as the leak of the Alito opinion, 50 years later.”

We Chicagoans are a proud bunch, and usually with good reason. For many, we're especially appreciative of our city's radical history, from the echoing impact of the storied Haymarket Affair to things happening now which will undoubtedly become part of our oppidan tapestry. The aptly named Windy City nevertheless endures as a weathered barometer of this country's leftist politics.

It's that past to which we look now, both for guidance and inspiration. “So many activist organizations were headquartered [in Chicago],” says documentary filmmaker Tia Lessin (who codirected *Citizen Koch* [2013] and the Oscar-nominated *Trouble the Water* [2008]), “between Students for a Democratic Society, the Young Lords, the Weather Underground, one of the largest Black Panther chapters was in Chicago . . . the Janes were really part of the fabric of that time.”

She's referring to the Jane Collective, an underground organization that helped women access abortions and even began providing the service themselves, performing over 11,000 between 1969 and 1973. The motley crew of unlikely outlaws are the subject of a new documentary, *The Janes*, which Lessin codirected



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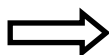
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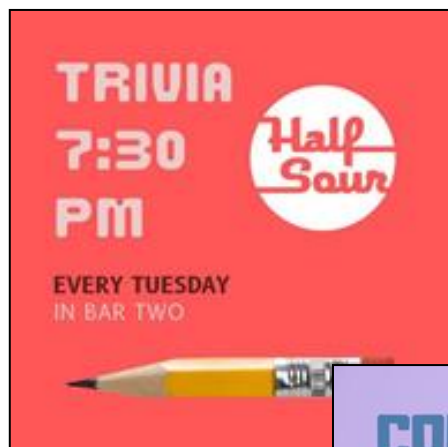
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**Bingo with Betty**  
Last Wednesday  
of the month

## Instead Of Demolishing Century And Consumer Buildings, Let Us Turn Them Into A National Archive Center, Preservationists Ask Feds

Preservation groups said the national archive center would meet the security guidelines of the neighboring federal courthouse while serving as a major hub for archive-based research.

[Melody Mercado](#)

May 18, DOWNTOWN

— Chicago preservationists are hoping to save the Loop's historic Century and Consumer Buildings by transforming the neglected State Street skyscrapers into a National Archive Center.

Built in the early 1910s, the two buildings at 202-

220 S. State St. have been neglected by the federal government who [bought the buildings in 2007](#) for a potential office expansion that never materialized, preservationists said.

A \$141 million plan to build luxury apartments in the buildings was scrapped in 2019 over security concerns raised by judges at the Dirksen federal courthouse, which neighbors the buildings, [according to the Tribune](#). Landmarks Illinois and Preservation Chicago have named the buildings to their most endangered lists.

The federal government plans to tear the towers down at a cost of \$52 million. But the Chicago Collaborative Archive Center, supported by Preservation Chicago, JLK Architects and Thornton-Tomasetti Engineers, is proposing that the buildings be turned in a national archive center. Preservationists argue that an archive center would meet the security guidelines while serving as a major hub for archive-based research. Continues on page 21



Credit Eric Allix Rogers  
The Century and Consumers Buildings at 202 and 220 South State St.



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South Loop Neighbors night at the Jazz Showcase.

Jim Wales, President of South Loop Neighbors is shown here welcoming the crowd.

Below: Ainsley tending bar.

Bottom: Youth Jazz Ensemble of DuPage

Not shown: Bob Lark Alumni Big Band.



## Chicago's Controversial New Ward Map Approved With 16 Black, 14 Latino Wards

The map also includes the first majority-Asian American ward. A last-minute compromise to redraw the city's 50 wards came days before a deadline that would have sent the issue to voters.

[Melody Mercado](#) May 16, 2022

Alderpeople approved Chicago's new ward map Monday. City of Chicago; Colin Boyle/ Block Club Chicago CHICAGO — Chicago's new ward map that will shape politics in the city for the next decade was approved by alderpeople Monday.

The last-minute compromise to redraw the city's 50 wards came days before a deadline that would have sent the issue to voters in the June 28 primary. The new map was approved in a 43-7 vote.

The new map includes 16 majority-Black wards plus the "Black influence" 27th Ward, 14 majority-Latino wards and one majority-Asian American ward. It's estimated to go into effect in July ahead of the Nov. 8 general election, Chicago Board of Elections officials said.

[See the new ward map here.](#)

Among other changes, Lincoln Yards [will move to the 32nd Ward under the control of longtime critic Ald. Scott Waguespack](#) and The 78 would move from Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez's 25th Ward to Pat Dowell's 3rd Ward. Ald. Gilbert Villegas' newly redrawn 36th Ward will be a 7-mile-long line tracing Grand Avenue that [has been slammed as gerrymandered pool noodle](#).

And Englewood will be split among five wards, reduced slightly from six wards under the previous map, [despite repeated calls from neighbors who want fewer alderpeople](#).

Some alderpeople praised the new map, calling it a compromise that preserves the power of the city's protected classes.

"We've worked together as a group for the betterment of the city and because of the teamwork will save Chicago taxpayers, tons of money and a costly referendum," said Ald. Michelle Harris (8th), who led the city's remap process.

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/05/16/chicagos-controversial-new-ward-map-approved-with-16-black-14-latino-wards/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=7aebd4ab95-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/05/16/chicagos-controversial-new-ward-map-approved-with-16-black-14-latino-wards/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=7aebd4ab95-)





## Chicago Food Truck Festival (Season 9)

Sat, Jun 25, 2022, 11:00 AM –

Sun, Jun 26, 2022, 7:00 PM CDT

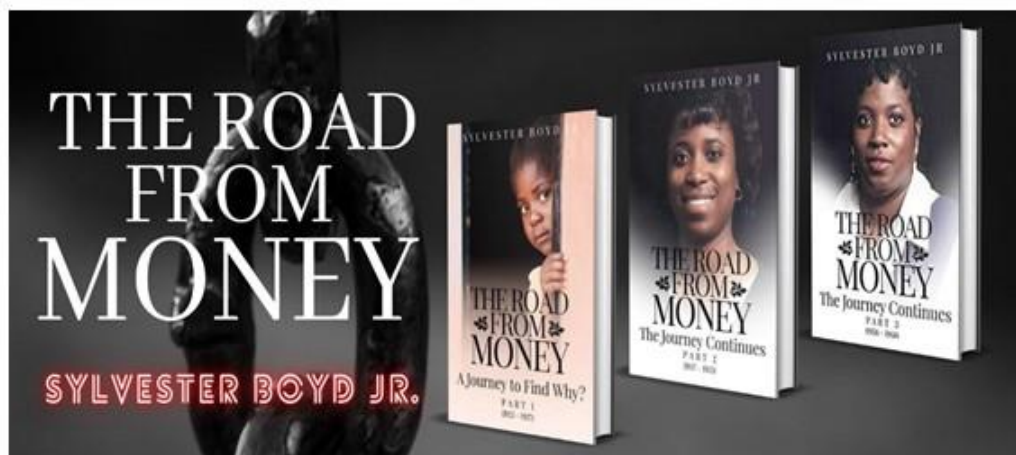
1700 S. Wabash

\$0—\$18

**Here we go again foodies! Season 9 of one of America's top food truck festivals, the Chicago Food Truck Festival is back!**

### About this event

Here we go again foodies! Season 9 of one of America's top food truck festivals, the Chicago Food Truck Festival. The last two years we have all endured a global pandemic. So, we will work to regain normalcy. And that means a taste of Chicago culture, food trucks, foodies and safe fun. Join us as we gather some of Chicago's top gourmet food trucks, for a foodie heaven of tasting chef prepared dishes and delighting the palate with a splash of Sangria or some Chicago's best Beers. Also, did we mention games and live music?



**The Road from Money, a great American story, explores the life and times of a central character, Estella Reynolds (1925 – 2009), whose journey begins in the cotton fields of Money, Mississippi; and who becomes a millionaire in the North.**



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**Sylvester Boyd Jr.**

**Author – Historian – Actor – Motivational Speaker**

Continued from page 19



Credit: Chicago Collaborative Archive Center

Under their plan, most of the building would be used for archival storage, which requires limited light and a 24-hour climate-controlled environment. This allows for the west walls facing the Federal Center to be sealed and eliminate the possibility of a security threat to the courthouse. Additionally, the center would have less than 30 employees and visitors would require a reservation, according to a news release.

There are already four archival groups interested in the proposed development, including the Franciscan Central Archives, Order of Franciscan Minor, 6 USA provinces, Archives of the Episcopal Church and McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies, according to the group.

“A collaborative archive of this proposed size is rare in the country,” said Christopher Allison, a historian and Director of the McGreal Center at Dominican University, in a statement. “It would become a major hub for archive-based research and would consolidate precious sources in one space.”

The proposal also includes classrooms, a lecture hall and exhibit space on the lower levels specifically facing State and Adams streets away from the federal buildings. Part of the building's ground floor could be used for commercial space at State and Adams streets. **CLICK BELOW**

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/05/18/instead-of-demolishing-century-and-consumer-buildings-let-us-turn-them-into-a-national-archive-center-preservationists-ask-feds/?Utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=e3bb7e71b8-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/05/18/instead-of-demolishing-century-and-consumer-buildings-let-us-turn-them-into-a-national-archive-center-preservationists-ask-feds/?Utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=e3bb7e71b8-)

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## Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories Permanent Exhibition at the Field Museum Now Open

SOUTH LOOP/MUSEUM CAMPUS

Take a trip to the Field Museum to view their new permanent exhibition Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories, created in partnership with Native American artists, storytellers, and collaborators, the groundbreaking exhibition features stories told by Indigenous people of self-determination, resilience, continuity, and the future.



## Homeless Community on Harrison and Financial

SOUTH LOOP

4th Ward staff have been going out with the 25<sup>th</sup> Ward, the South Loop Advisory Council, and homeless outreach teams to the encampment under the viaduct at Harrison Street and Financial Place. We have talked with the residents living there and are helping to get them placed in homes faster. Today, the Department of Streets and Sanitation did their weekly cleaning of the area. In the near future, our office will be meeting with the Department of Family and Support Services and the Department of Housing about how soon we can completely house this community.

## New Community Clinic

SOUTH LOOP

UIC Two-Generation Clinic provides primary care with a focus on postpartum care, primary care, and well-baby care. They also serve fathers. They also provide wrap-around care that includes social work/counseling, psychiatry, lactation, connection to resources, and care coordination. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## If You See Something, Say Something

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

"If You See Something, Say Something®" is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism, terrorism-related crime, and domestic violent extremism, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Carjacking Prevention Tips

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

There have been several instances of carjackings in our community this year, and while we are working with the Chicago Police Department to keep our neighborhoods safe, we hope that you will take heed of these [carjacking prevention tips](#) to keep yourself from being a victim.

## COVID-19 Boosters

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 boosters are now available for everyone 16+ at CDPH-sponsored clinics and programs. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM

More dates will be available soon for Alderman On the Block. To request a meeting with Alderman King, please email [ward04@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward04@cityofchicago.org) with the subject line "AOB Meeting Request" describing your issue to secure an appointment. Call **773-536-8103** for comments, questions or concerns.



## Vintage violin stolen from musician's South Loop home as family slept

by: [Julian Crews](#) Posted: May 11, 2022

CHICAGO — Less than two weeks away from her performance at the University of Chicago, a talented violinist is filled with sorrow. The Italian instrument Minghuan Xu has been playing for 20 years is gone.

"Losing something like that is completely heartbreaking to me because I'm a professional violinist," Minghuan Xu said.

Utterly devastated, the violinist says the theft is like "losing my own voice."

Worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, Xu's 1758 Nicolas Gagliano violin was loaned to her by a private sponsor. With her prodigious talent, the exquisite instrument has lifted Xu to great heights.

Husband and pianist Winston Choi says Wednesday morning's brazen theft on the 1300 block of Plymouth Court in Chicago's South Loop equally shatters him.

The theft occurred as Xu, Choi, and their two young children slept in their townhouse.

"Our dog was barking and I just thought it was our neighbor going to work early," Xu said.

Xu says she fell asleep until a garage motion detector went off, signaling that a stranger was in the house.

"We had family in the house," Xu said. "We were very worried and scared."

First District Chicago Police responded to the 911 call. Although authorities searched the home and the garage, the burglar had already fled.

"That's when I realized my violin was gone," Xu said. "It was very traumatic for us."

The thief also made off with an inexpensive violin and her son's little cello. But Xu says there's no evidence indicating that the culprit deliberately targeted the high-priced violin.

"I really think it was a random act," Xu said. "I don't think it was targeted at all."

A neighbor's surveillance camera captured the suspect's meandering in the parking lot.

"He had a little video camera showing he had been around outside our garage for about 45 minutes," Xu said.

The violinist speculated the thief was searching for garage door openers before gaining access to the family's car.

"So I just hope that my violin will turn up somehow and it'll be found and come back to me so I can play on it again," Xu said.

In the meantime, Xu says she is looking to secure a loaner violin in time for her upcoming performance here at the University of Chicago's Logan Center on the evening of May 20.



<https://wgntv.com/news/chicago-news/vintage-violin-stolen-from-musicians-south-loop-home-as-family-slept/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/violinist-offering-reward-in-finding-stolen-vintage-violin/>



## Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?

We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/>

Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone's business!

A one car outdoor parking space for rent in Dearborn Park One. \$170/month, with a one month deposit. Payment by Zelle due every month at the 1st of the month. Rental agreement ends when either party requests in writing via email 30 days prior. Write to [holthaus@okapikissa.com](mailto:holthaus@okapikissa.com) for more details.

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## Police Blotter



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

4/27/2022 6:30am 1300 S Michigan  
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 132

5/15/2022 4:41pm 500 S State St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY no weapon Residence Beat 123

5/06/2022 9:49am 500 W Roosevelt  
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY at store Beat 124

5/05/2022, 7:40pm 700 S Clark  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT handgun on Street Beat 123

5/13/2022, 5:21am 10 W 14<sup>th</sup> St  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT handgun Sidewalk Beat 131

5/12/2022, 9:30pm 1000 S Clark  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT handgun on Street Beat 123

5/08/2022, 2:20am 10 E Roosevelt Rd  
ARMED ROBBERY knife CTA Train Beat 123

5/12/2022, 4:30pm 1000 S Clark St  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, handgun on Street Beat 123

5/03/2022, 7:35pm 1100 S State st  
ARMED ROBBERY CTA Train knife, Beat 123

5/01/2022, 6:18am 1200 S Wabash  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT handgun Parking Lot Beat 131

5/03/2022, 7:27pm 600 S Wabash  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY handgun Restaurant Beat 123

5/03/2022, 9:12pm 1600 s Michigan Ave  
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 132

5/13/2022, 11am 1100 S Wabash Av  
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

5/13/2022, 4:30AM 1100 s Wabash Av  
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

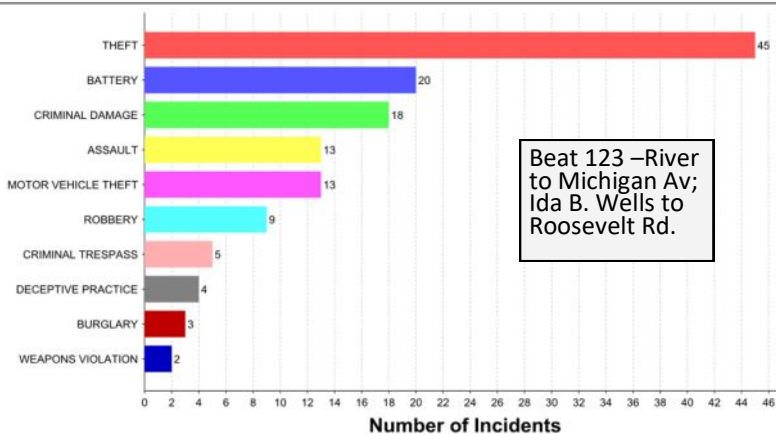
5/10/2022 6pm 1400 S State St  
AUTO THEFT on Street, Beat 131

5/08/2022 6am 600 S Dearborn '  
AUTO THEFT Parking garage Beat 123

Report Date: 11 May 2022  
Report Time: 13:33:13  
Produced By: Information Services  
Division: PC00611  
Run By:

### Top Ten Crimes From 01-Apr-2022 To 30-Apr-2022 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



## 2 wounded in shooting hours after teen was shot and killed near 'The Bean' in Loop

Two men were among a group of people walking in the 300 block of South State Street about 11:40 p.m. when two male juveniles started shooting at the group, police said.

By [Sun-Times Wire](#)

May 15, 2022, 2:11am CDT

Two men were wounded in a shooting May 14, 2022 in the Loop. Sun-Times file

Two people were wounded in a shooting Saturday night hours after a teen was shot and killed near "The Bean" in the Loop. Two men were among a group of people walking in the **300 block of South State Street about 11:40 p.m.** when two male juveniles started shooting at the group, Chicago police said. One man, believed to be between 18 and 20, was shot in the neck and chest and taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in critical condition, police said. The other man, 18, was shot in the left hand and taken to Stroger Hospital in good condition, officials said.

Two juveniles were taken into custody for questioning.

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/>

## 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:

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\$340,000  
732 FINANCIAL PL 207  
3/28/22

\$262,500  
1133 S STATE ST 403B  
3/25/22

\$197,000  
600 S DEARBORN ST 908  
3/22/22

\$410,000  
547 S CLARK ST 1001  
3/22/22

\$400,000  
901 S PLYMOUTH CT S  
3/22/22

\$334,000  
1464 S MICHIGAN AVE 1402  
3/21/22

\$185,000  
40 E 9<sup>TH</sup> ST 1506  
3/21/22

\$250,000  
720 S DEARBORN ST 604  
3/21/22

\$312,500  
1111 S WABASH AVE 2401  
3/21/22

\$610,000  
1201 S PRAIRIE AVE 2906  
3/21/22

\$540,000  
1328 S FEDERAL ST I  
3/18/22

\$1,115,000  
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3/17/22

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40 E 9<sup>th</sup> St #603  
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\$200,000  
Anne Rosen



547 S Clark St #1402 Penthouse  
2 Bed/ 2 Bath 1600 Sq Ft  
FOR RENT \$3500/mo  
Anne Rosen

1515 S Prairie Ave #202  
3 bed, 3 bath, 2200 sq ft  
\$649,500

Mario Greco  
Berkshire Hathaway  
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\$735,000

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