May Day rallies
Teachers, fast food workers gather for May 1 events. Page 4

Fast food worker Adriana Sanchez speaks during the May 1 rally at Fountain Square in Evanston.

Next stop, Memphis
Eighty-one-year-old bluesman Eddy Clearwater headed to the Blues Hall of Fame. Page 21

SPORTS
Sister act
Mary and Ana Iliopoulos have helped turn around the Maine East softball team. Page 45

LIVING
Fan favorites celebrate Mom
Mommy on a Shoestring rounds up some of her top ideas to make Mother's Day extra special, such as this recipe for frozen yogurt from FiveMarigolds.com. Inside
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SHOUT OUT

Jim Szczepaniak, voice of Dist. 219

Jim Szczepaniak joined District 219 in 2006 and serves as Director of Community Relations and Strategic Partnerships for the district.

Q: What are some of the highlights of your job?
A: I get to work with the best teachers and support staff in Chicagoland and inform our families and taxpayers about how our schools help our students succeed academically and learn how to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: South Chicago until sixth grade, then Munster, Ind.

Q: How long have you lived or worked in Skokie?
A: I've worked in Skokie for 18 years. I live in Morton Grove, which is also a wonderful community.

Q: Pets?
A: Ruia, a bearded collie, known as the shaggy dog.

Q: What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?
A: Just finished "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Next up is "Just Mercy: A

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: An interesting and interested adult.

Q: A movie you'd recommend?
A: "Holiday" with Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant from 1938.

Q: Favorite charity?
A: I have two: The Education Foundation Serving the Students of Niles Township, formerly called the District 219 Education Foundation, and the Skokie Community Fund.

Q: Words of wisdom?
A: From Ruby Bridges: "Racism is a grown-up disease, and we must stop using our children to spread it."

Q: What song best sums up Skokie for you?
A: "Love Train" by the O'Jays.

Q: Favorite Skokie restaurant?
A: Village Inn and Libertad.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?
A: I do a mean polka.

Jim Szczepaniak

Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson.

Q: First job?
A: Correspondent for The Daily Calumet newspaper on the southeast side.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: An interesting and interested adult.

Q: A movie you'd recommend?
A: "Holiday" with Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant from 1938.

Q: Favorite charity?
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A: I do a mean polka.

Pioneer Press staff

Shout Out is a weekly feature where we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.
McDonald's workers, teachers rally
Suburban groups participate in separate May Day events

By Brian L. Cox
Pioneer Press

Paydays tend to be depressing for McDonald's restaurant worker Keijoun Johnson. The 20-year-old earns $10 an hour, which he said is not nearly enough to cover his monthly bills.

Johnson was one of more than two dozen fast food workers who turned out for a rally at Fountain Square in downtown Evanston on May 1 to call for a $15 an hour minimum wage and union rights for workers.

"I'm here to fight for what I believe in, and I believe we deserve $15 an hour and union rights," Johnson said. "It would make a big difference. I'd be able to afford things. I have to work double time just to struggle."

May 1 is well known in the labor movement around the world as "May Day," a time to celebrate hard won worker rights and to rally union organizers.

Chicago has a rich history in the labor movement, and May Day rallies were scheduled for various venues across the Chicago area on May 1, said Jes Scheinpfug director of communications with Open Communities, which helped organize the Evanston rally.

She said Open Communities advocates for the creation of affordable housing and "inclusive communities" in north suburban Chicago and also said the organization supports things like a livable wage because it is fundamental to creating diverse communities.

"We recognize these things are all inter-related," Scheinpfug said. "Of course, people can't find affordable housing if they're only making $8.25 an hour."

In Skokie, the same day, the North Suburban Teachers Union held its own May Day Rally in Oakton Park to celebrate working families and the progress of union and immigrant rights, said Steve Grossman, a Niles West High School teacher and president of the North Suburban Teachers Union.

"Teachers unions and other public employees are under attack," Grossman said. "We see ourselves as part of that long tradition of workers trying to improve their communities in this country," said Pankaj Sharma a Niles North High School teacher who recently won a Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence.

"There is a movement in this country to attack public education, or public sector unions or teachers unions," he said. "I think public education has been a huge force for democracy and social mobility in our country, as have unions."

Dozens of people braved the cold and drizzle as U.S. Rep., Jan Schakowsky, D-9th; the president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the president of the Chicago Teachers Union; and representatives with the Illinois Education Association, AFIRE Chicago, ARISE and UNITE-HERE took turns addressing the crowd.

"This is the winning coalition," Schakowsky said. "This is what it takes. We are all here. This is what it means to fight back. We are going to win this fight."

Schakowsky, a one-time teacher and labor organizer, also took square aim at Gov. Bruce Rauner, who, she said, "has a pathological obsession toward union busting."

"What he's about to get his way is hostage taking, she said. "The people who need the state government the most. who are so proud when Illinois steps up and takes care of our elders and helps to take care of our children."

"These are hard-working people that need the support, and people who have retired and want to retire with dignity," she said. "People will die from the kind of cuts, maybe some have already, that he is doing. It is shameful."

Paula Varragan, 54, works at a McDonald's in Skokie and said she considers herself to be one of the millions of working poor people across the country with a full-time job still struggling to make ends meet. She said she had worked at McDonald's for 12 years, that she spends much of her eight-hour work day on her feet and that she now makes $10 an hour. Other McDonald's workers said they are not permitted to have water because they were told by their bosses that that would mean they would have to take more bathroom breaks.

"There are injustices there," Varragan said. "We have absolutely no benefits, no vacation. I can't go to the doctor or I lose a day. I can't even go to church on Sundays."

Many of the "working poor" across the country are immigrants, and Schakowsky said immigration reform and the fight for workers rights are connected.

"Immigration reform has the stamp of inevitability about it," she said. "We will get comprehensive immigration reform," she added.

Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Niles CEO flies employees to Blackhawks Game 7

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

When sales employees Jim Brown and Brian Stapleton showed up for work April 25 at AFN Logistics in Niles, never in their wildest dreams would they suspect that in just a few hours they'd be jet-setting to Game 7 of the Blackhawks-Blues playoff series in St. Louis.

That afternoon, as Chicago prepared for the do-or-die first round of the 2016 Stanley Cup Playoffs, Brown and Stapleton, along with 13 other lucky Hawks fans who work at the transportation logistics company — joined their boss, CEO Ryan Daube, for a first-class trip to St. Louis.

Stapleton, 36, was just leaving the lunchroom when Daube approached him and asked him if he wanted to go to the game, he said.

"I just said 'of course I'd like to go,' but then I went into shock when I realized what else was entailed," Stapleton said.

The group of employees, selected for the trip based on a combination of their sales performance and their exceptional love of the Hawks, boarded a bus after work that took them to a private charter plane waiting in Milwaukee to take them on the 45-minute flight to St. Louis.

Cans of Coors Light were passed around as the sales team got settled in and began celebrating the unexpected surprise.

"It was interesting to me that all of us work in different parts of the company and wouldn't normally hang out after work together, but we were suddenly like a group of crazy kids on their way to a hockey game," Brown, 38, said.

Daube was at home watching game six of the Hawks game April 23 when he decided to surprise a group of his hardest-working employees with the trip to the game, he said. On a whim, he sent out an email to 25 employees who were known Hawks fans around the office, asking them to name their favorite Hawks players (aside from star players Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews). He also asked them to rank their hockey fandom from 1-10.

Instead of asking his executive-level counterparts to join him on the trip, Daube said he went straight to some of his longtime employees — people who are "real workhorses," said Nick Fryer, director of marketing for AFN Logistics.

"This wasn't the executive team jetting off, so it had little to do with title and tenure, but more to do with how our company culture operates and rewarding the attitudes of our employees," Fryer said.

The 200-employee company, housed in a building on the 7200 block of Crawford Avenue, has staged outings to Cubs and Bulls games in the past, but Daube described the trip to game seven of the Hawks-Blues series as the "pinnacle" of all outings.

Daube spent all day April 24 putting his plan into motion, booking the jet through a former employee who now brokers private flights and ordering a bunch of tickets to the game on StubHub.

"I walked around the sales floor Monday and asked people if they wanted to go to the game without actually going into the semantics of how we'd be getting there," Daube said. "I told them we were taking a bus to the (Chicago Executive Airport in Wheeling), and then suddenly we were on a plane and walking into the stadium — it was unbelievable!"

Despite the Hawks' heart-wrenching loss, the employees said it was an experience they would never forget, especially since the Hawks had returned from a 3-1 deficit to make it to game seven.

"We all wanted a win, but after getting over the loss, we all were looking forward to getting back on the jet and flying home together, and that's something I'll always remember," Stapleton said.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Skokie stands together against racism

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The demonstration was for less than a half-hour - 25 minutes to be exact - but participants in Skokie's second Stand Against Racism say it was enough time to send an important message.

"We know that this is not going to eliminate racism," said Eileen Hogan Heineman, a Skokie resident and the Racial Justice Program co-director of YWCA Evanston/North Shore. "But what it does do is lets us see that we're not trying to do this alone."

The national YWCA bills Stand Against Racism as "a signature campaign...to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities."

While YWCA Evanston/North Shore has been participating for years, Skokie literally stood beside its neighboring city for the first time in 2015. The coordinated demonstration was an outgrowth of YWCA Evanston/North Shore and the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center's sponsorship of last year's museum exhibition, Race: Are We So Different?

Heineman said that even though the exhibition is long gone, the partnership between Skokie and Evanston carries on.

"This is a way to get communities to say we know racism exists and we're going to address it," she said. "We're going to stand outside and say we're standing against racism."

Hundreds who live or work in Skokie lined various streets during the morning of April 29, holding signs and waving to drivers who honked. (Evanston's event was that afternoon).

"Racism exists," said Mark Collins, a Niles Township trustee who stood outside Skokie Village Hall.

"Being black, I always thought it existed. I was taught, not by my parents but by society, that it existed."

Collins said this event was about connecting with people - about becoming a community that shares a single message.

Sheila Meyer came to Oakton Street for the second consecutive year to stand against racism.

"It doesn't seem right to me that people should be identified by the color of their skin and treated differently," she said. "There's a whole lot of that going on and I feel it's getting worse instead of better."

Skokie Village Clerk Pramod Shah said the village's extraordinary diversity makes an event like this even more special.

"It's so important that we stand against racism, all over and in the village of Skokie," he said. "We're so diverse, and with things that are happening around us, we need to raise awareness."

"Part of my passion is to do no harm when I'm out and about and secondly, to make better connections with the people around me and try to understand them," added Frances Roehm who stood against racism April 29 for the second consecutive year.

Jerry Clarito of the Skokie Park Board said it was even more important to be here this year because of "the national political rhetoric that is happening."

There are some 100 languages spoken in Skokie households," he said. "But at the same time, racism is still happening. That doesn't mean just because we are diverse, we have to be complacent about it."

miisaacs@pioneerlocal.com Twitter @SKReview_Mike
Metra asks crews, public to help prevent suicide

By Mary Wisniewski
Chicago Tribune

Metra has had a suicide, a possible suicide and a probable suicide attempt on its tracks in a little more than a week's time — a significant bump in the rate of incidents compared to last year, when there were 10 suicides.

Given the number of recent incidents, and a national study showing an increase in the suicide rate, the rail agency is asking its workers and the public to be aware of erratic behavior or other signs of self-destructive tendencies near the tracks.

"The trend has been going up, so we want to take every opportunity to inform people, make sure everyone's aware of it," Metra CEO Don Orseno said.

A 19-year-old man killed himself by walking in front of a Metra train April 12 in Hanover Park, and a Calumet Park man was injured April 20 in an apparent suicide attempt. In the second incident, engineer noticed the man lying between the tracks as the train approached.

Another pedestrian was killed April 13 in Downers Grove in an incident the engineer believes was a suicide, though the coroner is still investigating.

Nationally, the suicide rate went up 24 percent from 1999 through 2014, according to a National Center for Health Statistics report this month.

The number of suicides reported on Metra property this year was not immediately available. In 2014 there were 15, and in 2013 there were 12, according to Metra.

About nine months ago, Metra started providing a four-hour training course, given by mental health professionals, to help engineers, conductors, managers and station agents identify people in distress or suicidal.

A Downers Grove police car blocks the train tracks after a person was hit by a Metra train in Downers Grove April 13.

"If you see someone's doing something odd, hanging around after multiple trains have gone by, you can at least pose the question," said Orseno, who cited spring and fall as the seasons with the most Metra suicides. "You might be wrong but at least pose the question and try to intervene."

The program has already had a success story — Metra foreman Robert Tellin noticed a man in late January hunched down on the tracks in Elgin and warned him the train was coming. The man responded "I know — I want to get hit," said Hilary Konczal, chief safety and environmental officer for Metra.

Tellin grabbed the man and pulled him to safety.

Konczal said Metra is the only rail agency he knows of in the U.S. that has suicide prevention training.

The best known Metra suicide was the May 2010 death of former Metra CEO Phil Paganini, who was being investigated for financial misconduct.

Rail employees also suffer as a result of any kind of fatality on the tracks, and an employee assistance program offers help. There was no such program when Orseno was working as an engineer and a man walking his dog accidentally walked in front of a train. Orseno remembered it was Nov. 27, 1980, which was Thanksgiving and his birthday.

"It affects you a lot," Orseno said April 27 after Metra's monthly meeting. "You wonder why was the person there? Why did they make that decision?"

The public is asked to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 if a friend or family member may be considering suicide.

In other Metra business, the rail service reached agreements with Cook County agencies that Metra believes will create efficiencies for its police department.

One agreement will allow tickets for offenses such as theft and trespassing issued by Metra police in Cook County to be adjudicated by the Cook County Department of Administrative Hearings. This will save Metra officers from a cumbersome booking process and having to be present for multiple court dates, which can consume up to 400 overtime hours annually.

Metra also entered a five-year contract to pay the Cook County Sheriff to provide 24-hour dispatching services for 911 calls, instead of Metra police operating its own dispatch center.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were taken from local police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

BATTERY
- Denise Gatz, 58, of the 8200 block of Wisner Street, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on April 24. She was given a May 12 court date.

- Omar Lopez-Tirado, 21, of the 9500 block of Terrace Place, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with battery following an alleged fight in a parking lot in the 9400 block of Hamlin Avenue on the night of April 24. A 22-year-old man told police that he was drinking alcohol with Lopez-Tirado, whom he identified as a friend, when the two began to argue. According to police, the victim said Lopez-Tirado punched him in the face a few times and knocked him to the ground before kicking him in the face and abdomen. Police said the victim was “covered in blood and had major swelling and cuts on his face.” He also reportedly sustained a broken nose. Lopez-Tirado was given a May 10 court date.

RETAIL THEFT
- Michael Brembry, 66, of the 7800 block of South Coles, Chicago, was charged with felony retail theft after police said he stole two sets of bed sheets and two knife sets, valued at $329.96, from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given a May 6 court date.

- Arvies Perez, 36, of the 500 block of Piper Lane, Prospect Heights, was charged with felony retail theft on April 26 after police said he stole $738.64 worth of merchandise from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. He was given a May 13 court date.

- Tashaundra Johnson, 44, of the 900 block of Wellington, Chicago, was charged with felony retail theft after she allegedly stole $348 worth of perfume from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center on April 27. She was given a May 20 court date.

DUI
- Karen Mitchell, 50, of the 7700 block of Davis, Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence on April 24 following a traffic stop in the 6900 block of Oakton Street; police said. She was given an April 24 court date.

- Argenis Hernandez-Cruz, 32, of the 8800 block of Root Street, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence on April 24 after police said his car was involved in an accident in a parking lot in the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue around 2 a.m. He was given a June 13 court date.

HARASSMENT
- A 49-year-old Niles woman told police on April 27 that she has been receiving “inappropriate and sexual-theme pictures or cartoons” sent to her cellphone for the past year.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
- A 73-year-old woman told police that she discovered the side of her car scratched on the afternoon of April 22 after she exited a store in the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue. According to police, the woman had earlier accused another driver of taking her space in the parking lot and that he responded by calling her “an old lady.”

Question?
Email metromix@metromix.com

Niles celebrates free bus modernization project

The village of Niles celebrated the opening day of the Niles Free Bus modernization at Golf Mill Shopping Center on May 2 at the bus stop near the food court entrance of the mall.

The improvements include faster service in Niles, a simpler route structure, and better timed trips for school and place of employment, said Hayley Garard, a spokeswoman for the village. Bus service will operate every day of the week on all routes, she said.

“The collaborative effort between Pace and the village, and two years of community outreach have finally brought us here,” Mayor Andrew Przybylo said in a news release. “I am overjoyed with the result of this project, and I expect increased ridership that should benefit our business community.”

Representatives from Pace and the village attended the event to show off the buses.

—Staff report

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D64 rejects elementary lunch proposal

Board votes against bringing in company to provide hot lunches at primary schools

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A proposal to start a district-run hot lunch program at all Park Ridge elementary schools received a lukewarm response from the District 64 Board of Education.

Board members on April 25 voted 6-1 against an administrative recommendation that the district institute a hot lunch program at all five K-5 schools. Board member Bob Johnson cast the only vote in favor.

Under the most current proposal, District 64 had planned to spend $900,000 in startup costs in order to bring in an outside food service company to serve meals four days per week. The fifth day would be reserved for a pizza fundraiser organized by each school's parent-teacher organization or association, according to a FAQ sheet on District 64's website.

The company administrators had selected to prepare the food was Arbor Management, which already provides lunches at the district's two middle schools, Superintendent Laurie Heinz said.

Based on food sales at these schools and an anticipated 50 percent student participation rate, the district could see an annual surplus of about $690,000 if each elementary school student is charged $3.75 per meal, a memo to the school board from Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad said.

Heinz told the board that, according to a March survey of parents, 65 percent of just over 1,000 respondents said they would like a district-run hot lunch program offered three to four days per week.

"We are doing this as a service to parents," she said of the proposal.

Board members expressed opposition, citing the cost of the program, the need for more school staff to coordinate it and the potential for food waste.

"I just haven't been convinced this is the right time to do this," said board member Scott Zimmerman, explaining that there are capital projects and other initiatives the district is tackling. He added that he would rather see the administration and teaching staff "focus on other objectives," like "studying all-day kindergarten or something along those lines."

Board President Anthony Borrelli said that while he thought district-led hot lunch is a "great idea," his primary concern was cost. Many of the survey responses, he said, indicated that parents favored a hot lunch program for the convenience of it.

"That's an awful lot of money that we're putting out for convenience factors," Borrelli said.

Board member Bob Johnson said he saw district-provided lunches as beneficial.

"It could result in better nutrition than what they're bringing to school today," he said.

Currently, parent-teacher organizations or associations at each elementary school conduct their own hot lunch days, which take place once or twice each week, Heinz said.

Bridgeport Area, co-president of the Washington School PTO, said the programs are paid for by parents through the cost of meals, and parent volunteers help serve the food.

Craig Rutherford of Kids Healthy Kitchen said he supplies food to Roosevelt, Washington and Franklin schools twice each week and to Field School once a week.

District 64 officials threatened that changes in state health regulations could affect this voluntary meal program during the next school year. The FAQ sheet put out by the district in April said that beginning July 1, the Illinois Department of Public Health will "require a certified food handler to be present when food is being served. The elementary PTO/PTAs do not have the consistent volunteers available to satisfy this requirement to the satisfaction of the city of Park Ridge Health Department."

The change in health guidelines was cited by the district as a reason why a district-run hot lunch program at the elementary school level had been proposed.

Messages left with Park Ridge's health inspectors, Laura Dee and Tim Schwarz, were not returned last week.

In an email to school principals and PTO/PTA presidents following the school board's vote, Heinz wrote that during the 2016-17 school year, "the expectations will be that each school will design its own program to meet the particular desires of your local parent community as they align to the realities of the health code."

Arena and Chandra Kearney, co-presidents of the Roosevelt School PTO, had both urged the school board to approve the district program during the April 25 meeting and expressed unhappiness with the vote.

"I think we'll get backlash from many parents," Kearney said, explaining that many wanted the district to offer a hot lunch program.

"It's disappointing because you had three principals who stood up and said they want the program, and then (the board) says 'no,'" Arena said.

Arena was referring to Brett Balduf, principal of Carpenter School, Kevin Dwyer, of Roosevelt School, and Katie Kelly of Field School, all of whom expressed support for daily hot lunches.

"If this is what the families want, I want to do it," Kelly said.

The board also heard from two speakers who expressed their concerns about a lunch program.

Michelle Fiore-Cwiertniak, a teacher at Field School, said there was not enough support at each individual school to justify the expense.

"I just don't think there's a need for it at this time," she said.

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Twitter @jenn_Pioneer
'Zumbathon' raises an estimated $1,000 for nonprofit

Event benefitted group founded by D219 grad

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

More than 60 people attended a May 1 "Zumbathon" to benefit Child Restoration Outreach Support Organization (CROSO) in the main gym of Niles North High School in Skokie.

An estimated $1,000 was raised to assist CROSO, a nonprofit founded in 2007 by Molly MacCready, who was raised in Skokie and is a 2004 Niles West High School graduate.

"It's exciting to see what dedicated time can lead to," said MacCready who serves as CROSO executive director.

CROSO builds awareness and college scholarship funds to assist children in Uganda. MacCready started CROSO as a University of Dayton senior at age 21. This was the second Niles North High School Zumbathon for CROSO, she said.

"It's so fun and you can dance and it counts as exercise, right?" MacCready said, with a smile.

CROSO began by supporting one student and now has 14 graduates and 15 scholars, MacCready said. CROSO has grown with support in Skokie, Morton Grove, Evanston and Chicago, she added.

"It's a huge step for them toward a future they (kids in Uganda) didn't imagine," MacCready said.

Six zumba instructors volunteered their time Sunday afternoon including Sharon Aguilera from Fitness Formula Clubs (FFC).

Aguilera started the afternoon off with the song by Prince & The Revolution, "Let's Go Crazy." Air guitar playing was included in the dance moves.

"It's exciting," Aguilera said, before the zumba started, "It's for a good cause and it brings people together."

No dance experience was necessary and all were welcome. Stories about Ugandan CROSO scholars were shared. Raffles and refreshments were included. The entrance donation was $30 and $8 for District 219 students.

CROSO's motto is, "Ensuring a brighter future for Ugandan street kids through higher education."

Visit www.CROSO.org for more information.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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**PBS airs Reich’s ‘Prisoner of Her Past’**

**BY MIKE ISAACS**  
Pioneer Press

It was a telephone call that would change the life of Howard Reich and lead him on a quest to find answers to questions that he never knew to ask.

But when Reich - the award-winning jazz critic of the Chicago Tribune - first received it, there was only immediate concern. His mother, Sonia, had been found on the streets of Skokie, determined not to return home because she thought someone was trying to kill her.

A Holocaust survivor, Sonia Reich suffered from late-onset post-traumatic stress disorder, her son soon learned.

Reich recently told an audience inside the Skokie Theatre about the front-page Tribune article, the book and the movie documentary that followed that transformative call. The latter, "Prisoner of Her Past" airs at 10 p.m. May 5 over channel II, the sixth consecutive year PBS is presenting the documentary on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

When Reich's Tribune article originally ran Nov. 30, 2003, he said he could hardly have imagined its far-reaching resonance.

"Thirteen years later, I'm still telling this story around the world really," Reich said.

His parents never talked to him much about it. Through his research, Reich learned that many Holocaust survivors did not share their experiences with their children, he said.

"I think that's understandable," he said. "They often would say that they didn't want to relive it. They didn't want to place the burden of this story on their children. And then they'd say there are no words to describe what happened anyway."

Reich went on a long journey aiming to do that - understand and describe what happened. His quest to discover his mother's harrowing childhood led him to different locations including Eastern Europe and to meeting with relatives and other survivors.

**Keeping past away**

Throughout his journey and ever since, Reich said, Sonia Reich has remained steadfast in trying to keep the past locked away - not only from those she loves but even from herself. Doctors in the film talk about her coping mechanism.

During Reich's upbringing in Skokie, the film recounts, his mother would sleep with an ax nearby, she would sometimes sit on the floor, looking out the window to keep "guard duty," the family only took baths, never showers.

Reich said he always knew his parents and others in the family were Holocaust survivors, but never fully what prompted his mother's behavior. Sonia Reich grew up in Dubno, Poland, now part of the Ukraine. In 1939, her childhood changed forever when the Russians took over her town and then her house, Reich said.

In 1941, the Nazis invaded and began executing the Jewish population by machine gun, he said. Jews who survived, including Reich's mother, were herded into a ghetto, many of them eventually killed there. Between April and June, 1942, Reich said, his mother somehow managed to escape. She was 10, maybe 11.

"She spent the next three years from 1942 through 1945 as a child alone on the run," Reich said.

Before the war, 12,000 Jews lived in Dubno, almost half the population, according to Reich. After the war, fewer than 100 people survived the mass executions there.

This history left buried scars and trauma, according to doctors interviewed in the film. Sonia's case isn't a matter of dementia, they say, but a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"To my mother, it was my fault that she was in that situation," Reich says in the film after she moves to a care center. "She did not understand the situation. I did not understand the situation. And the doctors did not understand the situation."

As a journalist, Reich is seen covering Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He has the epiphany that survivors there were left with the same kind of post-traumatic stress that plagues his mother.

**Skokie Theatre program**

Reich's recent reflections about his mother's story and the life it has taken on were made in April during a regular monthly program at the Skokie Theatre - Conversations with Ed Tracy, the former president and program host of "Pritzker Military Library Presents" and "Medal of Honor with Ed Tracy." He chooses a different guest to talk to - someone who inspires and educates, he said.

It's been six years since Reich made 'Prisoner of Her Past,' longer since his book and original article were first published. Reich said his mother continues to soldier on. She just turned 85, living at a nursing home in the suburbs.

"She's incredible," Reich said. "She's very much like she is in the film - feisty, still funny, still wickedly hilarious, still trapped in the mix of the present and the past, still perceptive, still fighting."

He added "delusional" to that description, but then pulled it back.

"I decided I don't even like calling them delusions anymore because they really did happen," he said. "She's fighting what happened before, and in her own heroic way, keeping up that fight."

**Chicagoland Holocaust memorial ceremony set for 71st year**

**BY MIKE ISAACS**  
Pioneer Press

The first Chicagoland Holocaust memorial observance for the millions who perished in the Holocaust came decades ago - right on the heels of the Nazi genocide itself.

Since 1945, the year World War II ended, the event has drawn many from all over the Chicago area to its solemn ceremony. Sheerit HaPleitah of Metropolitan Chicago, the sponsor of the observance for many years, is an umbrella organization of the area's Holocaust survivor groups.

The Chicagoland's 71st annual Holocaust observance is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 8 at the Skokie Valley Agudah Jacob Synagogue, 8925 East Prairie Road, Skokie. The ceremony, which is also sponsored by the Jewish United Fund, is always scheduled around Holocaust Remembrance Day, which begins this year the night of May 4 and ends the night of May 5.

Nazi concentration camps were liberated 71 years ago, noted Charles Lipshitz, president of Sheerit HaPleitah of Metropolitan Chicago, in his release announcing this year's ceremony.

"We face a world of hatred and injustice against the Jewish people," he said. "Europe, especially, claims it also suffered under Nazism in World War II, yet there still are nearly daily attacks there against Jews and Jewish institutions."

Sheerit HaPleitah of Metropolitan Chicago says the annual event is the largest Holocaust memorial ceremony in the Midwest and one of the largest in the country. Children and grandchildren of local Holocaust survivors are expected to participate, the organization said.

Last year's ceremony was attended by Gov. Bruce Rauner and many dignitaries throughout the state. In addition to speeches, including one by Rauner, the ceremony was highlighted by the lighting of six candles to remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Survivors, descendants and their families were named as they slowly made their way to the large chandelabra at the front, lighting the candles in silence.

Sheerit HaPleitah of Metropolitan Chicago was formed in the mid-1970s when the Zionist organization of Chicago announced that it would no longer sponsor the annual memorial Yom HaShoah commemoration, according to the group.

Lipshitz was also one of the leaders who helped erect a permanent Holocaust memorial monument in September between Skokie Village Hall and the Skokie Public Library in 1987 in Skokie. The group considers the successful planning of the stat-

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Maine South fundraiser nets $32K for Cure SMA

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The final assembly of the year at Maine South High School ended with good news from the recent all-school fundraiser. As red, black and silver confetti fell from the ceiling, students revealed a large check declaring that the fundraiser for Cure SMA had brought in $32,016 - a new record.

"Thirty-two thousand dollars is an incredible number, but I'm telling you, we can beat it next year," Principal Shawn Messmer told the student body.

This is the third year that students and the Park Ridge community helped contribute to a special cause. Last year's all-school fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital netted $27,906, and the 2014 fundraiser for Wright-Way animal rescue brought in a little more than $19,400.

"We had a lot of support from the community this year," said junior Katelyn Kahn, one of the student organizers.

Assistant Principal David Berendt said there were at least 20 fundraising activities this year, each held by a different school club. Many activities were new this year, said junior Kamryn McKenzie, a lead organizer. They included a color run, home run derby, Super Mario Brothers video game competition and a "walk and stroll," in which students stopped at 10 different activity stations set up inside the school, she said.

"Everyone in school came together," added Nick Leongas, a junior. "It wasn't just one section of people. It was freshmen and up. It was sports, fine arts - everyone was involved in this."

Cure SMA is based in Elk Grove Village. According to the organization's website, it funds research and provides support to families affected by spinal muscular atrophy, a disease that affects motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and can affect walking, eating and even breathing.

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Committee backs Dave's Italian Kitchen owner for loan on new location

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

A city committee recommended in favor April 27 of a loan going to the owner of the former Dave's Italian Kitchen to launch a new restaurant on Noyes Street. With some committee members adding some personal testimonies, members of the city's Economic Development Committee gave backing on a $30,000 loan to Dave Glatt, the owner of Dave's Italian Kitchen, for purchase of equipment for a new restaurant, to be called Dave's IK (Italian Kitchen), at 815 Noyes Street.

Council members are expected to discuss the proposal at their Monday, May 9 meeting.

City officials reached out to Glatt after his restaurant abruptly closed on April 10 following what Glatt described in his loan application as "getting caught in a negative cycle of debt" at his former 1639 Chicago Avenue location, and then playing catch up on penalties and interest "which set me further behind."

The closing prompted hundreds of expressions of disappointment from former patrons of Glatt's restaurants over the years.

City officials, including Paul Zalmezak, senior economic development coordinator for the city, and Ald. Judy Fiske, in whose 1st Ward the Noyes site is located, contacted Glatt to see if the city could retain the popular business.

"I thought I was done with the restaurant business, or more appropriately, that the restaurant business was done with me," Glatt told the committee.

Zalmezak told committee members that Harry Major, a landlord in the Noyes Street area as well as a customer at Glatt's former restaurant, "immediately recognized the potential" of a possible deal and negotiated terms with Glatt for a 1,200 square-foot space formerly occupied by DMK Burger and Fish and Arlen's Chicken.

He said Glatt has raised $100,000 toward the space's buildout and that the $30,000 would go toward gap financing, enabling Glatt to buy kitchen equipment. Staff is recommending a five-year loan term at a rate of 6 percent, he said.

The city is stepping up with the realization that "in a perfect situation banks hate lending money to restaurants, and this is not a perfect situation," he said.

"This is a situation where we have a man who has run a business for 40 years and has proven himself," Zalmezak told committee members. "Character is one of the considerations when you are considering a loan."

A number of EDC members spoke in support, recalling enjoyable experiences at Dave's Italian Kitchen, during its 40-year plus history downtown at four different locations.

Fiske spoke of the unique atmosphere in a restaurant where you would see people, "newborns up to 100-year-olds, and everyone having a wonderful time."

She also spoke of the affordable meals — perhaps too affordable, she conceded, remembering spending two hours at Dave's with a $13 pizza and a bottle of wine.

That might have worked for her "but wasn't doing a lot for Dave," she said, suggesting he might profit from more take-out at the smaller Noyes site.

In the Noyes Street neighborhood, "we have been working very hard trying to attract businesses," she said.

She indicated it's also been a challenge finding an alternative to the fast food restaurants which might come in, that "tend to have a dozen parked delivery vehicles," tying up the street.

"I think it's a perfect location for Dave, if it's something he feels comfortable with," said Fiske.

She said the findings of staff in their due diligence should also be taken into account when the issue arrives at the City Council.

Without those figures, though, Matt Rodgers, a liaison from the city's Zoning Board of Appeals on the committee, said he had to withhold support, and voted no to the proposal.

"As someone who managed restaurants for five years and worked for the National Restaurant Association, I know how volatile restaurants can be," he said.

"There are a lot of carrying costs in a restaurant when you get started and I hate to see us cobble together every last dime to get the doors open and then (find) in six months it's not a success because there hasn't been a plan put forth for the long term health of the restaurant."

But Glatt responded that he has provided significant dollars to see the restaurant through that initial stage.

He also noted landlord Harry Major giving him free rent for the first three months as an important plus in getting the new restaurant off the ground.
Evanston to honor Indigenous Peoples’ Day in fall

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston is joining a number of other cities, teaming with the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the city’s celebration calendar later this year.

The city and museum, which is based in Evanston at 3001 Central St., announced April 27 in a news release that they are joining other cities, universities and cultural institutions to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day, to be celebrated Oct. 10.

“Evanston was once home to tribes including the Ho-Chunk, Ottawa, Miami and Potawatomi, and continues to be home for indigenous peoples with over 40,000 Native Americans currently living in the Chicago metropolitan area, representing over 150 different tribes,” museum officials said in the announcement. “By adopting Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Evanston embraces its history and the multicultural community it has become today.”

Indigenous Peoples’ Day began in Berkeley, California in 1992, the museum noted in its release, and a number of major cities have adopted the name too, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Lawrence, Kansas and a number more.

In Evanston, the idea of the switch came about after a conversation between Kathleen McDonald, the museum’s executive director, and Tisdahl in October of last year. McDonald had dropped by the Lorraine H. Civic Center, where Tisdahl has her office, to pick up a proclamation the mayor issues annually in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

“I think it’s really marvelous,” McDonald said. “You never know what people are willing to do until you ask.”

The museum will be open and offering free admission all day in honor of the holiday Oct. 10, officials said. Plans call for a discussion panel in the afternoon and benefit concert that night featuring Native musicians, including Scatter Their Own, the museum said in its announcement.

McDonald said the museum hopes to get ideas for the celebration May 10 when Mitchell is scheduled to host a discussion from noon to 1 p.m.

To sign up for the event, which is free of charge, call 847-475-1030 by May 6, or email services@mitchellmuseum.org.

The museum is also planning a teachers’ forum later this summer so educators can learn more about Indigenous Peoples’ Day and related activities and programming, officials said.

MITCHELL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

A Woodlands canoe sits inside the main gallery of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. Officials at the museum, at 3001 Central St., in Evanston, announced with the city plans to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration at the museum later this year.

"The leadership at the Mitchell Museum suggested we use the term Indigenous Peoples’ Day," Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl said in the announcement. "I believe it is the right thing to do and thank them for their work on the issue."

“Evanston was once home to tribes including the Ho-Chunk, Ottawa, Miami and Potawatomi, and official said. Plans call for a discussion panel in the afternoon and benefit concert that night featuring Native musicians, including Scatter Their Own, the museum said in its announcement.

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She said Tisdahl embraced the switch as something Evanston should do as a community.

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BOT Spot Robotics draws 'techie' crowd

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Upper right is Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo, who, along with the Dadivas family of Niles, attended an April 23 ribbon-cutting at BOT Spot Robotics at 7752 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles. Joe Dadivas, owner, opened BOT Spot Robotics last year, and April 23 was a recognition of that launch.

1994 Notre Dame College Prep graduate who grew up in Niles.

"I went from being a video game technician to joining the Navy as a sonar technician, and then after that," he said, "I was in the technology world."

Dadivas has his MBA degree from the University of Phoenix Houston Campus.

"Engineering is our future," said Diane Dadivas, Joe's wife, a registered dietitian.

"Everything is run by computers and robots."

Kim Xanos of Chicago brings her son Alexander, 11, to classes at BOT Spot Robotics.

"My son is on the autism spectrum, and Joe has opened up his eyes to the world through robotics," Xanos said.

"When he (Alexander) comes here, it's like he doesn't have a disability... He fits in and it's amazing."

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo, who attended the ribbon-cutting, said he is a supporter of STEM educational principles.

"I think the world of it," he said of STEM. "I think it's a good idea."

"What Joe is doing," Przybylo added, "is, he's grabbing them at 8, 9 and 10 years old when their minds are fertile ground."

BOT, Dadivas said, is an acronym for "build on today, better our tomorrow."

Karrie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Mean tweets ugly byproduct of digital anonymity

There's a new video making the rounds on the Internet of regular guys reading insulting and degrading Twitter messages sent to two women sportswriters.

The 2-minute video is powerful as the men struggle to follow the instructions to read the messages to the women. Some look away. Some pause when they realize what they are reading. A look of shock and surprise comes across some of the faces of the men. They struggle to read the words.

They struggle not only because the words are mean and vile - words rarely spoken in public - but also because the sentiment behind the words is mean, threatening, bullying and harassing.

Few people would ever say such things in public to another person's face.

That's the lesson of the video.

It's a lesson newspaper people knew for the longest time, but then forgot with the advent of the Internet and the bewildering search to find ways to monetize the news shows have a slogan: If you're mother says she loves you, check it out.

No one would say such things to my face. The telephone gave me the telephone gave me the telephone gave these people just enough anonymity to say these things. But they often had enough humanity to end the conversation with "Have a nice day.

So I am not shocked that idiots, Neanderthals and bullies say awful things to women sportswriters. And I know the web gives them enough anonymity to be even more vulgar.

They do it because we invited the World Wide Web mob into the newswroom to say what it wants, and the mob never ever does anything good, kind or worthwhile.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Keep your triglycerides to yourself, please

I don't know why daytime news shows have a cooking segment. The news person is always horrified if the recipe calls for butter or cream.

They wind up talking about calories and heart disease instead of food.

And it's not just TV.

At a dinner I attended, the food spread before me was aromatic and I was hungry.

The hostess announced that the main course was cholesterol-free and offered us a choice of diet margarine or butter. "For those who can afford the cholesterol."

"Butter," one of the diners volunteered, "my cholesterol count is 185."

Later in the meal, another diner turned down delicious homemade apple pie because her "triglycerides are too high."

I applauded that people want to take care of their health. But do they have to inflict that information on me? Do they have to make me feel guilty because I prefer sweet butter to that yellow, carbon-based substance going under the name of diet margarine?

You can hardly take a bite these days without someone warning about calories, cholesterol and triglycerides (whatever those are).

Doubtless, my triglycerides could use improvement. But, that's my private business. I don't tell people about my triglycerides. And I would appreciate it if they didn't tell me about theirs.

Even the best of dinners tastes like charcoal if you are worried the next mouthful might be your last.

It's only a matter of time before people start warning about other "harmful" hitherto pleasures. "You're going for a walk?"

"Yes. Why?"

"Oh, nothing. But six out of every 254 people who go for a walk get hit by a bus."

Don't scoff. In our self-absorbed quest for immortality it could happen.

All I ask is that you keep your fear to yourself. I have access to the same information about what is harmful as you have. If I choose to act on it, I will.

But let's talk about something else. OK?

Or, let's just do the civilized thing and eat in silence while we watch TV.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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OPINION

'Starting Breath Becomes Air' offers profound message

SALLY HIGGINSON

Sometimes, while I'm reading, a sentence interrupts the gentle internal rhythms of absorbing what's on the page and hits me with the unexpected force of truth, or insight, or brillianc.

In an era of infinite reading material, these tiny epiphanies jump from the page, or the screen, like fireflies. They offer fleeting moments of illumination, available when I'm lucky enough, or patient enough, to discover the delight of the spark.

Reading Paul Kalanithi's memoir, "When Breath Becomes Air," doesn't feel like literature lit by the occasional firefly. It is luminous, like holding a jar filled with sunlight, and almost as unsettling.

It is small volume, and like poetry, dense with meaning. Unlike poetry, what Kalanithi writes is accessible. Some of it is remarkable. He is a son, he is a husband, he is a father. Some of it is tragic. As his professional training nears completion, he learns of his terminal cancer.

It took me longer than it should have to finish reading this book. Over and over again I had to put it down on my chest, on the floor, somewhere closed and close, so that I could stop and think about what I'd just read. The force of the subject mingled with the context.

Here was a neurosurgeon continually confronting the physical complications of this mortal life. And here was a young man grappling with what gives meaning to his own existence. Kalanithi describes peeling back the physical layers of life, the tissue and muscle and fiber, and then he gives voice to peeling back the layers of his interior life, revealing the intellectual and existential and spiritual.

You can't speed read that stuff. And you cannot ignore the reality of his death. His cancer became his clock, ticking off the years we all think we're promised, and forcing his typing fingers to defy his weakening body. His spirit and introspection fly off the page, and it's inspiring and heartbreaking to witness both through his prose.

Two passages have crystallized in my mind. In one, Kalanithi explains his need to write.

"I felt that to understand my own direct experiences, I would have to translate them back into language," he writes. "Hemingway described his process in similar terms: acquiring rich experiences, then retreating to cogitate and write about them. I needed words to go forward."

Writing was not a process. Writing was how he processed.

And then there is the final message, written to his infant daughter, Cady. I will not spoil it for those who have not yet discovered it. But it is simple, and profound and impossible to read through the blurring of tears. Like all truths it is universal, but too often overlooked because we are so busy living.

I do not believe Kalanithi needed a dire prognosis to give his life meaning. Yet through his work dying, he breathed life into the universal body of literature.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Nicole Radziszewski

When I was a kid, my local newspaper held a contest one year for Mother's Day. The directions were to write an essay explaining why your mom was the best. I was sure no one could beat my mom, so I crafted my perfect pitch, detailing how my mom "drove us everywhere," "made my favorite broccoli casserole" and "let me have friends over after school." I was so disappointed when my mom didn't win.

Now that I'm a mom, I'm thinking back to that day when my mom's cheesy broccoli lost to some other cupcake-baking prodigy. And I'm still a little peeved. Because really - how does a newspaper have the right to decide whose mom is the best?

I'm a good mom. You're a good mom. I bet your kids think you're the best mom. And personally, I think we all deserve our own newspaper article. I created this customizable Mother's Day essay so your kids can sing your praises in print. Have your child (ren) answer the following questions, drop their answers into the essay below and hang your winning story on the fridge.

1. Your name:
2. Your mom's favorite thing to do before she had you:
3. Yuckiest part of taking care of babies:
4. Something your mom did for you when you were a baby:
5. Something you got mad about recently:
6. Three nice things your mom does for you:
7. Your mom's favorite thing to drink:
8. Smartest person you know:
9. Prettiest person you know:
10. Really cool thing your mom knows how to do:
11. A present your mom would like:

Fortunately, I grew out of that baby stage, but things didn't get much easier for my mom. You should know that she can put up with some pretty crazy stuff - like when I recently threw a tantrum because (5) and she somehow kept her cool. Even when I'm out of sorts, I know she loves me because she still does so many nice things for me, like (6).

If you could see how much (7) my mom drinks, you would know how tough her job is. Besides being a super hard worker, my mom is also smart, beautiful and talented. She is smarter than (8) prettier than (9) and even knows how to (10).

If you can give her any prize for this essay contest, I'm pretty sure she would be happy with more sleep and also (11).

Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist. She lives in River Forest and is a certified personal trainer and mother of two.

Check Nicole out on Facebook at facebook.com/mamasgottamove.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Skokie musician Eddy Clearwater headed to Blues Hall of Fame

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Pioneer Press

Considering that he's been playing in Chicago since 1950, you might say the Blues Foundation is a tad overdue in its May 4 induction of Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater into Memphis' Blues Hall of Fame.

But the man himself, a longtime Skokie resident (with his wife and manager Renee Greenman Clearwater) and a recent recipient of the village's award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, couldn't be more pleased, honored and semi-delirious.

We caught up with the 81-year-old singer/songwriter/guitarist (who recorded his 17th album, "Soul Funky" in January at SPACE in Evanston), for a few questions about famous mentors, his trademark headdress and the difference between playing notes and playing feelings.

Q: You've probably been asked this question a thousand times, but maybe in this context it's okay to ask it again. How long have you been playing guitar?
A: When I was a kid in Mississippi, my brother and I would stretch a wire on a wall with nails and slip a brick under the bottom to tighten it and make it sound like a guitar string. But the first guitar I ever owned was a Silvertone parlor guitar. I bought it from Sears when I came to Chicago.

My uncle also owned an acoustic guitar and I used to see him playing it. So I'd try it, just out of curiosity. At first, I'd sneak into his bedroom whenever he put it down, but then he said, 'Go ahead, play it!' That was my first opportunity to pick up a guitar and really try to play.

Q: How old were you?
A: About 10 or 11.

Q: You're left-handed, correct? So, you had to learn left-handed and upside down.
A: Exactly. At that time, there was no guitar for left-handers.

Q: Your family moved to Birmingham in 1948 when you were 13 — is that when you had the chance to play with some famous gospel groups?
A: When we were in Birmingham, my uncle knew groups like the Five Blind Boys of Alabama and the Soul Stirrers and they needed guitar players to back 'em up when they'd come to town. He knew I could play, so when they asked him if I could help, I said yes, absolutely! I was glad to play just to play. I never realized they'd become as famous as they are now, you know!

Q: Why did you decide to move to Chicago in 1950?
A: My uncle always knew that I wanted to pursue music in my life. So, when he moved to Chicago and met all the people like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf and all the blues people there, he wrote me a letter. He said, 'If you really want to pursue music as a career, you need to come to Chicago because there are people here doing music full time.' So I said, 'Send me a ticket and I'll come!' And I did. On the Greyhound bus for 18 bucks.

Q: What was music something you really loved to do?
A: I've felt that my whole life. I used to work in the cotton fields when I was a little boy. And I'd hear my uncle sing blues songs and I'd be thinking, 'What does that song really mean?' "The Catfish Blues" and things like that. Then I heard Louis Jordan at an early, early age and he really convinced me that music was something special. And I'd listen to John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins until I just got taken over by the music.

Q: How did you feel about Chicago in 1950?
A: It was kind of scary, honestly. The biggest place I'd ever seen was Birmingham and there was no comparison. I can tell you that. It was kind of scary, but I was determined to be here.

Q: You started getting into the blues more in Chicago? As your uncle introduced you to people like Magic Sam and Otis Rush?
A: Exactly. Soon after I got there, Magic Sam put out a record called "All Your Love" that was on the radio. Then I found out he lived real close to where I lived and I got to know him. And we got to be very best friends.

Q: What was it that appealed to you about playing the blues?
A: The feeling of it You see, the blues is about feelings and truth. And I always felt, since I was a kid, even before I could pick up a guitar, that I could feel something within it. That it was more than just good strings and the songs were more than just words and lyrics. That it all had a meaning.

Q: You became well known for adding a rock 'n' roll element to blues. I know you were influenced by Chuck Berry.
A: Well, see, I basically think blues and rock 'n' roll are the same thing — the same music. It's just that blues is sometimes a little bit slower and rock 'n' roll is sometimes a little faster.

That's what Chuck Berry did. He took blues feelings and blues guitar chords and turned it into rock 'n' roll by keeping the tempo. Same thing for Little Richard. They used the same blues chord changes, but they speeded it up and named it rock 'n' roll.

Q: When did you start performing as The Chief?
A: It was just an idea I had. I was playing in a club in Westmont, Ill. And the bartender, a lady named Pat Sweet, invited myself and my band to a house party after the club closed. So, we all went over to her house and I saw an Indian headdress hanging on the wall. And I thought, 'That's a beautiful piece!' And she explained that it had belonged to her deceased husband. I said, 'I'd sure like to have that to wear on stage.' But it had sentimental value for her.

I mentioned it from time to time, though, and one night she said, 'I'd sure like to have that to wear on stage.' And I'll give it to you as a good luck charm. Providing you never part with it! We shook hands on it that night and I started wearing it onstage — and I still wear it today. In fact, every time a tour Europe, they always put it in my contract that I have to wear the headdress. That's how well-known it's become.

Q: Is it true that your grandmother was part Cherokee?
A: Yes, that's true, but it's just a coincidence. The headdress is just a concept, that's all.

Q: Let's talk about the Blues Hall of Fame. How did you feel when you learned you'd been chosen, along with Jimmy Johnson, Elvin Bishop, John Mayall and the Memphis Jug Band?
A: I was so surprised, but also very, very pleased. It's like having a dream that's happening to someone else and then you find out it's you it's happening to. It's wonderful. I guess I'm still having some trouble realizing it's not a dream.

Q: Had you ever been considered before?
A: I was considered twice and passed over twice.

Q: Why do you think it's happened this time?
A: I'm not the authority, but I guess they thought it was time I got the recognition. I've dedicated my life to the music, after all. I'm the same person I've always been, but I appreciate the honor. It feels good, like winning the lottery. So I guess I'll take it. (Laughs.) After that, I'm going to just keep on keepin' on and doing my best because I have some more songs I want to record and I want to continue to be productive.

Blues legend Eddy Clearwater will be inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame May 4 at the Halloran Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis. For more information, go to www.blues.org.
Get ready for the ultimate game of thrones! This action-packed, music-filled theatrical event follows the rise and fall of Shakespeare's kings, and the uncommon courage of common men.

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HENRY VI PART I

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WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
adapted and directed by
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What's the No. 1 rule of etiquette to help avoid discord? Never discuss religion or politics. With that in mind, it's safe to say that playwright Scott Carter is an etiquette felon. But audiences who see Northlight Theatre's production of Carter's "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord," might well thank Carter for his disregard of the rules.

Making its Midwest debut, "Discord," on stage May 6 to June 12, is a politics-and-religion-infused smackdown between Thomas Jefferson, Leo Tolstoy and Charles Dickens. All three men have penned a version of the Gospels, and their interpretation of Jesus' teachings make for a ferocious debate during the 85-minute drama.

"Each man had a completely different take on the Bible," says Carter. "Jefferson had that steely intellectualism — took out all the miracles and the magic, focused solely on reason and action as prompted by Jesus' teachings. Dickens is about morality and emotion, just like in his novels." And the anarchist Tolstoy? "His is all about the mystery and the things we cannot know," says Carter.

"Discord" tackles life's three big conundrums: Why are we here? What should we be doing while we're here? What happens to us when we're not here anymore? Spoiler alert: There are no definitive answers. But it's not just abstract existential queries the power trio delve.

"They discuss their lives as well," Director Kimberly Senior says. "And they all find times when what they maintained they believed didn't match with the way they actually behaved."

Take Dickens, for example. His novels were scathing condemnations of selfishness, cruelty and the unspeakable abuses heaped on children damned to England's workhouses. Through books such as "A Christmas Carol," "Oliver Twist" and "The Old Curiosity Shop," Dickens preached a gospel of compassion, family loyalty and generosity.

"When Dickens separated from his wife, he also forbade his own children from contacting him," points out Jeff Parker, who plays the writer. "His personal life was at odds with the compassion he showed in his writing."

Carter started wrestling with the way he was living his own life 29 years ago, when an asthma attack reduced his lung capacity to 11 percent, very nearly killing him.

"The big questions — how do you live, what do you believe, what kind of person do you want to be — they're easy to postpone when we're young and healthy and think you know everything and we have forever. Not so much when you're staring death in the face," he says. "I made a compact with the universe. Let me live and I will start listening. Before the attack, I would have stopped cold anyone who tried to talk to me about God or religion or Jesus or the afterlife. My promise was I'd no longer do that. I'd keep an open mind and agree to the possibility of learning."
Local kids cast in Lyric Opera’s ‘The King and I’

Production runs through May 22

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Pioneer Press

When English governess Anna Leonowens arrived in Siam in 1862, she met the numerous wives and children — some accounts say there were 83 children — of King Mongkut in Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1951 musical "The King and I." Lyric Opera of Chicago's production does not have nearly that many children, but it does have a selection of 14 ensemble members ages 5 to 14 and two leads, Crown Prince Chulalongkorn and Anna's son Louis, who comes with his mother when she is employed to teach the King's children and wives.

Charlie Babbo, 11, of Oak Park, is cast as Louis and in the story Anna's son and the Prince find themselves caught in the culture clash between English ways and Siamese traditions.

"Anna and the King are fighting," explained Babbo, who is making his Lyric debut. "Louis and the Prince want to side with their parents. But then we decide that fighting is stupid and we should be open to new ideas and embrace the future. The Prince takes something of English culture and Louis carries something of Siam back with him to England."

Matthew Uzarraga, 13, is making his Lyric debut as Prince Chulalongkorn, a role that he played in Marriott Theater's production of "The King and I" in 2014.

"Prince Chulalongkorn knows his father is on his deathbed, but he's not ready to take over," Uzarraga said. "But we are trying to modernize our country and Prince will continue that."

Lyric Opera of Chicago presents 'The King and I'

When: Through May 22
Where: Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago
Tickets: 312-827-5600; www.lyricopera.org/king

His younger brother Zachary Uzarraga is a member of the children's ensemble and was on the Lyric stage last fall, when he was cast in "Wozzeck." He appeared in the same Marriott Theatre production of "The King and I" as his brother.

Alexis Aponte, 14, of Lincolnwood is another veteran of the Marriott production. "A lot of us who had been together at Marriott fell in love with the show," she said. "So we decided we wanted to audition for it here at Lyric. I am playing the part of the oldest princess."

The eighth-grader has a considerable amount of theatrical experience, playing Ngana in "South Pacific" at Light Opera Works and taking roles in numerous productions with the Wilmette Children's Theater and Skokie's Devonshire Theater. "I'll be going to Niles West High School next fall," she said with obvious excitement, "and they have nine theater productions a year. I'm looking forward to that."

Sisters Lucy Martens, 7, and Liliana Martens, 6, both students at St. Vincent Ferrer School in River Forest, are making their professional debut as ensemble members in Lyric's "The King and I."

When asked whether they were making new friends during the rehearsals, Lucy thought a minute and replied, "I have made 11 new friends."

In auditions, Lyric saw about 45 children, who were selected from a larger number of applicants.

"The ensemble members also had some time to stand around together mingling and talking," said Adrienne Bader, the Young Performer Supervisor for "The King and I." "We observed them. We wanted to create a group who could handle pressure well, children who could be calm and focused when they need to be."
Decluttering your mind

'Let go of the need to be right' and 9 other ways to give your brain a spring cleaning. Page 10
Culinary student finds Italian family ties help with studies

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

The future looks delicious for Naperville resident Joseph Cuzzone. He earned an associates degree in culinary arts at College of DuPage and will soon complete his bachelor's degree in nutrition at Benedictine University.

"I love everything about food and nutrition," said Cuzzone, 22.

He comes from a family filled with bountiful cooks.

"My grandma Rose cooked for all of us. She had a kitchen in the basement and upstairs. She made tons of things but my favorite was this dish that had like a dense pie crust and was filled with layers of egg and pepperoni and a lattice top. It was sort of like quiche and really good."

As his family name implies, Cuzzone is Italian.

"My uncle Nick cooks our meal every Easter and we have braciola, meatballs, sausage, ham, lamb - so much food." With such an interest in Italian cuisine, when the opportunity to study in Italy was offered to him through College of DuPage, Cuzzone eagerly signed up. The classes were at the International Academy of Italian Cuisine in Lucca, Italy.

"Every day, we had breakfast of cheeses, fruits and yogurt," he said. Then the group fixed one meal and went out to eat for one meal each day. Chef Gianluca Pardini, who spoke fluent English, led the classes. The meals were very memorable.

"The most unusual meal was wild boar. Our tour driver was a hunter so he got us a wild boar to have for dinner. It tasted a lot like pulled pork," said Cuzzone. One of his favorite meals was pasta coated with a creamy zucchini sauce. "The sauce looks like a cream sauce but it doesn't have cream in it. It is really healthy and so good."

One of the ingredients in the sauce is roasted garlic, which Cuzzone makes himself. After peeling the garlic cloves, he places them in an oven safe pan and covers them with olive oil. He then bakes the cloves and olive oil at 375 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes until the garlic is golden brown.

"You can take out the garlic and use it and save the garlic-flavored oil to use later. Or you can leave the garlic in the oil and refrigerate until you are ready to use it."

The roasted garlic is so soft that it easily blends into the zucchini sauce.

Cuzzone also enjoys making meatballs.

"I like to use a mix of meats," he said. "I add pork to make them tender, veal for a little sweetness and ground beef for density."

He also adds either bread crumbs, or leftover bread if he has some. "When I use leftover bread, I soak it in the milk until it is soft so that it blends better."

Cuzzone prefers to bake his meatballs because he says it is a healthier method than frying them in oil.

"I always make a little test patty out of the meat before I bake the meatballs. I fry it up and taste it. Then I correct the seasonings for the rest of the meatballs if I need to." The meatballs can be paired with spaghetti and sauce or used to make a meatball submarine sandwich. "I just put a few meatballs on a sub roll, put on some red sauce and then sprinkle on grated mozzarella or fresh mozzarella. Bake it at 400 degrees or broil it at 375 degrees until the cheese melts."

Cuzzone's plans for the future are not definite, but he would like to eventually have his own food truck.

"I would like to offer a fresh spin on a Cuban sandwich and some Italian specialties," he said. He is engaged and is hoping to have food trucks do the catering at their 2017 wedding. He shares the recipe for the zucchini sauce for pasta that he enjoyed in Italy and his well-tested recipe for meatballs for others to try.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.
Mother’s Day: Fan favs celebrate Mom

In honor of Mother’s Day, we’ve asked readers, bloggers and social media friends to share their favorite gift ideas.

**Paper flower bouquet**

Julie Gordon fell in love with the Bloomatini flower bouquets when she first discovered them last year. Since then, Gordon, who is the founder of www.InspiringKitchen.com, made the paper flower bouquets one of her go-to special occasions gifts.

“Bloomatini bouquets are my favorite Mother’s Day gift,” Gordon said. “They’re colorful, unique and last forever, plus they are perfect for moms who love flowers but suffer from allergies.” For information and to order your unique bouquet, see bloomatini.com.

**Homemade cookie dough frozen yogurt**

Frozen yogurt for breakfast? Why not, especially if it’s made with love the night before. Lifestyle blogger Rochelle Mangold, founder of FiveMarigolds.com, devised this recipe with her young, entrepreneurial son who dreams one day of opening an ice cream store with his mom. In the meantime, mothers everywhere can enjoy this recipe that rivals Ben and Jerry flavors.

You need:
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (softened)
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons vanilla or almond extract
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cups mini-chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup crushed crunchy chocolate chip cookies
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt

**Directions:**
Combine butter and sugars with a mixer. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda and salt. Add chocolate chips and crushed cookies. Gently fold the flour mixture into the sugar mixture until well combined and then thoroughly mix in the yogurt. Freeze overnight in a sealed container.

**Biscuit and gravy casserole**

This recipe comes courtesy of Carrie Steinweg, founder of ChicagoFoodieSisters.com.

As a busy mother of five young boys, Steinweg is always looking for wholesome and delicious recipes that can satisfy a large group. This hearty breakfast casserole is a favorite of Steinweg because it’s the ultimate in comfort food and simple enough for families to make together.

“Little ones can cut the biscuit dough with a plastic butter knife, whisk eggs and sprinkle cheese while older kids and dad brown the sausage and prepare the gravy,” said Steinweg. “Mom can sit back and watch the preparations or better yet, she can stay in bed and wait to be served.”

You need:
- 1 package white gravy mix
- 1 pound pork sausage
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- Salt
- Pepper
- 8 ounce, refrigerated tube package of biscuits

**Directions:**
Place sausage in a frying pan and set on the stove to brown. While sausage is browning, cut unbaked biscuits into 1-inch pieces and line the bottom of a greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Drain any grease from sausage and scatter sausage over the biscuits. Sprinkle with cheese. Whisk eggs and milk with a pinch of salt and pepper and then pour over cheese.

Make the gravy mix per instructions on package and pour over casserole. Bake 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees.

**Personalized photo candle**

Combine two classic gifts, candles and picture frames, with this easy and inexpensive craft idea. Maria Ramos, founder of ASavingsWOW.com loves making and giving this charming gift that is a constant reminder that mom is loved. For more details on this craft as well as step-by-step video instructions, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3ZwHx1UGeE.

Happy Mother’s Day!

**Got advice?**

I’m working on a Father’s Day article and am looking for readers to share advice from dad. Care to tell me the best advice your dad ever gave you? Email me at BethEngelman2@icloud.com and it might be included in next month’s column.
How to buy a puppy

What you need to know before bringing home a new furry friend

By Bill Daley
Tribune Newspapers

How to buy a puppy? Very carefully and with much forethought, the experts all agree. After all, you're considering the purchase of a living being, an animal that will need feeding, training, grooming, medical care and, perhaps most of all, love and attention from you and your family.

Be honest with yourself, the experts say, and really consider if you can do it. And, if yes, think hard on what kind of dog is best for you.

"You need to find a dog that fits your lifestyle," says Bruce Haas, co-owner of a Chicago dog boutique. "If you aren't an active person and you get an active dog, that's a problem. The dog needs to fit into your lifestyle. It's up to everyone to do research."

Research is key, agreed Gina DiNardo, vice president of the New York-based American Kennel Club.

"How much time and money do you have for grooming?" she asks. "How much time do you have for exercising the breed? Some dogs are more content being a couch potato. Others will go crazy if they are left in the house without stimulation and exercise."

Puppies can also be "a big drain on time," DiNardo added, and if you don't devote the necessary time for training and socializing, "your puppy may not grow up to be the best canine citizen."

If you decide to buy a purebred puppy or dog, DiNardo said, you need to look for a responsible breeder. A good breeder will want you to visit the property, meet the mother and puppies, and will be happy to educate you on the breed and help you find the right puppy, she said, noting that some breeders will even pick out the puppy they think has the best temperament for you. Expect, too, to be ready to answer many questions from a breeder looking to gauge your willingness and ability to provide for the dog. Such auditions, DiNardo noted, are a good sign.

"They will thoroughly vet you," she said. "They will ask as many questions as you do."

Animal rescue organizations, like PAWS Chicago, are also ready to help you find the right puppy or dog. (There are rescue groups for particular dog breeds, as well.) And they will likely ask questions similar to those posed by breeders to determine which animal is best for you.

"We recommend families visit a shelter," says Sarah McDonald, PAWS associate director of media and community relations. "They can find a variety of wonderful animals, all shapes and sizes and energy level."

Bring along any dogs you might have and tell the adoption counselors about any other pets; they can help you pinpoint a dog that will do better with such company.

If you choose a puppy, McDonald says, you should make sure you "puppy proof" your home to eliminate possible dangers (don't leave things out that might get chewed or broken, lock up poisons, watch electrical cords). Figure out who is going to walk the puppy; can you get home from work easily to do it, or can you afford a walker to do it for you.

PET OF THE WEEK

You don't hear much of a peep from me, I found a better way to get noticed and that's my smile. Grab a leash and let's go out exploring. I can walk pretty fast and I am always happy to meet other dogs when I am out and about and so far, I haven't met one I did not like. I enjoy the occasional brushing, much needed since I feature a beautiful long black coat. Need a reason to get out of the house and walk, then let me be it...and of course you will also get lots of loving, so what are you waiting for?

For additional information, please visit www.saveapetil.org.

chicagotribune.com/pets
Visit us daily for the latest pet and animal news from the suburbs, city and beyond, plus:

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
Dear Help Squad,

We need your help to get our kitchen ceiling fixed. We live in a town home community. Last summer, our building received a new roof, for which our special assessment was $3,600. During an ice storm in December, we suffered a major roof leak, causing serious damage to our kitchen ceiling. A wall-to-wall curtain of water poured onto our kitchen cabinets and floor. The old roof never leaked. Unfortunately, we depend on a management company to deal with the roofer since we do not have a direct relationship with the company.

The roofing company came on two occasions to repair the roof. The company's representative also twice promised to repair our kitchen ceiling, though not in writing. On March 7, he promised to have it done "in the next few weeks." On March 29, he claimed to have "mislaid" the paperwork but promised, again, a finish date "in the next few weeks." As of today, no repair or date for such. Can you help us?

Gerry, Tinley Park

As I was reaching out to an attorney with condo and town home expertise, I received this email from Gerry: "At this very moment, our ceiling is being repaired and repainted. I credit you with this, even if indirectly, since I sent another letter to our management company this past Monday and mentioned I was contacting you. We had a call from the roofer the very next morning. In an hour or so, our problem should be solved. Apparently no one wants to mess with the Help Squad!"

I still wanted clarification on how a town home owner could determine liability in a situation like this. I reached out to Chicago attorney Mark Rosenbaum of Fischel & Kahn, Ltd. He explained via email that liability is not black and white.

"Generally, the association is responsible to maintain all the common elements/areas. But — and this is an important "but" — the Declaration or Bylaws can change that general rule. (See more on these documents, below.) Sometimes that results in a unit owner being responsible for the maintenance of a specific part of the common elements/area. This is not controlled by statute. It is controlled by the association's documents.

"Further complicating things is insurance. An association is supposed to have casualty insurance to cover damages to the common elements/areas and liability insurance to cover damages done by the common elements/areas to other property. Each unit owner is almost always required by the association's documents to have insurance on the owner's own personal property. Sometimes an association's documents will state that even if a common element/area has failed and caused damage to an owner's personal property, if the owner's insurance insured the damaged item, then the owner releases all claims against the association for the damages."

So what are the governing documents to which a town home (or condo) owner can refer when the issue presents itself?

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
**ROUNDUP | SCIENCE FICTION**

**Children of Earth and Sky**
*By Guy Gavriel Kay, New American Library, 448 pages, $27*

Depending on one's perspective, Guy Gavriel Kay's distinguished career — he was named to the Order of Canada a couple of years ago — is built upon either his unique approach to historical fiction (by turning real nations into fictional ones and introducing fantasy elements) or his unique approach to fantasy (by assiduously researching the historical settings and figures that underlie his narratives). "Children of Earth and Sky" takes us to a version of 16th-century Europe threatened by a powerful Suleiman-like khalif and to cities that are recognizable analogues of Venice, Prague and Dubrovnik, but as with all of Kay's novels, the lush historical tapestry serves principally as background for compelling, sympathetic characters whose stories gradually weave together in ingenious ways.

Among those characters are a brilliant young woman archer drafted since childhood to serve with a band of mostly reasonable pirates, an artist whose hazardous assignment to paint the khalif could either make his reputation or end his life, a disgraced wife given a chance to escape her father's cruel exile by serving as a spy, and a soldier in the khalif's army, also drafted as a child, whose own integrity is very nearly his undoing. Needless to say, as the novel generously opens out into years and then decades, none of these characters end up anywhere near where they started, and as they come to interact with one another and a wealth of convincing secondary characters (including one important ghost), we begin to appreciate Kay's real genius at unveiling history as a large tapestry of individual ambitions, betrayals, loyalties and simple efforts to negotiate survival in a radically unstable world.

**Central Station**
*By Lavie Tidhar, Tachyon, 252 pages, $15.95*

One of the more encouraging developments of the last decade or two is the growing recognition that science fiction is a global literature, and that the future isn't simply what L.A. or London might look like in a few decades or centuries. Lavie Tidhar, who was raised in an Israeli kibbutz and has lived in places as exotic as Vanuatu, has for several years been writing sharply insightful stories set around the Central Station district of Tel Aviv, which in his future has become a massive, bustling spaceport and home to a stew of colorful figures and subcultures. By weaving and reshaping these tales into a sort of novel, he has created a textured and original future that echoes real historical and economic tensions while satisfying veteran readers with deliberate echoes of classic science fiction.

In the world of Central Station, nearly everyone is connected to the web (or Conversation) by an internal node, though a few holdouts still prefer ancient forms of information like books. Hallucinatory drugs remain a survival in a radically unstable world. Among those characters are a brilliant young woman archer drafted since childhood to serve with a band of mostly reasonable pirates, an artist whose hazardous assignment to paint the khalif could either make his reputation or end his life, a disgraced wife given a chance to escape her father's cruel exile by serving as a spy, and a soldier in the khalif's army, also drafted as a child, whose own integrity is very nearly his undoing. Needless to say, as the novel generously opens out into years and then decades, none of these characters end up anywhere near where they started, and as they come to interact with one another and a wealth of convincing secondary characters (including one important ghost), we begin to appreciate Kay's real genius at unveiling history as a large tapestry of individual ambitions, betrayals, loyalties and simple efforts to negotiate survival in a radically unstable world.

**CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS**

1. "A Man Called Ove: A Novel" by Fredrik Backman
   *(Washington Square, $16)*

2. "The Nest" by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
   *(Ecco, $26.99)*

3. "The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel" by Nina George
   *(Broadway, $16)*

4. "The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son On Life, Love, and Loss" by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt
   *(Harper, $27.99)*

5. "Miller's Valley: A Novel" by Anna Quindlen
   *(Random House, $28)*

*Participating bookstores: Barbara's Bookstores (Chicago), The Book Cellar (Chicago), Seminary Co-op Bookstore and 57th Street Books (Chicago), Anderson's Bookshop (Naperville), The Book Stall at Chestnut Court (Winnetka), Women & Children First Bookstore (Chicago), The Book Table (Oak Park), The Bookstore (Glen Ellyn), The Book Bin (Northbrook), Lake Forest Book Store (Lake Forest).*

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**NEW IN PAPERBACK**

**Operation Neptune: The D-Day Landings and the Allied Invasion of Europe**
*By Craig L. Symonds, Oxford University, 422 pages, $16.95*

Craig Symonds documents the invasion of Normandy, when Allied troops invaded German-occupied France and changed the course of World War II. Symonds brings to light details about D-Day from the minds who orchestrated it — Roosevelt, Churchill, Marshall and Eisenhower — to the young officers who supported the invasion at the cost of their lives.

**Born on a Tuesday: A Novel**
*By El Nathan John, Grove, 264 pages, $16*

"Born on a Tuesday: A Novel" is set in rural Nigeria in a community crippled by religious and political conflicts. After his best friend dies in the midst of a riot sparked by a political election, teen Dantala takes refuge in a mosque, becoming the shiek's favorite apprentice. When clashing parties create more turmoil in the city, Dantala struggles to take sides while remaining true to his religious beliefs.

**The Gilded Life of Matilda Duplaine: A Novel**
*By Alex Brunkhorst, Mira, 336 pages, $15.99*

When a famous film producer dies, journalist Thomas Cleary is sent to interview the man's enigmatic daughter, Matilda Duplaine. Thomas is dazzled not only by the Hollywood-ian luxurious mansions and private jets, but also by Matilda herself, whom he quickly falls for. As their secret love affair evolves, he discovers that this privileged life is enveloped in a web of secrets.

**The Incarnations: A Novel**
*By Susan Barker, Touchstone, 371 pages, $16*

Taxi driver Wang is trying to make his way through the bustling streets of Beijing, where preparations for hosting the 2008 Olympics are in full swing, when a letter unexpectedly drops into his lap. More follow, all filled with stories of Wang's previous lives — from being a fisherman during the mid 19th century Opium Wars to being a runaway slave from merciless Mongol emperor Genghis Khan. With each letter, Wang feels more out of touch with his ordinary life.

**How to Be a Husband**
*By Tim Dowling, Blue Rider, 274 pages, $16*

"How to Be a Husband" draws on Tim Dowling's two-decade-long marriage and its subsequent lessons. Dowling looks at what being a good husband entails in the 21st century and offers hilarious advice, including the clever use of "whatever" to dissolve a fight, sounding honest versus actually being honest, and the benefits of dissecting the marital issues of other couples.

— Andrea Ciulac
Calling Richard: With a hint at 109 Across

BY FRED PISCOP | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

Across
1. Well-constructed supply
6. Ford who financed Superman
11. Touch upon Saudi Arabia
15. Entertain guests neighbor
19. Keep entertained neighbor
20. Unrestricted "Mamma Mia!"
21. Bar garnish Bigbag
22. Reverberate Mondrian
23. Place to plug in a TV Stomp all over
25. Stomp all over Walkman
27. Skateboarder's gear Bar garnish
28. Walkman descendant Mondrian
30. Warhol works Turner
31. Just manage, with "our" Mondrian
32. Wants no part of Mondrian
34. Slow tempo Slow tempo
35. Cheney's successor Mondrian
40. Internet-era prefix Mondrian
43. Appear imminent Mondrian
44. Certain fruit farm Mondrian
47. Pampering initials Mondrian
50. Difficult duty Mondrian
52. Robust Mondrian
53. Smile broadly Mondrian
54. Splatter protector Mondrian
55. Possible pocket-knife attachment Mondrian
59. Shooting-range supply Mondrian
60. Law-office visitors Mondrian
62. Unfreeze Mondrian
63. Channel covering Mondrian
64. Melancholy covering Mondrian
65. Mr. Potato Head part Mondrian
66. "For want of . . ." Mondrian
68. Loft group Mondrian
70. Prefix for scope Mondrian

Down
1. Set straight Mondrian
2.翳 Big bag Mondrian
3. Auto maintenance task Mondrian
4. Many a Columbus discovery Mondrian
5. Get complicated Mondrian
6. Escape cleverly Mondrian
7. Points from pencils Mondrian
8. Costa del . . . Mondrian
9. Language suffix Mondrian
10. "Put that behind you" Mondrian
11. Some oratorio performers Mondrian
12. Feeder frequenter Mondrian
13. Actress Thurman Mondrian
14. Weather report stat Mondrian
15. Aide Mondrian
16. Vast quantity Mondrian
17. Terse Mondrian
18. Vast quantity Mondrian
19. Keep entertained Mondrian
20. Unrestricted Mondrian
21. Bar garnish Mondrian
22. Reverberate Mondrian
23. Place to plug in a TV Mondrian
25. Stomp all over Mondrian
27. Skateboarder's gear Mondrian
28. Walkman Mondrian
29. Look narrowly Mondrian
30. Set straight Mondrian
31. Just manage, with "our" Mondrian
32. Wants no part of Mondrian
34. Slow tempo Mondrian
35. Cheney's successor Mondrian
39. Noncom nickname Mondrian
40. Internet-era prefix Mondrian
43. Appear imminent Mondrian
44. Certain fruit farm Mondrian
47. Pampering initials Mondrian
50. Difficult duty Mondrian
52. Robust Mondrian
53. Smile broadly Mondrian
54. Splatter protector Mondrian
55. Possible pocket-knife attachment Mondrian
59. Shooting-range supply Mondrian
60. Law-office visitors Mondrian
62. Unfreeze Mondrian
63. Channel covering Mondrian
64. Melancholy covering Mondrian
65. Mr. Potato Head part Mondrian
66. "For want of . . ." Mondrian
68. Loft group Mondrian
70. Prefix for scope Mondrian

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island
Quote-Acrostic
1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker’s name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues | Words
--- | ---
A. Social group | 73 18 141 161 59
B. Tubular passage | 114 46 91 71 108
C. Complaints investigator | 74 111 97 8 120 54 62 150 116
D. Onerous | 7 76 46 105 152 125 81 61 135 123
E. Hate | 52 43 3 132 56 156
F. Vice | 87 149 34 36 64 130 98 96 16 47 103
G. Hindu loin cloth | 14 86 146 113 124
H. Plus or minus: 3 wds. | 27 144 15 5 159 94
I. Branch of biology | 102 145 118 160 65 50 20 33 89 138

J. Wealthy: 3 wds. | 28 22 12 154 119 36 133 90 104 79
K. Kid with pale-yellow hair, say | 125 106 44 80 40 55 10
L. European songbird | 107 45 96 158 157 1 60 72 37
M. Unbeliever’s doctrine | 115 63 129 49 95 17 75
N. The essence: hyph. | 68 137 78 143 42 56
O. Grow choppers | 69 84 126 147 2 39
P. Fair stall | 139 32 82 131 38
Q. Primb example | 127 51 66 100 23 83 140
R. Golfer Pepper | 41 70 85 142 110 30
S. Prevent | 121 19 4 112 93 153 134
T. Yale’s city: 2 wds. | 9 136 57 101 13 29 146 88
U. Momentous | 155 92 21 67 25 6 35 77

Across
1 Parliamship | 58
2 Talk extravagantly | 59
3 Part of a stuffing box | 60
4 Competent | 61
5 Concept | 62
6 Diamond parts | 63
7 In case | 64
8 Duelers’ starting position | 65
9 Fascinatingly foreign | 66
10 NZ parrots | 67
11 Arilaka | 68
12 Verbal | 69
13 Convent coreligionists | 70
14 Hand-rubbed | 71
15 Pope or lion | 72
16 Old-time chip maker | 73
17 Approaches | 74
18 Cranial cavity | 75
19 Psyche | 76
20 Run easily | 77
21 Organic compound | 78
22 Fails to maintain equilibrium | 79
23 Indian | 80
24 Charles Dickens’ alias | 81
25 Considers overnight | 82
26 Walks cautiously | 83
27 Quote-Acrostic | 84
28 Common abbreviation | 85
29 Cream or cubes | 86
30 Cut briskly with scissors | 87
31 Holland House | 88
32 Without evasion | 89
33 Departed | 90
34 Wind or mark | 91
35 Wooden horse locale | 92
36 Russia’s ... Mts. | 93
37 Wences | 94
38 Seasoning | 95
39 Roadside neon sign | 96

Down
1 Bundle | 19
2 Wild goat | 20
3 Too | 21
4 Bouts | 22
5 Upper-torso bone structures | 23
6 Woman’s name | 24
7 Peninsula | 25
8 Seizes | 26
9 Receives as income before expenses | 27
10 Scientific workshop, for short | 28
11 Did it on | 29
12 Pleasanter | 30
13 Sea walls | 31
14 Dog’s emotional barometer | 32
15 Teheran is its capital | 33
16 Jumps | 34
17 Work hard | 35
18 Auntie | 36
19 Main line of motion | 37
20 Transmitted | 38
21 Ties | 39
22 Do to do | 40
23 Us: Fr. | 41
24 ... no good | 42
25 Interviewed | 43
26 An IOU is a ... reminder | 44
27 In total agreement | 45
28 Crower | 46
29 Char | 47
30 Greek philosopher | 48
31 The ... medieval epidemic | 49
32 Spats: Scots | 50
33 Go ahead and see if | 51
34 Praline ingredient | 52
35 Weighs, as evidence | 53
36 Beside: prefix | 54
37 Girl’s name | 55
38 Strain at a | 56
39 Slippery ones | 57
40 Former name of Tokyo | 58
41 Toothed wheel | 59

Last week’s answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2016 Creators News Service.
The things Prince did for the women he loved

Although I was a huge Prince fan during the 1980s, he sort of dropped off my radar after his “Purple Rain” album and movie, with the exception of his bizarre name change - The Artist (Formerly Known As Prince) - and his Super Bowl performance in 2007, which I thought was amazing.

So when I heard about Prince's death, I was extremely curious to learn more about him. This led to my viewing of several Prince documentaries and reading countless articles online, where I learned a lot.

What I found particularly interesting about the seven-time Grammy-winning musician was his love life, particularly the things he did for the women he loved.

Remember Sheila E.'s megahit song, “The Glamorous Life”? Prince, with whom Sheila E. was romantic for a time, oversaw that album, acting as a mentor to the singer-songwriter. Sheila E. was also a drummer and vocalist in Prince's band and the two were briefly engaged.

Then there was Vanity, known for her hit “Nasty Girl.” The late singer, songwriter, actress and model, whose real name was Denise Matthews, met Prince at the American Music Awards. The two fell in love, and Prince helped launch her singing and acting career as the lead singer of “Vanity 6.” Prince also dated Madonna briefly and helped her produce her 1989 album, “Like a Prayer.” The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer helped Carmen Electra - born as Tara Leigh Patrick - launch her career.

There are a few more instances in which Prince mentored and helped make dreams come true for beautiful, talented women. These include both of his ex-wives - Mayte Garcia and Manuela Testolini, who credits Prince for encouraging her to start her own charitable organization.

What motivated Prince to help the women he loved achieve such personal success of their own? My theory is Prince obviously knew he had a strong influence in the music industry. He also undoubtedly had immense passion for his career.

Prince performs in his debut movie “Purple Rain,” the 1984 rock opera about a young man's search for artistic accomplishment and love.

So, I think he wanted to give the life he loved to the women he adored because he knew he had the power to do so and wanted to give them the happiness and success he was experiencing.

Unless Prince had this crazy, inflated ego and just wanted to show off his clout (which I don't see as the case), it seems to me like he was giving his girlfriends, fiancées and wives what he knew they wanted. Isn't there something to be said for that?

When it comes to love — I mean real, true love — both people in the relationship should want to give the other person anything they know will benefit him or her, and/or bring that person joy.

True love is about giving unconditionally. It's about self-interest not even entering your mind, but rather focusing on what can be done for the person you love. It's about the willingness to give him or her everything you have. I think Prince clearly relays that message in his 1984 hit "I Would Die 4 U."

Known so well for his explicit sexual lyrics in so many of his songs, I think the funk, R&B, rock and pop singer also wrote some exceptionally romantic ballads, including two of my favorites, “Take Me With U” from the “Purple Rain” soundtrack, and, of course, “Purple Rain,” where Prince belts out, “I never meant to cause you any sorrow” and “I only want to see you laughing in the purple rain.” Seems to me like Prince knew a thing or two about true love.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Danger from sun exposure is now widely recognized

DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF
Ask Doctor K

Dear Doctor K: You've said many times that the sun can harm our skin and increase the risk for skin cancer. How does it do that?

Dear Reader: As you age, the single biggest cause of damage to skin is sun exposure. This damage is called "photoaging." Over the years, sun exposure causes fine and coarse wrinkles, baggy skin with a yellow, leathery appearance, and dry, scaly skin. It also reduces collagen, a natural chemical that gives strength to tissues and that supports a network of blood vessels in the skin. As a result, the skin bruises more easily.

Finally and most significantly, sun exposure increases the risk for skin cancer. That includes melanoma—the very dangerous kind of skin cancer that can spread—and the less serious kinds of skin cancer that rarely spread.

Skin damage from sun exposure is caused by ultraviolet radiation. Three different wavelengths of UV light come from the sun. Not all the sun's rays have the same effects, though all can cause damage to the skin. Some wavelengths of UV radiation penetrate the skin more deeply than others.

The three main wavelengths of the sun's UV radiation:

- UVC, the shortest of the three, has the highest energy level and is the most damaging. Fortunately, most UVC rays don't reach the Earth's surface.
- UVB is the next shortest. UVB rays are lower in energy than UVC rays, so they're less damaging to skin. UVB rays make up around 5 percent of the ultraviolet radiation that reaches the Earth's surface.
- UVA is the longest wavelength and penetrates most deeply. UVA rays play a role in photoaging.

The people most vulnerable to getting melanoma are those who are fair-skinned (particularly pale skin, lots of freckles and red hair), and who have major sun exposure early in life. Most dangerous are repeated bad sunburns (five or more).

As a fair-skinned kid who spent a lot of time as a child on the beaches of Southern California, I had many sunburns. It was a time before we recognized the dangers of too much sun exposure. You might say we worshipped the sun. It was false idolatry. A dermatologist now checks me out every six months.

All types of cancer start in one cell. The genes in that cell cause the cell to start dividing uncontrollably: One cell becomes two, two become four, four become eight, and so on. Pretty soon, there's a cancer. This uncontrolled growth is driven by genes — genes that aren't built properly, or that are turned on and off at the wrong time.

This applies to all types of skin cancer, including melanoma. In some cases of melanoma (roughly 10 percent) a person inherits a gene that makes them more susceptible to skin cancer. For example, a gene that makes people more susceptible to skin cancer called "xeroderma pigmentosum" is inherited.

People who get too much sun can develop the dangerous kind of skin cancer called melanoma. That includes melanoma.
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Decluttering your mind

‘Let go of the need to be right’ and 9 other ways to give your brain a spring cleaning

By Jeannette Bessinger
The Washington Post

Spring is a natural time for clearing out old dirt and clutter. We do this for our houses and even for our bodies, but how often do we do it for our minds? In the same way you might cleanse your body of physical toxins and waste, you can also cleanse your mind of mental toxins like bitterness and unforgiveness. If left to fester, these poisons can destroy their containers, like acids of the mind. To replenish our energy and regain our balance, we have to stop feeding off of mental “anti-nutrients” like perfectionism and the need to always be right.

Spring is the perfect time to declutter our mental space. Not only will this restore us psychologically, but it can help restore us physically as well. The body is just downstream of the mind, so in clearing out and detoxifying your mind, your body will follow. These 10 tips are cleansing for everyone, but they are especially freeing for those of us stuck in chronic, unhealthy eating and self-care patterns. Some of them you can put into practice the second you decide to. Others involve more deeply embedded patterns that will take time and a sustained effort to clear, but you can begin today. Or, at least, consider the fresh point of view. Free your mind and free your life.

1. Mind your own business. One of my favorite spiritual teachers, Byron Katie, says that before stressing out about something, you should always ask yourself whose business it is: yours, mine or God’s. If it’s not your business, why are you in it?

2. Let go of the need to be right. Is it truly more important to you to be right about something than to preserve your relationships with others? Have you ever loved anyone more because they were right and you were wrong? Decide if you’d rather be right or be close to people.

3. Stop blaming, shaming and complaining. Every one of these toxic habits is about giving your core power to something outside of your control. Stop it. It can’t save you. It’s not the difficult person or situation that causes your distress. It’s the story you tell yourself about what it means that causes you pain. Take control of what you tell yourself about difficulties and challenges, and the circumstances of your life will no longer have the power to blow you around.

4. Stop trying to please and impress everybody. You won’t die if someone disapproves of something you say or do. Who are you? If you always try to measure up to others’ standards, you’ll never find out.

5. Clean up unfinished business. Pick an unpleasant task you’ve been putting off for a long time and just do it. Today. Author Eckhart Tolle says, “That which stands in the way IS the way.” You will feel 20 pounds lighter.

6. Forgive someone. Often we believe that forgiving someone will let them off the hook, so we hold on to our unforgiveness to punish them. But the truth is, when we forgive others, we free ourselves. Try it and see.

7. If you’re in the wrong, make it right. When we mess up, we can become so paralyzed by guilt or shame that we make excuses, lie about our part or run away from our responsibilities. Because the essential pain of not owning our wrongs is in our own hearts, there’s no real escape that way. Here’s what we told our kids when they were growing up: When you do something wrong, tell the truth. Apologize. Make it right if you can. Owning up means it won’t own you. Limiting beliefs about what we can or can’t do are like chalk lines we draw on the floor around ourselves. They don’t have a lot of substance, but we act like they’re brick walls we can’t cross. Just because you think you can never lose weight or hit some performance goal doesn’t make it true. Don’t believe everything you think.

8. Let go of perfectionism. This may be the single most toxic mental habit. If you let it, perfectionism will seep its poison into everything you do, and you will never be at peace. Nothing about life is perfect. If you believe you have to be, no matter how hard you try, you won’t ever feel at home in this life.


In the same way you might cleanse your body of physical toxins, you can also cleanse your mind of mental toxins like unforgiveness.

Jeannette Bessinger is a freelance writer.
Colonial-style house in Glenview: $2.5M

ADDRESS: 1727 Sunset Ridge Rd. in Glenview
ASKING PRICE: $2,500,000
Listed on April 8, 2016

Enter this stone home that sits on nearly 3/4 acre in East Glenview through the open family room accented by a double height fireplace, custom dark wood built-ins and access to the outdoor terrace. The kitchen has honed quartzite countertops and white cabinet and is anchored by a custom food and beverage built-in. A living room, office, living and dining room complete the first level. A hardwood staircase takes you to the second floor which features three similar sized ensuite bedrooms with walk-in closets, the laundry room and the master bedroom with spa bathroom and double walk-in closets. The lower level has a second family room with fireplace that leads to the theater room, exercise room, additional guest bedroom and full bathroom.

Agent: Erica Goldman of Jameson Sotheby’s International Realty, 773-682-0546

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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Talk to Chicago from your soapbox. If you want to blog, simply pick a topic you’re passionate about and send us your pitch. If chosen, you’ll join ChicagoNow, a network of hundreds of local bloggers. No worries if you’re a newbie – we’ll help you build and launch your platform. So get going, the Windy City is listening.

chicagonow.com/pitch
BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Your family can take steps to make the world a better place — and get a workout at the same time. The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is holding its first annual Race for Humanity 5K on May 15.

The race will begin and end outside the museum at 9603 Woods Drive in Skokie. Check in time is 7:30 a.m. and the race begins at 8 a.m. Walkers are welcome. Strollers are allowed at the 5K but no dogs or bicycles for safety reasons.

Kids ages 12 and under can participate in a 1K Fun Run, which starts at 8:15 a.m.

Grownups will appreciate the complimentary massages and stretches offered after the race. Post race, families will be entertained by Jodi Koplin's Jigglejam, a favorite of kids and parents.

General registration for the 5K is $35; $30 for members. The Kids 1K costs $18. All proceeds will support the work of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Preregistration is required.

For details, call 847-967-4821 or go to www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/5k.

Jodi Koplin's Jigglejam show follows the first annual Race for Humanity 5K on May 15 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

Language lesson

Kids don't need to be bilingual to enjoy the World Language Storytime: Spanish, 6-6:45 p.m. May 13 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. There will be stories and songs in Spanish, plus a little English. Kids will do a craft project and there will be snacks for all.

For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

Make a meal

...in the great outdoors at Campfire Cooking, 5:30-7:30 p.m. May 18 at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. Selections will range from gourmet to kid-friendly as you and your children try different cooking styles, using sticks, jars, Dutch ovens, hobo pies and more. The cost is $26 per family. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-692-3570 or go to www.prparks.org.

Something to sing about

Young children should particularly enjoy a Family Sing-Along with Skokie Preschool Teachers, 6:30-7:15 p.m. May 12 at Skokie Public Library, 5218 Oakton St. Everyone will learn new songs and rhymes at this drop-in event.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.

It's been good to know you

A party is planned to say, "So Long Friends: An Elephant and Piggie Farewell," 2-4 p.m. May 7 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. The event marks the unveiling of the last book in Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie series, "The Thank You Book." There will be stories, crafts, games and snacks.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

A party is planned to say, "So Long Friends: An Elephant and Piggie Farewell," 2-4 p.m. May 7 at Morton Grove Public Library; 6140 Lincoln Ave. The event marks the unveiling of the last book in Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie series, "The Thank You Book." There will be stories, crafts, games and snacks.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.
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UNICEF gala imagines a better world for kids

Event: The 9th annual UNICEF Hope “Imagine Gala”
Benefiting: Work of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), trying to ensure that no child will perish from a preventable disease and live safely and happily
Location: The Geraghty, Chicago
Date: April 9
Attended: 600
Raised: $960,000
Website: unicefusa.org


The Buzzhounds perform 9:30-11 p.m. May 6 at Moretti's, 6727 N. Olmsted Ave., Chicago, as part of the Off the Trax Music Fest, May 5-6 at four venues in Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood. Performances kick off 6 p.m. May 5 at Emerald Isle, 6686 N. Northwest Highway, Firewater Saloon, 6689 N. Oliphant Ave., Edison Park Inn, 6715 N. Olmsted Ave., as well as Moretti's. Tickets are available online or at the door. Complete Fest information at www.offthetraxmusicfest.com.

PATTI AND JAMES KELLY OF PARK RIDGE, COMMITTEE MEMBER AND MIDWEST BOARD MEMBER

Assessor Susan Moylan Krey, from left, Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, David Kuhlman, Hannah Kuhlman, Kimberly Ann Kuhlman, Nathan Kuhlman, Stephen Kuhlman, Trustee Laura Morask, Ann Solari-Twedell (Kimberly's Mother) and Trustee Peter Gialamas, were all on hand for the 166th Annual Town Meeting of Maine Township on April 12. Some 100 officials and guests watched as Kimberly Ann Kuhlman, a Park Ridge resident, received the Sgt. Karen Lader Good Citizen Award in recognition of her volunteer work in scouting at St. Paul of the Cross parish and on the Appearance Commission of Park Ridge. More information on Maine Township at www.mainetownship.com or 847-297-2510.

Share your event

We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit community.chicagotribune.com or email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.
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<td>207 Willow Dr, # 95, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Wilco F Boursaux</td>
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<td>Mark J Gerke &amp; Kipling G Solid</td>
<td>Michael Z Barramay</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$484,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>180 Brett Ct, # D, Wauconda</td>
<td>Adeline Molyn</td>
<td>Stacey M Nebel</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2610 Cattail Ct, # B, Wauconda</td>
<td>Hannah M Drake</td>
<td>Karthick Pabbarman</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$163,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>725 Blair Ln, Fox Lake</td>
<td>Rachel S Hufman &amp; Gladys I Huffman</td>
<td>Wayne Moran</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>511 Fox Ridge Dr, Fox Lake</td>
<td>Dorothy J Bensson</td>
<td>Victoria Nix</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>6739 N Center Dr, Grayslake</td>
<td>Alexander E Sabatka</td>
<td>Richard S Dierker</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3297 Atlantic Ave, Grayslake</td>
<td>Atlantic A Grieve</td>
<td>John Del Rio</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92 Sito Ct, Grayslake</td>
<td>Elise Sujic &amp; Elisa Sujic</td>
<td>Karen Kish</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>193 S Hunt Club Rd, Grayslake</td>
<td>Howard L Posner &amp; Geraldine J Posner</td>
<td>Francis A Dkry</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$299,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>3619 N Leicester Ave, Lake Villa</td>
<td>Daniel A Muscarello</td>
<td>David A Muscarello</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1318 N Cedar Lake Rd, Lake Villa</td>
<td>Kevin C Stahl</td>
<td>Benjamin A Wiedersee</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>469 Red Cedar Rd, Lake Villa</td>
<td>Charles A Scolari &amp; Carole A Scolari</td>
<td>Justin H Pawlik</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$340,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3267 Weathervane Ln, Lake Moor</td>
<td>Elias C Menzaro S</td>
<td>Louis H Holgate S</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>611 Falling Waters Ln, Lindenhurst</td>
<td>Gabrielle Sarsek</td>
<td>Anne Marie Scilly</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$219,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700 Fairfield Rd, Lindenhurst</td>
<td>Christopher Cardoalo &amp; Alyssa Cardalo</td>
<td>John B Malloy</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$139,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>576 White Birch Rd, Lindenhurst</td>
<td>Jing Yang</td>
<td>Linda Sue Slay</td>
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<tr>
<td>734 N Horizon Ct, Lindenhurst</td>
<td>Ricky L Dinardi &amp; Suzanne L Dinardi</td>
<td>Jason G Gore</td>
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<td>140 W Remington Ln, Round Lake</td>
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<td>Beth D Phillips</td>
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<td>1317 Brentwood Dr, Round Lake Beach</td>
<td>Robert Castaneda</td>
<td>Wilmington Trust Na Trustee</td>
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<td>1232 N Village Dr, Round Lake Beach</td>
<td>Matthew Wambold</td>
<td>Christina Butler</td>
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<td>1105 Morningstar Dr, # 3, Round Lake Beach</td>
<td>Patrick H Robb</td>
<td>Jason C Blacketer</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<td>92 Schooner Ct, Round Lake Park</td>
<td>James D Ellison</td>
<td>Richard S Stahlke</td>
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<tr>
<td>7030 N Pillow Hill Rd, Spring Grove</td>
<td>Kewargis Orash &amp; Maryam Orash</td>
<td>Byline Blang</td>
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<tr>
<td>609 Richard Brown Blvd, Volol</td>
<td>Justin Sexton</td>
<td>Ryan W Leyler</td>
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<tr>
<td>913 Great Falls Dr, Volo</td>
<td>Jeffrey A Marra &amp; Lauren A Marra</td>
<td>Matthew A Berry</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2904 Concord Ln, Wadsworth</td>
<td>Miliska Milosavljevic &amp; Raomilo Milosavljevic</td>
<td>US Bank Na Trustee</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>12056 W Wall Ave, Waukegan</td>
<td>Rodolfo C Salazar</td>
<td>Kenneth L King</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2305 11th St, Winthrop Harbor</td>
<td>Kallie Steffens</td>
<td>Hud</td>
<td>03-18-16</td>
<td>$100,110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.

Data compiled by Record Information Services. 630-557-1000 | public-record.com
REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

Four-bedroom, three-bath stone and brick home. Kitchen has walnut cabinetry with granite countertops and backsplash, breakfast bar, stove-top range with hood, double ovens. Master suite has 20-foot cathedral ceilings, heated hardwood floors, floor-to-ceiling extra-wide stone fireplace, terrace, walk-in closets. Third floor can be used as bedroom or recreation room. Three-car heated garage.

Address: 305 East Willow Road
Price: $699,900
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $11,492
Agent: Sohail Salahuddin, @Properties

NILES

Remodeled three-bedroom, two-bath brick home has new kitchen, fixtures and appliances, including built-in microwave. Both baths have new porcelain tile and granite vanities. New furnace, air conditioner and hot water heater. Upgraded electrical system, large lower level family room with laminated flooring, two-car garage with door opener, open backyard.

Address: 8532 N. Oleander Ave.
Price: $349,000
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $6,211
Agent: Rick Brown, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Libertyville

WILMETTE

Four-bedroom, 1.5-bath home on brick paved street in central Wilmette. Stained and leaded glass windows, hardwood floors. Kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite countertops and stainless appliances plus mudroom/office space with built-in desk and cabinet storage. One-car garage. Near Metra, schools, businesses.

Address: 444 Oak Circle
Price: $649,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School Winnetka
Taxes: $9,888
Agent: Claire Sucsy, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Evanston

LIBERTYVILLE

Three-bedroom, two-bedroom tri-level home built in 1957, with a living room/dining room combo. Partial basement is fully furnished. Laundry room has washer and dryer. 2.5-car garage, with brick and cedar exterior and an asphalt roof.

Address: 305 Kenloch Ave.
Price: $253,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $5,268
Agent: Quin O'Brien, 4 Sale Realty Inc.

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Boat with Trailer
1983 Regal Fiberglass "Fisherman"
with Highlander Trailer
3 Evinrude Outboard Motors

Antiques & Furniture
Oak Dressers, Humper Back Trunks, Wood Ice Box,
Lamps, Paintings & Prints, Glass Top Kitchen Table,
Sofa, Wing Back Chairs, Patio Furniture
(Table & Chairs, Bar & Stools, Vintage Shell Back
Chairs), Fire Place, Victorian Lamp Table,
Old Wicker Chairs, and More.

Collectibles & Glassware
Movie Box Collection, Precious Moments
(Thimbles, Bells, & Figurines), Hand Painted Glass
Bunnies & Ducks, Wizard of Oz Dolls, Pottery and
Assorted Glassware, Guitar, Full Size Halloween Witch,
Easter Bunny Suit, Cast Ceramic Prehistoric Skulls,
Holiday Decor, Games, Large Wood Doll House,
Old Bicycles, and More.

Household & Misc.
Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower,
Ariens Snow Blower, Tools, Refrigerator,
Built in Oven, Household, and More.

Auctioneer’s Note: Many boxes to go through that were
being stored pictures won’t be available until we are able
to start the set up. Food and Drinks will be available and
provided by the SS Peter & Paul Staff

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 5

John Waite & The Axemen: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$45, 847-492-8860

Evanston Community Yarn Bomb Project: Stumble & Relish and Chiaravalle Montessori invite you to help decorate Evanston with colorful circles and yarn chains that are to be wrapped throughout the Main-Chicago-Dempster neighborhood leading up to this year's YEA! Festival. To go to the event Facebook page for more info on the project, donations and for a list of workshops. Midnight, all week long. Stumble & Relish, 1310 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 872-227-0801

Project Space: Curatorial Vision Series: The Art Center invites three curatorial practice students from the School of the Art Institute to present an exhibition and public programming that engages audiences in meaningful ways while fostering the Art Center's relationship to its community. Young curators are selected during the spring/summer of 2015. 10 a.m. May 5 through May 8. Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Aberrant Alterations: The Evanston Art Center welcomes a unique collaboration between local artists, Jacqueline Moses and Kathy Weaver. From April 24 through May 29, the Art Center showcases a multitude of two-dimensional work. 9 a.m. Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Materiality and the Layered (eye): A transformative exhibition of works by five Chicago artists from April 24 through May 29, showcasing Phyllis Bramson, Aimee Beaubien, Sandra Perlow, Miriam Schaer, and Douglas Stapleton. Each of the artists chosen by curator Marilyn Prop stands in the transformative power of collage, an accumulation of material and appropriated altered imagery. 9 a.m. Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Why Not Home Documentary Screening: "Why Not Home?" challenges viewers to move beyond the polarization and judgment of where to have a child, and instead embrace a more integrated and collaborative model for the future of childbirth. 7 p.m. Heartwood Center, 1818 W. Dempster St., Evanston, free, 847-733-8080

Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum: The latest exhibit unveiled is "Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum." The exhibit celebrates four decades of thought-provoking exhibits, lectures, and performances through photographs and memorabilia. There is also a dazzling display of 45 objects donated by key collectors and Native artists who have presented at the museum. 10 a.m. All week, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 children, seniors; 5 adults; Tribal Members Free, 847-475-1030

Evanston Legend: The Art of Peggy Lipschutz: The City of Evanston sponsors a month long show of the paintings and drawings of Peggy Lipschutz with an Opening Reception between 2-5 p.m. Oct. 4, with musicians including Rebecca Armstrong, Peggy Browning, Mark Dvorak, Maura Lally and Kristin Lems. 10 a.m. All week, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 773-816-4716

Babysitting Basics For Teens: Earn a certificate of completion after learning how to provide safe, confident care for children and their parents at a two-day workshop presented by the MG Fire Department. 3:45 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St, Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Kroakno: A's Karaoke Bar has karaoke every day from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. A's Karaoke Bar, 8751 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, 224-534-7158

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: 7 p.m. Thursdays from October through May. Demonstrations of fly tying are performed by an experienced demonstrator. The members have an opportunity to tie the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-316

Book Discussion: This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. 11 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Save A Star Drug Awareness Foundation's Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of the Park Ridge Police Department. Accepted are: prescription medications, (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 ext. 146. 9 a.m. All week, Park Ridge Police Department, 200 Vine Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-475-5300

International Powder and Bulk Solids Conference: An International Powder and Bulk Solids Conference and Exhibition, over 400 top-tier suppliers will provide the latest in processing networks. Network with over 3,000 attendees from Dow Chemical, PepsiCo, Jenike and Johnson, and others. 10 a.m. Donald Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, free, 310-445-4273

Food Drive In Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Skokie Township Food Pantry. These foods to be given to the hungry in the community. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. For further information, call Ezra-Habonim, the Skokie Township Jewish Congregation office at 847-675-4141. Midnight, All week, Walgreens, 3945 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Skokie Synagogue Re-Opens Gift Shop: The chairperson of the Gift Shop, Marcy Feinberg, says the gift shop opens to the public with, "Beautiful gifts of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 children, seniors; $5 adults; Tribal Members Free, 847-475-1030

The Jewish Mother's Guide to Everything: Stand-up comic Caryn Bark brings her hilarious one-woman show to Skokie Theatre. Told with wit and humor that is the unique style of the Punny Old Broads ringleader. 7:30 p.m. Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $25, 847-677-7761

Special Exhibition Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: Learn about the Cambodian genocide and the current trials to bring the perpetrators to justice, 10 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. all week. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9063 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

Friday, May 6

"Chicago Doo Wop Dreams" Music: Chicago Live brings their hit show "Chicago Doo Wop Dreams" to the historic Leela Arts Center in Des Plaines. 7:30 p.m. May 6 and May 7, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, Tickets are $15 to $25, 800-838-3006

Lost Dogs and Mixed Blessings The Music of John Prine: Join producer Tom Carey and members of his "Heartache Tonight" band as they pay homage to Chicago's legendary folk artist John Prine. 7:30 p.m. May 6 and May 7, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, $20-$30, 847-220-2919

Alejandro Escovedo: With Lucette. 8 p.m. May 7 and May 8, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $25-$60, 847-492-8860

Nia: Holistic dance fitness: With Nia develop flexibility, agility, mobility, strength and stability in your body. 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, $11 drop-in. $80 unlimited class pass, 847-869-6475

ETHS presents "Puss and Boots": "Puss and Boots," is based on the well-known French fairy tale. This is the Evanston Township High School's spring Frosh-Soph Children's Theater production. Performances take place in the ETHS Little Theatre. Tickets are available at the door. 4:15 p.m. May 6 and 7:15 p.m. May 7, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, $20-$30, 847-965-5460

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
**Calendar**

**Duplicate Bridge:** The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning. 9 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

**T’ai Chi for Arthritis and Chronic Conditions:** T’ai Chi is a gentle, low impact approach to fitness that can help ease the pain and stiffness of arthritis, increase flexibility, muscle strength, heart and lung activity, posture and help balance to prevent falls. 1:30 p.m. Park Ridge Park District - Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $63 member; $69 guest, 847-692-3897

**Saturday, May 7**

**Polyglots Toastmasters meeting:** Polyglots is the only Toastmasters International Club in the United States that conducts its meetings in German. This is not a language school, but a place where you can speak and listen to German. 10:30 a.m. To polyglots-toastmasters-german-speaking.org/ and their meeting at meetup.com/Polyglots-Toastmasters-German-speaking/. Please email andrewweiler.uiuc@gmail.com for the current location. Our May 7 meeting will be at Oakton Arms 1660 Oakton Place, Des Plaines, IL 60018. 847-502-0630

**Evanston Farmers Market:** Shop for fresh produce, meat, cheese, baked goods, flowers and more from 51 vendors. Dogs are not allowed at the market (service animals excepted). 7:30 a.m. Oakton Place, Des Plaines, IL. 847-967-4800

**FUSE: Studio:** Drop-in with friends to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. Midnite, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Overeaters Anonymous meets Saturdays. Newcomer meeting on the last Saturday of the month. No dues, fees or weight-ins. For information, call Hannah. 9 a.m. St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

**Signature Entertainment Presents:** LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Scala and Mark Simmons. 9 p.m. Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, $15 adult advance; $20 at the door, 847-521-6543

**Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories:** Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. May 7 and May 8, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030

**Superhero Saturday:** Be ready to test your superpowers and pick some of your favorite characters, so just drop in. Costumes and capes are encouraged but not required. Stop by the Youth Services Desk (while supplies last) to pick up a free comic book, too. This is courtesy of Pastimes Comics Niles, 1 p.m. Evanston Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Evanston, free, 847-666-8260

**Mother's Day Jazz Brunch:** Brunch highlights include carving omele, crepe and antipasto stations. Other brunch items to be enjoyed are assorted appetizers, cold seafood, fruit trays, salads, breads and a sweet table. Guests can choose from traditional brunch favorites as some delightful culinary surprises. Complimentary valet parking will be provided and a bloody Mary bar will be available for purchase. Please make your reservations at 630-766-0304, ext.2. 9:30 a.m. 630-766-0304

**Wigglesworths Party:** Leading with guitar and voice, Lindsay Weinberg, engages children ages birth through five years, along with a caregiver/parent in singing along, exploring rhythm and moving their bodies to the music. 10 a.m. Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**26th Annual Arts And Crafts Ad-venture:** Artists and crafts-artists from the American Society of Artists will fill Hodges Park with an exhibit ranging from paintings, glassworks, woodarts and artwork to hand-crafted jewelry, photography, textiles, candle and floral crafts. 9 a.m. Hodges Park, 101 Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-991-4748

**Play Minecraft In A Movie Theatre:** In this four-week series, Super League brings together gamers of all ages for a fun, social, face-to-face gameplay experience on the big screen with superherothemed maps and mods in a custom Minecraft adventure called, Rise of Heroes. Bring your laptop with Minecraft 1.82 installed and play first-person on your computer. 10 a.m. Muvico Rosemont Theatre, 1901 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, $60

**The Gospel According to...:** 8 p.m. May 7 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 7, Northlight Theatre, 5501 Sokie Blvd., Skokie, $15-$55, 847-675-6300

**Preserving Survivor Stories:** Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question you would like, and natural language technology software will respond as if Pinchas were in the room. 10:30 a.m. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

**Sunday, May 8**

**Mother's Day Champagne Brunch:** Brunch highlights include carving omele, crepe and antipasto stations. Other brunch items to be enjoyed are assorted appetizers, cold seafood, fruit trays, salads, breads and a sweet table. Guests can choose from traditional brunch favorites as some delightful culinary surprises. Complimentary valet parking will be provided and a bloody Mary bar will be available for purchase. Please make your reservations at 630-766-0304, ext.2. 9:30 a.m. 630-766-0304

**Jamie Lawson:** 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12, 847-492-8860

**Mother's Day Jazz Brunch:** Treat mom to some fun this year and join us in downtown Evanston. Featuring live Jazz by the Sean Van Dril Trio. Deluxe craft-your-own mimosa and Bloody Mary stations. 11 a.m. The Crystal Ballroom & Lounge, 529 Davis St., Evanston, $30, 847-864-6400

**John Williams’ Sunday music ses-sion:** Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Calendar, from Previous Page

Mother's Day Brunch at Bub City: Rosemont: Mother's Day Brunch at Bub City 699-1200 champagne; children 6 to 12 $22.95; Rosemont, adults $42.95 (including Steakhouse, 10233 W. Higgins Road, available. 10 a.m. Harry Caray's Italian cakes. Children's favorites, like pigs in a blanket and chicken tenders, will also be available. 10 a.m. Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse, 10233 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont, adults $42.95 (including champagne); children 6 to 12 $22.95; free for children five and younger, 847-699-1200.

Mother's Day Brunch at The Estate: Rosemont: Treat that sweet momma in your life (or mommas, treat yourself.) Rosemont, Mother's Day Champagne Brunch at The Estate, $48 adults; $24 children ages 11 and younger with a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic: Second Sundays of the Month: Local event that is pressure free night for storytellers from zero to decades of experience to connect, share stories and hone their craft. 5:30 p.m. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Tuesday, May 10

The English Beat: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $38-$68, 847-492-8860

Rhythms Dance: Come and explore the Rhythms Dance - a movement meditation to music. 7:30 p.m. Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, free, 847-699-0250.

Tuesday Night Irish Music session: Enjoy Irish music every Tuesday night. 7 p.m. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Smile & Rhyme Storytime: Miss Fran shares stories, rhymes and songs in the Cafe. Stay for a snack and to chat after the program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Just drop-in, 10:30 a.m. Heinpen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free.

MGPl Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5101 or go to mgpl.org for more information. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: Have old home movies on VHS that you want to convert to a DVD or digital format? The staff can show you how in their new Digital Media Lab. Registration is limited to four. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

LEGO Club grades 1-6: Broken down for: first through second graders on May 10; and third through sixth graders on May 11. Lego pieces are provided, you supply the ideas and everything is awesome. 4 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7900.

Career Counseling Appointments: Consult with a career expert for resume help and job search strategies for any stage of your career. Please register by calling for one of only six 30-minute appointments available. 9 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7900.

Building Healthy Habits: Take part in movement exercises in this class as well as work from "Building Healthy Habits," which is sold on the first day of class. Register in advance by calling the Centennial Activity Center. 2:30 p.m. Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $50 member, $55 guest, 847-692-3597.
CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 11

The English Beat: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $38-$68, 847-492-8860

Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio: Hear the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and other classics of the era played by the Josh Rzepka Bebop trio. Reservations can be made online or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Round Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

You Too Can Eat Healthy: At the heart of healthy eating are the choices we make over the long run. Registered nurse at the Niles Senior Center, Brigitte Powidzki, helps attendees learn the key principles of healthy eating without sacrificing a little fun now and then. 7 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Musical Mayhem: What do you get when you combine music, shakers, scarves and dancing? Come to the library and get ready to boogie. No registration is required for this event. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss some of the best books in the English language. For more information on joining, call 847-673-1814. 7 p.m. Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

Women Who Read are Dangerous: Literary Ladies in the Age of Impressionism. The idea of a woman reading Flaubert’s masterpiece, Madame Bovary, in 19th century France was scandalous. 10 a.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 (NSSC members); $13 (non-members), 847-784-6030

Twenty-first Star NSDAR General Meeting: The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution enjoy a luncheon served at noon with a meeting and program to follow. Chapter Regent Gale Enault presents, “The Year in Review.” 11:30 a.m. Park Ridge Country Club, 1606 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $22, 847-328-6946

LitLounge Fun Home by Allison Bechdel: The book description of “Fun Home” is that it is an unusual memoir done in the form of a graphic novel by a cult favorite comic artist who offers a darkly funny family portrait that details her relationship with her father, a historic preservation expert dedicated to restoring the family’s Victorian home, funeral home director, high-school English teacher, and more. 7:30 p.m. The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-965-4220

Canasta Lessons: Learn to play the new Canasta at the Mallinckrodt Center of the Wilmette Park District. The class meets once a week for five weeks. Different fees are based on membership to Mallinckrodt Center or not. 10:15 a.m. Mallinckrodt Center, 1041 Ridge Road, Wilmette, $50 members; $60 non-members, 847-256-9623

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner, sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, $50 members; $60 non-members, 847-256-9623

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"The Jungle Book" ***
PG, 1:51, drama
I have a hard time loving any movie dominated by ultracrisp animation designed to look real, not animated. That sort of realism often looks slightly clinical. And it's a substantial caveat when it comes to Disney's new live-(ish) action version of "The Jungle Book." That said: The movie's pretty good. Director Jon Favreau's voice cast for the animals is tiptop, from Bill Murray's sloth bear, Baloo, to Idris Elba's adversarial tiger, Shere Khan. There's a real person on screen too; Neel Sethi plays Mowgli. Favreau has a knack for straight-ahead pacing and for tightening the screws (the movie is 81 percent life-and-death peril and 19 percent comic relief) without being maniacal about it. - Michael Phillips

"The Huntsman: Winter's War" ★★
PG-13, 1:54, drama
How do you solve a problem like Kristen (Stewart)? You write Snow White entirely out of the sequel to "Snow White and the Huntsman." The script acrobatics result in a bizarre prequel/sequel mashup where Snow White doesn't show up in her own fairy tale. The film focuses on two of the best elements from the first film: Charlize Theron's wickedly beautiful and scheming Ravenna, a queen who desires power and to be the fairest of them all, and Chris Hemsworth's ruggedly hunky ax-throwing huntsman, Eric. Added to the mix is Ravenna's sister Freya (Emily Blunt). Despite the talent involved, this "Huntsman" wildly misses its target. - Katie Walsh

"Barbershop: The Next Cut" ★★★
PG-13, 1:49, comedy
The latest film in the "Barbershop" franchise gets political, with the issue of shootings and gang violence in Chicago as the galvanizing force around which the barbershop rallies. Ice Cube returns as Calvin, the successful small business owner. On the other side of the shop is a ladies salon, managed by Angle (Regina Hall), featuring outlandishly dressed flirt Draya (Nicki Minaj). The film stays on message about community pride, family values and personal responsibility. Some of the political discourse is a bit fast and loose with neo-liberal notions of individualism and respectability politics. - K.W.

"Zootopia" ★★★
PG, 1:48, animated
Somehow, Disney has managed to pull off a hard-boiled police procedural thriller about political corruption starring an adorable, large-eyed bunny. As strange as this combination might seem, it works. Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) is a plucky bunny who sets her sights on life in the big city of Zootopia, making the world a better place as a police officer. In Zootopia, the predators and prey are civilized, clothes-wearing city dwellers. Judy throws herself headlong into an investigation of missing mammals, specifically one Emmet Otterton, with the aid of wise-cracking fox Nick (Jason Bateman). - K.W.

"The Boss" ★½
R, 1:39, comedy
Melissa McCarthy's films don't have to be good to find an audience. Michelle Darnell (McCarthy) is a finance titan who loves her bling. Nailed for Insider trading, Darnell does a few months' white-collar jail time and, broke and desperate, re-enters life in Chicago. She convinces her former assistant, Claire (Kristen Bell) to go in on a start-up company selling Claire's brownies, as a for-profit rival to the so-called Dandelions (aka the Girl Scouts). The movie has zero finesse as a comedy. When Darnell crashes into a wall or takes a tumble down the stairs, it's alarming and painful as opposed to funny. - M.P.
Death Notices

Kraft, Jr., Frank M.
Frank M. Kraft, Jr., age 89, passed away April 26, 2016. Frank was a Veteran of World War II in the United States Navy. Longtime resident of Norridge and was a Crossing guard with the Norridge Police Dept. for 25 years. Beloved husband of the late Frances. Loving father of James, Joann, Robert (Denise) and Elizabeth (Rob) Farenkopf. Devoted grandfather of Bobby Michael, Robyn, Brooke and Ryan. Dear brother of the late Lillian (the late Edwin) Schap. Fond uncle of Gwen, Glen and Tina. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, April 30, at 10:00 a.m. at Acacia Park Lutheran Church, 4307 N Oriole Ave, Norridge, IL 60706. Info 708-456-8300 or www.cumberlandchapels.com.

Waldman, Margie ‘Marge’
nee. Pluss, 93, of Highland Park, IL and originally of Blythe, CA, April 3. Daughter of the late Mary and Daniel Pluss and beloved wife of the late Jerome Waldman, MD, mother of Steven and Carol Waldman and the late Janet Waldman, loving grandmother of Brady Jerome Waldman and Rorary Waldman Sapir, and avid tennis player, umpire, and gardener. Memorial service in late August, contact Carol at 847-946-4948. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers to the Nature Conservancy.

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Jeep at 75

Brand's broad appeal, loyalty drive growth; nagging quality issues take back seat

BY CASEY WILLIAMS
Tribune Newspapers

In the past 75 years, wars have been fought with Jeep, and they've been fought over Jeep. The original four-wheel-drive utility vehicle took GIs across Europe in WWII, then was domesticated for sun and toil after the war. It provoked mergers between automakers and has become the brightest star in the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles family.

Tearing it up

"Jeep is bringing sales," said Jessica Caldwell, senior analyst at Edmunds.com. "Their focus on smaller SUVs with respected fuel economy hits the sweet spot."

Jeep sold 1.2 million units last year for 22 percent growth globally and 25 percent domestically. Latin America experienced the largest Jeep growth, 135 percent.

That's not the entire hillside. According to Automotive News, Jeep increased its load as the best-selling brand within FCA. It totals more than Dodge and Chrysler combined. Acknowledging the truth, FCA will drop the Chrysler 200 and Dodge Dart to expand Jeep production.

"Globally, FCA doesn't use Jeep as much as they should but has aspirations to make it more of a global brand," Caldwell said. "Jeep has a lot of brand equity and could expand more."

Global history

It all started with one simple little vehicle. The bugle called in July 1940 for a light reconnaissance vehicle that could carry 600 pounds, run 50 mph, and have four-wheel drive and ground clearance of 6.25 inches. American Bantam answered. Concerned American Bantam couldn't meet demand to deliver a prototype in under two months, the Army also gave contracts to Willys-Overland and Ford. More than 650,000 units were built during World War II.

Willys wasted no time rolling out a "Civilian Jeep" in 1945. It had a four-cylinder engine and solid axles but was dressed with brighter colors and nicer seats for the mass market. The larger CJ-5 (1955 to '83) and even larger CJ-7 (1976 to '87) hit streets and trails until surpassed by the Wrangler, which replaced the CJ series in 1987.

Along the way, Jeep launched pickups such as the Gladiator (1963 to '87), a civil-servant Dispatcher for the U.S. Postal Service, and more luxurious models like the sporty Jeepster (1948 to '51) and the first true luxury SUV, the Wagoneer (1963 to '91).

During the 1980s, Jeep thrived on suburban-ready SUVs such as the four-door Cherokee, which combined sedan comfort with all-road capability. Baby boomers loved them enough for Chrysler to launch the Grand Cherokee in 1993.

Global DNA

Jeep endured through successive owners, many of whom consumed entire automakers to snag the profit-generating brand. Willys-Overland sold Jeep to ship builder Henry J. Kaiser in 1953. Jeep became part of American Motors in 1970, was purchased by Chrysler in 1987, and has been controlled by DaimlerChrysler, Cerberus Capital, and now FCA. Under FCA, smaller crossovers such as today's Renegade and Cherokee have elevated Jeep to new heights.

Yet a look beneath the fenders confirms the brand's parentage.

Wrangler is the fully framed off-roader it always was. Grand Cherokee shares basic architecture with the Mercedes GLE SUV, developed when Daimler controlled Chrysler. Fiat donated architecture and powertrains for the Cherokee and Renegade subcompact crossover, the latter built in Italy alongside the 500X subcompact crossover. It's a melting pot of ethnicity, bolstering a broad portfolio.

"Jeep is a good complement with Fiat vehicles," said Jim Morrison, director of the Jeep brand from 2009 until March 1, when he took over the Ram brand. "The Fiat guys are really good at packaging components and small displacement engines, as demonstrated by Renegade. It's also an efficient business model."

Quality control

Sales are strong despite quality issues that have placed it near the bottom of J.D. Power's Vehicle Dependability Study. The study highlights real-world experiences of consumers reporting defects after three years of ownership. Issues have ranged from infotainment confusion to transmission failure.

In 2013, Jeep was fourth from the bottom with 178 defects per 100 vehicles. It placed third from the bottom with 197 defects in 2015 but improved to 181 for the recent 2016 report.

"We recognize what they're saying," Morrison said. "We continue to improve our vehicles and listen to customers. Still, we've had six consecutive years of growth. Considering rising sales, we're not giving up. Jeep is kind of a Teflon brand," Caldwell said. "It takes criticism, but with record market share, doesn't really affect them."

4x4 fun

There's something about Jeep that bonds enthusiasts.

"It's the people you meet," said Pearse Umlauf, vice president of Jeep. "You don't go places normal vehicles can't. There's camaraderie."

Jeep Jamboree events on weekends from March to October take owners and their Jeeps off-road to put them through their paces on notoriously tough trails such as the boulder-studded Rubicon Trail in the Sierra Nevada mountain ranges.

Umlauf now drives a 2016 Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel.

"The old guys see the new vehicles like Renegade and are surprised at what they can do," Umlauf said. "Years ago, we had to build a Wrangler and a daily driver. "Now, you can just have the Wrangler or Renegade as everyday drivers."

Upward

With a range of vehicles from the Renegade to the Hemi-powered Grand Cherokee SRT, the distinctively styled Cherokee and the yardstick Wrangler, how does Jeep remain Jeep?

"Wrangler is the halo vehicle," Caldwell said. "Jeep has to keep some core of the brand in every vehicle, even if 95 percent of owners don't use SUVs as they are designed."

But what will the brand look like on its 100th anniversary?

"My best guidance is we will be building incredible four-wheel-drive vehicles that deliver good fuel economy at the same time," Morrison said.

Casey Williams is a freelance reporter.
New X1 feels like true BMW

BY CASEY WILLIAMS
Tribune Newspapers

Unlike the previous generation, the 2016 BMW X1 looks more like a crossover than a station wagon, presenting itself as a scaled down X3 or X5. BMW's trademark twin-kidney grille, quad headlamps and Hofmeister kink window line all return for this fashion show, but the body sides are more chiseled and the rump more sculpted. Planted over 18-inch alloys, the bigger wagon looks more sophisticated and a proper addition to ritzy little driveways.

The 2016 X1 is 1.7 inches taller and more welcoming to rear passengers with 2.6 inches more rear legroom. Unlike some competitors that pack legs tightly, the X1 has enough space for real humans to ride in the back for long distances.

Beyond legroom, passengers ride comfortably. The bottom seat cushions look one size too small, but they're comfortable, heated, and the side bolsters hug you in the right places. You can barely tell they're faux leather, though the ivory color attracts jean-rub-offs like sweatpants collect cat hair. Automatic climate control and rain-sensing wipers make driving easier, while the thick heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and classic analog gauges make driving more enjoyable. Sunlight flows through the panoramic roof.

Cushions and other seat aids can disable air bags

Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: My husband has a 2015 Hyundai Sonata. While driving to Arizona, I noticed that the air bag on my side wasn't on. I removed the cushion I usually sit on and the air bag was now on. I contacted a Hyundai dealer. He told me that air bags are not made to work with removable cushions. I asked if there was some aftermarket item that we could buy to override this. He said absolutely not, as the dealer can't tamper with the systems. This cushion is helpful to my back and I can't begin to know how many people use various types of cushions. It's a major safety concern to me.

— PG, Chicago

Q: I am writing to pass along additional information in regard to researching vehicle titles. A Subaru Outback wagon that I owned was damaged in a flood years ago. Since that time, a national title registry has been established and the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System posted an advisory following Hurricane Sandy. Your reader from Warrenville, Ill., will want to check out the website www.vehiclehistory.gov. In particular, see the link titled: "The Potential Safety Hazards of Flood-Damaged Vehicles." The advisory notes that after Hurricane Sandy, cars were reportedly bought in Louisiana, for example, and sold in the Midwest. If the dealer was duped, that is one matter, but if there is any indication that the dealer knew (or should have known) that the car was damaged in a flood, your reader may want to contact the Illinois attorney general's office and/or local consumer protection agencies. By the way, I happen to be a lawyer, but don't hold it against me. I fight for folks like your reader.

— CSS, Avon, Conn.

A: This is an excellent site for potential buyers of used cars. It also has links to services that provide background checks on VINS, for a price. But the prices are reasonable. Prior to purchasing a vehicle, consumers can search NMVTIS to discover information from a vehicle's current title, including the vehicle's brand history. "Brands" are descriptive labels regarding the status of a motor vehicle, such as "junk," "salvage," and "flood" vehicles; the latest reported odometer readings; any determination that the vehicle is "salvage" by an insurance company or a self-insuring organization (including those vehicles determined to be a "total loss"); and any reports of the vehicle being transferred or sold to an auto recycler, junk yard or salvage yard.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motormouth.trib@verizon.net.
Congratulations to Maine South Freshman Caleigh Pistorius who was awarded "HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH" for her performance in gymnastics.

COUNTRY Financial representative Craig Cline presented Caleigh with a $250 donation to Maine South High School. Congrats to Caleigh and her team from COUNTRY Financial!

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Carmichael stars for St. Norbert

By Nick Bullock

Maine South's Regan Carmichael, a junior guard for St. Norbert, was one of six athletes named to the Midwest Conference's first team.

Carmichael, a Park Ridge native, led St. Norbert in scoring (12 points per game), rebounding (5.2 per game), assists (3.9 per game) and 3-point shooting (40.3 percent). She finished 11th in the Midwest Conference in scoring, second in assists and first in 3-point percentage.

She helped lead St. Norbert to a 21-5 record, which included a 16-0 conference record and a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Christine Olijnyk, a Trinity graduate, and Julia Easter, a Nues West alumna, were also on the team. Olijnyk, a freshman guard, played in 18 games and averaged 2.5 points per game. Easter, a freshman forward, appeared in 11 games.

Schwartz has huge freshman season

Lindsay Schwartz, a Stevenson graduate and freshman midfielder for the Whitman College women's lacrosse team, concluded a record-setting season for the Whits.

The Kildeer native was named to the Northwest Conference's first team, leading the conference in goals (20), points in a season (40.3) and a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Sopron makes an impact in goal for Carthage

Lyons graduate Taylor Sopron, a senior goalkeeper for the Carthage College women's lacrosse team, was recently named College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin women's lacrosse defensive player of the week for the second time this season. The La Grange native improved to 9-3 by playing all 60 minutes and recording 17 combined saves in a pair of wins against Illinois Wesleyan and Dubuque.

Sopron ranked fifth in the conference with a .519 save percentage through 14 games, and she was the only goalkeeper in the conference with a shutout so far.

Her performance in goal propelled the Lady Reds to a 10-4 start to the season.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

Nic Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles West's Siddiqui motivated by near miss at sectional

By Eric Van Dril

Roma Siddiqui's junior season ended with a 200-meter dash that Niles West girls track and field coach Mark Medland said embodied who she is as an athlete.

The sprinters took off at the sound of the starting gun on May 14, 2015, and immediately made the turn at the top of the track at Loyola. They then sprinted down the homestretch, with two automatic berths to the state meet on the line.

Siddiqui trailed Glenbrook North's Hannah Wilson, the eventual race winner, and Niles North's Jada Kirksey as the eight runners rushed toward the finish line. Siddiqui kept pushing, then noticed Kirksey slow down slightly.

"I just saw it and went for it," Siddiqui said.

Siddiqui closed and closed — even though she had run the 100 final, 400 final, 100 prelims and 200 prelims earlier in the day. Then, both runners crossed the finish line almost simultaneously.

Kirksey's time was 26.63. Siddiqui's was 26.65.

She finished third.

"That was awful," Siddiqui said recently. "That's kind of pushing me this year to do even better."

"It makes you actually want to work because you know you can do it. That's for sure."

Siddiqui, who was fourth in both the 100 and 400 at the Class 3A sectional meet, didn't lack motivation between her junior and senior seasons.

"Not only did Siddiqui have the lasting memory of coming within 0.2 seconds of achieving her goal of advancing to the state meet etched in her memory, she also wanted to run in college. She accomplished the latter last month when she committed to Illinois-Chicago."

"You meet these girls when they're freshmen (and) they're shy and quiet," Medland said. "To see them develop into the athletes they are now, and going ahead and running at the college level— it's been a lot of fun to work with her. She's been one of those (athletes) who you'll never forget her because she works so hard."

Niles West assistant coach Jennifer King added:

"It's going to hurt when she's gone. She's awesome."

In the offseason, Siddiqui ran on her own at Niles West to keep her cardio up. She also lifted weights. During the season, Siddiqui has done sprint workouts in practice, but she's also worked with Niles West assistant coach Michael Blair to try to improve her starts.

Starting better is the key to dropping time in the biggest meets of the season, Siddiqui said.

Blair has shot video in practice of Siddiqui's starts, and then analyzed it with Siddiqui to try to improve subtle aspects of the first 10 meters of her races. They've also done very specific drills to try to correct the areas of weakness she identified on film.

Siddiqui has a history of closing 200s and 400s well, Medland said. Now, the hope is Siddiqui can use faster starts to shave time off of her races because, as she experienced last spring, every hundredth of a second can matter.

"Start fast and finish fast," Siddiqui said of her late-season mindset.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
**With aid of new pitching coach, Dwyer enjoying great season**

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Niles North senior pitcher Carolyn Dwyer admitted she did not know what to expect when Steve Poznansky replaced Ashley Amelianovich as an assistant coach on the Vikings softball staff prior to the season.

Amelianovich had been the team's pitching coach during Dwyer's first three seasons, but Amelianovich decided to take time off to have a child.

Poznansky is a legendary Niles North wrestling coach who also served as the school's softball coach from 2002-05. He was most recently the softball coach at Ridgewood. However, he was an unknown to Dwyer and her teammates.

It didn't take long for Poznansky to win over the Vikings, who earned an 11-1, 5-inning victory over Maine East in Central Suburban North play on April 26, in Skokie. Niles North improved to 11-4 overall and 5-0 in conference.

"It's been amazing," Dwyer said. "We lost coach Amelianovich and we were not sure how we were going to feel about (Poznansky). But he's amazing. He knows the game so well. I trust what (pitch) he calls. He knows what to put in, and when."

Dwyer (8-2) started and earned the victory against Maine East. She walked two, surrendered an earned run and pitched 3 innings. Dwyer also had a three-run home run in the second inning.

Dwyer said Poznansky has taught her new pitches and helped her throw other pitches more effectively.

"He's helped my offspeed and taught me a curveball and a screwball," Dwyer said. "Last year, I just relied on the fastball and offspeed. Now, if one of those is not working, I can throw the other two."

An all-conference pitcher, Dwyer entered the Maine East game with a 2.12 ERA, and the five strikeouts she picked up against the Blue Demons gave her 72 in 65 2/3 innings.

Poznansky called Dwyer a "very special athlete" who always is looking to get better.

"I have only known (Dwyer) for three months, and even though she's a senior at the peak of a great career, her willingness to work harder and improve has been tremendous," Poznansky said. "She's a great kid. I call her a 'warrior' on the softball field. She never stops working."

Niles North coach Karin Wick said Dwyer's best performance came against Stevenson on Friday, April 15, when the senior started and went the distance in a 4-3, 10-inning win. Dwyer had 12 strikeouts against a potent offense, and she failed to get ratted after taking an early line drive off her leg.

"(Dwyer) has been pitching better than she ever has before," Wick said. "She hits her spots and she's smart about it. She's competitive and she doesn't let things bother her. She shakes things off."

The Stevenson victory also was the beginning of a Niles North winning streak that stood at nine games after the Maine East victory.

Senior Kathryn Edmond said the Poznansky-effect has been an important factor in Dwyer's continued growth in the circle.

"(Dwyer) recently incorporated her curveball and screwball and that has enabled us to really expand our repertoire. It's been really helpful," Edmond said.

**Game notes**

- Vikings sophomore Alyssa Aragon went 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs and senior teammate Nicole Wheeler had 2 RBIs.
- Maine East (10-7, 2-3 after the loss) had one highlight-reel play. In the bottom of the third, sophomore right fielder Alexis Ponzio reached up above the wall to make a snowcone catch that robbed Wheeler of a 2-run homer.

**Niles North's Niederman trying to earn another state berth**

BY MARK PERLMAN
Pioneer Press

Niles North boys gymnast Aaron Niederman had to sweat it out last May. He earned a score of 7.45 on his specialty, the still rings, at the sectional tournament, but he didn't know if it would be enough to qualify for state as an at-large participant.

"The wait was so nerve-wracking," Niederman said. "I kind of snuck in with the lowest possible score. It was some luck, but also a lot of hard work."

Niederman went on to finish tied for 42nd (705) at the state meet. This year, Niederman, a senior, likely won't have to sweat it out. He scored an 8.30 in the Central Suburban Meet on April 28 at Deerfield to tie for fourth. The Vikings finished fourth (134.30) in the team competition.

Niles North will be competing at the Palatine Sectional, which is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. May 7.

"Assuming he hits his routine, it's more certain this year for Aaron to make it," Niles North coach Rick Meyer said. "But he needs to go out and perform."

Meyer has plenty of confidence that will happen, pointing to Niederman's strength moves, including the swing to cross and a pull out to a cross.

"That's very impressive to be able to pull out (cross). A very tough and challenging move, with nice bonus values in his routine," Meyer said.

"Not that many competitors are strong enough to hold onto two crosses in their routine," Niederman said. "I've worked hard on my strength through cross-training."

He admits though that his swings continue to need work.

Senior teammate Davin Kaiser, an all-arounder, works with Niederman on the rings.

"His cross and cross pull out is always consistent," Kaiser. "Aaron gives me pointers on strength tricks and I do the same on swings. He puts a lot of time in to make himself better."

Niederman picked up still rings "right off the bat," as a freshman.

"It seemed really cool," he said.

He has been tinkering with a double-back dismount that he'll save for state.

"I've only done one half back (in competition), but I hit the double in practice," said Niederman, who is 5-foot-11 1/2 and 145 pounds.

Niederman said that he's making a few more changes to his routine and hopes to score in the high 8s.

A Vikings captain, Niederman plans to attend Vanderbilt in the fall and be a physics major on a pre-med track.

"The kids look up to Aaron. He's been a phenomenal leader," Meyer said. "I can't say enough about his character."

Mark Perlman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Iliopoulos sisters big part of Blue Demons’ success

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

There was not a hint of sun when the Maine East softball team played a Central Suburban North game against Niles North in Skokie.

But Blue Demons senior shortstop Mary Iliopoulos was wearing eye black on April 26. It had been smeared across her face.

"(Wearing eye black) kind of gets me pumped for a game," said Iliopoulos, a fourth-year varsity player. "It's kind of an intimidation thing, though it's not necessarily for the other team. I just like it for myself. I'm superstitious in that way. I've been doing it the whole season. My sister (Ana, a sophomore pitcher/catcher) puts it on and then I smear it."

It's just one of many ways the sisters have teamed up over the last two years to help change the fortunes of Maine East (10-7, 2-3 as of April 26). The Blue Demons won just eight games total in Mary Iliopoulos' first two seasons, but improved to 15-13 last year.

"(The Iliopoulos sisters) have helped us rebuild our program, along with (junior) Alex Villalobos. We've been having a pretty good season so far," Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez said.

Through 17 games this spring, Ana Iliopoulos was second on the team with a .365 batting average and was tied for third with 12 RBIs. Mary Iliopoulos, a leadoff hitter, was batting .339, had a team-high 18 runs scored and had stolen a team-high 14 bases without being caught once.

With Mary Iliopoulos' ability to get on base and steal a base or two, the batters behind her in the lineup, including her sister in the No. 3 spot, often have an opportunity to collect an RBI.

"Watching (Mary) lead off, I'm really excited because I'm sitting in the hole knowing she'll probably get on," Ana Iliopoulos said. "When I come up and she's on second base, I know I don't even have to get a big hit because she's so fast that she can score from second easily. I only have to push it through the infield."

"(Mary) is an 'incredible shortstop," Hernandez said. "I don't know if that will be her position in college. But (on April 23) versus Whitney Young, she was just unbelievable in the field to help us get that (7-3) win. It helps so much to have that up-the-middle defense."

An outfielder on her club team the Chicago Cheetahs, Mary Iliopoulos said she expects to play one of the outfield positions at Aquinas College, an NAIA school located in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"It was a little weird at first," said Mary Iliopoulos, who started batting lefty for Maine East during her sophomore season. "When I first picked it up, I was mostly slapping the ball. But I worked my way up to lefty swinging. I do get down the line much quicker now that I'm a lefty!"

Ana Iliopoulos, meanwhile, bats right-handed, and said she expects to stay that way.

"Ana Iliopoulos also pitches and the right-hander has offered glimpses of her potential in the circle, perhaps most notably in a 3-0 loss to a quality Deerfield team on April 12. She pitched 6 innings, allowed three runs (one earned), surrendered four hits, walked two and struck out eight."

"We lost the game, but I had a lot of confidence coming into that game and really had that passion to beat them," Ana Iliopoulos said. "I think I showed that through my performance."

Ana hopes to follow her sister's lead and play college softball, though it remains to be seen what position she would play at the next level.

In the meantime, Ana Iliopoulos said she's simply cherishing the opportunity she and her sister have to play together.

"This year has been especially cool," Ana Iliopoulos said. "(Mary) is off to college and we're doing so well, and we get to share that success."

"She gets great jumps on the ball in the outfield and has a great arm."

Being a left-handed batter is a relatively recent development. Mary Iliopoulos began her high school career as a right-handed hitter, only for Cheetahs coach Brian Bowman to switch her around in order to be closer to first base in the batter's box.

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Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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