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STRESS

We are a stressed out nation. Stressed with Covid-19, stressed with "Back-to-school," stressed with divisive Presidential politics, and stressed with looting. Here are some ways to try to flatten the stress curve.

PETS: See Marianne Goss' column on CATS, page 4.

And DOGS: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-dog-tank-was-a-precious-creature-that-saw-no-dividing-lines/2020/08/31/4880738e-eb99-11ea-b4bc-3a2098fc73d4_story.html?utm_campaign=wp_week_in_ideas&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_ideas

BOOKS: Walk over to Sandmeyer's Bookstore. Read Lorraine Schmall's book review on page 7.

MOVIES: "Dreaming Grand Avenue" produced by Printers Row residents Brian and Jan Hieggeler. See page 11 & 12

MUSIC: Jazz Showcase now open live music

EXERCISE: www.roiholisticfitness.com (see page 11)

STRENGTH @ClarkStreetCrossFit (facebook/Instagram) See page 15

STRENGTH AND DANCE:
strength.duncandancechicago.com see page 20.



Sept 10, 2020

Vol. 8, No.11

In this Issue



Beth Finke.
Teaching via Zoom? You Can Do
It With Your Eyes Closed

Page 14



Bonnie McGrath.
So there was this one day recently
when...everything was sort of
normal
Page 5



Mondays with Mike:
Actual reality beats the daylights
out of virtual Reality
Page 9



Marianne Goss:
Reduce coronavirus anxiety with
a pet.
Page 4

INDEX

Jazz Showcase.....	p 2
South Loop Neighbors	p 3
Marianne Goss	p 4
Bonnie McGrath.....	p 5
Lorraine Schmall's Book Review.....	p 7
Mondays with Mike	p 9
Newcity.	p 11, 12
Beth Finke	p 14
Be an Election Judge.....	p 18
Real Estate	p 24, 25

JAZZ SHOWCASE

ISAIAH COLLIER is a Chicago-based writer, educator, arranger, and composer. An alumnus of the Jazz Institute of Chicago and The Chicago High School for the Performing Arts, Collier has worked and played with Chicago legends such as Willie Pickens, Delores Scott, Ernest Dawkins, Ari Brown, Dee Alexander, Maggie Brown, Robert Irving III, and Charles Heath IV, in addition to national and international artists such as Rene Marie, Chance the Rapper, Stefon Harris, Roy McCurdy, Carmen Bradford, Carl Allen, Bennie Maupin, Bobby Broom, Quincy Phillips, Lisa Henry, Wyclif Gordon, Lewis Nash, and the AACM. Collier draws influence from saxophone masters such as John Coltrane, Ari Brown, Roscoe Mitchell, and Gene Ammons. He has had many mentors, including Antonio Hart, Joan Collaso, Ari Brown, Willie Pickens, Ernest Dawkins, Bennie Maupin, James Perkins, Charles Heath, Bobby Watson, and others. Collier and his band "The Chosen Few" just recently returned from Europe. Collier is fascinated with sounds. He believes the stage to be a lab where he can experiment and explore with sounds. To make a new statement.



Isaiah Collier

Thursday-Saturday, Sept 10th thru 12th , 7 & 9pm

Sunday, Sept 13th, 4pm & 8pm

Vibraphonist Thaddeus Tukes

W/ Jo Ann Daugherty Trio

Thursday, Sept 17, 2020 at 7pm

Friday, September 18, 2020 at 9pm



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Jazzshowcase.com

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South Loop Neighbors

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- ☐ Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- ☐ Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- ☐ Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- ☐ Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- ☐ Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan.

www.southloopneighbors.org

South Loop Neighbors

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

Public Meeting on Planning & Development

Date: Sept. 16

Time: 7 pm

Location: Zoom

The annual roundup of South Loop development, presented by Dennis McClendon, our Vice-President for Planning and Development. This is usually one of SLN's most attended meetings as residents learn about current and planned developments for our neighborhood. A Zoom invite will be sent out as we get closer to the date.



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Jaqi@JaqiGreenInteriors.com



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

Family Law
Estate Planning
Business Formation

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

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

OPINION

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



Retired in Chicago

Reduce coronavirus anxiety with a pet

By **Marianne Goss**, August 31, 2020

August 21 was three months since losing my cat Lizzy. Too long living without another sentient being, especially during these days of isolation.

So I started to look at the cat pages on the website of PAWS, where my friend Bobbie, a volunteer, encouraged me to find my next feline companion. The winner, whom I named Fanny, was suggested by the adoption counselor and looks uncannily like Lizzy: the same charcoal-colored fur and petite body. Maybe Lizzy was glancing down from cat heaven, realized that I miss her, and sent me her look-alike.

My friends who live with four-legged roommates and no other humans all say that their pets have helped them get by as we've had to keep distant from people. While a hug or a clasped hand have been off limits, ankle rubs and head butts supply a needed touch.

The coronavirus is too recent for research reports on how people coped with isolation, but ample studies previously showed that pets have emotional benefits for their humans.

"[C]ontact with pets help reduces stress and anxiety, particularly when you are experiencing a stressful situation," Tufts University professor Megan Mueller, who researches how pets help people, told a *TuftsNow* writer. "[P]ets are physically present in a way that other forms of social and emotional support aren't these days for many people, and there's really something to having that tactile component of petting or touching a pet."

Researchers have found that pets help reduce anxiety and depression and further recovery from trauma. We feel less alone and isolated when there's another living creature in the house. Dogs and cats listen to us as if they understand, give us warm bodies to stroke and snuggle with, coax us to play with them, and amuse us. They deflect our thoughts away from worrying about the uncertain future and invite us to take a break and chill. They fulfill our need to take care of a living creature. There is nothing like a cat or a dog for feeling loved and needed. Feeding, playing with, and grooming a pet can put structure and meaning into days that can seem like shapeless blurs.

Isolation seems to be driving large numbers of people to pet shelters to adopt furry companions. The *New York Times* has reported that shelters are seeing increases in applications for adoption and fostering. My friend Bobbie says that PAWS has an incredible 22,000 applications at present, compared with a couple hundred a week in normal times. Having more time at home to attend to a pet is

a factor in the increased interest, but many applicants also say they want company when they're trapped indoors.

Lizzy was supposed to be my snuggle buddy during isolation. She excelled at lap sitting during the day and curling up by my shoulder overnight. "So glad to have Lizzy now," I wrote in my journal in March as the lockdown began. Although she was almost 15 and had a medical condition, I didn't expect to lose Lizzy in May, especially not when I needed her more than ever. I might have looked for her successor sooner if not for a remodeling project that dragged on longer than expected.

If folks without pets are thinking about bringing an animal into your home, but you're not sure about a long-term commitment, fostering for a limited amount of time is an option. If you still hesitate, you can get some of the stress-reducing benefits of pets just by watching funny cat and dog videos online.

Fanny has been here three days now and looks to be a sweetheart. This morning she's been following me around and, when I sit down, places herself about two feet away. It feels wonderful to touch fur again. Fanny is only 2, so with luck she'll be with me many years after we emerge from the pandemic. Animals are helping us get through this, but it's not like they won't be needed afterward. Those of us who have had cats and dogs know their value in any scenario.

MICHAEL MOORE SENDS A WARNING

This sent shivers down my spine: Filmmaker Michael Moore, who predicted that Donald Trump would beat Hillary Clinton, warned us anti-Trumpers not to let the current presidential polls bring on complacency. "I'm warning you almost 10 weeks in advance. The enthusiasm level for the 60 million in Trump's base is OFF THE CHARTS!," Moore posted on Facebook Friday. "WE have to wake up every day for the next 67 days and make sure each of us are going to get a hundred people out to vote. ACT NOW!"

It can be hard to figure out how to help a Democratic presidential candidate when your state is a given for that candidate. [Texting and making phone calls for the Biden campaign](#) are actions we can take from home.

ANTI-TRUMP COMMENTS: 127TH IN AN ONGOING SERIES
"[T]his is the core of Trump's reelection message: You should give him credit for the economic recovery he inherited from Obama. And you should blame someone else for the disastrous response to the coronavirus. Inspiring stuff."

— Ezra Klein, *Vox*



Fanny

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

OPINION

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So there was this one day recently when...everything was sort of normal

Even though the name of the outdoor photo show I went to see recently was “These Extraordinary Times,” everything was sort of normal.

[South Loop Neighbors](#)—one of the earnest, very hardworking community organizations in the neighborhood—organizes a photo show every year of South Loop scenes. This year there were two shows. Both were at neighborhood farmers’ markets.

I’d never submitted anything to the show before. It’s been going for about 20 years. As my Facebook friends know, I’m not exactly a good photographer.... But once in a while, by accident, I snap a good one.

I couldn’t resist. I submitted a picture I called “Christopher Columbus’ last stand.” The statue had already been attacked in Grant Park, at the entrance to the Museum Campus—and soon after I took the picture, [it was taken down](#) to appease violent rioters. I took the picture to put on Facebook. I did take time to frame it the way I thought it should be, before snapping it with my iPhone.

I submitted it on deadline day, August 21.

The first showing of the photos was Thursday evening, August 27 at the South Loop farmers’ market, held in the driveway of Second Presbyterian Church at Cullerton and Michigan; the second showing was the morning of August 29 at Printers Row Park farmers market on the 600 block of South Dearborn—and that was the day that struck me as a normal one, right out of old times--and better days--in the ‘hood.

It was a beautiful and sunny day when I left the house to see how my picture looked, one of 20 that were submitted of scenes from around the neighborhood. At both markets, SLN brought nice racks on which to hang the framed submissions. And at both markets, they were easy to see and get to without disappearing into a mass of masked attendees buying victuals.

Many people were there on that Saturday from the neighborhood, people who I’ve known for years. We’ve shared every aspect of our lives in every context, at everyone’s house and restaurant, park and cultural event; and we’ve shared opinions on every current event emanating from the neighborhood and the world, whether they directly affected our lives or not.

And so, this “normalcy” sprouted as a few of us stood there in front of my picture, catching up.

“Isn’t it terrible that the Kenosha police shot that guy in the back seven times?” asked a woman who I’ve known and been friends with for 25 years. Yes, it is, I agreed as I thought about [Laquan McDonald](#) and the Chicago cop who is serving a long sentence in prison for shooting him multiple times in the back.

Another friend and active member of SLN, who’d been in law enforcement at one time in his life said we have to wait to see what the investigation comes up with. He cautioned against jumping to conclusions. (Regardless of the burned buildings and the businesses ruined in Kenosha.)

I walked him home, not far from where the farmers’ market was, because I wanted to talk about my feelings of revulsion, not only because of a cop shooting someone in the back and paralyzing him and we still don’t know why—but for making the shooter—who’d been accused of sexual assault and wasn’t even allowed in Kenosha, and other things that got the victim to call the police—a hero.

Again, he said that we have to wait and see what the investigation turns up in Kenosha.

And we said goodbye.

I decided to pack it in myself, and as I walked toward Polk Street, I realized that a boarded up storefront in the iconic [Donahue](#) Building that was all boarded up was actually a [local antique store](#) that generally showcases tons of beautiful stuff in the windows. I saw he had a crude “open” on the boarded up door and I walked in.

I’ve known the owner who’s lived and worked in the neighborhood for 25 years and found him in the maze of small rooms inside, which are all packed with everything from crystal bowls to Christmas nutcrackers.

I spotted a beautiful piece of wrought iron I’d admired for a long time in his previously unboarded window, which I thought he’d sold when it suddenly disappeared a while back. But he’d just moved it out of the window. And I said I was going to buy it. He told me he actually had two. Did I want two?

I asked him for a discount if I bought two.. He said OK, and I went home to get some cash.

As I came down a small path on the way to my house, I ran into another neighbor who stopped me, and even though he was masked, as was I, I could see he was mad. From his eyes.

“What the hell has gotten into you lately?” he asked. “Are you for Trump?” I think you’ve gone nuts.” Like everyone else I know, who sees everything as black/white, good/bad, like/no like, without nuance, he accused me of being a traitor. I’ve been very critical of Biden and Harris [in this blog](#)—and rightly so. Many times.

But no one is allowed to discuss their shortcomings. They’re the alternative to the guy who’s “stealing our democracy.” Exactly how he’s doing that, no one can explain. But he’s stealing it from us. And the only people who can save it are the Batman and Robin of 2020: Joe and Kamala. Not good enough for me. And it’s apparent the fix was in.

Another neighbor of mine, who happens to agree with me, and who I share articles with almost every day via email—and vice versa—agrees with me. And I ran into him when I came out with the cash and was on the way back to the antique dealer.

I told him about my dressing down a few minutes before. He and I follow political pundits online who we like very much, such as [Jimmy Dore](#) (who for four years has called Trump a symptom of a sick political system that has gotten even sicker because of the dems; and [Krystal Ball and Saagar Enjeti](#), who have discussed such ideas as Biden actually *EARNING* our vote before we vote for him, and Harris being nothing but a phony servant of the elite establishment, rewarded well by the corporate establishment and the neocons.

As I walked back to the antique store, I ran into another old friend, watering her front yard. I just happened to think, ironically, of how we met back in the very early 2000s and asked her if she remembered. Yes, she did. We met at a fundraiser for presidential candidate John Edwards who wanted to take on Bush in 2004 (which he ultimately did as John Kerry’s running mate).

There wasn’t much more to say about politics. We both remembered where we were and where we are now, the Iraq invasion still going on to one degree or another (for 17 years) which if we’d been told that back then we wouldn’t have believed. We were sick enough after a few days of it back then. (continued on page 13)

Bonnie McGrath

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





At the Printers
Row Farmers
Market
Buy One Give One



My name is Claire. I'm a certified elementary teacher who noticed something I desperately wanted to fix during my time student teaching. You see, not all of my 29 students were sent to school with a healthy lunch and snack option. I saw how the students who didn't have nutritious foods were the very same students who couldn't focus on their school work. They lacked energy to sustain their minds throughout the afternoon, especially during math class... that's when I had an idea.

My Launch Box was born out of a desire to alleviate a nationwide food scarcity issue by creating change through something so routine as lunch.

Lunch is something we get every day! But now, we have the choice to Cater for a Cause.

<https://mylaunchbox.org/>

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The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett (Riverhead Books 2020)

People are quite taken with Brit Bennett's fabulous second novel, **The Vanishing Half**. Since the book was published at the start of this turbulent summer—when matters of color and race and justice were thrust into view—400,000 copies have been sold; six studios wrangled over TV rights; and 2,656 Chicago Public Library patrons are signed up and waiting to check it out. It's no wonder. Bennett has gifted us with an insightful, imaginative, compassionate story—and prose that robs you of oxygen, makes you rush to turn the page, and, mourn when you reach the last one. The book begins: *"The morning one of the lost twins returned, Lou LeBon ran to the diner to break the news. Desiree looked exactly the same as when she left at 16, her skin the color of sand, barely wet....and she was holding the hand of a girl, seven or eight, black as tar."* Desiree and her identical twin, Stella, were born in a mythical town called Mallard, built by the mixed-race grandson of a slave and a slave master, for light-skinned "men like him, who would never be accepted as white but refused to be treated like Negroes. He'd married a mulatto even lighter than himself...and he imagined his children's children's children, lighter still, like a cup of coffee steadily diluted with cream. A more perfect Negro. Each generation lighter than the one before." From this doubly-punishing "third space,"

the twins escaped, fleeing together to New Orleans for a new life, but losing each other in the process, *"their lives splitting as evenly as their shared egg."* **The Vanishing Half** is a family saga that spans over a hundred years and a sibling coming-of-age story that begins in 1952 and hasn't stopped when the book does in 1988. It is a hodgepodge of love stories that jumble up race, and absence, and violence, and secrets, and gender and blood—complex, painful, but no less love, because, as always, there is "no single truth." And it gives us an eye-full of evils that weren't yet named when the twins were born: white privilege, systemic racism, colorism, sexism, homo- and transphobia. Many of the characters are like mythical shapeshifters, losing half of themselves to become someone or something else. They change race, gender, class, and expectations: *"The hardest part about becoming someone else was deciding to. The rest was only logistics."* It sounds simple. You know it isn't. Jump on the Brit Bennett Bandwagon; this book will capture you.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park September, 2020

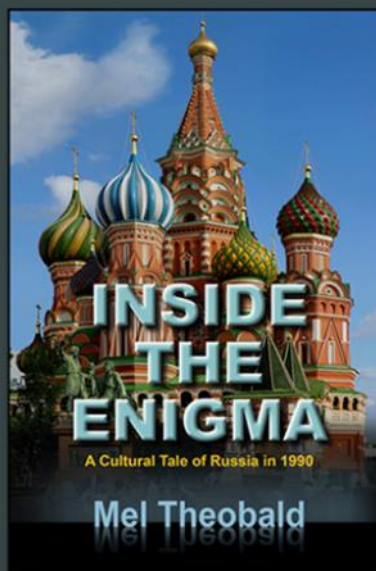



Writing Out Loud
what a blind teacher learned from
leading a memoir class for seniors

Beth Finke

Inside the Enigma A Cultural Tale of Russia in 1990

by Mel Theobald



"Inside the Enigma sweeps you along like the very best fiction, all the more captivating because it really happened. An ordinary guy becomes caught up in high-level wheeling and dealing during a critical moment in international relations. Along the way he discovers hidden art treasures, gets to know the passionate men and women who create them – and recaptures meaning and purpose in his own life. With those four great themes and an inexhaustible wealth of twists and turns, this book will enthrall you from the moment you enter its unique world."

For complete details, please go to:
www.insidetheenigma.com

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The Adventures of Saul Bellow

Q&A with film director
ASAF GALAY



SEPT. 10
7:00 PM



The Adventures of Saul Bellow

Asaf Galay's *The Adventures of Saul Bellow* is the first-ever documentary film on the man described by the critic James Wood as the "greatest of American prose stylists in the twentieth century." Marking the centennial of his birth and the tenth anni-

versary of his death, the film features original interviews along with previously restricted footage and takes the viewer to the locations that shaped Bellow and his fiction.

American Writers Museum

180 N. Michigan Avenue,

2nd Floor <https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>



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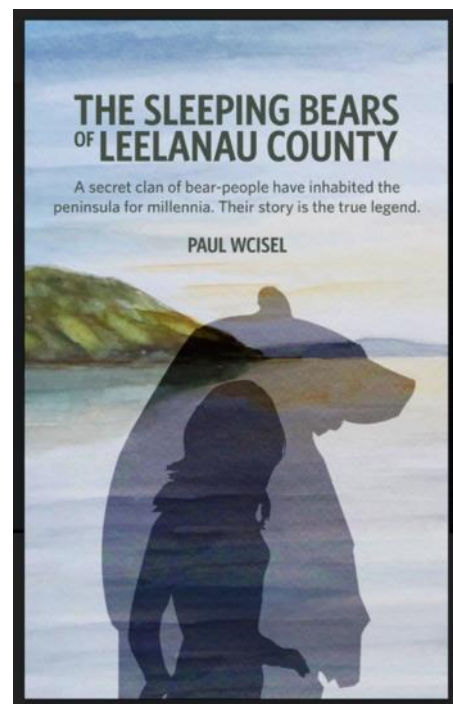
Susan Bass Marcus writes and illustrates fiction, essays, and reviews. Her Dragonwolder fantasy novels, *Malevir: Dragons Return* and *Where Dragons Follow*, offer a world of dragon clans, an enigmatic menace the Malevir, sprites, goblins, questing humans, and magical giants. Her musings appear weekly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

A new novel by local author, Paul Wcisel

(paulwcisel.com)

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

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



OPINION

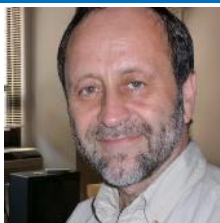
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Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | August 17, 2020

Actual reality beats the day-lights out of virtual Reality

Sept 7, 2020



As blog readers know from last Monday's post, last week was not a happy one for me.

Emotional dips happen to everyone I know from time to time. In these circumstances, the dips are deeper. Lots of us get miserable now and then, but to quote an old saw, misery loves company.

Beats hell out of misery alone.

We had a lovely Labor Day weekend here in Chicago, where we had two perfect days wrapped around a rainy one.

We did our thing with neighborhood friends where we bring down camp chairs to our little park below our apartment window and have a distanced pot luck. These friends are ones we'd be picnicking with at Summer Dance—which ain't happening this year. Among them are what I'd call professional urban picknickers—they have some major equipment that includes a portable serving table and coolers. And...elegant battery-powered candles.

The food was fantastic, the company better.

Sunday we heard some scrumptious music at Jazz Showcase. This was courtesy of our local friends Al and Donna. They buy tickets for every weekend show (whether or not they can attend) to support the Jazz Showcase.

They gave us their tickets because they could not attend. The Showcase doesn't serve food, so it can't serve alcohol under the current limit. But it fights on, serving music from Thursday to Sunday each week, encouraging attendees to order non-alcoholic drinks and bring food they've ordered to-go from local restaurants. And folks are distanced.

Today Beth and I Zipcarred to the north suburbs for a distanced cookout on our suburban friends' lovely deck. Labor Day was busy for Zipcar—we had to walk farther than usual to get ours. But Luna loved the walk.

When we arrived, we walked around the side of the house to our friends' deck. They'd set two tables, one for them, one for us, separated by a safe but still close-enough distance to have a good conversation. We'd not seen each other since you-know-what started. We had a lot of catching up to do, and it was delightful doing it. The grilled salmon and scallops, veggies and salad weren't bad, either.

One of our hosts hadn't been with her mother, who lives in an assisted living facility, until two weeks ago. (They'd done the through-the-window thing.)

We told her and her husband that with luck, we'd see our son Gus this coming Saturday. I say "luck," because we had to submit a request that must still be approved, and the weather has to comply—we can see him on the backyard deck only. But we're hopeful. We've Zoomed with him and staff, and it helps. But it ain't the same. Let's hope we never reach the point where we think it does.

Because this weekend reminded me of the power of being at the same place, at the same time, with people you love.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

CLICK HERE

Bizarro World

August 28, 2020



- **The Party Convention, Reimagined**
- **The Long-Brewing Crisis in Higher Education**
- **Distance Learning Saved His Life**

At the Republican National Convention, Trump advisor Larry Kudlow said the pandemic "was awful." On this week's On the Media, why some politicians and educators are using the past tense to describe an active threat. Plus, how COVID could prompt long-term changes to American higher ed.

1. James Fallows [[@JamesFallows](#)] on the contrasting spectacles of this year's virtual Democratic and Republican National Conventions. [Listen](#).
2. Scott Galloway [[@profgalloway](#)], professor of marketing at NYU and host of Pivot Podcast, on why so many colleges and universities decided to reopen despite the pandemic, and what it tells us about the future of higher education. [Listen](#).
3. OTM producer/reporter Micah Loewinger [[@MicahLoewinger](#)] tells the story of how remote learning saved his friend's life. [Listen](#).



Friday, August 21, 2020

[Giglio's Tavern Closes After a Brief Run at 825 S. State](#)

It looks like Giglio's (825 S. State) is officially closed:

Talk about tough timing - [Giglio's opened quickly in July 2019](#) and never had much of a chance to establish itself before Covid-19 hit.

Sorry to see them go. Curious to what will go in next (and when). It could be awhile...

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

South Loop Neighbors Clean-Up Brigade



Want to show your South Loop Pride?

Want to spend an hour or 2 volunteering with other South Loop residents to help keep YOUR neighborhood clean?

The South Loop Neighbors is holding this 2nd event of a 3-part pilot program, to bring people together (with proper social distancing), taking pride in our neighborhood and helping to clean up parks and other public area in the South Loop!

This 2nd event of the pilot program will be centered on Roosevelt Rd. from State St. to Michigan Ave.

The targeted area for clean-up will be Roosevelt Rd, from State St to Michigan Ave and may be expanded to the adjoining blocks dependent upon the number of volunteers.

All necessary supplies will be provide. It is anticipated that this event will last approximately 1 ½ hours.

Re-Scheduled Due to Weather Forecast!

When: September 13 at 1PM

Staring Location: N/W Corner of Roosevelt Rd & State St

In order to make sure we have all the supplies necessary, please register to volunteer for this event by sending an email to Jim@southloopneighbors.org

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After a nightmare year, we're ready to dream again.

My earliest memory of going to the movies was in the backseat of our baby-blue Volkswagen Beetle in the summer of 1968 at the drive-in in Lincoln, Nebraska. We brought our own popcorn in a matching baby-blue tin container—mom and dad in the front seat, and two-year-old Brent and six-year-old me in the rear, with the backseat folded down so we could sprawl out and sleep when we got tired. I remember seeing “Camelot,” and dozing off before the end, but with a three-hour running time, I bet I wasn’t the only one. I also remember “The Love Bug”—we had a special connection to that one in our own beloved bug—and perhaps another Disney movie or two.

So you can imagine I’m excited to share the news that Newcity’s third movie, “Dreaming Grand Avenue,” will have its world premiere at the drive-in. There have been few silver linings in this dark COVID cloud, but the revival of the nearly extinct drive-in theater is one of them. (And this is coming from someone who does not own a car.) The drive-in is an iconic part of American film and cultural history and even family history, since my dad told me, not long before he died, that he’d worked a summer at the White Spot Drive-In in Fargo, North Dakota in the 1950s where part of his job was busting kids who hoped to sneak into the theater by hiding in the trunk of their car. (Nowadays, most drive-ins charge by the car so the jig is up on that move.)

Many years and miles away, “Dreaming Grand Avenue” premieres on September 23 at ChiTown Movies in Pilsen, a theater recently constructed in the parking lot behind the ChiTown Futbol indoor soccer facility. We’re partnering with the Music Box Theatre and Elevated Films on the evening, and we hope to see you there so we can dream together. But don’t sleep on tickets: the premieres for our previous two films, “Signature Move” and “Knives and Skin,” quickly sold out. But if you get caught napping and miss this one, we’ll be opening September 25 at the Music Box Theatre, both in physical and virtual cinema formats.

Who should see “Dreaming Grand Avenue”? If you liked the “Twilight” movies and especially Jasper Hale, you’ll love seeing Jackson Rathbone toddling around your hometown. If you liked the “Narcos” series, you’ll love seeing the range that one of its underused stars, Andrea Londo, brings to our very big screen. If you like Chicago’s own Tony Fitzpatrick, for his museum-caliber art or his Newcity “Dime Stories” columns or both, you’ll love seeing his best performance yet as an actor on screen. If you like



David Lynch’s “Twin Peaks,” you’ll enjoy seeing the Chicago member of that TV show’s cast, Wendy Robie (she of the eye patch) as she deploys her formidable acting skills in mystical ways. If you love poetry, whether slams or classic verses, you’ll love seeing Walt Whitman interacting with Marc Smith at the Green Mill. In fact, if you’re a Chicagoan in body or spirit, you’ll love the many locations ranging from the Seminary Co-op Bookstore to the Smart Bar to the Lincoln Park Zoo to the Chicago River tour boat.

And if, like me, you’ve always been a dreamer, this movie is made for you.

Speaking of Tony Fitzpatrick, he’s been writing about the political conventions for us, in his own singular voice, at Newcity.com.

See you at the movies.

BRIAN HIEGELKE

Look for Newcity’s September 2020 print edition at over 1000 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at Newcityshop.com.

NEWCITY newcity.com

Online LIVE Class Schedule

Gentle Yoga Stretch:

Monday, 11:30 AM with Sylvie
Props: Strap or similar

GYROKINESIS®:

Monday, 5 PM with Briana
Props: Chair

Gentle Pilates Mat (35 Minutes):

(w/ focus on Neurological Conditions)
Wednesday, 11:30 AM with Briana

Intermediate Mat Pilates:

Thursday, 11:30 AM with Sylvie

Gentle GYROKINESIS®:

Friday, 11:30 AM with Briana
Props: Chair

Advanced Registration is required:

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Unless otherwise noted, all classes are 50 minutes

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We will send you a ZOOM link to the class once you are registered.

Fall Arts Preview 2020: With Experimental Spirit, The Dance



Nejla Yatkin in "The Other Witch." Photo: Enki Andrews.

Center of Columbia College Reinvents the Fall Season

September 1, 2020 at 11:38 am by [Sharon Hoyer](#)

Under normal circumstances, the Dance Center of Columbia College curates a series of performances September through June that bring the best small and mid-sized companies from Chicago, the United States and abroad to their 270-seat black-box theater in the South Loop. But this is no normal year. And in the midst of a pandemic that has suspended live indoor theater, the Dance Center has retooled their fall 2020 season to focus on residencies for local artists, an expanded virtual education program, and a handful of live-streamed and filmed performances. Ellen Chenoweth, director of the Dance Presenting Series at Columbia College, talks about how she and the entire Dance Center faculty and staff reimagined the Fall season, looking for abundance in lean times, as well as the power of small changes.

How did you think about creating a Fall 2020 season amidst so much uncertainty?

One of the starting places was thinking about what things are possible in this moment. What are the strengths and advantages? We're in the unusual position of being embedded within a dance department. One of our advantages is that we have so many incredible educators in our midst. We can still teach classes online, and online classes have been popular in quarantine. We have a lot of instructors teaching master classes, and we have community members teaching who don't normally teach at the Dance Center.

One of our strengths is that our platform connects national and international artists with Chicago community members, so we're wanting to take a moment to spotlight Chicago artists to our national and international friends.

The Dance Center of Columbia College will premiere Nejla Yatkin's "The Other Witch" October 23 at 6pm and Jumaane Taylor's "Ugly Flavors and The Jazz Hoofing Quartet" live-streamed November 7 at 7pm. All performance content accessible with donations of \$20 or more. All-access classes with donation of \$120 or more, single classes available. Registration and tickets at dance.colum.edu.

Click here for the rest of the story: <https://www.newcitystage.com/2020/09/01/experimental-spirit-the-dance-center-of-columbia-college-reinvents-their-fall-season/>



"**Dreaming Grand Avenue**" premieres on September 23 at ChiTown Movies in Pilsen, a theater recently constructed in the parking lot behind the ChiTown Futbol indoor soccer facility. Opening September 25 at the **Music Box Theatre**, both in physical and virtual cinema formats. And at **Showplace Icon**, South Loop on September 25!

NEWCITY

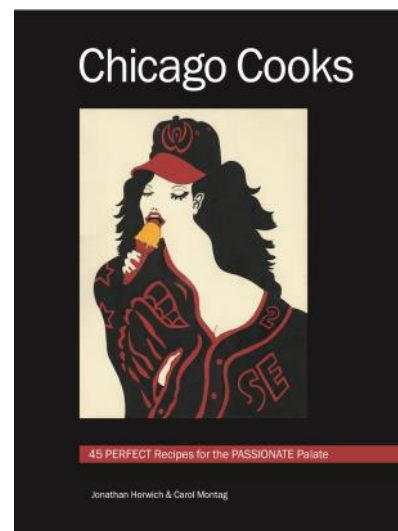
newcity.com

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

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

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

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



(continued from page 5, Bonne McGrath)

She invited me in to see her recently (and beautifully) renovated kitchen, master bath, powder room, fireplace surround and entry hall. And the transformation of her son's room--he graduated from college and is out on his own. It all looked beautiful. Really nice.

How our lives had changed—yet stayed the same, I thought. When we met, her son hadn't even started grammar school yet.

When I got back to the antiques store and paid for my beautiful new pieces of wrought iron, we got onto yet another political discussion. And I was given an interesting earful of the latest "conspiracy" theories emanating from MSNBC about Trump stealing our democracy. Or as competitor Fox News calls it, MSDNC.

Which I don't mention to disparage either cable station, or any cable station, or any conspiracy theory emanating from anywhere or for any reason. That's life now, for better or worse, win or lose.

The only reason I mention anything of this nature is to emphasize that in spite of almost everyone wearing a mask on a very pleasant, recent Saturday, life was very normal in the neighborhood.

People were out on the street, seeing old friends and neighbors, visiting the farmers' market, seeing the SLN photo show, admiring a new kitchen re-do, remembering old times, patronizing local businesses (such as they are these days) and discussing politics.

That was all I was thinking about as I turned the key in the door of my house, shut it and locked it behind me and turned on the TV, fired up the computer and made myself a snack while I listened and read of what was going on in the world.

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Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



Teaching via Zoom? You Can Do It

In his [guest post last week](#), Michael Graff said that when the idea of teaching memoir via Zoom first came up, “Beth was skeptical.” A very generous description there. Had I been editing his rough draft, it’d look like this :

Beth was skepticalstubborn.

Even before COVID, many people were suggesting I offer online courses in addition to in-person ones. “You could get people from all over the country,” they’d say. “You could charge a lot, and you wouldn’t even have to leave home.” Not leave home? Being *with* my writers is what I love most about teaching memoir. You’re right there, sensing the emotion from writers as they read personal essays out loud. As the class continues, you feel a certain trust develop in a room of people who once were strangers. You witness friendships growing.

“Thanks for the suggestion,” I told those computer-screen addicts back then. “It just won’t work for me.”

But they wouldn’t give up. “You can see everyone,” they’d continue, describing how an online class works. “You can watch their reactions right from home”

“But I can’t see!” I’d remind them. And that’s where the conversation would end.

But then, COVID happened.

When Wanda’s Wednesday class was cancelled in March, Sharon Kramer, a writer in that class and a graduate of the [Beth Finke Memoir Teacher MasterClass](#), stepped up to the plate. She volunteered to teach her fellow writers how to use Zoom, and she’s been leading that class via Zoom ever since. I could hug her for keeping that class going.

Not now, though. Sigh.

Writers in two other classes I lead generously offered to stand in and lead classes via Zoom for me during COVID, too. Then Michael Graff (last week’s guest blogger) and his classmate Hugh Brodke lobbied to have me lead a trial Zoom class for Village Chicago. The trial class would be a good way to determine if it’s possible for people who are blind to teach using Zoom, they said. Writers could sign up to see if they’d like Zooming enough to commit to a six-week session.

I passed the audition.

Months later, I am leading three classes a week from home via Zoom. How does a person who can’t see manage to give writing prompts, interact with the writers, field questions, and keep tabs on who is (and isn’t) paying attention? Here’s how:

- Zoom has a dedicated accessibility team. Thanks to the efforts of people on that accessibility team, Zoom services are compatible with the standard screenreaders I use: VoiceOver on my iPhone, and JAWS on my PC
- When each writer arrives at the meeting, JAWS barks out their name in my headphone, a la “Alfred E. Newman has joined the meeting,” which allows me to keep track of who hasn’t arrived yet.
- Ditto when people sneak out early, as in “Alfred E. Newman has left the meeting.”
- I use keyboard shortcuts to mute and unmute myself.
- Most writers were in class when we were meeting in person, so I am familiar with — and can identify them by — their voices.
- Writers I have never met in person email their essays my way for editing before class, going over their written work ahead of time gives me an idea of who they are, and I’m learning to match their speaking voice with their writing voice.
- Limiting the essays to 500 words helps class, ahem, zoom by.
- Participants are far less likely to get bored or restless or make unnecessary noise when class zooms by like that.
- The high-quality headphones I use allow me to hear each writer clearly as they read their essays.
- The microphone attached to those headphones is high-quality, too, so everyone can hear me.
- Writers in my classes are not shy about telling me to raise or lower my screen so they can see my entire face rather than only my chin or forehead.

But if you want to know the **real** reason I’ve been successful leading Zoom classes, it’s this: a writer in each Zoom memoir class I lead volunteers to act as host and moderator. They set up the Zoom class, they know how to mute everyone in class while simultaneously unmuting the writer who is reading their piece, and can contact me in-between classes to rat out anyone who was taking a catnap or filing their nails or reading the paper or watching TV while a fellow writer was reading their essay. Writers in my Zoom classes: consider yourselves warned!

So a huge **thank you** to my hosts and moderators: Ellen Schweri, Regan Burke, and Michael Graff. I couldn’t do it without you. Zoom is working, yes, but I do look forward to sharing our stories in person again. And to that hug with Sharon, too.



#MissionMoment

Can you believe teachers started reporting back to school today and students are heading back next week? It feels as if summer came and went in the blink of an eye. Even though many students will be heading back to school virtually we know that having the key to a successful school year for any child is the supplies they have available to them.

Last week we hosted a back to school fair at Hope Manor II for the Englewood community. We partnered with some incredible organizations to provide essential items to families and children as they get ready for a new school year. Individuals and families were able to get fresh vegetables and bread, backpacks, school supplies, toiletries, reading books, athletic gear, and so much more! In addition free COVID-19 testing was available, free haircuts, and there was a table full of resources and information on how to complete the census. The District 7 CAPS team came out to support the event and spend time with the children and families that stopped by. The best part of the day was bringing so many people together and getting excited about a new beginning that is right around the corner!

In these uncertain times, it's day like these that continue to inspire and remind us why we do what we do.

*You can help us continue providing life changing experiences by **making a gift today.***

Make sure to visit our [social media](#) to view photos from the event!

For more #MissionMoment stories check out our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). #TheVOAWay

<https://www.voainninois.org/>

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our features and publish every 20 days. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us :

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Divers search for body of man who fell into Monroe Harbor

The 32-year-old fell off a boat about 6:05 p.m. into the harbor in the 400 block of East Monroe Street and never resurfaced, Chicago police said.

By [Sun-Times Wire](#) Aug 30, 2020, 7:57pm CDT

Dive crews are searching for a man who fell off a boat Sunday evening into Monroe Harbor.

The 32-year-old fell off a boat about 6:05 p.m. into the harbor in the 400 block of East Monroe Street and never resurfaced, Chicago police said. Divers with the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department were sent in after him.

After looking for the man for two hours, Chicago fire officials announced that the search had officially become a recovery mission, led by Chicago police and the United States Coast Guard.

Further information was not immediately available.



Monroe Harbor August 21, 2020

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Saturdays with Seniors: Guest Post by Rita Sussman

Rita Revisits the 1963 March on Washington

Yesterday, August 28, was the 57th anniversary of The historic March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Today's Saturdays with Seniors guest blogger Rita Sussman was there that day, and she generously agreed to let us publish her memories of that historic event.

by Rita Sussman

A few months after I'd graduated from Cornell, my friends and I took the train from New York City to march with thousands of others through Washington streets. Heady with empowerment, we urged bystanders along the way to join us in this historic crusade.

Dangling our feet in the cool of the Reflecting Pool at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, we were flush with the excitement of merging our individual selves in the ocean of bodies sprawled on the mall. I strained to hear the voices of amplified civil rights activists, while laughter and conversation — even some guitar music — threatened to drown out words of incitement and inspiration.

Masses of people extended far beyond the few small spaces we occupied. There was constant movement within the throng, greetings bubbled among comrades unexpectedly reunited, couples leaned against each other, and friends lounged on laps. Alongside demonstrators from all over the country, I was saturated with this moment's importance and the impressive force for change we represented.

In the heat of that August afternoon, a hush settled as Dr. King took the podium, beginning his speech with a reference to the Emancipation Proclamation: "One hundred years later, the Negro still is not free." Towards the end of his speech, [prompted by Mahalia Jackson's cry](#): "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" [Dr. King veered away from his prepared notes to describe his dreams of freedom and equality. The "I have a dream" part mesmerized his listeners.

In 1960, when I was a college freshman, I had ridiculed President Kennedy's "My fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country" inaugural address. Sitting by the Reflecting Pool three years later in 1963, my friends and I scoffed at King's stentorian delivery and dismissed the idealism which inspired it. Not having the benefit of historical hindsight or schooling in public oratory, we were singularly unimpressed. We'd heard words like that before, promising a

new birth of freedom even though Negroes were being beaten and discriminated against and still were segregated throughout the South.

Fifty-seven years later, I am tolerant of young progressive activists just embarking on their political journey, not yet comprehending the full scope of a nation's political landscape. I remember my dismissive attitude towards Kennedy and King and the years I voted for Dick Gregory (rather than the "apologist" Hubert Humphrey who ran against Richard Nixon) and for the candidate affiliated with the Socialist Workers Party — all in order to register my disaffection with mainstream politicians. Like me, a 21-year-old college graduate who thought society needed to be restructured rather than reformed, some young people today think deciding not to vote — even if it contributes to a Trump electoral victory — is worth it. Better that than cast their ballot for Joe Biden, a middle-of-the-road liberal who would "sell out" their radical agenda for true change in this country.

Looking back on King's speech, much has changed for Black Americans. His dream of full equality in a just society, however, is still that: a dream. Could we, the young people of yesterday and protesters of today be right? Gradual reform is not enough!



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Dining and Drinking Top 5: September 2020

September 2, 2020 at 7:00 am by [David Hammond](#)

Pizza Tour/Photo: Steve Dolinsky

[Pizza Tours](#)

(All over the city)

Think Chicago is all about deep dish? What are you, a tourist? No shame in that, but if you want to learn about the immense range of pizzas in Chicago, book a seat on Steve Dolinsky's pizza tours.

Saturdays and Sundays

2

[Taste of India](#)

(All over the city)

James Beard Foundation grant recipient Jasmine Sheth expands our understanding of Indian cuisine with thali (think bento boxes) of regional Indian food, a different region every week, delivered.

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3

[Sunday Dinner Club](#)

Chicago-based service allows pickup of dinners using locally sourced ingredients.

Pickup Saturday

4

[Secret Beer Tours](#)

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5

[Sidewalk Food Tours](#)

Tour that gives historical perspective on neighborhoods like Wicker Park and River North, stops for local snacks and beverages at highly regarded places.

By arrangement

[David Hammond](#)

Dining and Drinking Editor for *Newcity*, David also writes a weekly food column for *Wednesday Journal* in Oak Park and is a frequent contributor of food/drink and travel pieces to the *Chicago Tribune*, *Plate Magazine* and other publications. David has also contributed chapters to several books, including *Street Food Around the World*, *Street Food*, and *The Chicago Food Encyclopedia*. Contact: dhammond@newcity.com

Looking for a way to get involved in the November election? Be an election judge

By [Alexandra Yetter](#), Senior Reporter

August 31, 2020

When Jeromel Dela Rosa Lara and his mother became U.S. citizens in 2017, Lara was already looking forward to voting and assisting in the U.S. democratic process.

Since then, Lara, a sophomore at Harvard University who is from Chicago, has worked as an election judge in three consecutive elections—the 2018 midterms, a 2019 consolidated election and the 2020 primary.

"I feel compelled to take up the role [in November] because ... a lot of poll workers are elderly people and are in that high-risk category," Lara said. "If a lot of young people like myself who were likely to be asymptomatic when it comes to the virus, or have lessened risks, can run the election, [it will make] sure democracy still works in November."

Recruiting people to run polling places on Election Day has long been a difficult task for election officials across the country.

According to Pew Research Center data, 58% of poll workers in 2018 were ages 61 and older, the same demographic with an increased risk of contracting the coronavirus. That same year, 4% of poll workers were 17 and younger, 4% were 18–25 and 9% were 26–40.

For November's general election, many counties are hoping younger people will step up to the plate, as high school juniors and seniors are also able to serve.

Election judges work to help voters by checking them into their polling place, verifying their identity, answering technical questions, making sure no electioneering occurs and registering them in states that allow same-day voter registration, like Illinois.

Election judges in Cook County are paid \$200 for the day and work from before polls open until after polls close.

The only requirements to become an election judge in Cook County are being a U.S. citizen and a registered voter in Cook County. High school juniors, seniors and college students can also serve but must have at least a 3.0-grade point average, according to the Cook County Clerk website.

Those interested in becoming an election judge can [apply online here](#) by answering identification questions and selecting a party affiliation.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020

[Chicago Press](#) [Coffee to "Pop-up"](#) [at Roosevelt Collec-](#) [tion](#)



It sounds like a new coffee option is coming to Roosevelt Collection (via [Eater Chicago](#)):

Kris Christian started her own coffee company hoping to share her love of coffee with others. Chicago French Press, which focused on the home and office markets, will now pivot as this week Christian unveils a pop-up coffee shop at the Roosevelt Collection in the South Loop. The pop-up will last through the end of the year.

The coffees, which are certified organic, fair trade, and non GMO, come in flavors like maple pecan, chocolate blueberry, and peach nectar. The beans are roasted in Pilsen. Chicago French Press has previously partnered with groups like the Simple Good and The Take Back. For the pop-up, they plan on donating 5 percent of sales from each coffee bag to a charity. Christian is hoping to take the operation national. As Black Lives Matter protest continue to counter the number of police shootings of Black men, Christian has also expanded her company's scope. In June, Chicago French Press donated to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Christian hopes to open more locations. The pop-up is an effective marketing tool to introduce people to her brand and to push them toward monthly coffee subscriptions. Black entrepreneurs are getting more opportunities as the spotlight shines on racial injustices, Christian says. But, in a sentiment echoed by many Black members of the service industry, Christian mentions that those in power — the majority of who are white — need to lead.

"It's really good to see the Roosevelt Collection is interested in diversity," she says.

It appears that Chicago French Press will be opening in the [space vacated by Bridgeport Coffee-house earlier this summer](#).

While this seems like a temporary arrangement, it's nice to see new businesses making a go of it (although we imagine rent is waived?).

Regardless, good luck with the pop-up and hope everyone enjoys it!

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

See past issues . . .

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Chicago Remembers COVID-19 has taken thousands of Chicagoans from us. The city of Chicago is giving residents the opportunity to remember and honor the deceased through a virtual memorial. The virtual memorial has submitted stories and photos of residents that have passed away due to COVID-19. If you would like to see the virtual memorial, or insert a story to be publicly available for all to see, [click here](#).

Phase IV Reopening City of Chicago We are currently in Phase 4 of the reopening plan. The city is gradually reopening businesses while making strong precautions to prevent another outbreak of COVID-19. For more information, please [click here](#).

COVID Testing To receive a test in the 4th Ward, we encourage residents to visit Near North Komed Holman Health Center (4259 S. Berkeley). The center is conducting tests Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00 PM-4:00 PM. For more information regarding this site, please call 773-268-7600. To view other testing sites in or near the 4th Ward, we have put together a helpful list. This list can be accessed [here](#). For additional testing sites in the city go [here](#).

ComEd COVID-19 Package To help families and communities recover from the economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, ComEd, the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and a broad group of stakeholders, worked to develop a comprehensive customer support package. For more information, please [click here](#).

PPE Exchange To help businesses, non-profits, and other entities planning to reopen in acquiring PPE equipment, the City has launched an exchange program designed to assist in this process. To learn more, visit chicagoppemarket.com

Restaurants and Bars Can Operate in a Limited Capacity While indoor seating is allowed, restaurant and bar owners should continue to make outdoor seating a priority for safe dining and drinking. Please read the [industry](#) guidelines closely for an overview of the rules restaurants and bars must follow for Phase 4 of the Reopening Plan.

Landmark Illinois' Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side Grant Timuel D. Black, Jr., acclaimed civil rights leader, educator, historian, author and WWII veteran, has devoted his life to promoting African American history, specifically on the South Side of Chicago where he has lived for the majority of his 101 years. In honor of Mr. Black's dedication to preserving his neighborhood's legacy, Landmark's created the Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side. For more information, please [click here](#).

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Paisans Pizzeria and bar is building out their space in the 700 block of S. Clark St. Not sure when they plan to open. They have five locations mostly in the near west suburbs of Berwyn and Cicero. They also have one farther west in Lisle. They appear to be in an expansion mode with two new restaurants opening up. Can our neighborhood support another Pizza Restaurant? To check out their menu, go to <https://www.allmenus.com/il/berwyn/341402-paisans-pizzeria-bar/menu/>

Sunset over River City on August 25, 2020. Spectacular sunsets courtesy of the California wild-fires.



There is no Police Blotter Page in this issue. The Clear Path site provided by the Chicago Police Department is the main source for police reports on crime. It is currently down. Other sources for crime news have not reported any violent crime in the past couple of weeks for Beats 123, 131, and 132.



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Everything to know about voting by mail in the general election



Art by [Gianella Goan](#)

By [Alexandra Yetter](#), Senior Staff Reporter | August 31, 2020

Election officials across the country are gearing up for record numbers of vote-by-mail ballots for the November general election as many voters look for ways to stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

But what is mail-in voting? And is it really a secure way to vote? The Chronicle answers these questions and more in its guide to voting by mail.

What is mail-in voting?

As the name suggests, mail-in voting is the practice of submitting a ballot through the mail rather than going in-person to a polling station to fill out a ballot. Although they bear a different name, absentee ballots are the same as mail-in and the terms can be used interchangeably.

Historically, ballots have been referred to as absentee when voters send their ballots through the mail because the voters are absent from their state, such as when college students live in a different state than where they are registered to vote.

In the March Illinois primary, approximately one-third of votes cast statewide were mail-in. A record 306,000 Chicago voters have already requested mail-in ballots for the general election as of publication, according to the Chicago Board of Elections.

Among voters nationwide, approximately 33% plan to vote by mail in November, [according to a poll conducted Aug. 21–23 by CNBC/Change Research](#), which surveyed 4,904 voters in battleground states and had a 1.4 margin of error. The poll also found that Democrats were more likely to say they planned to vote by mail than Republicans.

Is it secure?

Although President Donald Trump—who has requested an absentee ballot in Florida—has alleged without evidence that mail-in voting will lead to widespread election fraud such as by allowing voters to cast multiple ballots, that has rarely occurred in the U.S., [according to a report by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law](#).

A senior FBI official told reporters, “It would be extraordinarily difficult to change a federal election outcome through this type of fraud alone,” [as reported Aug. 27 by WIRED](#).

Trump has also claimed that allowing mail-in voting would disproportionately favor Democratic voters, but that is not supported by any research.

Some Chicago residents, including Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd Ward), have reported receiving robocalls that claim mail-in ballots are being used to collect data for credit card companies, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the police. The calls’ claims were disputed by the Chicago Board of Elections, [according to ABC7](#).

What is Illinois doing to protect voters during the pandemic?

A new Illinois law signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker on June 16 aims to increase accessibility and safety for voters, [as reported by WTTW.com website](#). Under the law, the state will automatically send mail-in ballot applications to anyone who voted in the 2018 general, 2019 municipal or 2020 primary elections.

Illinois Republicans have sued Pritzker over this law, which allows mail-in ballots to count if they are postmarked by Election Day, [according to FiveThirtyEight](#).

The law also allows 16-year-olds to serve as election judges, makes Election Day a holiday for schools, expands early voting polling station hours, allows curbside voting and permits election officials to set aside special hours for voters who are at high risk of the coronavirus to vote in-person.

As of publication, Illinois has no plans to close in-person polling stations, but officials are urging voters to opt for mail-in ballots as a safety precaution.

Some Illinois jurisdictions may offer early in-person voting Sept. 24–Nov. 2 to minimize the number of people in polling places on Election Day.

How will mail-in ballots affect the general election?

The key to having a successful election with a record number of mail-in ballots is sending your ballot as soon as possible.

Click here for the rest of the story:

<https://columbiachronicle.com/everything-to-know-about-voting-by-mail-in-the-general-election#photo>

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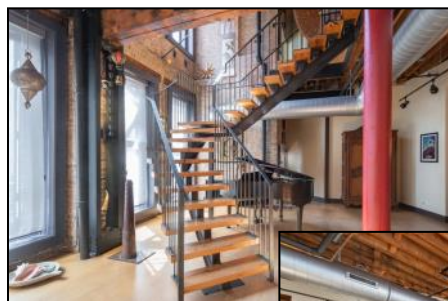
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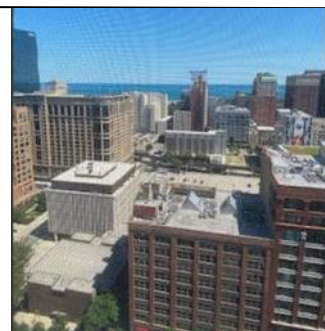
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