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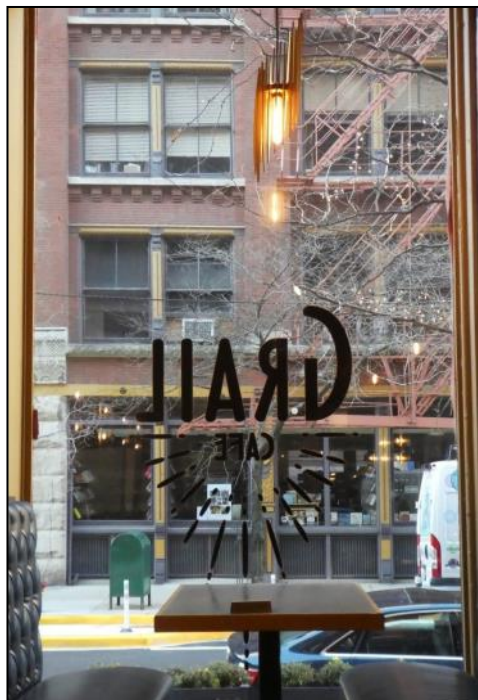


Better New Year!

Wishing and hoping for the best. We think we see the light at the end of the tunnel. Do you want to know what it's like to own a small business, especially a restaurant in these times?. One restaurant owner makes a plea. See page 16.

South Loop Neighbors had their Annual Members Meeting on Zoom Tuesday , January 6. This organization had a surprisingly active year in 2020 despite the hurdles. See page 5.

And finally, I am grateful for **Lorraine Schmall**, our book reviewer. She is a good friend and a Rock Star book reviewer. I inadvertently left her off my "grateful list" last issue.



January 15, 2021

Vol. 9, No.1

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

The Jazz Showcase is the oldest historic jazz club in Chicago, founded in 1947 by Joe Segal, now owned and operated by Wayne Segal (Joe Segal's son). The greatest names in Jazz have played here, including but not limited to:

Roy Hargrove, Chris Potter, Frank Morgan, Danilo Perez, Larry Coryell, Paul Wertico, James Carter, Stu Katz, Ira Sullivan, Winard Harper, McCoy Tyner, Dexter Gordon, Bunky Green, Count Basie, Kenny Burrell, Milt Jackson, Jimmy Smith, Randy Weston, Barry Harris, Joey DeFrancesco, Jack McDuff, Bill Evans, Walter Bishop Jr., Sun Ra, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, Sonny Stitt, Yusef Lateef, Eddie Jefferson, Richie Cole, Joe Lovano, Dizzy Gillespie (who appeared there on his birthday for many years), Johnny Griffin, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Howard McGee, George Benson, Pat Martino, Joe Pass, Barney Kessel, Philly Joe Jones, Charles McPherson, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Ernestine Anderson, Lou Donaldson, Hank Crawford, Jimmy McGriff, Lonny Liston Smith, the Art Ensemble of Chicago, Muhal Richard Abraham, Zoot Sims/Al Cohn, Joe Williams, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Joe Farrell, Art Farmer, Bobby Hutcherson, the Capp/Pierce Juggernaut, Freddie Hubbard, and others. Ahmad Jamal recorded his trio album Chicago Revisited here in 1992. Joe Segal produced the live album "The Chase" by Gene Ammons and Dexter Gordon here in 1970.

Today, the Jazz showcase continues to be a thriving Jazz club in Chicago, bringing in top international & Chicago homegrown musicians.

Watch NEA Jazz Masters: Tribute to Joe Segal <https://youtu.be/D6m-2jBvrvV>



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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

Want to know what's open in the South Loop?

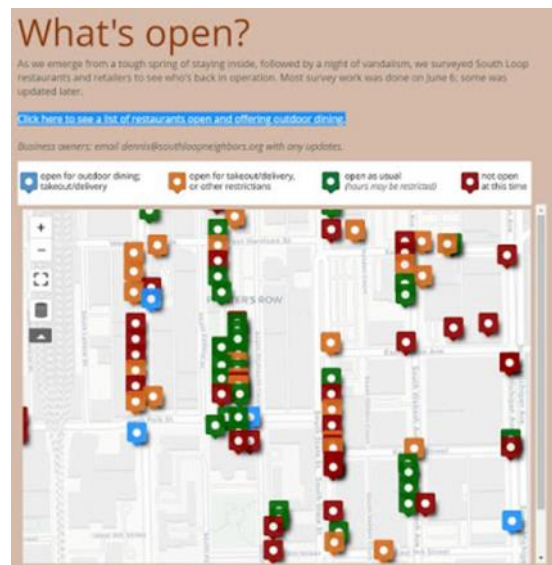
Go to <https://www.southloopneighbors.org/open-for-business>

For an easy to navigate map.

Compliments of South Loop Neighbors.

Dennis McClendon's presentation on Development, a year in review.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJ58JrIoL8k&feature=youtu.be&t=64>



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I was born on either December 25 or 26. Who cares? Social Security, Comcast and my mom, for starters

December 28, 2020

On December 25, 1950, my mother was at a Christmas party in Englewood at my father's mother's house. She was pregnant with me. And her water broke about 8 PM. My dad took her to Michael Reese Hospital in a snowstorm and I was born there at midnight. I was named Benita Carol, my first name commemorating my dad's father, Benjamin, and my middle name commemorating the holiday on which I was born.

I was a Christmas baby. And along with any hoopla surrounding my big day, I had to share it. Mine was always overshadowed. I always got one present--albeit a big one--from my parents for my Christmas/birthday celebration. Everything that day was rolled into one.

Some people through the years have sent me a birthday card and a Christmas card. And I always appreciated that.

But an odd thing happened along the way: My birthday got changed.

A few months after getting my driver's permit when I was 15--and from that day forward, my driver's license has always said December 25--I applied for my social security card. I'd just turned 16 and got a couple of part-time jobs in the neighborhood--giving out visitors' passes at a nursing home a few blocks away; and hostessing at the Holiday Inn motel restaurant across the street.

I had to bring my birth certificate with me to get the card. And I found out my birthday was actually December 26!

My mother blew it off. I'm not sure she ever looked at my birth certificate, although she pulled it out for me to take to get my card. When I told her the news, she explained that I was born at midnight on Christmas night--and she swore she never knew that was considered the next day.

Of course, it made no difference in terms of being a Christmas baby and being cheated out of half my presents. The 26th, being this close to Christmas leads to the same result.

In a piece written in 2014 by Kristen McQueary, now head of the Chicago Tribune editorial board, whose birthday has always been December 26, she [explains why she decided to start celebrating her half-birthday](#) on June 26 instead. Because everyone was too tired, partied out and sick of everything from the day before for her to have a decent birthday celebration.

Since my birthday changed to the 26th, I, too, have found the enormity of the holiday the day before gives people little energy for My Big Day the day after.

When my birthday changed, I also had to accept--at least technically--that I was no longer born on the most important day in Judeo-Christian history. And everyone I've known has always been confused as to when my birthday really is: Christmas day? Or not?

But having a birthday that suddenly changed from one day to the next caused other problems for me as my life went on. Although, some friends who sort of know what happened, but really don't understand what happened, wish me a happy birthday on both days. To be on the safe side, my mother does, too.

When I applied for social security widow's benefits, I brought every single document known to US citizens: my birth certificate, my daughter's birth certificate, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, my law license, mail addressed to me, old press passes and museum membership cards. But in addition to my date of birth variation, I also found out my name was "wrong" on my social security card.

It had never been changed. (Who knew one had to? I thought they tracked you by number!) My "real" name, Benita, was still there. A name that I never used (nor did my parents). And my married names had never been officially added to the card. They may as well have called me a name and birthdate hoarder, I had so many that were unofficially cluttering up my life.

But I still had to prove who I was. Because of the unchanged names and the dual birth dates, all of which were cluttering up my records.

Proving the obvious is pretty hard, I learned first hand. Just ask [Marcia Clark and Chris Darden, who failed at proving the obvious](#): that OJ killed his ex-wife and her friend. I think my social security intake person knew I was me, but she sort of liked doing what she was doing. Because she could.

"I won't be able to sign off on your social security," she said, "if you can't prove who you really are."

At 13, I didn't know who I really was. But I was applying for social security benefits--not going through a tough adolescence. Nor had I gotten a full blown case of dementia either.

So I went home and thought. What do I have in this house that could prove who I am, without question. What do I have better than a birth certificate, a social security card, a driver's license and the rest of the contents of the bag I already brought with me that proved my identity?

I decided to put my grammar school yearbooks in two shopping bags and I hustled back a couple of weeks later to meet my social security sadist.

I'd tagged every page in each yearbook that had my name and picture on it with a sticky note. Pictures of me in each grade, pictures of me in the school plays, pictures of me with those who made the honor roll, pictures of me wearing Halloween costumes and in the gym practicing various contortions, pictures of me horseback riding in Lincoln Park--and on field trips to [Kungsholm](#).

In addition to Bonnie (and a few Bonnys), a few pictures even had the name Benita (and even "Bonita"), thank goodness. So I guess the school did have a copy of my birth certificate--because they knew that name. But they never picked up on my real birth date. I was always a Christmas baby to them, too. Not that it made much difference, since we were always on Christmas vacation when my birthday came.

The woman with the unrelenting unreasonable personality took the yearbooks away from me for a long time. And I sat in her office waiting for her verdict as to who I really was.

I sat there so long, even I was beginning to doubt who I was. Could I possibly be some foreigner with phony documents trying to scam the US government out of someone else's social security benefits?

When she came back, she explained she'd photo-copied every single page of every single yearbook which had my likeness and name.

Pictures of me sitting in the school library--which was the real library in [the historic Patterson-McCormick Mansion](#), designed by Stanford White in 1891, which had become the [Bateman School](#)--to eating lunch in the gilded age dining room. She had me everywhere in the school. (And still does, I guess, in a file somewhere.)

I was who I said I was, she decided and she was done with me. Seeing when I started school and that I looked like me, year after year, and that my maiden name was affixed to the pictures, albeit the first and last names were misspelled occasionally, I was me, she said. (I told her the kids with the learning disabilities often worked on the yearbook--thus, the misspellings).

I got what was coming to me: social security. But I always wondered what if my school hadn't had yearbooks, or what if my parents hadn't bought one every year, or what if I couldn't find them when I needed them?

(Continued on Page 8)

Bonnie McGrath

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



Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

"We Had a Fire" Jan 10, 2021

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



I don't know much about football, but I do know this: the Chicago Bears are playing the New Orleans Saints later today.

The Quarter was joyous.

I'm kind of a Saints fan. My appreciation for that team started during a 2007 vacation. Mike and I happened to have been in New Orleans 14 years ago on the weekend the Saints beat the Philadelphia Eagles in a playoff game, and before, during, and after the game, the sidewalks in the French Quarter were packed. People were singing in the streets. Makeshift parades rolled down Toulouse, Royal and Rampart Street. In Jackson Square, street musicians played "When the Saints Go Marching In" over and over. And over and over. And over.

It wasn't Mardi Gras. It was football.

The win that day meant the Saints would head to Soldier Field the next week for the NFC championship game against the Bears. "It's just like old times," our bartender laughed. She meant, of course, that it was the way things were before Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane had hit over a year before, but People down there still referred to the disaster in everyday conversation. B.K. and P.K. Before Katrina, Post-Katrina.

I asked the bartender how her life had changed since the hurricane. She used to tend bar Uptown, she said. That place is still closed. But she felt lucky. She only had to leave town for a month after the levee failure. And when she got back, her landlord didn't raise her rent.

When we visited our favorite jewelry store in New Orleans, the owner told us her house had flooded, she and her kids had to move into her sister's place in New York, and her marriage ended up in divorce. Her employees had scattered to places like Arizona and North Carolina. They weren't coming back.

And yet, she said she felt lucky. When she and her children returned to New Orleans in October, her old landlord said it'd be okay to rent her store space month to month. See how business goes before committing to staying. She confessed she wasn't a football fan, but she was glad the Saints were winning. People were coming into her store. And they were happy. Buying things. And during her exile in New York, her kids went to private school. They got free tuition. "You know, because we were Katrina refugees!"



New Orleans Saints

27

11-6



Philadelphia Eagles

24

11-7

At our favorite bookstore (not exactly a hangout for football fans) the guy at the counter said business was up. There was a buzz in town. He hadn't seen it like this since B.K. Before Katrina. "Go Saints!" he called out to us as we picked up our bag of books and headed outside.

That playoff win wasn't enough to make the people of New Orleans forget the empty storefronts. The boarded-up buildings. The desolate, abandoned 9th ward. The friends who have left. Or have died.

But for one day, in New Orleans, the sun was shining, the streets were full, and things were looking up. Everybody felt lucky to be there – including Mike and me.

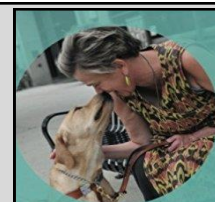
When we returned later that week to our Printers Row neighborhood here in Chicago, I told our Hackney's bartender the reasons I'd be backing the Saints in the upcoming game against the Bears. Things have been so horrible down there, I said. New Orleans needed something to cheer about.

"Oh, brother, Screw that!" he said. Actually, he used more colorful language. And then he went on. "I am so sick of that, the whole country backing the Saints because of that hurricane," he said in disgust. "C'mon, Beth, How about Chicago? We had a fire!"

I had to laugh.

This year is the 150th anniversary of that Great Chicago Fire. And this year, every city with a NFL football team has fans looking at empty storefronts, boarded-up buildings, desolate and abandoned neighborhoods. All have friends who have left. Or have died. So who to root for in 2021?

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



Writing Out Loud

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

Beth Finke

South Loop Neighbors Annual Membership Zoom Meeting Jan 5, 2020

President Jim Wales ran a compact fast moving meeting that featured two guest speakers as well as three Community Partners : Ravi Jadia from Everywhere Wireless; Nat Thompson from Baird and Warner Printers Row; and Rev. Amity Carrubba from Grace Place Episcopal Church.

Jim began with the Year in Review

Feb Candidate Forum for State offices

Mar Trivia Night

Apr SLN Restaurant Contest

May Bingo

July Ice Cream Social

Aug Grills Night Out

Aug Photo Show

Sept Yard Sale

Aug Sept Oct Clean Up

Nov Slow Roll Bike Ride

Guest Speaker Dr Mary Berge, Psychairist

How to Stay Sane

1. Limit amount of info that you allow yourself to absorb
2. Two hours before bed time - no news Calm down
3. Rountine – Look at the past, look forward. Insert structure and routine. Every two hours on the computer, step away for a break
4. Mood is determined by 3 main chemicals in the brain
Serotonin – exercise helps
Oxytocin – Hug drug, best released in intimate moments.
Dopamine – released when being grateful, when giving to others, when smiling

Anxiety can tear down all the positives.

Recommends deep breathing – slow. David Grand on U-tube can walk you through Bilateral Sound Therapy

Dr David Hunt, Psychologist on Grieving Losses

Our perspective is our reality

Loss of Normalcy

Loss of unencumbered life

Loss of events

Our community rallies around us after large losses. But what about the drumbeat of smaller losses day after day. We need to recognize those moments; reflect on what you are thinking. Make a phone call or text to let your friends you're not okay.

Missing live music? Put on some music

Missing eating out? Order out.

You need something to look forward to. That's what hope is.

Talk to your support group.

Isolation is the enemy

Election of officers

Presented slate

Benjamin Cotroll

Rob Degman

Roger Marsh

Dennis McClendon

Greg Borzo

Crissy Hunt

Dorothy Miaso

Jim Wales

Also, two more who have expressed interest and will be invited be interviewed by the board.

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Jon Meacham, **His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope** (Random House

John Robert Lewis, the son of Alabama sharecroppers, and great-grandson of a man born enslaved, made an early commitment to racial justice. Lewis adhered to a social gospel: "any religion that professes to be concerned about the souls of men...and is not concerned about the slums that damn them, economic conditions that strangle them and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion." He embraced non-violence as a keystone: "Christ furnished the motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method." Jon Meacham calls Lewis a 'saint' in the fascinating **His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope**. By the time we read all that teenaged Lewis, and other young cohorts like Diane Nash, a beauty queen from Chicago, undertook and endured, it doesn't sound like hyperbole. Student sit-ins at all-white lunch counters were dangerous but effective: police stood by while "white toughs" began "pulling, punching, and jabbing; some burned the students with cigarettes" threw sugar in their eyes or poured hot coffee over their heads. The students said and did nothing, waiting and willing to be arrested and jailed. Lewis and others took 'Freedom Rides' down South, with white partners, to register millions of voters, in buses that were torched and met by Klansmen and racist sheriffs. He helped organize King's March on Washington. Most

famously, Lewis led a crowd of 600 across Selma's Edmund Pettis bridge on "Bloody Sunday," where marchers were viciously beaten by lawmen advancing on horseback. When Lewis was replaced in the movement by the more charismatic Kwame Ture, (Stokely Carmichael), a Black Panther hailing 'Black Power' after activists began to question: "How can nonviolence defeat violence? The Klansmen don't go to funerals, we're the ones who go to funerals," he shifted to politics as a route to equality and served in Congress for 33 years. Even posthumously, Lewis desegregated the Capitol; he was the first Black man to lie in state in its Rotunda. While three ex-presidents spoke at his funeral, Donald Trump did not attend. Lewis died just six months before a mostly white mob, inspired by the President of the United States, led a deadly invasion of the US Capitol, where papers reported: "a lot of things were broken to pieces, or pilfered, or defaced" including a photo of John Lewis, with his now-famous tweet: "*Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.*" Read it and do it.



Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park January, 2020

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OF
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HOT DOUG'S DOUG SOHN

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(Continued from page 4)

She never asked too much more about the one day off birthday discrepancy, although I did explain what happened when my mother was in the delivery room at midnight on Christmas when I was born. "Who knew midnight would be considered the next day," she always said. "I arrived in the delivery room dressed for a Christmas party; it was still Christmas!"

But SS did have one last jab at me: "You know, when you start getting Medicare, the names and birthdays are going to cause all kinds of trouble."

(There was no REAL ID then, or she would have mentioned that, too, I bet. And I do shudder when I think of what I will have to go through when I try to get one).

And a time or two, there have been glitches. I explain--and they're overridden.

And sometimes, the cable company, let's say, asks me for personal information to make sure I'm not trying to cancel someone else's HBO as a practical joke--or that I'm not getting back at a neighbor for letting their dog trample my flowers by adding all sorts of extras to their cable service. They ask for my birthday, among other things to make sure I'm really me.

I used to take a guess as to what date they probably had, the 25th or the 26th. And when I'm wrong, I give them the other date--imagining they'd understand because December 25th is a date you might say inadvertently at some point because of its importance. And sometimes I'll tell them the whole story. The story of my two birthdays.

But no one has ever thwarted me like the Social Security lady. Or been so unnecessarily suspicious.

These days, I'm getting tired of telling the story, though, so I just say, "It will be either December 25th or 26th. Long story."

They don't seem to be interested in hearing a long story, so when they see one or the other, they move on and ask me why I'm calling.

They seem to know they've got the real me. *Bonnie McGrath*



Michael Reese Hospital, where I was born

Writing Out Loud

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

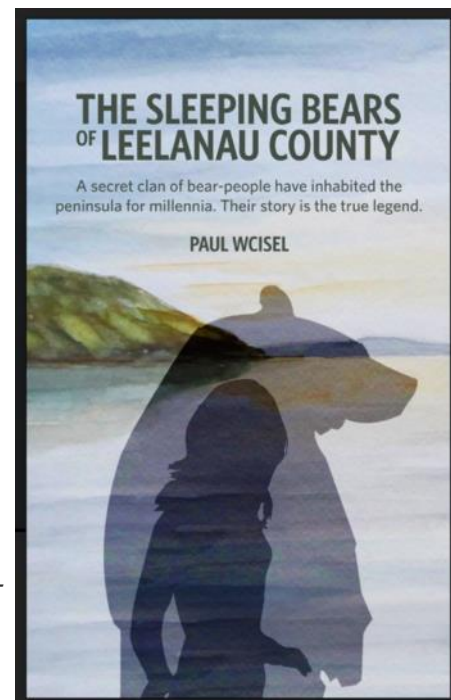
Beth Finke

A new novel by local author, Paul Wcisel

(paulwcisel.com)

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

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





Retired in Chicago

I'm glad I still can read the news on paper

By **Marianne Goss**, January 6, 2021

Especially since the pandemic began, sitting down to read the daily newspaper in print form has been the highlight of my days. The reliable *Chicago Tribune* carrier leaves the paper outside the door early every morning. After breakfast, I make a pot of tea and settle into my reading chair for what's become a long, leisurely ritual in these months of isolation.

The ritual may die out with my generation. Two in five people over age 65 read printed newspapers, according to the Pew Research Center, but not even one younger person in five does. Younger people prefer to get their news on their smartphones and laptops, where it's available wherever they are and updated more than once a day.

Newspaper reading would have been a habit of mine even if I hadn't started my career as a reporter. My parents subscribed to both the *Chicago Tribune* and the hometown *Joliet Herald-News*, so I grew up thinking that a household typically read a daily newspaper or two.

I've been a *Tribune* subscriber since I returned to the Chicago area 35 years ago. I resented the constantly increasing cost until I saw firsthand how the newspaper industry was declining as online news proliferated. My brother, the sports editor at the *Herald-News* for 35 years, lost his full-time staff. I did a five-year stint at the *Herald-News* in the late 1980s. The editor for whom I worked was let go when the features department was eliminated. Two of my friends stuck it out longer than I but, as the paper's ownership changed repeatedly, left for more secure communication jobs.

More than 2,000 US newspapers disappeared in the last 15 years, according to the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Others switched to online only. Those still with print editions created websites.

I could read a replica of the printed *Chicago Tribune* online, but I enjoy seeing a full-size broadsheet. I prefer to scroll with my eyes rather than my fingers. I like feeling newsprint in my hands and hearing the crinkle of pages being folded.

The digital edition contains the full text, yet I don't read it thoroughly when away from home. Maybe I associate online reading with quick takes and clicking on only what interests me, for I skip many stories and read few others to the end.

Wishing for a resurgence of print is futile, and I'll even admit that digital has some benefits, including saving trees. Format is a personal preference; what matters are that the public has access to trustworthy local news and that trained journalists can find jobs. Today responsible news organizations are up against online sources with dubious commitment to ethical reporting and news standards.

Digital journalism has also proven not a sure bet; many news sites have made less money from digital advertising than expected, according to the Poynter Institute. Since I'm not an expert on the news industry, I can't predict what formats are likely to be viable. I'm just happy that a meaty newspaper is delivered to me daily.

With so much free time during the pandemic, I've been reading sections of the printed edition that I used to skip, finding that the letters to the editor are often well written and thoughtful, the business pages aren't just about the stock market, and the sports section is more than a rehash of yesterday's games. Paying less than \$1 a day, I wonder how I ever thought the newspaper was getting expensive. However much the price increases, I now think of a subscription as a contribution to print journalism, which hopefully will last out my lifetime.

REMEMBERING A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

My friend and former colleague Vickie, who died last Tuesday at only 54, was a private person, so she would have wanted this tribute to be kept short.

Vickie was an exceptional graphic designer whose interests ranged well beyond the visual. She sent me tips and newsletters about both human and cat nutrition and suggested off-the-beaten-path places that she and her husband, Doug, had enjoyed. My go-to person with gardening questions, Vickie identified plants from my sketchy descriptions and gave me perennials from her yard. She passed on what she learned about the feline digestive problems our cats shared. Belonging to both our publications department's book group and a Great Books group, she schooled me in the Great Books philosophy.

Working with Vickie meant never worrying about anything slipping through the cracks. Her meticulousness, computer expertise, and design savvy awed her coworkers. Her humor amused us. The courage with which she handled illness, and her acceptance at the end, offer an inspiring model.

Vickie was up for joining our book group's last Zoom meeting on audio. Chatting and joking, she gave us the gift of sounding like her calm self when we all knew we were saying goodbye.

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



The Big Bold Jewish Climate Festival

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 to Sunday, January 31, 2021

Spertus Institute is proud to be among **the many organizations** participating in **The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest**.

The festival is a free, virtual, collaborative event by and for people who want to activate Jewish values to move the needle on climate change. We believe the time has come to put climate change as a central moral issue of our community. The festival is open to all. No experience or prior knowledge required.

Specifics about the festivals' schedule will be announced soon.

Visit the festival site to learn more.

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

The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest is a collaboration among people and organizations who seek to join together to do something that might have otherwise not been possible. The planning team includes leaders behind **The Great Big Jewish Food Fest**, the creators of the 2019 **Urgency of Now: Seattle's Jewish Climate Festival**, and Jewish organizations **Hazon** and **Dayenu**. Darim Online is the fiscal sponsor for the festival.



Spertus Institute is proud to have been selected by **Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability** for their certification that celebrates the success and progress of leaders in the field of sustainability.

For Spertus Institute, this is a longstanding commitment. Our facility, with its sustainable design, was awarded a **Silver LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from the **U.S. Green Building Council**, and Spertus has been awarded membership in the EPA's Green Power Leadership Club.

[Learn about Spertus Institute's green initiatives >](#)

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Store Closing **Sign Appears on Urban Grocers Store at 737 S. State**

Looks like Urban Grocers is closing at 747 S. State (via MrSouthLoop):



For those of you interested, **Urban Grocers open up in 2011**. At the time we thought it was strange to open up another convenience store in the area, but after a solid almost decade run it seems like the neighborhood supported it.

We will be curious to see what pops up afterwards. Seems ripe for QSR or some other service type of retail. We shall see.

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

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Baird & Warner
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Specializing In Printer's Row Properties

Editor's Letter: January 8, 2021

by [Brian Hieggelke](#)

As much as I'd prefer not to, I can't not comment on the events of January 6, when Donald Trump incited one of the most devastating terrorist attacks in American history. As on 9/11, I could not stop staring at the TV in sorrow and disgust. But hope shines in the near future, with the impending change of government, and in the resolve of Congress to resume and fulfill its duty to enact the American will in the face of treachery, much of which was abetted by its own leaders.

It's hard to focus on what might seem to be the mundane details of our lives in these moments, including consideration of cultural undertakings. But history tells us that culture will play a vital role in coming to understand, or at least process, what we've been through. And so, we continue, with resolve. We just have one new piece to share, as the wheels of culture are just beginning to turn again, this one from Milwaukee. Though we are centered in Chicago, since its the capital of the Midwest, we try to cover noteworthy shows like this around the region.



Brian Hieggelke
Editor & Publisher

Abstracting Lived Experience: A Review of Leslie Smith III at Hawthorn Contemporary

January 8, 2021 by [Rafael Francisco Salas](#)

Leslie Smith III, "Redaction," oil on shaped canvas, 62.5 x 118 inches, 2017

Leslie Smith III assembles geometric abstractions into multi-panel paintings.

Their quasi-sculptural depths reveal a dream of political provocation and possibility.

The paintings read like investigations of composition, color and surface. They feel formal, analyzed. The exhibition title, "We Still Play with Blocks," reveals his process of accumulating parts and finding ways for them to interact, like a child creating a Lego construction. In addition to their cumulative process, Smith is using abstraction to discuss otherness and cultural displacement.

"Redaction" is one of the paintings that anchors the exhibition. Irregularly shaped canvases are joined to create a leaning, monumental environment of neutrals—blacks, gray and a buttery white. The center of this assemblage remains empty, a hole at the very core, where the locus of the painting should be. Paradoxically, this emptiness optically fills with its own weight, a redaction reborn. Black horizontals describe the idea of redacted language more literally, appearing like wedge-shaped Sharpie strokes, excising language and thought from the viewer. I loved how this painting revealed what is hidden from us as an entirely new object.

Click link below *We Still Play with Blocks: Paintings from 2014-17" is on view at Milwaukee's Hawthorn Contemporary gallery, 706 Fifth Street, through February 12. Open by appointment at Hawthorn Contemporary. https://art.newcity.com/2021/01/08/abstracting-lived-experience-a-review-of-leslie-smith-iii-at-hawthorn-contemporary/?mc_cid=0ffae85779&mc_eid=64a14289af*



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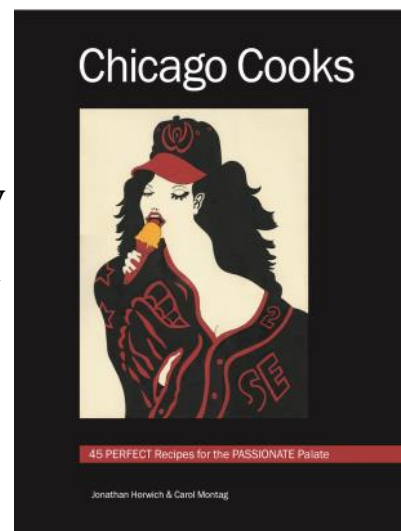
In *Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate*, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

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.





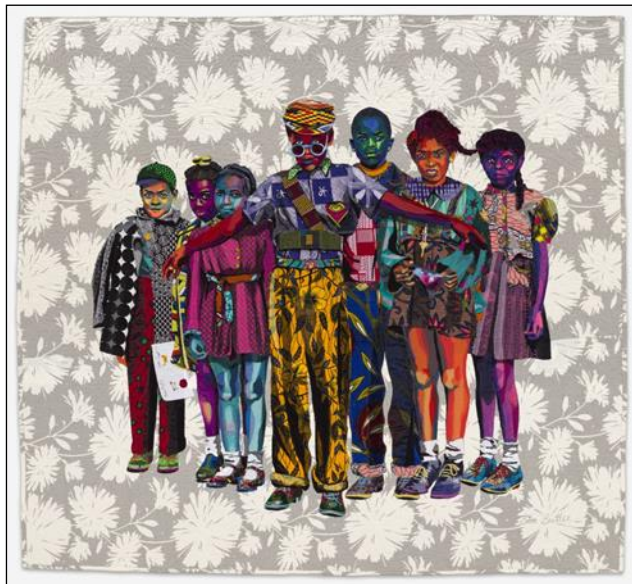
Bisa Butler. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," 2019. Minneapolis Institute of Art; promised gift on long-term loan from a private collection. © Bisa Butler/Photo: Margaret Fox

A Vibrant Perspective: A Review of Bisa Butler at the Art Institute

January 4, 2021 by [Caira Moreira-Brown](#)

"Bisa Butler: Portraits," on view at the Art Institute of Chicago, lets the viewer into the artist's vivid, multicolored perspective, shown through more than twenty quilted works. The walls are adorned with large-scale textile portraits of African-American people. The painter-turned-mixed-media-quilter redefines the use of fabric by giving it meaning beyond the utility form.

The artist learned to sew from her mother and grandmother, which echoes the deep lineage of quilting in American history. Her use of layering fabrics, and building on top of the textiles, is parallel to the figures she depicts. The African-American faces that we see are a part of history, some forgotten, but still reminiscent of the narrative in our ever-changing society.



Bisa Butler. "The Safety Patrol," 2018. Cavigga Family Trust Fund. © Bisa Butler

"Bisa Butler: Portraits," through April 19, 2021.
The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan.

CLICK BELOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

<https://art.newcity.com/2021/01/04/a-vibrant-perspective-a-review-of-bisa-butler-at-the-art-institute/>

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DREAMING GRAND AVENUE

Written and directed by Hugh Schulze

Maggie and Jimmy have never met, but they keep showing up in each other's dreams. As they navigate memories, traumas, hopes and desires in sleep and the waking world, they'll discover the truth of their linked destiny with the help of a dream detective, a sleep scientist and the poet Walt Whitman himself.

Starring Jackson Rathbone, Andrea Londo, Wendy Robie and Tony Fitzpatrick

VIRTUAL CINEMA

Watch it at home and help these institutions during the pandemic (they get 50 percent of net proceeds):

Music Box Theatre

<https://watch.eventive.org/dreamingvirtual/play/5f53ea533609c200454e9e0e>

Seminary Co-op Bookstore

<https://watch.eventive.org/dreamingvirtual/play/5f7f76d3cd222a0e43d24e56>

Trailer

https://www.imdb.com/video/vi2594423065?playlistId=tt9059850&ref=tt_ov_vi

NEWCITY newcity.com

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

[Tutto Italiano \(501 S. Wells\) Closes After 27 Years Citing Challenges with Covid-19](#)



We were recently directed towards [a Facebook post from Tutto Italiano \(501 S. Wells\) on their decision to close given challenges associated with Covid-19](#). It's story that's been way to common during these tough times and one that is important to note. While we consider this restaurant outside of the Sloop (given that it's north of Ida B. Wells), it is certainly a place many in the neighborhood have frequented.

[Tutto Italiano Restaurant](#) has been in business for over 27 years at the same location, 501 S. Wells, Chicago IL. This is no small feat in and of itself, and something we are extremely proud of! For perspective, most restaurants fail within a year, and the majority that make it past the first fail within five years. It is an incredibly cut-throat, competitive industry. We have gone through many ups and downs for over a quarter of a century in the heart of Chicago's business district; including the dot com bubble, 9/11, and the 2008 housing and financial crisis. As tough as it had been through those times, we endured and rebounded, staying ever-resilient and optimistic that the future would continue to bring progress and opportunity. Resilience and grit are in our DNA; we are not nor will we ever be the victims of circumstance who fold and succumb to fate without doing everything in our power to control our destiny.

With that said, we had never faced the possibility of shutting down for good before. We are devastated to say that we now are. We have been a familiar stomping ground to the financial market district for years now. We believe this was only possible through the relationships we created with people. We've met and served professionals of all types through life's good times and bad, growing personal relationships and connections that have lasted decades. We have served patrons from all over the world, many that visit us every time they are in Chicago. We've heard and shared fantastic tales with patrons whom we truly consider our friends and family. We have often been told that we're more than just a restaurant serving good food and good drinks. For some, we've elicited a feeling of nostalgia and comfort that felt like they'd been lost for years, replaced with problems and hardships. In that way, we've been like the treehouse that your group of friends would meet at, where the world became an endless realm of opportunities and possibilities.

Tuttos has been a place of fun times, social gatherings, business meetings, even an incubator for a start-up most recently for my son, a former Tuttos employee. But this situation has brought us beyond the point of not being able to meet our obligations. This pandemic has been hard on everyone, there is no doubt. Millions have struggled immensely and will continue to do so. We would like to thank every single one of our loyal patrons and friends who have been with us and supported us in these tough and trying times. You directly helped keep us afloat this long. We truly appreciate the love and support and want everyone to know that we are incredibly thankful and mindful of the fact that Tuttos

isn't just a business to us or to our loyal patrons. We did not know how long we could make it, all that we know is that we tried with all that we could to endure, and the problems and hardships of life finally turned that treehouse of infinite potential into a place that will have to exist in our memories. We are sad to say that Tutto Italiano has met its end and will be closed at the end of 2020. We hope that you share a memory that you had with us and remind us of the good old days!

-Val & Sonny Dervishi

Owners, Tutto Italiano Restaurant

We've actually never been, but their distinct "train car" dining area is something we've always been curious about. Guess we'll have to see what comes next to check out this unique restaurant footprint.

Regardless, sorry to hear the news, but congrats to the owners and team on such a long run. Definitely not easy in the restaurant industry.

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OPINION

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

Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | December 7, 2020

Familiarity breeds enlightenment



Boy, last Monday sure feels like a long time ago. What a week.

Having finally gotten my blood pressure down, I'm not going there. Instead, let's talk about the happy subject of dogs. And the complex subject of race. Bear with me, there is an intersection here.

Start with dogs. Back in December WBEZ aired an episode of 1A, a news magazine show produced by WAMU in Washington, D.C., that was devoted to the great growth in pet ownership, especially dogs, during the pandemic. [It's a pretty good listen.](#)

Overall, pretty interesting stuff, including discussion about how Rafael Warnock, the Black pastor who won a Senate seat in Georgia last week, was running a successful political ad featuring him and his pet Beagle. Apparently there are perceptions about certain breeds being white-people dogs, including Beagles. And that there are notions that idealize the loving relationships that white people have with their dogs while sort of dismissing that possibility for Black people. It's a little bit of a stretch, but one of the panelists made a pretty good case.

In any case, the Beagle ad must have worked. (It's brilliant, by the way.)

The program included several panelists, including Laurie Williams, a certified dog trainer who happens to be black. Jen White, the host, asked the trainer, "Can dogs be racist or biased?"

A funny question maybe, but the trainer said she is frequently asked by white dog owners whether their dogs are indeed, racists, because they're agitated when they're around Black people.

"They don't know what race is," Williams said about dogs. "They know what they are familiar with. The best thing to do is for people to get out, and let their dogs be around other people."

Williams says that when a white client says they think their dog is racist, she asks, "Well, how do you feel about Black people?" And typically, the client is taken aback — before realizing there are no Black people in their inner circle, and therefore their dog is rarely around Black



Senator-Elect Reverend Raphael Warnock
@ReverendWarnock

I told you the smear ads were coming, but Georgians will see Sen. @Kloeffler's ads for what they are.



eo-

2:00 PM · Nov 24, 2020

ple.

If you haven't seen this ad yet, give it a watch. Very clever.

The trainer encourages those clients to broaden their inner circle in order to better socialize their dogs (and perhaps themselves, though she didn't say that in so many words).

And I concluded that, on this score, I'm like the dogs the trainer talked about. That is, I routinely find myself in situations that, if I'm honest with myself, would've made me uncomfortable back when we moved to Printers Row in 2003. Like being the only white guy on a packed subway car. Having an honest and difficult conversation with Black friends at the bar. I thought I was fairly enlightened about race back in 2003, but I wasn't.

I'm still working at it, but I've come light years, simply by living with, working with, and talking with Black people routinely. And also, from the rich oral histories that Beth's Black memoir writers are good enough to share.

To be clear, Chicago is renowned for its segregated housing (as are many cities) but I've never lived a more integrated day-to-day life anywhere. That's partly a numbers phenomenon—30 percent of Chicago's population is Black. Our particular zip code includes roughly 20 percent Black residents. (Nationally, Black people comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population.)

So, an old dog can learn new tricks, and I'm still learning.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

CLICK HERE

How the School Transmission Conversation Became So Muddled

Jan 12, 2021

Over the past 10 months, debates have raged over how to keep the coronavirus in check. What to open? What to close? Where does the virus spread, and where are we relatively safe? Through it all, one kind of space in particular has been the subject of vigorous debate — and, starting a few months into the virus, a kind of unexpected conventional wisdom emerged: that schools were relatively safe. In the midst of the darkness, it

ON THE MEDIA

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

A fresh look at life, death
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[Register today to join us for this fascinating journey!](#)

Who hasn't wondered what happens when we die? We know what happens to the body. But what happens to the soul at birth and again at death?

- Is there really a "better" place after this one?
- Do our loved ones continue to connect with us?
- Can I relate to an afterlife if I'm not spiritual?

At once practical and powerful, reflective and relatable, Journey of the Soul teaches a Jewish perspective on life that begins before birth and lasts well after a person's passing.

It's a journey we all take, and it's yours to explore this winter.

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Early Bird discount ends January 25th.

For more information and to register:

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We welcome letters to the editor.

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

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I just got this email - you guys are breaking me. (addressed to state and local govts)

I get an email saying that I will **not** be getting this business interrupting grant. - Please see attached

What else do I have to do? Why do I have to fight so hard to be seen.

I started my business open January 1, 2020 I've stayed open every day I put myself in harms way every day. I did not close one day, because of riots, or Covid. I worked hard to keep my employees. That is what I am suppose, Fight for. Not push them into a broken unemployment system. But I make no money during this. I went from 7K a week in sales to 2k a week in sales because of the riot, and covid. Still I fight

My life is committed to learn, service and fighting for justice. At 18. I joined the Navy 99-2004 serviced during the war on terror, I went to college on student loan and Navy fund. Worked full time, put myself to BA, and Master, and Culinary School. Wrote my own business plan. Went to get a SBA Loan on my own merit. Created a space of Love and Light. But all my savings in. I open Jan. 1 2020. I stayed open. I pivoted, I changed, I grew. All while a pandemic was occurring. Black men and women dying in the streets. Our City Burning. I stayed open. but business has been interrupted The Big Grant was Business Interruption Grant and I got nothing.

What do I have to do, Why do I have a struggle like this why do I have to beg. Why do i not matter. But a FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST DOES. A TRUST GETS \$150,000 -

I am a small business feeding the community I get (\$0) (your letter says you run out of funds)

Why do I not matter. Why can I not be seen. Why is it so hard for a black man to survive, to make, to live. I did right, served my country, I went to school, saved, got a loan, I provided. I held my head up high. I thought of others before myself. and yet.

The Newberry Library - \$150,000 - Grail Cafe\$0 .

I get this email 2 days before my 1 year anniversary.

I need this money, to pay rent. to pay my employees so they can eat. To buy food so our guest and community can eat, to hold on until the Federal Stimulus bill comes which will not be until a few months.

I need someone to tell me why, I need someone, to tell me why please, why can I serve my country, work hard to get a education, create business to create jobs, Fight to stay open, Struggle to pay rent, Struggle to pay my employees, try to stay safe, try to hold on while race riots destroyed our lives. That I am unqualified for a Business Interruption Grant. (But Large Restaurant Groups Get \$150,000 - and A small Black Own VET Owned Business. Gets Nothing .

This is just a sample -

Almost every museum - \$150,000.

Almost every Theater - \$150,000

Some that seem odd:

The Renaissance Society At the Unive - \$101,000 - ?????

City Hall, LLC -City Hall Chicago Cook 60642 150,000 ??

Frank Lloyd Write Trust - \$150,000 **A TRUST** Grail Cafe -\$0

The Newberry Library \$150,000 - Grail Cafe\$0

Goodman Theater , \$150,000 -Temp Closed due Covid Grail Cafe -\$0.

American Writer Museum - \$150,000 - Temp Closed due to Coveid - Grail Cafe \$0

Chicago Children's Theatre -\$150,000 - Grail Cafe - \$0

Chicago Shakespeare Theater - \$150,000 - Grail Cafe \$0

Sample of Large Restaurant Groups or Companies.

Prime and Provision - \$150,000 - Under a Large Restaurant Group - Grail Cafe , Blacked own , Vet Own Business \$0

Brown Bag Seafood Co. - Randolph -\$150,000 - A franchise - Grail Cafe - Black own, Vet Own Business \$0

LM Restaurant Group, \$110,000, Grail Café, Black own -Vet Own \$0

Acadia Cxhicago -\$150,000(CLOSED RESTAURANT) Grail Cafe - OPEN , Blacked Own, Vet Own \$0

I am asking to understand why I have begged for my city, my state, to value me, when I have put in the work.

Beg for a human to Look at me and say good job for fighting I hope this helps.

But no. you give \$150,000 to a Trust accounts., and Large Restaurant Groups, and Museums, Starbucks, and Subway.

I applied for this Grant Nov. 3rd 2020.

Grant Closed Dec 15.

Letter of No More Funds Availability - Dec.30 - Almost 45 days for you to tell me. That holding money in a trust account is important than investing in Vet Own black own businesses.

This is wrong. This is wrong to the core. I don't get to enjoy life, enjoy my holiday, Celebrate the 1 year anniversary the way I wanted to. Because you give money to Large restaurant groups and odd holding Companies, then send me a letter and say funds are not available)

I have to fight. Someone has to care. Some have to say I see you. I didn't do anything wrong but fright for myself, my staff, and my community.

Why is That My business Less important at this time than a dead man Trust Fund.

I am respectfully asking for a human. please tell me why. I matter less, then hold money in Trust, or giving large amounts to Museum, Large Restaurant Groups and Trust .

Then I would like my file reviews, and I new letter issued telling I was rewarded this grant and the Check will be cut on Dec 31st per the Grant Requirements.

IF ANY OF OF YOU CAN READ THIS EMAIL, TALK TO ME, UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT HAS BEEN, AND SLEEP PEACEFULLY THEN YOU ARE NOT HUMAN. I

I need a break, I need to feel something other than pain and worry. I need someone to care more, I try to do good. I do good. I need someone to pass it forward.

Sheldrick M. Holmes, The Grail Cafe

715 S. Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60605

312-618-5500, Sheldrick@thegrailcafe.com

www.thegrailcafe.com

Monday, January 4, 2021

[The 78 "North" Phase Looks to Get Underway in 2021](#)

Development news seemed to slow down in 2020, but judging by this post from chicagoyimby.com it looks like the Sloop's biggest project is poised for some major moves in 2021:

Infrastructure work is well underway for The 78, a 62-acre megadevelopment planned by Related Midwest for the South Loop area. Set to eventually house more than 13 million square feet of building space and cost \$7 billion in total, the vast riverside project is being divided into separate phases, the first of which has been dubbed The 78 North.

The flagship piece for this upcoming stage will be a pair of connected office skyscrapers known as Gateway Towers. At 755 feet and 525 feet, the taller of the two will measure in at eighth place for Chicago YIMBY's count-down of tallest new developments. This taller west tower will span 50 floors and 1.2 million square feet, while its shorter sibling will occupy 35 floors and 800,000 square feet.



Skidmore Owings & Merrill is the design architect for both The 78's masterplan and its sub-projects like the Gateway Towers. Both will incorporate a series of setbacks allowing for subtle tapering profiles, and will be connected by a curvilinear multi-level skybridge near the base. The inward-facing sides of the buildings utilize a more open glass curtain wall, while their opposing outward-facing walls will feature a grated motif with a bronze metal paneling.

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

Dearborn Express

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Second Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Winter Coat Drive during the months of November through February. Donations of warm clothes, socks, sweat shirts, hoodies, sweaters, coats, gloves, caps, scarves and mittens will be distributed to our neighbors in need.

Donations are received

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BARBARA'S BASEMENT?

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

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

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

New Store Hours:

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

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



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Rotary Club Forming

There is a lot of work to be done down the road when we get out of pandemic hibernation. To address this, there is a few Rotary Club being formed and it is totally unlike a traditional Rotary Club (but members are full Rotarians and have all the benefits, i.e., networking, District and RI workshop, etc). Rather than weekly meetings with speakers, this Club will be focus on hands-on community service projects, with member participation based on schedule availability and interest. Projects will be centered in Chicago but specific focus areas will be member driven.

Want to find out more? We have an informational meeting (zoom) set for this coming Sunday, January 17 at 1:30 pm.

In a nutshell, it will cost you a whopping \$15 at first to be a charter member (a big deal in the Rotary world) and you can pick and choose which projects you want to take part in. You also can bring project suggestions to the table and get the group to take those on!

Register for the informational meeting below:



[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrc-2rrTgpHNCpzRD77dbJSxrN-pzG6h881](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrc-2rrTgpHNCpzRD77dbJSxrN-pzG6h881)

Please consider joining this effort!

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



There is a light at the end of the tunnel, the pandemic tunnel that is. And when that point is reached, which hopefully will be sooner rather than later, there are going to community needs that can be hard to imagine.

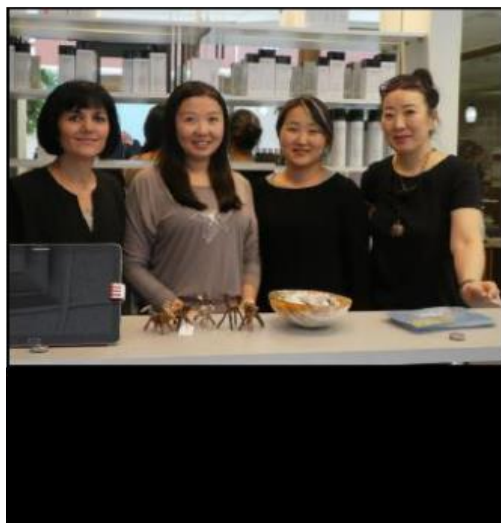
With that in mind, there is a new kind of Rotary Club coming to our area, one that takes into account the strong desire for people to volunteer to work on projects that enhance a neighborhood or help others in the community, yet also realizes that in today's world, there are other considerations - work, family, financial, and a host of other reasons that have to be balanced as well.

So, if you have a desire to volunteer in service projects, on your own schedule, and want to be part of a group of diverse individuals doing what they can to give people a hand up or make their community & the world a better place, than the **Rotary Passport Club of District 6450 – Chicago Area**, may just be what you are looking for!

Benefits of a Rotary Club formed under the new Passport Model?

- **Flexibility** – Different options for getting involved which accommodates busy schedules
- **Broad Appeal** – Appeals to people of all ages who wouldn't join a more traditional club
- **More Connections** – Members quickly build relationships across the District and beyond
- **Affordability** – Costs are kept to a minimum due to the non-traditional format
- **Wide Ranging Focus** – Allows members to work together on service projects that fit their area of interest that falls within one of the 7 Rotary Areas of Focus: 1- Promoting peace, 2- Fighting disease, 3- Providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene, 4- Saving mothers & children, 5- Supporting education, 6- Growing local economies, 7- Protecting the environment.

The 1st informational meeting will be held via Zoom on January 17 @ 1:30 PM. For more information or to register for meeting, go to Facebook page at @Passport6450 or please contact Jim Wales at jim.rotary6450passport@gmail.com



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*Marlene.p.valero
@gmail.com*



Tues, Jan 5th, 2021

[Ald. Dowell to Host Virtual Community Meeting on One Central Development on January 25th](#)

Yesterday we posted about the progress and [plans for The 78](#). Today we shift our attention to another massive development that also would change the neighborhood dramatically - [One Central](#).

If you're not familiar with this one, it was [first proposed back in 2019](#) and frankly was shocking at its ambition. There have been some movements, but to date it's been mostly discussions. That said, [another community meeting being hosted by Alderman Dowell](#) later in January:

One Central Community Meeting Announced for Monday, January 25th

The One Central mixed-use project from Landmark Development is proposed for approximately 32 acres of rail yards between the McCormick Place Convention Center and the Museum Campus on the Near South Side.

Pending the submission of a formal Planned Development (PD) zoning application and the completion of a formal review and approval process, the development proposes a multi-modal transit hub, up to 9,050 residential units, 1.5 million square feet of retail uses, 9.45 million square feet of office space, 1.5 million square feet of hotel uses, 350,000 square feet of event space, and 3,500 parking stalls.

Community Engagement

The proposal requires significant review by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and other City departments and agencies, as well as public hearings with the Chicago Plan Commission and City Council. A virtual community meeting hosted by DPD and Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd) is scheduled for the below time and date.

One Central Community Webinar

6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25 | [Register](#) or [Watch Live](#)

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

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



A couple of the responses I got to the [post I wrote about the high cost of insulin](#) were so encouraging and helpful I thought I'd share them with you blog readers today. First, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) wrote to let me know they have partnered with dozens of other organizations to create [get-Insulin.org](#), a site full of resources to help with insulin access. Kudos to those organizations for working together to get all those helpful resources available in one place. And then, a note from a mom on Long Island who remembers me from a 2014 visit to her daughter's elementary school. Penny has worked in the clinical trials industry for 23 years, and her note brought up some unsung heroes I wouldn't have thought of on my own. I appreciated her insight, asked if I could share her note here as a guest blog, and...here it is.

by Penny Wong-Matzelle

Your article Cheaper Than Water struck a chord with me. I work in a clinical trials lab, so my customers are these Pharma Companies.

I've worked in this industry with so many amazing individuals whose hearts and minds are in the right place. For sure, many get into this line of work because they know their efforts can bring life-saving drugs to market and improve the quality of life for patients. But clearly, something happens between that person's seat at the lab and that of the CEOs of these corporations.

Stockholders and greedy boards send the message that the almighty dollar is the most important bottom line. And that saddens me, especially for all of the incredible work that is done at lower levels within these organizations.

We are working with so many companies right now that are trying to bring COVID cures and vaccines into reality. I can't adequately express the tireless efforts so many individuals are putting forth in order to achieve this. Here are a few examples of the lengths they are going to in order to see that safe vaccine are created and distributed as quickly as possible:

- * moving from one region to another as needed
- * leaving their kids and family behind temporarily in order to work under quarantine
- * working seven days a week to ensure critical path trials continue on their fast-track course to drug approval
- * making genuine efforts from every clinical trial arena to be a part of the solution to this pandemic.

Many of these workers are doing all of that while home-schooling, no less! Their dedication keeps me going. Their determination encourages me to stick around for the good fight, even when things are trying. Their selflessness gives me hope that there is good in the world.

So when I am reminded of the challenges of health care in our country, it's disheartening to think forward and fear that some of these treatments will not be available to some who may not have access to health care in the U.S., all because of policies, red tape and greed. Awareness is step one, and I've shared your post with everyone I know in the industry and beyond. If any of them rise up the ladders of those corporate entities that hold the power, or if they get involved in local governance, little by little, we can be a part of the change that so many of us would love to see.



Yarn Bombers

As seen in the
Columbia Chronicle
Sloopin
Dearborn Express

Ann Cibulskis
Angie Vagner
Fanny Moy
Katherine Goodwin



A cloudy-bright day yielded strong reflections which I decided gave the photos some additional interest . . . So I ran with it.



Photos from Dec 26, 2020

You've seen the trees,
now see the everyday objects
covered in yarn:

Cozy in the City!

At Columbia College,
in the windows at 618 S. Michigan

From now until January 10th

With works by Dearborn Park Townhomes residents:

- Ann Cibulskis (Cluster 5)
- Angie Vagner (Cluster 1)
- Fanny Moy (Cluster 5)
- Katherine Goodwin (cluster 4)

Read all about it on
ColumbiaChronicle.com
- search for "yarn"

Photos on
Instagram
@anncibulskis;
@valerieplz;
@littlevillagebus
ybeeschicago

COVID safe: the
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Four Years Ago, Indivisible Printers Row was Born.

Dearborn Express February 15, 2017

What is Indivisible-Printers Row?

Summary of Indivisible

A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda
indivisibleguide.com

The Indivisible Guide was written by former progressive congressional staffers on a volunteer basis. They witnessed the rise and effectiveness of the Tea Party, and promote the same tactics to oppose the Trump agenda.

Indivisible Principles: -----

Small local groups of dedicated citizens can apply strong pressure on their Members of Congress (MoCs) using phone calls, direct meetings and media to oppose even a popular president.

When your party does not have the votes in Congress to promote a new legislative agenda, you must act defensively against the agenda of the party in power. For us, this means saying NO to MoCs on home turf, rejecting concessions to Republicans, and targeting weak Democrats.

Members of Congress care about 1 thing: reelection. To make them do what you want them to, they must believe that opposing you will threaten their reelection. They are very sensitive to bad press and any impression of public dissent or disapproval.

Members of Congress don't care about your opinion if they don't represent you. You need to focus on your own representatives.

Indivisible Tactics: -----

Form into small local groups and communicate how your MoCs are performing with regard to specific issues of the Trump agenda.

Have groups attend every town hall or public meeting of your MoCs and demand answers. Be visible to the public and the press.

Make coordinated phone calls to MoC offices to voice concerns and opinions. If possible, have every member of the group call MoCs on the same day to express your stance on a particular issue.

Make group visits to MoC offices for meetings with MoCs or their representatives. Demand that you are granted a meeting, and make it public if you are refused.

Provide positive reinforcement and support to MoCs who are already doing what you want. Positive calls and visits to MoC offices are rare, and very much appreciated. Help embolden MoCs to stand up to Trump by letting them know they have your support.

To post to this group, send email to
indivisible-printersrow@googlegroups.com.

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Saturdays with Seniors: Guest Post by Mel Washburn

I am pleased to introduce Mel Washburn as our Saturdays with Seniors guest blogger today. Mel grew up in Kentucky in the 1950s and graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he met his wife Pam. He worked as a firefighter/paramedic in Wisconsin for ten years, taught English in various Midwestern colleges, graduated from law school, and then settled in Chicago.

My assignment asking writers to describe where they were fifty years ago prompted Mel to come up with this wonderful piece starring their bulldog Ambrose and their daughter Kristen. Beth Finke

Half a Century Ago

by Mel Washburn

In December 1970 Pam and I were living at the corner of 61st and Ingleside, which is one block south of the University of Chicago campus. Our apartment was a third-floor walkup in a decrepit old building. The windows were so loose that during the winter a border of ice collected inside on the windowsill. The washing machines in the basement were always coated with coal dust. Because we were south of the campus, cabs wouldn't come to our address and the Hyde Park Co-op wouldn't deliver food there.

Our car was a 1961 Chevy Bel Air that we'd bought third-hand from our friends, the Waggoners. During the two summers before we bought it, they had driven it to Mexico where John, an anthropologist, was doing field work in Yucatan.

Those trips had been rough on the car. It was scarred with bumps and dents and rust. And the clutch was very sensitive. If you didn't feather it exactly right, it would stall on you.

One evening shortly after we moved into our apartment, Pam and I were sitting in our front room when we heard the whine and chug of a car starting up, then dying, starting up, then dying. I said to Pam, "Sounds like he has the same problem we have." After half a beat, we both went to the window and looked down at the street.

Someone was trying to steal our car, but it died each time he tried to pull away from the curb.

At the time we owned a bulldog named Ambrose. I shouted out the window at the young man in our car and went running down the stairs. Pam was right behind me with Ambrose. As soon as we came out the front door, the young man jumped out of the car and ran away.



Kristen the gingerbread eater.

A few weeks later, we sent Ambrose to live with Pam's sister in Indiana. City life simply did not suit him. Nevertheless, his aura continued to protect our home. For example, in the months after Ambrose's departure, every apartment on our stairwell was burglarized — every apartment except ours.

Amidst these hazards, we were very happy. My school-work was going well. I'd been given a full scholarship and was teaching in the college as a "Danforth Tutor." Pam worked part-time in the library at the medical school. Our daughter Kristen was healthy and happy, the joy of our lives. Pam and I took turns cooking dinner and doing the laundry. In the evenings we read *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* in six paperback volumes.

In December 1970, Kristen was a year and a half old. We put up a small Christmas tree. Pam baked gingerbread men and women, which we hung on the tree. Soon some of the gingerbread people were missing their feet. Then their legs. Then their hands. And arms. Some small person was snacking on them.

We never said a word to her about it. To this day, it's our dearest Christmas memory.

Mel and his wife Pam now live in a 1920s high rise in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Kristen lives with her family in Berkeley, California.

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

TheDearbornExpress@gmail.com



Robbery crew strikes 3 more times Friday afternoon as CPD issues alert

[January 9, 2021 CWBChicago Citywide, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Old Town, Rogers Park, West Ridge](#)

A carjacking, robbery, and theft crew struck three more times Friday in the Loop and Old Town, police say. The crime spree followed [a similar performance](#) by the offenders on Thursday as they swept through Lakeview, Rogers Park, and the north suburbs.

CWBChicago [first told you about the group](#) yesterday and [our subscribers](#) received an email alert as Thursday's events were unfolding. Late Friday night, CPD issued a public bulletin to warn about the ongoing crime pattern.

Police said the group, which is sometimes armed, steals vehicles and uses them to go on crime sprees across the North Side and downtown. The team has also used stolen and hijacked vehicles to commit burglaries and other crimes in the suburbs, according to CPD.

The team struck three times in about an hour on Friday:

- At 11:04 a.m., they stole a woman's purse in the 1700 block of North Wells in Old Town.
- **At noon, they tried to rob a woman on the 900 block of South Wabash**

At 12:08 p.m., they knocked a woman to the ground and tried to take her purse near Michigan and Balbo

According to witness reports, during Friday's crimes, they were using a white Toyota Verza that has a light blue stripe running up its hood. Police said the vehicle had been stolen earlier after its driver left the keys inside. A source said the Verza was taken in Skokie.

Police said the same team struck three times early Thursday afternoon:

- At 1:10 p.m., a woman reported that five men who may have been armed took her purse and phone in Lakeview. The offenders then climbed into a white Jeep that bears a license plate beginning with AE68 and sped away, tossing some of her property out of the window as they did. This incident was originally reported near Belmont and Sheridan, but police on Friday updated the location to the 700 block of West Addison.
- At 2:27 p.m., a 21-year-old man who stepped out of his car in the 6600 block of North Damen was pushed to the ground by an offender who then jumped into his vehicle and drove away, a CPD spokesperson said. A witness reported seeing the carjacker get out of a white Jeep before the crime. The stolen Toyota slammed into another car near Pratt and Ridge, leaving two people in the other vehicle injured, according to CPD. Both victims were taken to St. Francis Hospital for treatment.

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

CAPS MEETING JAN 14 FOR BEAT 123

If you have safety concerns about possible protests on Jan. 20, 2021 Inauguration Day, avoid Federal Plaza. The police are not aware of anything planned right now but it is a fluid situation.

Contempo Marble and Granite
in the West Loop is emptying a warehouse of half slabs used in the finest homes in Chicago.
If you are planning a kitchen or bath renovation, pick out your natural stone or quartz for countertops and vanities now at bargain prices. Call 312.953.2654

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

Write to parking801@yahoo.com for more information.

COVID-19 CASES AS OF October 20 IN 60605 Zip Code

451 Confirmed Cases

13,088 Tests completed

By age group	Dec 19	Jan 15
<20	5%	6%
20-29	29%	29%
30-39	28%	26%
40-49	13%	13%
50-59	11%	10%
60-69	7%	8%
70-79	4%	4%
80+	3%	4%

No data on deaths per zip code

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/map-by-zip-code-of-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-illinois/90ca85cd-bdf4-423a-a7bc-924fcee9d0f3>

Next CAPS Meeting Mar 11, 2021

3PM at Zoom

Beat 123

Police Blotter



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

Downtown convenience store robbers returned Friday. They brought a gun this time.

[January 9, 2021 CWBChicago Loop, West Loop](#)

A group of men who [raided four downtown convenience stores](#) for cigarettes and liquor earlier this month has apparently struck again — and they brought a gun this time.

Last Saturday evening, January 2, a three-man theft crew stole large amounts of booze and tobacco products from three downtown convenience stores. And, after cops briefly chased them through River North, the team made one more stop in the West Loop to do it again.

Around 3:15 p.m. Friday, two men armed with a handgun took alcohol and tobacco products from the 7-Eleven store at **801 South State** in the Loop, according to a CPD report. They were then seen getting into a blue or black Ford Expedition — the same model that police and witnesses saw the crew use last weekend.

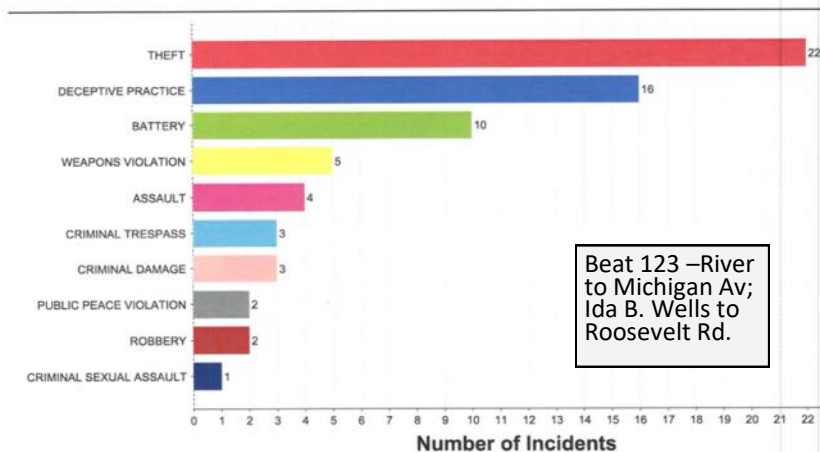
The robbers were a White male who wore a black hoodie with brown pants and a Black male who wore a black hoodie with black pants, according to a witness. Both are in their 30's or 40's and wore hospital masks. They were last seen running into a nearby alley and getting into the SUV.

Four stores were targeted by the crew in a couple of hours last Saturday. They first targeted 7-Eleven's store at 201 East Ohio in Streeterville around 8:45 p.m. Minutes later, they did it again at 645 North Kingsbury in River North. And at 10:30, they struck the store at 177 North Wells in the Loop.

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

Report Date: 13-Jan-2021
Report Time: 15:59:47
Produced By: Information Services
Division: P030011
Run By:

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Dec-2020 To 31-Dec-2020 On Beat 0123



Beat 123 –River to Michigan Av;
Ida B. Wells to
Roosevelt Rd.

Man charged with robbing Loop restaurant worker during his smoke break

[January 6, 2021 CWBChicago Loop](#)

Kamaree Vance is accused of robbing a man who was on a smoke break from his job at **Half Sour**. |

When two men threatened to “blow away” a Loop restaurant worker as they robbed him during his smoke break this week, the victim refused to cooperate and demanded to see the offender’s gun, prosecutors said.

He never saw their gun, but he did get punched in the face a couple of times.

Prosecutors on Wednesday filed charges against one man in connection with the hold-up.

Around 8 p.m. Monday, the 30-year-old victim stepped into an alley in the 700 block of South Clark to smoke a cigarette behind Half Sour, the restaurant where he works. Two men walked up to him, and Kamaree Vance, 18, sat down next to the alleged victim and bumped him, according to Assistant State’s Attorney Jocelyn Schieve.

Vance put an object behind the victim’s ear, ordered him to start walking, and threatened to “blow the victim away with his big gun,” Schieve said.

But the victim refused and challenged Vance to show him the gun he intended to use, she said. Vance allegedly responded by punching him in the face.

Meanwhile, the other offender noticed the victim was holding a bottle in one hand and told the victim that Vance would shoot him if he tried to use the bottle as a weapon, according to Schieve.

Then, Vance punched the victim in the face again, went through the man’s pockets, and took his keys, Schieve said. Both assailants then left the scene.

Police searched the area for people who matched the descriptions given to them by the restaurant worker, and they found Vance nearby. Prosecutors said the victim identified him as the primary offender and specifically recognized Vance’s eyes and voice, Schieve said. Cops said Vance had the victim’s keys.

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

Real Estate Transactions

\$276,000
1550 S INDIANA AVE 501
10/23/20

\$259,000
1255 S STATE ST 1809
10/22/20

\$915,000
1436 S FEDERAL ST
10/21/20

\$430,000
1464 S MICHIGAN AVE 1408
10/20/20

\$408,000
1111 S WABASH AVE 1704
10/20/20

\$220,000
170 W POLK ST 707
10/19/20

\$220,000
125 E 13TH ST 1307
10/19/20

\$595,000
621 S PLYMOUTH CT 602
10/15/20

\$593,000
100 E 14TH ST 2210 & P75
10/14/20

\$247,000
1201 S PRAIRIE AVE 5204
10/14/20

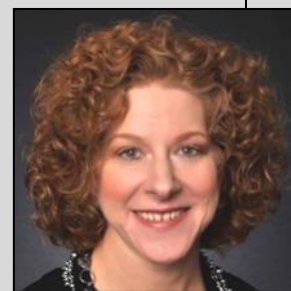
\$290,000
1169 S PLYMOUTH AVE 504
10/12/20

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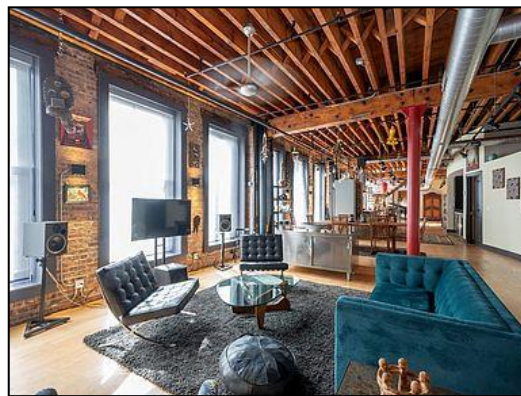


620 S Laflin Unit E Townhouse
 3 bed corner unit 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, 4 levels \$615,000

Susan Dickman -
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 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 baths Susan Dickman

Custom designed loft located on Printers Row in the premier and historic gem, the Donohue Building. This home is a must for connoisseurs of architecture and sustainability.

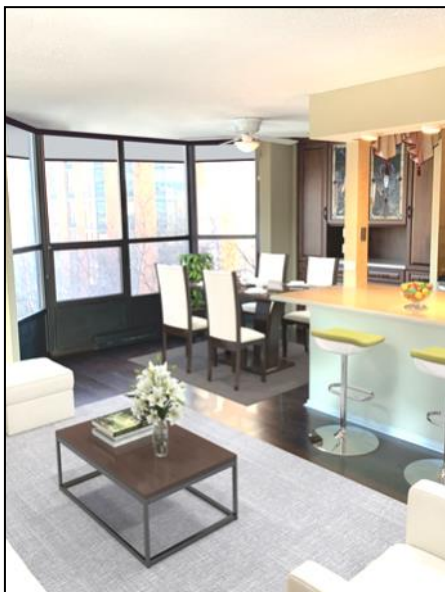
40 E 9th St
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 1 bed, 1 bath
 1125 sq ft
 \$235,000

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901 S Plymouth Ct, #405
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Thomas Palmen
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