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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

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Chicago's (first) 2023 Election Day is approaching. Here's what you'll need to vote smart:



Be informed.

- See ballot items, explained: *Ballotpedia* ([mayoral race](#) and [other city contests](#)) ...
- ... and [BallotReady](#).
- Consult guides from [the Tribune](#), the [Sun-Times](#), [WTTW](#), [Block Club Chicago](#), [The Triibe](#) and [the League of Women Voters](#).
- See *Block Club's* summary of the mayoral candidates' positions on [crime, public transportation, the Bears and more](#)
- *Axios Chicago's* [questionnaire responses](#) from all of them—[except Mayor Lightfoot](#) ...
- ... and *Chalkbeat Chicago's* rundown of [their stands on education](#).
- *Streetsblog Chicago* compares each of the candidates' transportation platforms to [actual CTA platforms](#).
- Check the *Chicago Reader / South Side Weekly* overview of the city's first [Police District Council elections](#) ...
- ... and candidates' answers to the Better Government Association's [policy questionnaire](#).
- Test your election savvy with [a quiz from the Trib](#)
- ... and one that WBEZ and the *Sun-Times* created to help you figure out [which candidate most closely reflects your views](#).

Read endorsements ...

- ... from the *Tribune* and the snarky [Girl, I Guess Progressive Voter Guide](#).

Do it.

- Learn [where to vote](#)—and get a customized ballot with all the decisions you'll face.
- Get briefed on how to [vote early](#).
- Or [vote by mail](#).

This is a work in progress.

- Spot a mistake? Know of another source that'll help people vote smart? Email

Voterguide@ChicagoPublicSquare.com.

- You can subscribe to *Chicago Public Square* free [here](#).

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Wed, Feb 15, 5pm.....Bob Lark Septet
 Thu-Sat, Feb 16-18, 8pm & 10pm.....Alexander Mclean Quintet
 Sun, Feb 19, 4pm & 8pm..... Alexander Mclean Quintet
 Tue, Feb 21, 8pm.....WDCB 90.0FM Michael Salter Quartet
 Wed, Feb 22, 8pm & 10pm.....Bob Lark & His Alumni Big Band
 Thu-Sat, Feb 23-25, 8pm & 10pm.....Ryan Cohan
 Sun, Feb 26, 4pm & 8pm.....Ryan Cohan
 Tue, Feb 28, 8pm.....Petra's Recession Seven
 Wed, Mar 1, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring
 Dee Alexander
 Thu-Sat, Mar 2-4, 8pm & 10pm.....Columbia College Jazz Ensemble & Sax-
 ophonist Tia Fuller
 Sun, Mar 5, 4pm & 8pm.....Columbia College Jazz Ensemble & Sax-
 ophonist Tia Fuller
 Mon-Tue, Mar 6-7, 8pm-10pm.....Tito Carillo Quartet
 Wed, Mar 8, 8pm & 10pm.....Bob Lark & His Alumni Big Band



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Ryan Cohan

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Sun, Mar 12, 4pm & 8pm.....

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Bobbie Broom

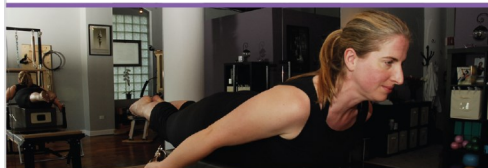
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South Loop Neighbors

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

Elected board

President – Jim Wales

V.P. of Planning & Development – Dennis McClendon

Vice President/Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell

Treasurer – Dorothy Miaso

Director – Sarah Breedlove

Director – Roger Marsh

Director – Greg Borzo

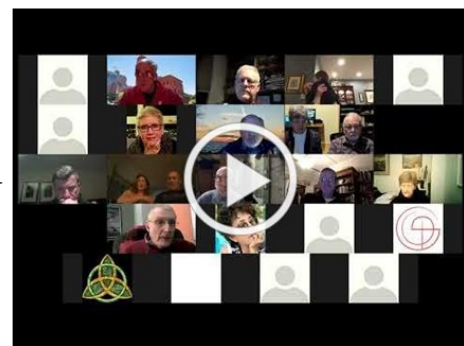
Director – Jack Chalabian

Director – Susan Zinner

Director – Robert Hard

Development update Presentation

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



The latest information on planning and development in our area can always be found at our website SouthLoopUpdate.org



Jaqi Green

Off. 312-922-5888

Cell 847-542-1340

899 S. Plymouth Ct.

Chicago 60605

JaqiGInt@gmail.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.

In 1969, I had to listen to 16-year-old Mandy Patinkin sing Broadway tunes in his South Shore living room because his mother made me....

Who knew he was on his way to stardom?

Mandy and Marsha and their parents in their South Shore living room

My best friend Judy and I were very excited one night in the Spring of 1969. We were home for Spring break in Chicago, having left the dorm room we shared at the University of Illinois in Urbana for a whole week. And my mom loaned me her red '67 Camaro (with a stick shift yet) so my girlfriends and I could go out on the town.

But first we had to drive from Uptown on the north side to South Shore on the south side to pick up another good friend who also lived in our dorm—Marsha Patinkin, Mandy's sister. Although Mandy wasn't famous yet. He was just a kid from Chicago. Who was a little "affected," as we used to say back then about kids who were really good in the school plays.

We parked the car on the street Marsha lived on in South Shore and we went to the door to get her. Her mother greeted us and told us Marsha wasn't ready yet—and to please come in and have a seat on the couch.

So we sat down, all excited about leaving immediately and starting our night on the town.

"Girls," said Marsha's mother, "I want you to sit for just a few minutes and listen to Mandy sing a few songs. Just stay right here on the couch, it's nice and comfortable and I'll go get him."

We did; and she did. And she got Marsha, too. Who sat down at the piano. And then...Mandy sang all the Broadway tunes he knew from every musical that was ever written for Broadway. Or so it seemed.

He went at least an hour singing songs from shows like *Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, *West Side Story*, *ShowBoat* and *Carousel*. And then, finally, Mandy's mother let us leave with Marsha.

I don't remember anything that happened that night on our college girls' night out in 1969 Chicago. Except the musical prelude. And it wasn't that many years later that Mandy became very famous.

Sadly, after college Marsha and I drifted apart. I went to grad school in Columbia, Missouri. Marsha at some point married and had three daughters and made her way to California. She died in 2004, a victim of Crohn's Disease. Judy and I and our other college friends were well aware of the colitis she was afflicted with in college, which is often the precursor to Crohn's.

When Marsha's brother Mandy got very famous, I always had this interesting story (as it turned out) to tell. How us girls had to listen to Mandy before Marsha's mother let us leave. Before Mandy was Mandy.

We were hostages. Our captivity ended. We girls went out. Life went on.

And Mandy Patinkin became a movie star.

Bonnie McGrath

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OPINION

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Backstory Essays Regan Burke

My friend Kam Buckner

January 31, 2023



In early 2019 Skyline Village Chicago invited newly minted state representative Kam Buckner to meet his north side constituents at their monthly luncheon. Buckner blew in twenty minutes late, having raced from the state capitol in downstate Springfield. He flashed an enormous smile, introduced himself, then launched into a captivating and detailed description of budget negotiations with legislative leaders. We felt like we were insiders.

He'd been in office for two months.

A political impasse had left Illinois with no state budget for most of the three years leading up to 2019. Many services had been cut, and the stalemate adversely affected Illinois' economy and credit rating. Reports of the multi-faceted budget process sounded politically intricate. A person next to me at the luncheon whispered, "Isn't he too new to be negotiating the budget?"

That's my friend, Kam Buckner.

"I've wanted to be Mayor of Chicago since I was 12 years old. I'm a son of Chicago, I love this city, and I want to make it the best version of itself."

He's the thirty-seven year old lawyer, former big ten footballer running for mayor. He worked for Senator Durbin in Washington and Mayor Mitch Landrieu in New Orleans.

The Buckner family tree grew its branches out of

Mississippi mud and grafted itself onto Chicago's big shoulders during the Second Great Migration. The blues, born in Mississippi and raised in Chicago came up from the south with them. Chicago's Staple Singers and Jennifer Hudson are Buckner cousins. At Kam's inaugural party in Springfield, he hit the stage to belt out a full-throated "Two Dollar Blues" with the band.

The day I met Kam was also the day the Chicago Bears announced they might move the team to Arlington Park. I asked Buckner if the Bears were fishing for state money to stay in Chicago. "Of course," he answered. "I've already spoken to the governor about legislation to prevent that."

This is a guy who hits the ground running.

In 2019 I'd been part of a group at my church that studied education equity, which is so complicated we disbanded. The next thing I knew Kam Buckner passed a bill to ensure schools receive funding based on the need of the students, rather than evidence of achievement. That's equity. He's been in the trenches on criminal justice reform, known as the SAFTE-T Act and negotiated the celebrated energy bill which legislates zero carbon emission by 2045, a boon for climate change.



At the dedication of adult playground equipment in my neighborhood park, a friend mentioned to Kam that cities in China have similar equipment. "I lived in China for six months and saw it everywhere," he said. "What? You lived in China?"

Activists for safe streets and public transportation are Buckner's biggest supporters. He rides the trains. Takes notes. Talks to passengers. Has a plan.

At a Sunday afternoon mayoral forum the candidates were peppered with the usual questions on crime, education, housing. Afterwards, a long line waited for selfies and handshakes with Kam Buckner while the other candidates packed up to leave.

"He'd make a great mayor," a stranger said, "but I'm not votin' for him. I'm afraid he's gonna lose."

"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin." —H.L. Mencken

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

Available at Sandmeyer's Book Store and other places.



Before Opening Near South Side High School, City Must Support Existing Schools In The Area, 4th Ward Candidates Say

Some candidates are calling for a written commitment by Chicago Public Schools leaders to invest in existing schools before creating another high school.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) on Feb 7, 2023

THE GAP — The six candidates running to lead the 4th Ward criticized Chicago Public Schools' efforts to build a \$150 million high school on the Near South Side, saying that investment is badly needed in the ward's underresourced schools.

Aldermanic hopefuls Helen West, Ebony Lucas, Khari Humphries, Rep. Lamont Robinson, Tracey Bey and Prentice Butler appeared before neighbors last week at Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church, 3330 S. King Drive, for their second forum ahead of the Feb. 28 election. Journalist Art Norman moderated.

The group answered questions about education and economic development from constituents collected by the Quad Communities Development Corporation, one of several organizations that sponsored the event.

One question was about the possibility of Bronzeville's Pershing Magnet School serving as a feeder school for the controversial Near South High School, which has been planned for former public housing land in the neighboring 3rd Ward.

All six candidates agreed Chicago Public Schools should ensure the district reinvests in nearby high schools before moving ahead with its plans to open another school.

Rep. Lamont Robinson (I) talks to residents as Ebony Lucas (c) and Helen West wait to speak at the 4th Ward aldermanic forum Jan. 31. Jamie Nesbitt Golden/Block Club Chicago



"I'd like to see a sustainability plan for both Dunbar and Phillips," Butler said. "It makes no sense that we're funding \$150 million for schools that are new while not doing what we need to do to support Phillips and Dunbar. We have to be holistic."

Humphries said the district should not be able to move forward before agreeing in writing to invest at least \$20 million in each nearby high school. Bey concurred, saying she spoke to a Dunbar culinary student who told her they lack the resources to make meals.

"We have an issue we need to deal with right here with our other schools before we try to get money for a brand-new school," Bey said.

Lucas told the crowd she supports the funding of neighborhood schools so residents "don't have to have feeder schools."

https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/02/07/before-opening-near-south-side-high-school-city-must-support-existing-schools-in-the-area-4th-ward-candidates-say/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=8d2f06c17d-



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Valero & Associates, Inc.

*Marlene P. Valero, CPA,
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IN-PERSON
CRYSTAL SIMONE SMITH



February 19
 1:00 pm CST



Dark Testament: Blackout Poems with Crystal Simone Smith

In this extraordinary collection, the award-winning poet **Crystal Simone Smith** gives voice to the mournful dead, their lives unjustly lost to violence, and to the grieving chorus of protestors in today's Black Lives Matter movement, in search of resilience and hope. For this program, Smith reads from and discusses her collection **Dark Testament: Blackout Poems**, followed by an erasure poetry activity for

attendees to create their own work within the form. Erasure poetry is "a form of found poetry wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text, creating a wholly new work from what remains" (Academy of American Poets). This program is presented in conjunction with our special exhibit **Dark Testament: A Century of Black Writers on Justice**, which you can now visit at the American Writers Museum. Registering for this program will grant you access to explore *Dark Testament*, as well as all of our other exhibits.



American Writers Museum
 180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
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<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

Illinois' Best Attraction - USA Today

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

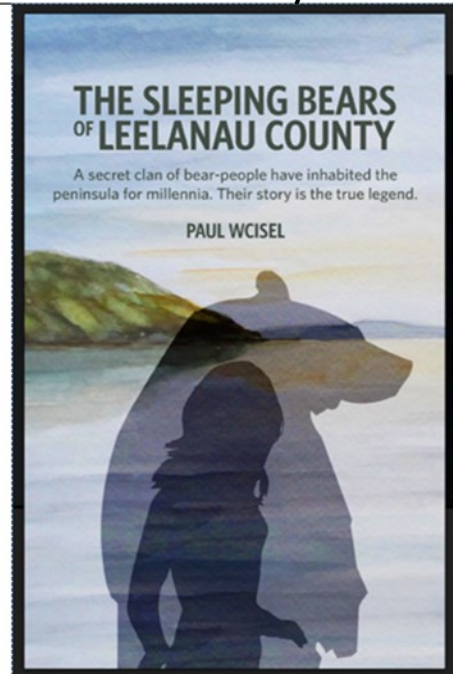
Beth Finke

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.

Pick up a copy at Sandmeyer's Bookstore today.



Matthew F. Delmont's ***HALF AMERICAN, the Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad***

In World War II, there were over a million of them: Black soldiers and sailors and WAC's. Not til the last part of the war were they allowed to fly, drop bombs, and shoot guns. They cooked and cleaned; peeled potatoes and polished shoes; drove trucks and delivered munitions; laid roads and sorted the mail; nursed the wounded and buried the dead. They fought for a chance to fight. They were booed, beaten, and even lynched outside their southern training camps. They were segregated throughout the war and scorned when they came home. Black troops constituted 11% of the Armed Forces, but rarely made it to the White press. *Life Magazine* published "a handsomely bound, 368-page book, with a thousand photographs." Only one Black man appeared. *TIME* magazine did no better during the war, but recently selected Guggenheim Fellow and Dartmouth professor of history Matthew F. Delmont's ***HALF AMERICAN, the Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*** a 'book of the year,' editorializing that it "provides a much-needed corrective to the glut of rosy *Greatest Generation* tomes" that failed to recognize that "the U.S. would not have succeeded in World War II without the service of ... Black men and women" and categorically ignored "how many Black soldiers faced racism and segregation" both in the armed forces and when they returned home. There were no war-time movies of Black troops except the 40-minute propaganda film, produced by the Army and directed by Frank Capra, called *The Negro Soldier*, featuring church-going Black people and an eloquent minister who relayed the proud history of African-

American war heroes, from Crispus Attucks to the uniformed men and women sitting in his church, saving the world for democracy. The film was directed as much toward white supremacist fellow troops and racist citizens as toward Hitler and his personal venom toward people of color. Delmont cites liberally from the 143 Black-owned newspapers who tried their best to tell the true story. He highlights the racism and the bravery of black enlistees with ironic and moving poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks and Langston Hughes. He quotes letters to the editor and missives to mothers. We read about the famous and near-famous soldiers: Joe Lewis, Medgar Evers, Jackie Robinson and Pearl Harbor hero Doris Miller. But Delmont also shares the names and hometowns of scores of ordinary draftees who illustrate the worst and best of their time in the military. Delmont challenges the history that "minimize[s] or denigrate[s] the vital contributions" of African Americans and "downplays the violence against Black soldiers and sailors" during and after the war so as to "make present-day police brutality and racial violence appear anomalous rather than systemic." He argues that the benefits of the GI bill, that forever transformed White working poor into holders of generational wealth through subsidized higher education and home loans, were denied to most Blacks. We understand that people of color helped win the war, but lost their battle at home. Black History.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / February, 2023

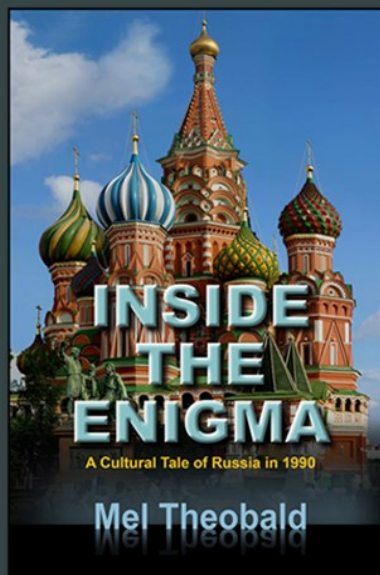


Susan Bass Marcus writes and illustrates fiction, essays, and reviews. Her Dragonwolder fantasy novels, *Malevir: Dragons Return* and *Where Dragons Follow*, offer a world of dragon clans, an enigmatic menace the Malevir, sprites, goblins, questing humans, and magical giants. Her musings appear weekly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

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."

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Gerald de Jaeger
Author of *The Million-Dollar Parrot*
and three other books



Retired in Chicago

Darn technology!

By **Marianne Goss**,

If you're experiencing tech vexation, I empathize.

I'm not a technophobe. I don't shy away from learning to use a new device or application. But setting up a new blog had me so flustered that I signed a note to a friend with her name instead of mine.

Constructing a website on Blogger, my choice of a platform because of its reputation for simplicity, was less easy than expected. Unlike the now-defunct ChicagoNow, on which I used to blog, it required importing widgets for subscribing and, I mistakenly thought, commenting. Those tasks were nightmarish.

After publishing the first post, I emailed friends and relatives with the link and instructions for subscribing. Quite a few people told me that they quit filling in the subscribe widget because their emails were not showing up as they typed.

Fretting that potential subscribers were giving up, I bothered those I was confident would subscribe with another email informing them that the widget worked even though their typing would be invisible.

When Elfsight, the widget provider, sent out a customer satisfaction survey, I complained about the widget's supposed flaw and got a response: the settings indicated white type. I may have unwittingly clicked on that nonsensical choice.

Soon after email addresses were finally displaying in black, Elfsight notified me that I'd nearly reached the limit of 200 monthly views for a free plan. The widget could be pulled the next day unless I upgraded to a paid plan. I panicked and paid.

The Elfsight contact heard from me again. There would be nowhere near 200 views a month once the kinks were ironed out, I said. The views were almost all mine. Informed that I browsed in Safari, she said that my own views would not count if Safari were set to allow cookies and **cross-site tracking**. You can guess that my settings were the opposite.

I published a second post and, having subscribed myself, eagerly awaited Elfsight's email announcing it. Ninety minutes passed with no notice. Once more I turned to the patient Elfsight contact and heard another surprise. Its subscription function doesn't work as I expected from my ChicagoNow experience.

Elfsight gives me subscribers' email addresses; it doesn't notify subscribers of new posts. I emailed subscribers about the post, in my frustration incorrectly entering an @ instead of a dot in the URL. Another email was needed to correct the mistake. Could this blog launch could get any more

embarrassing?

It occurred to me that I hadn't even needed Elfsight, since all subscribers are relatives and friends. But maybe I'll be lucky and get subscriptions from strangers.

The other recommended form is for comments. I chose ad-free, no-tracking CommentBox, placed the HTML code into Blogger's layout settings, and spent many maddening hours investigating why the form didn't work. The code mysteriously duplicated when saved, which a CommentBox contact thought was causing the problem. I couldn't stop the duplication and reached out to the Blogger help community. A "diamond product expert" responded that he was stymied by a problem he'd never seen before. I asked his recommendation for another comment form.

"I've had pretty good experience with the standard Blogger comments," he replied. Blogger has a comment form! I thought I had read that Blogger had eliminated it. All that angst was unnecessary.

The Blogger helper also suggested that I insert a "jump break" into a post so that only the beginning would display on the top page. A "read more" click would take readers to the full post's individual page with its own comment form. Perfect!

Now, fingers crossed, the format is settled and I can concentrate on composing. Some lessons from the experience:

- Seek help. It can be intimidating for a tech amateur to put a problem out to those you perceive as tech wizards, but I would not have known about Blogger's comment form or jump break had I not reached out to the Blogger community. I was answered politely and in understandable language.
- Don't assume that a function will work the same as a previous one you're familiar with. I fretted myself into a tizzy waiting for a new post notice from Elfsight that wasn't going to arrive.
- Be patient and don't hurry to launch. Fix problems before you go public. I could have held off for a functioning comment form before publishing. I should have asked whether Elfsight had a solution for invisible email addresses.
- Take a different tack. Even after the experts could not solve the comment problem, I entered and deleted the CommentBox code over and over again, as if another attempt would produce a different result. I hadn't known about Blogger's comment form yet, but I could have tried a form from another provider.
- Use stress-reducing practices and don't berate yourself as technologically inept. You're not unusually obtuse. Technology is complicated and can be frustrating, especially when it's new to you and you're over a certain age. We unfairly expect ourselves to understand what we've never been taught. After the problems were resolved, I congratulated myself for learning a bit about web page construction.

Comments?

South Looper Marianne Goss blogs at sincerelymarianne.blogspot.com

Columbia alum supports next generation of artists through South Loop nonprofit

OLIVIA COHEN MANAGING EDITOR. Columbia Chronicle WHEN SHEILA FORTSON came to Columbia in pursuit of a master's degree, she did not realize how the teachings awaiting her would open a whole new world of the arts. Fortson focused on music and perfecting her musical craft, but she had never really focused on any other types of art. "Growing up being involved in music, that's really all I had ever focused on," Fortson said. "And so it was a whole new world that was opened up for me when I got to Columbia, and I began to explore the five major art forms that were offered in my master's program."

Fortson graduated from Columbia's master's program in 2011 and walked out with a degree in interdisciplinary art. Through the arts exposure provided through the program, Fortson was able to explore five major art forms, which were all interconnected. "

After that experience, I kind of thought, 'Man, if I had had an opportunity to explore some of these disciplines as a kid, I wonder if I would have gone a different direction,'" Fortson said. "And I also began to think about what I wanted my life's work to be. ... I felt sort of an urgency to offer kids an opportunity to explore more than one art form at a time."

The five different arts forms that Fortson connected with through Columbia's master's program were music, visual arts, drama, dance and creative writing.

From there, Fortson turned her passion into action, as she opened up the FAME Center — which stands for Fortson Arts and Music Education — **located in the South Loop at 1319 S. State St.**, after moving in September. The FAME Center provides equitable access to

Arts education to the next generation of creatives. The center directly confronts the lack of accessibility to music and fine arts education opportunities in under-resourced Chicago communities.

Fortson said it is rewarding to see students come through the FAME Center's program.

"It's so rewarding because I know that they're going to take this with them throughout their life," Fortson said. "I believe fully that the arts are an important part of the human spirit and the growth of the human spirit. So I just see changes in everyone that comes through my door."

The nonprofit operates in six pillars consisting of music, visual arts, drama and theatre, creative writing, digital art and art therapy. Fortson also incorporates mental health support into FAME's programming.

"The mental health component of what we do is so important to me, because I feel like there is a mental health benefit as well as so many other benefits to the arts. I mean, I see kids' grades improve and see their self-confidence grow," Fortson said.

AJ Buegel has been a music teacher at the FAME Center since 2020, working with her students both in-person and virtually.

Buegel said in her experience, music education is important because it is a place where students are able to "ask the most questions."

Buegel believes music education is especially valuable for students whose brains are still developing, as it will give them a way to explore the world in an environment without fear of asking right or wrong questions.

Buegel's students typically range from ages 7 to 14, but said she currently has a student who is as young as 6, and one grandmother who takes back-to-back piano lessons with her grandson at FAME. (Continued on page 16)

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Editor's Letter: February, 2023

February 3, 2023 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

This is the thirtieth and final time we plan to publish our iconic Best of Chicago edition. Many factors weighed into our decision to end it here, but the most important one is the ongoing evolution of Newcity into a very different publication than we were in 1993.

For this issue, we allowed ourselves to wallow in a bit of nostalgia that we hope you'll enjoy; for example, you'll see

reproductions of all twenty-nine previous covers, dating back to the first one, by Chris Ware. This final cover was created by Jorge Colombo who, like Chris, does most of his magazine work for the New Yorker these days. Jorge has done three Best of Chicago covers for Newcity, more than any other artist.

Jorge was Newcity's art director in 1993, so he designed the first Best of Chicago. Others who contributed to that first issue and returned for this one include Ted C. Fishman, Ray Pride and David Witter. A perusal of the ads in that issue are a time capsule of a cultural moment long gone, along with most of the businesses. Though a few, Metro/Smartbar and the Dance Center of Columbia College (then located in Edgewater) were there in 1993 and are still going strong, with ads in that and this issue. Newcity would not be here without our contributors and advertisers, and our appreciation is boundless.

Thinking about this final word on the Best of Chicago, we decided to concentrate on icons, those enduring people, places and things that have been present with us for most, if not all of our journey, and that will live on for a long time to come, at least in the consciousness of the city. In addition to 183 items composed by some of the city's finest writers, we asked five living cultural icons—a small sample of the many we might have chosen—to reflect on their own Chicago journey in some way.

You'll want to keep this issue, as you won't see the likes of it again.



Cover illustration: Jorge Colombo

This issue also marks Newcity's thirty-seventh anniversary and it's onward and upward from here.

We're incredibly excited to announce Folio, an extraordinary collaboration with Pickleman to create limited-edition collectible inserts that will be available only to paid subscribers to the print magazine. Starting with our April edition, we plan to periodically bundle eighteen-by-twenty-four-inch prints created by leading Chicago artists, including Michelle Grabner, Theaster Gates, Laura Letinsky, Luftwerk and Edra Soto, with more to come.

If you're not yet a print subscriber, please visit [NewcityShop.com](#) and join us for this exciting new chapter.

—BRIAN HIEGELKE

Look for Newcity's February 2023 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

Best of Chicago

A meander through an iconic city (see index below)

including essays by

Wild About Harry and Donna's by Joe Bryl

My Chicago Journey by Cheryl Lynn Bruce

The Neighborhood Eye by Gordon Quinn

The Fine Arts of SubCity by Candida Alvarez

Dancing in Chicago by Bette Cerf Hill

Best of Chicago 2023 was written by Ted C. Fishman, David Hammond, Sharon Hoyer, Scoop Jackson, Ray Pride, Vasia Rigou, Mary Wisniewski and David Witter With additional contributions by Alison Cuddy, Dave Hoekstra, Dennis Polkow, Robert Rodi, Frank Sennett and Sara Stern

AND

Poetry

"When Your Girls Make It"

A new poem from Rocio Franco

And so much more...

**Annual South Loop Neighbors Meeting
Held at Half Sour on January 22nd.**

After a slide presentation illustrating all the events this past year, traditional and new, Jim Wales presided over the election of new officers.

Directors elected:

- Greg Borzo
- Sarah Breedlove
- Jack Chalabian
- Benjamin Cottrell
- Robert Hard
- Roger Marsh
- Dennis McClendon
- Dorothy Miaso
- James Wales
- Susan Zinner



Top photo: David, Henry and Chrissy Hunt.

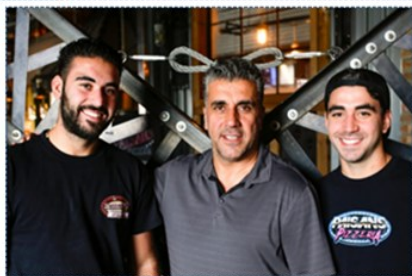
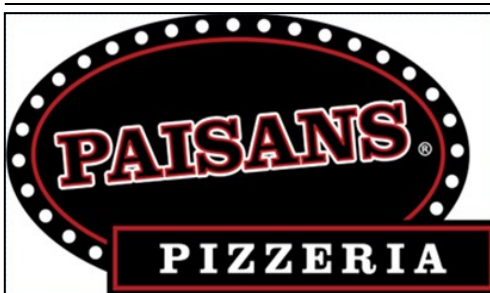


Top right: Janice Koeber with husband Jack Hilty in background.

The annual meeting was followed the annual Board meeting, where the elected directors elected the officers for 2023 :

- President - James Wales
- Vice President - Dennis McClendon
- Secretary - Benjamin Cottrell
- Treasurer - Dorothy Miaso

Right: President Jim Wales expressing appreciation to Chrissy Hunt for many years of active participation in South Loop Neighbors. The Hunts are moving to Pennsylvania.



- Brunch
- Daily Specials
- Catering

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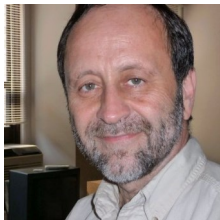
OPINION

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](#) November 7, 2022

One thing maybe we all can agree on



(Editors note: you may notice the date is November 7, 2022 on this column but I think the sentiment still rings true.)

I love voting, and look forward to doing so tomorrow at Jones College Prep high school. Democracy is a luxury and one that's at risk, so voting is more important than ever.

(For the record, I'd rate the 2020 elections as the straightest, truest, cleanest presidential election of my lifetime. It was closely scrutinized in real time and tested again and again after the fact. I mean, remember 2000? The difference: The character, or lack thereof, of the lead actors and their followers.)

The Democrats, in my view, are missing an opportunity to trumpet real benefits that the nation will reap as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, the infrastructure legislation, a legislative step toward gun sanity, and other accomplishments. But it's kind of a Democrat thing to miss opportunities.

Apart from that, we are polarized in a way that surpasses any period of my life, including the 1960s and early 1970s. Back then we either did or didn't support the war, but we agreed there was a war. We believed or didn't believe in the domino theory but we knew what it was. Today, not so much.

Perhaps one thing we all can agree on—or at least all of us who watch any TV or listen to any radio: After tomorrow, the political ads will cease.

I can't believe that any of them persuade anyone. I can only imagine that they're made to remind the respective bases to get out there otherwise, the opposing candidate will indeed bake your children in a pie and make you eat it (cue the dark mood music).

It's always bad but I feel like it's worse than ever this year. For example, I was watching the Illinois Michigan State game on the Big Ten Network when political ads for Michigan races came on.

Even my beloved Jeopardy!, which usually is filled with ads for Cricket phones, calcium supplements, and all stuff for people of a certain age, has been filled with rapid fire doomsday ads.



Of course it is worse because [there's more money in politics than ever](#).

Maybe we can agree that's a bad thing? Or at least, let's all celebrate a political ad moratorium...until the next election.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

HIDE AND SEEK

[What A Chinese Balloon Can Teach Us About Our Media Consumption](#)

[Documenting Navalny's Hunt for His Poisoners](#)

[The Big Sigh: An Assessment of Our Economic Future](#)

It's a bird, it's a plane... no, it's a spy balloon. On this week's On the Media, how to grasp a news event that's equal parts concerning and absurd. Plus, the hunt for who poisoned the Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, and re-reading classic Russian novels in the shadow of the Ukraine war.

1. Jon Allsop [[@Jon Allsop](#)], freelance journalist and author of the Columbia Journalism Review's newsletter The Media Today, on how to understand polarizing reactions to the Chinese spy balloon. [Listen](#).
2. Christo Grozev [[@christogrozev](#)], lead Russia investigator at Bellingcat, and Daniel Roher [[@DanielRoher](#)], director of the documentary "Navalny," on investigating, and filming, Alexei Navalny's search for the truth behind his own poisoning. [Listen](#).
3. Elif Batuman [[@BananaKarenina](#)], novelist and staff writer at The New Yorker, on revisiting classic Russian literature in times of war. [Listen](#).

Donation and Volunteer Support for New Arrivals from Texas

Since Wednesday, August 31st, the City of Chicago has welcomed hundreds of migrants bused from Texas to Chicago. Our city greeted them with dignity and respect, and the City government, in collaboration with local, state, federal, and community partners, continues to take action to ensure they have access to shelter, food, and other resources. We anticipate that the state of Texas will continue to bus migrants to Chicago and we remain committed to providing support and resources to our newly arrived neighbors during this transition period.

VOLUNTEERS

At this time, our shelter partners cannot accept “walk-up” volunteers, and due to security and safety concerns for minors on-site, there is a registration process to become a volunteer. If you wish to volunteer, please complete the [volunteer registration form found here](#).

DONATIONS

As a welcoming city, we know Chicagoans are ready to show their generosity and are looking for ways to support. Below please find more information about how you can help Chicago’s newest arrivals.

Amazon Wish List

To have a quick and direct impact, now, residents and organizations can also support asylum seekers by purchasing items directly from an Amazon Wish List set up in partnership with Instituto del Progreso Latino. You can find the Wish List by clicking [Rapid Response Wish List on Amazon](#) or at [InstitutoChicago.org](#)



ONLY NEW ITEMS CAN BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME

**List subject to change based on supply and demand. Please check this website regularly for the most up to date info.*

Urgently needed:

- New clothing for adults (including cold weather clothing)
- Men’s sizes small, medium, and large – in particular medium
- Women’s sizes small, medium, and large—in particular medium
- Men’s underwear

- Women’s underwear
 - Women’s sports bras
 - Long sleeve shirts (men, women, unisex)
 - Sweatshirts/sweaters (men, women, unisex)
 - Sweatpants (men, women, unisex)
 - Pants (men and women)
 - Socks (men, women, unisex)
 - Shoes (closed toe gym shoes) (infants, boys, girls, men and women)
 - Shoelaces
 - Winter coats (men, women, children, infants)
- Other items needed:
- New hygiene kit items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo)
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Preference for sanitary pads and pantyliners
 - Reusable bags (e.g., duffle bags and suitcases)
 - Backpacks
 - Bath towels (large towels, hand towels, wash cloths)
 - Baby bottles
 - Baby carriers
 - Baby formula
 - Pedialyte
 - Diapers
 - Vaseline / diaper ointment
 - Baby wipes
 - Blankets
 - Nail clippers
 - Pack n’ plays
 - Razors
 - Hairbrushes
 - Chapstick
 - Ace bandages
 - Antibacterial cream
 - Antifungal cream
 - Band-aids (all sizes)
 - Calamine lotion
 - Calcium antacid (e.g., Tums)
 - First aid tape
 - Gauze
 - Heartburn medication (Famotidine)
 - Hydrocortisone cream
 - Tylenol/Ibuprofen
 - Toys and activity books
 - New clothing for children
 - 6 months-teens
- Underwear for children and teens
- We will update this list as we continue more detailed needs assessments. For additional inquiries, please email: DONATIONS@cityofchicago.org.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke

Senior Class: Lola has a dream February 14, 2023



The "I have a Dream" prompt I assigned writers in my classes last month inspired them to write about dreams they have for the world, for their country, and for their loved ones. Some even wrote about recurring nightmares!

The one that surprised me the most? This flattering essay by today's guest blogger Lola Hotchkiss. She hasn't achieved her dream yet, but sounds like she's pretty close!

by Lola Hotchkiss

My dream began when email brought me Beth Finke's late summer newsletter. Having lived in Beth's hometown of Elmhurst for almost 40 years now, my ears perk up every time she mentions that this suburb would be a prime market for a memoir-writing class like ours.

Now Beth's newsletter brought more encouragement. The article said, "We need more memoir-writing teachers. I've written a [Memoir Teacher Masterclass](#) on how to start and run your own memoir-writing course."

My copy of the Masterclass was downloaded to my computer and I read all the material in one sitting. Beth makes it sound fulfilling and fun for both the students and leader. Of course, first-hand experience tells me it's so for the students.

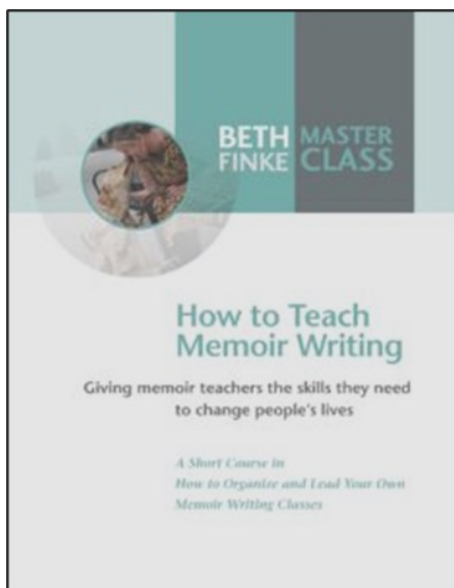
I started by developing a business plan. I asked my husband Doug to help by setting up a website. Don't look for it yet because it doesn't exist.

Now what?

Everything you wanted to know about teaching a memoir class but were afraid to ask.

Looking for a sponsor, I discussed my idea with a programming director at the Elmhurst Public Library. She said, "When I took this job, I was warned to never, ever start a writing class. They tried it once and it was a mess." What I did learn was that if I just want to rent a conference room without official sponsorship, she can help me.

Next up? An acquaintance who leads a class at Lexington Square and Park Place retirement communities gave me his contacts and said I could use his name. Park Place? No response to email or



phone calls. Lexington Square? Fiona, the Enrichment Director, is most enthusiastic. I offered an introductory session for interested residents. They can then decide whether they want to join a class. Fiona promised to draft a notice that she would then post around the building and in their newsletter. That was early November. Have not yet received a draft.

I talked to her assistant once and she was also very enthusiastic. "We just have to get through the holidays. January would be a great time to start this."

Since then I was sick with a virus before Christmas. A different virus hit me on Jan. 4. Not COVID, not flu, just a bad head cold. I turned 72 years old on Jan. 2. I'm fatigued with these viruses. Am I really up for this?

Twelve years ago I retired and became free at last. Am I ready to begin a new adventure?

Despite feeling tired and congested, I again contacted Fiona on Jan. 13. Will she answer?

My next steps? The Elmhurst Park District Senior Center. If I can't find a sponsor, is my dream durable enough to find a room to rent, publicize the class, and try to energize potential students?

So many questions. Not enough answers. It's like the man who prayed to God to win the lottery. One night God told him, "You have to help me a little. Buy a ticket."

I'll never fulfill a dream if I don't try. Am I up for a new adventure? The answer is a resounding "yes."

Beth here. I know that a fair number of you blog readers grew up and/or live in Elmhurst, my hometown. If you still have connections there who might be able to help Lola make this a dream come true, please leave a comment here to let us know. I'll have Lola get in contact with you!



Today's guest blogger, Lola Hotchkiss.

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



FAME Continued from page 10

Liesl Doxey-Crapo signed up her two children for programs through the FAME Center in summer 2022 after finding the organization in 2021.

Doxey-Crapo said her kids went to a two-week camp three times over the summer and said it was a “great experience” for them. Doxey-Crapo said having exposure to artistically-minded adults was a strengthening experience for her children.

“Most parents might be like, ‘Oh, they learned how to draw something,’ but for my kids, it was more of the experience of identity and expression and acceptance,” Doxey-Crapo said. “That was the biggest benefits to them.”

Doxey-Crapo said one of the major ways the FAME Center did this was by being sensitive to her children’s pronouns, as both of them use they/them pronouns. Looking ahead, Fortson said the FAME Center wants to grow their scholarship program to bring more Chicago students into their classrooms. Fortson said their secondary goal would be to open up multiple FAME Centers in Chicago and eventually open them nationwide and globally as well.

“I would love to see us thought [of as a] leader in arts education,” Fortson said. “To be someone who’s on the cutting edge of doing art education differently.” »

KAYLA MACEDO

ColumbiaChronicle.com

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE



Near South High School Project Town Hall

February 16, 2023 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm

JOIN US

for a virtual conversation to discuss the Near South High School project. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the potential academic focus and identify next steps to meet our goals. Spanish, Chinese and American Sign Language interpretation will be provided.

Register: bit.ly/NSHS-TownHall2



For more information, email NSHS@cps.edu

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South Loop 4th Ward Aldermanic Candidates Forum



Seated left to right, Helen West, Ebony Lucas, Lamont Robinson, standing at lectern is Tracey Bey. Not visible is Kahari Humphries and Prentice Butler. (image courtesy of South Loop Neighbors)

The forum was held Thursday, February 9th at Grace Place in Printers Row hosted by Grace Episcopal Church, Indivisible Downtown Chicago, League of Women Voters, South Loop Neighbors. Each candidate had an opportunity to introduce themselves and state their qualifications. Questions were submitted by the audience (of 100) and each candidate spoke to that issue. Missed it? Your in luck. It's on the South Loop Neighbor's facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthLoopNeighbors/>

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Ballet - Conditioning - Trampoline

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Questions and voices raised at 4th Ward aldermanic forum

By [Zoë Takaki](#), Staff Reporter February 10, 2023

Candidates running to represent the 4th Ward on the Chicago City Council met for a public Aldermanic Candidates Forum at Grace Episcopal Church Feb. 9 ahead of the Feb. 28 election. Columbia's campus and much of the South Loop are in the 4th Ward.

The forum was heated, with candidates rebutting each other's criticisms and audience members shouting out critiques.

Candidates discussed communication, crime, events at Grant Park, the ONE Central development project, aldermanic privileges and a new high school being considered in the ward.

The ward's current alderman, Sophia King, is vying for mayor, leaving six candidates — [Prentice Butler](#), [Khari Humphries](#), [State Rep. Lamont Robinson](#), [Ebony Lucas](#), [Tracey Y. Bey](#) and [Helen West](#) — running to fill her seat. [CLICK HERE FOR THE REST OF THE STORY.](#)

<https://columbiachronicle.com/questions-and-voices-raised-at-4th-ward-aldermanic-forum>

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- ♦ Advocate for community youth programs to reduce loitering
- ♦ Encourage entrepreneurship and support small businesses
- ♦ Prioritize improvements and access to educational resources
- ♦ Improve 4th Ward cleanliness
- ♦ Stimulate Economic development
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www.khariumphries.com

Second Presbyterian Church hosts its annual **Winter Coat Drive** during the months of December through March.

Donations of warm clothes, socks, sweat shirts, hoodies, sweaters, coats, gloves, caps, scarves and mittens will be distributed to our Lunch Bag Program and neighbors in need.



Winter
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December 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Donations are received

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10:00 am - 2:00 pm



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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Diverse, Inclusive, Engaging, and Passionate Community of Faith.

Sounds of the South Loop presents the South Loop Symphony Orchestra in concert at Second Presbyterian Church on Saturday, **February 25th at 7:30 pm**. The theme of the concert is "Celebrating Black Music".

Directed by Ahmed Al Abaca, the concert will feature music by Ornette Coleman, Florence Price, Duke Ellington, Walter Burleigh and Anita Baker. The finale will be "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

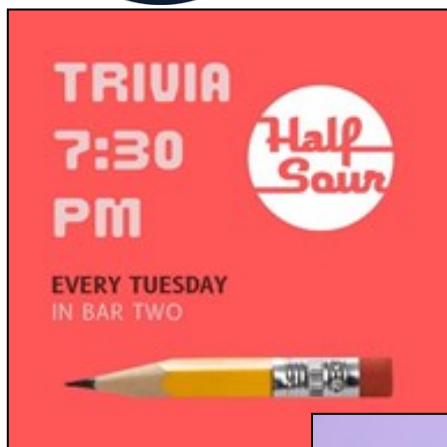
The concert is free. A suggested donation of \$20 will go to benefit the Second Presbyterian Church Sacred Places, Safe Spaces campaign. For more information, please see the church website www.2ndpresbyterian.org. All are welcome.

1936 S Michigan Ave



Clark and Polk Streets

312.224.1772



Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month

Julia Siciliano Piano Recital

February 18 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm



PROGRAM:

Suite (Arranged and Completed by Logan Skelton & Hyun Jung Won) by Mozart

Overture
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Menuett and Trio
Gavotte
Gigue

Impromptu No. 2 in F# Major, Op.36 by Chopin

Impromptu No. 1, Op.25 by Fauré

Impromptu by José Maria Usandizaga

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<https://pianofortechicago.com/events/>

Theatre. . . . In the South Loop

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG begins in the present and moves backwards, tracing the lives of wealthy, jaded composer, Franklin Shepart, and his estranged friends through each milestone of their personal and professional lives. Based on the play of the same name by Kaufmann and Hart, this iconic Sondheim musical features songs like 'Not a Day Goes By,' and 'Old Friends.'

All venues are accessible through the 425 S. Wabash Ave entrance. Photo ID may be required. Additional COVID-19 safety protocols may be put into place. Masks are optional. For accessible seating, please contact the house manager upon arrival.

For tickets, [click here](#)

<https://mytickets.auditoriumtheatre.org/4169>

[Friday, March 3, 2023 7:30PM](#)

[Saturday, March 4, 2023 2:00PM](#)

[Saturday, March 4, 2023 7:30PM](#)

[Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:00PM](#)

Roosevelt University

O'Malley Theatre, 431 S Wabash, Chicago

A Wrinkle in Time



by Madeleine L'Engle

adapted by Tracy Young

directed by Jeff Mills

Join us for the story of one of literature's favorite heroines, Meg Murry, as she joins forces with Mrs. Whatsit, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father. They travel through space and time to take on IT and The Black Thing. Will the power of love and determination save Meg, her friends, and her father?

April 13, 2023 - May 20, 2023

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre

Special Events:

Saturday, April 22 - Post-Show Discussion

Thursday, April 27 - Post-Show Discussion

Saturday, May 6 - Sensory Friendly Performance

Tuesday, May 9 - Audio-Described Performance

Thursday, May 11 - ASL Interpreted Performance

DePaul University

Merle Reskin Theater
60 E Balbo Dr.



DETROIT '67

Directed by Aaron Reese Boseman

Written by Dominique Morisseau

February 8-18, 2023

The Getz Theatre Center | 72 E. 11th Street Chicago, IL 60605 | Courtyard Theatre

The music of Motown brings family and friends together. The politics and rage of 1967 Detroit threatens to shatter the life they are building.

TICKETS

PERFORMANCE DATES

Wednesday, February 15th - 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 16th - 7:30 PM

Friday, February 17th - 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 18th - 2:00 PM

Columbia College

The Getz Theatre Center
72 E 11th Street, Chicago

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.

INDIVISIBLE DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

With several progressive candidates in the race for Mayor of Chicago, Indivisible Chicago Alliance has not made an endorsement. However, **our leadership across the city is unified in opposition to Paul Vallas**, who we believe would be a dangerous choice for our city. A close look at his track record reveals Vallas to be a failed administrator who blows up budgets, promotes plans to eviscerate public education, and welcomes the embrace of right-wing extremists.

Leaving a trail of higher taxes, surprise budget deficits.

From Chicago to New Orleans and Philadelphia, Vallas' budget disasters left taxpayers holding the bag. **In Chicago, Vallas fostered the pension crisis taxpayers are paying for today.** He [won legislative approval to delay payments](#) into the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teachers' pension fund. Pushing those payments into the future, he [proclaimed himself a hero](#) for ending with a \$1 billion surplus. Vallas traded [CPS and pension fund stability](#) for his short-term bragging rights. Today, that reckless bargain means [Chicago homeowners shovel more than a half-billion dollars](#) a year in property taxes into the pension fund hole Vallas created.

Vallas continued smoke-and-mirrors budgeting as he moved to head school districts around the country. Four months after he told the Philadelphia City Council he created a balanced school budget (and a month after his contract was renewed), the district suddenly revealed a [\\$73 million deficit. Vallas was soon fired](#). In New Orleans, [four consecutive years of audit failures](#) under Vallas's watch revealed "sloppy record keeping" and millions of dollars unaccounted for.

This "education expert" backs vouchers and charters.

Vallas calls for "100% choice" in Chicago through a combination of vouchers and unlimited charter schools, [a threat to public education for many because they limit inclusion](#). **It's a failed strategy that's wrong for Chicago.** Vallas gave unprecedented independence to charter schools in New Orleans, where top-performing students were prioritized to boost test scores, [experienced black educators were squeezed out](#) in favor of younger, mostly white teachers willing to work 12-14 hour days, and [disadvantaged kids fell farther behind](#). He left New Orleans in 2012; by 2016 the State Legislature of Louisiana [reined in the charters](#) and returned them to local oversight.

Vallas aligns himself with right wing extremists.

No one should trust a conservative tightly [aligned with and endorsed by](#) the MAGA leadership of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to make our city safer. Vallas [continues to campaign](#) side-by-side with [disgraced FOP President](#) John Catanzara, an [apologist for the January 6 insurrectionists](#). He stood with Catanzara at the [2021 rally](#) where the FOP boss [compared COVID vaccine mandates to Nazi extermination showers](#). Catanzara even [rebuked cops who knelt in solidarity](#) with Black Lives Matter protesters, mocking their actions as "ridiculous" and [threatening to expel them from the union](#). All of this spells danger for those too often victimized by police violence and for everyone in our City who understands the complexity of crime prevention.

Just as troubling: Vallas was a featured speaker at an [Awake Illinois fundraiser](#). This group leads the mostly suburban, homophobic and transphobic movement to censor books in school libraries and take over local school boards. They even [called Illinois Governor JB Pritzker "a groomer"](#). First downplaying the controversy, [Vallas eventually denounced](#) Awake Illinois – but only after helping raise money for their cause. Vallas has a pattern of aligning with extremists – backing off only if controversy makes the association too hot.

How can you help Chicago voters see through the Paul Vallas myth? Spread the truth.

Now that you know Vallas' real record, make sure your friends and family know too. Forward this email, share the indivisiblechicago.com/vallas link on our website, retweet our social media posts and create your own. To choose a more responsible candidate for Mayor, start from your own values and seek the candidate that can best implement those values in City Hall. These are the [guidelines](#) Indivisible Chicago developed to help voters evaluate the platforms of all candidates for public office, both citywide and at the ward level. Against these standards, **Paul Vallas doesn't make the grade.**

This is the election that can move our city forward or further tear it down. Make sure your vote is based on facts.

In solidarity,
The team at Indivisible Chicago Alliance



ALDERMAN * 4TH WARD
SOPHIA KING

Ward04@cityofchicago.org

South Loop Infrastructure Meeting

On Monday, residents of the South Loop area joined Chicago Police Department, Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Park Districts, and our office in a virtual meeting to discuss a span of topics on public safety and infrastructure. Residents voiced their ideas on ways to better facilitate a response from CPD on incidents and create a direct dialogue between building security officers and the CPD. Additionally, the group discussed ways to prevent loitering and crime, such as adding lighting around Roosevelt park. [Residents who missed the meeting can watch the recording on our website.](#)

Find Food Now with Chicago

Food Bank

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Chicago Food Bank's website allows you to enter your area code, and then directs you to a list of food banks in the area as well as their hours of operation. There are many food banks in the 4th Ward - [find food in your area now.](#)

Office of the Inspector General

CITY OF CHICAGO

The Office of Inspector General's Public Safety section has posted its Draft 2023 Outlook on Police Oversight and Accountability for Public Comment. [Please see the report in its entirety to view statistics, metrics, and other data collected.](#)

Additionally, the Office of Inspector General's Audit and Program Review (APR) section has posted its APR 2023 Draft Audit Plan for Public Comment. [Please see the report in its entirety to view statistics, metrics, and other](#)

Carjacking Prevention Tips

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

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

Web Site

KING4THWARD.COM



Printer's Row Park Clean Up

PRINTER'S ROW

Members of the Printer's Row Park Advisory Council gathered at Printer's Row Park to participate in a park clean-up. The council, which is composed of representatives of the neighborhood, organized the event in an effort to make the park cleaner and take down decorations put up during the holiday season.

Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM

The next Alderman on the Block date is June 27. To request a meeting with Alderman King, please email ward04@cityofchicago.org with the subject line "AOB Meeting Request" describing your issue to secure an appointment. Call 773-536-8103 for comments, questions or concerns.

For more City info, click [here](#)

CPD District Meetings

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

Use the CPD's online [tool](#) to find your district and beat.

COVID-19 Boosters

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Your editor is currently in Florida. Some Snap Shots



Photo 1: Sandhill Cranes in Decatur, Alabama



Photo 2: Gallinoul in Everglades National Park



Photo 3: Bahia Honda Key, Old railroad bridge.



Photo 4: Midway down Tamiami Trail Ranger Station

Local Crime Statistics for Beat 0123, evaluations and comparisons by Roger Marsh.

“If you have one foot in a bucket of boiling water and the other foot in a bucket of ice water—on the average you are comfortable.”

Police Beat 0123: Ida B Wells to Roosevelt, Michigan Ave to the River.

2021-22 Change

Overall, there was a 59% increase in the number of Beat 0123 crime reports from 2021 to 2022. The top half of the right-hand column shows the percent increases month by month.

The bottom half shows the percentage change for each type of crime. I have deleted figures for crime types with numbers too small to calculate meaningfully.

Percentages in type indicate “Violent Index Crimes” which are used to compare crime reports across the country. Assault and Battery crimes increased less than the 59% overall average. Criminal Sexual Assault and Homicide actually decreased. Robbery (which includes Carjacking) increased more than others.

I added Weapons Violations to this list as it has become a major issue for Chicago.

“Normal” % Change

For those of you who have followed my previous reports, I have compared the crime reports of the “Covid” years with the previous “Normal” years in the second column from the right.

I used the three “normal” years of 2017, 2018 and 2019 to determine the average amount of crime reports for Police Beat 0123. Then I compared that average with the “Covid” years of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The overall totals for each Covid year show the dramatic drop in total crimes in 2020 and 2021 (especially in non-violent crime types).

2022 certainly reversed that downward trend@

Roger Marsh
Beat 0123 CAPS Facilitator
Rmarsh@rcn.com

Crime stats for Beats 0131 and 0132 will be provided in future issues.

Crime Reports in Beat 0123	"Normal" Years				"Covid" Years		"Normal" % Change	2021-22 % Change
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Year								
Jan	117	132	128	131	73	151	20	107
Feb	111	100	137	127	65	128	10	97
Mar	125	155	123	75	102	188	40	84
Apr	126	116	140	72	108	149	17	38
May	137	151	158	147	104	183	23	76
Jun	163	144	151	63	102	187	22	83
Jul	173	143	160	100	141	215	36	52
Aug	173	162	161	111	148	207	25	40
Sep	159	155	145	110	104	165	8	59
Oct	150	146	148	96	147	205	39	39
Nov	144	110	120	67	104	175	40	68
Dec	140	135	164	80	129	151	3	17
Total	1718	1649	1735	1179	1327	2104	24	59
Arson	0	0	1	1	0	4		
Assault	96	94	87	67	87	122	32	40
Battery	202	233	224	163	215	273	24	27
Burglary	26	23	18	52	15	36	61	140
Concealed Carry Violation	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Criminal Damage	100	93	93	101	97	214	124	121
Criminal Sexual Assault	11	12	9	7	11	6	-44	-45
Criminal Trespass	45	45	71	57	34	57	6	68
Deceptive Practice	231	266	284	116	130	149	-43	15
Homicide	0	3	0	1	1	0	-100	-100
Human Trafficking	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Interference Public Officer	3	5	7	6	1	11	120	1000
Intimidation	0	0	1	3	1	1		
Kidnapping	1	1	0	0	0	0		
Liquor Law Violation	2	4	1	0	0	0		
Motor Vehicle Theft	47	43	34	48	90	210	408	133
Narcotics	19	19	27	23	14	31	43	121
Non-Criminal	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Obscenity	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Offence Involving Children	1	2	2	2	1	3	80	200
Other Narcotics	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Other Offense	50	54	65	47	55	62	10	13
Prostitution	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Public Indecency	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Public Peace Violation	7	11	15	11	7	14	27	100
Robbery	100	61	66	59	65	108	43	66
Sex Offense	5	5	3	6	13	9	108	-31
Stalking	2	0	0	1	1	4		
Theft	762	667	719	376	453	746	4	65
Weapons Violation	4	7	7	32	34	43	617	26
Total	1718	1649	1735	1179	1327	2104	24	59

Man sexually abused student outside downtown Chicago high school, officials say

[January 28, 2023 CWBChicago Loop](#)

Chicago — Prosecutors say a Chicago man sexually abused a teenage girl as she walked to school in downtown Chicago on Friday morning. Chicago police arrested the man nearby shortly after the attack. Arthur Slater, the administrator in charge at Jones College Preparatory High School, 700 South State, informed parents about the incident via email on Saturday.

Prosecutors said the girl was walking to school around 8 a.m. when the stranger approached her from behind and put his hand between her legs. He touched the girl's private parts through her leggings and ran away as she turned around.



Prosecutors charged Mario Campos with sexually assaulting a student outside Jones College Prep, 700 South State, before school started on Friday, January 27, 2023. | Chicago Police Department; Google

The victim and another student who saw the assault immediately informed school security officers with a description of the man, prosecutor Nicole Murphy said. School officials immediately contacted Chicago police.

CPD officers reviewed school surveillance video, which showed the man walking behind the girl and looking around before putting his hand between her legs just outside the school building, Murphy said. Based on the video, an officer radioed a description of the suspect to other patrol units.

Chicago cops arrested Mario Campos, 34, in the 600 block of South Dearborn at 9:05 a.m. because he resembled the description, according to Murphy. She said he later admitted to the crime.

Campos is charged with criminal sexual abuse of a victim between 13 and 17 years old.

His defense attorney said he works full-time as a package handler and lives with his mother and his 2-year-old son. The attorney said that Campos is also “very involved” in 11th Ward politics as a canvasser. She did not identify the politician or candidate that he works for.

Judge Maryam Ahmad ordered Campos to pay a \$15,000 deposit toward bail to get out of jail on electronic monitoring. She also told him to have no contact with anyone under the age of 18.

Slater, the school administrator, told parents that “a member of our school community was sexually assaulted immediately outside of our school entrance by an individual who is not a member of the Jones community.”

“Out of an abundance of caution, additional safety measures will be put in place at our school,” Slater wrote. He declined to provide details about the attack “for privacy reasons.”



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

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

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

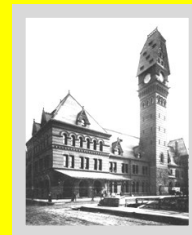
Link to Facebook group:

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

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

To Subscribe,

Go to



TheDearbornExpress@gmail.com

And leave your email address.

FREE! We don't charge for anything.

Next CAPS Meeting 2023

March 8, 3pm in-person

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

1/18/2023, 2:30 AM 1200 S Wabash
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Grocery Store Beat 131

1/18/2023, 4:30 PM 1200 S Michigan Ave
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT w/Knife on street
Beat 132

1/13/2023, 9:18 PM 1100 S State St
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Subway Platform
Beat 123

2/1/2023, 4:30 AM 1300 S Wabash
ARMED ROBBERY, Handgun , Apartment
Beat 131

1/12/2023, 11:00 AM 1000 S Delano Ct
NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Roosevelt
Collection Parking lot Beat

1/27/2023, 1:52 AM 700 S State
NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Sidewalk
Beat 123

12/14/2022, 4:30 PM 800 S Wells
AUTO THEFT Parking Lot Beat 123

2/4/2023 2:20AM 600 S State
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon Subway
platform Beat 123

2/2/2023 7:41PM 800 S Michigan Ave
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon Apartment
Beat 123

2/1/2023 10:30AM 1300 S Wabash
ARMED ROBBERY, Handgun, Apt Beat 123

1/29/2023 11:34AM 1200 S Prairie
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Apt Beat 132

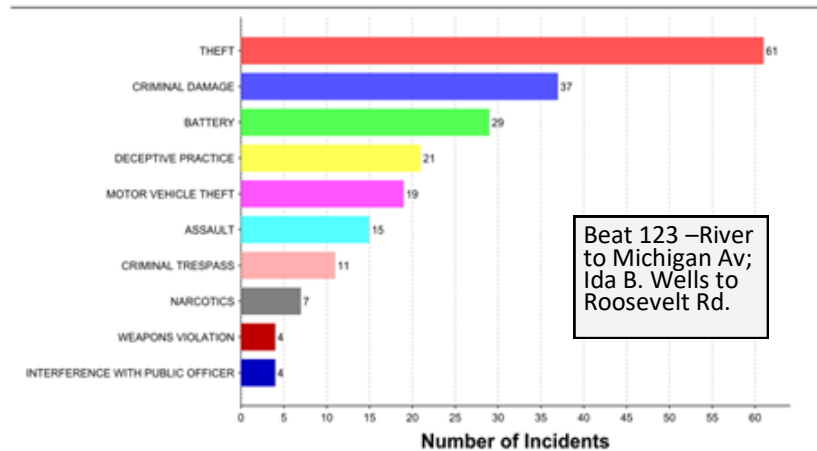
2/6/2023 7PM 1000 S State
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

2/4/2023 10:30PM 100 W Harrison
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

Report Date: 09-Feb-2023
Report Time: 13:22:54
Prepared By: Information Services
Division
Run By: PC08811

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Jan-2023 To 31-Jan-2023 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



Insurance carriers refuse to issue new policies for Kias, Hyundais as thefts skyrocket in Chicago

[January 27, 2023 CWBChicago Citywide](#)

Chicago — Some major auto insurance companies are no longer issuing new policies for some theft-prone Kia and Hyundai models in Chicago and other big cities.

The cars, which have an ignition design flaw that makes them easy to steal by so-called “Kia boys,” are too much of a risk, and companies, including Progressive, are refusing to accept the risks.

On Friday, CWB Chicago tried to get insurance for affected Kia models in Lakeview, the Loop, and Wicker Park, but Progressive’s online quote service said no.

“We are unable to offer you a policy at this time due to high theft rates in your geographic location,” the Progressive site said after each attempt. Progressive suggested trying other carriers, including Hugo Insurance and Allstate.

CWB Chicago reporters received this result after trying to secure insurance online for a 2011 Kia in Lakeview, Wicker Park, and the Loop. | CWB Chicago

CBS2 [recently reported](#) that 10% of the Kias registered in Chicago had been stolen in 2022. The station found that 7% of Hyundais, another car model with faulty ignition systems that allow thieves to steal them with USB cables, had been stolen. Kia and Hyundai owners in other cities are also being denied new coverage. Reports indicate that insurance companies are jacking rates way up for current customers who drive affected models.

In St. Louis, State Farm and Progressive are both turning down new policies for Kias and Hyundais manufactured between 2011 and 2021, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch [reported](#).

“I’ve been in this industry for 15-plus years. It’s hard to call a precedent for this,” Michael Barry, a spokesperson for the Insurance Information Institute, told the paper.

Some drivers of affected cars told the paper that their insurance rates had recently increased as much as 30%. One driver reported that their insurance premium is now more than when they bought the car new in 2016.

Real Estate Transactions

\$1,725,000
1531 S STATE ST P1
1/6/23

\$240,000
600 S DEARBORN ST 1003
1/5/23

\$285,000
1322 S WABASH AVE 704
1/4/23

\$1,330,000
1250 S INDIANA AVE
1/3/23

\$950,000
1160 S MICHIGAN AVE 3501
1/3/23

\$270,000
1255 S STATE ST 618
12/28/22

\$295,000
680 S FEDERAL ST 605
12/27/22

\$175,000
633 S PLYMOUTH CT 301
12/22/22

\$1,100,000
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 1304
12/21/22

\$439,500
1160 S MICHIGAN AVE 1103
12/20/22

\$430,000
100 E 14TH ST 704
12/15/22

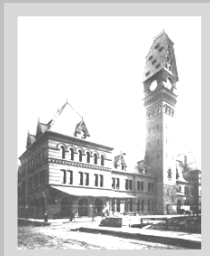
\$218,000
732 S FINANCIAL PL 410
12/15/22

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312.203.3841

tomfeddor@gmail.com





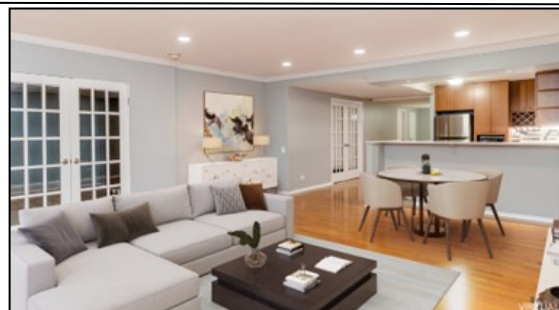
910 S Michigan unit 518
2 Bed/ 1 Bath 1170 Sq Ft
\$325,000

Wendy Cobrin • Berkshire Hathaway e
[\(312\) 446-4406](tel:3124464406)



901 S Plymouth Ct #106,
Chicago, IL 60605
2 Beds 2 Baths 1,550 Sq Ft
\$374,900

Sonya Lea
 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
[\(773\) 406-5096](tel:7734065096)

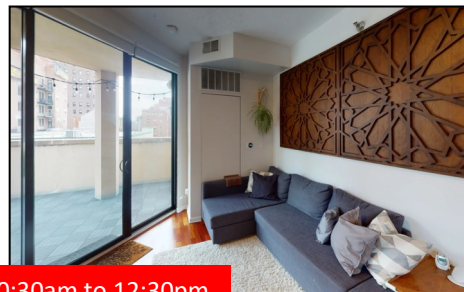


40 E 9th, unit 1608
3 Bed/ 2 Bath 1400 Sq Ft
\$400,000

1464 S Michigan Ave #301
3 bed, 2 bath, 1387 sq ft
\$540,000

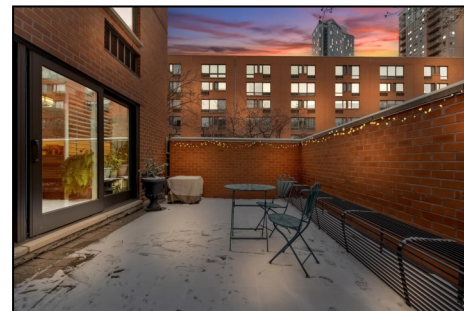
Kellye Jackson
 Redfin Corporation
[\(773\) 754-4896](tel:7737544896)

OPEN HOUSE Sat. Feb 25th, 10:30am to 12:30pm



1169 S Plymouth Ave
#126
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1250 sq ft
\$439,000

Terri Buseman
 RE/MAX Premier
[\(312\) 208-5166](tel:3122085166)



1020 S Wabash Av #3C-D
3 bed, 3 bath, 3300 sq ft
\$950,000

Christopher Crawford
 @properties Christie's
 International Real Estate
 630-606-5141



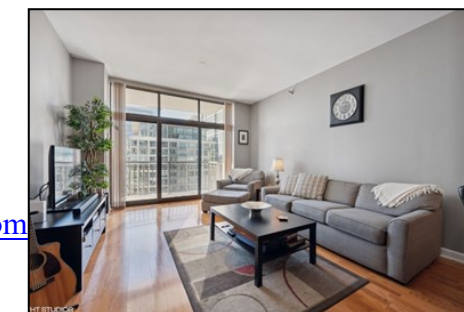
1402 S Federal St
4 bed, 3.5 bath, 3250 sq ft
\$1,250,000

Michael Murphy
 Jameson Sotheby's
 Int'l Realty
[\(312\) 282-7424](tel:3122827424)



1322 S Prairie
1 Bed / 1 Bath 875 Sq Ft
\$300,000

[Tom Bezanes](mailto:tom.bezanes@compass.com) Compass
tom.bezanes@compass.com
 P: 312.622.2850



600 S Dearborn St #1105
1 bed, 1 bath, 900 sq ft
\$260,000

Tommy Choi
 Keller Williams
 ONEChicago
[\(773\) 851-5840](tel:7738515840)



Anne Rosen
 BROKER

312.545.7148

Anne@buyarosenhome.com
 Buyarosenhome.kw.com



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