



# THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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NEAR SOUTH PLANNING BOARD 38th ANNUAL

## PRINTERS ROW

2023

## LIT FEST

September 9 & 10 : 10a-6p

FREE ADMISSION

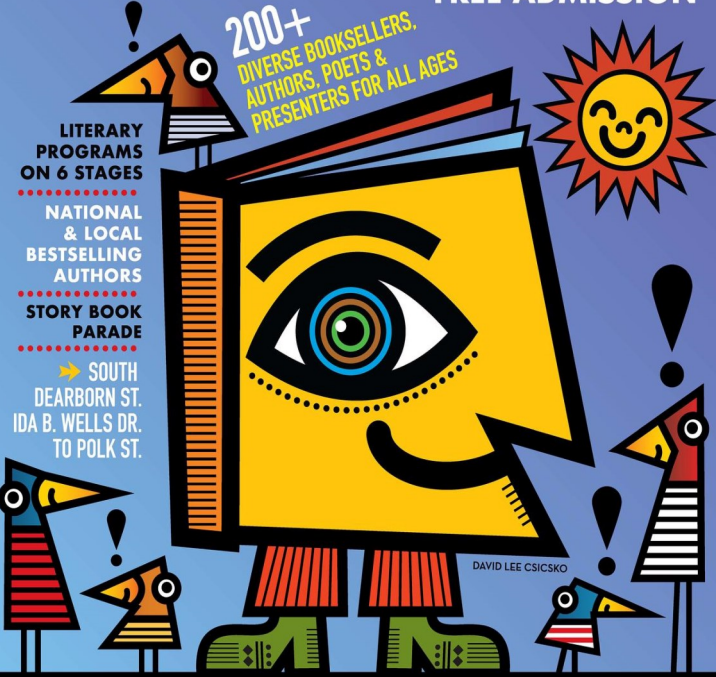
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DAVID LEE CSICSKO

[PRINTERSROWLITFEST.ORG](http://PRINTERSROWLITFEST.ORG) : #PRINTERSROWLITFEST



Chicago's Printers Row Lit Fest Announces 2023 Festival for Sept 9 and 10; Free Literary Event Opens with Pulitzer Prize Authors Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa

Every year, Printers Row Lit Fest, one of the three largest and oldest literary festivals in the United States, promises to be a vibrant gathering of authors, readers, book sellers, publishers and literary enthusiasts as well as young adults and children. The celebration unfolds its 2023 edition from 10am. To 6pm. Saturday, Sept. 9 and Sunday, Sept.10 in Chicago's famous Printers Row neighborhood.

# JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sat, Aug 17-19, 8pm & 10pm...Stu Katz-John Campbell Quartet  
 Sun, Aug 20, 4pm & 8pm.....Stu Katz-John Campbell Quartet  
**Mon, Aug 21,5:30.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra**  
**featuring Eric Schneider**  
 Tue, Aug 22, 8pm.....WDCB 90.9 FM presents Eric Schneider  
 Wed, Aug 23, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective  
 featuring Yvonne Gage  
 Thu-Sat, Aug 24-26, 8pm & 10pm.....Gary Bartz Quartet  
 Sun, Aug 27, 4pm & 8pm.....Gary Bartz Quartet  
**Mon, Aug 28,5:30.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra**  
**featuring Paul Marinaro**  
 Tue, Aug 29, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Jazz Guitar Hang & Jam  
 featuring Kyle Asche  
 Wed, Aug 30, 8pm & 10pm..... Javier Red Quartet  
 Thu-Sat, Aug 31-Sep 2, 9pm.....After Fest Jam Session hosted



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# South Loop Neighbors

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

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

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

Chicago River to Lake Michigan. [www.southloopneighbors.org](http://www.southloopneighbors.org)

## South Loop Neighbors

Elected board

President – Jim Wales

V.P. of Planning & Development – Dennis McClendon

Vice President/Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell

Treasurer – Dorothy Miaso

Director – Sarah Breedlove

Director – Roger Marsh

Director – Greg Borzo

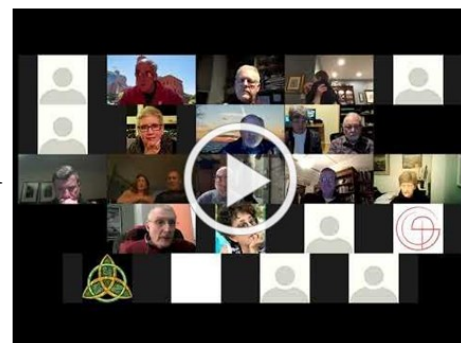
Director – Jack Chalabian

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](http://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.

## My memories of Chicago's Standard Club

Or as everyone knows it now, the migrant shelter at Jackson and Plymouth **Aug 18**

By the time I was born, my maternal grandparents were retired. They turned over their house in Streator, Illinois, and the clothing store they owned a block away on Main Street to my uncles (one of my mother's older brothers). And they made a life of visiting friends and relatives around the country.

They visited Chicago a lot to see my parents and me. (My brother wasn't born yet.) They had other grandchildren in California, as well as friends and other relatives there, too. And they also had tons of friends and relatives in other states like Florida and Missouri. Sometimes they took me with them on their many sojourns. And I got to know their friends and relatives, too.

For a time, they kept a makeshift apartment at the Standard Club of Chicago—to stay in while they were visiting us. There weren't that many overnight guest accommodations at "the club," as they called it. Just a few on the upper floors. Their "apartment" was actually two guest rooms put together; one room, the "bedroom," had a bathroom; and the "living room," had a little kitchen where the bathroom would be if it was still a regular guest room.

My grandmother never cooked in Streator; she was too busy "working in the store," as she always said. She loved it. And she never learned how to cook. But she did make toast in her little kitchen at the Standard Club—in the oven! And for all other meals, they went out. And sometimes came to our apartment in Uptown for dinner. My grandfather loved my mother's cooking, especially when she made leg of lamb, even though she didn't know much more than my grandmother. But she tried. And she had some meager success.

I used to stay at the Standard Club with my grandparents frequently. When they were ensconced there at 320 S. Plymouth Court. And sometimes I would go to school from there in the morning. My grandmother would make sure I got on a CTA bus that took me to the Gold Coast and on to the Bateman School at Astor Street and Burton Place.

It was a bit seedy around the Standard Club back then (as it still is). But I totally loved "The Club," as Josie and Arnie (my grandparents always insisted that all the grandchildren call them by their first names) always called it. It was so sophisticated, so regal, and yet so comfy—and so much fun to run around in. The food was delicious. And the special events were the best. Like at Christmas when Santa came with presents for all the kids who had friends or family that belonged.

I loved just sitting and watching my grandfather just sitting and reading the paper in the lounge while smoking a cigar. I loved visiting the ladies' room, as well. It was so luxurious, but not over the top. Just super comfortable with anything a woman (or a little girl) could want.

I also loved looking out my grandparents' 9th floor Standard Club windows that faced west and into the windows of the Monadnock Building across the street. I'd spy on old men at desks with goose head lamps, while wearing green eye shades and white rolled up shirtsleeves. I wondered what they were scribbling with their pencils. Corrections to their accounting? Revisions on a novel? Legal notes for a big case coming up at the old downtown criminal court house?

But my very favorite thing at the Standard Club was riding the elevator up and down for hours with Mary, the elevator operator who didn't mind at all. She seemed to really like my company, my little stories and the questions I asked her that allowed her to tell me interesting stories. I rode with her as much as I could. And she taught me many lessons without even realizing it. Like what she got out of making the elevator go up and down. Besides a salary. She made friends, she got tips, she heard stories and even some gossip. And she got to know me. She seemed like she was very happy.

After years of traveling my grandparents finally settled in Las Vegas. But my grandparents' Club membership was not cancelled for many years. My grandmother told me to go there anytime and eat and relax. I did that a few times. But when I didn't anymore, she cancelled the membership.

When I was in my 40s, I went to law school directly across the street from the Standard Club on Plymouth Court—and many of my classes had windows that faced it. I daydreamed about the old days there many times. And when I actually became a lawyer I became a member of the Chicago Bar Association, which was also across the street from the Standard Club—and when I was at meetings and programs there, I often looked out the windows and thought of the past.

I met Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and her mother at a talk and book signing at the Standard Club—for lawyers only many years ago. She talked about her childhood; and I thought of my childhood memories that took place right in that very room.

In recent years, I attended many events there. Luncheons, legal seminars, and even a few parties given by the Edgar Miller Legacy—because in the Standard Club bar there was a set of murals Miller did depicting the Chicago fire (that are now at the Art Institute of Chicago).

Friends with Standard Club memberships also invited me for lunch over the years. And even friends who came to visit from out of town who belonged to clubs that had reciprocal memberships at the Standard Club took me there and I would reminisce with them about when my grandparents kept an apartment there.

But times have changed. And while the Standard Club is still a club, it sold its renowned and memory-filled building a few years ago. And a part of my past with it.

It was recently turned into a migrant shelter. With as many as 700 migrants sheltering there at any given time. Migrants must be living in all the rooms of the club—from banquet halls to dining rooms, to meeting rooms to the indoor swimming pool area. And even the little hotel rooms/apartment that I so loved so many years ago. I would love to get in there to see how it all works.

I've been down there a number of times recently as it's only a few blocks from my house. I talk to the migrants in broken Spanish and they answer back in broken English. Hard to exchange much information that way. Cop cars keep watch there with their blue lights flashing. The migrants seem nice—the ones I've talked to are mostly from Venezuela. I've heard that some don't like to leave the park across the street at night and that some have been arrested.

I suspect since the migrants mix with the unhoused and the drug dealers in that city park, that there could be trouble. The migrants can't work until they win their case for asylum. So I suspect it may be tempting to become "employed" by an unsavory sort while waiting for their hearings, or not attending their hearing at—and taking a chance of losing. And just disappearing into...whatever.

Every time I pass the Standard Club, I feel sad that this is how it all ended up. And when I look at the migrants all around the building, conversing nicely with each other, or possibly making business deals with people they shouldn't, I keep wondering one thing: What would Mary think?

**Bonnie McGrath**

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Mom, I think I'm Poignant!  
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# OPINION

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*Sincerely, Marianne*

## When an ex-spouse dies

July 31, 2023

By **Marianne Goss**

Last week I found out that my ex-husband had died. My first reaction was shock. He was only 76. I'm still processing my other feelings.

Writing, as usual, helps. I'll try to leave acrimony for my journal, but this won't be a eulogy. Tom and I wouldn't have divorced if we'd had a healthy relationship.

Some divorcees may recall good memories and grieve a departed ex. Those who maintained a friendship mourn a buddy. For exes with children, a new partnership might have developed. On the other hand, if the relationship was abusive, the survivor may feel relieved.

I don't have many good memories. I knew the marriage was a mistake almost from the start. It lasted only four years and ended 46 years ago. Yet I am grieving — for the person I was beforehand. "What happened to you?," a college friend wondered. "You've become a different person." I never regained my former confident, optimistic self.

The last time I saw Tom was about 25 years ago when he asked to get together without explaining why. A few days later he sent a note reporting that he and his second wife had separated. I asked him not what he wanted from me but not to contact me anymore.

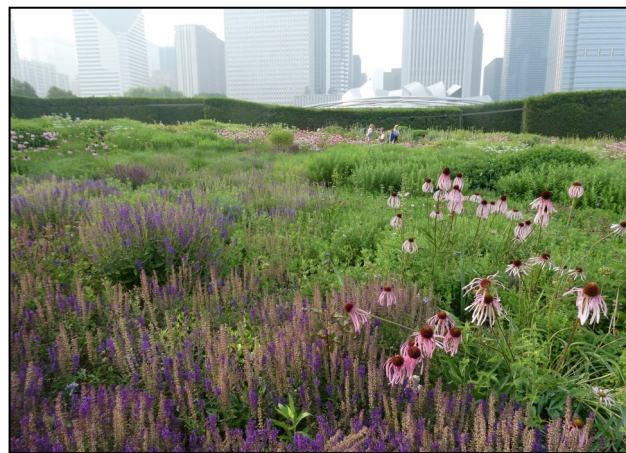
I didn't wish Tom ill, but I'm more rattled than sad. Too many memories have been stirred up to be indifferent to his passing. Even though I'd requested no contact, I wish that we'd had a chance to reconcile when he knew he was dying (he was in hospice, the obituary said). But maybe I wasn't on his mind, as he hadn't been on mine until I heard he'd died.

I suppose there's comfort in knowing that the person who witnessed the lowest point of my life is no longer around to tell tales. But whom would he tell? We had no friends in common. I found out about Tom's death from a woman in my building who knew him. I looked for an obituary and found it unsettling to read tributes describing a different person from the one I had lived with.

The reactions to an ex-spouse's passing are confusing. I'm not going to force myself to figure them out. I'll let them come up as they will and maybe get the closure that apparently I hadn't attained.

## COMMENT

South Looper Marianne Goss blogs at <https://sincerelymarianne.blogspot.com/>



Lurie Garden on a smoky day. June 28, 2023

## THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

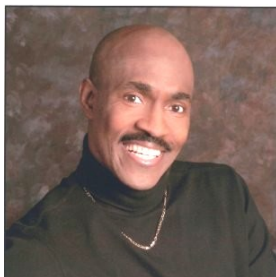
We welcome letters to the editor.

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations.

This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us:

[thedearbornexpress@gmail.com](mailto:thedearbornexpress@gmail.com)

## See Chicago Dance Honors Homer Hans Bryant, Ginger Farley



See Chicago Dance, the dance industry's nonprofit service organization, has announced its 2023 Community Celebration & Awards Presentation, Tuesday, September 19 at Venue

West. The annual Community Celebration gathers 250 dance supporters and artists to celebrate Chicago's dynamic dance community and honor two people who have made a significant, sustained impact. The See Chicago Dance Legacy Award will go to **Homer Hans Bryant, founder and artistic director of the Chicago Multicultural Dance Center & Hiplet Ballerinas**. Also honored will be former executive director of Chicago Dancemakers Forum Ginger Farley, who is being presented with the Distinguished Service to the Dance Field Award. Tickets are \$275 [here](#).

Chicago Multicultural Dance Center is located inside the Dearborn Station.



Sat, Sep 09  
Dearborn Park

## September Yard Sale

Open to all! Sell your items or come out to shop.

### Time & Location

Sep 09, 9:00 AM – 9:05 AM  
Dearborn Park,

### About the event

Members Vendors: Free

Non-members Vendors: Free

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

SLN will have table at the Yard Sale and will accept donations that morning until 10:00am. SLN will sell donated items as a fundraiser and any unsold items will be donated to a non-profit thrift store (not returned to donor)

## RSVP



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## Museum Highlights Tour

Looking for a good place to start your Museum visit? This 15-minute tour introduces you to all areas of the American Writers Museum, and following the tour, you can explore all of our exhibits more in-depth. Tours are offered daily at 3:00 pm when the AWM

is open (Thurs-Tues, 10 am – 5 pm. Closed Wed). The tour is included with Museum admission and no advanced registration is required. Tours begin at the Museum front desk.

### [PLAN YOUR VISIT](#)

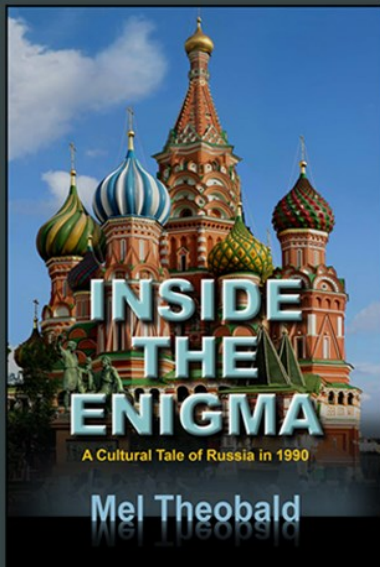


American Writers Museum  
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<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

## Inside the Enigma

### A Cultural Tale of Russia in 1990



by Mel Theobald

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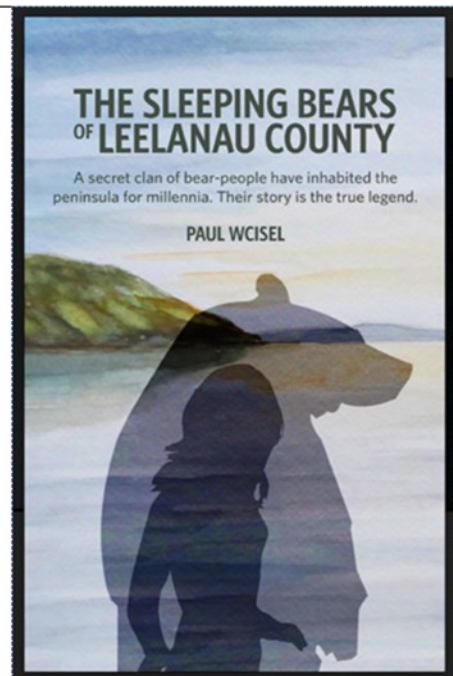
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One evening, a traveler has a chance encounter with a spirit bear and discovers he has a hidden history of his own. In the months that follow, he becomes deeply involved with the Sleeping Bear Clan and – depending on your point of view – a murder.

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**Stateway's Gardens: Stories**, by Jasmon Drain (Random House 2021)

In 1955, when construction at Stateway Gardens began, there **were** gardens: flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs flourished among the eight 30-story concrete rectangles housing 30,000 people who were, according to one long-time resident, were "broke, not poor." But by 1984, everything was broke: the elevators, the furniture, the heating, the street lights, the cars, the limbs and the hearts of so many Chicagoans who wanted to get out but had nowhere to go. The garden was long gone. In 2007, when author Jasmon Drain rode the bus north from his home in Englewood, he saw the last of the eight monstrous towers—white, "like sheets that had been bleached over and over"—come crashing down. It was there he was inspired to write the stories, recently honored by the Chicago Public Library as 'among the best Chicago writing,' which Drain set in the 1980's, when this failed CHA project, running along State street from 35th to Pershing, was one of the poorest areas in the country, and its people were racked by incomparable violence. The only garden that remained were the children who grew up seeing "a lot of things there," and where "our mothers take credit, but in Stateway we raised ourselves." The stories are about a handful of people, related by blood, loneliness, proximity, youthful passion, and loss, who intersect from early childhood to young adulthood. **Stateway's Garden** reads like a song, with metaphors and similes and almost magical realism that whisks us to a dream suburb or gives

the children advice from a tornado. One mother, had "the kind of face that made plastic earrings compete with diamonds....Men looked my mother up and down the way I would look at a mag-wheeled Huffy." She had a beautiful son, Jacob, who "had one of those faces that made you feel guilty for making him frown," and Tracy, the "smart child" whose "dirty skin and wide nose" were rarely praised, who narrates the stories. Their friend is Jameel, who "never met his birth mother": "Although his face was gentle for a 13-year-old, his mouth was large, teeth always hidden by dark lips protruding like he was practicing for cigars he planned to smoke one day." The people Drain describes were our neighbors—a ten minute drive away. Until now, I didn't know that children "were not allowed to go to the beach. Weren't really allowed to go past Martin Luther King Drive because the police harassed us terribly." I was unaware that they never saw "long stretches of grass like in Grant Park, that was wa-a-a-y downtown." I didn't know they had "a millionaire's view" from the west side to Navy Pier, from Indiana to Wilmette. Tracy swore he could see Minnesota. I didn't know our life expectancies were so different, or our median incomes were \$100,000 apart. I don't know where they are now. But meet them anyway. Their stories are great—and real.

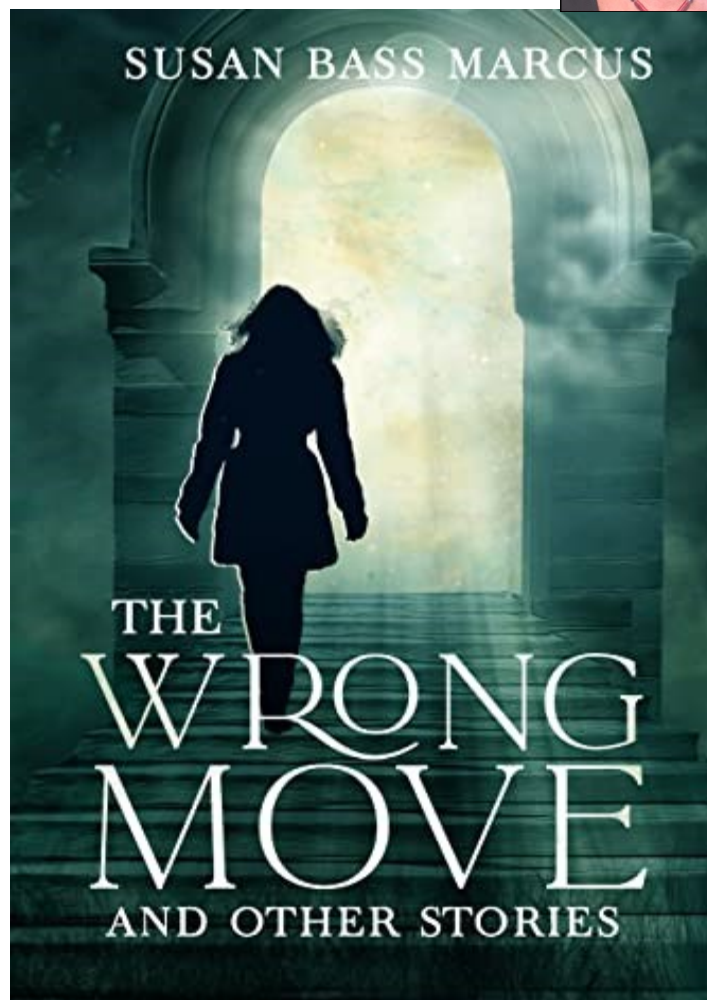
*Lorraine Schmall*

Dearborn Park / August, 2023



**A HISTORY LOVER'S  
GUIDE TO  
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GREG BORZO





## Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke

July 24, 2023

# Itty Bitty Benetti



By Mike Knezovich

Last December, [Beth posted here about a couple of children's books](#) she wrote for a series on disabilities sponsored by [Easterseals](#). She penned two of the books: "[What is the Americans with Disabilities Act?](#)" (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) and "[Service Dogs](#)" (3<sup>rd</sup> grade). They turned out great and besides being distributed by Easterseals chapters and other agencies, they're available from [Cherry Lake Press](#) and at Target.com.

Well, Beth did well enough that Cherry Lake Press—the publisher in the partnership—asked her to write another book, this in their "Itty Bitty Bio" series. True to its name, each book is a brief, digestible biography aimed at young readers. In this case, Beth and other authors with disabilities were asked to identify a role model with a disability, and to craft an "Itty Bitty Bio" on that person.

Beth chose [Jason Benetti](#), the terrific play-by-play announcer for the Chicago White Sox. That's his day job—but he moonlights as a national announcer for multiple sports on Fox Sports, too.

Benetti was born with Cerebral Palsy, nearly died, had umpteen surgeries, has a limp, a wandering eye, a strong baritone voice and he's absolutely fantastic at his job. So Beth picked a good one.

Fortunately, he was generous enough to do a Zoom interview with Beth, and a few days ago we received advance copies of "Jason Benetti: My Itty Bitty Bio." It's cute as hell.

As of August 1, you can purchase it from [Cherry Lake Press](#), or from [Target.com](#).



For a good explanation of the books, check out this TV interview with a representative of Easterseals MORC on the Detroit CBS affiliate:

<https://youtu.be/QEipjbZtytc>

Finally, FYI: Benetti is remarkably honest and insightful about what it means to achieve what he's achieved while having a disability—and he teamed with the Cerebral Palsy Foundation to do a creative and thoughtful animated series called [Awkward Moments with Jason Bennetti](#). Check it out below: <https://youtu.be/qSMis1ctEHo>



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





The Printers Row Art Fair attracted crowds of people on an almost perfect weather weekend.



Even the Chicago Police Officers assigned to the fair got into the art.



## Bike Tour, Music & Fireworks!

**Wednesday Aug. 23**

6:30 pm

Printers Row Park

Come join SLN on a slow roll bike ride as we near the end of summer 2023. We will meet at Printers Row Park (on S. Dearborn St. between Harrison St. and Polk St.). The group will take a leisurely bike ride through a portion of Grant Park, heading to Boat Drinks at Burnham Harbor. Along the way to Burnham Harbor, we will stop at several notable historical and cultural locations, where participants will get a summary highlight of the location from local accomplished author (and SLN Board member) Greg Borzo. At Boat Drinks, Dan McGuinness will be performing and everyone will have a great view of the Navy Pier Fireworks show!

This is a free event coordinated by the SLN.

**We will be starting the bike tour promptly at 6:30 so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!**



CHICAGO  
*Burger Alley*

### OPERATING HOURS

MONDAY 11AM-11PM  
TUESDAY CLOSED  
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FRIDAY 11AM-12AM  
SATURDAY 11AM-12AM  
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## Editor's Letter: August, 2023

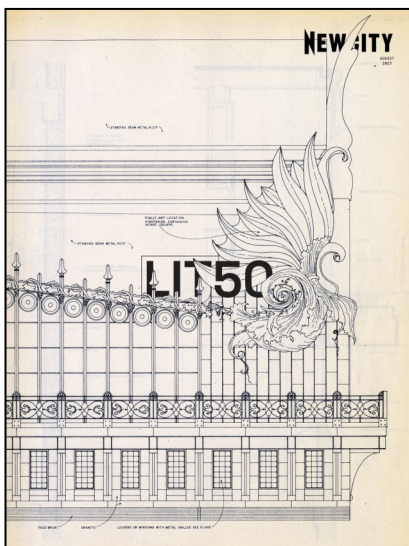
August 1, 2023 by [Brian Hieggelke](#)

In the early nineties, we were living in the historic Manhattan Building in the South Loop. Our east-facing apartment was situated at the building's setback, where its width narrowed for the higher floors, meaning we had a small, private rooftop to our south. If we opened the bedroom windows, we could climb out on that roof, and we frequently deployed our Smokey Joe grill for family barbecues. Our east view was unimpeded; long before we arrived, a surface parking lot had replaced the Cheap Willy's store, along with the peep show and burlesque house that had once occupied the parcel of land below. Soon, a massive construction project occupied the site, and we watched the creation of the Harold Washington Library from directly above. Eventually, its colossal ornamental owl consumed our eastward view.

For some reason, in my memory Thomas H. Beeby, the architect of the library's postmodern flagship, was from out east somewhere. Probably because most of the famous architects of that movement were. But when we decided we wanted to feature the owls in some way on this month's cover, ideally in the form of architectural drawings, I "remembered" that Beeby in fact was a Chicago architect, one of the legendary "Chicago Seven," in fact. His firm, now called [HBRA](#), is still active here in Chicago, though Beeby is now emeritus, and they graciously shared the drawing you see on our cover.

Not long after the Harold Washington Library opened at the end of 1991, we published the first Lit 50. Over the years since, thousands of literati have been chronicled in this feature and yet, every time we publish it, dozens of new faces show up. An interesting note on this year's edition is that all three of the writers of Lit 50 this year—Donald G. Evans, Billy Lombardo and Mary Wisniewski—are themselves alumni of the list.

Institutions like the library give a city a big part of its character over time, physically and spiritually. The skyline of Chicago's neighborhoods are filled with the spires of other longstanding institutions, its churches. Many of our historic churches are no longer in use or in decline, and the future of



On the cover: HBRA Architects with the Sebus Group, Harold Washington Library Center plans, May 1988. The drawings are part of the original Library proposal. The project was realized with a Design-Build Team, in which HBRA was the design architect teamed with a developer and construction manager to win the international design-build competition for the library.  
Cover Design: Dan Streeting

their landmark-but-expensive-to-maintain structures is a real concern to those of us who love the city's history. In this issue, Mary Wisniewski looks into the subject in "No Sanctuary."

And you might argue that art museums are temples of our times, making curators their priests. Carla Acevedo-Yates is quickly making her mark at the MCA, with two major exhibitions, including one opening this month. Jennifer Smart tells us her story in "The Choreography of an Exhibition."

We've timed this issue to precede Printers Row Lit Fest in September, but you might also consider it your summer reading issue and take one of the many books by Chicago writers discussed in these pages to the beach. Or do a long walking tour, taking in some of the city's temples—of the spirit or of the culture.

—BRIAN HIEGGELKE

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### The Choreography of an Exhibition

Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates discusses her path to "Entre Horizontes" at the MCA

#### No Sanctuary

Are historic churches the lost souls of a city?

### Lit 50 2023

Here are the writers you need to know—and read

AND

#### Poetry

"How To Time Travel"

A new poem by Timothy David Rey  
*And so much more...*

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.

## Chicago Cooks



45 PERFECT Recipes for the PASSIONATE Palate

Jonathan Horwich & Carol Montag



One of the more popular exhibits is "Time after Time" taking iconic Chicago scenes and stitching them together seamlessly with a current photo.



Signs popping up in the neighborhood teasing about the opening of a new consignment shop on Dearborn called "Born Again."

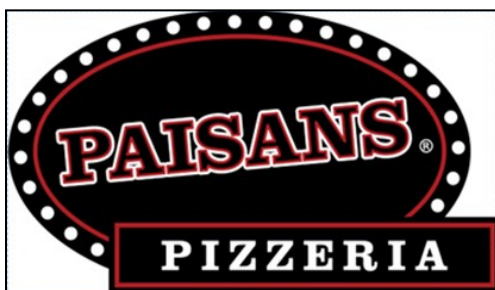
## OPINION

### The Firing of Dr. Arwady

In an earlier life, I fired employees and I was fired . . . more than once. It's not pleasant on either end. Looking back three years ago, we were all scared as hell. We had a killer on the loose (Covid with whatever alias it has now). We looked towards our leaders to provide us with guidance, answers. Through it all, Dr. Arwady provided practical advice in a calm, knowledgeable voice. The voice of reason. We will need that expertise again someday. I hope not soon. When I had to let someone go, I did it myself. I didn't pass it off to some underling. Given her position, I would think it in the city's best interest to give her time to organize her exit, say her goodbyes. Where will we find someone of her caliber? Yes, surely, there are some who may be as qualified as she. But when they see how this important health commissioner was treated, and why, might they think twice before accepting a position where they may have to genuflect to the Chicago Teachers Union every time they make a decision?



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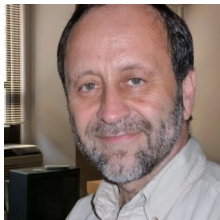
# OPINION

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](#)

## Chicago Toddles again Aug 14



Michigan Avenue looked ghostly on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Click on the image to watch the eerie cab ride.

As our friend and neighbor Al Hippensteel puts it, I've been on a kind of blog sabbatical. Hope to get back in the rhythm starting today.

Three years ago this past April, after six days in the hospital and three days in a City-run covid isolation hotel, I got a cab home from Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood back to our Printers Row condo.

I took a video of that dystopian ride. Little did I know things would get worse before they got better.



The lockdown was bad enough, but a couple rounds of George Floyd riots (yes, there were also constructive protests—the looting and violence were riots) left a “Dawn of the Dead” air to Chicago's once vibrant streets and businesses. Shattered glass, boarded up stores, and lonely streets.

The day after the May 31 looting in 2020. Plywood was too late for the SRO Sandwich shop, which never reopened. That awning is the entry to our building.

It's been a long, arduous slog, and we're still not exactly where we were before the pandemic (and likely never will be), but I'm happy to report Chicago has found its legs and is running hard again.

During the lockdown and beyond, I'd say that we city dwellers had it the hardest. Why? Because every place one could choose to live carries tradeoffs. For example, small town life offers peace, quiet and a sense of intimacy. But that can sometimes mean too peaceful, boring, and everybody in everybody else's business all the time.

City life—as Beth and I have been lucky enough to experience—means drinking from a fire hose of cultural and sporting events, but also enduring the blare of sirens, the

thundering L trains, daily reports of violent crime, and much less green space.

During covid, there was no tradeoff for us. We lost what we came for 20+ years ago. There was no jazz at [Jazz Showcase](#) down the street, no Chicago Symphony just blocks away, no SummerDance at Grant Park. No nothing.

Dearborn Street, outside our front door, this past Saturday during Printers Row Art Fest. (Click to enlarge.)

It was bleak but we improvised, having impromptu meetings in our little park just outside our door. Sitting in parkas next to wide open windows at [Half Sour](#), our favorite watering hole, when it was freezing outside, seeking camaraderie as well as hoping against hope that it would help the place survive. Buying gift cards at [Sofi](#), the Italian restaurant downstairs in our building, and maybe not using them right away (or at all) as a way of keeping it off life support.



Sometimes I wondered if it would be worth it, this trying to stick it out thing. Over the past few weeks I can, relievedly, elatedly, report: Damn right it was.

Taylor Swift, the Pride Parade, NASCAR, Beyonce, Lollapalooza, Ed Sheeran all in a month—a bunch of stuff we don't do but that brings energy one can feel. (And in NASCAR's case, hear.) Jazz Showcase has more programming than ever, including a Monday evening summer residency by the [Chicago Jazz Orchestra](#), a splendid big band. We took one of those in a couple weeks ago and then the next week we headed to Symphony Center to see Ben Folds in concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, one of the most moving, stirring performance of any kind I've seen anywhere, on any stage. (Their rendition of the Psychedelic Furs “The Ghost in You” was bring-you-to-tears beautiful.)

Our friend Nancy had her birthday party in a beautiful spot on a beautiful night.

Last Friday night we cabbled up to Montrose Beach and Harbor to celebrate a friend's birthday on a sublime, lakefront evening replete with puffy, peach-tinted clouds against the skyline. And this weekend our Dearborn block closed for the Printers Row Art Fest, with Lit Fest coming in September.

Chicago faces, as it always has, serious problems in addition to its gleaming skylines, beautiful public lakefront, and cultural gems.

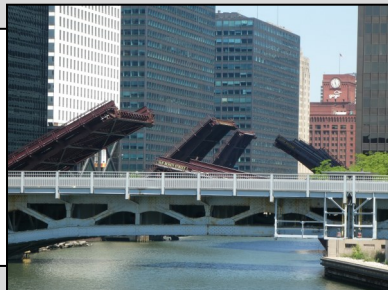
Like I said: It's a tradeoff, and one I'm proud and privileged to make.



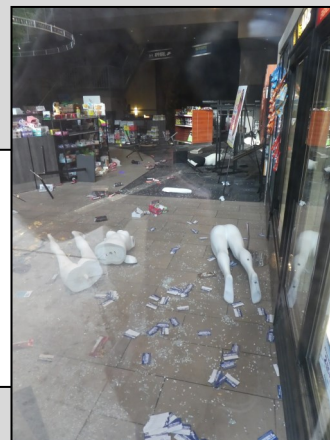
# Where were we 3 year's ago?



The Pandemic was sickening.



The George Floyd Demonstrators were demonstrating. For justice.



Looters were looting under the radar for their own illegal purposes.



Businesses with broken windows boarded up. Businesses without broken panes boarded up.



Artists did what artists do.

Windows to the world worded hopeful messages. Support for our health care workers included music



Restaurants cooked up ways to stay alive. Adapted to carry-out only. And supported health care workers with donations of love: boxed meals.







Customers line up outside Tilly's Bagel Shop for its grand opening celebration Aug 12. Provided.

## Tilly's Bagel Shop Celebrates Opening In South Loop

Banking on the success of their new shop — and their distinct sourdough bagel recipe — owners Hannah Tillet and Mike Banaszak already have eyes on expansion.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) Aug 16, 2023

**SOUTH LOOP** — The grand opening of the neighborhood's newest delicious addition went off without a hitch last weekend.

The line of customers waiting to get their hands on a Tilly's Bagel Shop sandwich Saturday morning wrapped around the corner and down the block, said owner Hannah Tillet, who had been prepping her storefront at 34 E. Balbo Drive for months in anticipation.

Tillet and fiancé Mike Banaszak, both South Loop residents, were overwhelmed by the support of their neighbors.

"We noticed there was a huge demand for a local bagel shop, especially on the South Side of the city. We wanted to be close to home and cater to the people down there. Also, there's a bunch of schools nearby, and hotels and everything. It's a really great, walkable area," said Tillet.

The couple found success with their take on sourdough bagels in the early days of the pandemic. [Tillet told Block Club in an earlier interview](#) that what sets them apart from other local bagel shops is their focus on the bagel itself, which makes for better bagel sandwiches.

"The number one thing is our sandwiches. Before this, I was just doing bagels and cream cheese at the farmers market. And now with the shop, we introduced the breakfast sandwiches," said Tillet. "Our number one seller is the bacon, egg and cheese, or the sausage, egg and cheese. People love our bagels, and now they're even more excited that they get to have a sandwich on them, too."

In addition to the traditional plain, everything, sesame seed, poppy seed and garlic rosemary bagels, Tilly's has custom flavors, including a cheddar bagel and a pizza bagel featuring

Click to read more. [https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/08/16/tillys-bagel-shop-celebrates-opening-in-south-loop/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=f6c3d243cd-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/08/16/tillys-bagel-shop-celebrates-opening-in-south-loop/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=f6c3d243cd-)



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

**Beth Finke**

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## necessary & sufficient Coffee now open

August 16, 2023—PRINTERS ROW

Some neighbors remember it as the bike shop, some as the demin store, and long-time residents remember it as The Gourmand - a cafe with light fare. This week, in The Franklin Building - in the space formerly known as any of those businesses -

a neighborhood Specialty coffee shop has opened. So new - the signage



isn't up yet, necessary & sufficient coffee - Printers Row is a second location for this woman-owned business that focuses on sustainability, craft, and community. necessary & sufficient coffee serves award-winning beans from Olympia Coffee Roasting Company. And they partner with many women-owned local businesses: Spoke and Bird baked goods (think: breakfast sandwiches, banana bread, rum butter iced cinnamon rolls, bagels, and fresh baked loaves of bread), savory and sweet empanadas from The Savory Crust (think: large chicken curry empanadas, spinach and feta empanadas, and peach mango empanadas), and gluten free cookies from You're a Cookie (think: blueberry oatmeal, and triple chocolate chip).

necessary & sufficient coffee is also one of the inaugural Chicago businesses to partner with innovation award winning REUSO. Sponsored by the Shedd Aquarium REUSO empowers restaurants to serve takeout food and beverages in reusable packaging through their tag and trace technology, similar to a library book system. By incentivizing returns, REUSO helps restaurants keep their takeout containers in circulation. These reusable items can be used over 1,000 times, saving money and saving single-use trash from entering landfills and waterways. Between now and October you may see the pink REUSO bin outside the cafe during business hours. The plan is to build awareness, and then move the return mechanism inside the cafe.

In fact, everything this Specialty cafe serves is in compostable or reusable containers. Their Logan Square location has already diverted over 34,000 pounds from landfill to healthy soil through their composting partnership with Collective Resources Compost. The cafe is Oceanic Global certified and partners with the Shedd Aquarium in the Let's Shedd Plastic Program.

The cafe is currently in soft open while they work out some of their processes, which means a relatively limited menu - for now. They plan to roll out some standard cafe fare like quiches, various dressed-up toasts, and some specialty sandwiches in the near future. They offer a variety of both caffeinated and non-caffeinated specialty coffee and tea beverages, as well as pour overs.



necessary & sufficient coffee Printers Row has a guest retail station. A neighborhood favorite, Tropicakes, will be selling their baked goods from this location three days per week. Additionally, fresh pressed Flourish juices are available in the Byte refrigerator.

Pandemic safety protocols include a retractable window, upgraded ventilation with indoor/outdoor air circulation, MERV-18 filters, medical grade UVC lights, and Fresh Air Experts electrostatic surface sanitation.

The Grand Opening is scheduled to coincide with Day 1 of the Lit Fest. To see more of their menu offerings visit their

website

at [www.necessary-coffee.com/menu](http://www.necessary-coffee.com/menu)

Kind regards,  
Kate Vrijmoet



necessary & sufficient coffee

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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.

## Backstory Essays

Regan Burke

### You Went to Woodstock?

Aug 15, 2023



Today, August 15 is the anniversary of the 1st day of Three Days of Peace and Love at Woodstock. There's not been an event in my life that's made me feel more like a hot shit than going to Woodstock.

On August 15, 1969, everyone I knew in my small circle of dope-smoking friends was either headed there, planning to meet there, or trying to get there. Hundreds of miles of caravans disrupted the pastoral dairy farms of lower New York state, rolling upcountry from the Jersey Shore. Reveling in the world's greatest rock and roll bands melded our bodies and souls into three days of peace and love.

Throughout the festival, Wavy Gravy danced to the microphone with updates on the number of cool cats sitting on the hillside of Max Yasgur's farm. When he exclaimed half a million, whoops and whistles rose up to the spirit in the sky. All the hippies in America, maybe the world, had come together. I was right where I was supposed to be.

My friends and I told and retold Woodstock tales for a time afterward. And then it was over. Or so it seemed.

Eight years later as I stirred spaghetti sauce in my Sandburg Village kitchen in Chicago, my ten-year-old son and his friends were snickering in the doorway.

"Go ahead. Ask her." My son elbowed his friend.

"Did you really go to Woodstock?" He asked.

"Yes, I did."

"See, I told you."

"Wow. What was it like?"

I brought out a small box of photos and souvenirs including my prized ticket to Woodstock to show the unbelievers. Until that point, I'd kept Woodstock quiet. No one in my new crowd of straight and sober friends was or ever had been a hippie. Woodstock wasn't yet a badge of honor, but rather the confession of a derelict life.

But after wowing those ten-year-old boys, I knew I was on to something.

In 1969, half a million was only .2% of the population. By 1979 we were an elite group, only 500,000 of us. In 1994 I interviewed for a twenty-fifth-anniversary story in a local Chicago paper. The

Presbyterian church showed Woodstock the movie and asked me to give a talk about my experience.

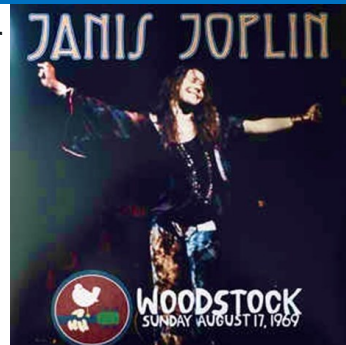
My ten-year-old grandson called one day in 2007 and asked, "Regan, my dad said you went to Woodstock. Is that true?" I assured him it was.

"We just watched the movie. It looks pretty wild."

That box of souvenirs mysteriously disappeared after I showed it to his father's pals at the same age. My grandson didn't need proof to tell his friends though. Unbelievable reality turns believable with age. He asked about my favorite Woodstock band. The next Christmas he gave me a complete set of Janis Joplin.

Using "Woodstock" in the description of my upcoming book on Amazon optimizes search engine results. Even in my seventies friends introduce me as "...she went to Woodstock." What are they implying? Drugs? Hippie? '60s radical? Or simply that I used to be a hot shit badass.

Read: <https://www.euronews.com/culture/2023/08/15/culture-re-view-why-is-woodstock-still-so-iconic-54-years-on>

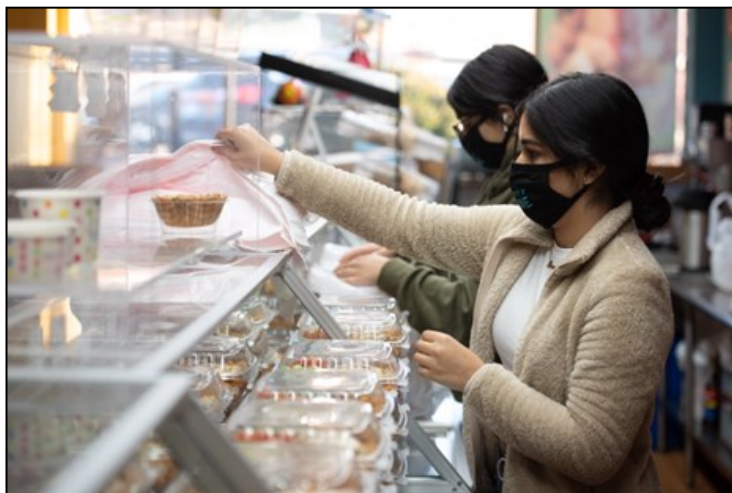


by Regan Burke [In That Number: One March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power \(And Beyond\)](#)

Available at Sandmeyer's Book Store and other places.



## How to Help Migrants!



**Credit:** Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago Members of the Southwest Collective have organized food drives and other services throughout the pandemic. Now, they are building on those programs to help migrants arriving in Chicago.

The city has partnered with Instituto del Progreso Latino to create an Amazon wishlist where people can buy supplies for migrants, including pants, shoes, shirts, hoodies, backpacks, razor blades, shower shoes and laundry bags.

The wishlist is [online](#).

The Southwest Collective, an organizing group of neighbors and activists, is also asking for help to get supplies to migrants awaiting housing. Direct donations can be made [here](#).

Donations to Pilsen Food Pantry can be made [online](#). Donations to Nourishing Hope, a food pantry which also [serves people with Spanish language services in Humboldt Park](#), can be made [online](#).

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/05/03/heres-how-to-help-the-latest-wave-of-migrants-coming-to-chicago/>



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

## New exhibition "LOVE: Still Not the Lesser" opens August 17



Mous Lamrabet, *Luv Riders*, 2021

***LOVE: Still Not the Lesser*** opens on **August 17** and will be on view until December 22, 2023. The opening reception will be on **Thursday, September 7** from **5-7 p.m.**

*LOVE: Still Not the Lesser* brings together 12 international artists uniting across communities to share the ways they've encountered and understand love. Together, these artists explore dynamics within sensual eroticism, romantic partnership, family structures, social utopia, and life and death. The exhibition presents a world where love as a universal value of respect and care for all humans has been fully achieved.

*LOVE: Still Not the Lesser* features artists Alia Ali, Alicia Bruce, Jorian Charlton, Jess T. Dugan, Mari Katayama, Kierah KIKI King, Mous Lamrabet, Tom Merilion, Salma Abedin Prithi, Modou Dieng Yacine, Yuge Zhou, and the debut of Jorge Ariel Escobar.

"Love is a right of existence," says Asha Iman Veal, MoCP Associate Curator.

[LOVE Exhibition Details](#)

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# SLFM

## PRINTERS ROW

South Loop Farmer's Market

Saturdays

May 27 to October 14, 2023

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Printers Row Park

Days: Saturdays (rain or shine)

Dates: May 27 - October 14

Times: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: 632 S. Dearborn St. Printers Row Park

Free entrance | No parking provided |

Paid parking nearby

NO Bathrooms on site, Pet Friendly

Most vendors accept credit cards, some only cash





## Urban Sketchers, Chicago



We are a Chicago chapter of Urban Sketchers, a global non-profit dedicated to sketching on location. If you are an artist sketching on location in Chicago or Chicagoland - show us your world! Cafes, streets, airports; planes, trains and automobiles; buildings, houses, shops, gardens, people, dogs ... we'd love to see them.

We follow Urban Sketchers Manifesto - <https://www.facebook.com/notes/urban-sketchers-chicago/urban-sketchers-manifesto/385764404799305>.

We sketch on location and we share our work online. Our posting guidelines are here - <https://www.facebook.com/notes/urban-sketchers-chicago/posting-guidelines/483492225026522>

Every 3rd weekend of the month, alternating Saturdays and Sundays, we meet as a group and sketch together.

Our sketch-meet events are posted on this group around the 1st of the month. Between meets we sketch individually and share our sketches in this group.

If you would like to join USk Chicago Facebook group, click Join button and answer our 3 questions. Please answer all questions, requests with no answers or partial answers will be deleted. We screen all requests to prevent spammers and maintain the group's integrity.

Find us on social media:

## Ald. Nicole Lee's Bridgeport Campaign Office Is Now A Migrant Donation Center



Ald. Nicole Lee (11th) and organizers have turned her South Side campaign headquarters into a collection hub of donated items for migrants. Provided; Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) Aug 9, 2023

Items most in need include new and gently used men's and kids' clothing, diapers, formula, baby wipes, luggage and SIM cards so families can call home, organizers said.

BRIDGEPORT — Ald. Nicole Lee (11th) and local organizers have converted the alderwoman's South Side campaign headquarters into a hub where migrants can pick up essential items donated by neighbors.

Neighbors can drop off donations at the 11th Ward service office, 3659 S. Halsted St., during normal business hours. Those interested in volunteering should fill out the Google form [here](#).

The center has more than enough women's clothing and general toiletries, but organizers said they desperately need new or gently used men's and kids' clothes and new underwear. Diapers, formula, baby wipes and luggage (so families won't have to carry their belongings in garbage bags) are high priorities as well, organizers said.

Asylum seekers also need SIM cards, said Erin Vogel, a 9th District police council member who's been contributing to migrant aid efforts.

"The cards some of [the migrants] had only worked in Mexico and they still need to keep in touch with family back home, so some neighbors are working on getting those. We also need usable Android phones," Vogel said.

Nearly 12,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Chicago since last summer. [Many migrants arriving in Chicago on buses are from Venezuela](#), which has struggled with political upheaval and an economic crisis resulting in severe food and medicine shortages, surging inflation and rising unemployment and violent crime.

Several Chicago Park District facilities have been overhauled into [housing for migrants](#). While there were no suitable shelter spaces in the 11th Ward, neighbors and residents still wanted to help and have organized to collect supplies, Lee said.



Continues on next page



From previous page "Alderman Lee"

The need for supplies has grown even more acute since Title 42, a Trump-era federal deportation policy, was lifted in June. That meant in part that migrants could again apply for asylum, [according to Andrew Selee of the Migration Policy Institute](#).

"We were beginning to collect donated items — the mutual aid group had already been on top of this from the beginning — but when Title 42 ended, that's when everything just really amped up. And that's when I really got more connected to these mutual aid groups and the residents that were volunteering," Lee said.

It was after a shopping run for a donation drop-off that Lee realized there was a need for space to collect donations, she said.

Lee's campaign office hadn't yet been rented out, it had just enough square footage to store supplies and it was close enough to the Deering (9th) District police station, 3120 S. Halsted St., where some migrant families had been temporarily staying, Lee said.

With the Unity Center, 3339 S. Halsted St., also operating a makeshift store where migrants could discreetly shop for supplies, opening a similar spot in her old campaign office would help accommodate the growing need, Lee said.

"We made a little bit of investment in getting the place set up like a shop so that migrants could come in dignity to get the things they needed and not have to sort through trash bags of donated items, which unfortunately, is happening way too much," she said.

The city has no central depository for donations, which makes it trickier for mutual aid groups and other organizations to facilitate drives like these, resulting in donations of a lot of items that aren't needed, Lee said.

"We wanted [the center] to be something that was a way for asylum seekers to get items that they would need without us needing to take everything to the police station, and we could provide them stuff there at the store," said Mimi Guiracocha, an 11th Ward mutual aid group volunteer who helps run operations at the donation center.

CLICK FOR MORE OF THE STORY

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/08/09/ald-nicole-lees-bridgeport-campaign-office-is-now-a-migrant-donation-center/>



Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago Tatiana Valentina Aldazoro Torres, 7, blows bubbles as dozens of South American migrants seek temporary shelter at the Chicago Police 12th District station near Pilsen on May 9, 2023.

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Barbara's Basement

Opening: Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10 am - 1pm

Regular Hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm

Sundays: As announced in advance

## Come Shop With Us!



2nd Presbyterian Church, 1936 S Michigan Ave



# Summer Dance, Chicago

**Friday, August 18 | 6–9pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden**  
Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

**Dance Style:** Rueda De Casino (Cuban Salsa)

**Live Music By:** Orquesta Charanguero (Salsa, Guaracha, Son Montuno)

**Instruction by:** Edson de Cuba (Rueda)

**Saturday, August 19 | 6–9pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden**  
Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

**Dance Style:** Swing

**Live Music by:** Rhythm Rockets (Swing, Rhythm & Blues)

**Instruction by:** Margot Toppen, Riley Wimes Jr, and MOMENTA Dance Company (Physically Integrated Swing/Charleston)

**Thursday, August 24 | 6–9pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden**  
Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

**Dance Style:** Steppin'

**Live Music by:** The Moe Fitz Project (R&B)

**Instruction by:** Dawud and Lura Shareef (Steppin')

**Friday, August 25 | 6–9pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden**  
Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

**Dance Style:** Salsa

**Live Music by:** Orquesta el Macabeo (Salsa)

**Instruction by:** La Mecca Dance Chicago (Salsa)

**Saturday, August 26 | 6–9pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden**  
Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

**Dance Style:** House

**Music by:** DJ Lori Branch and VITIGRRL

**Friday, September 8 | 11am–4:45pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Taste of Chicago**  
Grant Park (at Buckingham Fountain)

- 11am - DJ and Open Dancing
- 12pm - Line Dancing / Fre2Dance
- 1pm - Peruvian Folk Dance / Center of Peruvian Arts
- 2pm - Balboa (Swing) / Desiree Roffers
- 3pm - Reggaeton / Latin Street
- 4pm - DJ and Open Dancing



**Saturday, September 9 | 1–4:45pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Taste of Chicago**  
Grant Park (at Buckingham Fountain)

- 1pm - Salsa / Latin Rhythms
- 2pm - Country Two-Step / Second City Country Dance Association
- 3pm - Zouk / Urbanity Dance Chicago
- 4pm - Dabke / Phaedra Darwish

**Sunday, September 10 | 11am–4:45pm**

**Chicago SummerDance at Taste of Chicago**  
Grant Park (at Buckingham Fountain)

- 11am - DJ and Open Dancing
- 12pm - Steppin' / Majestic Gents
- 1pm - Eastern European Folk Dance / Ethnic Dance Chicago
- 2pm - Bollywood / Meher Dance Company
- 3pm - Bachata / Desueño Dance
- 4pm - DJ and Open Dancing





## Daley Plaza City Market

- o **Thursdays**
- o **May 11 - October 26th, 7 am - 2 pm**
- o **50 W. Washington St.**



Click on link

[Not Just Cookies Wholesale Bakery](https://notjustcookies.com/)  
| [Baking happiness.](#)

<https://notjustcookies.com/>

## South Loop Neighbor's Photo Contest Results of the voting at the Printers Row Art Fair

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner was David Wong

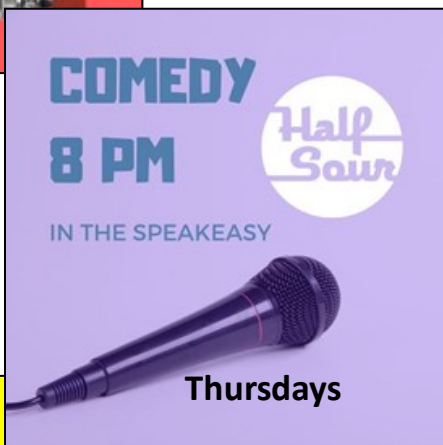
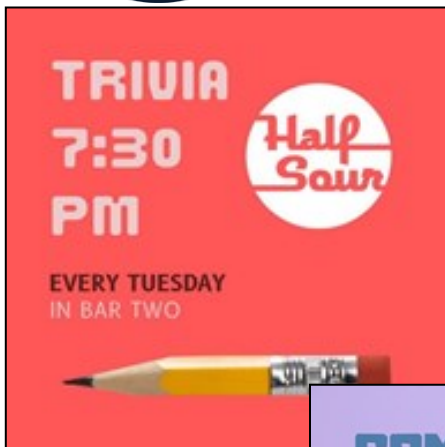
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner was Somphonh Oulavong and  
one of her photos was sold

There were also 3 Viewers Choice which included  
Benjamin Cottrell, Michael Morgan, and  
Al Hippensteel



Clark and Polk Streets

312.224.1772



Thursdays

**Bingo with  
Betty**

Last Wednesday of the month

## "Exploring the Sounds of Summer"

a flute and piano recital  
by Priya Fink and  
Anthony Ty



August 19th, 7pm

Pianoforte Studios

1335 S Michigan Ave

[TICKETS FREE](#)

featuring works by Gaubert, Hue, Nicanor Abelardo, J.S. Bach, and William Grant Still

pianoforte chicago

PianoForte Studios, 1335 South Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60605 United States

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



## Black-Owned Grasshopper Club Opens South Loop Weed Dispensary

The Brewer family opened the city's first Black-owned, family-run pot shop in Logan Square in February, successfully breaking into the lucrative, majority white marijuana industry.

[Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) Aug 11, 2023

SOUTH LOOP — The family behind [one of the city's first Black-owned cannabis dispensaries](#) has taken their talents further south.

The Grasshopper Club opened their second location Thursday at 58 E. Roosevelt Road, next door to Trader Joe's. The dispensary took over a former Subway sandwich shop.

Matthew Brewer, brother Chuck Brewer and their mother Dianne Brewer are behind the dispensary, which has a flagship store in Logan Square, 2551 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Ald. Lamont Robinson (4th), a former schoolmate of Matthew Brewer, joined the grand opening to welcome the family-run business to the neighborhood. Despite having already broken into the predominately white cannabis industry, Matthew Brewer said it was challenging to make the South Loop dispensary a reality.

Neighbors weren't keen on a dispensary opening in the area, citing safety and traffic concerns. Some [attended a public meeting convened by Robinson's predecessor, Sophia King](#), last fall, balking at the Harvard University alum's plan and circulating a petition demanding city officials stop the Grasshopper Club from moving into the empty South Loop storefront. With time and compromise, Matthew Brewer was able to persuade the naysayers into giving him a chance, and some even apologized for giving him a

hard time, he said. Grasshopper Club hosted a soft opening last week during Lollapalooza, which gave the new business a bump in customers. But it was many of those initially skeptical neighbors who came by to offer their support and congratulations.

"We've been in business now [in Logan Square] for six months, so we have a sense of what works and what doesn't," Matthew Brewer said.

"We've engaged with numerous organizations, buildings, officials to get through this process, and then we put together a dream team of staff who are from the community, who are experts at service, experts at the plant. I think it's going to be really special for the neighborhood. There aren't many neighborhoods left in the city that don't have a dispensary. South Loop is such a remarkable neighborhood, and the fact that we can be the first in that neighborhood, I think it's going to be game changing."

It took the family \$650,000 and 18 months to repurpose the restaurant.

The store's look is nearly identical to the Logan Square flagship store, just with a smaller footprint, Brewer said. Art from South Side native and artist Nikko Washington greets visitors as they walk in. [Block Club/ Read more click here](#)

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/08/11/black-owned-grasshopper-club-dispensary-expands-to-south-loop/?utm\\_source=Pico&utm\\_campaign=f117b6369e-](https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/08/11/black-owned-grasshopper-club-dispensary-expands-to-south-loop/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=f117b6369e-)



A Grasshopper Club employee helps co-owner Dianne Brewer with a purchase at the grand opening of the dispensary's South Loop location. Ray Abercrombie



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

**FARM AND PRAYER  
LABYRINTH WALK**

A Mighty River  
Amos 9:24

**Sunday, September 10 | 12 - 2 p.m.**  
**St. James Parish,**  
**2907 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago**



Join us for an evening of song and reflection in the Taize tradition

*Taize Prayer*

Tuesday, September 12, at 7pm  
Free and open to all

St. James on Wabash  
21 East 29th Street

Image: Bright Wings by Sr. Mary Southard, CSJ, www.ministryofthearts.org. Used with Permission.



## Woman dies after apparent road rage shooting on DuSable Lake Shore Drive: officials

Man also injured in Chicago shooting  
By Maher Kawash and ABC7 Chicago Digital Team  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 3:18PM

Two people were injured in an apparent road rage shooting in Chicago on DuSable Lake Shore Drive on the Near South Side, the police department said.



Two people were injured in an apparent road rage shooting in Chicago on DuSable Lake Shore Drive on the Near South Side, the police department said.

CHICAGO (WLS) -- A woman has died after she was shot during an

apparent road rage incident on Chicago's Near South Side on Sunday evening.

Police said the shooting happened on the Near South Side in the 2200 block of South DuSable Lake Shore Drive just after 8 p.m.

A 37-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man were driving northbound when a 2015 Nissan Sedan cut them off in traffic, police said. The victims beeped at the Nissan, which pulled up alongside them, and someone inside opened fire.

The woman, shot in the neck, was transported to Northwestern Hospital in critical condition, police said. She later died, and the medical examiner identified her as Nancy Padilla.

The man, who suffered a graze wound to his back, refused medical help.

Police said it appeared to be a road rage shooting, but did not provide further information. No one is in custody and area detectives are investigating.

*The video in the player above is from a previous report.*



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FREE! We don't charge for anything.



## 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!

## THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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

Next CAPS Meeting 2023

Sept 13, 5:30pm IN-  
PERSON Beat 123



caps.001district@chicagopolice.org

## Police Blotter



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

8/2/2023 8pm 1200 S Wabash Ave  
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun on sidewalk Beat 123

7/10/2023 4:49pm 1200 S Wabash Ave  
ATTEMPT. STRONGARM ROBBERY No weapon  
restaurant Beat 123

7/22/2023 1:04am 1200 S Wabash Ave  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Grocery Store Beat 131

8/4/2023 1:25am 30 E Roosevelt  
CARJACKING on street Beat 131

8/3/2023 8:30am 20 E Roosevelt  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Knife on Street Beat  
123

7/16/2023 7:50am 20 E Roosevelt  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY, No weapon  
CTA L Station Beat 123

7/11/2023 6:30pm 20 E Roosevelt  
AGGAVATED BATTERY L Train Beat 123

7/12/2023 7:24pm 20 E Roosevelt Rd  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Handgun on L Platform  
Beat 123

7/28/2023 12:38am Roosevelt and State  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Handgun on Sidewalk  
Beat 123

7/23/2023 5:37pm 1100 S State  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, SubwayPlatform  
Beat 123

7/17/2023 10:48pm 600 S Wabash  
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun Restaurant  
Beat 123

7/19/2023 9:30am 700 S Michigan  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Street Beat 123

8/2/2023 8:15am 800 S State St  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Knife Convenience  
Store Beat 123

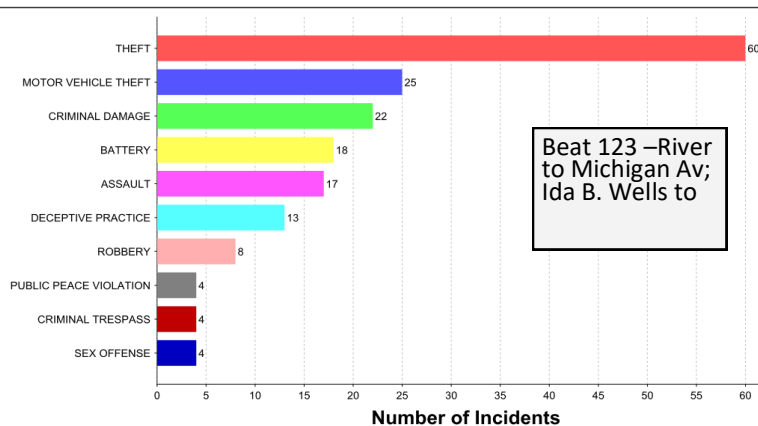
7/24/2023 7:43 pm 800 S Financial Pl  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Street Beat 123

7/24/2023 1:10pm 600 S Dearborn  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Restaurant Knife  
Beat 123

Report Date: 18-Jul-2023  
Report Time: 15:24:41  
Produced By: Information Services  
Division: PC01468  
Run By: PC01468

### Top Ten Crimes From 01-Jun-2023 To 30-Jun-2023 On Beat 0123

Page 1 of 1



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

### South Loop Theater Security Guard Dies After Altercation 7/31

“A seventy-two-year-old security officer died after an altercation with a juvenile at ShowPlace ICON Theatre & Kitchen at Roosevelt Collection in the South Loop on Saturday night,” [reports the Sun-Times](#). “Police were at the theater [around] 10pm when they were flagged down by security officer Jackey R. Fisher... seeking help in restraining and removing from the theater a female juvenile who had allegedly hurled a slushy at another security officer... Fisher told police he witnessed the incident and was not attacked... After the police escorted the teen away, the officers heard screams for help after Fisher passed out in the revolving doors of the theater.” A doctor who was at the theater “tried to administer CPR and used a defibrillator on Fisher.” He “had worked at the theater for several years and was known as an ‘older uncle’ who was ‘wise’ around the theater, especially to the younger employees.”

8/7/2023 8:54pm 1200 S Wabash  
AUTO THEFT Gas Station Beat 131

8/2/2023 12 Midnight 1200 S State  
ATTEMPT.AUTO THEFT Street Beat 131

7/21/2023 11:23am 1200 S Plymouth  
ATTEMPT. AUTO THEFT Street Beat 131

8/4/2023 3:30am 1100 S State  
AUTO THEFT Res. Parking lot/garage Beat 123

7/17/2023 1000 S State  
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

7/28/2023 8am 800 S Michigan  
AUTO THEFT Non-Res Parking lot Beat 123

8/6/2023 6pm 600 S Michigan Av  
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

7/30/2023 12:22am 60 E Harrison St  
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

7/22/2023 10am 500 S Wabash  
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

8/3/2023 10pm 600 S State  
AUTO THEFT Non-Res Parking garage Beat 123

7/25/2023 11:10pm 700 S Plymouth  
AUTO THEFT Non-Res Parking garage Beat 123

**AUTO THEFT**



## Real Estate Transactions

\$4,800,000  
747 S DEARBORN ST  
7/11/23

\$316,000  
124 W POLK ST 301  
7/7/23

\$1,085,000  
47 W 15<sup>TH</sup> ST F  
7/6/23

\$163,000  
801 S PLYMOUTH CT 211  
7/5/23

\$277,000  
1111 S WABASH 1107  
6/29/23

\$1,005,000  
1447 S PRAIRIE AVE A88  
6/27/23

\$330,000  
1529 S STATE ST 7-A  
6/26/23

\$500,000  
547 S CLARK ST 506  
6/21/23

\$615,000  
727 S DEARBORN ST 211  
6/21/23

\$967,500  
1160 S MICHIGAN AVE 3801  
6/16/23

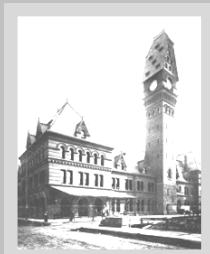
\$147,000  
680 S FEDERAL ST 505  
6/14/23

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**FOR SALE**

600 S. Dearborn St #814 - 1000 sq ft, One Bedroom/+ Office, One Bathroom  
Offered at 264,900

**CLOSED SALES**

1) 747 S. Dearborn St. Closed on July 6th, 2023 - Closing price, \$4,800,000.-

The building at the Northeast corner of Dearborn & Polk Streets, located in the historic Printers Row neighborhood, closed on July 6th, 2023, at a record-smashing price of **4.8 million dollars**.

The building, constructed in 2019, includes the Totto's Market on the main level and an enormous 7000 square-foot, multi-level single-family home above the store. The single-family home features a dramatic floating staircase, double-height living room, modern kitchen, five bedrooms, five bathrooms, and a 2000-square-foot terrace boasting a private swimming pool.

Timothy Salm of Jameson Sotheby's International Realty was the listing broker.

Jim Buczynski of Compass Real Estate represented the buyers.

**Closings in brand-new Reed Condominiums have started.**

2) 234 W. Polk St #2710 - 2BR2BA - Closed on July 19th, 2023 at \$756K

3) 234 W. Polk St #2910 - 2BR/2BA - Closed on July 19th, 2023 at \$765K

4) 234 W. Polk St #2404 - 2BR/2BA - Closed on July 18th, 2023 at \$789K

Victoria Singleton of Wolf Residential Group, LLC was the listing broker.

**Currently Offered FOR SALE**

1) 600 S. Dearborn St #814 - Fully rehabbed 1000 square-foot, 1BR/1BA Condominium in the heart of Printers Row. Offered at \$265K

**FOR RENT**

600 S. Dearborn St. #605 - 900 sq ft, One Bedroom/ One Bathroom

Available September 1st, 2023 - \$2000/per month

732 S. Financial Pl. #306 - 1000 sq ft One Bedroom/One Bathroom Timber Loft

Available October 1st, 2023 - \$2300/per month + \$250 for parking

**Dearborn Street  
Realty**

**Tom Feddor,  
312.203.3841**



**tomfeddor@gmail.com**

600 S Dearborn St #1210  
1 bed, 1 bath, 950 sq ft  
\$279,000

Deborah Brodlo  
Betancourt Realty  
312.671.7285



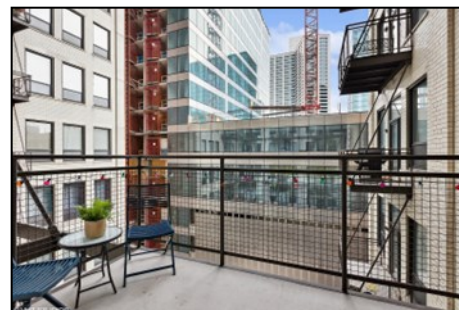
1515 S Prairie Ave 1004  
1 bed, 1.5 bath, 900 sq ft  
\$289,000

Stefanie D'Agostino  
Redfin Corporation  
312.320.3116



910 S Michigan Ave #816  
2 bed, 1 bath, 1200 sq ft  
\$300,000

Melanie Carlson  
@properties Christie's Intl.  
630.885.2209



1345 S Federal St  
5 bed, 3.5 bath, 4076 SF  
\$1,995,000

Brian DePaulo  
Kale Realty  
708.935.8408



125 E 13<sup>th</sup> St #914  
1 bed, 1 bath, 830 sq ft  
\$280,000

Erin Ivey  
Compass  
773.482.1917



1111 S Wabash Ave  
#1211  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1162 sq ft  
\$435,000

Hunter Andre  
Baird & Warner  
773.474.2753

