



# THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR  
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[Dearbornexpress.net](http://Dearbornexpress.net)



*We dedicate this issue to  
Bonnie McGrath*



Bonnie McGrath left this material world on December 22nd, 2024, just days before her 74th birthday. For the Dearborn Express, she was the first contributor to write a column in almost every issue, for ten years. That would be a treasure trove of Bonnie's sometimes quirky, sometimes controversial columns. 160 over ten years. We didn't know early on if we'd get out issue 2. I will be forever grateful for her content and her support.

Bonnie McGrath, May 31, 2013 issue of the Dearborn Express

If you knew Bonnie McGrath, you knew she was a blur of activity. Anytime someone passes away, you learn new things, new aspects of their life. I discovered her degree from the University of Missouri was for public health. But those who knew her, would not think of her that way. She was a journalist, an attorney, a sometimes candidate for judge. And a telephone installer for AT&T? Who knew? Bonnie seemingly was everywhere all at once. Bonnie said one time, "I never go on vacation." Everyday was an opportunity to visit an art gallery, a museum, attend a concert at Orchestra Hall and have lunch with friends. She sat on a passel of boards and volunteered as a docent for places like the Glessner House.

January 7, 2025

Vol. 13, No.1

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# JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sat, Jan 9-11, 7pm & 9pm.....Marlene Rosenberg Quartet  
 Sun, Jan 12, 4pm & 8pm.....Marlene Rosenberg Quartet  
 Tue, Jan 14, 7pm & 9pm.....WDCB 90.9FM  
 Wed, Jan 15, 7pm & 9pm.....The No Kap Collective  
 Pre-Album Release Show  
 Thu-Sat, Jan 16-18, 8pm & 10pm.....Saxophonists Eric Schneider  
 & Natalie Scharf Quintet  
 Sun, Jan 19, 4pm & 8 pm.....Saxophonists Eric Schneider  
 & Natalie Scharf Quintet  
 Mon, Jan 20, 7pm.....Gabriel Wade Quartet  
 Tue, Jan 21, 7pm & 9pm.....Marques Carroll  
 Trumpet Summit  
 Wed, Jan 22, 7pm.....Dakarai Barclay Sextet  
 Thu-Sat, Jan 23-25, 7pm.....Christian Dillingham Quartet  
 Sun, Jan 26, 8pm.....Christian Dillingham Quartet



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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

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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.

## Black Hole Jesus

Regan Burke

December 29, 2024



**First Holy Communion** is a right-of-passage ceremony in the Roman Catholic Church where a seven-year-old is initiated into eating the body of Jesus Christ. I learned the elements of the Catholic service, the Mass, with my classmates in the second grade. The priest transforms the bread into Jesus' body and the wine into Jesus' blood. The wine, the blood of Jesus, is reserved for the priest. We the people eat paper-thin white tasteless wafers, the body of Jesus. Catholic children all learn that after we make First Communion, it's expected we'll eat the body of Christ every week for the rest of our lives.

"Let it dissolve in your mouth," the nuns instructed, "It's a sin to chew the body of Christ. And don't touch it!"

The pomp and ceremony of my First Holy Communion overshadowed any eww!-ness related to eating Jesus' flesh. Prim little girls wore white crinolined lace dresses, white shoes and socks, white cotton gloves and angelic white veils. Like brides. Squirmy spit-polished boys wore ill-fitting white suits and ties. Children sang a Gregorian chant, *Tantum Ergo*, in Latin. The ceremony shined as if the light of heaven broke through the ceiling and blessed us with all good things forevermore.

In the early grades, if anyone questioned how Jesus' body and blood changed from bread and wine, there was only one answer.

"It's a mystery," they said.

I fell hook line and sinker into this ethereal mystical world of Jesus-eating. He was inside me, outside me, all around me, all the time. Jesus, my imaginary friend, was under the bed with me when my parents' raging drunkenness woke me in the night. And when long-fingered nightmares reached their talons in through the screens, Jesus saved me.

At Jesus' Last Supper (and his First Communion) before he was tortured and murdered, he broke bread, sipped wine and said, "This is my body. This is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me." Surely Jesus and his father knew what a theological shit storm this would cause for all time. There is no earthly world where anyone could possibly digest all that's been interpreted by those simple words.

In the upper grades, Catholic clergy gave fuller answers for Holy Communion, the Eucharist, they called it. Explanations always ended with, "It surpasses understanding." When I joined a non-Catholic Christian church in my twenties, I learned that Protestant Communion is a public display of piety, not a mystery at all, a non-binding sacramental tradition.

Jesus, like the simple chassis of a computer, hides his infinitely more complex workings from the young in faith. It's good he came as a baby. People love babies. I would have settled for a dog since I love dogs. This human Jesus soothed me as a child. In the second half of life I'm soothed by and troubled by the man or the myth at the same time. Jesus, a synonym for love, is comforting. His hidden complexities are troubling. Questions arise, starting, but never ending with, "Are you real?"

In Christopher Nolan's movie *Interstellar*, a concrete love story moves in and out of a celestial black hole. A black hole forms when a star collapses in on itself, eventually creating a singular point of irresistible gravity. All matter, light, space and time are sucked into it and all instances of time become the present moment.

These days, at my Presbyterian church, I sit motionless at traditional Communion, the Eucharist. When I hear the minister say Jesus' words 'do this in remembrance of me', if I'm aware, I contemplate the past as present, as if in a black hole. The story of the Last Supper reminds me to honor the original Twelve, and others, who were in the room where it happened. They come through a black hole to my pew, in the hope that I see that the whole of the story is swallowed up and Jesus is the present moment.

The vaneer of the Communion tradition, like the computer chassis, hides the paradox of a simple complexity. Non-traditional Jesus, that black hole of pure love, that present moment, issues the most complex inhuman commandment, 'love your enemies.'

## COMMENT

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.





## A Remembrance of Bonnie McGrath

Dearborn Express

By Mary Gerace

January 6, 2025

One day, Bonnie McGrath and I tried to figure out when and how, exactly, we'd met. We pondered this for some while, throwing ideas back and forth; interrupting each other with random suggestions, "could it have been," "maybe it was," and "but I thought," until we agreed we just didn't remember. Let's just say it's been decades, likely 35 years ago.

Back in 2007-08, I was the director of the Harold Washington Commemorative Year. It spotlighted the 25th anniversary of Harold's historic election as Chicago's first Black mayor and the 20th anniversary of his untimely death. Many a time I found myself on deadline very late into the night, wrapping up one thing or another. To help me corral my sanity, I'd often send Bonnie an email, relating to her some scrap of the past day — something interesting or aggravating or funny or just plain stupid. Self-described insomniac that she was, she would reply immediately, with words of encouragement that conveyed her generosity of spirit.

The Commemorative Year was comprised of free public programming all over the city. Bonnie was one of its most reliable volunteers. The final event was a thank-you reception for those volunteers and other notables at Roosevelt University's Gage Gallery. I handed out an award I dreamed up: The Spare Room Award. I commented at the beginning of the commemoration that it seemed as though Harold had moved into the spare room of my house. "Well," I said



Bonnie on the left and Mary Gerace on the right, March 8th, 2019. At the Cliff Dwellers Club event honoring women in the arts including Memoir Writing Teacher Beth Finke.

from the gallery lectern, "when I left to come here today, Harold was packing." The award was nothing fancy — a small frame holding a few printed words on cardstock. I chose only three recipients. Bonnie was one of them.

I was always in touch with Bonnie by email on her birthday. But this past birthday, much to my immeasurable grief, that didn't happen. She would have responded to my message, signing off as always with:

love, b

Yes. We love b. If love bestows immortality...

CPA \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / January, 2021



## A HISTORY LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHICAGO

GREG BORZO



## Writing Out Loud

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

Beth Finke



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**ONLINE Lunch with Dorothy Parker!**




**GAIL CROWTHER**

January 21  
 12:00 pm CT



**Lunch with Dorothy Parker! (ONLINE)**

Join us online for an afternoon conversation with **Gail Crowther**, author of the new book *Dorothy Parker in Hollywood*, an expansive and illuminating study of legendary writer **Dorothy Parker's** life and legacy in Hollywood from the author of *Three-Martini Afternoons at the Ritz: The Rebellion of Sylvia Plath & Anne Sexton*.

Lunch is not required, but is recommended. The glamorous extravagances and devastating lows of her time in Hollywood are revealed as never before in this fresh new biography of Dorothy Parker—from leaving New York City to work on numerous classic screenplays such as the 1937 *A Star Is Born* to the devastation of alcoholism, a miscarriage, and her husband's suicide. Parker's involvement with anti-fascist and anti-racist groups, which led to her ultimate blacklisting, and her early work in the civil rights movement that inspired her to leave her entire estate to the NAACP are also explored as never before.



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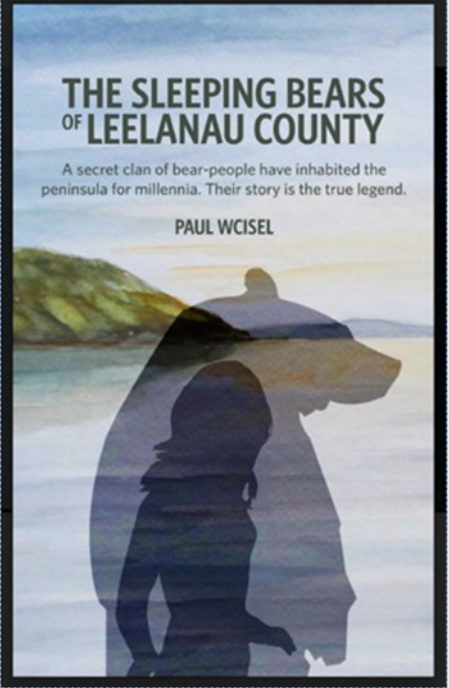
<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

A new novel by local author, **Paul Wcisel**  
 ([paulwcisel.com](http://paulwcisel.com))

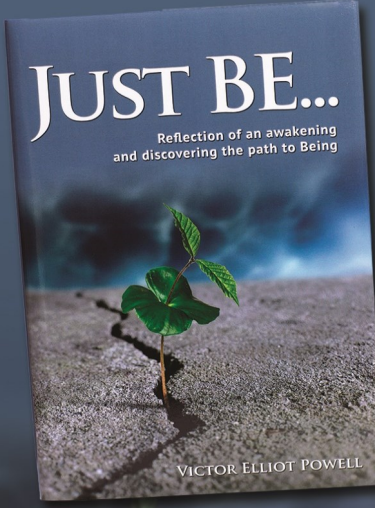
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## In Loving Memory of Bonnie McGrath

It is with heavy heart that we announce the sudden passing of our dear friend and board member, Bonnie McGrath. Bonnie was a treasured member of the Project Onward family, whose dedication, kindness, and passion for our mission touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Bonnie's unwavering support and guidance were instrumental in shaping Project Onward into the vibrant community it is today. Her sharp mind, compassionate spirit, and infectious enthusiasm inspired us all. Beyond her contributions as a board member, Bonnie was a friend to many- always ready with a kind word, a listening ear, or a heartfelt laugh.

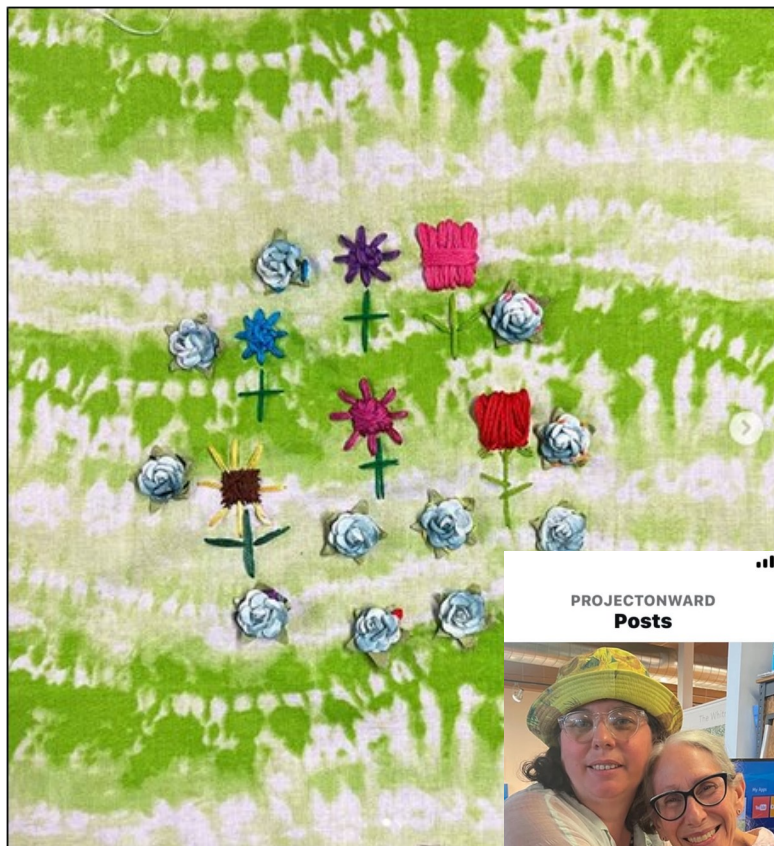
She was beyond curious, especially with politics, and was a wealth of knowledge about so many things.

We will deeply miss Bonnie's presence, but her legacy will continue to live on in the work we do and in the countless lives she impacted.

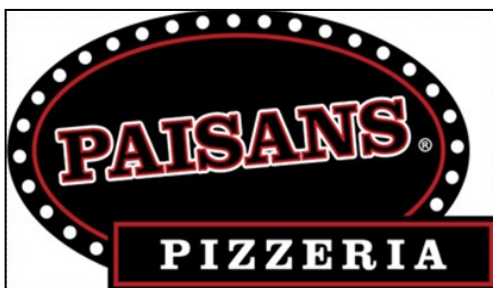
During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie's family, especially her daughter Molly, brother Robert Taman, mother Cecelia Taman, and life partner Bruce Oltman.

Please join us in honoring her memory by continuing the work she cared about so deeply, not only with us but with Intuit, Art Encounter, The Lyric Opera, and Glessner House. Rest in peace, Bonnie. You will always remain in our hearts With love and gratitude

*Nancy Gomez and the Project Onward Team*



"Flowers on the Hills" by Molly McGrath



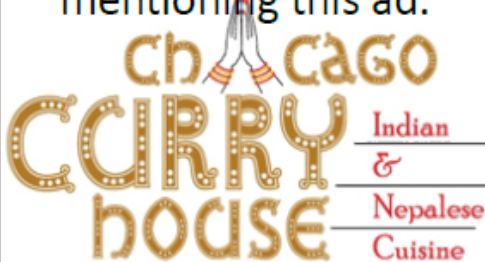
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*Sincerely, Marianne*

## Coping with four more years of you-know-who

December 29 2024

By **Marianne Goss**

### Coping with four more years of you-know-who

Two-thirds of Americans have cut back their political news consumption since Donald Trump was reelected, according to an Associated Press–NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey. Seven in ten are Democrats, six in ten Republicans and independents. Some of us can't stand the man, others can stand the chaos.

It can't be good for the country if the majority of citizens spend the next four years uninformed. But neither is it good for our mental health if we're in a state of constant agitation over the news from Washington.

I've been thinking and reading about how to cope with hearing outlandish claims, lies, and insults for four more years. Here are some ideas.

- Get news from neutral reputable sources instead of those with a political slant, and certainly not from social media. Be selective about opinion pieces. I'm no longer visiting progressive sources like [Daily Kos](#) because they rile me up. Someone recommended [1440](#), which sends its subscribers daily emails of "consequential," "fact-driven" news without opinions or interpretation.
- Skim the headlines and decide whether it's really important to know the details.
- Ignore stories about Trump's outrageous diatribes. I don't need to know, for instance, whether Trump is still talking about children going to school as boys and returning home as girls.
- Avoid stories about what might happen. What good is listening to speculation about the tariffs Trump may impose on foreign goods? If and when he does, we'll find out.
- Ask friends to change the subject when political conversations become upsetting.

- Accept that little or nothing that I do will affect national politics. My energy is better directed at things I can affect — i.e., in my own community.
- Realize that my life goes on whoever is in the White House, and it probably won't change much. That doesn't mean I shouldn't care about the migrants and others whom Trump's actions may harm.
- Seek out good news to balance upsetting coverage. Googling "good news websites" identifies a number of sources.

I'm not advocating burying our heads in the sand but trying to balance information and overload. Political activists will go on devouring the news, and more power to them. The country will need opposition to Trump. I'm not a political activist. I'm just an ordinary person trying to take care of my mental health.

## COMMENT

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

## MOST RECENT EPISODES

January 3, 2025

Click here  
ON THE MEDIA

### America's Empire State of Mind

The complete story of American imperialism is missing from our history books. On this week's On the Media, how the United States worked to capture territory and expand power, while preaching democracy and freedom.

[01:00] Host Brooke Gladstone sits down with historian Daniel Immerwahr, on the hidden history of the United States empire. For Americans, empire often means economic and military power abroad, or CIA coups in Central America—not British-style imperialism. But the American empire was — and in some ways continues to be — a lot closer than most people realize. Immerwahr explains the role of guano — bird poop — in launching America's overseas empire, and the legal, political and social clashes that ensued.

[17:57] Host Brooke Gladstone continues her conversation with historian Daniel Immerwahr, exploring why, at the dawn of the last century, the arguments over imperialism didn't end with poets like Rudyard Kipling and writers like Mark Twain. How should the adolescent U.S., big-headed about its democratic values, grapple with capturing territory? Immerwahr explains how this vital debate blazed across America's consciousness like a comet, then vanished just as quickly.

[34:47] Host Brooke Gladstone and historian Daniel Immerwahr conclude their conversation, discussing how, after World War II, global anti-colonial sentiment (combined with less dependence on natural resources) led to a shrinking of America's physical empire. But the American empire didn't disappear — it merely changed form. *This originally aired in our April 5, 2019 program, "[Empire State of Mind](#)."*



## SLN Annual Meeting & Lunch

Sunday, January 12 at 12pm  
 Roots Pizza  
 744 S. Dearborn St  
 Full Members Annual Meeting & Lunch

### About the event

The meeting will start with a welcome, followed by a lunch buffet, compliments of SLN! The annual dinner is **free for all full dues paying SLN members!** After everyone has had a chance to partake in the lunch buffet, there will be a recap of 2024 event, followed by the election of officers and board members. To register [CLICK HERE](#)



### ☀️ Embrace of Comfort Exhibit – On Display Until February 1st

Have you experienced the warmth of our Embrace of Comfort Exhibit yet? This stunning collection of art celebrates stillness, connection, and winter's beauty. It's on display at our Printers Row location until February 1st, 2025. Stop by, grab a coffee, and take it all in.



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## Editor's Letter: January, 2024

January 7, 2025 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

### It's 2025.

We're a quarter of the way through the twenty-first century.

I'd say that 1999 seems like yesterday, but it doesn't. I lived in *that* world, but I no longer recognize it. Those were the days before mobile phones and social media, a time when the still-young internet was a destination of hope and promise.

Those were the days when we got our news from established media entities which, though far from perfect, were at least generally trustworthy. They had biases and blind spots, but they tried to do the right thing, that is, to tell the truth.

The transformation of our lives over the next twenty-five years will make the first quarter of our century seem positively sedate by comparison, thanks largely to artificial intelligence and the upheaval of every aspect of human life it promises, it portends.

I'm not even talking about the survival of the planet, survival of democracy or survival of the middle class, all real threats from this January 2025 vantage point.

Twenty-five years ago, we knew we were on the precipice of new ways of living. It was more of a question of what would stay the same, not whether things would remain unchanged.

But we did not see 9/11 coming. We did not see the election of Barack Obama coming. We did not see the election of Donald Trump coming. (Either time.) We did not see the rise of authoritarianism coming.

But the changes brought by technology were imaginable then, and are now.

**I remain optimistic.** Despite the challenges wrought by technological upheaval, the opportunities it brings also make life fascinating. *We do* live in interesting times.

And I remain optimistic because of what you'll find as you read this magazine.

As long as we have poetry, theater, dance and art, as long as we have art and music and movies and things to make us laugh together, we have hope. As long as we have great human stories, of suffering, like the trauma that Wafaa Bilal processes with his art, or of triumph, like the crazy, can't-look-away life of Fred Degerberg, we have reasons to carry on. And as long as we have February, and another issue of this magazine to send you next month, we have cause for optimism.

So happy new year. Here's to twenty-five more *interesting* years.

—BRIAN HIEGELKE



Brendan Fernandes, I from the "Seven Suite I-VII" 2015/Collection of Northwestern University's Block Museum of Art. Image courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Paint Balls Over Baghdad

The utterly intense story of Wafaa Bilal's "Domestic Tension"

### The Fighter in Winter

The ass-kicking life and times of Fred Degerberg, the martial arts master who trained John Belushi

### Players 2025

Meet the fifty people who really perform for Chicago

AND

### Comic

"Who's Minding the Trading Post?"

A new comic by John Sammis

### Poetry

"My Wife is Delicious"

A new poem by Harvey Nelson

And so much more...

Look for *Newcity's* January 2025 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](http://Newcityshop.com).

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# BUDDY GUY

## January Shows 2025

OPENING FOR BUDDY GUY

### WEEK 1

Thu Jan 9 - Kingfish  
 Fri Jan 10 - Wayne Baker Brooks  
 Sat Jan 11 - Eliza Neals  
 Sun Jan 12 - Cash Box Kings

### WEEK 2

Thu Jan 16 - Melvin Taylor  
 Fri Jan 17 - Joe Doyle  
 Sat Jan 18 - Bobby Rush  
 Sun Jan 19 - Bobby Rush

### WEEK 3

Thu Jan 23 - Corey Dennison  
 Fri Jan 24 - New Orleans Beau  
 Sat Jan 25 - The LG Blues Experience  
 Sun Jan 26 - Paolo Apuli

### WEEK 4

Thu Jan 30 - Stefan Hillesheim  
 Fri Jan 31 - John Primer  
 Sat Feb 1 - NuBlu Band Ft. Carlise Guy  
 Sun Feb 2 - Laretha Weathersby



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 after 5:00PM  
 21+ After 8:00PM



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# The Revival

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OUR NEXT SESSION OF CLASSES BEGINS NEXT WEEK

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### Improv 101 - Foundations

Mondays 6-8pm (1/6-2/24) or Sundays 1-3pm (1/12-3/2)

Learn the fundamentals of improv in this fun, supportive, introductory class. We'll cover listening, ensemble-building techniques, and the principle of "Yes and..." This is a great opportunity to try improv right at its birthplace! No experience is necessary.

### Stand Up Comedy

Mondays 6:00-8:00pm (1/6/25-2/24/25)

This course prepares aspiring comedians with the confidence and skills to embark on their stand-up comedy journey! Weekly sessions cover: joke structure, material development, discovering your unique attitude and persona, audience engagement, and crafting a cohesive set. The course concludes with a performance at The Revival for friends and family.

### Musical Improv

Wednesdays 7:00-9:30pm (1/8/25-2/26/25)

Unlock your inner Diva (or Divo) and have 'fun on the fly' with this 8-week Musical Improv class taught by the dynamic duo Amber Linde (*BLANK! The Musical*) and Sam Super (*Baby Wants Candy*). Whether you're a seasoned performer or a complete beginner, this course will guide you through the fundamentals of creating spontaneous, improvised songs, with a focus on building confidence, musicality, and comedic timing. Amber and Sam bring a wealth of experience, expert coaching, and a supportive, inclusive environment where you'll explore song structures, character work, and instant composition. By the end of the course, you'll have the tools to sing, laugh, and perform on stage with ease—no sheet music required!

### Public Speaking

Tuesdays 5:45-7:15pm (1/7/25-2/25/25)

Most people dread speaking in public. Sooner or later, we all have to do it! Presentations at work, a wedding toast, or leading a group discussion. Sometimes our anxiety gets in the way. This course is designed to take the fear out of public speaking and insert the fun. Using the underlying skills of improvisation, we will help you become a more effective public speaker. Weekly exercises enable participants to: maintain focus and concentration; use the body & voice to express clear, detailed choices; respond imaginatively and expressively to various circumstances; and, connect to audiences of various sizes. No experience necessary.

TRIVIA  
 7:30  
 PM

EVERY TUESDAY  
 IN BAR TWO



COMEDY  
 8 PM

IN THE SPEAKEASY



Thursdays

## Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



# Bonnie McGrath, journalist and attorney who always championed Chicago, dies at 73

By [Adam Harrington](#)

Updated on: December 29, 2024 / CBS Chicago

**CHICAGO (CBS)** -- Bonnie McGrath—a Chicago journalist, attorney, and champion of the city's arts, culture, and people—passed away last week.

McGrath—a longtime resident of the South Loop—died Sunday, Dec. 22. She would have turned 74 on Dec. 25. A Chicago native, Benita Carol McGrath, née Taman, wrote extensively about growing up in Chicago in her columns and blog posts. Born Dec. 25, 1950, to Cecelia and Lew Taman, McGrath—who always went by Bonnie—grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park and Uptown neighborhoods. In her blog, "[Mom, I Think I'm Poignant](#)," McGrath would sometimes write of childhood memories of visiting Chicago's Riverview amusement park, attending the New York World's Fair of 1964 with her dad, and traveling overnight on a clipper from Milwaukee across Lake Michigan to Muskegon, Michigan.

McGrath graduated from Nicholas Senn High School in the Edgewater neighborhood, and from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She went on to earn a master's degree in public health from the University of Missouri, and worked as a telephone installer for Illinois Bell for five years as a young woman in the 1970s. Launching into a career in the news business, McGrath served a stint at the City News Bureau wire service—working out of the press room at the old Chicago Police Headquarters at 1121 S. State St. with the late and legendary bureau chief [Paul Zimbrakos](#) at the editor's desk in the Loop.

McGrath went on to have a long and successful career in journalism. She wrote freelance stories regularly for the [Chicago Reader](#) for decades, and also wrote a regular column for the Chicago Tribune for some time. In particular, McGrath specialized in personal essays that left the reader feeling like a fly on the wall for her adventures around the city. She also wrote back in the 1980s about what was then a relatively unconventional experience of raising a family in a downtown high-rise, while living in the Loop with her second husband, [Paul McGrath](#)—a fellow journalist and former deputy Chicago mayor—and their daughter, [Molly](#).

In a column titled "[Fast Friends](#)" published in January 1988 for the TempoWoman section of the Tribune, McGrath took readers along as she described how connecting with a woman who had a daughter the same age as Molly led to an inseparable friendship that could have made for the plot of a heartwarming movie:

"Jami and Jessi and Molly and I started to swim together every afternoon during children's hours in our rooftop pool. The girls would visit in one apartment or another afterwards.

Then one day I had an idea: Let's open our doors after swimming late in the afternoon and let the girls go back and forth freely, keep the TVs on, snacks out, bikes and playhouses in the hall.

"At first we used the time wisely—to clean our purses, sort laundry, start dinners and argue on the phone with salespeople from Marshall Field & Co. But what ultimately

happened over the next two years was the creation of two dynamic duos—from the same mold that produced Lucy and Ethel, Laverne and Shirley, Rhoda and Mary, Trixie and Alice, and Kate and Allie. Bonnie and Jami, and of course, Molly and Jessi. Two toddlers and two women in their 30s had all become best friends."

McGrath won dozens of major journalism awards. She also wrote for the Chicago Journal, taught journalism at Columbia College Chicago, and spent some time working in public relations.

In 1991, McGrath returned to school to pursue a J.D. from the John Marshall Law School. She went on to practice law as a prosecutor for the City of Chicago, and noted that she worked in every division of Cook County court and worked on hundreds of bench trials later as a general practitioner. Though ultimately unsuccessful in her bids, McGrath also ran several times for Cook County judge.

In relatively recent years, McGrath focused her writing on her "[Mom, I Think I'm Poignant](#)" blog—first on the Chicago Now platform, later as a newsletter on Substack. She wrote about whatever was on her mind—Chicago and national politics, South Loop living, memories of Gloria Steinem visiting her home decades earlier, or paying respects to the late Mayor Harold Washington as his body lay in state in City Hall.

McGrath also posted frequently on social media about her visits to the city's arts and cultural institutions. These ranged from the Art Institute of Chicago, the Symphony Center, and the Lyric Opera to all manner of smaller galleries, venues, and events—whether a recording session by Third Coast Percussion in Wicker Park or the Sock Monkey Museum in Long Grove.

McGrath was especially proud of her daughter Molly's work with the [Project Onward](#) art program for people with mental and developmental disabilities.

This past Friday, [Project Onward honored McGrath](#) with a statement that read, in part: "Her sharp mind, compassionate spirit, and infectious enthusiasm inspired us all.

Beyond her contributions as a board member, Bonnie was a friend to many—always ready with a kind word, a listening ear, or a heartfelt laugh. ☑She was beyond curious, especially about politics, and was a wealth of knowledge about so many things."

McGrath is survived by her daughter Molly, brother Robert Taman, mother Cecelia Taman, and life partner Bruce Oltman. A private service has been held.



Bonnie McGrath

BONNIE MC GRATH EUOLOGIZED BY HER FRIENDS

Bonnie McGrath is a lawyer, journalist, former Columbia College teacher, not to mention a movie goer and food lover. Below are postings on Bonnie's Facebook page.

*This only seems appropriate. Not even 2 weeks ago I was spending time with Bonnie Mcgrath at Susan Oldhe's party, reminiscing about old times and talking about future events. And now she's gone. Buried yesterday, on what would have been her birthday.*

*Life is too short. My prayers go out to her long term boyfriend Bruce, her spectacular and talented daughter Molly, and all the people whose lives she's touched, which are thousands.*

*Bonnie used to write for the former Chicago Journal newspaper, and wrote beautifully about the South Loop - how it was growing, changing, evolving. I really think her articles helped bring up the property values! One story she did was on Dearborn Village, and how it was so funny to see people living there in condos, not junked cars (former Warshawaky -sp- Auto Parts junkyard). Bonnie was a force to be reckoned with. She brought light to every party, and a story about that evening. Godspeed Bonnie. You will be missed.*

*Diana Turowski*

*I know [Bonnie Mcgrath](#) would appreciate me posting for her on Facebook (she loved it) Here are a few of a hundred memories I have had with this incredible woman! She was such a kind, caring, loving person and an amazing mother! A great Chicagoan, writer, lawyer, and art enthusiast! Most of all she was my friend, and like an Auntie who you can tell anything too and she would not judge! (Except if it was politics, then she'd try to school me! Lol! 😂 ) We went to the magnificent Hilma show at the Guggenheim, where she let me take over her camera on her phone, since mine was full. The Temple of Dendor at the Met. Traveled to Evansville, IN with our daughters to Whitney's wedding (insert hilarious hijinks) and all over the city together. I will miss my great*

*friend Bonnie. I am heartbroken 📖 . But Bonnie, don't you worry we will be looking after our dear Molly for you. Rest in Power*

*Robyn Jablonski*

*A light has truly gone out in the Marquee of Chicago with Bonnie McGrath's death. She was one of those people who seemed to be everywhere, all the time and all at once taking in Chicago's diverse cultural scene - whether music, museums, lectures. She always had a smile and a wry word each time I saw her. She was truly devoted to her daughter and made sure she also was living her best life. God rest your soul, Bonnie. You will be deeply missed.*

*John Holden*

"Bonnie McGrath was a talented and wonderful person, a woman whose wide world of interests and accomplishments were amazing. I knew her as a devoted Mother to her lovely and artistic Molly. I also respected her as a skilled Writer, true Journalist and accomplished attorney. I will always remember Bonnie's warm and beautiful smile—someone I was blessed to know. I recall how excited she was when visiting Jerry and me about a project. We were living in the exact apartment, in the Downtown Chicago building she had lived in long ago! She will be missed by her many friends and colleagues throughout Chicago, and a loss to the world of humanity. May her Memory be a Blessing"

*Marion E. Gold,  
Brittany Publications, Ltd.  
Chicago and Arizona*

### *In remembrance . . .*

#### Illinois Woman's Press Association

Bonnie McGrath, described as "beyond curious," died Dec. 22, 2024.

A member of IWPA for more than 15 years, McGrath had been a prize-winning journalist, an attorney, a one-time telephone repair worker, an arts supporter and mom to daughter Molly.

More than two decades after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of public health, she

earned a law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1993. Her support and guidance were instrumental in shaping Project Onward, an inclusive Chicago arts studio where she served as a board member.



NFPW

National Federation of

AGENDA / Winter 2024 / Page 13



This photo is from Nov 21, 2024 when Linda Correll came into town visiting from Portugal. All present or former members of the South Loop Referral Group. Bonnie, Mina Patel, Al Hippensteel, Linda and Janice Koeber. Bonnie, as usual, had the largest pastry. At Paris Baguette.



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

Donations of gently used or new winter coats, hats, gloves and sweaters are accepted and distributed to our Lunch Bag Program and neighbors in need.

# Winter COAT Drive

October 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025

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11:00 am - 1:00 pm



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### SLN Tour Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

50 East Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, IL 60605

Jan 25, 2025 10 - 11:30 am

\$20 / person (ages 3 and up)

**\*\*Optional Lunch following tour at  
Maharaj Indian Grill\*\***

333 S State St, 8 E Van Buren St Unit C13, Chicago, IL

**Get your Ticket NOW!**

#### Why South Loop Neighbors should tour the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

- **Architectural Marvel:** It's a stunning example of architecture by renowned architects Dankmar, Adler and Louis Sullivan. The building itself is a masterpiece, with intricate details and a unique blend of styles.
- **Historical Significance:** The theater has a rich history, hosting a variety of events from political speeches to world-class performances.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Access:** Tour areas not usually seen by the public, like dressing rooms and backstage. Get your photo taken on the stage. Learn more about the theater's operations.
- **Appreciating Local Culture:** The Auditorium Theatre is a vital part of Chicago's cultural landscape. Touring it is a way to connect with the city's history and support its vibrant arts scene.

*Even if you've attended a performance there, a tour can offer a deeper understanding and appreciation for this architectural and cultural gem.*

The tour is arranged privately for South Loop Neighbors, only 30 tickets. The tour is 90 minutes long and includes standing, elevators, and some stairs.

**NO late entry, must arrive by 10 am.**

#### OPTIONAL GROUP LUNCH

11:45-1 pm

Continue to enjoy the company and the day out! After the tour, we will take a 5 min walk over to the neighborhood [Maharaj Indian Grill](#). A portion of the restaurant is reserved for us with some complimentary offerings of non-alcoholic food and drink. Lunch specials ranging from \$13- \$16.

Ticket price does NOT include a meal.

## A Legacy in Motion: 35 Years of Artistic Innovation and Inspiration

by Alicia Dale, January 6, 2025

Printer's Row visionary resident Homer Hans Bryant has much to celebrate. Homer was one of the first residents of Printers Row, seeing the possibilities and trailblazing new ways to live and work in the South Loop.

Recognizing the potential of a community that intersected all of Chicago, he knew it was the perfect spot for him and his family (ballerina Rhonda (1956 – 2008) and daughter Alexandra Victoria (1981 - 2010) to establish their roots and launch the Chicago Multicultural Dance Center (CMDC).

CMDC is open to all dancers. However, the school is particularly designed for Black dancers and dancers of color who have not traditionally been invited into the world of classical ballet and may not have financial means or access. Homer knows this story well as a Black male dancer who studied and danced the once-exclusionary art form. Breaking the boundaries of dance has taken Homer worldwide, including teaching in Russia, dancing in S. Korea, throughout Europe, New York, and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, where he is a hometown hero. He has met, trained, and danced with many well-known people, including Sasha and Malia Obama, prima ballerina Maria Tallchief, Diana Ross, and Lady Gaga; the list of names on his boundless path of success weaves deep and wide.

Ballet was a launch pad for multicultural grace in motion. While the discipline of ballet is a tremendous asset for any professional dancer, it did not encapsulate the full artistic expression CMDC's multicultural dancers were craving. Homer listened and learned.

Since he is open to all creative expression, he noted the young dancers were immersed in rap. Once dancers achieved a certain level in ballet, they needed more to feed their spirits, so he created the revolutionary art form of Hiplet – an integration of hip-hop dance en pointe. The dancers need tremendous strength to bend their knees



and dance in time with modern rhythms in the custom choreography. Homer continually tells his dancers, "The fun is in the discipline, and the discipline is in the fun!" Once you catch a Hiplet performance, you'll know it's true! Everyone's a dancer in the audience. The crowd

can't sit quietly during a performance — and they are not supposed to! **The Hiplet Ballerinas will be performing at the Auditorium Theater on May 17th. Come, see, and dance for yourself!**

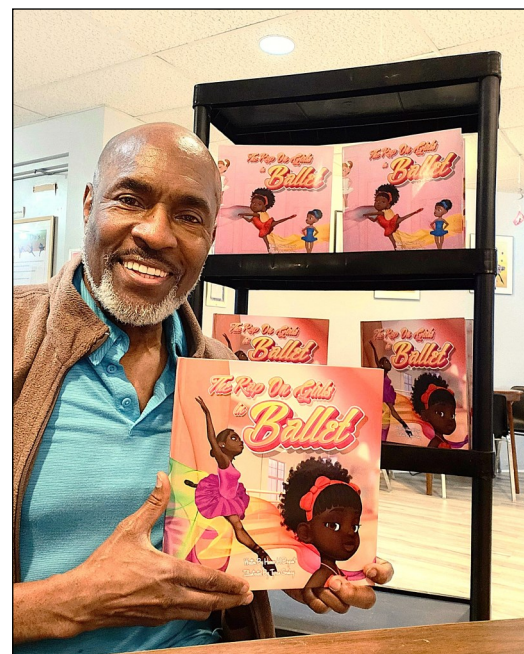
The little ones are so enthralled watching the Hiplet Ballerinas practice and perform that Homer wrote a children's book just for them. *Rap On Girls in Ballet* is available on Amazon.com.

Some CMDC students become professional dancers. Others use the leadership skills they acquired in dance to serve as politicians, teach, and become medical doctors. Homer notes that harnessing the power of using the left and right brain is a unique talent and a strong foundation for achievement in any field. Not only do the students master moving their bodies; they also learn math, physics, and geometry outside of a traditional classroom setting.

*Rap On Girls in Ballet* is dedicated to Alexandra Victoria. Homer and Rhonda's daughter was born with Cerebral Palsy and predicted to live for only seven years.

A working parent, Homer brought his young daughter to the studio. While she never walked, talked, or crawled, Alexandra Victoria would move her fingers to the beat while watching the dancers. Homer professed there was a dancer inside his daughter, who lived to be 27 years old.

No child who wants to dance is turned away from CMDC regardless of their circumstances. *Rap On Girls in Ballet* is dedicated to Alexandra Victoria, and all proceeds go to support the CMDC students.





## Snowbirds Rejoice: Amtrak Launches Service From Chicago To Miami

The Floridian line revives a route that last ran between the two cities in 1979.

by [Pavan Acharya](#) November 12, 2024

Amtrak's new Floridian line made its first trip Sunday, Nov. 11 from Chicago Union Station.

CHICAGO — Looking to escape the Chicago winter? Amtrak [is now offering](#) train service from Chicago Union Station all the way to Miami — with a few stops along the way.

The Floridian line also [makes stops](#) in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., Raleigh, Jacksonville and Orlando over the course of a 47-hour trip.

The new route merges two existing lines: the Capitol Limited that takes riders from Chicago to Washington, D.C., and the Silver Star, which travels between New York and Miami.

The new line is not the first Florida trip in Amtrak's history: Amtrak ran a line [with the same name](#) from Chicago to Miami between 1971 to 1979. A news release from Amtrak in September referred to the Floridian as a "temporary route" combining the Capitol Limited and Silver Star, though it's unclear when it will stop running and those two routes will be reinstated.

"There is no end date that has been determined yet for this Floridian experiment," said Amtrak spokesperson Marc Magliari.

Coach seats on the train start around \$100 one-way, whereas private rooms start closer to \$1,000, according to the [Amtrak website](#). The route will run daily; the full trip takes 47 hours over two nights and 2,000 miles.



## Indivisible Chicago

**1/20 Chicago Rally at Federal Plaza**—we will gather nearby and attend together. Details to follow.

**1/25 Indivisible Chicago Alliance event at Columbia College**—again, we can attend together. Details to follow.

**2/3 Our next Indivisible Downtown meeting.**

**RSVP here:** <https://bit.ly/IDC-RSVP>

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blockclubchicago.org/](https://blockclubchicago.org/)

## 48 hours aboard Amtrak's new direct train from Chicago to Miami

The Sun-Times sent a reporter and photographer on the first run of the Floridian from Chicago to Miami — on one condition. We have to ride the whole way in coach.

By [Ellery Jones](#)

Nov 14, 2024, 9:42am CST

When my boss asked if I wanted to ride the first run of [Amtrak's new Floridian train](#) from Chicago to Miami, I immediately knew my answer.

"YES I WILL GO," I messaged back. "I WILL MAKE SO MANY TIKTOKS."

**CHICAGO**  
**SUN-TIMES**

READ Story [CLICK HERE](#)



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## Escape from Heaven

Two men from different eras. Both are persons of deep faith, intensely believing in something far beyond themselves. Meeting in Heaven, Moses and Jesus decide to work together for the sake of all humanity.

In this powerful, provocative, unique and insightful novel, Moses and Jesus painstakingly discuss faith, tolerance, religion, and bigotry—and the evil

committed throughout history in the name of religion. From Window Rock and Scottsdale, to Chicago, to Milwaukee, to Jerusalem and Netanya in Israel... readers will meet ordinary people who struggle with good versus evil, politics, friendships, religion and spirituality, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Some characters will make you angry. Others will bring tears to your eyes. All will reveal the complexity of the human condition—as seen through the eyes and voices of Moses and Jesus. It is a novel with a series of vignettes in which Moses and Jesus meet ordinary people who struggle with good versus evil, politics, friendships, religion, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. It is about the every-day challenges of life and death, our relationships with God—and all facets of humanity that impact upon the human condition. Moses and Jesus understood the wonders and genius of God. How each individual has the potential to live a life of honest reflection, faith and good works.

Escape from Heaven was a finalist in two categories of the 2023 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards: Philosophy and Religion.

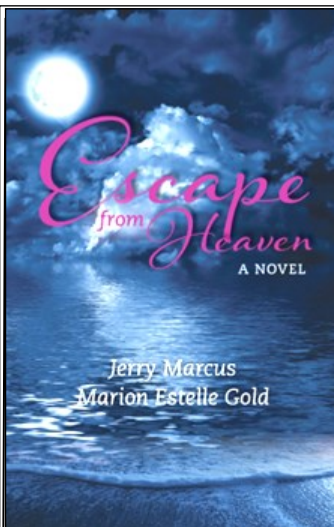
Note from the Publisher: Marcus passed away before Escape from Heaven was published—and he considered this novel his most controversial and important work. Marcus was known for his story-telling skill, his insightful focus on Good vs Evil, and the Human Condition—all wrapped up in compelling novels with characters that come alive to readers. Marcus' character development has been compared to that of Author Chaim Potok—" [Marcus] caused us to care about the characters he created." Some readers commented they felt as though Marcus was personally reading to them—becoming their own private narrator for each of his stories—making them feel deeply connected to his characters. Another reviewer called Marcus' works prophetic. You can read about the interesting author's life at [www.jerrymarcus.com](http://www.jerrymarcus.com).

\$19

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**State Representative Kam Buckner**

## **An Insider's Look at How Illinois is Preparing for the New Administration**

Monday January 13, 2025 11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago  
6th Floor Conference Room

Host: Cynthia Gissele of Enhance Design  
A Brown Bag Lunch Conversation

**Brian Hopkins**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman

**SNA** Streeterville  
Neighborhood  
Advocates



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF CHICAGO



**Description:** Every new Administration presents changes for state and local governments, businesses and individuals. State Representative Kam Buckner will discuss how the Illinois General Assembly is preparing for the new Administration.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)** Registration requested, not necessary.  
We need a count for chair setup. Last minute guests are welcome.

*Potbelly Sandwich Shop on the 2nd floor of the Merchandise Mart will prepare your brown bag lunch for pick-up: (312) 836-1007 or [potbelly.com/order/pickup](https://www.potbelly.com/order/pickup)*



## Demolition Of Former E2 Nightclub Underway After City Reverses Decision

The emergency order by the city's buildings department to raze the historic Motor Row structure ends a three-year battle for owner Randy Shifrin, who plans to replace it with senior housing.

by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) December 19, 2024

The city's landmarks commission unanimously voted to save the former E2 nightclub from demolition Thursday, saying the move would negatively impact the Motor Row district. Credit: Provided.

**MOTOR ROW** — Crews began razing the former E2 Nightclub building weeks after the city issued an emergency order to demolish the structure, reversing an earlier decision to spare it.

[WGN Chicago reported](#) trucks on the site of the 124-year-old Motor Row building Tuesday afternoon after the city's Department of Buildings ordered it demolished on an emergency basis, citing several structural and safety issues found during an inspection in late November.

The court-ordered inspection resulted in five code violations, including structural failure of the bow truss roof system, partial roof collapse, three feet of standing water in the basement and an open elevator shaft, a Department of Buildings spokesperson said. "These building conditions pose an immediate threat to first responders and the public," the spokesperson said.

The start of demolition marks the end of a three-year battle between the city and owner [Randy Shifrin, who purchased the Motor Row building](#) in 2021 with the intention of building a 21-story senior housing development.

Shifrin also planned to have an onsite memorial to honor victims of the 2003 E2 Nightclub tragedy, in which 21 people died in a stampede.

Shifrin had faced opposition on several fronts, including the Near South Planning Board, Preservation Chicago and Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd), who supported the [city's decision to save the structure](#).

Shifrin filed an application for demolition with the landmarks commission in mid-July. In August, the

commission voted to halt plans to raze the building, saying "demolition of the subject property will adversely affect and destroy significant historical and architectural features of the property and the district."

Zoning issues also complicated matters as the building is zoned strictly for commercial use, something that Shifrin has been trying to change since buying the property.

Former Alderman Howard Brookins, who is Shifrin's attorney, said Shifrin is "ecstatic" to move forward.

Brookins previously told Block Club Shifrin had considered pursuing legal action against the city as Shifrin was still incurring fines for code violations. Brookins accused the city of punishing Shifrin for talking to the media, adding that his client sought to demolish the property after being told it wasn't structurally sound.

When asked if Shifrin still plans to file a lawsuit against the city, Brookins did not respond.



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

### THE PALLBEARERS OF THANKSGIVING



Milo Savich

### New Novel by Local Author

*A group of unemployed steelworkers from Wisconsin Steel on the south side of Chicago organize a Thanksgiving Day demonstration in 1983 in order to call attention to their plight after the mill was suddenly shut down. Their gimmick is a coffin that the demonstrators will carry that represents the death of the American steelworker.*

Savich's searing prose captures the rough life of the steelworkers with wry humor and compassion, especially their struggles, camaraderie, and feelings of betrayal. The characters are all well-etched, complex, and true to life, and their talk is funny, bleak, pained, and convincing ... these creations and lives linger in the mind after the last page....

— *BookLife*

\$14.95 92 pages ISBN: 978-1-7374709-3-9

Available on Amazon



## International students unsure of Trump's green card promise

By Sofia Oyarzun, Bilingual Reporter  
November 1, 2024

One of former President Donald Trump's "Day One" promises, if elected, is to give all foreign students a green card upon graduation.

Trump proposed the idea during a [podcast](#) appearance in June, saying it would keep students from going back home to "become multi-billionaires, employ thousands and thousands of people, and it could've been here."

Trump said he would have put this into action in his last term if it weren't for the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Alexandra Filindra, professor of political science and psychology at the University of Illinois Chicago, described the proposal as "incredibly difficult."

Current immigration law has three broad categories of green cards: asylum, family reunification and the smallest category, employment-based, which was limited to 160,791 people for the [2024 fiscal year](#).

"Essentially, to change the laws that apply to foreign graduates and say that there's going to be a guarantee, that requires congressional action," she said. "So, because there are such strong divisions, both between parties and within parties, about what to prioritize, it is very very unlikely that that would happen."

Foreign students are able to study in the U.S. through either an F-1 visa, for full-time academic studies at an accredited university or college, or an M-1 visa, for full-time vocational studies.

Clare Lake, director of International Student Scholar Services at Columbia, had a hard time believing Trump was serious, pointing out his prior [efforts to rescind](#) Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

"What kind of president would try to overturn DACA, and then say 'I'm going to give all international students permanent residency?'" he said. "I just think the history of Donald Trump on immigration clearly stated this as a campaign promise."

Eunkyung Kim, a junior music major from Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific, dreams of staying in the United States after graduation. But she was shocked to learn about Trump's proposal and wondered if it was even feasible.

"I want to stay here," Kim said. "That's my main goal. I really want to stay here, and live a life here, [but] it's really hard to stay here. But if I have the green card, then it's going to be so much easier, because I wouldn't have to work to obtain a visa."



People stand outside of Chicago's early voting Supersite location with signs at 191 N. Clark St. on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024. [Addison Annis](#)

Alice Abreu, a senior film and communications major, plans to move back to her hometown, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after graduating early in December. Though she said Trump's proposal was a great idea, she also questioned its viability, specifically in regard to obtaining employment authorization for international students on an F-1 visa to work a year in their field of study.

Currently, students of science, technology, engineering or mathematics are eligible to apply for a two-year extension; however, students of other fields cannot. Being an art student, Abreu intends to avoid the stress of trying to seek the authorization by continuing her work back home.

"It's such a challenge, to find a job without being allowed to be in the country for over a year," Abreu said. "I don't feel like there are enough incentives for us to stay here. So it really is contradicting, to think that he doesn't want immigrants to be in the country, but then if you get a degree, then you can."

Sam Herrera, senior music major from Monterrey, Mexico, suggested Trump's proposal was a "political tactic," and said it is weird for her to hear foreign policies discussed on TV, over the news and by her peers, while she has no say in the matters affecting her.

"I feel like international students right now, we're just observers of what's going on, when it's actually something that will most likely be something impactful for us too."

*Copy edited by Manuel Nocera*

## New Illinois Laws In 2025: What You Need To Know

State laws taking effect on or after Jan. 1 will impact Chicago workers and their employers, including drivers, firefighters and others.

by [Grace Xue](#) December 30, 2024

CHICAGO — With the new year comes a series of legislative changes in Illinois.

From workplace protections to environmental sustainability, these updates aim to enhance the lives of residents and ensure businesses comply with modern standards.

### Here's a look at some of the new laws for 2025:

#### Ban On Single-Use Plastic Bottles In Hotels

A guest bathroom at Nobu Hotel in the West Loop. Credit: Provided Starting July 1, hotels with 50 or more rooms will no longer be allowed to provide guests with small, single-use plastic bottles for products like shampoo, conditioner or lotion. By Jan. 1, 2026, the ban will apply to hotels with fewer than 50 rooms.

The ban covers bottles provided in guest rooms as well as those in shared public bathrooms. Hotels that violate the law may face fines.

"Illinois is a national leader in protecting the environment," said state Sen. Laura Fine in a press release. "By reducing their footprint and opting for more economical and environmentally-friendly toiletry options, Illinois' hotel industry will keep thousands of pounds of plastic out of our landfills and waterways over the years."

#### Job Listings To Disclose Salary And Benefits

As a result of an amendment to the Equal Pay Act of 2003, Illinois employers with 15 or more employees will now be required to disclose pay scales in all job postings. Employers working with third-party platforms to post job ads must also provide salary details to these platforms to include in listings.

People can report companies that violate the law to the Illinois Department of Labor, which could lead to penalties.

"Pay transparency is the key to ending wage discrimination and ensuring every employee gets fair pay for a fair day's work," state Rep. Mary Beth Canty said in a press release. "A more transparent workplace that empowers employees is better for everyone."

#### Minimum Wage Increase

Starting Jan. 1, the state's minimum wage will increase from \$14 to \$15 an hour for employees ages 18 and older. Workers under 18 will receive \$13 an hour, up from \$12 an hour, and the minimum wage for tipped employees will rise from \$8.40 to \$9.

These changes are part of a multi-year plan enacted in 2019 to gradually raise wages and ensure a living wage for Illinois workers.

More information about the minimum wage law can be found on the Department of Labor [website](#).

#### Mental Health Benefits For First Responders

First responders in Illinois — including police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, corrections officers and deputy sheriffs — will have access to mental health counseling without any out-of-pocket costs under a new law.

Counties and municipalities that provide health insurance, including self-insured plans, must include this coverage for first-responder employees without deductibles, copays or coinsurance.

The measure aims to remove financial barriers to mental health care and provide critical support for those who face intense and stressful work environments.

"We owe it to these brave individuals to provide them with the support and resources they need to heal and recover from the daily trauma they continuously endure in the line of duty," said state Sen. Michael E. Hastings in a press release. "By addressing mental health issues early on, we can prevent more serious and costly con-



Read the rest. [CLICK](#) here!



## 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 Jan. 15,2025  
5:30 pm @ Grace Place  
Beat 123



caps.001district@chicagopolice.org

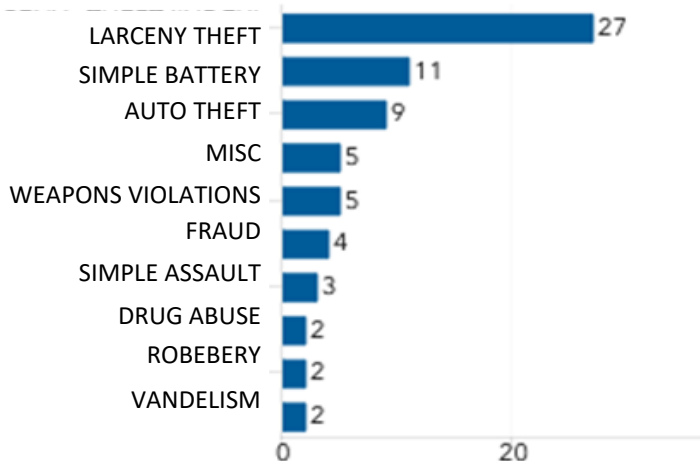
# Police Blotter



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

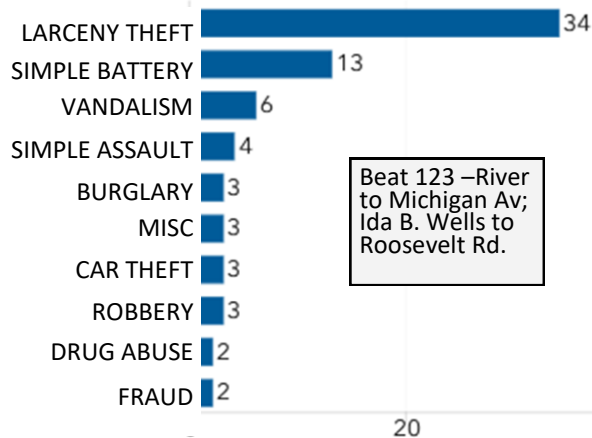
- 12/23/2024 9:30pm 1200 S Wabash  
SIMPLE BATTERY Jewel Beat 131
- 12/21/2024 1:30pm 1200 S Wabash  
SIMPLE BATTERY small retail Beat 131
- 12/19/2024 10pm 1200 S Wabash  
SIMPLE BATTERY Jewel Beat 131
- 12/13/2024 4:40pm 1200 S Wabash  
SIMPLE BATTERY small retail store Beat 131
- 12/9/2024 11:30PM 1200 S Wabash  
SIMPLE ASSAULT on street Beat 131
- 12/12/2024 11am 0E Roosevelt Rd  
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Knife Street Beat 131
- 12/9/2024 4am 1400 S Wabash  
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun Street Beat 131
- 12/22/2024 5:30pm 1400 S Michigan Av  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon on street  
Beat 131
- 12/20/2024 12 midnight 1400 S Wabash  
BURGLARY Forcible Entry Bus. Office Beat 131
- 12/20/2024 6:57am 1500 S Wabash  
BURGLARY Unlawful entry Tavern Beat 131
- 12/19/2024 2:30pm 600 S State  
ARMED ROBBERY knife Subway train Beat 123
- 12/18/2024 3pm 500 S State  
SIMPLE ASSAULT Restaurant Beat 123
- 12/14/2024 8:55pm 800 S Wabash
- 12/10/2024 6:45pm 1100 Delano Ct  
ARMED ROBBERY Small Retail store Beat 123
- 12/23/2024 3:09pm 1100 S Clark  
AUTO THEFT Non-Res Parking Garage (Target)  
Beat 123
- 12/23/2024 7am 1000 S Wabash  
AUTO THEFT Non Res Parking Beat 123
- 12/10/2024 9:50am 900 S Wabash  
AUTO THEFT Street
- 12/12/2024 11am 40 E 8<sup>th</sup>  
AUTO THEFT Parking Beat 123

## Top 10 Crimes



## Top 10 Crimes

PERIOD NOV 30 TO DEC 14, 2024



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

We only report violent crime and car theft. We don't report the biggest category of crime in Beat 123 which is theft because it doesn't cause bodily harm.

## THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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## Real Estate Transactions

\$420,000  
1322 S PRAIRIE AVE 407  
11/27/24

\$145,000  
740 S FEDERAL AVE 1002  
11/27/24

\$305,000  
1160 S MICHIGAN AVE 1004  
11/26/24

\$675,000  
1501 S INDIANA AVE I  
11/25/24

\$369,500  
1143 S PLYMOUTH CT 107  
11/22/24

\$341,000  
1525 S MICHIGAN AVE 111 P36  
11/21/24

\$372,500  
61 E 15<sup>TH</sup> ST 507  
11/20/24

\$355,000  
1520 S WABASH AVE 4E  
11/19/24

\$320,000  
1464 S MICHIGAN AVE 507  
11/19/24

\$474,000  
1101 S STATE ST 2000 P15  
11/19/24

\$1,125,000  
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 6002  
11/12/24

\$207,500  
40 E 9<sup>TH</sup> ST 1117  
11/12/24

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**[tomfeddor@gmail.com](mailto:tomfeddor@gmail.com)**







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3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2000 sq ft  
\$750,000 HOA \$1334

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Compass  
312.437.7777



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2 Bed, 1.5 Bath 1100 Sq Ft  
\$425,000 HOA \$487

Stacey Childs  
Real People Realty  
773.620.8069



124 W Polk #901  
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath 2600 Sq Ft  
\$625,000 HOA \$1349

Terri Buseman  
RE/MAX Premier  
312.208.5166

899 S Plymouth Ct #1403  
2 bed, 1.5 bath 1250 sq Ft  
\$295,000 HOA \$981

Lauren Vula  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
708.307.1443



5 E 14<sup>th</sup> Pl #502  
1 bed, 1 bath, 900 sq ft  
\$330,000 HOA \$530

DeVon Chandler  
Real Broker LLC  
708.527.6336



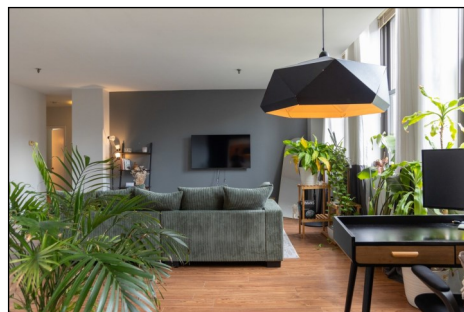
1211 S Prairie Ave #1005  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1465 sq ft  
\$695,000 HOA \$1057

Suchi Bhagat  
Compass  
224.522.4878



680 S Federal #602  
2 Bed, 2 Bath 1200 Sq Ft  
\$299,900 HOA \$842

Tanya Cochran  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
773.387.2896



600 S Dearborn St #614  
1 bed, 1 bath. 950 sq ft  
\$240,000 HOA \$493

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1250 S Michigan Ave  
#1200  
1 bed, 1 bath, 850 sq ft  
\$283,000 HOA \$564

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