

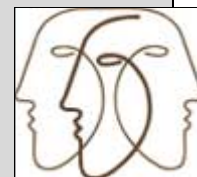


THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

SPONSORED BY THE
SOUTH LOOP REFERRAL GROUP
SERVING PRINTERS ROW AND
DEARBORN PARK

AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

Dearbornexpress.net



Hiatus

We took a break from the news by going on vacation. It's impossible to eliminate the bombardment of news. But in this case, "less is more." We traveled by Amtrak to Denver. There is no wifi on Amtrak. And you actually have long conversation with your travel mates at dinner. You share your table. Arriving at Union Station, you realize that there is no Homeland Security and no one checks your ID. You don't need no damn "Real" ID. And you don't have to worry about Air Traffic Controllers who are stretched too thin and need upgraded equipment. Below is from the new web page for Columbia College as it changes names of DEI initiatives following President Trump's attacks on higher education. See page 18.

ACADEMIC ACCESS AND EXCELLENCE

Academic Access and Excellence



Photo: Phil Dembinski '20

Welcome to the website for Academic Access and Excellence at Columbia College Chicago.

Academic Access and Excellence
Non-discrimination, Access and Inclusion Mission Statement
Executive Committee
Curriculum Excellence and Co-Curricular Support Grants
Student Engagement Resources
FAQs
Contact
Events
Haystack Summer 2024 Fellowship



Alder forum at Grace Place sponsored by ONE COMMUNITY NEAR SOUTH on April 22. See page 15 for an overview of what was discussed at this forum.

May 10, 2025

Vol. 13, No.6

In this Issue



Beth Finke
Guest essayist Sheila Kamuda from Beth's Senior Memoir Writing Class
Page 16



Marianne Goss:
Too Savvy to be Scammed? I was mistaken.
Page 4



Regan Burke:
Chicago's Urban Wildlife: Embracing Pluralism and Nature
Page 9

INDEX

Lorraine Schmall Book Review.....	page 6
AMC theater opens at Roosevelt Collection	page 10
Newcity	page 11
Entertainment	page 2, 12
May Day Protests.....	page 14
Columbus Statues not returning.....	page 17
Bonnie, Gone but not Forgotten.....>.....	page 23
Police Blotter	page 22, 23
Real Estate	page 24, 25

JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sat, May 8-10, 8pm & 10pm.....Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet
 Sun, May 11, 4pm & 8pm.....Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet
 Mon, May 12, 8pm & 10pm.....Julia Danielle Quartet
 Tue, May 13, 7:30pm.....Cyso Jazz Orchestra
 Wed, May 14, 5pm.....Jazz Links Jam Session
 Thu-Sun, May 15-18, 8pm & 10pm.....Pharez Whitted Quintet
 Sun, May 18, 4pm & 8pmPharez Whitted Quintet
 Mon, May 19, 8pm & 10pm.....Christian Dillinham
 Tue, May 20, 8pm & 10pm.....Steve Schneck
 Wed, May 21, 8pm & 10pm.....WDCB 90.0FM
 Thu-Sun, May 22-25, 8pm & 10pm.....Joe Farnsworth Trio
 Sun, May 25, 4pm & 8pmJoe Farnsworth Trio
 Tue, May 27, 8pm.....Petra's Recession Seven
 Thu-Sun, May 29-June 1, 8pm.....Abigale Riccards Quintet



Dearborn Station

312.360.0234

806 S. Plymouth Court

CHICAGO, 60605

Jazzshowcase.com

Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet May 8—May 11



Pharez Whitted Quintet May 15-18



Welcome to Jazz Showcase where Jazz lives in Chicago since 1947. Our exclusive 170 seat venue features the best Jazz acts you'll find anywhere in the Chicago area. Tickets are now available online. Don't forget to sign up for our e-mail newsletter so you don't miss out on our upcoming shows!

CPA_____

Valero & Associates, Inc.

**Marlene P. Valero, CPA,
MST**

47 W. Polk Street

Ste. 100-273

Chicago, IL 60605

(773)592.0472

Marlene.p.valero

@gmail.com

mindworks

The University of Chicago Booth School of Business
PIMCO Decision Research Laboratories

First & only museum all about the science of decision-making recently opened in Chicago. At Mindworks, you'll uncover the science behind:

- Goal-setting & motivation
- Common cognitive biases
- First impressions
- How to make wiser decisions
- And more!

Learn more & book your free visit

mindworkschicago.org

224 S Michigan Av
across from the Art Institute



JG GOOD CORPORATION

SECURITY CONSULTANTS

info@jggoodcorp.com

224.763.0843

- Security Assessments
- Security Presentations
- Expert Witness Testimony

South Loop Neighbors

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

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

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

Chicago River to Lake Michigan. www.southloopneighbors.org

South Loop Neighbors

Elected board

President - Jim Wales

Vice President – Jack Chalabian

Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell

Treasurer – Rob Hard

Director & Chair of Membership – Sarah Breedlove

Director & Chair of Webmaster/Tech – Pierce Boyd-Bagby

Director & Chair of Newsletter - Diana Turowski

Director & Chair of Planning & Development – Tyler Jones

Director – Greg Borzo

Director – Susan Zinner

Best Deal in the South Loop

South Loop Neighbors has two forms of memberships. A full dues paying membership, and a free affiliate membership.

A full dues paying membership provides several benefits, helps SLN pay for operational costs, and provides member rate discounts for events throughout the year. In addition to receiving the monthly digital SLN newsletter, full members can attend our annual member dinner for free. For more information and to sign up for SLN membership, [click here](#).



Jaqi Green

Off. 312-922-5888

Cell 847-542-1340

899 S. Plymouth Ct.

Chicago 60605

JaqiGIInt@gmail.com



Jim Wales

847-815-9459

kw ONEChicago
KELLERWILLIAMS.

Specializing in Printers Row Properties

Email: j.wales@kw.com

BEST
PLACES TO WORK

Chicago
REALTORS

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.



Too savvy to be scammed? I was mistaken.

By **Marianne Goss** March 31, 2025

If you are an AARP member, you received its March/April *Bulletin* with FRAUD in three-inch red letters on the cover. Inside, five articles discussed the increasing problem of scams.

I didn't read them, thinking I was too savvy to be scammed.

The week after putting the issue into the recycle bin, I fell for a scam. I'm embarrassing myself by telling about it in the hope that my story will warn others.

My email had a message, supposedly from Norton Utilities, saying that \$699.99 had been deducted from my checking account for a subscription. It contained a phone number to call immediately if I hadn't subscribed.

If I'd paused to think, I would have looked for the charge in my checking account. But Norton Utilities is legitimate, and I was alarmed, so I called the number in the email. The refund wasn't disputed, but processing it involved an extended phone conversation with thick-accented people. I was given a link to a form and cautioned to be careful filling it out because mistakes could not be corrected. An extra 2 and 6 mysteriously appeared before the 699.99 (no \$). I was scolded for "a huge mistake" and told I now owed thousands of dollars and should stay on the phone for instructions about how to refund them.

In retrospect it seems incredible that I did not realize that my computer was being hacked as I filled out the form and, more stupidly, looked at my checking account for the \$699.99 and \$26,699.99 transactions. My mind was on the Chicago Greeter tour for which I would be late if I didn't get off the phone. The other person threatened that if I hung up, my bank account would be locked for four months. I finally regained my wits and cut off the call when the instructions involved withdrawing \$25,000 in cash immediately, not telling anyone why, and taking the cash to an ATM at another location.

As I walked downtown for the tour, my phone rang more than a dozen times in the next 20 minutes before I blocked the number. There were also text messages, one of which said, "YOU ARE LIER, THIEF, DON'T DO ANYTHING MADAM OTHER WISE IT WILL COST YOU LOTS OF THING."

Along the way I stopped into my bank to freeze my account and made arrangements to come back to change my account number. The teller found that the scammers had moved \$23,000 from my money market account into my

checking account, proving that they'd been in my hard drive. I had to change the deposit number on my auto-pay bills. I also froze my investment accounts (I already had credit freezes), in case the scammers accessed everything on my computer.



My niece Sarah knows a college student who is majoring in cybersecurity. She asked his advice, which was to shut down the computer and consult a computer repair person because the scammers probably put malware on it. Two days after the incident I took the computer to a cybersecurity specialist. His investigation found that my computer is safe, but he advised me to pay close attention to financial transactions.

A bigger hassle than changing the bank account was changing passwords. I'd been lazy about changing weak and duplicated ones. Following advice about creating strong passwords, I realized that I'd never remember any and decided it was simpler to let my browser's password manager create them. I also enabled two-factor authorization whenever possible.

On Saturday, just as I was feeling more relaxed, I discovered that the bank teller had made the mistake of closing the new checking account, not the old one. I was back to worrying until the branch reopened on Monday.

Everything seems to be fixed now, except my brain. What's bothering me is not the cybersecurity fee or the lost time but how I could have been so gullible. "There's a Reason Even the Smartest People Fall for Scams," said a [headline](https://www.verywellmind.com) at verywellmind.com. It listed many reasons, including "fear reactions that lead us to ignore our logical thought processes." I was led by emotions and not my brain.

The AARP fraud issue was still in the recycle bin, and I retrieved and read it. Many of the tips were things I'd already done, but it doesn't hurt to be reminded not to call the number in an email or text or to click on a link. I hope the experience has made me sufficiently suspicious.

COMMENT

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

South Loop Neighbors Yard Sale

Saturday, June 7th, 9 am

Free to attend as a seller or buyer

Location: Dearborn (Henry Park)

865 S. Park Terrace, 60605

Members Vendors: Free

Non-members Vendors: Free

Volunteer to help with event, contact benjamin@southloopneighbors.org

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 the donor).

Spots are 1st come 1st serve as there is always plenty of space to spread out. Most folks like to line up along the path going through the park. The South Loop Neighbors does not provide tables, but you are welcome to bring your own and many sellers use blankets on the grass to line items up if they don't have tables.

Questions? email: benjamin@southloopneighbors.org



May is AAPI Month!

We're proud to support Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago this May with an in-kind gift card donation to help power their critical work for equity and advocacy.

This amazing organization fights for civil rights and builds power in AAPI communities across Illinois—and we're honored to stand beside them.

Want to give back too? Learn more or make a donation directly, scan the QR code!



Learn more & donate here:



Soil Give-Back with a Purpose

This month, we got our hands dirty—in the best way! Our team volunteered at the Soil Give-Back hosted by our composting partner and brought over 40lbs of healthy hot soil for the garden and planters!

We're using it to nourish the garden beds and native prairie plants that support pollinators. Sustainability isn't just a buzzword for us—it's baked into everything we do, from soil to cup.

Stay tuned for photos and progress as their pollinator haven grows! 🌱🐝



HALF SOUR

Neighborhood Cafe & Bar



755 S. Clark St.

www.halfsourchicago.com
@halfsourchicago

*Mention The Dearborn Express for a neighborhood discount

Best Indian and Nepali food at Curry house

Our recipes are simple, natural, low fat, and authentic. Prepared from the freshest chicken, lamb, seafood, and vegetables.

10% Off total bill when mentioning this ad.



899 S. Plymouth Court

312.362.9999



- Brunch
- Daily Specials
- Catering

700 S. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60605
[\(P\) 312-528-5900](tel:312-528-5900)

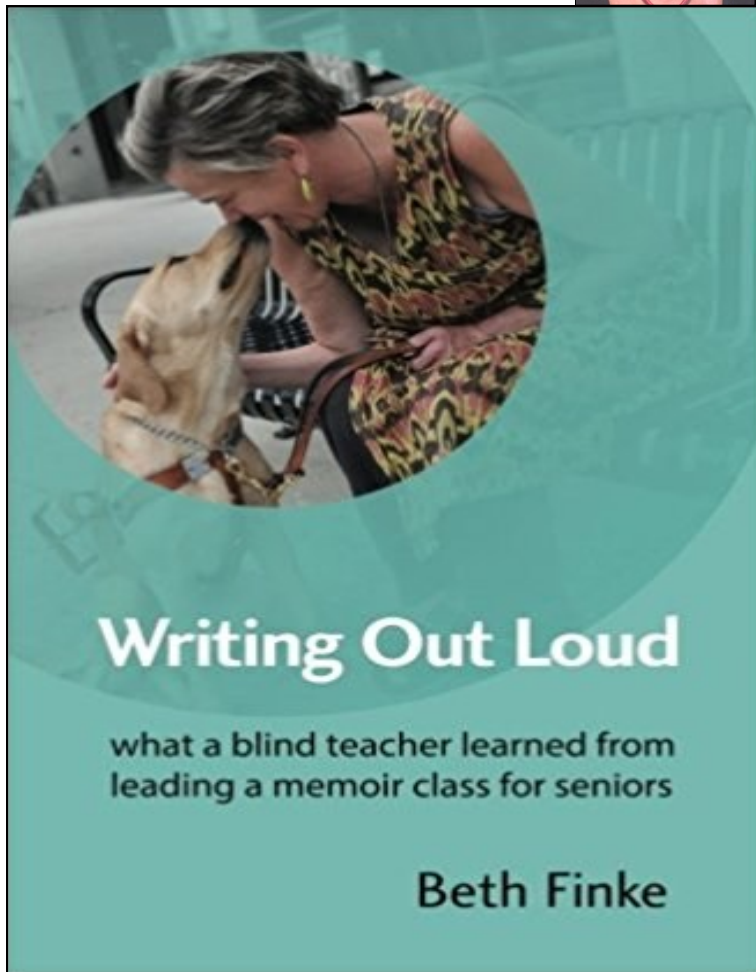
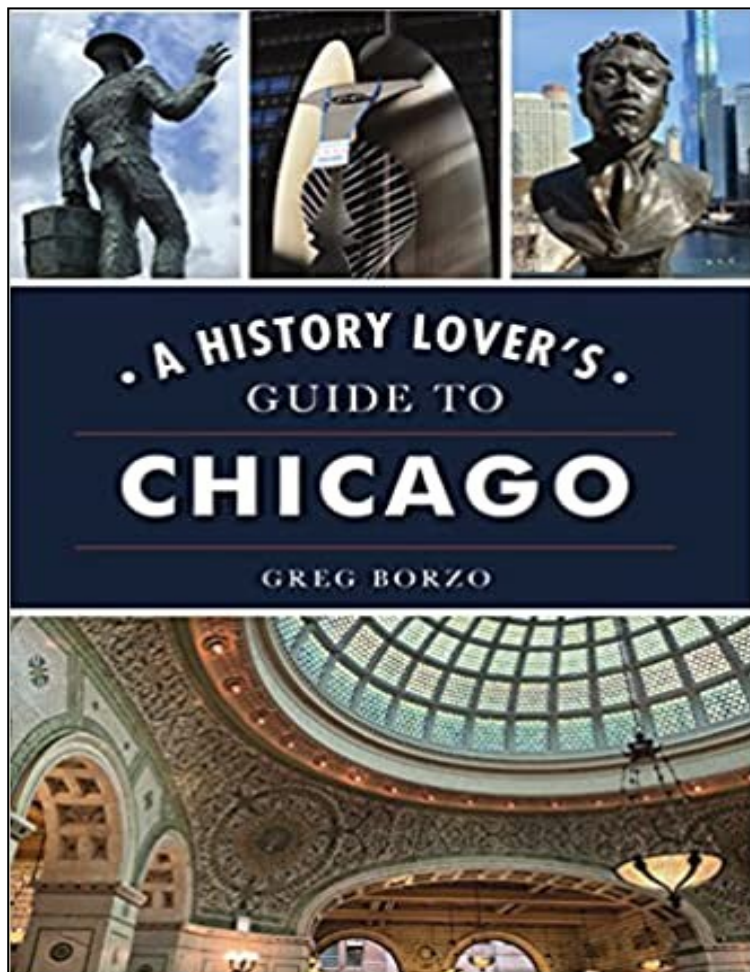
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage
Month: **Burnt Sugar** by Avni Doshi

It was 115 degrees in Delhi on Mother's Day. After the walk from the carpark, the blast of cold air from the A/C was disorienting—almost sickening. Inside, a room full of women dined on elaborate fruit drinks and coconut curries. One mother and daughter were dressed alike. As they spoke in hushed tones, we wondered whether any of their lives were as fraught as that of the artist narrator, Antara, and her mother, Tara—who named her only child after herself in Avni Doshi's first novel, **Burnt Sugar**. This is the story of uneven love, resentment, and selective memory. It's about women's desire to choose their own lives and the costs levied against them and their families as a result of those choices. It's about an old auntie, who wanted to become a Jain nun, and shave her head and climb a thousand stairs to fast and pray to her god, but was beaten and locked in her room by a father who thought ill of such nonsense. It's about a young, blue-eyed blonde from Pennsylvania, a wife and a mother who lost both her husband and her child in a car crash and travelled 10,000 miles to an Ashram in India to become the first paramour of a Baba who would replace her with a

ran away, dragging her tiny daughter from homelessness to neglect to become the Baba's next lover. It's about Antara, a daughter abandoned by her father and often tortured by a mother who still hopes to even the score. It's about the natural course of mother-daughter relationships, where roles are frequently reversed. As Tara sinks into dementia, Antara must give her mother the care she never got: because Tara has no one else, because Antara is a South Asian daughter, because she loves her Ma. Antara's life coach says "her on grasp on reality is being shredded." Both mother and daughter say and do things to each other that make a reader wince. Antara tried to "bring up instances of her [mother's] cruelty, casually over tea," and record the hurt on her mother's face. Tara reminds her daughter, after giving birth to her own daughter, that "you always used to make me feel like shit." This book is either dark humor or stark cruelty. The novel stops—it doesn't end—as Antara clings to the notion that it is "unfair that Ma can put away the past from her mind while I'm brimming with it all the time." Step into the chaos; it may feel familiar.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / Mayl, 2025





Welcome to Sandmeyer's Bookstore!
Independent. Local. Family-owned.
 From the moment you walk into Sandmeyer's Bookstore, you can tell the difference.



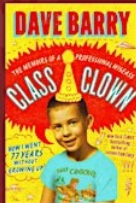
Sandmeyer's Bookstore has served Chicago's South Loop since 1982, providing quality new books and unbeatable service. A true mom-and-pop shop, Sandmeyer's Bookstore has been family-owned and operated since the beginning.

Come browse our extensive collection of new releases, travel guides and children's books. Whether it's a fresh copy of an old favorite or the latest bestseller, you're always going to find something good at Sandmeyer's.

714 S. Dearborn
 312.922.2104

DAVE BARRY
Class Clown



May 15 | Chicago Hope Academy | 6:00 pm CT

How does the son of a Presbyterian minister wind up winning a Pulitzer Prize for writing a wildly inaccurate newspaper column read by millions of people? America's most beloved wiseass, **Dave Barry**, finally tells his life story with all the humor you'd expect from a man who made a career out of making fun of pretty much everything. Barry will be interviewed by **Mark Bazer** of *The Interview Show* on WTTW. Books will be sold at the event and Barry will sign them following the program.

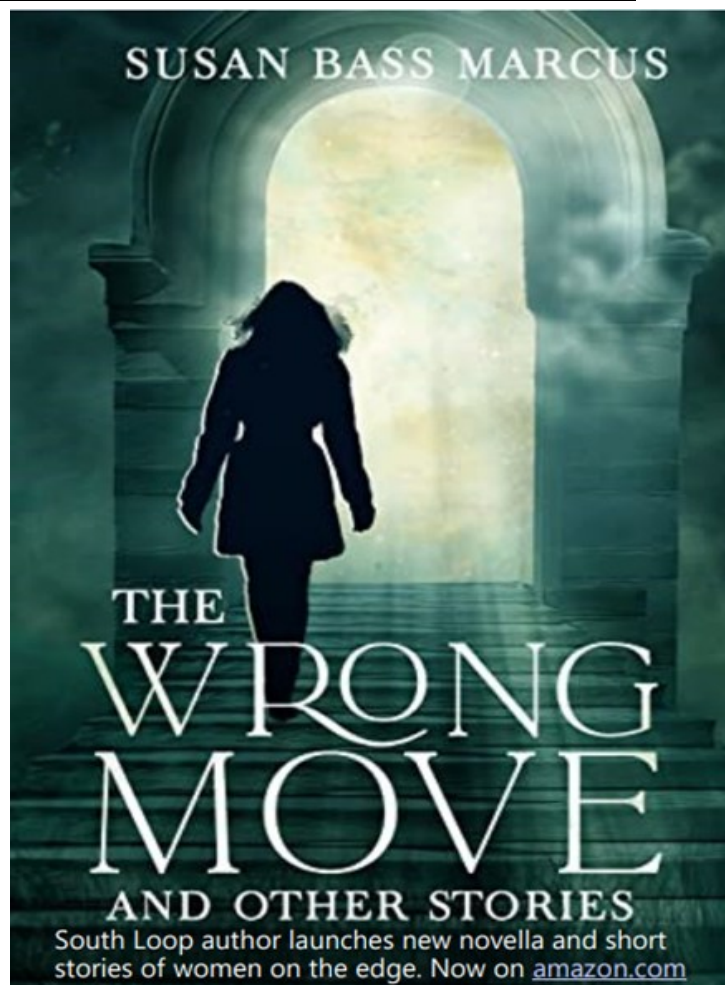
This event takes place at Chicago Hope Academy. The entrance to the auditorium is through the parking lot at **2156 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60612**. This lot can be used for parking, as well as additional street parking on neighboring streets. Please leave enough time for transportation and parking. The program begins promptly at 6:00 pm CT.

AWM Members: use the code sent to you via email for 15% off your order!



American Writers Museum
 180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
 Chicago, IL 60601

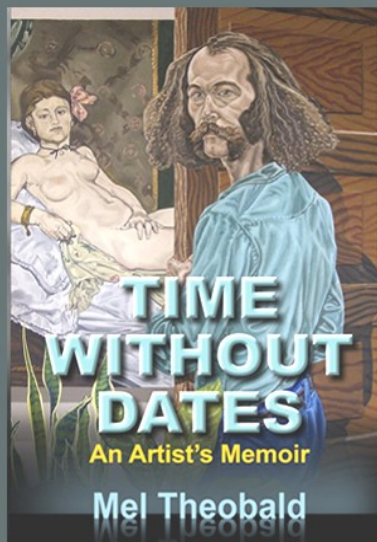
<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>



Time Without Dates

An Artist's Memoir

by Mel Theobald



In this candid memoir, the author pays tribute to the mentors and events that inspired him and lays bare the experiences that shaped him as an artist. The Art Institute of Chicago plays a central role in the years he spent as a student, museum conservator, and alumni leader. His struggles with his parents' archaic ideals and his dreams give rise to a thoroughly engaging association with an elite art community.

He became a university professor and graphic designer before receiving an invitation to Russia in 1990. This book is a prelude to *Inside the Enigma*, an intricate account of that transformative year, and defines the complexity of his foray into the inner workings of an art museum, university and the people who represent the heart and soul of his creativity. Art, science and religion are the cornerstones of his belief that creativity, technology and faith in nature will lead man to a higher consciousness.

For more details about the author, go to: www.theobaldart.com

Hardcover, 358 pages, \$30

For ordering information, email: theobaldart@gmail.com



South Loop Neighbors Present: Transit History in the South Loop

Wed., May 14, 2025 Program: 7 – 8 pm

Refreshments: 8 - 9 pm

Free, open to the public

Piano Forte, 1335 S. Michigan Ave.

Speakers will present a richly illustrated PowerPoint covering the colorful history of transit in the South Loop from the 1850s to today, including horsecars, cable cars, electric trolleys, the “L” & buses.

Greg Borzo, early transit, cable cars and the origin of the “L”

Greg is an award-winning journalist and historian. He has written several books about Chicago, including *Chicago Cable Cars*, *The Chicago “L”* and *A History Lover’s Guide to Chicago*. He lives in Library Tower and is a member of the South Loop Neighbors Board.

Jack Chalabian, electric trolleys, buses and the current transit scene

Jack is a transit expert and a transportation planning professional with over 20 years of experience. He works at the Chicago Transit Authority and advocates for sustainable transportation and infrastructure improvements in the South Loop. He is a member of the South Loop Neighbors Board.

For more information, Greg Borzo:
(312) 636-8968;
gregborzo54@gmail.com

RSVP Transit History

SOUTHLOOP
NEIGHBORS

CHICAGO
Burger Alley

OPERATING HOURS

MONDAY 11AM-11PM

TUESDAY CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 11AM-11PM

THURSDAY 11AM-12AM

FRIDAY 11AM-12AM

SATURDAY 11AM-12AM

SUNDAY 11AM-5PM

829 S Wabash Ave

312.254.8960

Eat-in

Carry Out

Delivery

312.285.2282

616 S Wabash

Laoszechuanonwabash.com



lao sze chuan
WABASH



Necessary and Sufficient is a woman-owned coffee shop in Logan Square. (Grace Wong / Chicago Tribune)

**GOOD INGREDIENTS
MAKE GOOD FOOD.**

We only use local, fresh, whole and organic ingredients.

If it's going in our body,
then it better be good.



necessary and sufficient

728 S Dearborn, Printers Row

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.

Chicago's Urban Wildlife: Embracing Pluralism and Nature

Regan Burke May 5, 2025



All over early-morning Chicago, garbage trucks back in and out of alleys using rapid beep-beep-beep signals announcing their hulking presence. Elsa the dog and I are indifferent to this annoyance as we take our morning walk. But in mid-April, we both jumped to attention. We heard what seemed like a hundred garbage trucks backing up. The wildly unfamiliar bellowed from a block down the street.

"What's going on Elsa?" I shouted down to my agitated Westie on the sidewalk. All of a sudden two honking Sandhill Cranes flew through the center of the street below the treetops. Their wingspan swooped past us from sidewalk to sidewalk as they glided and bellowed toward Lake Michigan.

Elsa flew into a barking rage. I lost my breath. My knees buckled. The Sandhill Crane is an ancient animal whose sole purpose is entertainment.

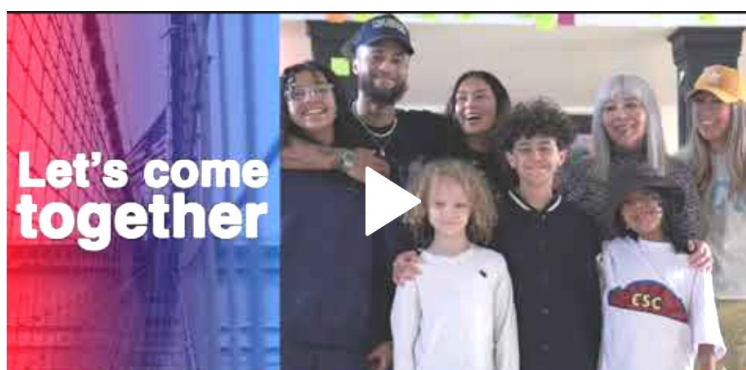
I love these four-foot high red-headed trumpeting birds. I once traveled to the Platte River on the edge of Nebraska's Sandhills for their spring migration. My friends and I joined serious birders on the 5:00 am riverbank to view 600,000 roosting Sandhill Cranes. Their summer and winter homes are the northern and southern edges of the Great Plains. They are North Americans, Midwesterners.

Where did this duo come from and where were they going? They were likely in a flock following the Great Lakes Flyway, the migration route to their summer home in the boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada. Perhaps they were lured away by a mischief of rats feasting on the overflowing garbage bins in the alleys of nearby restaurants. Did a garbage truck disturb their hunt? Whatever the story, I am deeply grateful they strayed from the flock and flew into my morning fugue.

Fugue? Yes, lately every morning I awake in a seemingly altered state. Oh, I tend a regular household routine, brain-fogged by radio news from the psychobattleground that is my home country. Any diversion is welcome, particularly wildlife making its way through my city street.

But diversions, like bird spotting, are fleeting. The pluralistic society we've known as democracy is under siege. Pluralism, a word as ancient as the Sandhills themselves, one we learned in middle school, has been displaced of late by DEI or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. DEI was corporate America's answer to the communal guilt stemming from the sight of George Floyd's on-air murder. The lofty goal of transforming Human Resource departments into offices of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion crashed and burned on the heels of Donald Trump's name-calling presidential candidate Kamala Harris a "DEI" hire. Little did we know then, the summer of 2024. The weaponizing of DEI was not a diversion. Instead, it was a tactic in a larger strategy to destroy pluralism and make America White and Christian.

Interfaith America, the nation's premier interfaith organization, has come to the battlefield now — taking the case for pluralism to the streets. A giant digital billboard in one of the most diverse locations in the country, Times Square, New York City, shows Interfaith America's devotion to American pluralism. The message: diversity makes our country stronger. I'm in here, proud to represent my cohort, old white ladies with their dogs. Take a look.



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.



New Releases

Coming Soon!

SANDMEYER'S BOOKSTORE

714 S. Dearborn
312.922.2104

AMC theater to open in South Loop — with IMAX to come

The AMC Roosevelt 16 location will open in the Roosevelt Collection retail complex — replacing the former ShowPlace Icon Theatre that closed last summer.

By Cindy Hernandez Apr 23, 2025, 3:30pm CDT

AMC Theaters will open its newest theater in the South Loop Friday. (April 24th, 2025)

The AMC Roosevelt 16 location will open in the Roosevelt Collection retail complex, replacing the former ShowPlace Icon Theatre that closed last summer.

Tickets are now on sale for shows beginning Friday, the company announced Wednesday. Fourteen of the 16 auditoriums are expected to be open by May 2.

The theater has power-reclining seats, which guests can reserve ahead of the show. There will also be a full concessions menu and bar serving beer, wine and cocktails, according to AMC.

“The opening of AMC Roosevelt Collection 16 has been eagerly awaited by guests in the Chicago area,” Dan Ellis, executive vice president and chief operations and redevelopment officer at AMC, said in a statement. “We’re excited to provide top-notch amenities and a wide variety of programming to the South Loop community — just in time for some of this year’s biggest blockbuster hits.”

Though not available yet, the theater will add Dolby Cinema and IMAX experiences — offering moviegoers ultra-vivid visuals and wall-to-wall screens. Construction of the Dolby Cinema and IMAX Auditoriums will begin in May, the company said.

Both auditoriums are expected to open by the end of summer.

CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES

<http://chicago.suntimes.com>

ASTORIA MARKETPLACE

SAM'S ITALIAN SUB

Soft roll bread, Italian dressing, Provolone cheese, Tomato, Onion, Mortdella, Salami, Pepperoni, Ham, and Lettuce 9.95

**GROCERIES DELI PRODUCE
BEER, WINE & SPIRITS**
9th and east side of State Street

www.roiholisticfitness.com

ROOTS™
OF INTEGRITY
Holistic Fitness & Wellness

PILATES / YOGA / **GYROTONIC®**
HOLISTIC LIFESTYLE COACHING

Roots of Integrity, Holistic Fitness offers Pilates, Yoga, and GYROTONIC® training for individuals of all ages and ability levels. Our mission is to find the best holistic fitness program for your needs and interests to help you achieve overall well-being.

1006 S Michigan Ave. Suite 600 Chicago 60605
info@roiholisticfitness.com | 312.818.1191

GYROTONIC®, GYROTONIC EXPANSION SYSTEM® and GYROKINESIS® & Logo are registered trademarks of Gyrotonic Sales Corp and are used with their permission.

IMPACT
PHYSICAL THERAPY

CHICAGO RECOVERY ROOM

At IMPACT, we treat patients from start to finish with a wide range of physical therapy and athletic recovery services. Our model is comprehensive care designed to heal and strengthen our patients by enhancing recovery, preventing injuries, and improving performance.

Stop in today for a free wellness consultation or recovery session!

SOUTH LOOP CLINIC
1103 S. State St. Ste 300
Chicago, IL 60605
312-877-5101

ImpactPhysicalTherapy.com ChicagoRecoveryRoom.com

Editor's Letter: May, 2025

May 8, 2025 by [Brian Heiggelke](#)

It's a special moment in Chicago, as we're getting two new museums this spring.

The National Public Housing Museum opened in early April and I was able to get a peek at a press event; it exceeded my expectations. Actually, I am not sure I had expectations, as NPHM is one-of-a-kind as far as I know. (New York City's Tenement Museum is more specifically focused on the immigrant experience.) Isn't it a telling insight into the American character that we spend time and money visiting the homes of robber barons, enslavers and other rich people in our history while giving little thought about the other end of the economic spectrum—the end where most of our ancestors lived and many of our contemporaries live?

In part, that's because we've allowed the conversation around poverty to be equated with crime and squalor when, in fact, the majority of Americans who have ever lived in public housing are hard-working families just trying, like the rest of us, to get ahead, or at least get by. I expect that you, like me, will find the narrative around the NPHM eye-opening. (And fun, to boot. The record collection in the "Rec Room" is a place you'll want to hang out in.)

Though unrelated, the Intuit Art Museum, which opens this month, connects to the NPHM in the way it also explores segments of society and culture often overlooked in favor of more "elite" manifestations. Chicago has been a vital center for the kind of art that Intuit features for a long time; this museum is actually a transformative expansion, renovation and updating of the old Intuit Art Center. I'll get my first look shortly after this issue goes to press, but you can explore its future and its legacy in Alison Cuddy's feature in this edition.

Brian Heiggelke

NEWCITY newcity.com



Pooja Pittie, American, born in Coimbatore, raised in Bombay (now Mumbai), India, 1977. Detail, "Be In Softness," 2024. Hand-knitted and crocheted vessels, mixed fibers and hidden notes written by the artist to herself, 30 x 96 x 18 in. Collection of Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, India/Photo: Robert Chase Heishman; Pooja Pittie's "Be In Softness," 2024 is included in Intuit Art Museum's inaugural exhibition "Catalyst: Im/migration and Self-Taught Art in Chicago," May 23 2025-January 11, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

The Granola Couple

These college sweethearts say "no" to refined sugar—and recipes

Illustrative Artist

Anthony Bartley's journey from science into the gallery

On the Tracht Team

New life in the Old World

The Packer Fans of Theater

How American Players has kept Shakespeare—and more—thriving in Wisconsin

Expanded and Expansive

How the Intuit Art Museum reinvented itself

AND

Poetry

"Had I Known"

A new poem by Eve Ozer

And so much more...

NEWCITY newcity.com

Swell Soirée – The Fabulous Fifties | Sarah Siddons Society

May 15 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Join us for an evening with a little bit of rhythm and blues, rock and roll, honky-tonk country, swing and Broadway. The 1950's, besides being the decade when the Sarah Siddons Society was founded, had so many great musical genres. We will celebrate them with some of Chicago's top cabaret artists. They will be performing along with talented theatre arts students from the four Chicago area universities where we fund scholarships.

This year's Swell Soirée is part of the May 9-18, Chicago Cabaret Week. For more information about the many shows happening in the city, [click here](#).

pianoforte chicago

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

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

JIMMY VIVINO

Ages 21 and up
SATURDAY, MAY 10
Show: 9pm
\$27.30

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show.

Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Acoustic: Little Red & The Rooster — 5:30-8:00PM

Opener: Noreen Starks – 9:00 – 10:00

Headliner: Jimmy Vivino

21+ After 8:00PM

SEATING POLICY: All tickets sold are General Admission, which means table/bar seating are on a first-come, first-served basis. Buying your ticket online in advance guarantees admission (not seating). We recommend arriving early for seating.

PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY: No professional photo/video equipment will be allowed without a media pass.



[BUY TICKETS](#)



700 S Wabash Ave

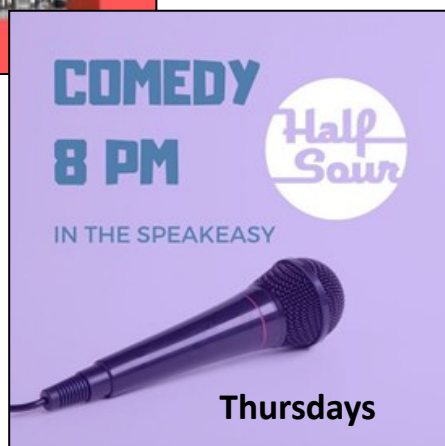
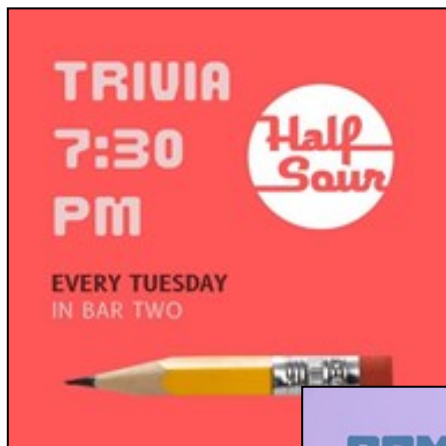
Tickets are available at the door
after 5:00PM

21+ After 8:00PM



Clark and Polk Streets

312.224.1772



Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

PRESENTS: AS IF...THE GAY '90S

MAY 23 8:00 PM

Get ready to party like it's 1999 with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus! Featuring over 200 voices and all the iconic pop classics you can handle, this high-energy show celebrates the music, fashion, and unforgettable moments of the 1990s. From boy bands to divas, grunge to dance hits, *As If...the Gay '90s* is a totally rad tribute to the decade that defined a generation.



410 S Michigan Avenue

Chicago

Box Office 312.753.3210 x102

Planning an Event? Let Us Cater!

From empanadas to mezze platters, coffee travelers to sweet treats — we offer thoughtful, high-quality catering for your next office gathering or event.

Learn more & get started by scanning the QR code!

Scan to see our catering menu!



Let us know which event you're coming to — or just stop by for a matcha and moment of calm. ☺
With gratitude,
The Necessary & Sufficient Team



Chicago Style

AN EVENING OF
IMPROVISED COMEDY

FEATURING CHICAGO'S BEST IMPROVISERS

Chicago Style Improv May 9, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Get ready to experience "classic" improvisation that will leave you laughing long after the curtains close! Combining lightning-fast wit, razor-sharp skills, and boundless creativity, **Chicago Style** delivers a high-energy mix of uproarious scenes and quick-witted songs to leave you in stitches. Whether you're a seasoned improv fan or a newcomer to the genre, **Chicago Style** is an unforgettable evening of spontaneous hilarity.

"Heavy hitters of comedy!" — *Chicago Sun-Times*

Approximate Runtime: 60 Minutes

The Revival — 906 S Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60605

PRINTERS ROW PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Please plan to join us at our next meeting, Thursday, July 17, at 7pm in Printers Row Park, immediately following the South Loop Neighbors-sponsored Ice Cream Social and PR3PAC Game Night at that same location.

And we hope to see you before then at other PR3PAC events, including:

--Farmers Market - Saturdays May 24-11/1, 9am-1pm

--It's Your Park Day - Saturday, May 31, 1pm-3pm

--Park Clean Up Days - Tuesdays, beginning May 6, 5pm

To keep up with all the goings on in Printers Row Park, Dearborn Park and Roosevelt Park, follow us on Facebook using the QR code below.



HOMESCHOOL HELP EASY, ACCESSIBLE AND FREE



**CHICAGO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Contact Us

Chicago Public Library
400 S. State Street
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 747-4300

May Day Protesters In Chicago Rebuke Trump's Agenda: 'We Will Never Bow'

Chicago was one of hundreds of cities where people took to the streets Thursday to mark May Day, a holiday with deep roots in the city's labor history.

by [Melody Mercado](#) May 1, 2025 Updated May 2, 2025

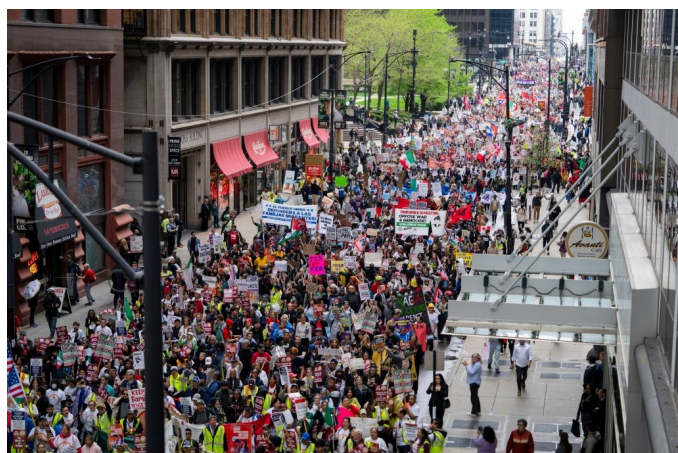


Gabriella Perez of the West Suburban Action Project cheers while marching from Union Park to Grant Park during the annual May Day March for International Workers' Day on May 1, 2025, in Chicago. Credit: Vincent Alban/Block Club Chicago

CHICAGO — Thousands marched Thursday to commemorate May Day, demanding fair wages, protections for immigrant workers and denouncing President Donald Trump's agenda.

Chicago was one of hundreds of cities across the country where people took to the streets to mark May Day, also known as International Workers' Day, a holiday with deep roots in the city's labor history. The march began Thursday morning in Union Park, with participants making their way to Grant Park by the afternoon.

Celebrated on May 1, the holiday commemorates the Haymarket Tragedy — a pivotal moment in labor history that took place in Chicago on May 4, 1886. The violence erupted during a rally in support of eight-hour workdays when police moved to disperse the crowd and a bomb was thrown at officers, prompting them to open fire.



People march on Jackson Boulevard to Grant Park during the annual May Day March for International Workers' Day on May 1, 2025, in Chicago. Credit: Vincent Alban/Block Club Chicago

Seven police officers and at least four civilians were killed in the chaos. Although the bombing was blamed on anarchists unaffiliated with either side, eight men were arrested. Four were later executed despite no evidence linking them directly to the bomb; two had their sentences commuted and were later pardoned, one died by suicide, and another was sentenced to prison.

The Haymarket Tragedy dealt a major blow to the eight-hour workday movement but has since become a symbol of the global fight for workers' rights. A monument now marks the site at 175 N. Desplaines St., designated as a Chicago Landmark.

This year, Chicago's May Day march also served as a protest against the Trump administration. The demonstration came just as Trump marked his first 100 days in office, during which he signed 142 executive orders, pardoned 1,500 people involved in the Jan. 6 insurrection, laid off tens of thousands of federal government employees and carried out mass deportations, [according to NPR](#).



Juanita Ortiz, of Chicago Workers Collaborative, gathers for the annual May Day March for International Workers' Day at Union Park on May 1, 2025, in Chicago. Credit: Vincent Alban/Block Club Chicago

Chicago has become a frequent target of the Trump administration for its progressive policies and laws, such as its sanctuary city status and Chicago Public Schools' [Black Students Success Plan](#).

On Thursday, Mayor Brandon Johnson addressed the diverse crowd of protesters at Grant Park, including people of all ages, nationalities, creeds and races by calling on them to "keep fighting."

"We know that over the last 100 days, the fight to defend our democracy did not begin when Donald Trump was elected, and that our democracy has been under attack for some time now," Johnson said. "Let me make something very clear about Chicago. We will never fold. We will never bend. We will never bow down to the fascism that is being promulgated by this government."

[Click here](#) for the rest of the story



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

Alder Forum

Four Alderman walk into a forum.

Sometimes they agree.

The forum sponsored by **One Community Near South**, a grassroots group focused on strengthening our resident's collective voice. A reaction to the South Loop community being gerrymandered into five different wards. We are a not a majority, or even close in any ward. That was not always the case. Once upon a time, we were the 2nd Ward. It's hard to be an influential voting block when we are divided.

The reason for the forum is to work together to find a way forward to express our concerns as one voice.

A potential for a South Loop Caucus was brought up by the moderators. The alderman responded by pointing out cooperation along their borders. Not sure a caucus is actually needed. Not willing to commit to anything like that until they understand how it would work.

Each Alder had the opportunity to talk about what they are looking forward to this summer.

Lemont Robinson is looking forward to Lit Fest. Bill Conway, NASCAR with fewer street closures and a concern with safety at Jewel. Ald. Dowell is excited about new businesses opening on Michigan Avenue. They all expressed concern about the proposed curfew.

Nicole Lee is looking forward to walking the Ward. And festivals. They all are concerned with the budget shortfall and next year's budget.

Other questions and items that came up:

- Red line extension is a go
- Concerns with Insight hospital
- Teen takeovers with no obvious solutions except new curfew proposal
- Motorcycles and dangerous conduct. A suggestion from the audience member was to track on social media and track them running red lights. Call 911



Alders Pat Dowell, 3rd; Ald. Lamont Robinson, 4th; Ald. Bill Conway, 34th; Ald. Nicole Lee, 11th. Moderated by Brandon Pope, WCIU-TV and Marj Halperin, One Community Near South.

Near South Planning Board
Catalyst for Growth

You're Invited To
NSPB's
ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, June 6, 2025
Hilton Chicago
720 S. Michigan Avenue
Waldorf Room, 3rd Floor
Registration: 11:30AM
Program & Lunch: 12:00PM
Election of Board Members will take place.

1000M - The Near South's Newest Pinnacle

Guest Speakers: Jordan Karlik (Principal, JK Equities), Philip Castillo (Managing Director, Jahn Studio), Cindy Chan Roubik (Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Planning & Development), Kumar Kintala (Innovation Hub Director, Discovery Partners Institute). Moderator: Kumar Kintala.

Sponsorship Levels:

- ☐ \$5,000 - Platinum ☐ \$3,500 - Gold ☐ \$2,500 - Silver
☐ \$1,300 - Reserved Table of 10

Ticket Prices:

- ☐ \$110 NSPB Members ☐ \$140 Nonmembers

Register at: <https://thenspb.org/our-events/annual-meeting/>

Sponsored by: Hilton



Mau's House

Where Pets Are Family

Full Service Grooming Salon

Julio & Lisette

Pet Stylist

901 S. Plymouth court
Chicago, IL 60605

(312)722-0057

MausHouseofGrooming@gmail.com

PRAIRIE SHORES PROPERTYMANAGEMENT LLC

700 N. Sacramento Blvd. Suite 301
Chicago, Illinois 60612

773-878-3300 tel. 773-878-3306 fax



www.PrairieShoresManagement.com

Chicago's only condominium management firm specializing exclusively in vintage buildings. Property managers for Peterson Lofts, Harrison Street Lofts and The Moser Condominiums. All located in Printers Row.

Beth Finke's Writers in Exile

To My Unsung Hero

Sheila Kamuda is a member of Beth Finke's Writers in Exile Class. She is an author of several books which can be found on Amazon.

Everything changed. So quickly. You had to adapt. And grow up fast. No choice.

Especially the night I yelled up the stairs for you to call 911. And tell them that I was with daddy on the floor and he wasn't breathing. And I told you to stay in the kitchen and make the call. I didn't want you to see him that way. And you called out to me, relaying the instructions they gave you, for me to revive him. You were so calm as you clearly repeated what I should do. Until the ambulance came.

And when he was able to come home from the hospital, he was left weak from the seizure. His mind no longer able to fill out the New York Times crossword puzzle, his daily, sacred ritual. His mind couldn't put the words together. He would carry his pen and the newspaper opened to the puzzle. It remained untouched. He moved around the house with it, taking slow shuffling steps.

And one day, when I started to walk him the very short distance from the bed to a comfortable arm chair, which had become our morning habit, and you were getting dressed for school, his legs buckled under him. Down he went, crashing to the floor. I called to you to come and sit on the floor with your back to his, so he wouldn't fall back. And you did. You waited there patiently on the floor holding him up with your back until a friend of mine came to drive you to school, and the paramedics came, and at the count of three, lifted him back onto the bed.

And when I held a memorial for him to celebrate his gigantic life, with his friends from his senior softball league, the people from the Parks board, which he served on for several years, my work colleagues, several of your good friends, and our small family – and each table was bedecked with a blown up crossword for the visitors to puzzle through, your piano teacher, who respected his love and knowledge of music filled the quiet, and a slide show of his life ran on a continuous loop – you, through your suffering and broken heart, allowed this day of honoring and celebration.

And when you went to college in his beloved Chicago, every once in a while, you'd tell me about a song that you just heard in the strangest of places that he and you both loved like "One More Brick in the Wall," and you and I both knew he was around.

When you were two, daddy happily retired. He would often tell stories of how he started working when was 12 selling for Fuller Brush and made some decent money because no one could turn a kid down. This was around 1954, so he was done by the time you were two in 1999.

He was your buddy. Your shining light, your anchor, your protector. Your everything. He took you to every activity you showed interest in - gymnastics, softball, art, singing, dancing, acting, golf, piano, tennis, skating. When you were in middle school, he chaperoned your class skiing every Wednesday afternoon. And he would pull out his guitar and sing with you. He was your rockstar.

And then, he was gone. And I couldn't be his replacement. I had to find my own world for you to be a part of. You and I developed a special bond, because one day, you had the courage to tell me that I needed to stop being a helicopter mom because I was causing you anxiety. And all I can say is thank you for that.

Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for shining that light for me. Then and now. Sydney, you are my unsung hero.

- Sheila Kamuda

<https://www.amazon.com/LITTLE-BOOK-BADASS-FEELINGS-Extraordinary/dp/B0BTKQSBTV>



Columbus Statues Not Returning To Grant, Arrigo Parks After City Deal With Italian American Group

The Columbus statue removed from Arrigo Park will be loaned to an Italian American group, and the park will get a monument to a Chicagoan with Italian roots. Grant Park's Columbus statue will be replaced by new art.

by [Joe Ward](#) May 1, 2025 Updated May 2, 2025

CHICAGO — Two Columbus statues that were controversially removed from local parks will not be returned to their original locations — but one of them will go on display elsewhere while being replaced in the park by a monument honoring Chicago's Italian American community.

City officials in July 2020 removed Christopher Columbus statues from Grant Park and Arrigo Park after the monuments attracted protests and calls for their removal. The removals caused blowback among some Chicagoans, including the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, which filed a lawsuit over the Arrigo Park statue removal.

The statues' removal was labeled as a temporary measure by then-Mayor Lori Lightfoot. But the park district announced Thursday that neither statue will return to its original post after the city, Chicago Park District and the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans came to an agreement.

Under the deal, the city will loan the Arrigo Park Columbus statue to the Italian American committee, which will display the work of art in a building the organization is redeveloping in Chicago, according to the park district.

In its place, Arrigo Park, 801 S. Loomis Ave. in Little Italy, will become home to a new statue that will honor a person known for their contributions to Italian American culture in Chicago. The park district and Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will lead an engagement process to determine who to honor with the statue.

The agreement resolves the Italian American committee's legal complaint against the city.

The park district will remove the Grant Park Columbus statue's base and begin the process for commissioning new artwork for that portion of the park, the agency said Thursday.

"The Chicago Park District is committed to diversifying our statuary to ensure we are honoring Chicago's rich history and diversity," Chicago Park District



Protesters tie ropes around a statue of Christopher Columbus in Grant Park and attempt to pull it down during a protest on July 17, 2020 Credit: Grace Del Vecchio/Block Club Chicago

Supt. and CEO Carlos Ramirez-Rosa said in a statement. "To that end, we look forward to convening the process to determine which Italian American will be honored at Arrigo Park, and which artworks will replace the Grant Park plinth [base]."

The park district did not say what will happen to the Columbus statue removed from Grant Park.

The statue in Grant Park had been the subject of high-profile protests in 2020 — including one where police and protesters violently clashed, leaving dozens of protesters and police officers injured. At that protest, protesters scaled the statue, threw ropes around it and tried to pull it down.

The statues were removed in the early morning hours about a week after the protest. A third one was removed from South Chicago later that year.

The Grant Park statue, sculpted by Carl Brioschi, was erected in 1933 as part of the city's celebration of A Century of Progress, the city's second World's Fair. The Arrigo Park statue dates back to 1966.

Though many have pushed for years to remove such statutes and symbolism throughout the U.S., that activism gained renewed momentum during the 2020 national demonstrations against police violence and systemic racism after Minneapolis police killed George Floyd.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE REST OF THE STORY](#)



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

Breaking: College changes names of DEI initiatives following President Trump's attacks on higher education

By [Vivian Richey](#) and [Emma Jolly](#)
May 2, 2025

The college is changing the names of its DEI initiatives.

"The acronym DEI has been poisoned," said Rosita Sands, the college's former special advisor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, whose title is now "special advisor of Academic Access and Excellence."

Sands told the Faculty Senate on Friday, May 2, that Columbia's DEI initiatives will continue but under new names.

"So we are standing firm on our principles and our commitments and our goals," Sands said.

When the Chronicle checked earlier this week, all of the DEI links on the college's website were showing up with error messages.

There is a new page dedicated to [Academic Access and Excellence](#) in place of the previous DEI page. This includes several [terminology updates](#), including a section for Columbia's revised "Non-discrimination, Access and Inclusion Mission Statement."

A screenshot from the website of Columbia College Chicago, showing the rebranded name for DEI efforts on Friday, May 2, 2025.

The college will continue to require that students take six credits of "DEI" courses, which is how they are still listed in the new registration system.

But Sands said they will be relabeled to "inclusive perspectives and pedagogy" courses.

"We're not changing anything in terms of our commitment or values," Faculty Senate President Rojhat Avsar told the Chronicle. "What's changing here is clarifying our intentions, and making the point that those practices are non-discriminatory."

Columbia is trying to navigate carefully the [U.S. Department of Education's](#) declaration that all colleges with race-conscious student programming, resources and financial aid risk investigation and losing federal funding.

At a campus [town hall](#) on March 13, Interim President and CEO Jerry Tarrer tried to reassure students, faculty and staff that President Donald Trump's attacks on DEI and higher education would not impact the college.

Like Columbia is doing, many schools across the country have changed the names of DEI programming. The

University of Pennsylvania recently scrubbed references to DEI from its offices, websites and policies, as well as the phrase "affirmative action," [rebranding](#) it to "policy on equal opportunity."

In Iowa, [several schools](#) including Iowa State University, University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa have eliminated DEI offices and positions in an effort to avoid funding cuts.

Other schools have gone much further, eliminating DEI-focused resources and courses altogether.

Georgia Tech, where Columbia's incoming president and CEO is from, announced in March that it would stop its DEI-related programs because of the Trump administration's federal directives, the student newspaper, the [Technique](#), reported.

At Columbia's Faculty Senate meeting on Friday, Shantay Bolton, who takes over from Tarrer on July 1, said she was drawn to Columbia because the college is at a "very pivotal moment."

"I just really want us to maintain an unwavering commitment to what it means to embody diversity, equity and inclusion, particularly at a time in which we are challenged by what labels, what we call things, as opposed to being truly committed in our values, to who we are impacted and the outcomes that come from that," Bolton said in her first address to the senate.

Lambrini Lambrini Lukidis, associate vice president of Strategic Communications and External Relations, said that the updates discussed by Sands allows the college to articulate its commitment to create welcoming and nurturing spaces for all members of the college community.

"Access' reminds us of the strength we derive through the unique experiences and perspectives that each of us brings to the college and the world. 'Excellence' focuses us on the power of our students' voices and the importance of their creative expressions in shaping our collective future," Lukidis said in an email to the Chronicle.

In a town hall meeting in March, Senior Vice President and Provost Marcella David said that the college doesn't believe they are violating any laws with DEI, and they want to make it known that what Columbia is doing is "non-discrimination."

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

<https://columiachronicle.com/>

South Loop Neighbors *presents*

Transit history in the South Loop



Wed., May 14, 2025

Program: 7 – 8 pm

Refreshments: 8 - 9 pm

Piano Forte

1335 S. Michigan Ave.

Free, open to the public



Speakers will present a richly illustrated PowerPoint covering the colorful history of transit in the South Loop from the 1850s to today, including horsecars, cable cars, electric trolleys, the “L” & buses.

Greg Borzo, early transit, cable cars and the origin of the “L”

Greg is an award-winning journalist and historian. He has written several books about Chicago, including *Chicago Cable Cars*, *The Chicago “L”* and *A History Lover’s Guide to Chicago*. He lives in Library Tower and is a member of the South Loop Neighbors Board.

Jack Chalabian, electric trolleys, buses and the current transit scene

Jack is a transit expert and a transportation planning professional with over 20 years of experience. He works at the Chicago Transit Authority and advocates for sustainable transportation and infrastructure improvements in the South Loop. He is a member of the South Loop Neighbors Board.



Selling your home in the Chicago area?

WE WILL REPRESENT YOU FOR ONLY \$299

BRADFORD MILLER LAW, P.C.

WWW.BRADFORDMILLERLAW.COM

NO FEE IF IT DOES NOT CLOSE!

855-897-9410/ www.bradfordmillerlaw.com

Located at 10 S. LaSalle, Suite 2930, Chicago, IL 60603



We hope you are considering joining us for our 15th Annual [Leadership Celebration](#)! This event is a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to **Housing for All, Hope for the Future**, and the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home. We look forward to not only highlighting the achievements of advocates in the community but also providing an opportunity for you to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for creating positive change.

As someone who values the importance of safe, affordable housing for all, your presence would be a powerful addition to this celebration. This gathering will be an inspiring chance to hear firsthand accounts from advocates who have made a significant impact in the housing sector and to learn from those we are serving about the work that we are doing.

We would be honored to have you join us in celebrating these advocates and the progress we continue to make together.

Here are the event details you should know:

We look forward to celebrating with you! If you have any questions, please contact the development team at development@voail.org.

- When: Thursday, May 15th from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- Where: The University Club, 76 E Monroe St. Chicago
- Who: YOU!

[SPONSORSHIP INFO](#)

[DONATE](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

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



VOA ILLINOIS

47 West Polk Street, Suite 250-2
Chicago, IL 60605
[\(312\) 564-2300](tel:(312)564-2300)

OPINION

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

Tony Rezko's 62 Acres of Land--and Me

I have more than a decade of personal history with that now newsy, beleaguered 62 acres of undeveloped "Tony Rezko" land in the South Loop that extends southwest from Roosevelt and Clark. The [land that the City of Chicago suddenly wants to buy](#). And find a developer for.

It all started more than 10 years ago, when the wife of a Cook County Circuit Court judge visited a board meeting of a South Loop neighborhood organization I was on the board of. She came-a-calling to get feedback for a real estate developer she was working for named Tony Rezko. In addition to contributing money to the George W. Bush campaign--which I didn't like--he had purchased the South Loop land and wanted to develop it into something the neighborhood might go for, she said. She asked us board members what we w"A park!" said some. "Townhomes!" said others. "Some nice shops!" said yet another. Rezko, who had a not-so-good reputation in the area for shoddy construction (although he did build some fantastic-looking Gilded Age-looking rowhouses on [Prairie Avenue](#) that knock your socks off they're so pretty and authentic--and expensive--that I always thought he deserved a Key to the City for them), made the board a little suspicious.

Some of us even wanted to keep the land just the way it was. Natural. [Filled with coyotes](#). The [South Loop Elementary School](#) had sponsored a fundraiser run through the plot of land and I was shocked to find that when you ran around within the trees and other vegetation, you had the distinct feeling you were in a nature preserve in the wilds of Wisconsin or Michigan or something. Why not have some truly natural land so near downtown Chicago as a testament to the natural history of Chicago?

Eventually, Rezko had a plan--a mixed use development--drawn up by an architecture firm.

But [Rezko soon had his troubles](#); he got arrested and convicted. And that was the last we heard from the judge's wife. We heard Tony unloaded the land for \$130 million onto a cohort, who perhaps wanted to build a shopping center. And that was that. Except for the fact that whoever bought it razed it. Leveled all the greenery. You'd look down at it from the Roosevelt Road bridge and all that stood out was that stream full of mud that was at one time the Chicago River, a part of which was decades ago abandoned so as to straighten the river out just to the west, to help ease the flow of car traffic through the Loop.

The razing was pretty sad. Although in a short time it got full of foliage again. Which just goes to show. You can't keep good land down.

Now, suddenly, [the City wants the land](#). For a casino, perhaps? Or to resell it to an "appropriate developer?" Whatever it is, Rahm, as usual, is being cryptic and tightlipped and treating us Chicagoans like a bunch of idiots. I suspect if there's no casino planned--owned and run by Rahm's politically connected pals--then there's some politically connected pals waiting in the wings to buy the land for a song, get all [the TIF funds](#) available that they can for constructing some boring piece of trash that no one really wants--and all with no personal investment of the developers' money, mind you. And that will be that. Or will it?

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog:

<http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant>



Bonnie McGrath may be gone but not forgotten. Here is a column from July 31st, 2013

Manner of death for woman found dead at bottom of South Loop high-rise stairwell is 'undertermined,' medical examiner says

May 4, 2025 6:54 AM Tim Hecke South Loop

Caitlin Tracey's body was found at the bottom of a stairwell at her husband's South Loop condo building, family members say. (Obtained by CWBChicago, Google)



The mysterious case of a woman who was [found dead](#) at the bottom of a South Loop condo building stairwell may remain a mystery for the foreseeable future.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office has now confirmed that Caitlin Tracey, 36, died from injuries suffered from a "fall from height," but investigators were unable to decide on the manner of death, records show. Manners of death include accident, suicide, homicide, and natural causes.

Tracey was found at the bottom of an interior stairwell at 1201 South Prairie around 7:25 p.m. on October 27.

While Tracey lived in New Buffalo, Michigan, at the time of her death, she had been staying at her husband's South Loop condo when she died, her family said. A spokesperson for the family said the husband, Adam Beckerink, reported his wife missing on October 26, the day before she was found.

While filing that report, Beckerink told investigators that he hadn't seen his wife in about a month, but investigators found video of them together two days earlier, [the Sun-Times reported](#).

The spokesperson said Tracey was found dead two days before a jury trial was scheduled to begin in Michigan, where Beckerink faced felony allegations of interfering with Tracey's attempts to call 911 and then "violently resisted" arresting officers. A second domestic violence case, also filed in 2024, was also pending in Michigan, the spokesperson said.

Beckerink has not been accused or charged with any wrongdoing in connection with Tracey's death. He has never been charged with any crime in Cook County, according to court records.

Tracey filed for a protective order in Cook County in 2023, claiming Beckerink "contacts me approximately twenty times a day" and calls her "derogatory names like 'liar,' 'cheater,' 'whore,' and a 'piece of sh*t.'"

She also claimed that she filed a police report for domestic battery in September 2023 after, she said, Beckerink came into a hotel room at the Ritz-Carlton while she was sleeping and launched into verbal and physical abuse. Tracey said she filed a second police report because, she claimed, Beckerink became physically and verbally abusive at the South Loop residential building in August 2023, "slamming my head against a cabinet, slapping me, punching me, putting my head in a headlock, and dragging me away from the door."

In a third allegation, she claimed that Beckerink struck her in the head with a pickle jar at her Michigan home in July 2023. She alleged that she fled the residence after he "poured vodka on my body, which burned my wounds." He took the woman to a hospital for treatment of her "open head wound" two days later, Tracey alleged.

The family and Beckerink went to court to win control of Tracey's remains, with the [family emerging victorious](#) in November.

<https://cwbchicago.com/>



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

Next CAPS Meeting May 14, 2025
5:30 pm in-person
Beat 123, Grace Place

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

4/29/2025 12:30am 2300 S State St
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 131

4/28/2025 10pm 1600 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 131

4/27/2025 8:03pm 1900 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Knife Beat 131

4/27/2025 7:15pm 1400 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY Beat 131

4/25/2025 7:28pm 1700 S State
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

4/24/2025 8:32pm 1800 S Michigan Av
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon CTA Bus

4/24/2025 4:30am 1700 S State
AGGRAVATED BATTERY knife on street Beat 131

4/24/2025 12:13am 1200 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT RECOVERED, Non Res parking Beat 131

4/25/2025 2:30pm 1600 S Indiana
AGRAVATED BATTERY w/dangerous weapon at residence Beat 132

4/23/2025 8:45pm 100 E 13th St
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 132

4/25/2025 8:30pm 200 E 14th St
BURGLARY Unlawful entry Residence Beat 132

4/14/2025 7pm 900 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

4/13/2025 8:30pm 1000 S State
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

4/22/2025 11PM 60 E 9th
AUTO THEFT Parking lot Beat 123

4/19/2025 7:26pm 1000 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

4/26/2025 9:30pm 600 S State
ARMED ROBBERY Subway Platform Beat 123

4/20/2025 12:50am 800 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED BATTERY on street Handgun Beat 123

Cops identify gunman in South Loop diner shooting

April 30, 2025 1:52 PM [CWBChicago South Loop](#)

Chicago police say they've identified the man responsible for a [shooting inside the White Palace Grill](#) in the South Loop last summer. Delegates attending the Democratic National Convention were inside the all-night diner when the shooting occurred early on August 23.

Police said a 42-year-old man was leaving the restaurant, 1159 South Canal, when a man wearing a security outfit fired shots, striking him in the back, both arms, and hand.

Within days of the shooting, CPD [released surveillance](#) images of the suspected gunman and the silver Ford Focus he drove.

Now, police say they've identified 31-year-old Delvin Bryant as the shooter. But prosecutors did not charge Bryant with shooting anyone. Instead, he is charged with being a repeat felon in possession of a fire-arm.

We'll know more about the specifics of the case after Bryant appears in court. However, the lack of charges suggests prosecutors believe he had justification for firing his weapon.

<https://cwbchicago.com/2025/04/cops-identify-gunman-in-south-loop-diner-shooting.html>

Gotcha! FBI task force rams fleeing murder suspect in South Loop parking lot (video)

April 28, 2025 5:36 PM [Tim Hecke South Loop](#)

Demario Bass and a video image of an FBI task force blockading his white SUV. (Cook County Sheriff's Office, 312Watch)

An FBI task force was not playing games when it was time to take down the man wanted for a three-year-old murder on the Dan Ryan Expressway last week.

Video obtained by 312Watch showed federal agents closing in on a white SUV in the Jewel-Osco parking lot, 1224 South Wabash, shortly after midnight on April 24. Ultimately, a black SUV operated by task force agents met the SUV head-on and pushed it into parked cars while a second federal SUV slammed into the white car's driver's door.

A guy got out of the white SUV and tried to escape, but heavily armed task force officers were more than ready to defeat those efforts. Check out the video:

[View this post on Instagram](#)

[A post shared by 312 Watch \(@the312watch\)](#)

Now we know who the arrested man is: 33-year-old Demario Bass. He was wanted for the murder of a 27-year-old mother who was shot as she drove on the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway on May 21, 2022.

Around 8:10 p.m. that night, Darren Jackson called 911 to report that she was being followed as she drove alone in her gray Hyundai. At the 47th Street ramp, another driver fired six shots into her car, striking her in the head and taking her life, officials said.

Illinois State Police investigators turned their attention to Bass after they identified the gunman's car and some of Jackson's relatives revealed that Bass was known to drive the vehicle, according to court filings.

Detectives obtained "extensive search warrants" for phone providers that allowed them to prove that Bass was in the shooter's car before, during, and after the murder, the filings said. Data from license plate readers and video footage also played key roles in the investigation.

When Judge Mary Marubio ordered Bass jailed pending trial, she cited his attempts to evade the federal task force as one reason that she felt he should not be put back on the streets.

Tim Hecke

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

Real Estate Transactions

\$250,000
600 S DEARBORN ST 1314
3/27/25

\$210,000
633 S PLYMOUTH CT 804
3/26/25

\$429,000
1307 S WABASH AVE 704
3/26/25

\$250,000
801 S PLYMOUTH CT 712
3/25/25

\$500,000
1160 S MICHIGAN 3404
3/25/25

\$265,000
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 914
3/25/25

\$660,000
100 E 14TH ST 1001
3/24/25

\$1,150,000
1346 S PRAIRIE AVE 2001
3/21/25

\$465,000
170 W POLK ST 1101
3/20/25

\$400,000
1143 S PLYMOUTH CT 111
3/19/25

\$665,000
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 1005
3/19/25

\$445,000
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 903
3/19/25

To Subscribe
Go to: Dearbornexpress.net
click on "contact"
Or go to: thedearbornexpress@gmail.com



Sherry Watkins
Baird & Warner (Gold Coast)

(773)458-0488
sherry.watkins@bairdwarner.com

Dearborn Street Realty

Tom Feddor,
312.203.3841
tomfeddor@gmail.com



Anne Rosen
Keller Williams
312.545.7148

Susan Dickman - Koenigrubloff/
Berkshire Hathaway Home
773-627-8176

Susandickman.com



THOMAS PALMEN

Your Real Estate Pro



Your Local Real
Estate Expert

(312) 543-9380

@properties

Adwerx
Chicago, IL

ADWERX



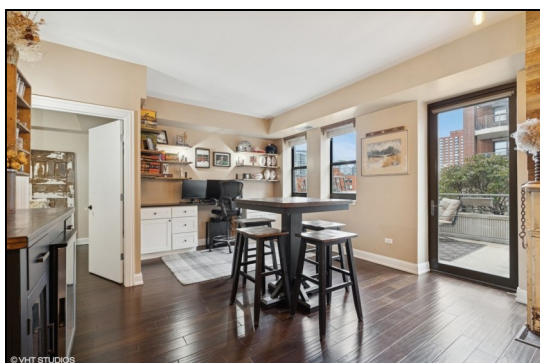
40 E 9th St #1508
2 bed, 2 bath 1360 Sq Ft
\$325,000 HOA \$1154/mo.

Matt Laricy
Americorp, Ltd
708.250.2696



1250 S Michigan Ave #2802
4 bed, 3.5 bath, 3035 sq ft
\$1,200,000 HOA \$3414

Julie Busby
Compass



1155 S State #400
2 bed, 2 bath 1450 Sq Ft
\$424,000 HOA \$964

Quentin Green III
Compass
773.895.7750

801 S Plymouth Ct Unit S
2 bed, 2.5 bath
\$539,000 HOA \$571

Daniel Vianna
@properties Christie's
International Real Estate
773.908.7890



600 S Dearborn St #2008
1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft
\$255,000 HOA \$479

Janet Roderick
@properties Christie's
International Real Estate
312.560.0316



1530 S State St #1127
1 bed, 1 bath, 1148 Sq Ft
\$349,000 HOA \$724

Scott Fishman
Worth Clark Realty
773.316.5409



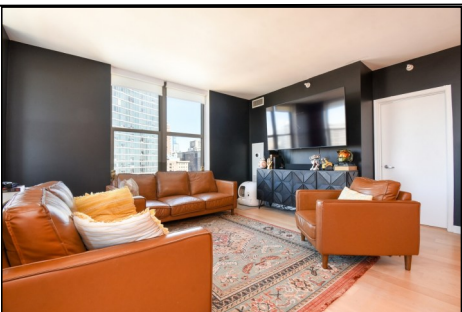
1201 S Prairie Ave #4606
2 bed, 2 bath, 1207 sq ft
\$680,000 HOA \$707

Mariam Moeinzadeh
Compass
312.448.8212



1101 S State #2100
3 bed, 2 bath, 1500 sq ft
\$435,000 \$1201

Lindsey Richardson
Dream Town Real Estate
312.890.8777



732 S Financial Pl #614
1 bed, 1 bath, 1151 sq ft
\$295,000 HOA \$485

Brett Huelat
CL3 Property
Management
312.254.0200

