



A Special Day



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Who is unlikely to tell the police where you are? Who is most likely to loan you money unquestioned? Who would be most embarrassed if you got drunk at a party? Who is the person who is most likely to be proud of you? Who would be the person you would defend if someone bothered them?

When answering the question, I believe the vast majority of the students I asked these questions gave the same answer. Of course, you would probably give the same answer, it's your Mother. It's not true in all cultures, but it sure is in America.

The world has not always been the same. For thousands of years there was no way to prove who your father was. But they always knew who the mother was. This lack of proof had certain ancient governments declaring the groom of a couple is always the legal father of any child born to

that couple. What does this mean? It is likely that the issue of paternity had often been an issue. Henry VIII was known for many things, wanted the issue settled once and for all and made a royal decree that whoever is legally married to an expectant mother is the legal father.

There are very few in our families that have not had a special respect for their mother and realize that all moms should be respected in a similar manner. While the feeling that this is true it was not until 1908 that we recorded an official service for mothers May 10, 1908 at St. Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Later that year several states adopted Mother's Day as an official holiday. On May 8, 1914 the US Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requested a proclamation. Since that date many people have celebrated by visiting, attending church and visiting cemeteries. Flowers, candy and cards are big sellers near that date. Many of us believe there is no true way to really honor these women. But it is proper to show our gratitude and love. So happy Mothers Day to all those women who served the great position of Mom. These include those who have stepped in and filled the post whether by adoption or just filling in for the lack of one in some families.

Holy Name Society Meeting At Five Holy Martyrs



The Five Holy Martyrs Holy Name of Jesus Society conducted its regular February meeting with Father J. Michael Sparough, SJ leading a "Lenten Day of Reflection" with his latest presentation, "THE MISTICAL JOURNEY." This "open to all" February meeting was well attended by members and parishioners. Five Holy Martyrs and Immaculate Conception Holy Name members who attended are: R. Mercado, A. Mercado, J. Mercado, P. Pasciak, T. Pasciak, T. Gronke, M. Valle, H. Lopez, T. Jankowski, Father J. Michael Sparough SJ, D. Nauyokas, G. Skowronski, C. Heid, R. Lopez, V. Garcia and P. Jachimiec. Holy Name meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in building number 9 on the Five Holy Martyrs campus.

Party Nights At Lincoln Park Zoo



River North Fests will host a Pink Party on Friday, May 17th and '90s Night on Saturday, May 18th at Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark st. from 6:30 to 10 p.m. 21+

Both events will feature themed photo ops and decor, free rides on the Endangered Species Carousel, live music from DJs and bands, zoo foods and drinks for purchase at a variety of pop-up bars, and much more.

Malott Family Penguin Encounter will run from May to October at a cost of \$80 person. Get a personal introduction to the African penguins at Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove during this hour-

long experience with up to eight guests. Participants must be at least 6 years old; children up to age 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sound Meditation With Jay Taylor is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th. Reset your energy with this soothing experience featuring singing bowls at Pepper Family Wildlife Center.

More than 100 craft brews and ciders will be available while you enjoy zoo gardens, animal habitats, live entertainment, and more at this after-hours experience on Saturday, June 15th.

Visit lpzoo.org for more information.

Family Events At Beverly Arts Center

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled classes for dance, visual arts, music, theatre, senior, fitness and more.

Join the Youth Theatre Company for the full theatrical experience. Includes auditions, rehearsals, and live performances on The Baffes Theater's mainstage. Payment plans are available.

The open application period for the ART COMP 47 has begun. This annual juried gallery exhibition celebrates the talent of local and regional artists. Since 1976, ART COMP has supported artists with prize money and the opportunity to show their work in the Jack Simmering Gallery.

BAC's Summer Arts Camp for ages 5 to 14 offers full-day dance, music, theatre and visual arts classes. The camp has four sessions, with the first three being two weeks long and culminating in a showcase. The fourth session, Summer Show Camp, is four weeks long and culminates in two performances of *Camp Rocks Musical*.

Treat your mother to the soulful sounds of Aretha Franklin performed by local band R.E.S.P.E.C.T. on Saturday, May 11th. Tickets are \$32.

Cover artists Lisa Rock and Natalie Cardone will perform 80's dance music on Friday, May 31st. Tickets are \$32.

The Youth Theatre Company will bring everyone's favorite ogre back with *Shrek The Musical JR*, a hilarious stage spectacle on Thursday and Friday, May 16th and 17th at 7 p.m. plus Saturday and Sunday, May 18th and 19th at 3 p.m.

For ticket information, visit beverlyartscenter.com or call (773) 445-3838.

State Awards For Aquinas Literacy Ctr.



Georgina Garcia and Mimi Miller.

On May 1st, Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian, Alexi Giannoulias, announced the winners of the 2024 Spotlight on Literacy Awards that recognizes volunteer tutors and students in literacy programs.

Ten adult learners received the Spotlight on Achievement Award, and ten volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award during a ceremony at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. was proud to honor Georgina Garcia, an adult English learner, and Mimi Miller, a volunteer literacy tutor, with this prestigious award.

"These learners exemplify the best of our state, showing that even through adversity and challenges that seem insurmountable, a desire to learn is a powerful tool. I'm honored to recognize the hard work and perseverance of these individuals," Giannoulias said. "I'm also honored to recognize the volunteer tutors who saw a need in their community and decided to make a difference. I'm grateful to you for your selfless sacrifice."

This year, the Secretary of State office has awarded grants totaling over \$5.7 million in support of adult, family and workplace literacy programs. The grant funding aids 98 programs to support more than 9,300 adults in all regions of Illinois. More than 4,000 volunteer tutors are offering their time through this initiative.

Since 1996, Aquinas Literacy Center has offered individualized instruction in the English language to the adult immigrant population of McKinley Park and surrounding areas. Through one-on-one tutoring, combined with supplemental learning opportunities, learners transform their lives by acquiring skills to become successful parents, productive workers and responsible citizens. Aquinas Literacy Center is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters. For more information email sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org or call (773) 927-0512.

Seropian Honored

Christopher Seropian of 60638 was among 368 Lewis University student-athletes honored for academic excellence on April 22nd with the Brother David Delahanty, FSC Award at the Convocation Hall on the Romeoville Campus. The award recognizes Flyers who have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or above while balancing the demands of athletics and academics.

Seropian is playing Baseball and studying Exercise Science.

Virtual Program On News Media Literacy

Michael Spikes, PhD, a practitioner-scholar who has spent more than 15 years in the fields of media literacy education, news media literacy and youth media, will speak at a virtual program presented by the League of Women Voters of Illinois' Mis/Disinformation Task Force on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. Visit bit.ly/lwv522 to register.

The presentation, titled "Sense of Media: A Framework and Introduction to Media Literacy," will feature Dr. Spikes, who is director of the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism's Teach for the Chicago Journalism program.



M. SPIKES, PhD

ies teacher in public and public charter schools in Washington DC, a member of the educational advisory team at the Newseum and media producer and editor for NPR, the PBS NewsHour, and Kellogg School of Management.

Pet Safety During Cicada Emergence

The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control urges pet owners to take precautions to protect the health and welfare of their pets this spring and summer as two different groups of periodic cicadas emerge simultaneously. This natural phenomenon hasn't taken place in more than 200 years, as billions of cicadas are expected to emerge in late May or early June.

Cicadas do not bite or sting, are not toxic to pets and are not known to carry diseases, so interactions are generally safe. However, the noise, size and movements may be startling to some pets. If a pet seems scared, owners should direct them to a quiet place inside the home.

In Cook County, dogs must be leashed when outdoors unless in a designated, dog-friendly area. Keeping pets on a leash could prevent a startled pet from accidentally getting away as well as help to prevent overconsumption of insects, bites, cuts or other hazards.

While cicadas aren't toxic to pets, gastrointestinal upset can occur if a pet consumes too many or their discarded "shells" (exoskeletons). Intestinal obstruction or perforation could occur as exoskeletons move through the gastrointestinal tract, particularly if a small pet consumes many cicadas in a short period of time.

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Open Studios In Chicago Arts District



Photo by Anne Farley Gaines - Gaines Novelli Studios, Chicago Arts District

The second series of Spring 2nd Fridays will be held in the Chicago Arts District on May 10th from 6 - 9 p.m. Meet at the Fountainhead Lofts Building, 1932 S. Halsted st. and begin your self-guided walking tour.

RFA Gallery documents the immigrant experience via the work of Liina Raud in *Growing Up with an Immigrant Mother*. Mary Lou Stewart creates collage with mixed media, acrylic and paper. Stacey Street shares her magical view of the world around her, with scenes from her rooftop visions.

Geoffrey Novelli introduces you to his award winning series of sculpture. Anne Farley Gaines challenges you to look at climate change through bold color and shapes. C&J Collections offers sustainable fashion and chic styling in a fun format.

At Chicago Vintage Posters, connect with collectables and bring an artistic message into your home. Chicago Art Department presents *Attunements and Formations*, a collaborative exhibition by Chicago based artists Sebastian Bruno-Harris, Sofia Fernández Díaz, and Kushala Vora.

The third series is set for June 14th from 6 to 9 p.m. Visit info@chicagoartsdistrict.org.

CCC and CSU Support Transfers

Chicago State University and City Colleges of Chicago are partnering to better support students and increase access to higher learning by offering guaranteed admissions to transfer students from City Colleges of Chicago to CSU.

To qualify for guaranteed admission, City Colleges of Chicago students must complete an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science and also complete the Illinois GECC requirements before transferring. When meeting the criteria, students will be guaranteed admission to CSU and receive Junior Standing.

CCC students, who are part of the Chicago Star Scholars program and have a 3.0 or higher GPA, a \$1,000 scholarship for up to two years. City Colleges and CSU will also participate in Reverse Transfer.

Learn more about City Colleges of Chicago at www.ccc.edu.

CPS Celebrates Teacher Week

Chicago Public Schools is recognizing more than 23,000 dedicated educators during National Teacher Appreciation Week, with events and celebrations, May 6th to 10th and coincides with School Nurse Appreciation Week.

"Teachers are at the center of our school communities and it is their hard work that sets our students up for success," said Mayor Brandon Johnson. "As a former public school teacher, I know firsthand that it is no easy task to manage a classroom. And yet, teachers overcome obstacles and work tirelessly to give our children the education they need"

Earlier this year, 12 CPS teachers were named Golden Apples Excellence in Teaching finalists, more than any other school district in the state. The competitive and prestigious award honors teachers who have lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities.

Community members can show support for teachers on social media by using #ThankATeacher or #TheBestAreWithCPS.

Ad Campaign For Mental Health

The Illinois Department of Insurance second annual mental health parity ad campaign will kick off during Mental Health Awareness Month.

The campaign introduces a new animated character named Yarney to help consumers understand their rights related to health insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders.

To learn more and view educational videos, visit Getcoveredillinois.gov.

Plant Sale At Kilbourn Park

Kilbourn Park Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn will conduct its annual Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 11th and 12th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All plants are \$4 each.

Sunday is Kids Day with activities in the Nature Play Area. Seedlings are grown organically in the greenhouse.

An array of heirloom, organic, open season, small space dwarf, and hybrid varieties of annual and perennial crops, flowers and herbs will be available.

Bring a box or some type of container to carry your purchases. Also available are perennials and other plants donated by volunteers.

For more information, call (773) 685-3359.

BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information. Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to brightonparklife@aol.com.

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