



## Many Students Have Anxiety



By Dr. R. Pletsch

If you follow blogs about education, you may have noticed that many educators are worried. They find that from hearing adults and watching news and certain politicians, that many children believe that we will be extinct in 10 years. This leads to anxiety and has educators and parents worried about how to handle this.

Students, like all of us, need to have some optimistic feelings toward the future. If we are all doomed, why do we need to learn to spell or write or any of the other things parents and teachers worry about teaching our students. Some teachers in California are having student-produced podcasts, looking for reasons to be optimistic in this time of climate change.

The pandemic and its variants helped depress our students even more. People talk about "follow the science". But most don't, they are just reading their interpretations of what someone else said or thinks. One of the factors that goes into this is that those that are in academia live by a rule "publish or perish". In Science Departments, it is almost impossible to get a paper printed if it argues against climate change. So as a professor if you do not want to stay with the

company line, you will not be printed and, therefore, face non-promotion.

Teachers are not given the whole picture and many are afraid to make waves. I know a lady who got in trouble with her Board of Ed for simply telling her class that climate change has always existed on earth or we would not have Lake Michigan, which was formed in the Ice Age by glaciers melting. This does not seem controversial, and yet it offended someone.

A survey of middle school and high school teachers by the National Center of Science listed many ways that teachers talk about these issues to students. They are not in trouble, so they must be safe. They appear to deal with personal responsibility, like turning off lights, walking to school, or using the blue cans for recycling properly. No one considers these as controversial, but they do imply this is a solution to climate change. According to many Science curriculum that teachers must follow, there is very little time assigned to the subject of climate change. But our students do hear about it all the time.

The best way to help our students who are really suffering from anxiety is to tell your school health professionals and then let the students know this is not the first and probably not the last time they will hear the warning of apocalypse. People crave to hear these predictions. Thus the popularity of zombie movies. But the kids realize these are invented by writers. I know when you get as old as I am, you have heard so many predictions of doom that I would have been dead ten times already. Remind the students there are some real things in the world to worry about like getting into your first choice for high school or college, helping yourself and your family stay healthy, and making sure those you love know it.

## Holiday Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Lincoln Park Zoo, 2000 N. Clark st. will offer a treasured holiday tradition, ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ runs from 4 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 23rd, 26th-31st, and Jan. 1st-2nd. A twinkling winter wonderland complete with festive activities, will feature visits with Santa, a holiday pop-up bar, an Enchanted Forest, Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ, sweet treats of all kinds, and much more. Active zoo members will enjoy two free night on Dec. 13th. To join, visit lpzoo.org/membership

Admission will be free on Mondays and Tuesdays, Dec. 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th. Tickets are required. Sensory-friendly visit time will be offered on Dec. 15th from 4-6 p.m. Music and blinking or moving lights will remain static or turned off. The Light Maze

Presented by Invesco QQQ will require one ticket (\$3) per guest.

The Enchanted Forest experience brings a fairytale land to life with flowers, mushrooms, dripping lights, and magic in the air. One ticket (\$3) required per guest.

Snowy's Spirits & S'more, a holiday-themed pop-up bar, features s'mores over a fire pit, festive cocktails, hot drinks and sweet treats. Free to enter.

A variety of holiday events include: Chris White Trio Tribute to a "Charlie Brown Christmas" on Dec. 12th; Adults Night Out: Holidayze on Dec. 16th and Zoo Year's Eve on Dec. 31st.

Sponsors include ComEd, Invesco QQQ, Louis Glunz Beer Inc., Coca-Cola, 93.9 Lite FM, and Lysol.

For more information, visit lpzoo.org.

## First Installment For Property Tax

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has posted the First Installment Tax Year 2021 bills on cookcountytreasurer.com.

The First Installment, which is 55 percent of the previous year's total tax, is due March 1, 2022. By providing an early look at the bills, property owners can plan their finances or make payments before the end of the year.

Homeowners can download their tax bill and make a payment by visiting the website at cookcountytreasurer.com and selecting the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free". Enter your address

or 14-digit Property Index Number.

There is no fee if paid from your bank account. The Treasurer's Office accepts partial payments but First Installment taxes must be paid by March 1st to avoid a late charge of 1.5 percent per month.

Visit the website to search \$84 million in available refunds. Check if you are missing out on \$34 million in property tax exemptions, which lower your tax bill. Read the Pappas Studies, a series of research projects that includes a 20-year history of Cook County property taxes.

## CPS Celebrates Computer Science

Chicago Public Schools is partnering with Google in an annual call to action during CSEd Week (Dec. 6 -12) to inspire students to learn computer science and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners such as CafeCS.

Virtual events for educators, policymakers, students, and families, include classroom lesson plans for teachers, a coding event in collaboration

with The Hour of Code, and online events like a Panel Discussion with CS Heros and information on how to Build Your Own CS Advo-Kit.

Districtwide events include the following: Careers in Computer Science virtual panel on Thursday, Dec. 9th from 6 to 7 p.m.

First Lego League Competition for students in upper elementary and middle school at Lindblom Math & Science Academy on Saturday, Dec. 11th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information and to register for events, visit https://www.csed-week.org/events.

## Honor Society Inducts Valentine

Catherine Valentine of MCPHS University was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

## Library Schedules Family Events

The Chicago Public Library has scheduled Online events via Zoom.

Live one-on-one homework help is also available online everyday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. through Brainfuse. Students in early elementary through advanced college prep can get help with: specific homework questions, improving study skills, writing papers, ACT and SAT test prep and learning English as a second language. Use Brainfuse on any connected device or at home with your library card.

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has Pom-Pom, Wreath-making kits and Water Bead Stress Balls kits for teens. These grab and go kits are available while supplies last on Tuesdays, through Dec. 21st from 12 to 3 p.m.

Write About It! Writing Club for teens and adults will feature writing and poetry on Tuesday, Dec. 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom. Register by 10 a.m. the day before the event.

Join Mrs. Katie from the McKinley Park Branch to read books, sing songs and enjoy rhymes geared towards children 0 to 5 on Mondays, through Dec. 20th from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 17th from 10:30 to 11 a.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register early.

Wrightwood-Ashburn Teen Librarian Nate will conduct a writing club, Intro to Improv for Teens on Tuesday, Dec. 14th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours in advance.

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer will feature in-person

Adult Coloring Programs on Wednesdays, through Dec. 29th from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Studies have shown that it can relieve stress and anxiety as well as help adults achieve mindfulness. Coloring pages and supplies will be provided. Register now, due to space limitations.

Music and Movement for ages 0 to 5 will be available via Zoom on Monday, Dec. 13th from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register at least 24 hours in advance.

Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer invites children ages 3 and up to drop by on Saturday, Dec. 11th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or Monday, Dec. 20th from 1 to 3 p.m. to make a personalized Christmas card for a friend or loved one. Art supplies will be available in the Children's area. No registration is required, space limitations may apply.

The Garfield Ridge Branch Library will conduct PJ Storytime for ages 3 & up on Tuesday, Dec. 21st from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Winter Break Fun and Game Time will be offered on Wednesdays, Dec. 22nd and 29th from 1 to 4 p.m.

Christmas Cheer will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 16th from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Participants will enjoy cookies, carols, coffee and conversation. Monthly programs and services will be explained.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Orange is the New Black" on Wednesday, Jan. 12th at 2 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 13th at 6 p.m. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

## Colescott Art At Cultural Center



Photo Credit: Joshua White

GO WEST, 1980, acrylic on canvas, 71 3/4 x 83 7/8 inches © 2021 The Robert H. Colecott Separate Property Trust / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy of The Robert H. Colecott Separate Property Trust and Blum & Poe, Los Angeles/New York/Tokyo.

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announces the first comprehensive retrospective of Robert Colecott (1925-2009), one of America's most provocative artists, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st., (Chicago Cultural Center.org).

In his large-scale paintings, Colecott confronted cultural hierarchies involving race, gender and social inequality with wit and irony. This free exhibition brings together 55 paintings and works on paper spanning 50 years of his prolific career.

The exhibition traces the progression of his stylistic development and the impact of place on his practice, from his adaptations of Bay Area Figurative in the 1950s and 60s, to his graphic style of the 1970s, and the figurative of his later work.

Programming at the Chicago Cultural Center includes Gallery Talks with Daniel Schulman, DCASE Director of Visual Arts, from 12:15-1pm on Wednesdays, Dec. 15th, Feb. 16th and April 13th.

Additionally, Colecott Night: comedy and performances hosted by Melissa DuPrey on Dec. 13th include DJ sets by Sadie Woods in the Exhibit Hall (6-7 p.m.

and 8:30-9:30 p.m.); a screening of Colecott's "Dulacrow's Masterwork: A Mockumentary Film," 1976 (6-7 p.m.); and the main program in Preston Bradley Hall featuring Taneshia "Just Nesh" Rice, Calvin Evans and Windy Indie (7-8:30 p.m.).

Learning Lab programming includes the "Meet an Artist" series featuring Shine On, Chicago! founder Jim Kropp and teen photo ambassadors on Dec. 10th & 11th from 12-2 p.m.

## Sports Clinic For Military

The Chicago Park District will stage a Veterans Windy City Winter Sports Clinic at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Tuesday, Feb. 8th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The urban adaptive sports clinic for veterans and active duty personnel will feature ice skating (equipment will be available), biathlon, curling, snowshoeing and more.

Proof of service is required. For additional information contact (aimee.gottlieb@chicago parkdistrict.com) or (andrew.grose@chicago parkdistrict.com)

## Holiday Magic At Brookfield Zoo



Brookfield Zoo, 8400 W. 31st st. will celebrate its 40th annual Holiday Magic, presented by ComEd and Meijer, Dec. 9th-12th, 15th-19th, and 26th-31st from 3 to 9 p.m.

The lights festival, features over two million twinkling LED lights.

The zoo's 41-foot-tall tree, located at the north entrance, is adorned with thousands of LED lights and choreographed to seasonal tunes. The walkways along the malls and around Roosevelt Fountain have more than 700 community and corporate trees decorated with ornaments. Illuminated animal sculptures, include a giraffe, bison, bear, and reindeer.

Photo opportunities include a 3D 16-foot-tall gingerbread house, luminous 20-foot-tall orb, holiday-themed festive frame, and Santa Claus cutout.

Guests of all ages can play the Game of Gnomes, and embark on a fun-filled scavenger hunt in search of 25 enchanting locations.

Indoor and outdoor animal habitats, including Tropic World, Pachyderm House, Big

Cats, Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Reptiles and Birds, Living Coast, Hamill Family Wild Encounters, Seven Seas underwater viewing gallery, Great Bear Wilderness, Australia House (front section only), and Hamill Family Polar Zoo, will be open. Dolphins in Action presentations (extra fee applies) are at 4 and 6 p.m. each night.

Kids can deposit their written greetings and drawings for the animals in a designated box, and drop off letters to Santa Claus in a giant red box, on the South Mall.

Guests can take a spin on the skating rink, which is made of synthetic plastic. The cost for unlimited time for skaters on the rink is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for \$5 fee.

Reservation times are available in 15-minute increments. Zoo admission and parking tickets, which must be reserved in advance at CZS.org/HolidayMagic, are \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children ages 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15.

## Real Stories Of Great Resignation

The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership will conduct episode one of its Hire Frequency podcast's *Beyond the Data: Real Stories of the Great Resignation* on Facebook Live (@chicookworks) Friday, Dec. 10th at 10 a.m.

The episode will be followed by a live, online question and answer session with the participants. Hear from Chicagoland residents who have re-imagined their professional lives over the past few months; an employer facing a workforce shortage; and an expert who helps better understand the motivation for these changes.

In August, more than 4.3 million people quit their jobs and in September, another 4.4 million did the same. At the same time, job openings were at record levels. Employment in Illinois dropped by 13%, or more than 800,000 jobs, during the worst of the pandemic from January to April of 2020. Yet, the return to work hasn't been as

strong as in other parts of the country.

## Szymkiewicz Joins Honor Society

Kaitlyn Szymkiewicz was among 19 students inducted into the Gamma Chi Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma at Lewis University in Romeoville. She is currently studying Early Childhood Special Education.

The national scholastic honor society recognizes academic accomplishments, fosters scholarly activities, and encourages a sense of intellectual community.

Undergraduate students must have completed at least 50 percent of the credit requirements for their baccalaureate degrees with a distinction of performance, which, if continued, would make them eligible for graduation cum laude. Junior and senior students must have at least a 3.5 GPA as well as received three DES faculty nominations.

## Clothing and Toy Donations Needed



St. Bruno and St. Richard Parish are accepting donations of new knit hats, gloves and sweat-shirts for homeless men and women and toys for children in need through Wednesday, Dec. 15th. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Center, 5030 S. Kostner between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call the Parish Center at (773) 585-1221.

## Heating Repair Grant Program

The Emergency Heating Repair Program is a grant program available to income-eligible Chicago homeowners for service to repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating system. Grant funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program is open to Chicagos who own and occupy a 1-to-4 unit resi-

dential property within the city limits. The property must be in habitable condition and not at risk of foreclosure. Commercial and mixed-use properties do not qualify.

For information, call (312) 744-3653 or visit doh@cityofchicago.org.

## 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.

Opinions expressed by guest editorials may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

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## Lincoln Library Holds Art Contest



The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education are sponsoring an art contest on the theme, "Survival Through Self-Expression." Students from kindergarten through high school have the freedom to interpret and create any two-dimensional art, such as a drawing, painting or collage.

Age groups are: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Entries must be mailed no later than Dec. 17th. The winners will be announced Feb. 12th. Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Each age group will

have a winner and two runners-up, all of whom will have their work displayed at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through March 18th, 2022. The artwork chosen as "best of show" will be used on a poster sent to all schools during Illinois Arts Education Week, March 14-18.

The winner will also be recognized at an ISBE Board meeting, and a framed copy will hang in its office.

Submissions may be up to 14 inches by 11 inches. They cannot feature copyrighted characters such as Batman. More details are available at [bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest](http://bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest).

Entries do not have to be submitted via schools; youth groups, home-educated children or anyone else can participate.

For more information, visit [www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov](http://www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov).

## Holiday Flower Shows At Conservatories



The Garfield Park Conservatory Winter Flower Show, 300 N. Central Park ave., will run through Sunday, Jan. 9th. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

"Serenity" evokes a feeling of tranquility to remind visitors that the natural world is a great source of calm amidst the hectic season. Pink poinsettias will help to calm anxiety, while plants with silver foliage will relax the mind. Pleasant scents will remind visitors of the outdoors, and provide aromatherapy, many blooming flowers, such as

hyacinth, zinnias, salvias, and cosmos will fill the room.

The Lincoln Park Conservatory Winter Flower Show, 2391 N. Stockton Dr. will also run through Jan. 9th. The Conservatory is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Candy Cane" features an imaginary swirl of the peppermint treats, with red and white poinsettias, holiday lights, and a 12-foot poinsettia tree.

Admission to the holiday flower shows is free. Timed reservations are required. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/WinterFlowerShows2021>.

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## Beer Tasting At Brookfield Zoo



Photo Captions--credit Jim Schulz/CZS-Brookfield Zoo

On Friday, Dec. 10th those 21 and over can enjoy the lights of Holiday Magic as they stroll through Brookfield Zoo while sampling adult beverages during Lights and Lagers from 6 to 10 p.m. Tasting stations will be located throughout the park staffed with representatives from participating breweries. Photo ID is required upon entry. Registration is required. Tickets include a commemorative tasting glass and 3-ounce samplings plus ticket fees. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [CZS.org/Events](http://CZS.org/Events).

On Friday, Dec. 31st, ring in the New Year at Brookfield Zoo's family-friendly Zoo Year's Eve 2021 celebration. A live DJ sets the party tone in the Holly Jolly Theater, as do fun games, party favors, prizes, and an early countdown at 8 p.m. For more information, visit [CZS.org/Events](http://CZS.org/Events) or call (708) 688-8000.

## Scholarship For Early Childhood

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity announce the launch of the ECACE Scholarship Program. The scholarship is designed to encourage the pursuit of new credentials as well as more advanced education for current associate degree-holders working in early childhood education. Detailed information and a link to the 2021-22 application is now available at <https://www.isac.org/ECACEscholarship>.

To be eligible for the scholarship, those who are seeking credentials and/or a degree in early childhood education must currently be working or have worked in the early childhood field. This includes applicants who work or have worked in family childcare and center-based care settings. Applicants must provide documentation confirming their membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry. Other eligibility requirements are available on ECACE scholarship webpage.

For eligible students attending community colleges and public universities, the scholarship covers the total cost of attendance for an academic year (including summer) after other financial aid received. Students at participating non-profit private institutions may receive an amount no more than the cost of the most expensive program of study in the early childhood education field at an Illinois public college, after other financial aid received. Recipients of the scholarship are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after they complete their program of study.

To apply for the scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year, students should complete the 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as well as the ECACE scholarship application and required documentation. Eligible students who are currently enrolled in a participating institution are encouraged to work with their financial aid advisor.

## Free Programs At City Colleges

City Colleges of Chicago is offering Future Ready which provides 60+ programs in select high-demand fields at no cost to eligible Chicagoans.

Eligibility includes: New to City Colleges credit classes or those that have been away for two or more Fall/Spring semesters and left CCC in good standing.

Interested in pursuing careers in fields as diverse as: healthcare, technology, transportation, distribution, and logistics, cannabis operations, auto tech, criminal justice, and more. Undocumented students.

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity, and seats are limited. Enrollment for Spring semester is now open.

To learn more and see the list of programs, go to: [www.ccc.edu/future](http://www.ccc.edu/future) ready.

## Nature Programs For Children

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct free Open Nature Play Day at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Wednesdays, Dec. 15th and 22nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy stories, art and exploration.

The Sand Ridge Nature Center will conduct a free Nature in Spanish: Oler (to smell) program on Sunday, Dec. 26th at 11 a.m. Participants will learn some common nature words and phrases in Spanish. Beginners are welcome.

For more information, visit [fpdcc.com](http://fpdcc.com).

## Archer Heights Library Plans Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled programs for children and adults.

Monday: Virtual Adult Graphic Novel BDC Dec. 13th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. *Usagi Yojimbo: Book 1* by Stan Sakai.

Wednesday: MSI Science Club: Super humans Unite! Dec. 15th, 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Explore the science behind superhuman abilities through hands-on-activities. We will test the strength of magnetic field, engineer getaway vehicles, build 3-D hologram viewers and create your own superhuman identity. Ages 7 and up. Registration is required. Pick up a grab and go bag of materials for all three sessions at the check-out desk when you register.

Polish Book Discussion Club. Join us in person for a discussion of *Kobieta w Watykanie* by Magdalena

Dec. 15th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Books can be checked out.

English Book Discussion Club. Join us in person for a discussion of *IQ* by Joe Ide. Dec. 22nd, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Book can be checked out.

Saturday: Curious Kids Club, Dec. 11th, 3 to 3:45 p.m. Design an escape route for your turkey using ramps, hatches, included planes, levers, wedges, and pulleys. In December, learn how a circuit works by making a light up ornament using a battery, a light bulb, and copper tape. Ages 7 and up. Branch registration is required. Pick up a materials grab and go bag.

Library hours are Monday and Wednesday from 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org)

## Holiday Events At Science Museum



Photo by Heidi Peter/Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

*Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light* return to the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, highlighting the rich customs of more than 50 countries and cultures through Jan. 3rd.

The exhibits celebrate the golden age of travel with themed décor and a spotlight on the *Pioneer Zephyr train* and *Take Flight's 737*, which have been newly reimagined. Guests can visit Santa and have a souvenir photo taken with him on select days.

Volunteers from Chicago's diverse communities use handmade décor and personal mementos to decorate a forest of trees and displays that line the Rotunda and main floor. Guests can learn why silver spiders are good luck, find out which country celebrates the world's longest Christmas season, and view intricate origami ornaments.

Visitors may take a photo with the 45-foot Grand Tree, featuring more than 30,000 lights. A special tree commemorates the Chicago Sky's historic WNBA championship win. The *Holidays of Light* are showcased in display cases that contain

symbolic objects used to celebrate Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Visakha Puja Day and St. Lucia Day.

Advance ticket reservations are required, book tickets online at [msichicago.org/holidays](http://msichicago.org/holidays).

## Clothing and Toy Donations Needed

St. Bruno and St. Richard Parish are accepting donations of new knit hats, gloves and sweatshirts for homeless men and women and toys for children in need through Wednesday, Dec. 15th. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Center, 5030 S. Kostner between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the Parish Center at (773) 585-1221.

## Exhibit At Art Institute

The Art Institute of Chicago will feature the work of Barbara Krueger through Jan. 24th. She has been using combinations of text and image for 40 years to illustrate the power of advertising, politics and media. Her work is evident in the Institute's public spaces, billboards, CTA bus shelters and the Merchandise Mart.

For more information, visit [artice.edu](http://artice.edu) or call (312) 443-3600.

## Obituaries



**MICHAEL JESUS HERNANDEZ**, born in Great Bend, KS, passed away suddenly on Dec. 2nd at the age of 21. He was the son of Raul Marchan and Maria Gabriela Hernandez; brother of Raul, Ashley and Juan. Visitation was held Dec. 8th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment will be at Forest Home Cemetery.

**LUCILLE T. OSOBA** passed away on Nov. 22nd at the age of 100. Visitation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Director. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St Bruno Church. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.

**ANITA SOLORIO** born in Michoacan, Mexico, passed away on Nov. 28th at the age of 61. She was the daughter of late Jesus Solorio and late Amalia Ponce; mother of Mirna (Francisco Villa), Enriqueta (Jonathan Yarza), Luz Maria (Kenny Canada), Jose Luis Garcia and Jessie Garcia; sister of Salud and Enriqueta; grandmother of 16 and great grandmother of 5. Visitation was held Dec. 3rd at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart.

## Toys For Tots Drive At Metra

Metra will partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation for a holiday toy drive at all four downtown Chicago terminals on Tuesday, Dec. 14th.

New and unwrapped toys or cash donations will be collected by Marines and Metra employees at Chicago Union Station, Ogilvie Transportation Center, Millennium Station, and LaSalle Street Station during the morning rush period, 6 to 9 a.m.

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Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM

6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses

### Weekday Schedule (Chapel)

Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

### Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander

Sunday Masses 8AM & 10:30AM in English

### Weekday Schedule

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass

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St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

**Saturday, Dec. 11th Simbang Gabi Mass 5 p.m. at St. Barbara**

**Sunday, Dec. 12th Indonesian Mass 11:30 a.m. at St. Barbara**

## See you in Church this weekend

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The Chicago Park District's outdoor ice skating rinks are open through Feb. 21st, weather permitting. The ice skating ribbon at Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph st., is open through March 13th.

Timed-reservations will be required at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks). In accordance with Covid-19 social distancing guidelines. Pre-registration is required for all programs, including open skate sessions. Registration will be released on a rolling basis at noon on Mondays, for the sessions that run two weeks later. Skaters can check in 30 minutes before the start of their scheduled session.

Skaters who bring your own skates can reserve a free skate spot. Skate rentals will be available for \$7 in child's size 8 through men's size 12. Half sizes are not available.

In addition to open skate, most ice rinks will

### Foundation Awards 20 Artist Grants

The Artist Grant, a community-driven initiative implemented by The Reva and David Logan Foundation, has awarded 20 artists with unrestricted grants of \$2,500 each.

The original intent was to award 10 grants; however, due to 650 applications, the Foundation extended the award to 20 recipients. The only stipulations within this low-barrier application were that the applicant must be 18+, live within the city limits of Chicago, and self-identify as an artist.

The 2021 recipients are Alencia, Lorell Augustine, Tara Betts, Scott Vincent Campbell, Alma Domínguez, Colette Ghunim, Aaron Holland, J'Sun Howard, Dawn Renee Jones, Molly Jones, Roah Karim, Osiris Khepera, Thomas Kong, Jovan Landry, Amy Mall, Elizabeth Myles, Felicia Oduh, Arthur Sangster, Jacqueline Sinclair and Hope Wang.

The Logan Foundation provides strategic grants to support social justice, the arts and investigative journalism. For more information, visit <https://www.loganfdn.org/artistgrant.html>.

## Utility Relief For Low Income Families

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reminded residents of utility relief available to low-income families. Through Governor Pritzker's Help Illinois Families program, DCEO has launched over \$295 million in utility assistance programming available for low-income households and is accepting applications now through May 31, 2022, while funds remain.

Since the program first launched in September, over \$84 million in payments have been approved for 77,000 households through the Low-income Household Energy Assistance Program. More than \$200 million remains available to help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000 in

payments available, on average per household.

The State of Illinois and partners at the Citizens Utility Board are urging residents to take advantage of LIHEAP while funds remain available, and to avoid delaying payments on billing while the annual shut-off moratorium is underway (Dec. 1 – March 31).

Launched in September of this year, the current 2021-2022 Help Illinois Families program year provides \$336 million in household assistance for low-income families – including \$295 million for LIHEAP utility bill assistance.

Households at 200% federal poverty level or below are income-eligible. To apply go to [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com), or contact the hotline service providing real-time assistance in over 30 languages at 1-833-711-0374.

## Breakfast With Santa At Archer Park



Archer Park, 4901 S. Kilbourn will conduct Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus on Sunday, Dec. 12th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is open to all children who have all types of hearing loss with their hearing siblings and families and hearing children of Deaf or Hard of Hearing parents. The cost is \$5 person, children under age 5 are free. Cash only. For more information, contact [sarah.faber@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:sarah.faber@chicagoparkdistrict.com) or [timothy.owens@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:timothy.owens@chicagoparkdistrict.com).

### Savings Plan For College

Illinois' Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan has earned a Gold rating for the fifth consecutive year from independent financial research firm Morningstar.

The plan, is one of several initiatives by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs to make college more accessible. A child is three times more likely to attend college if they know they have a college savings account.

Morningstar lauded Illinois' offerings of age-based paths and index funds that accommodate different risk tolerances. "The thoughtful design and mix of strong active managers alongside core index funds make the plan a superb offering for investors," according to Morningstar.

"Together with Bright Directions, the college savings assets have more than doubled from \$7 bil-

lion to \$17 billion under Frerichs' leadership."

The Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program ("Bright Start") and the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Program ("Bright Directions") are part of the Illinois College Savings Pool and are designed to qualify as qualified tuition programs under the provisions of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Consult your financial professional, BrightStart.com and Bright Directions.com.

### IDOT Website For Road Conditions

The Illinois Department of Transportation is debuting an improved winter road conditions map on its popular Getting Around Illinois website.

The revamped map will show how weather events are impacting roads under the jurisdictions of the more than 120 snow-and-ice team sections that work out of IDOT facilities. Conditions on interstates and U.S. routes, which carry the most traffic, will be given priority reporting status.

A short video on how to utilize the map and review conditions can be viewed at [GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com)

### Application For Gunsaulus Academy

Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy, 44th & Sacramento announces that the application window for Magnet Elementary Schools will close on Dec. 15th, 2021. To apply online, visit [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu). For further information, contact the main office at 773-535-7215.

### Christmas At Carthage College

Sarah Lowery participated in the Carthage College's annual Christmas Festival at Carthage College of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The event featured three performances of readings and music in the A. F. Siebert Chapel.

## Skating Rink Opens At Brookfield Zoo



Photos—credit CZS-Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo's skating rink on the East Mall is now open from 3 to 9 p.m. during the zoo's 40th annual Holiday Magic, Dec. 9th-12th, 15th-19th, and 26th-31st.

Bring the family to circle the rink, and then stroll around the park to see everyone's favorite animals.

The zoo's 40-foot x 80-foot skating rink is not made of ice, but of a synthetic plastic known as Glice®, a material composed of heat-pressed layers of polymers, so no water or electricity is required for operation.

The cost for unlimited time for all skaters is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for a \$5 fee. Skaters are welcome to bring their

own skates.

Create the ultimate winter outing and venture to Brookfield Zoo on one of its remaining Fall Free Days, presented by Xfinity—December 13th-14th, and 20th-21st. Many of the zoo's cold-hardy animals, including the snow leopards, Bactrian camels, bison, Amur tiger, Mexican wolves, and Amur leopard can be seen in their outdoor habitats. Stop around Roosevelt Fountain to view the more than 700 community and corporate decorated trees.

Admission is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15, which applies on free days. For additional information, visit [CZS.org](http://CZS.org).

## Art Installation At Navy Pier



Photo courtesy of Iregular - Alice Sanz

Navy Pier announced its newest public art installation, *Our Common Home*, an interactive art experience designed about climate change through Sunday, Jan. 2nd. The display, created by Montreal-based media art studio Iregular, takes the form of four large-scale installations, each of which tackles a different environmental aspect.

Visitors will be able to interact with the projections vocally, through movement or using light from their cellphones. All of the projections are accompanied by a sound-track designed to enhance

the experience.

These all-new sensory experiences are made possible by CURSOR, an exclusive technology developed by Iregular. The technology can transform a building façade into an adaptable, multi-user interactive display. CURSOR uses optics, computer vision, artificial intelligence and machine learning to detect and track objects and people in large spaces.

Guests are encouraged to check out other Pier-wide experiences like *Light Up the Lake*, a new indoor holiday light-sculpture experience, open through Jan. 2nd. Features include Santa's Village, holiday beer garden, an alpine ice rink and ride on the iconic Centennial Wheel (tickets are valid through March 1st).

Guests can now extend their visit with an overnight stay at the new Sable hotel.

For more information, visit [www.navypier.org](http://www.navypier.org).

### Silver Skates At McKinley Park

McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. will conduct Silver Skates Speed Skating Competition for ages 6 to 17 on Wednesday, Jan. 12th from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Adult skaters are invited to an 18 & over meet immediately following the children's meet.

For more information, visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

### Our Lady Of Guadalupe Feast

Sts. Bruno & Richard Parish invite the community to Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day on Sunday, Dec. 12th.

For Mañanitas with Mariachi at 5 a.m. and Misa de Aurora at 6 a.m. at St. Richard Church, 5030 S. Kostner.

For Misa de Rosas with Mariachi at 7 p.m. at St. Bruno Church, 4751 S. Harding Ave.

### Free Admission To Art Institute

The Art Institute of Chicago will extend free admission to Illinois residents on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays through Dec. 17th, and Jan. 3rd to March 17th.

Tickets must be reserved online in advance at [sales.artic.edu/admissions](http://sales.artic.edu/admissions). Resident status will be verified using the zip code associated with the billing address provided.

## Red Cross Seeks Heroes Nominations

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is accepting nominations to honor the heroes among us at its annual Heroes Breakfast in spring 2022. Every year the event honors local community members who have demonstrated heroism through extraordinary acts of courage or kindness. Visit [redcross.org/heroes](http://redcross.org/heroes) to fill out the online nomination form by Friday, Dec. 31st.

The act must have taken place during the

2021 calendar year or be on-going.

Honorees will be recognized during the 20th annual breakfast to be held in person at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan ave. on Wednesday, May 11th.

Categories are Community Impact, Disaster Relief, Education, Firefighter, Global Citizenship, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Lifesaving Rescue, Military, Social Justice impact and Youth.

## “The Secret Forest” At Nature Museum



© Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon dr., announces new interactive exhibition, “The Secret Forest” which is designed to connect the youngest visitors with nature.

The exhibit offers canvas canopy tents, nature-themed camouflage flooring, new slides, and a campfire section with playful pluses.

The play area features exploration tunnels and a boat to steer on an imaginary river. A dedicated Story Time hub hosts the Museum's daily “story time” programs.

The *Judy Istock Butterfly Haven*, a 2,700-square-foot greenhouse that is home to more than 1,000 butterflies from over 40 species. Complete with pools of water, flowers, tropical trees and bird species from the Southern hemisphere.

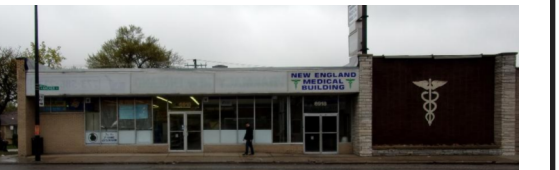
Additional information is available at [www.naturemuseum.org](http://www.naturemuseum.org).

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- Download the adoption questionnaire at [Chicago.gov/cacc](http://Chicago.gov/cacc)
- Send it to [VisitCACC@CityofChicago.org](mailto:VisitCACC@CityofChicago.org)
- Visit @CACCAadoptables and @CACCCatTransferTeam for more details

**Note:**

- Must be 18 years or older
- Bring official photo ID and bill/lease with your address
- If you have pets at home, bring their vaccination records
- Renters please discuss any pet restrictions with your landlord

**Chicago Animal Care and Control**

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Chicago, IL 60608  
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