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MISSION: TO HELP PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

From the Director



By Bruce Crane
Executive Director

Like most businesses, we strive to have our public perception match our reality. Sometimes, what a business does goes beyond the scope of what the public generally knows. This is true with StreetWise as well. We have long been associated with the homeless, and rightly so. Though most of the people who come to us are homeless, most of the *StreetWise* vendors have found stable housing and are not homeless. They couldn't have done this without three ingredients: their hard work, your support through purchasing *StreetWise* magazine, and the resources at StreetWise. The first two are pretty well understood by the public. Most buyers of the magazine recognize the work and determination of the vendors and encourage and assist them by purchasing the publication. Surveys have told us that it is the third ingredient—the resources StreetWise provides—that is less well known. Much of what we do is to prevent homelessness, either from happening to an individual, or from reoccurring to an individual. Homelessness often is a chronic problem that reoccurs for impoverished men and women. Using StreetWise resources, most vendors are able to break that cycle and attain permanent housing.

The second most important item for me as

Executive Director is to expand those services so we can assist more individuals, and serve them more fully, increasing both the magnitude and breadth of the help we can offer. Unfortunately, the first most important item for me is fundraising, for without that, we can do little else. But as our fundraising activities have incremental success, so can the services we offer expand in turn.

Most of our vendors have complex educational needs. In order for educational programs to be successful with them, they need experienced tutors and understanding mentors to help them take advantage of the educational opportunity. We have embarked on creating partnerships with colleges and agencies to expand the educational opportunities for our vendors. We have also been forging partnerships with universities that can meet the vendors' ongoing needs for graduate student interns for the assistance they need.

We have computer workstations for the vendors to use in their coursework. We supply clothing not only for everyday life, but for job interviews as well. Coupled together, these ingredients will make more of our vendors successful in getting the education and preparation so important to today's employers. When they may obtain full time employment, they truly become part of the solution to homelessness. And in the process we hope you, our public, gain more insight into what StreetWise does. We strive to end homelessness one vendor at a time and one *StreetWise* customer at a time.

Where the money goes...

Vendors buy *StreetWise* for 75 cents, and the remaining \$1.25 goes directly to the licensed vendor.

Look for the Badge!

Please purchase your copy of *StreetWise* from badged vendors only!

For questions or comments regarding our vendor force, please contact Greg Pritchett at (312) 829-2526 or at gpritchett14@yahoo.com.



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WorldWise Becoming a Binner

Kira describes how she makes a living as a “binner,” someone who sorts through garbage for recyclables, in Victoria, British Columbia.

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Spring back into fitness

Yoga lessons for change and tension from Nancy Gerstein plus nutrition tips from the Mayor’s Fitness Council.



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Rebuilding his life portfolio

Joseph Molnar lost his family and his life’s direction. But now, he’s using StreetWise and the Salvation Army to earn back what once was his.

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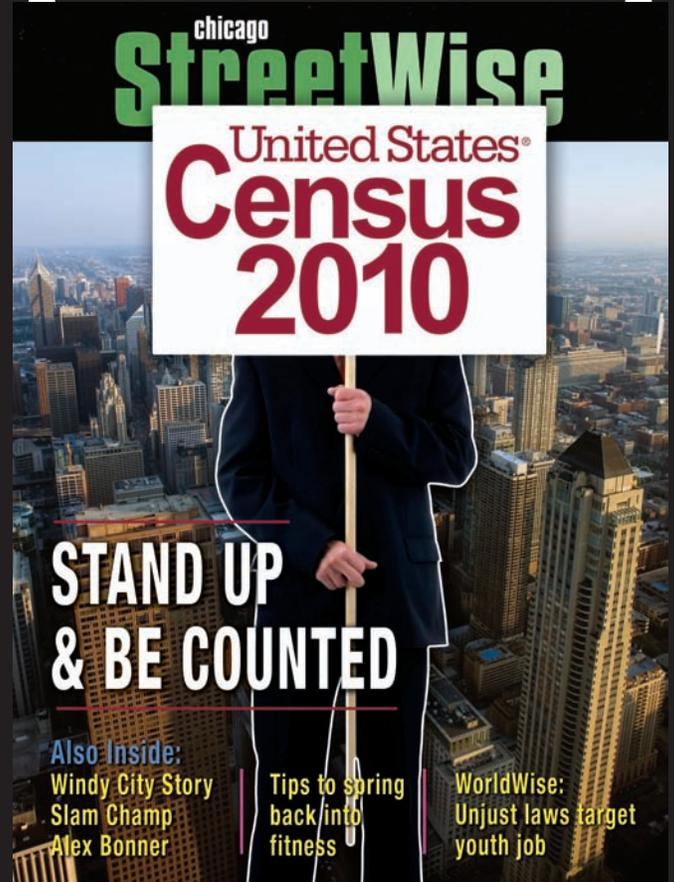
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Stand up and be counted:

Groups are participating all over the city in Count Me In, an effort to reach more minority groups and secure much-needed federal funding from the 2010 Census.

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Unjust laws target youth job

By Rodney Graham

Street Sheet, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

As with most cities in Canada, Winnipeg has both a panhandling By-law and a "squeegeeing" By-law as well. Public Interest Law Centre is challenging the law—again. But these things go slowly—the city and PILC have not even exchanged all their documents yet after a year.

In Canada, youth on the street find that "squeegeeing" is more rewarding than panhandling and more public accepted. (Squeegeeing is washing car windows at intersections for change). In Canada there is a great lack of resources for youth, especially those under 18. So in an "evolutionary" or rather, "revolutionary" way they have come up with their own resourceful way to survive on the street without having to turn to crime or be exploited by the criminal element—cleaning car windows for money.

The Law

The panhandling laws have been challenged in most cities in Canada over the past 10 years but the only outcome is that they have been modified. The law dictates that panhandling laws are not unconstitutional. On the other hand, the law also indicates that panhandling is not illegal. So there has been a legal waltz going on for over ten years with no one winning and no one losing the silent battle—a battle that activists will say is because of the system's stubborn insistence on trying to oppress the beggars to the best of their ability. Panhandling is legal but the laws in cities demand them to keep away from banks, bus stops, and to refrain from aggressiveness. Activists argue that established law already addresses aggressiveness, robbery, and other things pointed out in the panhandling by-laws. Activists say the laws are to appease the merchants and chambers of commerce who would like to see panhandlers boiled in oil if they could. So cities can legally "regulate" panhandling while not actually banning it.

The Law's application

While major cities have had to modify their panhandling laws—squeegeeing laws have not even been challenged to any great extent in Canada. Calgary, Winnipeg, and Saskatoon, have amended their panhandling by-laws recognizing that the laws prohibiting or extremely effecting panhandling violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Canada. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms are the equivalent of the American Constitution. Toronto, Canada's major city, has a law which is provincial and aims at panhandlers and squeegee kids, called Bill 8.

Ontario Coalition Against Poverty is Toronto's biggest and most active activist group in

Toronto and Canada. John Clarke, head of OCAP, said that although it is legal technically, the police can decide how to interpret the law that "regulate" the practice of panhandling—and that it is not being done justly.

"People are going to jail for second offenses on Bill 8," Clarke said, "there are people sitting in jail for panhandling here in Toronto."

Besides panhandling and squeegeeing, there is a no camping law in Toronto as in many American cities.

"We live within a system that creates poverty and destitution then proceeds to criminalize them for the things they need to do to survive," said Clarke.

My personal experience as an activist & a former homeless youth:

When I was 12 my mother was a chronic alcoholic and I had no support from any other source. I was made a ward of the court in Vancouver BC. The first day I was sent to a group home to live I witnessed a girl jump off the roof of the three-story house in a suicide attempt. The staff there seemed unconcerned. The same day I witnessed employees of the "business" smoke pot with 14-year-old-kids. The only thing they said to me was - "there's no balling allowed in the house." No mention of going to school at all... It was a very depressing and confusing place actually.

I ran away from there and lived for quite some time panhandling. If I had been able to squeegee it would have even a great benefit to me too. I eventually sought out resources where I could get my life turned around. It was a group home—but one I chose myself.

Many of my friends from group homes—from

the system—ended up in jail and in gangs, to a great extent because of the system and because of the law! Because of the way the system is geared to bash you down instead of pulling you up. Laws repressing those who beg in various ways are definitely adding fuel to the fire of poverty.

It was only after I moved to Winnipeg that I became an activist and writer. It was because they were planning to outlaw squeegee kids. I went to meetings at city hall and saw that they were going to push the law through even though the police themselves advised them to let them do it but license them—Even social agencies advised it not be criminalized. The city ignored the advice and went with the advice of the chamber of commerce and passed the law anyway. Overnight a whole beneficial resource was taken away from desperate and abandoned youth on the street.

The reason why many youth are transient and wander across Canada from coast to coast is because they are hounded and harassed from place to place - instead of being offered a helping hand - which a true democracy is supposed to do to its most unfortunate citizens... It's the law itself that beats them down to such an extent that they have a hard time finding work, accessing resources, and generally just trying to survive.

"That the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of the history of the whole world"
—John Adams

Our Contributing Writers

Ginny Erwin has written nutrition and fitness articles for several local and national publications, such as the *Chicago Tribune* and *On-Health* magazine. She has a bachelor's degree in nutrition science and dietetics and a master's degree in nutrition communications and marketing.

Samantha Blaw is senior journalism major at Loyola Chicago and is currently an intern at *StreetWise*. She has worked for the *Loyola Phoenix* for three years with the Divisions section, writing reviews for music, theatre, features, and entertainment. She also has experience in broadcast and spent the last semester at Fox Chicago News.

Cindy Kurman Barrie and Lee Barrie are the principals of Kurman Communications, Inc., a Chicago-based marketing and public relations agency. Please follow all *StreetWise* restaurant features on Twitter @DineWise and subscribe to the blog at: <http://dinewisechicago.blogspot.com>. Or visit their blog at gotbuzzatkurman.com

Beshanda Spencer has worked in the Chicago news

market for the past 5 years. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from Northern Illinois University. Just one year later, Beshanda earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia College Chicago, also focusing in Journalism. Outside of working hard to cultivate a career in media, Beshanda enjoys reading and creative writing. She is excited to help contribute to *StreetWise's* cause for community awareness

Nancy Gerstein is a certified hatha yoga teacher with the Himalayan Institute of Yoga Philosophy and Science, wellness workshop facilitator, and author of *Guiding Yoga's Light* (Human Kinetics, 2008).

Shannon McFarland is a junior at Roosevelt University majoring in journalism with a minor in political science. She has also written for the university newspaper *The Torch*, blogged, and had a short story published in a college literary journal.

Helen Kiernan is chief editor of Elephant 'zine (www.elephantzine.weebly.com) and received a bachelor's degree in poetry from Columbia College, Chicago.

Becoming a Binner

WorldWise

By Kira

Reprinted from *Victoria Street Newz*
Victoria, British Columbia

I decided to try this so-called "Dumpster diving." Ain't it funny—more than a few people were surprised I started this up, so I'd like to tell you why I did it.

The basics: I'm poor (that's a common reason). I'm stuck on the disability system (for now). I need more money. I'd seen so many other people doing it and cashing in that I thought, Why can't I do the same?

Years back I "dabbled" in the can-collecting gig. Free money's just lying around, and it does add up—I just wanted it to add up some more.

I started heavier hauls, cleaning out a few "cash-in" Dumpsters and raiding recycle boxes, though I got tired of carrying a load on my handlebars or running shopping carts back to stores (my policy is to return it where it came from; I am so sick of seeing abandoned carts littering neighborhoods—it looks awful). So, to save time and money, and thinking, "Well, if I'm gonna do it full-on, I better do it proper," I bought a trailer called the "Street Legal Shopping Cart."

I was apprehensive at first, wondering if I'd like it. Would I really use it enough to justify the money I spent? Luckily, I got a grant to pay for the cart, and within a week I was loving the convenience and freedom it provided. I could collect so much more so easily, and money wasn't an issue. Plus, it's such a great workout. Why pay the gym when the gym can pay me?

My only regret is that I didn't buy a trailer years ago! Goes to show how we can be so scared of change, even good change, that it holds us back from good results. (It's true—you'll never know unless you try.) Plus, being able to carry other heavy stuff like groceries or stuff I find on the side of the road is a huge help. I've only had to ask for a ride once the whole time I've had my trailer (almost two years now).

The second main reason I got into the collecting activities was talking to bidders and hearing all their "horror stories," recurring complaints, and the controversy that went along with being judged, stereotyped, and viewed a certain way by society, not to mention hearing about the irresponsible bidders who ruin it for the rest of us. I wanted to experience and investigate this for myself, getting both sides of the story and seeing what I can do to change people's minds about how Dumpster divers are viewed.



I think it's good to talk to people to see where they're coming from and not be "secretive" about it, as if I'm doing something wrong. The biggest thing I found that helps is asking people permission. It shows respect.

I also wanted to prove to a certain group of people who were giving me a hard time that I was different, that I could do this same activity while surrounded by negative connotations and impressions and take away the positives from it. I wanted to prove I could succeed honestly at producing my profit.

I'd like to think I'm binning for the right reasons. It's for a good cause, 'cause I like to eat well! It's enjoyable to head to the bank with bills and change and turn that into even more bills and throw it in the bank. Since I don't smoke, do drugs, or drink, I see 100 percent profit. That makes it worthwhile, and I'm grateful I can make money this way. I don't feel so powerless or helpless anymore.

It's very gratifying to see people take notice, like hearing a lady say "Thank you for being responsible" when I clean up a mess or leave a Dumpster lid the way I found it. People have seen me

working hard and have started saving bottles for me so I don't have to go "on the hunt" as much as I used to.

It's not that much, but I don't want to get greedy or obsessed and have this activity take over my life. It can be very time consuming, all this looking and not finding much; it doesn't "balance out" as much as people would like to think. I'd love to have a higher-paying job and not feel trapped by my disability allowance.

My Dumpster diving has evolved into more opportunities and endeavors. Instead of literally nickel-and-dime myself, picking around here and there for bottles, I go to places where there's the highest chance of bottles being found, and lots of 'em. If I see batteries or metals or bottles on the side of the road I'll grab them too, but I don't really go out of my way anymore.

The main reason is that it's not really worth it. It's discouraging and disappointing that most spots have been picked over so many times that my exercise has turned into an exercise in frustration as I come up empty-handed time and again. There goes more healthy food out of my mouth.

It wasn't like this even a year ago. I don't want to go to these "poor places" for free food and hand-outs. The extra income I generate from bottles translates into more food I can buy and less visits to food banks; if I don't have to, I don't want to frequent those places.

Binning makes me more independent and forces me to help myself, giving me more power and control in my life so I don't feel so trapped and limited. It gives me more choices, and helps keep my dignity intact.

“

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Courtesy of the Street News Service®

Kitchen Cures

By Ginny Erwin
StreetWise Contributor, www.ginetics.org



Did you know that your kitchen holds the key to your overall health and wellness? Inside your cabinets and refrigerator are some very simple ingredients that can help your body heal itself without expensive drugs.

For instance, ginger root (rhizome) has been found to help relieve the pain of arthritic inflammation. Ginger root, all gnarly and knobby, almost looks arthritic. Two ways to prepare it so it can help with your symptoms are in tea and as a compress mixed with a little water and oatmeal so it sticks together.

Another great root for joint inflammation is turmeric. Turmeric roots look similar to ginger roots; when you break them open you see a bright orange color. Thai and Indian restaurants use this natural anti-inflammatory spice in everyday dishes. Just sprinkle some on your food or in your soup.

For sinus relief there's nothing simpler than using a neti pot with a little diluted fine sea salt. I've been using one off and on for years, and it really does help with chronic sinus

conditions. Of course, it helps to be aware if you have food allergies; in that case you may also want to try an elimination diet to help with chronic sinus conditions. Wheat and dairy are the two most common forms of food allergies, so be sure to eliminate those first.

Tea is another natural, common kitchen cure. Scientists have found that people who drink tea have lower blood pressure than those who don't. The overall effect seems to be dose dependent: those who drank at least six cups per day were found to have the lowest blood pressure. Also, longtime tea drinkers have lower overall body weight, possibly because they tend to have healthier lifestyle habits in general.

One kitchen tip is to reuse tea bags when you wake up with puffy eyes. After using the bag in your teacup, place it in the refrigerator for an hour or two until it's good and cold. Then take it out, recline in a comfortable position, and gently place it over your closed eyelids for 10-15 minutes. Your eyes will then be refreshed and sparkling.

Try some of these home remedies before you go and buy expensive prescription medications or high-end eye creams. Save your hard-earned money for something you really need.

For more nutrition and fitness tips, go to www.ginetics.org.



Sweet Carrot & Beet Salad

(serves 4)

FoodWise Shopping List:

- ½ cup low-fat plain yogurt
- 4 teaspoons of honey
- 2 cups grated carrots
- 1 cup grated beets
- ¼ cup raisins
- ½ cup mixed greens (optional)

Ginny's Cooking Instructions:

- In a large bowl mix yogurt and honey
 - Add remaining ingredients, and toss.
 - Chill for 1 hour.
- Serve on bed of mixed greens optional.
- Enjoy!

NUTRITIONAL INFO

Amount Per Serving		% Daily Value*
Calories 70		Calories from Fat 0
Total Fat	0g	0%
Saturated Fat	0g	0%
Cholesterol	0mg	0%
Sodium	65mg	3%
Total Carbohydrate	16g	5%
Dietary Fiber	2g	7%
Sugars	13g	
Protein	3g	
Vitamin A	200%	Vitamin C 6%
Calcium	8%	Iron 2%

DineWise

By Lee Barrie & Cindy Kurman Barrie
StreetWise Contributors

90 Miles Cuban Café: It's like going home to your Cuban neighborhood

We don't know how many times we had driven by 90 Miles Cuban Café on Clybourn before we decided to stop in.

From the outside it looked like a simple, standalone makeshift sandwich shop that was hardly worth a second look except for the fact that it was so unusual looking. So when we walked in, the magical décor, featuring myriads of newspaper and magazine layouts from pre-Castro Havana pasted on the walls to form a three walled, room sized collage, took us quite by surprise. Our smiles went from ear to ear. The other surprise was the culinary-oriented, professional staff, including chef-owners Alberto and Christine Gonzalez, who have an obvious passion for what they are doing.

In addition to the sandwich board covering both breakfast and lunch/dinner items, there is a second chalkboard featuring daily entrée specials that are much more inspiration than improvisation, which is a good thing. What is most apparent is that this surprising eatery has an obviously loyal following—there isn't much seating but this place does a great take-out business.

We also learned that the owners had opened up shop in Wicker Park with a second, larger location. So take your choice. When you're in the mood for casual Cuban homespun fare at breakfast, lunch or dinnertime, this is a restaurant to try.

If you're up early, a Cuban breakfast sandwich makes a fine choice. Choose from an omelet sandwich with onion, onion and ham, ham and Swiss cheese or an omelet with maduro (sweet plantain). Enjoy it with a strong Café Cubano or a Café Con Leche (with milk).

Lunchtime is grilled sandwich time, and there are many to choose from. We tried the Cubano, made with Cuban ham, roast pork, Swiss cheese, pickles and mustard. Good and authentic.

We also liked the Media Noche, a variation made with midnight ham, roast pork, Swiss cheese, pickles and mustard on sweet bread. Other sandwich choices include the Bistec, steak with Romaine lettuce, tomato, grilled onions, shoestring potatoes and a chimichurri; Pollo, chicken with Romaine lettuce, tomato and grilled onions; Lechon, roast pork with

Romaine lettuce, grilled onions and sweet plantains. The Frita Cubana is a Cuban version of the hamburger and the Guajirito comes with your choice of meat or tofu, green plantains; the Croqueta features ham, grilled onions and Swiss cheese.

Regular entrées are served with white rice, black beans and sweet plantains. Choose from Bistec (steak), Pollo (chicken), Lechon (roast pork), Ropa Vieja (shredded beef), Tofu or a Veggie. Every day, there are entrée specials, which give you an authentic taste of some Cuban specialties.

The side orders do a great job of giving you a sampling of some foods that are common Cuban street fare. There are several flavors of empanadas: beef, ground soy, veggie, chorizo, goat cheese or guava and cheese. You might try the Yuca con mojo (cassava in garlic sauce), the Yuca frita (fried cassava) or the Yuca Rellena (stuffed cassava). If you're a plantain lover, you can choose Maduros (sweet plantains) or Tostones (green plantains). A nice side dish with a sandwich is the Mariquitas (plantain chips).

If you've got room for some dessert, the Pastelitos are delicious—choose between guava or guava and cream cheese. The bread pudding is rich and filling and, on the lighter side, there's a yummy traditional flan. To round things out, there are some cold Cuban soft drinks and tropical shakes, which we haven't tried but will likely be a refreshing treat when the Chicago weather warms up.

Calendar Spotlight: Freedom's Sisters

By **Beshanda Spencer**
StreetWise Contributor

At first glance "Freedom's Sisters" may look like an exhibit full of overblown portraits. But with only a few steps museum-goers are transported down a path of African-American women's history. There are the familiar names: Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Coretta Scott King. But it's the little-known facts about these women and 17 others that make the exhibit, now on display at the DuSable Museum of African American History, personal and inspiring to the next generation.

Most people immediately think of Coretta Scott King as Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife. But as a child she dreamed of being a singer.

The story of Tubman and the Underground Railroad is taught in classrooms across the world. Yet few people know that Tubman was the first American woman to command a military raid during the Civil War.

And before becoming a college president, founder of the National Council of Negro Women, and a prominent government official, Bethune opened a school for girls with just \$1.50; the six students used crates for desks and charcoal for pencils.

Created by the Cincinnati Museum Center and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service, the "Freedom's Sisters" exhibit surprises you with its use of sound and props.

At the press of a small black button, the thunderous voice of poet Sonia Sanchez resounds over the music and rhythms that inspired her. The stuffed dog that almost appears to be standing guard for Fannie Lou Hamer startles you when it suddenly barks. You then stop and read about her life, learning that Hamer didn't discover she had the right to vote until she was 44 years old, in 1962.

Chicago resident Patricia Dickerson grew up during the civil rights movement. "This was a part of my childhood," she said. "This is very emotional for me, to see and read about our struggle for basic things like voting. Some of these things I knew, but I didn't know some specifics, like the bubblegum test."

A clear container filled with colorful gumballs sits quietly inside the Ella Jo Baker informational, yet it speaks volumes. The stillness in the air is a result of her life's struggle against every single color of every single gumball in that jar. Visitors get a chance to guess the number of gumballs; if they guess right, they may be allowed to vote. You can feel the spirit that drove Baker to cofound the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); its members participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961, a campaign that pressured the federal government to change discriminatory policies.

"The pain is still moving, for me to know the things that were done to our people," Dickerson said. "I'm sad when I look at today's youth, who are out of touch with what our forefathers went



DUSABLE MUSEUM PHOTO

through. This shouldn't be taken for granted, things seemingly as simple as sitting where we want on a bus."

The bus seat that Rosa Parks refused to vacate on December 1, 1955, is displayed in the exhibit. A rail and rope surround it. The cushion is worn and bursting at the seams; the green color of the leather has faded. You can't touch or sit in the seat, but you're allowed to touch Parks's fingerprint, taken after her arrest. You're privileged to hear Parks herself recount the events of that day—in her own words, in her own voice.

Then at some point it hits you—the rise of a movement that changed the world incidentally started with a woman who had dropped out of school.

This simple fact drives home the single thread that ties all 20 women together: they are "ordinary people who did extraordinary things."

The DuSable Museum has received applications from exhibit attendees for local "freedom sisters," Chicago women who participated in the civil rights movement and have historically demonstrated a commitment to the struggle for equal rights.

"Freedom's Sisters" continues through Sunday, April 4. Located at 740 E. 56th Place in Chicago, the DuSable Museum is open Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun noon-5 p.m. Admission is free for children under 6, \$1 for children 6-12, \$3 for adults, and \$2 for seniors.

Raising money for StreetWise just got a little easier.

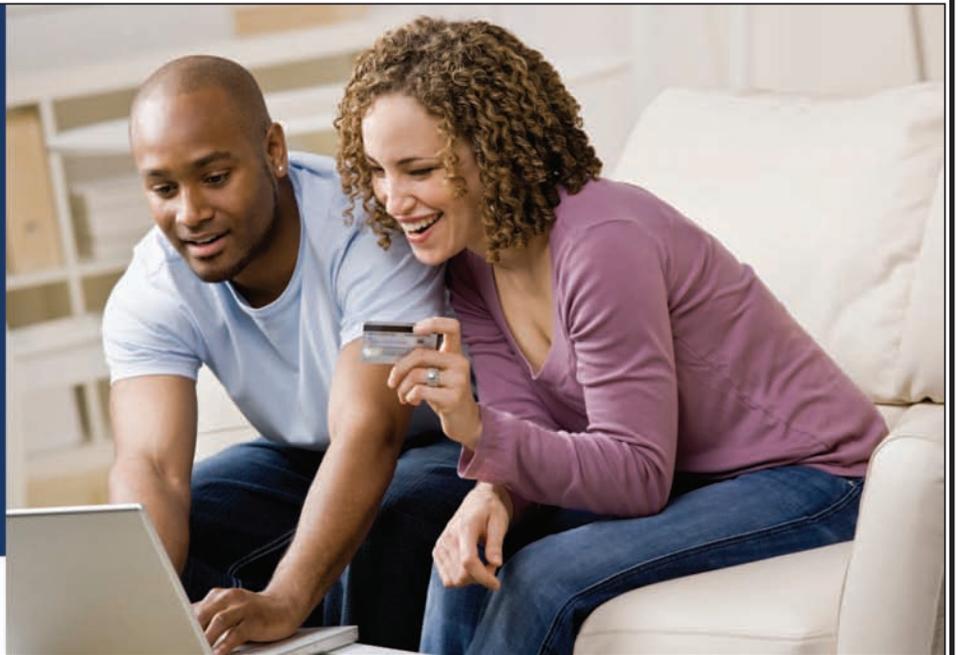
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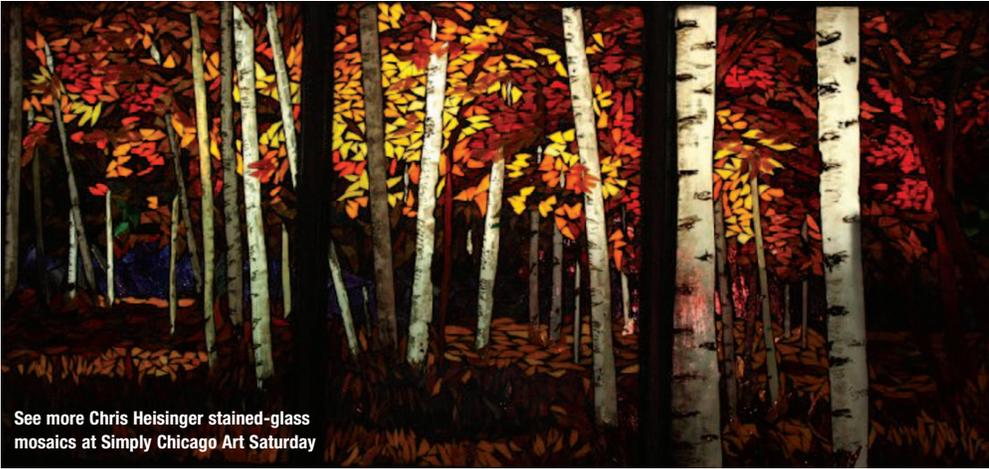
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It costs nothing to join.

Log on to www.streetwise.org and click on the iGive.com tile ad, then shop and give!





See more Chris Heisinger stained-glass mosaics at Simply Chicago Art Saturday

Wednesday

Walk through more than 25 themed gardens at the **16th annual Chicago Flower and Garden Show**. Includes a marketplace, classes, gardening seminars, hands-on demonstrations, horticulture competitions, culinary demos by 36 local chefs, kids' activities, and more. This year's theme is "Cultivating Great Performances," featuring displays inspired by the Broadway musicals *Wicked*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Miss Saigon*. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (through Sunday), Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. Wednesday's culinary demos: 11:30 a.m., Jill Barron, Mana Food Bar; 1:30 p.m., Chris Curren, Blue 13; 3:30 p.m., Laurel Boger, Eli's Cheesecake Company; 6:30 p.m., Mark Grimes, Pinstripes. \$15-\$17 (\$5 for ages 4-12). For more info call 312-595-7437 or visit chicagoflower.com.

Friday

Expanding upon its visual art theme, the **Chicago Arts District Second Fridays Gallery Night**, a walking tour of about 30 spots in the Pilsen neighborhood (second Friday of each month, 6-10 p.m.), adds performance art and shopping opportunities to its roster of opening receptions at indie galleries. The participating venues are Artpentry, 1827 S. Halsted St.; South Halsted Gallery, 1825 S. Halsted; Deliciously Vintage, 1747 S. Halsted; Temple Gallery, 1749 S. Halsted; Chicago Art Department, 1837 S. Halsted; EP Theater, 1820 S. Halsted; Rooms Productions, 645 W. 18th St.; Logsdon 1909, 1909 S. Halsted; and Vespine Gallery, 1907 S. Halsted. Maps can be picked up at the Arts District information center located at 1821 S. Halsted St. Free. For more info call 312-738-8000, ext. 108, or visit chicagoartsdistrict.org.

Saturday

Chris Heisinger specializes in stained-glass mosaics for architectural and decorative artworks. She studied the Arts and Crafts movement, Native American art, and Chinese art history at Northwestern University. Meet Chris in person at Simply Chicago Art, 1318 Oakton St., in Evanston, from 3 to 8 p.m. For more info call 847-738-0716 or visit simplychicagoart.com.

Opera Among the Stars, featuring superstar soprano Danielle de Niese, has special reduced admission rates for young professionals, and silent auction bidding is available online!

Now in its third year, Opera Underground, Chicago Opera Theater's young professionals club, is seeking to cultivate the spirit of philanthropy in young professionals ages 21-45 by inviting them to the 2010 Annual Gala. A reduced ticket rate of \$75 will grant this younger crowd access to de Niese's performance and the cocktail-and-dancing portion of the evening. Contact COT at 312-704-8420, ext. 214, for specific benefits at different giving levels for couples and groups as well as details on the \$75 Opera Underground tickets. (Black tie optional.)

Proceeds from the **Chicago Architecture Foundation 35th Annual Gala** benefit the foundation and its youth education programs; each year these programs reach more than 35,000 students. 6:30 p.m., cocktails and silent auction; 8 p.m., dinner; 9:30 p.m., dancing, with music provided by the Stanley Paul Orchestra. Individual tickets: \$500-\$1,000; table for ten: \$5,000-\$25,000. Black tie. For more info call 312-553-2000.

Sunday

Wear a festive green costume to the **St. Paddy's 5K Run/Walk** on the lakefront for the chance to win a prize for best outfit. Includes T-shirts for all adult participants and a special kids' dash for those under 10, plus an awards ceremony, a raffle, and a post-race cocktail at Trinity Bar (2721 N. Halsted St.). 10 a.m., Diversey Harbor, 2800 N. Lake Shore Drive. \$25-\$30. For more info call 773-868-3010.

Monday

Local writers Keith Ecker and Alyson Lyon host humorous, true-life tales by Chicago-area comedians, novelists, poets, journalists, bloggers, and playwrights at **Essay Fiesta**. Buy a raffle ticket to raise funds for the Howard Brown Health Center. 7 p.m., the Book Cellar, 4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave. Free. For more info call 773-293-2665.



MAKING MEMORIES

BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

White Chicago's fourth annual Dress Drive provides women with an alternative to letting their wedding gowns gather dust in their closets.

The consignment bridal boutique will be collecting dresses, slips, and veils less than seven years old for donation to be resold, with all proceeds benefiting the Making Memories Breast Cancer Foundation. Based in Portland, Oregon, the organization's warehouse is home to more than 22,000 dresses that will be sold during Brides Against Breast Cancer's (BABC) nationwide traveling gown tour.

Over the past three years White Chicago has donated 200 gowns worth \$575,000 to BABC. The once-wed dresses bear designer labels such as Badgley Mischka and Vera Wang, but the price tags are marked down 30 to 70 percent. White Chicago will be collecting dresses at its store, located at 222 W. Huron, through March, or interested donors can consign their dresses online at whitexchange.com.

Thrifty brides-to-be can catch the Chicago stop of the gown tour Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3, at the Wyndham Chicago hotel (633 N. Saint Clair) and browse a collection of donated dresses from designers, manufacturers, individuals, and retailers like White Chicago.

The BABC charity event will put 100 percent of the proceeds into Making Memories, where wishes have been granted to stage IV breast-cancer patients since 1998. According to BABC's Web site, Nancy White-Kelly's wish for a family reunion so she could tell each member of her family that she loved them was the first to be fulfilled. In 2000 White-Kelly invited Fran Hansen, the executive director of Making Memories, onto *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, where she was named one of Oprah's Angels. Designers and individuals responded generously to the effort with hundreds of donations to the organization, including \$250,000 worth of brand-new dresses from top bridal designer Demetrios.

Since then, the wishes BABC has granted for women battling breast cancer in its final stages have ranged from family trips to Disney World to round-trip tickets for parents to say goodbye.

—Samantha Blauw

Wise Questions

Slam Champ Alex Bonner

An interview with the winner of this year's Windy City Story Slam

By Helen Kiernan
StreetWise Contributor

The biggest perk of winning the Windy City Story Slam, says Alex Bonner, is that "next year me and Max [Glaessner, last year's Champ] get to stand up there with our belts and act ridiculous and no one else gets to."

The "belt" Bonner refers to is an oversized, red-white-and-blue boxing-champ style belt with the Chicago Skyline on it.

In the weeks leading up to the competition, Bonner says, "I was just standing in my grandmother's basement screaming at myself." His brother Brendon, sitting in the chair across from him, smiles and nods knowingly. "Sometimes I was just punching the paper like g-dammit!" he adds, laughing.

He practiced his stories at a friend's band shows and open mics across the city. In typical egalitarian Slam fashion, the winner of the bout is chosen by audience approval; whoever screams the loudest.

The Story Slam was created by Bill Hillman after visiting the Green Mill, birthplace of the Poetry Slam. In a Slam, the audience is encouraged to interact with the performer. A Story Slammer who is boring can be "cut" from the competition if the audience begins chanting "Blah Blah Blah!" Throughout the Finals performance, Hillman often squatted at the side of the stage, sharpening what looked like two giant bowie knives.

The Slam can become a popularity contest. "I didn't invite anyone to the first Slam, because I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it without 'Friend Support,'" Bonner says.

Not so for the finals, he continues, "which I guess I shouldn't say because in America you're supposta try to hide that you're trying to gain support, it's that typical hypocrisy, like 'I didn't do this, The Friends did it'... I mean a lot of my friends are artists so I want to go see as much as I can, art shows, bands, plays...and hopefully if you have something that means a s-load to you people will come out."

Bonner talks rapidly and energetically, sometimes gesticulating wildly or altering his voice to illustrate a point. He often makes exaggerated statements, frequently referring to his views on what he jokingly terms "The Dark Side," and the need to create positivity in the world to combat it.

He talks at length about his interest in Chaos Magic; that anything is possible, that you can make things happen by concentrating hard enough. "I never thought I'd be performing at the Double Door. A lot of people don't get to do that in their lives. I decided that I would."



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ALEX BONNER

I first met Alex Bonner in a fiction class at Columbia College. His stories were a mix of mind-blowing, mystical science fiction and gritty, funny true stories involving tweaked-out pipecutters and time travelers. As a kid, Bonner bounced around between North Carolina and Chicago; but, he says, "Chicago is home." After working a series of mind-numbing jobs, he tells me, he quit. He says he wanted to focus on his writing. "I realized I was not a cog, and I don't want to be a cog in a big crazy machine, and nobody should be, it's the worst thing."

In 2009, Bonner co-founded (with Felix Pineiro) Bailout Pictures, an independent film company based in Chicago. "With Bailout we wanted to create a production company that could be an outlet for subversive films, as well as making some money, 'cus we gotta eat, too...I just wanna, I dunno, change the sigils that influence people... our generation is the first that can really see the tools of control and turn them on the oppressors and the machine... Bailout is our attempt to make something. Something of quality. Something other than... *Transformers*... Buy our fine, heavy product with a serious radio and cupholders for your McDonald's and Pepsi Products and your 15 million dollar jetfighter!"

Bailout produces a variety of commercial films. The company's mission statement reads, in part: "We want to create films...that are a little more dynamic and, dare we say, hip. However, if you have a certain look for your business, we will match it (even if it IS square)." No matter how square the production, Bonner says, they always try to "mess with" the audience's conceptions.

In a recent commercial for Fantasy Costumes, Robert Hines, wearing a pimp costume, scolds the camera, "I could have been a doctor in this

you know." Expanding on the *Transformers* metaphor, Bonner says "If anything, Bailout is more like *Transformers* the TV show than the movie, like the idea that, 'maybe kids will buy these toys if there's a super-epic story attached to it'. And it's so dark. I mean the toys are fun but...so dark...it's this whole weird thing where adults wish they were inside the womb, like 'help me! I can't do anything by myself!'"

The solution, as Bonner sees it, is to cultivate an intelligent and innovative approach. And people are doing that, he says.

Bonner continued, "[Stephen] Colbert is the Voltaire of our time. He openly mocks his sponsors, 'Verizon Wireless: Now in Wylde Raspberry!'" "When I go outside I see people enjoying their lives...taking their pills to be happy and darting in all these different directions searching for purpose and meaning or some s-t... and that's capitalism's concession prize, okay so you might hate your life but look you can have all these creature comforts like TVs, sofas...I dunno, I mean there's gotta be a balance between crappy hippy dirty and suit clean big fast shiny, can't we just like combine the two? It would be great if...these kids could make some lightning fast computers and we were all flying around in super awesome spaceships... just to prove humans are worth a s-t cuz our parents dropped the ball. They shot everyone who asked those questions; King, Lennon...It would be great if the next generation could change the world to the positive."

I ask Bonner if he believes this is possible, and he laughs and says, yes, "The Dark Side can't always win."

For an extended interview visit elephantzine.blogspot.com

The only constant is change: a Yoga lesson

by Nancy Gerstein
StreetWise Contributor

Asanas for deepening

Your present situation can change in an instant. The yogi stays tranquil and accepts life's frequent twists and turns while knowing that pleasure and pain—and good and bad—don't last forever. Change is the one thing we can be sure of, so why not embrace it? Here's a parable that shows how quickly life can turn around.

There once was a farmer who had a magnificent prize-winning stallion. The farmer planned to sell him to a wealthy businessman for a large profit. One week before the horse was to be sold, a hurricane swept through the farmer's land. It tore down the barn where the horse was kept, and the stallion ran off. "What bad luck!" the farmer's wife said.

"Good luck, bad luck, who knows? We'll have to see," said the farmer.

The next week, the farmer and his wife saw a herd of horses galloping toward the farm. It was their stallion, leading four horses behind him. "What good luck!" said the farmer's wife.

"Good luck, bad luck, who knows? We'll have to see," said the farmer.

Soon the farmer and his son were training the new horses. One day the son was thrown by one of the horses and broke both his legs. The farmer's wife was very upset. "My only son! We never should have let those horses in. This is very bad luck," she said.

"Good luck, bad luck, who knows? We'll have to see," said the farmer.

The next week, soldiers came to the farm. Their king had declared war, and the soldiers were drafting every young man in the country. After seeing that the farmer's son had two broken legs, the soldiers left him at home. The farmer's wife was relieved. "Oh, what good luck we have!" she said. As expected, the farmer said, "Good luck, bad luck, let's wait and see . . ."

The story illustrates how the farmer was a yogi in his understanding of change, staying detached from life's ups and downs.

Let's accept and be thankful for what is true in our bodies and in our minds at this moment on this day. Know that change can be just a breath away.

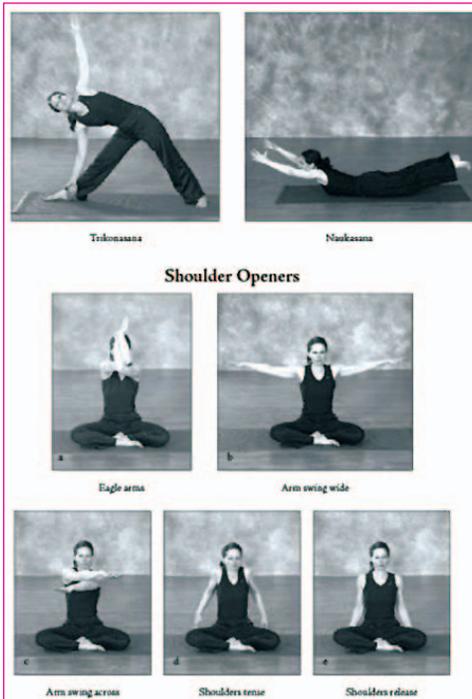
Deliberately take your time with these *asanas* (postures) and notice change in all levels of your being. The posture may become much more comfortable for a while (good luck?), then change again (bad luck?!). Notice how the energy of your body continues to change with every breath.

At the start of asana practice, do the reclining hamstring stretch using a strap under the ball of the extended leg, or, for the more flexible, the big-toe hold. Do it again at the end of class to feel the difference in the character of your muscles and your energy. Sit in the over-and-under pose and invite your hips to melt into the earth. Take in the changing sensation. Can you sense softening or resistance?

Navasana (seated boat) will challenge your balance, the temperament of your hamstrings, and your breath.

Intention:
To illustrate the fact that nothing lasts forever.

Approx. length:
3 min.



Yoga lesson to banish body tension

Through breath and body awareness, we'll work with and through body tension.

From the yogic perspective, every tension has a cause. Ask yourself what's causing you to be tense today. Where do you hold this tension?

Tension can originate from anything: relationships, work, anger, fatigue, caffeine, sugar, or even something that happened many years ago that still lingers. Muscle tension blocks the natural flow of lymph, hormones, nerve impulses, blood, and pranic energy. Eventually, these blockages affect other parts of the body, creating weaknesses and lowering resistance to disease and infections. It's the ripple effect.

Tension may also be caused by excess. We can overdo things like eating, exercise, work—even rest. We can spend too much time doing something or in the presence of someone we don't like. The key is to discover our needs for balance in our lives—or at least what balance means to us today. Our yoga practice teaches us how to use our body tension as a learning tool to guide us into the areas of ourselves that we feel we need to work on.

Practice approaching poses with tension. For instance, go into trikonasana (triangle) with exaggerated shoulder tension, then consciously remove the tension. Naukasana (boat) releases a central acupressure point located between the navel and the breastbone; long, deep breathing in this pose helps free body tension. Shoulder openers release tension in the shoulders and upper back.

Excerpted from Gerstein's book: *Guiding Yoga's Light: Lessons for Yoga Teachers*, published by Human Kinetics (2008) For more information, visit guidingyogaslight.com.

Intention:
To discover the roots of tension.

Approx. length:
3-4 min.



National Nutrition Month is a time to focus on nutrition from the ground up!

Instead of a complete diet overhaul, focus on two or three changes that you perceive to have the greatest benefit. Colleen Lammel-Harmon, a registered dietitian and spokesperson for the Mayor's Fitness Council and the Illinois Dietetic Association, says, "Making small and gradual changes to your diet typically ensures long-term success." Start with the basics and build a healthy foundation!

Lammel-Harmon suggests the following:

1. Substitute fruit for sweet desserts. To satisfy a sweet tooth, most of us reach for a bag of over-processed, oversweetened, and overpriced sweet treats. Harmon says, "This month get back to your roots and choose fruit for dessert."

2. Try a new whole-grain food. Aim to try a new cereal, barley, pasta, brown rice, bread, or other whole grain with at least three grams of fiber. Make vegetable barley soup or a tofu, rice, and veggie stir-fry.

3. Aim to have veggies with dinner seven days a week. If you have trouble keeping fresh veggies around, purchase them frozen! (Just skip the frozen veggies that come with sauces.) If prep is a problem, keep prewashed greens on hand as well as baby carrots and cherry tomatoes. These ingredients make a great side salad when accompanied by a light vinaigrette.

4. Make your own convenience items. Instead of purchasing prepackaged snack foods, make your own trail mix with almonds, walnuts, and dried cherries, or yogurt parfaits with six ounces of Greek yogurt and half a cup of fruit. In the mood for grab-and-go snacks? Harmon says, "Make your own snack bags of baby carrots, whole-grain crackers, or grapes. These are easy for your kids to transport to school or for you to take to work!"

5. Schedule a trip to the grocery store once a week and put healthy items on your shopping list. You might even want to bring your children with you so they can pick out fruits and veggies they'd like to try! Introducing kids to fruit and vegetable choices will increase their excitement as well as their intake.



STAND UP & BE COUNTED

Community Groups Say 'Count Me In' on Census

By Shannon McFarland
StreetWise Contributor

The U.S. Census Bureau calls its upcoming effort to count an estimated 300 million Americans the “largest peacetime mobilization” in U.S. history, an effort made more challenging this year because of traditionally low response rates in urban areas; rapidly growing, hard-to-count populations; and the foreclosure crisis, which has added to homelessness.

Millions of people were not counted in the 2000 census, and Illinois could lose \$12,000 over the next 10 years for each person not counted. Since the first census in 1790, the once-a-decade count has helped apportion congressional representation; Illinois lost a seat after the last census and could lose another this time around.

Today the census has the opportunity to get it right. Count Me In is the nation's largest statewide effort by a group of philanthropic organizations to help build participation for the 2010 Census. Ten of Illinois's most notable foundations, including the Joyce Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, and Boeing, have jointly invested over \$1 million in Count Me In. The money has been distributed in 26 grants shared by 60 nonprofits, including the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights,

Asian American Institute, Polish American Association, Voto Latino, Center for Economic Progress, and Metropolitan Tenants Organization.

The nonprofits' projects collectively target areas where 70 percent or fewer households mailed back the 2000 census form. Many Chicago neighborhoods hovered around a 50 percent return rate, with Lincoln Park at 60 percent and the Loop at 48 percent. But some areas, such as the Near West Side, achieved only a 37 percent return rate, with Grand Boulevard at just 32 percent, according to prepared material from Count Me In.

This month census questionnaires will be mailed to households with a requested return date of April 1. Starting in late April, enumerators (census takers) will go door to door to get responses from households that didn't return a questionnaire. The simplified form has only 10 questions, in an effort to get more people to return it.

What you need to know about the census

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the 10-year census determines political representation and distribution of funding. The census data is used to draw up legislative districts and maintain civil rights laws for employment, housing, voting, lending, and education. In 2000 Illinois lost a congressional seat it otherwise would have kept if 152,000 more people had been counted, according to a report from the Illinois

Department of Commerce and Opportunity.

Census data also determine how approximately \$400 billion in federal funds is distributed to state and local governments for schools, hospitals, services for the elderly, roads, or job training centers.

Everyone counts

Among the Count Me In partners is the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights. ICIRR has coordinated the “New Americans Count” campaign in an effort to increase immigrant participation in the census.

“It is a civil rights issue,” ICIRR's Flavia Jimenez said during the New Americans Count kickoff on February 6 near Chinatown.

“We have a huge group of very, very committed people . . . It has been a few weeks of very important campaigning,” she added. The kickoff event drew a standing-room-only crowd, many of whom wore yellow vests with ICIRR's logo that identified them as volunteers.

New Americans Count volunteers will go door to door with pledge cards to immigrant communities that had low response rates in 2000: Asian, south Asian, Latino, Polish, and Arab. Immigrants are some of the hardest populations to count, according to Andrew Reamer of the Brookings Institution, which says these groups have also grown the most in Chicago: a 24 percent increase in the Latino population and a 29 percent increase in the Asian population.

One reason for new immigrants' low partici-



It's a simplified questionnaire: ten questions, ten minutes. You could just walk in, fill out a blank questionnaire in less than ten minutes, and be counted

pation is that the census can be confusing to them. "Many are not familiar with what the census is and why it is good for our community," said Young Sun, of the Asian American Institute, during the February 6 kickoff.

In addition there are six different languages or dialects spoken within the Asian community alone, Sun said. The Asian American Institute is working to create recognition of the 2010 Census logo, and the questionnaire will be available in five languages other than English upon request: Spanish, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian. Language Assistance Guides are also available in 59 other languages, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Web site.

Another reason for immigrants' low participation is the fear of how their information is being used, as well as the fear of deportation. "Some people are scared to fill out the paperwork, but the census does not hurt anyone—it helps everyone," state Rep. Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios said at the kickoff press conference. "I am begging everyone to fill out the paperwork . . . We want to make sure we get the resources we deserve."

Virginia Martinez spoke for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), stressing the credibility of her group as attorneys for the Latino community. "It is, by law, confidential," she said, which prevents the personal information from being shared with any government or private organization, including immigration officials and credit agencies. She repeated her points a second time, in Spanish.

How campaigns are helping

Many of the nonprofits are community hubs themselves, or are using places like libraries, churches, schools, and community centers to help reach people who are at risk of not being counted in the census. Tailored to each community, the individual efforts include some unique and innovative ideas to personally connect with people.

The Polish American Association, a bilingual and bicultural human services agency for the city's Polish community, received a Count Me In grant for \$10,000. It will be used to write and record announcements and ads for two local Polish-language radio stations, which has proved to be the most effective way to reach community members. The grant will also be used to translate and distribute Census Bureau materials.

With a grant of \$48,000, Voto Latino is working to increase American Latino youth civic participation. It's using resources specific to its

audience, such as online social networking, celebrity-driven activities, and cell phones. The organization will distribute a census-related iTunes card, tap its Celebrity Coalition (which includes Rosario Dawson, Jennifer Lopez, Enrique Iglesias, Pitbull, and Kinto Sol), and organize parties and concerts for guests who e-mail or text Voto Latino a photo of themselves filling out census forms.

Nearly all Latino households have mobile phones with text-messaging capability; Voto Latino will tailor a specific census text-messaging initiative, building on its successful Text2Represent campaign.

Tax preparation and Census

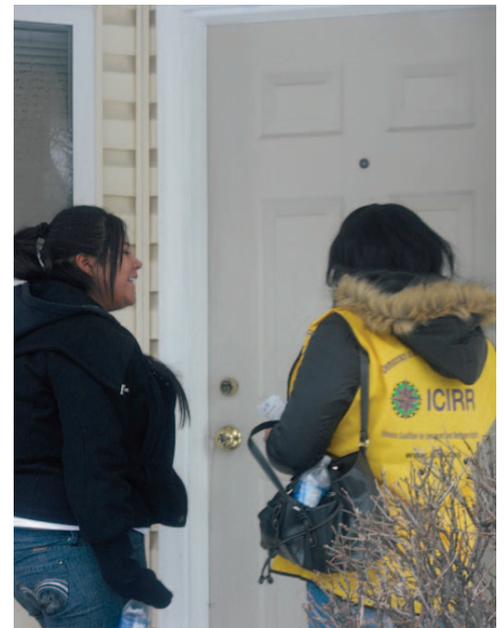
The Center for Economic Progress, a nonprofit that helps hardworking, low-income families with taxes and financial counseling, is another Count Me In grantee. Center representative Scott Kane Stukel said, "The Center has been working for 20 years now. We've grown out of very modest beginnings. We received this grant so that we would hire staff and devote resources at 10 of our sites."

He added, "The main thrust is leveraging the trust we have with our clientele . . . The census staff include 10 outreach specialists; their primary charge is engaging people about the census." The Center requested that a number of its tax assistance sites be certified as government Be Counted sites for collecting census questionnaires, which can be filled out and returned at each location.

"It's a simplified questionnaire: 10 questions, 10 minutes. You could just walk in, fill out a blank questionnaire in less than 10 minutes, and be counted," Stukel said. The sites are "for whatever reason—whether they didn't see [the questionnaire] in the mail or threw it out . . . [or] are living in a hotel or have no mailing address."

The Center's locations include Grand Boulevard, Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, North Lawndale, Bronzeville, Rogers Park, Uptown, Harvey, Waukegan, Elgin, and East St. Louis. "They've told me that it's going to be the largest advertiser in the country," Stukel said about the government's effort to spread knowledge about the census, which included a commercial that aired during the Super Bowl.

Another Count Me In grantee is the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, which works to educate, organize, and empower renters toward decent and safe housing. MTO's \$20,000 grant is focused on low-income renters of color in roughly 16 Chicago neighborhoods, including Grand Boulevard and Humboldt Park. MTO has included census information and promotion in its routine activities: hotline calls,



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tenant association and community meetings, and educational workshops.

"When we go out and meet with tenants, we remind them the forms will be going out in March," MTO development and communications director Kathy Cheney-Egan said. "We've been training the hotline counselors to say something to everyone they speak to about the census." To encourage participation, MTO has created a raffle for renters with proof of completed census questionnaires, although Cheney-Egan said they hadn't decided on a prize yet.

"We are accessing people we already have contact with. Most of our renters are low income and in areas that have a low response rate," she said. "We were thinking about the fact that we have a lot of people who are in the low response rate. We felt some responsibility to help people participate in the census."

How was your day...? Positive?
 pmaeveryday.com



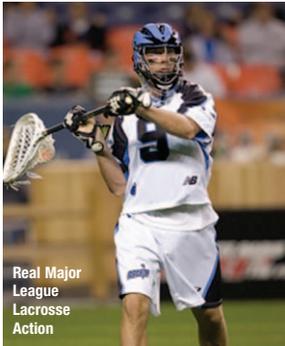
Ask Eugene

“all the brilliance that will fit”

Dear Eugene,

Last week you wrote about the Chicago Machine, the professional lacrosse team. Could you tell me a little more about them?

—Sportsfan



Real Major League Lacrosse Action

Dear Sportsfan:
 I would be delighted. Major League Lacrosse is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. The Chicago Machine have been a part of the league since 2006 and hold the noted distinction of losing every single outing their first season, an MLL

record that stands to this day. The league has a 12-week season, with some playoffs to wrap everything up.

Chicago came in last in 2009 in both attendance (15,414 total, and some of the games were played at Soldier Field, capacity 61,500—*can you imagine!?*) and league standings (sixth—they were even beaten by Toronto, who were in their first season as a team), so you and I need to do what we can to give professional lacrosse the recognition it deserves (right below hockey, just above needlepoint, on the level with Falkland War re-enactors).

You can send Eugene your questions at 1201 W. Lake, Chicago, IL, 60607 or e-mail him at supreme_eugene@yahoo.com.

Sudoku

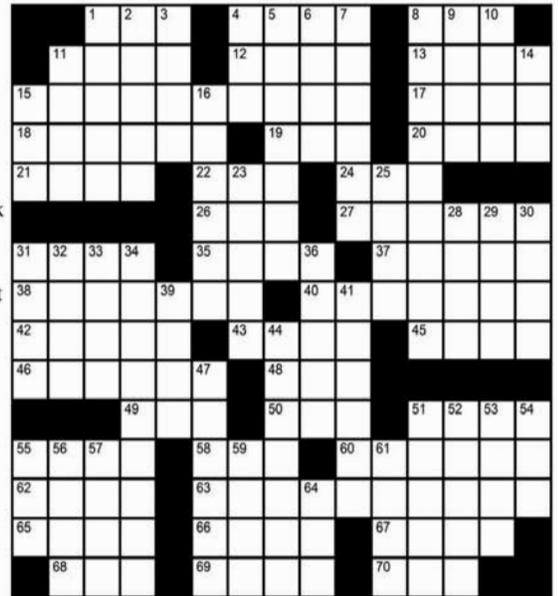
Difficulty: Medium

				1				5
	2		5	3	9			
			6					
							1	
8	3	6				2		4
					4		6	8
				6			7	1
	8	3	2		7			
	5							

Crossword

Across

- 1 Bog
- 4 Aroma
- 8 Bumped into
- 11 Fury
- 12 Hibernia
- 13 Building block
- 15 TV type
- 17 Old dagger
- 18 Black Sea port
- 19 Bunk
- 20 Autos
- 21 *Diamond Lil* actress, Mae
- 22 Extinct flightless bird
- 24 Tokyo, formerly
- 26 Dash lengths
- 27 Idolize
- 31 Bad day for Caesar
- 35 Soaks, as flax
- 37 Youngster
- 38 Carryall
- 40 Magazine word
- 42 Admittance
- 43 Helper
- 45 Time zones
- 46 Gawks
- 48 Hiatus
- 49 Egyptian cobra
- 50 A, in Acapulco
- 51 Seed cover
- 55 Assist illegally
- 58 Actress Balin
- 60 Lose weight
- 62 Sandwich shop
- 63 Like a raccoon, e.g.
- 65 Assortment



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- 66 Jai ____
- 67 Cattail, e.g.
- 68 *The Joy Luck Club* author, Amy
- 69 Fewer
- 70 Big ____, Calif.
- 9 Sicilian resort city
- 10 Level
- 11 Fair attraction
- 14 French possessive
- 15 Surprise word
- 16 Movie studio need
- 23 Alpha's opposite
- 25 Moore of *G.I. Jane*
- 28 Oklahoma city
- 29 Source
- 30 Sea eagles
- 31 Followers (Suffix)
- 32 “__ stop now!”
- 33 Kett of the comics
- 34 Condition of being notched
- 36 Roomy vehicle
- 39 Tournament passes
- 41 Extradite
- 44 Tropical lizards
- 47 Curved
- 51 French farewell
- 52 King or queen
- 53 Decorated, as a cake
- 54 __ Zeppelin
- 55 Big fuss
- 56 Buckle holder
- 57 Lamb alias
- 59 Cairo's river
- 61 Corn units
- 64 Enlisted folks (Abbr.)

Last Week's Answers

8	2	3	5	4	6	9	7	1
6	1	4	2	7	9	3	5	8
5	9	7	1	3	8	2	4	6
9	8	6	4	5	7	1	2	3
7	4	1	8	2	3	6	9	5
3	5	2	9	6	1	4	8	7
1	6	5	7	9	2	8	3	4
4	3	9	6	8	5	7	1	2
2	7	8	3	1	4	5	6	9

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Vendor rebuilds life portfolio

By Ben Cook
StreetWise Staff

"I really don't like the term 'homeless,' but if anybody was homeless, I was. Right away there's a stigma attached to that term, but I work pretty hard to not look like a bum. It's not easy."

StreetWise newcomer Joseph Molnar explained what led to his current situation. "What really set me off was losing my family..." Joseph's is a complicated case, but it boils down to the fact that after years of legal struggle his ex-wife was granted sole custody of their children, and disappeared. That was 12 years ago.

"I lost my direction after that. I used to be a pretty wealthy guy, but after all that I was asking myself what was left: am I a father? Am I a husband? How do I build a future on this? I maintained the best I could, but I eventually crashed and burned. Being an immigrant here, I had no real clout to get what I needed." (Joseph's originally from Hungary, and came to the US as a war refugee.)

Now, Joseph is rebuilding. "Between StreetWise and the Salvation Army I'm doing great. When you're out on the street you can't find a job—all of your time is spent trying to feed yourself, stay out of trouble or find a way to ease your situation. I took myself to detox and they recommended Salvation Army. They helped give me the stability and a private room that I needed to improve myself. StreetWise I had heard about. Being a former entrepreneur myself, I saw a lot of promise of what I could do selling StreetWise. I like the freedom to be my own boss. I value my freedom above all. Once you're free then you're able to satisfy other goals that are even higher, but that's the primary goal. StreetWise will give you the opportunity to do really what I do best: develop a business from scratch and it gives the opportunity to

be creative and interact with people. I get what I put into it and bring a good attitude to the whole thing.

"Right now I work at Canal and Adams by the CVS." He sells from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through Friday. "It's gotten better. When I first started there was a tenant living nearby who would call the cops on me every day. They show up and see that I'm legitimate and following all the rules. Now the police are focusing on the tenant trying to figure out why they keep calling."

Joseph laughs about the tenant, "That guy needs to get a life... I mean I don't have much of one, but he's really got to get one."

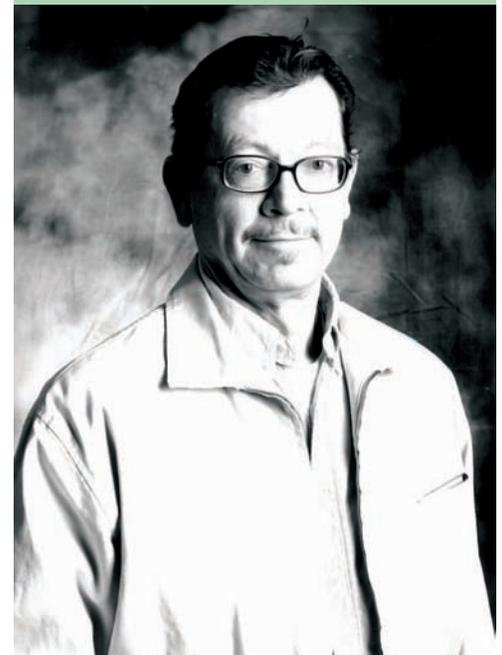
In addition to his CVS location Joseph also sells near the Walgreens at Monroe and Halsted on weekends.

Joseph has about a year and a half of artistic training working in pen and ink, pastels, charcoal doing portraits. In fact, he has offered to do an illustrated cover for StreetWise, so be on the lookout for that in the future.

Unfortunately for Joseph, his portfolio—which contained eight years of work—and hundreds of dollars worth of art supplies were stolen when he was living in the shelters, so he has to start at square one. Joseph admits that he also currently struggles to channel and cultivate his artistic side when basic survival is a constant concern.

To his customers Joseph would like to say, "I'm a pretty cheerful guy. I'm just happy to be here. I count my blessings. I've lost just about everything, really. I still feel young, and I don't have any pressing health problems, so I'm just happy to be alive. It's nice being out saying good morning to people, joking around and wishing them a good day."

Meet: Joseph Molnar



I value my freedom above all. Once you're free then you're able to satisfy other goals that are even higher...

chicago
StreetWise

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Join Greg Pritchett on the air by calling in: 773.999.1060.





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