

February 2010

TOPICS

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Hollywood-North Park Community Association

☯ HNPCA Events ☯

“Self Defense Techniques and Demonstration” by the Self Defense Centers will be the program at our next meeting.

Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 pm

Northside College Prep High School, 5501 N Kedzie
Snacks and drinks will be provided.

See you there.

If you eat why not come to the HNPCA Supper Club Tuesday, February 9, 7 pm at one of our newest restaurants, North Park Village Pizza, 3352 W Foster, 773-267-4455. Email Jewel at jklein6333@aol.com or leave a message at 773-478-8255 to RSVP

HNPCA’ers on WTTW. Be one of the HNPCA members answering phones during the WTTW Channel 11 spring pledge drive on Sunday, March 14, from 4:30pm to 10:30pm. You’ll be on TV, get dinner from a local restaurant and have a lot of fun. You must sign up in advance. If interested contact Jerry Wadro at jnwadro@comcast.net or call 847-727-9001. WTTW Studios, 5400 N St. Louis

“Crude Awakening – The Oil Crash” Friday, March 19, 7pm (Note date change) Northside College Prep High School, 5501 N. Kedzie. Join us for this free showing of Crude Awakening, a movie about the planet’s dwindling oil resources, the third in the HNPCA environmental film series. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Raffles prizes too! Bring a friend.

Join HNPCA or renew your membership today. Click here <http://www.hnpca.org/joinhnpc.html> to download a membership application to mail in or pay via Paypal. Thank you for saving us the postage.

Don’t forget to send us an email if you would like HNPCA to put your **house number on your garage**. Alley addresses help police and other emergency or service vehicles locate your house. Guess who our new HNPCA toddler belongs to?



☯ Featured Baby ☯

Well congrats to Mike Weiss and Michelle Brooker who have both served on the HNPCA board in the past. They brought home son “Jee” from Seoul, Korea on November 20. See the story of Birdie, Bean and Baby Jee at:

<http://www.chicagobirdie.blogspot.com/>

☯ HNPCA News ☯

Hats off to the HNPCA’s 2010 Board Of Directors for serving our community.

Officers

Chair of the Board	Jewel Klein
President	Judie Simpson
Vice President	Susan Casey
Recording Secretary	Anne Klosinski
Treasurer	Ryan O’Connell

Board of Directors

Scott Baranski	Chris Newman
Stann Champion	Ben Palmer
Jane Friedman	Michael Puccini
Paul Gembara	Victor Rzentkowski
John Hunter	Jack Smith
Mark Johnston	Penny Sullivan
Albert Khoury	Don Vitullo
Diane Konstantelos	Jerry Wadro
Al Neumann	Pearl Zaid

Board members at the January meeting signed up for committees and offered suggestions for 2010 programs and priorities. You don’t need to be a board member to join one of our existing committees—let us know if you can serve on one of these:

Membership/Welcome
Parks and Beautification
Bryn Mawr Action Group
Green/Environmental
Communications

These are some specific things we need help with. Any volunteers among you to...

- Buy and bring snacks to meetings
- Help organize a HNPCA picnic in the park
- Deliver a welcome packet to new neighborhood residents
- Be a “geocaching leader” at our next event
- Deliver TOPICS or membership applications to neighbors on your block
- Write stories for TOPICS, prepare mailings, distribute it—take it over!
- Create a guide listing local restaurants including their name, address, and type of food

Got your own idea or talent for a program meeting? (Perhaps we should have a talent show...)

We are all ears and open arms! Give us your opinion on these program ideas that came up at our January meeting:

- Learn how to save money on those utility bills, get energy credits and rebates
- A learn-to-tune-up-your-bike program
- Learn about wills, living wills, and health care power of attorney
- Home fire safety program
- Organize a street fair, a neighborhood yard sale or swap meet

☞ Neighborhood Events ☜

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool Open House - Saturday, February 27, 10am to 12pm
5250 N. Christiana Avenue - 1 block north/east of Foster and Kimball. Explore the classroom, meet their teacher and register for fall! North Park is a play-based cooperative half day preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. And new next fall, an Early 3's program for children turning 3 between Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2010. For more information contact teacher/director Laura Taglioli at 773.463.0055 or northparkpreschool@gmail.com

FAMILY FUN

Charlotte's Web the Musical - Presented by The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee and American Eagle Productions. Saturday, February 20, 10am at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding.

Our parks are far from dormant:

Mather Park is the site of **Ald. O'Connor's President's Day 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament**. Get those grade-school boys' teams together and get to Mather Park on February 12 at 6pm for the start of this event that runs until Sunday, February 15. It's free!

And ...

There's lots going on at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski Road (312-744-5472). Here are some highlights:

Listen to the **Civic Orchestra** play February 6, and March 13. Concerts are free and start at 11am.

Dust off those shoes and join the **Chicago Barn Dance Company**, March 5, 7-9pm

Bone up on your primitive survival skills, dormant tree ID, learn how to sharpen tools, or use herbs to make your own cold and flu fixers. Explore nature through drawing or digital photography. Tap a maple tree! Join an ongoing program like Yoga for Adults & Seniors, Storytelling Guild Meetings, or the Nature Writing Group. There is too much to mention. Stop by to pick up a newsletter or click here to get [North Park Village Nature Center - Jan-Mar Newsletter](#) on line. Located at 5801 N. Pulaski Rd; call 312-744-5472 for more info.

Valentine's Day Special!!!

Enjoy "International Couples Weekend" at the RootsRoom. Starting at 10pm, Saturday, February 13, the Roots Rock Society, an award-winning Chicago-based reggae group, performs live. Enjoy other global music and international appetizers.

An exotic Asian/Pacific brunch will be served by Merla's Kitchen from 10am-3pm on Sunday, February 14. Music by Stann Champion, "Acoustic Guitar Meditations for Lovers" will begin at 11am. All performances at the RootsRoom, 5203 N Kimball Avenue.

Neighborhood Writing Alliance, Albany Park Library, 5150 N Kimball Avenue Friday, February 19, and 26 at 10am

☞ Neighborhood Events ☜

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)

Events are held in the Auditorium or Fine Arts Center (773-442-4636)

Two free public lectures and many free musical events abound. For more information call: 773- 442-4636 or email: boffice@neiu.edu. All events are either in the Auditorium or Fine Art Center Recital Hall

The Presidential Lecture Series presents:

Vijay Mahajan, Ph.D., author of *Africa Rising*
Thursday, February 25, 7pm

Magdalen Hsu-Li, *Smashing the Ceiling: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and the Arts*
Thursday, April 22, 8pm

In addition to music events listed below, NEIU Music Department student and faculty perform recitals almost daily in February and March. Find them at <http://www.neiu.edu/~music/>. Some highlights are:

NEIU String Orchestra
Thursday, March 4, 1:45 pm

NEIU Wind Ensemble and NEIU Varsity Big Band
Thursday, March 4, 7:30 pm

Music Convocation: Tribute to Leonard Bernstein
Tuesday, March 9, 1:45 pm

NEIU Jazz Combos
Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

Guitar Showcase
Thursday, March 11, 1:45 pm

Women Composers Concert
Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 pm

NEIU will also be hosting the **Chicago Brass Festival** March 19-21. The three-day event will showcase world class performers, a student solo competition, and exciting vendors and exhibits.



North Park University Events (773-244-5625)

Here's something new to do....get to the gym at 3205 W Carmen (at Kedzie) to watch

Women's Basketball

Tuesday, February 9, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 20, 5pm

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30pm
Saturday, February 20, 7:30pm

Listen to music in Anderson Chapel, 3225 Foster Ave.

Hymn Festival
Friday, February 12, 7:30pm

Jazz Ensemble Concert,
Sunday, February 28, 3pm

Shop Local: HNPCA Business Members

Type of Business	Name	Address	Phone
	CARFIX Auto Center	3555 W. Foster	773-279-9914
	Petco Auto Parts	5522 N. Kedzie	773-588-7470
	Pete's Auto Clinic	3426 W. Bryn Mawr	773-463-4411
	Davis Cleaners	3325 W. Bryn Mawr	773-267-4560
	Ji's Tailor	3255 W. Bryn Mawr	773-463-1801
	Center for Seniors	5320 N. Kedzie	773-478-1245
	Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce	5601 N. Spaulding	773-583-1700
	RootsRoom	5203 N Kimball	773-320-1077
	North Park Church Pre-school	5250 N. Christiana	773-463-0055 northparkpre-school@gmail.com
	Beijo de Chocolat	3334 W. Foster	773-267-0138
	Merla's Kitchen	5207 N. Kimball Ave	773-539-2090
	Outdoor Café	3257 W. Bryn Mawr	773-539-6078 crystal@outdoor-cafe.com
	So Gong Dong Tofu House	3307 W. Bryn Mawr	773-539-8377
	Tre Kronor	3258 W. Foster	773-267-9888 trekronor1@aol.com
	7 – Eleven	5610 N. Kimball	773-539-1570
	Arcadia Food and Spirits	3201 W. Bryn Mawr	773-267-2401
	Bryn Mawr Fresh Market	3318 W. Bryn Mawr	773-279-8020
	City Screen, Inc	5540 N. Kedzie	773-588-5642
	Primerica Financial Services	3360 W Peterson	773-271-7277
	Metro Public Adj., Inc	5842 N. Christiana	jdhetzler@comcast.net
	Steel Springs Personal Training	5507 N. St. Louis	773-517-6930 lloy@steel-springs.com
	Yoga North Park	5507 N. Sawyer	773-583-4343 info@yoganorthpark.com
	Shin Studio	3223 W. Bryn Mawr	773-267-5467
	Speed Ink Printing	3547 W. Peterson	773-539-9700 info@speedink.com
	Dr. Greg H. Tietzer, General Dentist	3318 W. Foster	773-463-8860
	Oral Kare Dental Lab	3224 W. Bryn Mawr	773-588-0222
	Susan Robbins KOENIG & STREY	5364 W. Devon	312-218-3685 srobbins@ksqmac.com
	A. & C. Rodriguez COLDWELL BANKER	5404 W. Devon	773-457-2043 anthony.rodriquez@cbexchange.com
	Nancy J Wilson BAIRD & WARNER	4040 N. Lincoln	773-583-7946

Neighborhood News

Support Clean Air for Peterson School

We all want good health for our children. Good health requires clean air. One of the easiest things we can do to make our kids' air cleaner is to turn off our car engines while we wait at school drop-off and pick-up times. Woodsy Owl says, "Give a hoot - don't pollute!"

Interested in running for the **Local School Council (LSC) at Peterson Elementary School**? Candidate packets can be picked up from Marti Hindaileh at the Peterson main office, (5510 N. Christiana) or online at:

<http://www.cps.edu/Pages/LSCElections.aspx>
Nomination forms are due at the Peterson main office by March 11 at 3pm.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago Regional Census Center is still accepting applications for part-time workers to conduct the 2010 Census. For more information, contact the local census office at 773-355-5810 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

The [Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program](#) has been extended until February 15, 2010. Customers of Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas are eligible for rebates up to \$750 for energy efficient products including insulation, furnaces, boilers, and hot water heaters.

If you have an old refrigerator or freezer, it may be costing you up to an extra \$150/yr to operate. With the [Appliance Buy-Back & Recycling Program](#), ComEd will haul away your old appliance for free, pay you \$25 for each appliance, and dispose of them responsibly. Visit the [Energy Star Refrigerator Retirement Calculator](#) to find out what your current appliance costs to operate, and the [Energy Star Refrigerator Buyer's Guide](#) for tips on shopping for a new refrigerator.

Recycling Update: Call 311 to get a second Blue Cart if yours is overflowing. Also, you can ask them to remove any underused black carts.

TOPICS is distributed by mail and email. If you have news for TOPICS or if you wish to get on our email list, contact us at: HNPCA@sbcglobal.net. Membership is \$10/year per person (\$40 for businesses). Send your Name/Address/Phone/Email and check to: Hollywood-North Park Community Association, P.O. Box 59285, Chicago, IL 60659.

Featured Business



Daughter

rey and Merla Birondo

Tina Sko-

Merla's Kitchen

*Long Time Community Resident Opens Restaurant
Specializing in Homemade Filipino Fare*

By Eileen Figel

For more than 3 decades, Merla Birondo made friends with her colleagues at Swedish Covenant Hospital. She won not only their friendship, but also their admiration for her homemade Filipino specialties. When a co-worker needed food for an engagement party or other family function, they often called upon Merla to cook up a batch of beef empanadas, chicken adobo, or menudo.

So, they were delighted when Merla announced that she was opening **Merla's Kitchen, a restaurant at 5207 N. Kimball** (just north of Foster).

Merla makes all her food from scratch; she refuses to use any pre-made dishes. She even hand picks every vegetable to make sure it is fresh and properly prepared. Her daughter Tina explains, "It would be a lot easier to have things delivered to us in bulk, but my mom wants to make sure everything is perfect, and she insists on picking it out herself." Merla smiles and responds, "I just want the customers to be happy."

I took home a platter of beef and vegetable empanadas, and a selection of Siopao (a delicious steamed bread filled with chicken or pork.) Merla would be glad to know that my family was very happy indeed.

STAMP

ADDRESS



**Next Meeting:
Tues., February 16, 2010
7:30pm**

Northside College Prep High
School
5501 N Kedzie
Room 136