

Special Needs, Special Times

Welcome to the inaugural edition of "Special Needs, Special Times," where I share the best special needs programs, activities, and events the Chicago area has to offer. As the father of an autistic 12-year-old named Joey, my aim is to offer you personal, firsthand insight into each happening I feature.

First on the autumnal agenda is the **Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association**, where my son Joey regularly attends a variety of after-school activities. A facilitator of year-round recreation programs and services for children and adults with disabilities, the NSSRA Fall 2011 programming begins on Sept. 11 with a slew of youth- and adult-oriented special events.

For the under-22 crowd, the NSSRA has set aside several Fridays throughout autumn for *School's Day Out*. These planned days off from school focus on art, movies, day camping, and something I think Joey would particularly enjoy: *Bungee Soccer*. Participants strap on a harness, attach themselves to a bungee cord and have crazy fun flying around and playing indoor soccer with their peers. Bungee Soccer is slated for Oct. 10 with a registration deadline of Sept. 16.

Weekends and after school programs also promise a wealth of action for special needs kids at NSSRA. Halloween lovers can get a jumpstart on the holiday activities on Oct. 1 at the *Northbrook Park District's Autumnfest*. Contests, games, food and, of course, costumes are all on deck for this seasonal get-together. Transportation is also available for this event. *Nssra.org*.

The **Kohl Children's Museum** is another place you're likely to find Joey and I hanging

out on an autumn weekend. Two events that have my son particularly excited are *Daily Discovery: Ice Cream Science* and *Habitat Park Activity: Strike a Pose*.

What kid doesn't love ice cream? Well, my son is no exception. The *Daily Discovery* activity invites kids to "make a tasty treat while learning about how liquids freeze." Sessions run Sept. 6-11 and Sept. 17 and 18. The *Habitat Park Activity* on Sept. 17 gives rambunctious kids like my Joey an opportunity to shake off some of their pent-up energy while learning more about the habitat that surrounds them. Participants "bend, stretch and move [their] body to imitate animals and different objects in nature." *Kohlchildrenmuseum.org*.

Last on tap for Sept. is the **Center for Enriched Living**, which offers a variety of programs for special needs youth, teens, adults, and seniors every day of the week. Bowling, theater, crafts, painting, cooking, JoRiding, gaming – you name it, you'll find it all at the center. Fall after-school programs commence on Sept. 12.

To enjoy all that this organization has to offer, check out the fall weekend *Saturday Program*. With the *Create Your Own Program* option, participants can select a favorite activity and try it out for a few weeks. Before they have time to get bored with their choice, it's time to select another one. The autumn session runs Sept. 17-Oct. 22. *Centerforenrichedliving.org*.

If you'd you like to see your organization's activities and services described, please e-mail your calendar of events and information to steven@joride.com.

Contributed by Steven Cohen

CALENDAR, PAGE 6

Guest of honor is Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent of Lake Forest School District 67 and 115. Sponsors include Moët Hennessy USA and Whole Foods Market. *The Lake Forest Club, 554 N. Westmoreland Road; 312-236-4491x114; eburke@cff.org; grillinois.cff.org/lakeforestwine.*

Hadassah Adopt-A-Patient Fundraiser

The Morton Grove Group of Hadassah North Shore Chapter is raising funds for an orphaned 13-year-old boy diagnosed with a cancerous tumor. Proceeds go to the Moshe Sharett Institute of Oncology at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem. *847-205-1900; northshore.hadassah.org.*

Village Music Store Fall Registration

Registration is underway for the fall session of "Music Lessons Make You Smarter." Director Bob Gand and staff teach all instruments, with heavy emphasis on piano/keyboard, and guitar in all its forms. *645 Osterman, Deerfield; 847-945-5321; villagemusicstore.com.*

Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emonah Curriculum Update

Under the leadership of new Education Director Rabbi Michael Cohen, the school's new curriculum offers a choice between two- and three-day weekly schedules. On Thursday afternoons, an optional enrichment program including music, visual arts, dance, and Hebrew language supplements the more academically focused Sunday and Tuesday schedules. Grades 3-7. *3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette; 847-256-0755; rabbicohen@bhcb.org.*

Rotary Club Taiwan Exchange Trip

The Glenview Sunrise, Wilmette Harbor, and Winnetka-Northfield Rotary Clubs seek young professional men and women for a vocational study program to northern Taiwan

– running from March 17 to April 16, 2012. Applicants must be at least 25 and no older than 40 prior to the departure date, and work or live within the boundaries of Rotary Dist. 6440. Housing, meals, and travel are provided by the host Rotary District. Application deadline is Sept. 17. *rotaryglenviewsunrise.org; gc551@yahoo.com (Wilmette Harbor); wnrotary.org; rotary6440.org.*

Buffalo Grove Community Kollel Classes

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8pm. The Buffalo Grove Community Kollel offers individualized opportunities for studying Torah. Study topics of your choice in a small group setting with "Partners in Torah" on Wednesdays, or learn topics at "Bais Medrash Study," followed by group discussion of weekly subjects on Thursdays. *Torah Academy of Buffalo Grove (Wed), 225 McHenry Road; BAY Shul (Thu), 314 McHenry Road; drew4723@gmail.com.*

Storybook Mom

First Thursday, 10:30-11:15am. Nili Yelin combines her love of books, theatre, children, and motherhood into an interactive "sit down stand-up" style of storytelling – suitable for children of all ages. *BookMarket at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview; 847-849-3272; storybookmom.com.*

Scrabble Night

Last Friday, 7:30pm. New players are invited to Scrabble Night for friendly, informal games. *Northfield United Methodist Church, 797 Sanders Road, Northbrook; 847-272-2250; northnorthfield.org.*

Tour the Deerfield Historic Village

Sundays, 2-4pm. Tours of the Historic Village are offered thru September. Buildings include a farmhouse, one-room schoolhouse, and carriage house. Displays include Deerfield history, from the first settlers thru the '50s. Volunteers are welcome. *517 Deerfield Road; 847-948-0680; deerfieldhistoricalsociety.org.*



MY HOUSE IS FLOODED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

DO NOT WALK IN FLOODED BASEMENTS. This is an extremely dangerous situation. There is always a possibility that electric may still be operating in a flooded basement. Stay out of Contaminated water.

Call **BEST Restoration & Construction 1-866-420-2378.**

Call your Insurance Company.

- ✓ Check Your Sump Pump & Battery Back Up Monthly
- ✓ Clear Drain Inlets in Window Wells & Staircases
- ✓ Insert Extensions on your Downspouts to Assure Water is Draining from Building
- ✓ Purchase an Auxiliary Sump Pump - Check Valve - Clamps for Emergency Back-up
- ✓ Check your **Home Owners Insurance** and make sure your coverage is sufficient & **Up-To-Date**
- ✓ Check FloodSmart.gov for Flood Insurance questions and answers
- ✓ Have **BEST** Phone Number Readily Available **Call Toll-Free 1.866.420.2378 OR 1.866.420.BEST**

EMERGENCY READINESS KIT

- First Aid Kit
 - Battery powered radio and flash lights with extra batteries
 - Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
 - Written instructions on how to turn off utilities if local authorities ask you to do so
- (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on)*



KEEP IMPORTANT NUMBERS AVAILABLE

Fire / Police - 9-1-1 **BEST Restoration & Construction 1.866.420.2378**
www.thebestrestorations.com

Red Cross - www.redcross.org Animal Control - _____
 Insur. Co. - _____ Policy# - _____
 Elec. Co. - _____ Gas Co. - _____
 Doctor - _____ Water - _____
 City/County Offices - _____

Please Join The Lake Forest College Football Team As It Presents

Hero's Day 2011

9/10/2011 1:00 p.m. vs. Ripon College

The Lake Forest College Football team invites all members current and retired of the Armed Forces, as well as all members of the Police, Fire, and EMT departments of Lake County to join us in a celebration of their service. All members of these organizations who attend the game in uniform will be given free admission to the Lake Forest College Football game versus Ripon College.

BEST
 restoration & construction
 disaster recovery specialists

875 Tollgate Rd.,
 Elgin, IL 60123



Specialists in the Unexpected:
Fire, Smoke, Water & Mold Restoration
TOLL-FREE 1.866.420.BEST
 (2378)