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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

January 2002 - Vol. 4, No. 1



Message from the Desk of Salme H. Steinberg

I n a recent memo to the campus, I outlined the status of the State of Illinois' higher education budget. As you know, the state Board of Higher Education has cut \$25 million from state general funds budget, resulting in a budget reduction for Northeastern of

\$514,400, or 1.1 percent of our state appropriation.

All state universities in Illinois have experienced similar reductions and are dealing with their impact. The Chicago Tribune recently reported, for example, that the University of Illinois might be forced to increase tuition in order to offset the effects of the loss of state funds.

While the reduction of NEIU's state allocation was significant, we do not anticipate any such action will be required. We expect to make up a portion of the shortfall by postponing certain equipment purchases and keeping certain positions vacant. Higher than expected Fall tuition revenue and additional revenue from strong Spring enrollments will also help mitigate the impact of the reduction.

But you need also be aware that the reduction of appropriated funding is, unfortunately, only one aspect of the state's fiscal picture. You may have read recent press accounts that the Illinois Health Insurance Reserve Fund, the fund from which our health and dental benefits are paid, is experiencing a shortfall of about \$100 million.

The Governor's Bureau of the Budget has notified all public universities and the Board of Higher Education that public universities will be expected to help fund a portion of this shortfall from institutional operating funds. The Board of Higher Education is currently working with the Bureau to determine the actual higher education share of the \$100 million shortfall and how to allocate that shortfall among the public universities. Again, in preparation, we are freezing expenditures from our newly funded equipment replacement account, which the IBHE included in our fiscal year 2002 appropriation;

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Putting a P.U.L.S.E. in the Hearts of Students

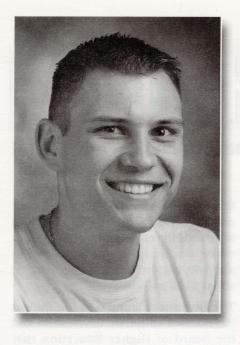
STUDENTS TEST HIGHER ON IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS SUCCESS CREDITED TO NEIU'S P.U.L.S.E. PROGRAM

ortheastern's Pre-University Laboratory School Endeavor (P.U.L.S.E.) program, in its 5th year, is an alternative education program that nurtures middle school students' skills in reading, writing, math, social responsibility, leadership, technology and cultural awareness.

In 2000-2001, 45 7th and 8th grade academically at-risk Goudy (Chicago) students, along with 26 students from the Daniel Webster school in Waukegan, enrolled in the P.U.L.S.E. program and, as a result, scored higher than the previous year on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. P.U.L.S.E. helps improve test scores by providing the students innovative educational experiences on Saturdays throughout the school year. It serves as a bridge for the at-risk students with a teacher/tutor-to-student ratio of approximately one to eight. The difference in test scores makes the difference between being held back and advancing to high school.

"The students really enjoy attending the four-hour Saturday sessions. Learning becomes a fun weekend activity. We love the students and that builds their trust in us. This is why they continue to come," stated Patt Patterson, coordinator of P.U.L.S.E. Students are chosen for the program by the principal of each school. Each participating school pays for the tuition used for teacher salaries and student activities.

The P.U.L.S.E. office is located in A-122. For more information about the program contact Patt Patterson at extension 4905.



Northeastern presents a two-day conference titled, "The New Central Europe: The Challenges and Opportunities of the European Union Enlargement Process," February 27 and 28. Lukasz Dobrzynski, College of Business and Management junior and international honors student from Poland, organized the event to increase awareness of European issues and create opportunities for professor-student interaction.

The conference is designed to generate

COBM Student Organizes International Conference

discussion and dialogue about the challenges and opportunities of the European union enlargement process, one of the most important economic opportunities for both the European Union (EU) and Central European countries.

It will host five representatives from the German, French, Lithuanian, Polish, and Spanish consulates in Chicago. At a closing reception, hosted by the university honors and international programs, Kamil Melcer, guest speaker and honors student from the University of Warsaw, will discuss the issue of cooperation between countries preparing for EU membership and also encourage students to study abroad.

The event is an extension of an international conference that Dobrzynski took part in last April in Warsaw-Cracow, Poland. It hosted 85 students from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. There, he presented his paper "New NATO Members --Opportunities and Challenges for Peace, Security, and Stability in Europe." Dobrzynski was sponsored by the president's office to represent NEIU at the Warsaw-Cracow conference.

Dobrzynski enjoys traveling and expects to continue experiencing the unique opportunity of visiting foreign places, meeting new people with different backgrounds and learning their culture. "Having the opportunity to study abroad is a life changing decision because it triggers many different things inside you that you never thought you could do or have the opportunity to do," said Dobrzynski.

The conference is co-sponsored by NEIU'S APICS, business and management, financial management association, marketing, and politics clubs, and in cooperation with the College of Business and Management, university honors and international programs.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail Dobrzynski at lukedobry@yahoo.com.

	Wednesday, February 27, 2002	
Golden Eagles		
7:05 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Kickoff reception	
7:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.	Panel of representatives from the French, German, and Spanish Consulates	
8:30 p.m 8:50 p.m.	Q&A	
	Thursday, February 28, 2002	
Golden Eagles		
11 a.m 11:50 a.m.	Brunch	
Student Union 214		
12:05 p.m 1:40 p.m.	Panel of representatives from the Polish and Lithuanian Consulates	
Student Union 215		
1:50 p.m 2:50 p.m.	Speaker: Edward Stuart, NEIU professor of economics	
Golden Eagles		
3 p.m 4:30 p.m.	Closing reception	
	Speaker: Kamil Melcer, University of Warsaw honors student	

Endowed Scholarship Supports Education ...and Much More



Florence Levy maintains a special bond with Northeastern Illinois University. For over 14 years, she worked in the provost's office, the history department and the University Without Walls program.

When Levy lost her oldest daughter, Paula, to cancer in 1997, the Levy family created an endowed scholarship by making a gift that was invested by the NEIU Foundation. The earnings of that gift are available to be spent annually while the principal remains untouched, providing a perpetual source of funds. Since the donor stipulates how the funds are to be spent, the Levy's gift established a scholarship in honor of Paula's life accomplishments.

This fall, NEIU student **Damaris Gonzalez** was the first recipient of the Paula M. Levy Scholarship Award.

In a recent interview for Insights, Levy discussed the significance of the scholarship and the importance of establishing a donor and student relationship.

Q: What inspired you to create the scholarship fund in remembrance of your daughter Paula?

A: After Paula died, it took me a couple years to figure out what could be done to celebrate her life. Since Paula received her bachelor's degree from Northeastern (University Without Walls, 1975), it occurred to me that donating to the NEIU Foundation would be the most appropriate way to do so.

Q: One of the requirements for the scholarship is that the student must be a writer or have outstanding writing skills. Why is this important?

A: Paula loved words. She just adored writing. She wrote a

variety of works including human-interest stories, corporate brochures, and press releases. Paula wanted to write a short story. She and her husband had a plot in mind but she never had the opportunity to finish it. She also liked to write travel notes. She traveled extensively in her short life and wrote wonderful essays about her trips. Writing was second nature to her and was therefore an appropriate scholarship requirement.

Q: What else would you like prospective recipients to know about the scholarship and your daughter?

A: I want each recipient to know Paula's work and the kind of person she was. Like the simple fact that after being away from the city for 12 years and living in Cali*Continued on page 6*

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Renowned Educator to Keynote NEIU's African-American, Caribbean Heritage Program

Aminah McCloud, associate professor of religious studies at DePaul University in Chicago, will give the keynote address at Northeastern's Sixth Annual African, African-American, Caribbean and the Americas Heritage Program. McCloud's topic is "Islamic Influence on African and Hispanic Cultural Communities."

The program starts at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 29, in the Golden Eagles Room of the university's Student Union. The public is invited and admission is free.

McCloud has appeared on the ABC-TV show "Politically Incorrect" both in October and November of 2001. She has been a guest on WTTW's "Chicago Tonight" and has appeared at the U.S. State Department's Open Forum as a discus-



sant for "The Muslim World's View of the United States."

She is the author of numerous books, some of which include Immigrant American Islam, Questions of Faith: A Guide for Muslim Prisoners, and African American Islam.

She has also written book reviews and journal articles, and has given scholarly presentations.

Among McCloud's many awards are a Graham Foundation Grant for Architecture in Exploring Muslim Cultures; an Illinois Humanities Grant for Exploring Muslim Cultures; a Fulbright Scholarship award to teach and research in Morocco, and a Ford Foundation award for a project on civil rights and African American Muslims.



Northeastern recently announced the appointment of Robert

Robert Filipp

Filipp as the director of purchasing. Filipp comes to the university with extensive experience in a variety of purchasing roles. He most recently held the position of purchasing manager at Tenex Corporation, a multi-plant manufacturer of office and consumer products located in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. In four years

New Director of Purchasing

at Tenex, Filipp brought cost savings in raw materials, processes and service contracts of several millions of dollars.

In prior positions, Filipp served as senior corporate purchasing agent for Velsicol Chemical Company, manager of office support services for Rotary International, and purchasing manager for Quantum Chemical Corporation. He is a certified purchasing manager and earned his B.S. and M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University.

NEIU ALUMNA Receives the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award

NEIU alumna **Sharon F. Glassner**, an elementary/secondary special education art teacher, received the 2000 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award. Glassner is a resident of Skokie, Illinois, and teaches at the Challenger Bridgeview Therapeutic Day School in Niles.

George Van Dusen, mayor of Skokie, nominated her to receive the award honoring her work with children of all backgrounds.

The Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award was established in 1999 in celebration of the Illinois Humanities Council's 25th anniversary. Named after prize-winning oral historian and author Studs Terkel, an Illinois native, the award honors "humanities heroes" throughout Illinois.

Glassner's students at Challenger Bridgeview range from sixth to twelfth grade. She previously worked as the art teacher at St. Lambert School in Skokie where her students wrote essays and developed artwork responding to cultural diversity. The artwork was featured at Skokie's Festival of Cultures last year. In 1999 and 2000, the Skokie Human Relations Commission recognized her for her students' efforts in expressing cultural diversity.

"Teaching children is a labor of love for me and the rewards come easily when a child's eyes light up," stated Glassner reflecting on her experience of teaching children with disabilities. Glassner holds a B.A. in education and a M.A. in special education from Northeastern.

Faculty & Staff News

Louise Bohr, associate professor, teacher education, Katherine S. McKnight, assistant professor, teacher education, and three NEIU students, Lori Birenberg, Milanda Park, and Roseann Truppa, attended the 91st annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English. As a panel, they presented methods and resources for the inclusion of multicultural literature in middle and secondary schools and demonstrated their reader response strategies for teaching multicultural literature to students of all ability levels. The convention was held in Baltimore in November 2001. Some 6,000 teachers and educators from the United States and around the world attended.

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Elaine Chakonas, assistant professor, elementary education program, teacher education department, gave a presentation at the Illinois Reading Council's 33rd Annual Illinois Conference in Springfield in March 2001. Her presentation was titled "Travel Through the Middle Ages with your Middle Schoolers." Chakonas created and implemented the curriculum design for an interdisciplinary thematic grant program for middle school students from the Chicago Public Schools.As a member of the Student membership committee of the Illinois Reading Council, she conducted a study of the needs of pre-service student members who attended the conference.

Rubee Fuller, coordinator, international programs, co-presented a session on "Basic Aspects of Chinese Language: Names, Addresses and Other Peculiarities" at the NAFSA regional conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in November 2001. With nearly 9,000 members, NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest association dedicated to international education.

Raymond Kuper, an adjunct professor in NEIU's College of Education, delivered, as superintendent of the Union Ridge School District, the closing remarks at the celebration on November 14,2001 of Union Ridge School receiving the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Program award, as a national school of excellence. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is recognized by educators as an unparalleled vehicle for school improvement. At NEIU Kuper teaches students preparing to be principals. He is also a member of the college's educational leadership advisory board.

Agnes Rodriguez, Maria Pacheco Memorialized by Council

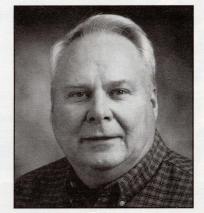
In a short period of time, the university has lost two good friends – Agnes Rodriguez and Maria Pacheco.

Agnes Rodriguez, who served for the past 16 years as an administrative secretary in the history department, died June 23, 2001. Maria Pacheco, who worked for the past 12 years as an administrative secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences, died September 24, 2001.

In loving memories of Agnes and Maria, the council of chairs and coordinators of the College of Arts and Sciences raised funds for the families of the deceased.

Employee of the Month

October



Joseph Port, building service worker, facilities management, was selected as the employee of the month for October. Joe enjoys performing his duties and helping the people in his assigned areas, the A and H buildings. "I do little things that help them do their job," he says.

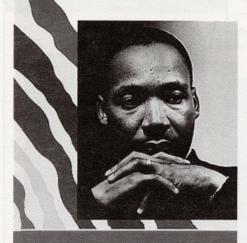
After the terrorism attacks on September 11, Joe offered reassurances to anxious employees and students. One student became upset because her uncle was in the World Trade Center at the time. Joe convinced her to get help from the counseling office and he assisted her there.

Another part of the job Joe takes very seriously is the vandalism that occurs on campus. "We remove it immediately to show that someone cares, and we notify public safety about the incidents."

His daughter Karen graduated from Northeastern in 1993 with a masters degree in cardiac rehabilitation. She has served at Stevenson High School as an athletic trainer and gym teacher.

Recently retired staff member Ligia Galassi believes Joe is motivated, helpful and kind. "Working with him," she says, "makes things go smoother." Flora Llacuna, coordinator, student enrichment program, adds: "Without his cooperative attitude, his patience, and his willingness to lend a hand, it would not be possible to obtain such great quality on the job. Joseph makes a significant contribution to the university and its mission of commitment to excellence."

NEIU Students Share the Dream with Elementary School Students



In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., NEIU presents **"The Dream Works"** For the second year in a row, Northeastern and Peterson Elementary School will present "The Dream Works" Monday, January 21, from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Physical Education Complex at NEIU.

Members of various NEIU student organizations will offer an educational program about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to students of neighboring Peterson Elementary School. The day will consist of educational sessions, games, skits performed by the elementary school students, and a charity drive. The skits will highlight the life and teachings of Dr. King and focus on his concept of greatness, when expressed through acts of service and non-violence.

"It's important that students recognize the importance of King and what he did for mankind," said Ken McKay, acting coordinator of student outreach at NEIU. "The holiday should be viewed as a commitment to someone who strongly believed in service for others and encouraged people of all races to be what they can be. Students can come away from the program with a greater appreciation and understanding of who King was and his stands on education, equal rights, and service."

In conjunction with "The Dream Works," nearly 25 NEIU student volunteers will participate in service activities throughout the City of Chicago along with community service agencies on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"The Dream Works" is made possible by a Corporations of National Services grant. Northeastern was one of 114 organizations selected in a national competition.

Building a Friendship

Continued from page 3

fornia, she maintained friendships here in Chicago. When she moved back at my request, because my husband was sick, she picked up the same relationships that had existed 12 years prior. She maintained friendships and never dropped anyone along the way. That made her special.

- **Q:** Would you like to meet future recipients of the Paula M. Levy award?
- A: Absolutely! Right from the beginning I wanted to meet the students. I think it's important on a personal level for both the donor and student.

President Steinberg hosted a luncheon at which Florence Levy and Damaris Gonzalez, her first scholarship recipient, met in September. The Levy scholarship helped Gonzalez with tuition and fees in her last semester. She graduated in December 2001. Both Levy and Gonzalez hold dear their newfound friendship and plan to keep in touch.

Message from the President

Continued from page 1

postponing other equipment purchases; and continuing to delay hiring for certain staff positions.

Let me emphasize two important points. First, the University anticipated early in the fiscal year the possibility of budget cuts and has been preparing for these cuts through budget and expenditure planning. Depending on the final allocation, the combination of these two budget requirements may be only slightly more that what we anticipated. Second, because of this planning, we do not anticipate any staff reductions, we will honor all of our collective bargaining agreements, and we will proceed with modest merit increases for non-negotiated employees.

Merit increases for non-negotiated employees will be made effective July 1, 2001 and will be on the January 31, 2002 paychecks. Negotiated salary adjustments for all members of the University Professionals of Illinois

were included in the December 14. 2001 paychecks. In addition, and in cooperation with all campus bargaining units, we will extend a salary enhancement plan that was recently negotiated as part of the University Professionals of Illinois contracts to all continuing University employees with an appointment of at least 50%. This means that eligible University employees will receive an additional salary increment of \$20 per month, effective January 1, 2002, that could be used to address such items as increased benefit costs. This adjustment also will be on the January 31, 2002 paychecks.

As events affecting the University community unfold, I will continue to keep you informed. Let me close by saying how much I continue to appreciate your commitment to the spirit and purpose of Northeastern Illinois University and your dedication to those we serve.

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Calendar Notes

JANUARY

Art Show by H20, a group of NEIU alumnae artists, working in aqueous and mixed media, exhibit their work on January 7-February 1 in the exhibit area of Ronald Williams Library.

"Outside Wishing In" is an on-line art exhibition by Noreen Blanchard, student cum laude and NEIU staff member. The exhibition is her senior project and Blanchard hopes to keep it on-line at least until her graduation in May 2002. It can be visited at: www.neiu.edu/~nmblanch/art/portfolio/show.

Coffeehouse. Northeastern Programming Board's Coffeehouse presents Jovin and DJs Thursday, January 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Village Square.

Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo. NEIU's music department presents the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo in concert Thursday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall.A master class for students will be held at 3 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

Presidential Lecture Series. NEIU's 2001-2002 Presidential Lecture Series presents Margaret Atwood, author of more than 25 books of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. She is best known for her novels, which include The Edible Woman (1970), The Handmaid's Tale (1983), The Robber Bride (1994), and Alias Grace (1996). Her newest novel, The Blind Assassin, which won the Booker Prize, was published in the fall of 2000. Thursday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Hall. Atwood will also hold a master class at 1:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom of the Ronald Williams Library. To view a bibliography of Atwood's works, click on the link in the NEIU web site's "Campus Events" listing for Atwood.



Vienna Waltz Ensemble. The Jewel Box Series presents the Vienna Waltz Ensemble. In 1991 NEIU faculty artist Greg Sarchet visited the Czech Republic and heard distinctive Viennese dance music performed by two violins and a double bass. Later, bassist Sarchet formed the Vienna Waltz Ensemble with violinists Clara Lindner and Carl Johnston. It remains the exclusive American source researching and presenting unique Viennese dance music. Friday, January 18,8 p.m., in the Recital Hall. For ticket information, visit or call the NEIU Box Office: extension 4636. A master class will be held on January 15 at 1:40 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

Student Organization Fair. NEIU's student organizations will hold an international fair for students on Wednesday and Thursday, January 23, 24, Village Square, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Art Department Faculty Exhibition. An NEIU Art Faculty Exhibition will be held in the Art Gallery from January 24 through March 8. On display will be works representing the media of painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, metals and digital imaging. Exhibiting are Don Bulucos, David Criner, Merrie Cutts, Moritz S. Kellerman, Ron Lancaster, Wayne Lent, Mark McKernin, Dennis Mitchell, Santiago Vaca, Helidon Gjergji, Jane Weintraub, Russ Roller, and John Brunetti.

Coffeehouse. Cabaret artist Jeremy Rill will be the Coffeehouse attraction on Tuesday, January 29, 4-7 p.m. in Village Square.

Brian Torosian in Concert. The NEIU music department presents faculty artist Brian Torosian, guitar, in concert on Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

FEBRUARY

The Burnham String Quartet, made up of Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians, will feature works by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms in a Mostly Music at NEIU Chamber Concert in the Home Series. Sunday, February 3, 4 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20; \$15 for students with a current I.D. The location of the home concerts will be made known when tickets are purchased. For information and reservations, call 773-442-4978.

Dois No Choro perform in a Mostly Music at NEIU concert of Brazilian music featuring Paulinho Garcia, guitar and voice, and Julie Kodin, flute. Sunday, February 10, 4 p.m., International House, 1414 E. 59th St., Chicago. It is one of Mostly Music's Hyde Park Sunday Concerts and is co-sponsored by International House for ticket information call 773-442-4978.

Pinotage at NEIU, a modern quartet that specializes in works written after 1900, is the NEIU Jewel Box presentation for February. Group members Alison Attar, harp; Julia Bentley, mezzo-soprano; Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff, viola, and Janice MacDonald, flute, perform "Love Songs and Poetry" featuring works by Berio and Takemitsu and new works written for Pinotage by Chicago com-*Continued on page 8*

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Renowned Canadian Author Margaret Atwood Appears at NEIU



NEIU's Presidential Lecture Series presents an evening with award-winning Canadian author Margaret Atwood Thursday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m., in Alumni Hall. A book signing and reception will follow. Atwood will lead a master class the same afternoon from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the lower level library classroom. All events are free.

Atwood, a writer of more than 25 books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, is perhaps best known for her novels. Among them are *The Edible Woman* (1970); *The Handmaid's Tale* (1983) (adapted for the screen and released in 1990); *Cat's Eye* (1988); *The Robber Bride* (1994); and *Alias Grace* (1996). Acclaimed for portray-

ing both personal and worldly problems of universal concern, her work has been published in more than 30 languages.

Throughout her 30 years of writing, Atwood has been short-listed for and has won numerous awards. Her newest novel, *The Blind Assassin* (2000), won the Booker Prize. She received the International Crime Writers Asso-

ciation Dashiell Hammett Award and the Canadian Booksellers Association People's Choice Award in 2001. She holds many honorary degrees from such institutions as Mount Holyoke College, Oxford University, and Cambridge University.

Born in Ottawa, Canada, Atwood grew up in northern Ontario and Quebec. She currently resides in Toranto. She received her undergradu-

ate degree from Victoria College at the University of Toronto and her master's degree from Radcliff College.

Calendar Notes

Continued from page 7

posers. Friday, February 15, 8 p.m., in the Recital Hall. For ticket information, visit or call the NEIU Box Office: extension 4636.

NEIU Guitar Showcase. The music department presents a concert by NEIU's Guitar Showcase, directed by Brian Torosian, on Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 p.m., in the Recital Hall.

Jacob Heringman Concert. NEIU's music department presents Jacob Heringman in a concert of Renaissance music performed on a Renaissance lute, Thursday, February 21, 7:30 p.m., in the Recital Hall. Heringman will also conduct a master class at 2 p.m. the same day in the Recital Hall.

Conference on European Union. NEIU hosts a two-day conference on "The New Central Europe: the Challenges and Opportunities of the European Union Enlargement Process." Guest speakers and participants discuss current issues concerning European union.Wednesday and Thursday, February 27, 28, in Student Union rooms. (See article on page 2).

Mostly Music presents Pinotage. Mostly Music at NEIU presents the Pinotage quartet on Sunday, February 17, 4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1717 Lake Avenue, Wilmette. Tickets \$20, \$15 for students with I.D.

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