VJ DAY
75 YEARS
SINCE THE END OF
WWII

STREETWISE
EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO WORK
FOR 27 YEARS

STREETWISE IS
POWERED BY
YWCA
METROPOLITAN
CHICAGO
The city is beginning to open back up, but most Chicago events and gatherings are cancelled until further notice. We are replacing our usual calendar with recommendations from StreetWise vendors, readers and staff to keep you entertained at home!

SportsWise
Getting back into the groove.

Cover Story: The End of WWII
With the Japanese surrender on Aug. 14, 1945 – VJ Day or Victory over Japan Day – World War II was finally over and Chicagoans flocked to State Street for the biggest party in its history. In the last year of the war, the U.S. turned more resources to the Pacific, the combination of air, land and naval operations countered overwhelming Japanese defenses to bring the war to an end, according to an exhibit at the Pritzker Military Library. And Chicago played a role in helping up to 20,000 Japanese Americans who had been interned in camps during the war resettle into new lives.

From the Streets
A proposed ordinance before the Chicago City Council would require the Chicago Housing Authority to maintain a 97 percent occupancy rate and 60 day turnover of vacant units, with a preference for medically vulnerable people who need to move from congregate facilities in the wake of the coronavirus.

Inside StreetWise
StreetWise mourns the passing of Vendor Charles Edwards, well known for selling StreetWise at the Walgreens at the intersection of Chicago and Michigan Avenues.

The Playground
ON THE COVER: Revelers celebrate the end of World War II in front of the Carson Pirie Scott building on State Street in downtown Chicago. THIS PAGE: Newspaper debris after the down-town party tells the story. Both photos courtesy of the Chicago History Museum.
Support Local Artists!
The popular Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest (GAAF) returns to Rogers Park for its 19th year in a new format to comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines prohibiting large public gatherings. This year on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, from noon to 4 p.m., the festival becomes the Glenwood Avenue (Mobile) Arts Fest, taking place as four two-hour tours of the streets of Rogers Park, surrounding the Glenwood Avenue Arts District at Glenwood and Morse Avenues. Local musicians including the Urban Rhythm Band and the Joyce Renee Walker Band will perform live on a mobile stage along with large-scale video screens showcasing GAAF artists’ works, which will be available in “booths” in a corresponding virtual festival. Brief stops along the GAAF mobile tour routes will allow residents to enjoy art and music at a safe distance along the sidewalks and from the windows of their homes. The festival encourages the community to support local artists and businesses within the Glenwood Avenue Arts District in Rogers Park. The Chicago Bluesmobile will travel the festival route on Friday, Aug. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. for a festive kickoff. Festival tour maps and the virtual festival layout linking to artists’ booths is available at www.glenwoodave.org.

Distance Yourself!
What better way to spend this unprecedented and frustratingly uncertain time than disassociating! It’s not in my nature to brag, but I have absolutely nailed it. Here’s the perfect recipe to pass the time and avoid getting stuck in an endless rabbit hole of what ifs and whens and, perhaps most insidious of all, the why. Step 1. GET HIGH. Straight forward and freshly legal, if you’re only going to follow one step, make sure it’s this one. Step 2. Put on an excellent reality escape – lazy docudramas? Yes! Trash reality TV? Gold star. I am currently working my way through the Marvel movies in the Marvel universe order. It’s the perfect amount of blather and action and NONE OF IT IS REAL. Step 3. Get yourself a Diamond Painting. I had never had the pleasure before lockdown, but you poke thousands of sparkle diamonds onto a weird 8-bit photo of a cat riding a unicorn through the heavens. Highly recommended! -Recommended by StreetWise reader Michaels Hinslamin

Play an Instrument!
Live Lesson Masters is a network of acclaimed musicians offering online classes to those wanting to learn an instrument. The artists take on students of any skill level and proceeds are used to support struggling musicians and personnel who cannot tour during this time. Among the masters offering up their skills are member of the Disco Biscuits bassist Marc Brownstein, Umphrey’s McGee’s guitarist Brendan Bayliss and keyboardist Joel Cummins, Trey Anastasio Band saxophonist James Casey, acclaimed steel pedal guitarist Robert Randolph and jazz funk pianist Robert Walter. Learn more at www lleonessmasters.com/music.

-Recommended by StreetWise contributor Kathy Hollis

Document your Life!
Chinese American Museum of Chicago’s “Together Against COVID-19” is an ongoing special collection “with the goal of recording the experiences and stories of individuals, families, and organizations during these unprecedented times.” You can submit your experience or story to covid19@ccamuseum.org with the subject “Together Against COVID-19 Collection.” Please include your contact information, including full name, organization or community if applicable, email, phone number, and mailing address.

Every Virtual Theater!
Goodman Theatre Invites Virtual Performance On August 14, 20 participants aged 14 to 40 create original devised work that considers the perspectives of all ages in this acclaimed annual program that unites high school students, working artists and lifelong learners. The current session includes eight young artists, nine GeNarrations participants and three Goodman Theatre staffs. FREE. Learn more at goodmantheatre.org

A History Lesson!
Lunch & Learn: The Final Months of World War II
The final months of World War II were some of the most tumultuous in U.S. history: a beloved President, Franklin Roosevelt, had died suddenly, leaving an unprepared Harry S. Truman to take his place. While fighting raged in the Pacific Theater, the war in Europe was coming to its conclusion as Allied forces continued to liberate nations under Axis control.

Hear more about this riveting moment in history from an expert, Dr. Kristen Burton, Teacher Programs and Curriculum Specialist at The National WWII Museum and host of their podcast on the final months of World War II, “To the Best of My Ability.” Dr. Burton’s “Lunch & Learn” program will guide the audience through the last moments of a war that changed the world. The event takes place August 14 at 2 p.m.; register online at ihmec.org, the website of the Illinois Holocaust Museum. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to access the program.

Together Against COVID-19
Document your Life!
Chinese American Museum of Chicago’s “Together Against COVID-19”
Together Against COVID-19 is an ongoing special collection “with the goal of recording the experiences and stories of individuals, families, and organizations during these unprecedented times.” You can submit your experience or story to covid19@ccamuseum.org with the subject “Together Against Covid-19 Collection.” Please include your contact information, including full name, organization or community if applicable, email, phone number, and mailing address.

Live Lesson Masters
Live Lesson Masters is a network of acclaimed musicians offering online classes to those wanting to learn an instrument. The artists take on students of any skill level and proceeds are used to support struggling musicians and personnel who cannot tour during this time. Among the masters offering up their skills are member of the Disco Biscuits bassist Marc Brownstein, Umphrey’s McGee’s guitarist Brendan Bayliss and keyboardist Joel Cummins, Trey Anastasio Band saxophonist James Casey, acclaimed steel pedal guitarist Robert Randolph and jazz funk pianist Robert Walter. Learn more at www.livelessonmasters.com/music.

-Recommended by StreetWise contributor Kathy Hollis

Sculpt Your True Self!
Local Virtual Workshop on August 14, 2020!
This workshop is hosted by the Holocaust Museum on August 14 at 2 p.m. where attendees will learn to create a pencil drawing of the last moments of World War II with the help of Dr. Burton. The event will be free to attend and the program will guide the audience through the last months of a war that changed the world. The event takes place August 14 at 2 p.m.; register online at ihmec.org, the website of the Illinois Holocaust Museum. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to access the program.

To the Best of My Ability
The event takes place August 14 at 2 p.m.; register online at ihmec.org, the website of the Illinois Holocaust Museum. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to access the program.
GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

Donald: All right, folks, let’s give it up for SportWise! We’re still not in full effect, but we’re headed there and, I for one, am excited and ready to do this.

Russ: You and me both, Don. It’s real good to get back together on these pages again with the knowledge that we’re eventually going to get our rhythm back.

John: Agreed. I’m glad we’re all good.

Patrick: I am, too. I mean, I wouldn’t worry, but we’ve had a couple of our brothers go down recently—Charles Edwards and Lawrence Anthony—so I’ve learned that every time I see someone, I’m going to treat that person as if it could be the last time I see him.

Russ: Yeah.

Donald: Definitely R.I.P. A brief moment, y’all. All right, so let’s get to it. John, what are you thinking about where we are in the sports world?

John: Thanks, Don. Well, I have to get right to it. Baseball is weird right now.

Don: What do you mean?

Russ: Shoot, he might be talking about the cardboard cutouts behind home plate!

Patrick: Yeah, now that threw me, too. I hadn’t even read that’s what they were going to do.

John: I knew it, but it was still a trip. And from the players’ perspective, hitting a home run can’t feel right to them without having any fans—

Donald: Well, now, they got fans—

Russ: Just cardboard fans!

John: But, yeah, even on top of that, no one gets a souvenir. The Cardboards ain’t getting it!

Donald: Russ, I see you over there. What you got going on in your brain with where we are in the sports world?

Russ: I, for one, am so excited that baseball is back. The other day, I watched the first game of the season between the New York Yankees and the Washington Nationals.

Patrick: I watched a lil’ bit of that. I missed baseball, too.

Russ: I know, right? Shoot, it was nice to see the balls flying around, pitchers throwing 100 miles-an-hour—Yes, baseball is back! Right now, I’m multiaxing. Doing this show as well as watching the Cubs play now. Go, Cubs. Donald: I missed baseball, too. Don’t know if I even realized it until now. But, Russ, what do you think about the game not having any non-cardboard fans?

Russ: Well, I’m okay with it, you know? I mean, I watch the game anyway—not watch the fans—so, shoot, I’m still enjoying the game.

John: So you’re saying you just don’t care?

Russ: Pretty much, man. I don’t care about others’ opinions; fans or no fans, I’m there. I love my sports.

Donald: I got you, Russ. So, Patrick, what you got for us?

Patrick: Thank you, Don. Well, the cardboard people did throw me. But I realize after a month of watching these cardboard people, we won’t even “see” the fans anymore. The way the Cubs are going, I don’t give a blank what’s going on off the field. (Laughter all around.)

Patrick: Basketball. I’m looking forward to it. The funny thing is just like the fans situation in baseball, there will be an effect; in fact, it may be worse with basketball. Because basketball is so up and down so much quicker with, I believe, more exciting plays, it’s going to be weird not to hear the fans get up and roar. But, like Russ, I’m excited for baseball, for sports. We might be good, y’all.

Donald: Agreed. That said, thank you all for joining us. If you have any comments or questions, please e-mail us at pdsportwise@gmail.com.
Chicagoans in August 1945 were eagerly awaiting official news of the Japanese surrender to the Allies that news outlets had been reporting for weeks was imminent and would end World War II. People were weary of the war that had begun more than three years earlier when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. More than 11,000 servicemen and women from Cook County and 400,000 nationwide were dead, according to the Pilcher Military Museum and Library. The average Chicago block had seven of its own in the service. Finally, on Tuesday, August 14 at 6 p.m. CT, President Truman announced the surrender. “No force on earth could stop what happened then,” the Sun newspaper reported at the time.

Within minutes 10,000 Loop workers poured out of office buildings, restaurants and hotels and flooded the sidewalks and streets, the Chicago Tribune wrote. Thousands more who were headed home after work turned around and went back. Others from the city, suburbs and surrounding area hopped onto trains and streetcars and into their cars and rushed down to join the festivities, while factories that were involved in wartime production sent busloads of their employees.

It was natural for people to gravitate to downtown to celebrate what is known as V-J Day, Perry Duis and Scott LaFrance wrote in their book, “We’ve Got a Job to Do: Chicagoans and World War II.” It had been the scene of military parades, rallies, outdoor prayer services and other emotional events the government staged throughout the war to boost and sustain morale.

While the celebration occurred throughout downtown, the center was State and Madison streets. The Daily News reported that by 8 p.m., “In a four block area bounded by Madison, Clark, Randolph and State sts, police estimated a million persons were poking each other with elbows and shouting into everybody’s ears. Nobody apologized. Nobody wanted an apology.” And more were on their way. The party lasted well past midnight. And it was loud.

Revelers of all ages, from adolescents to the elderly, cheered, sang, danced and jitterbugged in the streets accompanied by drums, noisemakers, clackers and tin horns under a blizzard of wastepaper, confetti, ticker tape and bags of water that fell from office building windows. Five sailors and three nurses fell from office building windows. Five sailors and three nurses.

Bar owners had agreed that they would close their businesses as soon as the surrender was announced in anticipation of the rowdy crowd. “But there was an abundance of liquor in bottle dimensions” the Daily News reported. “It was better than going to a saloon and cheaper. Anybody who wanted a drink could get it from the guy jostling him. Service was swift. Some of those with bottles had brought along paper cups.” Sailors on Randolph Street put their bottles of beer to good use by extinguishing a car fire.

While the celebration occurred throughout downtown, the center was State and Madison streets. The Daily News reported that by 8 p.m., “In a four block area bounded by Madison, Clark, Randolph and State sts, police estimated a million persons were poking each other with elbows and shouting into everybody’s ears. Nobody apologized. Nobody wanted an apology.” And more were on their way. The party lasted well past midnight. And it was loud.

Revelers of all ages, from adolescents to the elderly, cheered, sang, danced and jitterbugged in the streets accompanied by drums, noisemakers, clackers and tin horns under a blizzard of wastepaper, confetti, ticker tape and bags of water that fell from office building windows. Five sailors and three nurses fell from office building windows. Five sailors and three nurses.

Bar owners had agreed that they would close their businesses as soon as the surrender was announced in anticipation of the rowdy crowd. “But there was an abundance of liquor in bottle dimensions” the Daily News reported. “It was better than going to a saloon and cheaper. Anybody who wanted a drink could get it from the guy jostling him. Service was swift. Some of those with bottles had brought along paper cups.” Sailors on Randolph Street put their bottles of beer to good use by extinguishing a car fire.

Despite the thongs and free flowing liquor, “It was a carnival of clean fun,” Chief John Prendergast of the uniformed police told the Daily News. The estimated 800 policemen had little to do “except look on and smile at the celebrants,” the Chicago Herald American reported. Trolley car wires were disconnected from overhead wires “but the motormen and conductors didn’t seem to mind,” according to the Daily News. The seven first aid stations set up to treat minor injuries saw few people. And the Red Cross treated 200 people for fainting, minor injuries and heart attacks by 11:30 p.m. the Chicago Tribune wrote.

At dawn, the last of the partygoers staggered home, and city workers started clearing the debris from the streets. Meanwhile, there were other spontaneous expressions of joy. Servicemen kissed women. And women kissed servicemen, leaving them with lipstick smeared faces.

In the weeks leading up to V-J Day, while Chicagoans knew the war’s end was near, many feared there would be a return to Depression era unemployment with the expected elimination of thousands of war-related jobs. But while they were celebrating on that August night 75 years ago, the only thing that seemed to be on their minds was that their loved ones were coming home.
Anniversaries are always significant, and with the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on August 14, “we believe you should pause for a moment and think about what has gone before and educate those born more recently for whom it is historic memory,” said Rob Havens, Ph.D, president and CEO of the Pritzker Military Library, regarding its current exhibit, “The Allied Race to Victory.”

As the tide turned for the Allies in 1944, the last year of WWII, the United States shifted resources to the Pacific. Combined air, land and naval operations countered overwhelming defenses to bring the war to the Japanese mainland and end it. The 75th anniversary, Dr. Havens said, is one of the last where World War II veterans are still with us. “We are on the cusp of living memory rolling over into actual history and there is something terribly poignant when you come face to face with an individual who lived the service you are teaching on.”

The Pritzker Library chose to cover the war with Japan “because we felt that it has often gotten lost in the shuffle, but it was a very crucial part of World War II. Looking back from the vantage point of 75 years, it seems inevitable the Allies would triumph, but it didn’t seem that way at the time,” Dr. Havens said.

Instead, Americans lived with uncertainty — much like today’s struggle with COVID-19. “The war against Japan wasn’t decided conclusively until the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan.”

U.S. military units that had finished fighting in Europe in spring 1945 were on standby for an invasion of Japan. Estimates were that a million US per day battle, the Marines had lost 7,200 men, including casualties, and many suicides and bodies never recovered. General Cho committed ritual suicide on May 27 at Chausu Castle in late May. Accepting futility, Japanese leaders recommended surrender, the Allies won on the beaches, but the Japanese fought on. General MacArthur had withdrawn into caves in the rugged Shuri hills. On April 7 the battleship Yamato was sent to launch a surprise attack on the U.S. Fifth Fleet to and with the 75th anniversary of the National Archives.

The Allied Race to Victory

“The Allied Race to Victory” celebrates the end of World War II with exhibitions and educational programming, including “The Allies” and “The United States.” The exhibitions explore the significance of the end of the war and the role of the United States in the conflict. The library also offers resources for educators and the public to learn more about the war and its impact.

The Allied Race to Victory

“The Allied Race to Victory” exhibition at the Pritzker Military Library explores the significance of World War II and the role of the United States in the conflict. The exhibition includes exhibitions on the Allied Nations, the United States, and the United Nations. The exhibition also features multimedia resources and educational programming.

The United States

“America’s Role in World War II” exhibition at the Pritzker Military Library explores the role of the United States in World War II. The exhibition includes exhibitions on the United States, the United Nations, and the United States’ role in the war. The exhibition also features multimedia resources and educational programming.

The United Nations

“The United Nations” exhibition at the Pritzker Military Library explores the role of the United Nations in World War II. The exhibition includes exhibitions on the United Nations, the United States, and the United Nations’ role in the war. The exhibition also features multimedia resources and educational programming.

For more information, please visit www.streetwise.org.
Michael Takada’s dad was a Boy Scout and a football player – a high school senior in Los Angeles at the beginning of World War II – when all of a sudden, he became “the enemy.”

“There’s nothing like hearing, ‘your family has days to settle your affairs and report to an assembly center,’” said Takada, whose grandparents, father and uncle were among as many as 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in camps during the war. His dad received his diploma in May 1942 at the Santa Anita racetrack assembly center – where the family slept in the stalls for the thoroughbreds – before going by train to a camp in Granada, Colo.

The injustice was that, “My dad was an American citizen,” as were two-thirds of detainees. His immigrant grandparents, however, had been unable to become naturalized citizens, because U.S. law did not allow Asians to do so until the 1950s. Meanwhile, “no person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States was ever convicted of any serious act of espionage or sabotage during the war,” according to NPS.gov.

Takada believes his dad did everything he could to minimize his time in the camp by volunteering to go on work details, which were encouraged because of the wartime labor shortage. He cut sugar beets and he did factory work, ranging farther and farther east. He kept finding himself in Chicago and, as the elder of two sons, brought his parents here after the war.

People of Japanese ancestry numbered just 400 in the 1940 census but an estimated 20,000 in 1945-46, said Takada, who as the elder of two sons, brought his parents here after the war.

Takada’s mother had been born in Japan but went to college in Kansas on a scholarship that was part of postwar reparation efforts. She would travel and when she came to Chicago, visited JASC to help with translation. “She raised four kids and was a classic stay-at-home mom. She went back to school and ended up teaching Japanese to Americans and families like myself,” then became an administrator with District 65 in Evanston, Illinois.

His father, now 95, started at the Chicago City Colleges in the early 1950s (even though he feared he was too old) and then transferred to the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. He always had his parents with him: at the first house he and his wife bought in Uptown, where his grandparents had a floor to themselves, and then in Evanston.

Takada remembers that his grandfather loved gardening most. “He ended up ‘til he died working at the University of Chicago Quadrangle Club, tending the rose garden. He would schlep down from the North Side to Hyde Park every day on the L. He was a force.” His grandmother worked for a time at Reynolds Aluminum on the north-west side.

As a third-generation Japanese American, Takada could not get information from his father about the early 1940s until his children approached their grandfa ther when he was in his 70s. “It became clear it was really important to him,” and to Takada’s surprise, his father opened up.

When immigrant elders – the “tosei” – reached their 70s and 80s, JASC shifted its mission to serve them with adult day services, homemaker services, even activities to alleviate isolation. In the 1980s, JASC answered the need for senior housing by starting a subsidiary that built the 200-unit Helwa Terrace at Lawrence Avenue and Sheridan Road in Uptown in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Takada himself has been CEO of JASC for the last six years, following a 30-year career in financial services. He’s living and working in Uptown, three blocks from his family’s first house. “As my youngest graduated college, I decided I would like to spend my energies in a different way. I was lucky to find the opportunity to lead this organization because it’s so much a part of me and I really believe in it, giving back to my community. I love it, I’m really blessed.”

ABOVE: Recense of Japanese American detainees in the Santa Anita Assembly Center from San Pablos, California, on the Santa Anita racetrack before being sent to Manzanar. Official U.S. Government photo, April 1, 1943. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

BELOW: Heiwa Terrace, 600 W. Lawrence Ave. Brian Lee photo.
Charles Edwards always had “a friendly attitude and always … a smile as he greets folks, no matter what the weather happens to be,” said his customer Vada at the southeast corner of Michigan and Chicago Avenues. “I always enjoy our brief conversations … how inspiring it is to visit with this kind gentleman who has such great pride in his work with StreetWise.”

Mr. Edwards, who died the weekend of July 25, was born Oct. 23, 1954 to Willie Mae Edwards and Charles Edwards on the West Side of Chicago. He grew up in Robert Taylor Homes, on the South Side, what he called “one of the worst projects.”

Mr. Edwards worked most of his life. He dropped out of DuSable High School four months before graduation because of the beatings that happened there every day. “I was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1971 when I was 18 years old. That experience was something else,” he said. He never held a weapon before I got drafted. I was never involved with gangs growing up, and they had to recruit me. I did a little over four years in the Marines. I did my bootcamp in San Diego, and I’ve been all over California and Vietnam. I got shot in Da Nang, Vietnam, on my right side, and I developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A 10-year-old kid shot me. They were training little kids over there.

“When I came back from the war, I had 4th stage cancer. I caught prostate cancer there because of Agent Orange. Agent Orange was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…flage. I was taking radiation therapy, but I’m still at fourth stage. I was used to spray off the enemies who hid in the trees, wearing camou-

“…”
THE CHICAGO PREMIERE
By James Ijames
Directed by Whitney White

The recently widowed "Mother of America"—attended to by the very enslaved people who will be free the moment she dies—takes us deep into the ugly and thorny ramifications of America's original sin.

50% OFF PREVIEWS APR 2 - APR 12 with code STREETWISE

THE MOST SPECTACULARLY LAMENTABLE TRIAL OF MIZ MARTHA WASHINGTON
RADICALLY VULNERABLE, OUTRAGEOUSLY HILARIOUS

AUGUST
SHIRTS OF THE MONTH

GIVEASHIRT.NET

hand screenprinted t-shirts designed by local artists in chicago, il.