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Forest Preserves police increase presence in Harms Woods after incident, Page 3

IN HER HONOR

Glenview family, friends pay tribute at Strike Out ALS 5K in Chicago, Page 18



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Coarse Italian's Summer BBQ brings community out in droves, Page 19



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Co-author Larry Broutman signs a copy of "Chicago Treasure" for Neveah Woods, who is featured in the book as Goldilocks. PHOTO BY OTHERVERTICAL FOR THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE

FAIRYTALE FUN

'Chicago Treasure' storybook gives local children fairytale experience, benefits Glenview nonprofit, Page 6

RIGHT: A young girl is transformed into the Little Mermaid in "Chicago Treasure," a new book that will raise money to support The Chicago Lighthouse North in Glenview. PHOTO SUBMITTED



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Inclusive fairytale book to support Glenview nonprofit

ZOE ENGELS, Editorial Intern

Jack helping Jill climb up the hill while a young, modern Cinderella beams as Prince Charming slides the glass slipper onto her foot. Chicagoans walking through 19th and 20th century France in paintings by Jean Beraud and Gustave Caillebotte. Zebras and bears taking children on rides through Chicago, having been let loose throughout the city.

These are some of the scenes that fill the vibrant pages of “Chicago Treasure,” a book that showcases Chicago-area children and supports them by funding the Chicago Lighthouse and its North Shore branch based in Glenview.

Rich Green, who created

and wrote the book along with fellow Chicagoland residents Larry Broutman and John Rabias, credited Broutman with providing the inspiration for “Chicago Treasure.”

Broutman “thought it (would) be neat to turn children into famous characters, put them into paintings and put them into fantastical situations all around Chicago,” Green said.

After attending meetings for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, Green met Rabias at a continuing education class for illustrators. Rabias, in turn, helped connect Green with Broutman to get the project up and running.

The original plan was to include 10 or 12 illustrations in the book, but the co-

authors ended up with 63 of them, all composed over the course of three years. The book is comprised of three sections, entitled “Just Imagine,” “Now Showing” and “Sightings.”

“Just Imagine” places photographs of real children from the Chicagoland area into storybook environments. These images are accompanied by variations and updated versions of nursery rhymes, as well as “Chicago Pretender” newspaper articles that put a spin on the fairytale stories the images parody. Broutman took the photographs while Green worked on incorporating them into the illustrations.

Broutman has spent a lot of time at The Chicago Lighthouse, an organiza-

tion that serves the blind, visually impaired, disabled and veteran communities, as a board member. There, Broutman took photographs of students and got inspiration for the images and illustrations in “Chicago Treasure.”

The Chicago Lighthouse “has a blended preschool which combines visually abled and visually disabled children in one classroom,” in part to foster empathy among sighted children for those who are not, Green said.

The Chicago Lighthouse North in Glenview, a branch of The Chicago Lighthouse, also offers children’s enrichment programs such as music therapy and holds an annual Halloween party and Beeping Egg Hunt.

“We call it a Beeping Egg Hunt because, ... if you have low vision, searching for eggs might be difficult,” said Melissa Wittenberg, the senior director of The Chicago Lighthouse North. “So, we have specialized eggs that beep – that emit a sound, (which) helps the children locate (the eggs) better.”

“It’s another opportunity for kids to be kids and participate in something that we sometimes might take for granted.”

According to Wittenberg, events and programs are catered toward whole families, making them inclusive for the siblings of children with disabilities. Psychological services and monthly support groups are offered to parents as well.

When he first began working on “Chicago Treasure,” Broutman took pictures of the children at The Chicago Lighthouse and then asked Green which fairytale stories those children



Neveah Woods plays the part of Goldilocks in a scene from “Chicago Treasure,” a new children’s storybook that will support The Chicago Lighthouse. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Sean Rocquemoore as Tom Thumb in another scene from “Chicago Treasure.”

could be incorporated into.

Later, as the project developed and grew, Broutman began to suggest, “Let’s find out what stories the kids like. Let’s get some

costumes for them to wear,” Green said.

After Broutman and Green gathered story ideas

Please see **TREASURE**, 12

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District 31 names new Field principal

STAFF REPORT

West Northfield School District 31's Field Middle School will be under new leadership next school year.

District officials recently announced Dr. April Miller as the school's newest principal. Miller takes over as principal following the appointment of Dr. Erin Murphy as the district's new superintendent.

Murphy replaces longtime D31 superintendent Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, who abruptly announced her early retirement from the role last month.

Miller comes to D31 with nearly 20 years of

experience in education. She served as an assistant principal at Cary Junior High for two years and as a principal at Big Hollow Middle School for three years. She was also the principal at Howe Elementary School in Beach Park for five years.

Miller earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Concordia University in 2013. She holds a professional educator license with an endorsement in middle school and secondary language arts, social studies, English as a secondary language, as well as a general administration and superintendent license.



West Northfield School District 31 recently named Dr. April Miller the new principal of Field Middle School.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

TREASURE

From Page 6

for the "Just Imagine" section of the book, Green sent Broutman sketches that he could use to help guide the children as they posed for the photographs, depending on what the co-creators had in mind.

"They're just really everyday kids – not professional model children," Green said. "Sometimes (we had) to use the smile from one photo and the body from another photo. ... So, there's a little bit of Photoshop work (involved). ... Then, I would go back in (to complete) the full sketch around that actual photograph. Once Larry (said) he liked (and approved of) the layout, then I'd do the full coloring, and I did all that work in Photoshop."

The second and third sections of the book – "Not Showing" and "Sightings" – were created by Broutman and Rabias.

"Not Showing" places children into famous paintings found in The Art Institute of Chicago. "Sightings" places children in areas throughout Chicago while acting in fantastical ways and surrounded by animals.

Although Green himself didn't have the opportunity to meet the children until the book was launched, he said seeing the children's reactions to the book has been incredibly rewarding.

"There is a young girl, Maritza, (who) plays Cinderella in the book," Green said. "Larry would send me photos and say, 'Wow, you're not going to believe how amazing these pictures turned out.' And, really, it's because she's got a smile that (you) can feel. I don't even look at the drawing around her, and I (created) all of that. I just look at the smile on her face. ... You really feel like she is the girl



Co-creator Rich Green speaks at a book launch party for "Chicago Treasure." PHOTO BY THE OTHERVERTICAL

who should have the glass shoe put on in that picture."

Green said he has since had the opportunity to meet Maritza.

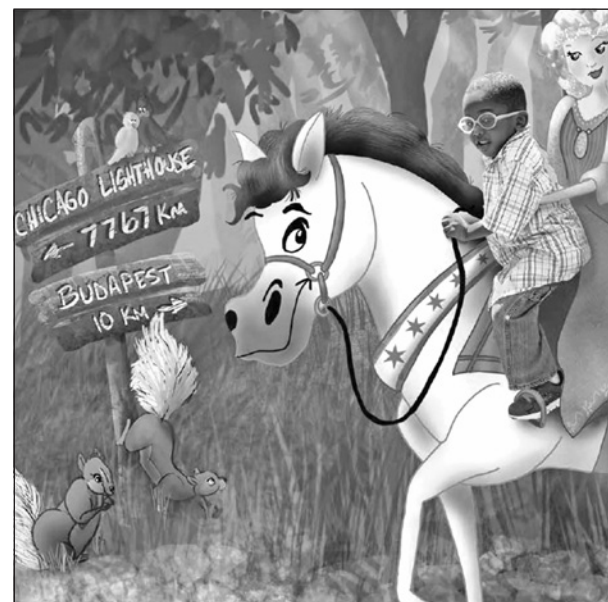
He showed her how he created the drawing, and Maritza did some drawing on Green's computer.

"You have a hope when you're working on this stuff that you're going to make (the kids) proud and make their families happy, but you have no idea what it's going to be like until you just see their smiles," Green said.

Proceeds from "Chicago Treasure" go toward The Chicago Lighthouse and Access Living, an organization that Broutman is also involved in which promotes inclusivity for individuals with disabilities.

"The head of Access Living actually gave some guidance to Larry when he was working on the book," Green said. "In particular, ... when Larry wanted to feature some children who were disabled or in wheelchairs or had something physically visible that showcased their disability, he wasn't entirely sure how we should treat that."

"The Access Living folks had said, 'You treat them



A young boy playing Rapunzel's Prince rides a horse toward The Chicago Lighthouse. PHOTO SUBMITTED

like every other kid. ... It's fine for there to be a wheelchair showing. As a matter of fact, you wouldn't want to hide it because you're not trying to cover up who they really are. ... You're (also) not calling it out or physically saying that they're disabled."

Green said this message of inclusivity has garnered wonderful feedback, with some readers referring to the book as "subtly disruptive" in that, if the traditional fairytale's character is able-bodied, the charac-

ter may have a disability or, if the traditional fairytale's character is of one race, the character may now be of a different race, and "none of it really matters because it's just kids getting to be who they want to be," which is empowering.

"I don't think we knew it at the time, but then as we started to pull it all together, (the book) really does tie into that message of access and inclusion for everyone, and, specifically here, through the eyes of children," Green said.