

Red Kite Round Up comes to hospital

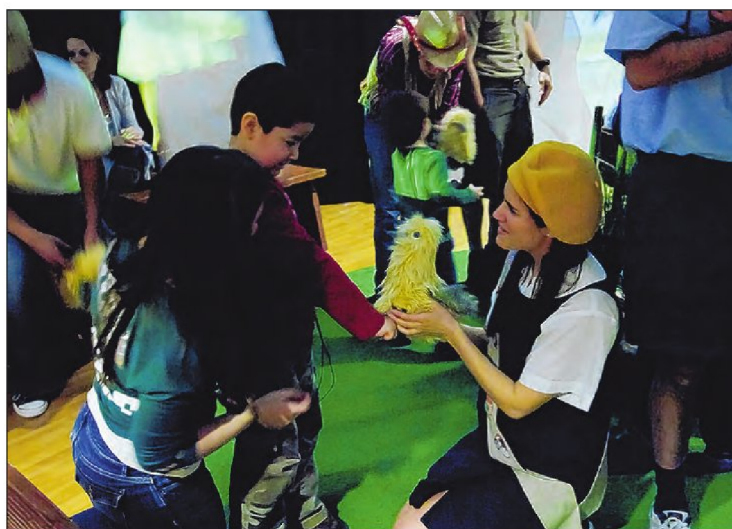
In March, NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Foundation partnered with Chicago Children's Theatre to bring performances of the Red Kite Round Up to NorthShore Evanston Hospital.

Red Kite Round Up is a 40-minute, multi-sensory adventure specifically created for children with autism spectrum disorder.

More than 200 children and their chaperones attended the performances, where children were encouraged to participate in the show and interact with the specially-trained artists.

Red Kite Round Up is part of Chicago Children's Theatre's ongoing Red Kite Project for children with autism spectrum disorder and is the third installation of its kind created by the company. Chicago Children's Theatre first launched The Red Kite Project in October 2007.

"The sold-out performances are a testament to the need for programs like Red Kite in the suburban market," said Dr. Michael Caplan, chairman of the department of pediatrics. "It was an honor to host Chicago Children's Theatre and offer our community



Red Kite Round Up artists interact with autism spectrum disorder children at NorthShore Evanston Hospital.

Jon Hillenbrand/Photo

this invaluable resource."

To learn more about NorthShore's autism support services, call The Access Center at 847-570-2500, Monday through Friday from

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

— This article was written by Leslie Winger of Winger and Associates, a PR firm in Chicago.

Mitchell Museum to host Native American poets

A trio of notable Native American poets with upper Midwest roots will read and discuss their work at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's first Native American Poetry Night, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, at the museum, located at 3001 Central St., Evanston.

Kimberly Blaese, Mark LaRoque, and Thirza Defoe will take part in the Mitchell's observance of National Poetry Month.

Blaese, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, grew up on the White Earth Nation Reservation in northern Minnesota. A professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she worked as a journalist before earning a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

Her book "Apprenticed to Justice" is described as a collection of vividly rendered lyrical and narrative poems that trace the complex inheritances of 21st century Native America. Blaese's "Trailing You" won the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas First Book Award.

LaRoque (Ojibwe), a Chicago-based writer who grew up on a Minnesota reservation, counts among his mentors the late, celebrated Chippewa poet and playwright E. Donald Two-Rivers.

LaRoque will read from his poetry and share childhood memories. Audience members say LaRoque offers unique insight into the lives and emotions of Native Americans.

"We can be humans on a spiritual journey, or we can be spirits on a human journey," LaRoque said. When asked which journey he's on, he says the latter.

When not pursuing literary interests, LaRoque works in the Chicago office of the nonprofit California Indian Manpower Consortium.

The multi-talented Defoe (Ojibwe and Oneida) is a Milwaukee-based writer, singer, instrumentalist, and Native hoop dancer, as well as a stage, film, and voice-over performer. Originally from northern Wisconsin, she learned the art of traditional storytelling and knowledge of the Ojibwe language from

her Ojibwe grandmother.

Her poems have appeared in the journals *Thorny Locust*, *Pitkin Review*, *Woody Guthrie Anthology*, and *Kalishwisaks*.

She graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in 2004 with a bachelor of fine arts in theater. Her acting credits include the starring role and narrator in the Emmy-Award winning PBS documentary "People of the Forest." She has had principle roles in several feature films.

Defoe received the 2007 First American in the Arts Outstanding Performance Award and 2004 First Americans in the Arts Scholarship Award, among other honors.

Admission to Native Poetry Night at the Mitchell Museum is \$8 for the general public, \$5 for Mitchell members. The museum is located at 3001 Central St., Evanston.

For more information, call 847-475-1030 or go to mitchellmuseum.org.

— This article was written by Nathan J. Silverman of Nathan J. Silverman Co. Public Relations, an Evanston-based PR firm.

'Evanston Idol IV' audition dates set

"Evanston Idol IV" auditions will take place between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., April 23 and April 30 at ECTV studios, 1285 Hartrey Ave., Evanston. All performing artists hoping to compete in the May 21 televised event must contact Cindy Cort at 847-864-5887 or email evanstonidol@ectv.com to sign up. A non-refundable \$25 entry fee is also required.

Singers, musicians, ventriloquists, stand-up comics, dancers, magicians, performance artists or poets are all welcome. Prizes will include a video DVD produced by ECTV, an Electronic Press Kit provided by MusicQuest as well as guest appearances and performances at various local festivals including the Evanston Fourth of July parade and the Custer Street Art Fair in June.

— Evanston Community Television

Art Under Glass program seeks new artists

The Art Under Glass program is seeking applications for large-scale art work. The program was initiated by the Arts and Business Committee of the Evanston Arts Council to place the work of Evanston artists in vacant storefront windows, promoting local artists and enhancing the aesthetics of the community.

The next round of the Art Under Glass program will be displayed in a highly visible location, a free-standing building that was formerly a China Buffet restaurant site near the intersection of Dempster Street and Dodge Avenue. The application deadline is April 25, and the work will be displayed in late May. Submissions will be reviewed by an independent jury and final selections will be made based on the suitability of the work for the available window spaces. To submit, download an application from cityofevanston.org.

— Benita Chan, City Of Evanston