

calendar of EVENTS

Cultural Connections encourages cultural understanding through learning about different communities. Each program will focus on one of three broad themes: Art as a Window into Culture; Historical Experiences; and Community Celebrations. All programs, unless otherwise noted, are from 6:00-8:00 pm and include ethnic foods.

400 Years of Diversity in Chicago,

AD 1600-2000 — H

The Chicago Historical Society —
Clark Street and North Avenue

Tuesday, January 25

Spring Kick-Off event! Explore Chicago's diverse heritage! Chicago has been the center of international activity for over 300 years, from the early contact between the Native Americans and European, to the incredible diversity present today. Tonight, encounter the diverse people that made Chicago their home including the native people, the early European settlers, waves of immigrants from across the globe, and current migrations to the city. Using objects from the Chicago Historical Society's collections, explore the interaction among these diverse groups that shaped the social and cultural life of the city.

Living Tradition: Lithuanian Easter and Egg Decorations — A

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture —
6500 South Pulaski Road

Wednesday, February 2

The egg is an ancient symbol of life, and Lithuanians have a long tradition of decorating eggs with designs of the sun, stars, and the moon. The decorated egg was symbolic of the annual spring rites celebrating the return of the sun with its life-giving light and warmth. When Christianity came to Lithuania, many pagan practices were given a new meaning. The decorated egg was now used to celebrate Easter and the spiritual rebirth. Tonight, we explore this tradition and learn to decorate eggs using some of the different methods still used today.

Art of the Border Culture — A

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum —
1852 West 19th Street

Tuesday, February 8

Explore the Mexican-US border culture through the art of Chicano artist Luis Jimenez Jr., whose work transforms the everyday into the heroic. Jimenez's sculptures, paintings, and prints grew out of his fascination with everyday culture — cars, music, dance, and plastic — and from the experience of working in his father's neon sign shop. Join us for this fascinating inquiry into the life of the common people and their artistic transformation into heroes, while savoring traditional foods.

KEY

A = Art as a Window into Culture

H = Historical Experiences

C = Community Celebrations

Greek Art in America: A Struggle to

Maintain Ethnic Identity — A

Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center —
168 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 4000

Thursday, February 10

How do artists maintain their ethnic identity in the mainstream art world? Maintaining traditional cultural ties can be difficult while participating in contemporary American society. Tonight, a contemporary Greek artist shares his experiences and his struggles to retain a close link to his own heritage while trying to adapt to the contemporary American art world.

The Bonader in Swedish Culture — A

Swedish American Museum —
5211 North Clark Street

Thursday, March 30

Learn about the Swedish tradition of *Bonad* paintings! For the peasant culture of Sweden, the *Bonad* paintings replaced images of saints, martyrs and miracles on the church's stained glass windows. These dynamic paintings depicted Christian history and Bible heroes in the traditional dress of Swedish culture, linking the viewer to the distant past. Tonight's event will feature *Bonad* paintings from the 19th century that reveal the lively decorative arts tradition that remains a vibrant part of Swedish culture.

My People Keep Moving:

African American Migration — H

DuSable Museum of African American History —
740 East 56th Place

Saturday, April 1 — 1:00 - 3:00pm

What are some of the historical experiences the African American community has to share with Chicago? We will explore the migrations of the past 400 years, beginning with the movement of thousands from West Africa and continuing through the Great Migrations of the 20th century. Learn from actors and performers as they bring the African American experience to life through music, art, food, and theater. (Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes to take part in the activities.)

Daniel Burnham's Connection with the Philippines — H

Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago —
3952 North Ashland Avenue

Wednesday, April 5

Daniel Burnham is well known in Chicago for designing a grand plan for the city, the Burnham plan of 1909. Did you know that Daniel Burnham also has many connections in the Philippines? This evening's program will explore the connections between Daniel Burnham, the Philippines, and the Filipino community.

Polish American Easter Traditions — C

Polish Museum of America —
984 North Milwaukee Avenue

Wednesday, April 12

In many agricultural societies the arrival of spring and the associated holy day of Easter carried a double meaning. This evening, we will explore the origins of the Polish traditions practiced during Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, and how many of these traditions have been retained and modified in interesting ways by the Polish American community. Traditional holiday foods complement your experience!

Ukrainian Easter Traditions — C

Ukrainian National Museum —
740 North Oakley Boulevard

Thursday, April 27

Springtime celebrations reflect ancient customs from before the advent of Christianity. These traditions can be found in everything from cooking to art to religious feasts. Contemporary Ukrainians maintain these rites in a traditional manner and adapt them to a new and evolving cultural identity. Join us to explore the traditions of the Easter season, new and old, and experience first hand the secular and religious traditions of this spring-time holiday.

To Chicago From Japan — H

Chicago Japanese American Historical Society

Hosted by The Field Museum — 1400 South Lake Shore Drive

Saturday, May 6 — 1:00 - 3:00pm

An internationally acclaimed artist will share her experiences about being transplanted in Chicago from Japan. Her silk artwork combines Japanese *Katagome* and *Nassen* techniques with American embroidery and applique. Then, enjoy a special meal that is served on Boys Day.

Mazel Tov: It's a Jewish Wedding — C

Spertus Museum — 618 South Michigan Avenue

Thursday, May 11

You are invited to a grand event . . . a traditional Jewish wedding! The Jewish communities have always celebrated weddings with joy and ceremony. Customs may vary between generations and communities, but Jewish weddings still follow patterns that evolved 2,000 years ago. Learn more about the rituals of a Jewish marriage: Meet the Matchmaker! Veil the bride! Witness the signing of the *ketubah* (Jewish marriage license)! Then, eat the cake and dance the *hora* to Klezmer music! What a party!

Poongmul: Korean Percussion Music — A

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center —
2725 West Peterson Avenue

Thursday, May 25

Enjoy a presentation and workshop on Poongmul, traditional Korean percussion music. Learn about the origins of Poongmul and how it has become a vehicle for movement and change, not only for Koreans, but among Korean Americans as well. Guests are invited to play instruments with members of the Center's cultural troupe, Il Kwa Nori.

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