



IRV
Leslie Sturt, Wilmette

This is Irv. Irv is around 3 years old. He was a rescue dog and may have been in a puppy mill before we found him at a rescue in Indiana. He is a mellow and handsome Shih Tzu. He loves his family and his home. He is very tolerant of his doggie sister, Bessie, who likes to pester him. He loves to eat and be cuddled. He is a love pot and we are happy to have him.



To see your pet featured as Pet of the Week, send a photo and information to eric@wilmettebeacon.com or 60 Revere Drive Ste. 888, Northbrook, IL. 60062.

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MOTHER'S DAY ESSAY CONTEST

Winning mother 'empowers female independence'

ERIC DEGRECHIE, Editor

We asked and you answered.

My inbox was inundated the last few weeks with grateful sons and daughters raving about their special mothers for our annual Mother's Day Essay Contest. Wilmette and Kenilworth are filled with great moms. Not surprisingly, it was difficult choosing one winner.

In the end, we selected a submission from Wilmette's Amelie Pare Sinclair, a Marie Murphy student. She wrote about her mother, Mimi Pare. For winning, Amelie's mom will receive a dozen roses from Wilmette's Morning Glory Flower Shop, 1135 Central Ave. *The Beacon* thanks Morning Glory for its generous and continued support. In addition, Pare will

receive two tickets to 22nd Century Media's Savor & Wine Fest. This year's event is scheduled for 12-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at Winnetka Community House.

Here is Sinclair's winning entry:

A Mother's Guidance

My mother is the most delightful and intriguing being you can set eyes on. In fact, it wouldn't be a stretch by any measure to call her the best mother on Earth, because she gives me confidence, puts us children first, and teaches me valuable lessons.

For example, my mother empowers female independence as my mother is self-made. From a poor village girl to a manager at one of the world's most renowned companies, the only person that did anything to advance her was herself. It was her own drive and

potential to succeed that got her here where she is today. She also helped eleven women get the right salary they were deprived of. I'm always blown away by the things she does. As a young girl growing up, she gives me the confidence I need.

My mother always puts us, her children, first. For example, one time a volcano erupted whilst she was apart from us, and a dark cloud of smoke filled the air. Many people were panic-stricken, and tried to calm themselves. Plane flights were cancelled. She called; "Where can I rent a car? Is there a train?" And thus a long journey, similar to that of "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" had begun. She also held the family together through multiple moves through 5 different countries. She dealt with my insomnia for

10 years and was disturbed and deprived of sleep constantly. Mother, you still looked amazing every single one of those days.

My mother teaches me valuable lessons. One important lesson my mother taught me is that people who make mistakes and try again are those with the most impressive personalities. For example, one time my mother came off unintentionally rude to another mother, and instead of giving up the relationship, she tried to make things better and it worked.

As you can see, my mother is the best one on Earth because she gives me confidence, puts her children first, and teaches me valuable lessons. Thank you, Mother, for making me who I am, in both physical and mental aspects of my life.

Ouilmette Foundation outlines fundraising goals

ALEXA BURNELL
Freelance Reporter

The Ouilmette Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching Wilmette parks, recently selected George Rafeedie as its new board president.

The Foundation also determined its primary fundraising initiatives for 2017. The organization will support the Keay Nature Learning Center, a handicap-accessible park and nature trail located at Hibbard Road and Skokie Boulevard.

Rafeedie explained that the nature center was designed by Stephen Keay, former director of the

Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association.

It was originally intended to be a fully accessible park for individuals with special needs far before the American Disabilities Act was passed in 1990, requiring compliance to such laws. The park provides a natural, serene setting and includes a half-mile of nature trails and waterfalls, but is in need of maintenance and repairs that go beyond what the Wilmette Park District alone can support.

"The Keay Nature Center is a hidden gem," Rafeedie said. "When built, it was ahead of its time, taking into consid-

eration kids with special needs and embracing the concept of open, natural spaces for the public to enjoy. The Foundation's mission is to educate, enhance and enrich our local parks and we see Keay Nature Center as a park that deserves such attention."

While the exact cost for the project has yet to be determined, the Foundation has set its 2017 fundraising goal at \$50,000. Current and upcoming fundraising efforts include the second annual Beach Dash & Splash on April 29, ongoing presence at the Wilmette Farmers Market beginning in May and a Nine Dine & Wine golf outing on June 23.

Over the next several months, the Foundation will work with the Wilmette Park District to determine which repairs and renovations will be addressed first.

Once identified, the Foundation will seek to involve residents, local business and organizations, making it a true community effort.

"Projects like these bring the community together to work towards a common goal and bring visibility to a park that not everyone is familiar with," Rafeedie said.

For more information about the Ouilmette Foundation, visit www.ouilmettefoundation.org.