

Spring 2024

# THE Gold Card

An exclusive publication for District 214 Community Education Gold Card Club members.



**Adventure  
Awaits**  
p. 2

**2** Community Education Travel

**5** Cultural & Performing Arts

**7** Senior Celebration Day

# D214 Community Education Travel

Offering dozens of trips every year, ranging from short half-day jaunts to local tourist hot spots, to exotic multi-week vacations to dream destinations across the world, CET is your partner in making memories of a lifetime. Travelers of all ages are welcome—from young couples and families to empty nesters and seniors—and you don't even have to live in the District 214 service area to travel with us!



## EXTENDED TOURS

Use your Gold Card for discounts on Extended Tours! Call 847-718-7709 or email [cetravel@d214.org](mailto:cetravel@d214.org) for more information or to make a reservation.

**Next edition coming  
mid-April 2024!**

*Travelin'*  
NEWSLETTER

Our Travelin' newsletter contains more detailed information on our 2024 summer, fall and holiday day trips along with information for our other extended tours. To receive your copy of Travelin' by mail, make sure you are on our mailing list! Email your name, address and phone number to: [cetravel@d214.org](mailto:cetravel@d214.org) or call us at 847-718-7709. If you get our voicemail, please leave that information including your email address.

See our website for information on the first day to sign up for our upcoming day trips!

■ <https://www.ce.d214.org/cet>

## EXTENDED TOURS 2024 and 2025

### Greek Isles Hopper

■ April 29-May 9, 2025

Join CET for an incredible 11-day tour of the Greek Islands and Athens, the heart of ancient Greece. After arriving in Athens, explore the ancient capital and visit the empire's 5th-century BC landmarks including the Acropolis and the Panathenaic Stadium, host of the first modern Olympic Games. Following your stay in Athens, board a modern ferry and set sail for the sunny Cyclades, an archipelago of 220 islands in the sparkling blue waters of the Aegean Sea. In the Cyclades, the iconic sugar cube white buildings with their blue domes on the islands of Santorini and Mykonos will be our home. Three nights on each island will allow time for guided sightseeing plus plenty of free time to enjoy the scenery as you please. Mykonos is known for its nightlife, beaches, and its gorgeous Cycladic village with its windmills and winding lanes in a picture postcard setting. Tour the Church of Agia Kiriaki and enjoy Greek regional cuisine. Perhaps the most picturesque island in the archipelago is Santorini, with charming villages perched on the rim of an ancient collapsed and flooded volcano crater. This romantic and luxurious island is where you'll find great wineries and long, steep, colorfully striped cliffs, thrusting up thousands of feet above the sea. Perched on these cliffs are incredible whitewashed villages, with their unique domes that make this one of Greece's most incredible scenic spots! Before returning home, enjoy additional free time in Athens to explore the birthplace of democracy in the historic capital.



## EXTENDED TOURS 2024 and 2025 (cont.)

**Agawa Canyon Fall Foliage Train in Canada**

■ September 16-20, 2024

All aboard the Algoma Central Railway for the Agawa Canyon Train Excursion. View the Canadian wilderness of hills and ravines from the comfort of the train. Breakfast will be served in the dining car and a box lunch provided during a two-hour stop at the majestic Agawa Canyon. This tour also features a visit to the “Bermuda of the North”: Mackinac Island. A guided tour of the island from horse-drawn carriages will provide a warm welcome to this historic, charming island. Savor the delicious luncheon buffet at the elegant Grand Hotel. Enjoy a cruise through the Soo Locks. Then it’s on to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which is estimated to be approximately 2000 years old. Marvel at the immense sand dunes along the sparkling waters of Lake Michigan. A ranger will point out the lakeshore’s variety of landforms that support a diversity of plant and animal habitats. **NOTE:** Passport required.

**Montreal & Quebec**

■ October 11-16, 2024

Get away from it all on the perfect autumn trip to one of North America’s most attractive cities: Quebec City, Canada. This historic walled city overlooks the valley of the St. Lawrence River. With vivid maple leaf fall foliage coupled with charming European inspired architecture, the quaint streets of Quebec will take you back to medieval France. Highlights: Old Town Quebec, Parliament, Plains of Abraham, Grand Allee, Citadelle, St. Anne-de-Beau-Pre Basilica, Montmorency Falls, Montreal, Notre Dame Basilica and the St. Lawrence River. A special feature of this trip are upscale hotel accommodations in the heart of both cities at the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac of Quebec City and Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel of Montreal. **NOTE:** Passport required.

**Sedona & Grand Canyon**

■ October 26-November 1, 2024

When you first see the stunning Red Rock Country Mountain peaks appear on the horizon, you will remember it forever! This amazing trip features: a five-night stay at the Hilton Sedona Bell Rock Resort, Pink Jeep Tour through the Red Rocks, plus visits to the Chapel of the Holy Cross (built into the side of a mountain), the Grand Canyon, the Montezuma Castle & Well National Monuments, and Crater Meteor as well as a stargazing program. Special feature: two scenic train excursions, on the Grand Canyon Railroad & Tanque Verde Railroad.

**St. Augustine**

■ March 1-7, 2025

St. Augustine, Florida, is a treasure trove of Spanish colonial history. The carefully preserved historic district features quaint brick streets, Spanish-influenced architecture with red-tiled rooftops and towers, the classic Bridge of Lions, charming St. George Street, and magnificent churches all amidst stately palm trees and majestic oaks.



For other Community Education Day trips or extended tours, visit our website at <https://www.ce.d214.org/cet>

## District 214 Fine & Performing Arts Connection: Spring 2024

### Buffalo Grove High School

1100 W. Dundee Road, Buffalo Grove

#### Spring Musical: "Working"

April 18, 19 & 20, 7 p.m.

### Elk Grove High School

500 W. Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove Village

#### Variety Show

April 24, 25, 26 & 27, 7 p.m.

### John Hersey High School

1900 E. Thomas St., Arlington Heights

#### Spring Show

April 15, 7 p.m.

### Rolling Meadows High School

2901 W. Central Rd., Rolling Meadows

#### Spring Musical

May 1, 4:30 p.m.

#### Spring Band Concert

May 9, 7 p.m.

#### Spring Orchestra Concert

May 15, 7 p.m.

#### Spring Jazz Concert

May 16, 7 p.m.

#### Spring Choral Concert

May 19, 5 p.m.

### Wheeling High School

900 S. Elmhurst Rd., Wheeling

#### Spring Play: "The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens"

April 18, 7 p.m.

Your Gold Card, with some exceptions, allows you free admission to these District 214 high school performances. Call the Community Education Office at 847-718-7700, or email us at [ce@d214.org](mailto:ce@d214.org), at least one week in advance to reserve your seats. Some performances have limited seating available for Gold Card members. Dates and times are subject to change without notice.

## The Theater Lab heads to 10th anniversary season

The Theater Lab, a District 214 Community Education program, has announced an exciting three-year season schedule that will culminate with the 10th anniversary of The Theater Lab in 2026.

The Theater Lab's 2024 season will include "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller, to be performed on August 16, 17 and 18. The 2025 season will feature "Fools" by Neil Simon in January, and "Leaving Iowa" by Spike Manton and Tim Clue in August.

Finally, to celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2026, The Theater Lab will dedicate the season to Shakespeare. Kicking off its 10th season will be "the play that never was": "Romeo & Juliet." (The reference is to the group's planned production which was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic.) Finally, The Theater Lab will round out its 10th year with "the play that started it all": "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the first play produced by The Theater Lab in its 2016 inaugural season.

Check out <https://www.ce.d214.org/theater-lab> for additional information or to find out how to become part of the fun!



# Cultural & Performing Arts

All performances are held in the Forest View Educational Center Theater.

Visit our website at [ce.d214.org/events](http://ce.d214.org/events)  
for more information, performance dates and to reserve tickets.



**Arlington Heights  
Community Concert Band**  
April 21, 2024 • 3 p.m.



**Northwest Symphony  
Orchestra**  
April 28, 2024 • 3 p.m.



**Arlington Jazz Exchange**  
April 14, 2024 • 3 p.m.  
July 30, 2024 • 7 p.m.



**Old Time Radio Troupe**  
May 28, 2024 • 7 p.m.



**The Theater Lab Presents:  
"The Crucible"**  
August 16, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.  
August 17, 2024 • 3 p.m.  
August 17, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.  
August 18, 2024 • 3 p.m.



The Forest View Educational Center Theater  
2121 S Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 • (847) 718-7700

**DISCOVER:**

# Our Expert Instructors



## Mleko racks up new career teaching pickleball

Mike Mleko has played a lot of racquet sports over the years. He was a college tennis player, an excellent squash player—and even taught tennis. And then like many Americans, he “found” pickleball a few years ago. “I liked pickleball a lot, it came naturally to me—and since I started, I’ve been consumed by it,” he said.

Given his background, it was perhaps no surprise that when Mleko began to play in District 214 Community Education’s pickleball classes, he found himself offering pointers on strategy to fellow classmates. And when Community Education needed an additional instructor to meet the booming demand for pickleball classes, Mleko jumped on the opportunity.

Mleko began teaching beginner pickleball classes on Wednesday nights in September 2023, and will also be teaching on Monday nights in 2024. He’s newly retired after 40 years as an accountant, and is eager to spend some of that extra free time on the court.

He and his wife have been playing in Community Education classes for several years, and are also in a pickleball league together.

What makes pickleball so addictive to so many people? “You get physical activity that’s fun and not overly stressful on your body,” Mleko said. “But I really like the camaraderie and the people you meet. There’s something about this pickleball culture. No matter where you go or play, you get to meet and know great people. I love it.”



## Jacob Ehrensaft had a passion for estate planning from the start of his legal career.

After majoring in English at the University of Illinois Chicago, Ehrensaft earned a law degree from DePaul University and now operates his own law firm. “I started doing estate planning at the beginning of my career, in my mid-20s, which is unusual for a lawyer at that time,” he said. He

said that interest reflects his personality. “I like trying to head things off, to be prepared,” he said. “And I like to help other people find ways to avoid risk.”

Now he shares that interest and knowledge in workshops for District 214 Community Education. His two-session “Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning” offers attendees an overview of those legal tools to prepare for the future, while also explaining the potential perils of probate and guardianship.

Who should be thinking about wills, trusts and power of attorney documents? Ehrensaft’s answer: every adult. It doesn’t matter if a person is young or old, is single or has a family, has \$50,000 or \$10 million in assets.

“I tell people to come to a program like this after they turn 18,” he said, pointing out that seemingly simple things can be difficult without the correct paperwork. For instance, parents can’t access an 18-year-old child’s medical records or make healthcare decisions without the legal authority of a power of attorney designation.

Ehrensaft has been offering his workshops at District 214 Community Education for more than five years now, and also makes presentations at local public libraries and for other organizations.

“My goal is to help people plan ahead, to get their ducks in a row, so that they and their family can avoid problems in the event of death or disability,” Ehrensaft said. “Planning ahead allows them to appoint who they want to make financial and healthcare decisions for them, and decide who will and will not receive assets from their estate.”

★ Coming Soon! ★

## The Senior Celebration is coming back!

District 214 Community Education is bringing back the popular Senior Celebration event for its 32nd year in 2024. The event is free to the community, and typically offers entertainment (games and music); food concessions; a variety of senior-focused vendors and other interactive demonstrations and activities.

Our staff is working hard to nail down the specifics, so stay tuned to our Community Education website for upcoming news about the date, time and specific program details.

Questions? Please email [ce@d214.org](mailto:ce@d214.org) or call our main office: 847-718-7700.



**DISCOVER:**

## D214 Community Education Summer Programs

Stay in shape, make some new friends and learn something new this summer with District 214 Community Education!



**Summer programming starts June 10**

**Registration opens May 7**

2121 S. Goebbert Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

847-718-7700 | [ce.d214.org](http://ce.d214.org)

# Join Us This Spring

**Come join us! Registration is open now.**

Check our website at [ce.d214.org](http://ce.d214.org) for an up-to-date list of spring programs and to register for classes. And watch for our summer courses coming soon! Sign up for our email list at [www.ce.d214.org/goldcard](http://www.ce.d214.org/goldcard) to make sure you are in the know about class updates.

