

N

NEIGHBORHOODSTAR

A GUIDE TO YOUR COMMUNITY'S NEWS

GET UP AND GO!

Worth getting out of the house for today ...



Game Night: Flossmoor Public Library, 1000 Sterling Ave., will host its all-ages Family Game Night from 7 to 8 p.m. in the library's Helen Wilson Meeting Room. Participants can bring their own board games or play ones provided by the library. Snacks will be served. Information: (708) 798-3600 or www.flossmoorlibrary.org.

Womantalk Discussion: The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, will host its Womantalk coffee hour and discussion from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Women will discuss "Simple Abundance" and other readings by Sarah Ban Breathnach. The cost is \$5, and reservations are required. Information: (708) 361-3650.

Google Docs: Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy Ave., will offer its Getting to Know Google Docs computer class for adults from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to use Google Documents. Registration is required. Information: (708) 422-8522.

Poetry and Music: Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S. Troy Ave., will host its Poetry and Music event for students in sixth through 12th grades at 4 p.m. Tuesday. Teens will transform the lyrics of their favorite songs into a poem. Registration is required. Information: (708) 422-8522.



Passion for travel: A scholarship for St. Xavier University students who want to study abroad has been set up in the name of former SXU student Angelo Bonadonna Jr. I SUPPLIED PHOTO

Bonadonna Sr.: 'He had a full, rich life'

BY BOB RAKOW
Correspondent

IF YOU GO ...

What: Angelo Bonadonna Jr. Study Abroad Scholarship fundraiser

When: 6 to 10 p.m. May 7

Where: Gilhooley's Grande Saloon, 3901 W. 103rd St., Chicago

Tickets: \$25

Information: (773) 298-3236, <http://angelifund.org/benefit>

Angelo Bonadonna Jr. did not plan to become a teacher.

But a love of travel and a newfound interest in math led him to Thailand where he was one of several young American teachers.

"(Math) was such an odd thing to fall in love with," said Bonadonna's father, Angelo Bonadonna Sr., an English professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago's Mount Greenwood community.

Bonadonna Jr.'s interest in math was a surprise, but his passion for travel was nothing new.

He studied abroad for the first time in 2006, when he spent a semester in Rome. He also traveled through much of Europe, conducted AIDS education in Africa, farmed in India and spent time in Mexico.

Bonadonna Jr., 26, was preparing to attend graduate school and was considering several career choices when he learned about an opportunity to teach overseas.

"He was not trained to be a teacher," his father said. "He did not want to be a teacher. He saw this opportunity to teach in Thailand."

A 2006 St. Xavier University graduate, Bonadonna Jr. studied psychology and communications. He was passionate about broadcasting and produced several programs for the university's student-run radio station.

He was considering careers in

architecture, law, urban planning and human rights advocacy, but found he had a knack for teaching, and loved working with his seventh-grade class in Thailand, his father said.

Bonadonna Jr. and his colleagues relished their time in Thailand, spending much of their free time touring the county.

"They worked hard and they played hard," Bonadonna Sr. said.

In February, Bonadonna Jr. and some fellow teachers and students were hiking the countryside when he met with tragedy and drowned in a waterfall.

"It's a very deceptive, very tranquil area," Bonadonna Sr. said. "We don't know if he went in deliberately or fell in."

Bonadonna Sr. takes solace in the fact that his son touched so many lives in a short period of time.

"He had a full, rich life," he said. Still, dealing with his oldest child's death has been a tremendous struggle.

"It just came as a total shock to

the system," Bonadonna Sr. said. "It just seems like you had the wind knocked out of you. This is such a jolt. I find I'm struggling to get through my normal work day."

The Bonadonna family does not want their son to be forgotten.

As a result, they have established the Angelo Bonadonna Jr. Study Abroad Scholarship, which will be awarded annually to a St. Xavier University who plans to study abroad.

A benefit to help fund the scholarship will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. May 7 at Gilhooley's Grande Saloon, 3901 W. 103rd St., Chicago.

The event will include music, open mic performances, food, beverages and raffles. Tickets are \$25 and include pizza and one drink. Tickets can be purchased by calling Bonadonna Sr. at (773) 298-3236 or online at <http://angelifund.org/benefit>.

Donations can be sent to Study Abroad Scholarship, c/o Gina Rossetti, St. Xavier University, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago, 60655.