

a one- or three-mile walk. 9am [registration], 10am [walk], \$25 [advance registration], \$30 [on-site registration], \$10 children age 12 and under. Grant Park, Chicago, 312/542-0002

**Lyric Opera of Chicago: Sept. 27:** Lyric's black-tie Opera Ball, which follows the season-opening performance of "Manon," includes a midnight meal, The Grand March of the Stars, live entertainment and more. 10pm, \$400. Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, 312/827-5682

**National Jewish Medical and Research Center: Sept 11:** Former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer is the keynote speaker at this Humanitarian Award dinner. 6pm. Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware Place, Chicago. For ticket prices, call 312/920-1798

**Northwestern University Settlement House: Sept 18:** "Style Under the Stars" is a New York-style runway fashion show, with models showing off fashions from local stores. \$125. For more details, call 773/278-7471

**ORT: Sept 17:** "Taking Technology to the Next Level." 6:30pm. Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago. For more details, call 847/291-0475

**Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago: Sept 6:** This year's Medicine Ball benefit has a Great Gatsby theme, with elegant 1920s or black-tie attire recommended. \$600. Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago. For more details, call 312/238-6023

**Robert Crown Center for Health: Sept 26:** Proceeds from this gala help Chicago-area schoolchildren. 6:30pm, \$350. Peninsula Chicago, 108 E. Superior St., Chicago, 630/325-1773

**Ted Fund: Sept 27:** "Car-Hop" with classic rock 'n' roll by the Ragtaps. Fields Chrysler Jeep Dodge, 670 Frontage Road, Northfield. For more information, call 847/866-7282

CONCERTS

**Andrew Bird: Sept 3:** Violin virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird performs. 6:30pm, free. Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, Chicago, 312/742-1168

**Chicago Sinfonietta: Sept 21 & 23:** The Sinfonietta begins its 22nd season taking the stage with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, Anima Young Singers of Greater Chicago and other headliners. Sept 21—6pm, \$26-\$40. Lund Auditorium, Dominican University, 7900 W. Division St., River Forest. Sept 23—7:30pm, \$26-\$96. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago; 312/236-3681

**"An Evening With Eartha Kitt": Sept 20:** The HistoryMakers presents an interview with and performance by singer and actress Eartha Kitt. Gwen Ifill will conduct the interview, and Merri Dee will serve as master of ceremonies for this black-tie event. \$500 and up, RSVP by Sept. 10. Northwestern University Law School's Thorne Auditorium, 357 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago. For program time and more information, call 312/674-1900

**Hyde Park Jazz Festival: Sept 27:** World-class headliners and local emerging artists team up for 14 hours of nonstop jazz at a variety of performance venues in Hyde Park. Free festival shuttles continually loop the venues to take audiences around. Noon-2am, free. For more information, call 773/561-1222

**Jazz at Symphony Center: Sept 26:** Cassandra Wilson. 8pm. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Call 312/294-3030 for more information

**Lila Downs: Sept 30:** Mexican-American singer Lila Downs performs. 7:30pm, \$28-\$40. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago, 312/334-7777

**Musjc Institute of Chicago: Sept 28:** Frederick Swann, organist, performs. 3pm. Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call 847/905-1500 for more information

**Music of the Baroque: Sept 21-22:** Music of the Baroque opens its season with "Hercules" by Handel. 7:30pm, \$30-\$75. Sept 21—First United Methodist Church, 1630 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Sept 22—Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago, 312/334-7777

**Rastrelli Cello Quartet: Sept 19:** This classical ensemble performs music on the cello ranging from baroque to rock. 8pm. Recital Hall, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago. Call 773/442-4636 for more information

**Ravinia: Sept 1:** Labor Day Spectacular. 7pm, \$30-\$40. **Sept 2:** Pianist Vladimir Feltsman. 8pm, \$30-\$50. **Sept 3:** Kronos Quartet. 8pm, \$25-\$40. **Sept 4:** Martinis at the Martin with Carol Lawrence. 8pm, \$75. **Sept 5:** Music Theatre Workshop with "Unlock'd." 7pm, \$10. **Sept 6:** Tom Chapin performs a family concert. 11am, \$10. **Sept 6:** YE!A! Highland Park Benefit with American English. 7:30pm, \$45. **Sept 7:** Celebration of Summer: Lawn of Lincoln. Noon, call regarding admission. **Sept 12:** Legends of Jazz. 8pm, \$50. **Sept 13:** River North Dance Company performs as part of the Ruth Page Festival of Dance. 7:30pm, \$30. **Sept 14:** The Ahn Trio. 7pm, \$25-\$40. For all shows, call regarding price and availability of lawn tickets. Ravinia Park, Highland Park, 847/266-5100

**Room 21 Jazz Concert Series: Sept 3:** Zzaje. 6-9pm. 2110 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago. Call 312/328-1198 for more information

**Super Diamond: Sept 19:** A Neil Diamond Tribute. 7:30pm. Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake. For ticket prices, call 815/459-2965

**Tuesdays on the Terrace at the MCA: Sept 2:** Fred Anderson. **Sept 9:** Greg Ward. **Sept 16:** Green Mill Quartet. **Sept 23:** World Music Festival. **Sept 30:** Andre Earles. Tue 5:30-8pm, free [food is available for purchase]. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, 312/280-2660

**WFMT Midnight Special Folk Festival: Sept 28:** This annual festival includes four hours of music by such performers as Tom Paxton and Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer. 3-7pm, \$35-\$100. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, 847/673-6300

DANCE

**Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatli: Sept 27:** The dance troupe celebrates its 25th anniversary with a show featuring award-winning Mexican singer Goyo Cruz. 7pm, \$15-\$22. Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora, 630/896-6666

**Beserra Dance Theater: Sept 4-7:** The company presents "The Jenkins Farm Project," a multimedia dance theater installation that transforms the real stories of a North Carolina farming family into an interactive performance, with the audience moving through the performance in a non-traditional viewing experience. Thu-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm, \$30, \$12 students and seniors. Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, 773/327-5252

**David Dorman Dance: Sept 25-28:** The dance company performs two programs, each featuring a politically and socially charged evening-length work. Thu-Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm, \$24-\$28. Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, 312/344-6600

**Joffrey Ballet: Sept 11-15:** The ballet moves into its new permanent home and holds a grand-opening celebration with performances, black-tie gala and open house. 10 E. Randolph St., Chicago. For more details, call 312/739-0120

**Luna Negra Dance Theater: Sept 26-27:** The dance company presents "Ciclos." 8pm, \$25-\$55. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago, 312/334-7777

**San Francisco Ballet: Sept 16-20:** The nation's oldest professional ballet company celebrates its 75th anniversary with two distinct programs; each program has three works. Tue-Fri 7:30pm, Sat & Sun 1:30pm, \$70-\$115. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago, 312/334-7777

FASHION

**Adele Wechsler Trunk Show/Eco-friendly Bridal Event: Sept 13:** Featuring personal consultations with designer Adele Wechsler, this event also showcases "green" wedding-related products, including skin-care items, bedding, organic wine, floral arrangements and more. Appointments required for consultations; call ahead. 10am-5:30pm, free. Macy's Bridal Salon, 111 N. State St., Chicago, 312/781-3545

**Fashion Week Highland Park: Sept 6-13:** A week of special events, including showings of one-of-a-kind merchandise and trunk shows and a professional runway show and dinner. Held at locations throughout downtown Highland Park. For more information, call 847/432-0284

GARDENS

**Cantigny Gardens: Permanent:** Ten acres of formal gardens display a variety of Midwestern plant life as well as plant life from around the world. An Idea

BUZZ

Look back over the history of athletics, and you'll find that even the field's greatest minds needed a little time to mature. It wasn't until he was 30 years old that James Naismith finally got around to inventing basketball. Knute Rockne waited until he was 25 to revolutionize football's forward pass. So in the pantheon of sports innovators, Douglas Jones has got a heck of a head start.

Jones, a 15-year-old Waukegan High School student, is the inventor of the Roller Boggin, a variation on the skateboard he designed to be both safer and

easier to master than the original version. Jones created his prototype by reshaping his skateboard, attaching it to a baby bathtub and making a few other modifications, the result being that instead of riders standing on the apparatus and propelling it with their feet, they kneel down and move it with their hands.

We think he might be on to something, and we're not the only ones. The Roller Boggin took the top spot in the By Kids For Kids Sports Evolution Challenge — a national online contest that invited

youngsters to enter their ideas for new sports and sporting goods, then put the best of them up for a vote — an honor that included a \$10,000 prize and the chance to meet an ESPN personality. Is Jones, who turns 16 in October, planning to invest his winnings in his first set of car keys? He's saving the cash for college, he says.

The big thinkers at Northwestern are no strangers to innovation either, and of late they've been getting some recognition as such. In July the announcement came that Northwestern professor Sir Fraser Stoddart was the recipient of the Royal Society's 2008 Davy Medal, putting him in the company of chemists such

as Linus Pauling and Pierre and Madame Curie. Stoddart got the nod for his significant work bridging "the gap between chemistry and the scientific and engineering challenges of nanoelectromechanical systems," according to the award citation.

Stoddart's honor came on the heels of another NU faculty member's big news: the announcement, in June, that Professor Chad A. Mirkin had been selected for one of six spots in the inaugural class of the Department of Defense's National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows Program. The program, which is designed to assist defense-related research, will provide up to \$3 million for Mirkin's work in nanotechnology.