

Zoom in: Evanston | Chicago Splash

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BY Ashley Devick

Evanston History Center Executive Director Eden Juron Pearlman on the city's best in culture and cuisine.

Eden Juron Pearlman has lived in Evanston for two decades — and, as executive director of the town's history center, has gotten to know some of its best hidden gems. "What I love most about Evanston is the urban-suburban mix," she says. We asked her to give us the inside scoop on this cultural destination.

1. Found Kitchen and Social House

1631 Chicago, (847) 868-8945; Foundkitchen.com

"I would say my favorite restaurant is Found Kitchen. They have a lot of items on their menu and I love that you can eat a whole meal that's really healthy and delicious. But more than that, it's an excellent place to meet friends for a drink. It's comfortable and warm, with couches that make you feel like you're in a friend's living room."



2. Andy's Frozen Custard

719 Church, (847) 864-8009; Eatandys.com

“Andy’s Frozen Custard is awesome. First of all, they have the most delicious frozen custard — but they’re also terrific community sponsors, frequently donating products and sponsoring [events] within the community. They have this thing called the Jackhammer, which is frozen custard, hot fudge and peanuts. It’s so decadent — if there were no consequences I’d eat it every day.”



3. The Actor’s Gymnasium

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Suite 100, (847) 328-2795; Actorsgymnasium.org

“The Actor’s Gymnasium is what I would call a circus school, [with] classes for both adults and children. In one week you might learn trapeze, [in] another, silk knots. They also put on circus shows that are fantastic. It’s a terrific organization and so much fun.”

4. Greenwood Street Beach

1401 Sheridan; Cityofevanston.org

“I’m a huge fan of the beach in Evanston. My favorite beach is Greenwood Street, a wonderful place to swim, picnic and hang out with friends. Next door they have the Dempster Street Sailing beach, which is the only [place] in Evanston where you can sail from the beach and rent sailboats, kayaks and paddleboards. It’s available to anybody.”

5. Evanston History Center

225 Greenwood, (847) 475-3410; Evanstonhistorycenter.org

“We do so many things here. We’re a historic house museum, which means we are in the Charles Gates Dawes house, who was vice president under Calvin Coolidge. We are also the Evanston History Center. We have so many resources, including exhibits, a monthly lecture series and free programming for the community. We even have facilities so people can do research on their [own] homes, which is really popular — we call it house genealogy.”

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