

## Create video games, animations at Scratch Day

**Evanston Review (IL)** - Thursday, May 20, 2010

**Author:** MYRNA PETLICKI Contributor

Your family can celebrate Scratch Day at the only location in Illinois participating in the international event. In case you are scratching your head, Janet Piehl, youth services librarian at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., can clear up the mystery.

"Scratch is a digital media design program where kids can make video games and videos and do animations. They can add music, photos and different sound effects," Piehl said. Children and adults are invited to learn Scratch -- or display their skills -- at 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 22, at the library.

Ricarose Roque, one of the developers of Scratch at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will answer questions. "Some of our teen volunteers are really good at Scratch and they'll be there to answer questions and help people get started," Piehl said.

Anyone who has a laptop is encouraged to bring it, but laptops will also be available. There will be a raffle of Scratch T-shirts and refreshments will be served.

Piehl said, "I'm hoping that all the Scratchers from across the Chicago area will stop by that day."

For details, call (847) 256-5025 or visit [www.wilmettelibrary.info](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info)

### Astounding acrobatics

Professional Chicago circus performers, as well as advanced students, will dazzle families at Circus in Progress, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at The Actors Gymnasium, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Tickets are \$25 for this benefit to raise funds for renovating the facility.

For tickets, call (800) 838-3006 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

### A walk in the woods

Children ages 4-10 and their families will gain a new appreciation for the environment during Nature Nights at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The next event, 5-7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22, will feature a Woodland Walk, tram ride, planting project and s'mores around a campfire. Bring a picnic dinner. Cost is \$20 per child for Garden Plus members, \$23 for nonmembers.

For details, call (847) 835-8363 or visit [www.chicagobotanic.org/forfamilies](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/forfamilies)

### Here comes summer

The last day of school, summer vacation and summer camp are some seasonal highpoints celebrated during "90 Days of Summer," 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21-23, at Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. Performers include skating school students and professionals. Tickets are \$9.50 for reserved seats, \$8.50 for general seating.

For details, call (847) 448-8258 or visit [www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks](http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks)

### Sensitive to autism

Families can bring gluten-free, casein-free snacks to AMC Northbrook 14, 1525 Lake Cook Road, 10 a.m. Saturday, May 22, for a screening of "Shrek Forever After," designed for the comfort of kids with autism. Lights will be brought up, the sound will be turned down and audience members will be allowed to get up, dance, walk, shout or sing. Tickets are \$6.

For details, see [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

---

**Section:** Entertainment

**Record Number:** ev-entertainment-north-famfriendly-052010-s1

Copyright 2010, Evanston Review, Pioneer Press. All rights reserved. REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED.

To bookmark this article, right-click on the link below, and copy the link location:

[Create video games, animations at Scratch Day](#)