

## CALENDAR



All events are held at the Old Town Triangle Center unless otherwise designated. Meetings are open to all members.

### TRIANGLE EVENTS

**April 14, 7:00 p.m.**  
OTTA Board Meeting

**April 20, 7:00 p.m.**  
Neighborhood Improvements  
Committee Meeting  
April 21, 7:00 p.m.

**Historic District/Planning and Zoning Meeting**

**April 23, 7:00 p.m.**  
CAPS Meeting

**April 25, 9:00 a.m.**  
Annual Neighborhood Spring Clean-up



### OPENINGS

**April 5, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
Landscapes by Robert Pogatz

**May 3, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
Still Lifes by Carl Holzman

### SPECIAL EVENT

**April 18, 3:30 p.m.**  
*Our Town: A Reader's Theatre Presentation*

## Check it out

The OTTA Times with color photos—online at [oldtowntriangle.com](http://oldtowntriangle.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS

This is a test of your mental acuity. Picture last Sunday morning; you arise to blowing snow and winter advisories. Here's the question: What season is it? If you answer **SPRING IN CHICAGO**, your memory is working. If you got it wrong, don't despair; you just need a few more years in Chicago. Welcome to the spring in Old Town. The snow is melting, and we are getting prepared for our first outdoor event of the season—the Annual Neighborhood Spring Clean-up on April 25. Whether you are an annual participant, a member who has missed the event, a new member who doesn't know what I'm talking about or a resident who doesn't even know what the association is, **PLEASE JOIN US AT 9 AM** at the Triangle Center, 1763 N. NorthPark. We will rev up your engines with coffee "and" (as my mother would say); you will meet your neighbors, receive your broom, shovel and trash bags and be sent off to beautify our neighborhood. Obviously, the Triangle will benefit from our clean-up efforts. The neighborhood will be polished and ready for outdoor activities and, of course, the Art Fair. Our "cleaning crew" will have an opportunity to see old friends and neighbors and make new acquaintances. Spring clean-up is also a great opportunity to reach out to recruit new members. We want to serve all the Triangle residents, and the OTTA Board cannot know what neighbors need if we haven't met them. If every clean-up volunteer brings a new or previously non-participating resident to the April 25th event, we have a good chance of expanding our base. If you and your friends are not the outdoor types, you can do your mingling at the April 18th performance of *Our Town* at the Triangle Center. I know residents that are participating in both events! Speaking of "reach out" efforts, thanks to Crilly Court Condo Association which opened its doors and welcomed OTTA Board Members to a "meet and greet." You have a beautiful building with a "New Orleans" Courtyard and energetic residents with whom we look forward to working. Are there other associations out there who want to meet with us? No newsletter prior to June can end without a plea for volunteers and contributions to the Art Fair. We need your time and your money, but the cause is worthy. Not only will you have fun, fun, fun, but also the money raised at the Art Fair funds the operations of the OTTA and its substantial charitable contributions, including support for the Menomonee Club for Boys and Girls. If you need information on how to volunteer or donate money, please contact the OTTA office. Hope to see you all on April 18 and April 25.

### ART FAIR

CHRIS BEER, GENERAL CHAIR

It's April, and we are counting down to the 60th Old Town Art Fair. At our last Chairmen's meeting, we introduced the

2009 poster, a photograph in brilliant blues, reds, and yellows entitled *Sunnyside Up*. The nautical image inspired the theme for our First Sight, Friday Night party, to be called, *Ship Ahoy*. The party will feature good food, music, dancing, and a **→p2**

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

from **→P1** silent auction with works from artists who are exhibiting in the fair. Please join us for this gala event.

Sixty new artists were juried into this year's fair, joining the 200 returning artists. The quality of their work is outstanding, and we expect huge sales, even topping those of last year. We have also acquired a number of new sponsors for the fair, including The Chicago Tribune, Luna Bar, and Artful Framers Studios. They join returning sponsors WXRT and Yelp.com. We expect more sponsors to join us by opening week-end.

This year we are introducing a new program format—a map-fold broadside, replaces the book format of past fairs. It picks up all the familiar elements relevant to the art fair. Historical information and other features not pertinent to the art fair and other unchanging information formerly in the catalog will be published in a separate membership booklet.

We still need volunteers for all committees. Volunteers are the life blood of our fair. If you have any time available and would like to be part of this event, please go online to [volunteer@oldtowntriangle.org](mailto:volunteer@oldtowntriangle.org) and sign up. We can promise you a great time and the satisfaction of having provided much-needed service to the community. Proceeds from the fair are used to maintain the historic character of the neigh-

borhood, insure necessary services to our residents, and support arts and education programs in our schools.

## CAPS

SHIRLEY BAUGHER

About 14 officers, including the Internal Affairs Commander, and many neighbors joined us at our CAPS meeting on March 26, 2009. Officer Benny Wong chaired the meeting. In reviewing the ICAM report, he noted that the crime rate was up slightly, though major crimes are down.

Old business dealt primarily with drug dealing taking place around the clock in the alley behind the 300 block of West Concord. This is of particular concern because of the area's proximity to LaSalle School. Neighbors who reported this problem will try to get license plates to pass along to police. The officers will follow up with increased surveillance.

Two attempted break-ins occurred in the 1700 block of Crilly Court. Perpetrators were seen trying to enter the lower level of one residence, but were unable to break the lock. They did open the basement door at another residence, but were deterred by the loud alarm system the opening triggered. Police responded immediately and made a thorough search, inside and out; but the

intruders had left the area. Residents are urged to be especially careful about locking doors, including garage doors and gates; keeping back areas well-lighted, and having working alarm systems.

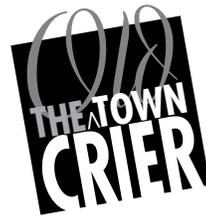
Neighbors reported that the illegal squatter had returned to the empty house on the southeast corner of Willow and North Park. The building is now owned by Bank of America, and their legal department must file a complaint before police can take action against the individual. Officers have vowed to contact the bank and ask that they lodge a complaint. Hopefully, the squatter can be evicted in the next few days.

Kudos to the 18th District Community Relations Department on their excellent information service.

Sergeant Schumann has also informed us that Target is conducting a special program to provide children (ages 12 and under) with eyeglasses, Target's optical department will give a free pair of glasses to the child upon receipt of a valid prescription from the doctor. The child may select from 40 different frames. The lenses will be non-glare and scratch resistant. These glasses normally sell for \$200. There are no income guidelines. You can find stores with optical departments by going to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com). It is best to confirm participation first. **T**

A new restaurant is coming to the Old Town neighborhood. Located at the southeast corner of North Avenue and Cleveland, the restaurant is touted as an upscale American bistro. It will feature appetizers, small plates, and charcuterie made on the premises. Mondays through Fridays will be dinner only. On Saturdays and Sundays, both brunch and dinner will be served. There will also be a sidewalk café. A mid-June opening is projected.

**Ryan Poli**, chef de cuisine of Old Town's favorite restaurant **Perennial**, has launched his new Spring menu, and it's spectacular, as we would expect. Among the additions are: grilled salmon with a roasted beet salad, fiddlehead ferns, pickled ramps, and port wine reduction; and a flat iron surf and turf with shrimp ravioli, baby leeks, braised artichokes, and a shrimp vinaigrette. For appetizers they serve perfectly steamed giant prawns with Chef Ryan's special remoulade sauce (so good I even dunked my



bread in it) and a new an asparagus tart with wafer thin Serrano ham, piquillo peppers, marcona almonds, and sherry vinegar. Tribune food critic Phil Vettel has named Perennial one of the best brunch restaurants in Chicago. Try it.

If you haven't checked out the bakery goods at **Catering-Chocolate**, 1712 N. Wells, now is the time. Every day, master baker **Ann Kelly** turns out a mouth-watering selection of breads to meet your every taste: cinnamon-raisin, brioche (bread and rolls), wheat and white loaves, marbled rye, baguettes, and many more. Also stop by for the flaky croissants offered on week-ends.

You have probably received posters requesting your participation in the neighborhood **Clean and Green** activity on April 25. This is three weeks earlier than past clean-ups. Chairman **Alex Shibicky** is scheduling a second activity for May 16 to plant flowers that would be "at risk" were they to go in on the 25th **→P6**

The Old Town Triangle Association Times is published ten times a year by Old Town Triangle Association Bounded by Clark Street, North Avenue, and the ghost of Ogden Avenue

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Administrators Shirley Baugher or Leslie Wolfe at the office during those hours.

## OFFICERS

FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS, President  
PHILIP GRAFF, First Vice-President  
CHRISTINA BEER, Second Vice-President  
MICHAEL WARNICK, Secretary  
MARTHA CONNOLLY, Treasurer

## DIRECTORS

MATT BEER  
DEBBIE DAY  
ALICE HUFF  
JEFF PINES  
EMILY ROSE  
DIRK VOS

In April, the Triangle Gallery is proud to present the paintings of internationally recognized Chicago expressionist celebrity portrait and landscape painter Robert Pogatetz. Robert's works have been featured in exhibitions and galleries throughout the United States and Europe, and he brings a unique style to our gallery. That style and Robert's paintings are best described in his own words: *Art is energy. My paintings capture this energy with the catalyst being bold bright color. Color, an art form all its own, swirls with energy to create lasting images. My work reflects this synergy as visual and emotional documentation. Painting is an exhilarating experience. Creating art is a joyous and complete means of sharing my artistic and metaphysical perception of life. The result is experiencing maturity, growth, and great personal pleasure in sharing visual expression and creative interpretation. When painting, I learn new aspects about my style, the world, and myself. I take delight in painting celebrity portraits*

*and colorful landscapes. My portraits capture inspiration for the human face and its features as a window to the soul, celebrating visual appeal as well as higher spiritual energies. My landscapes are imbued with vibrancy, energy, and movement; and are joyously inspired by colors, scenery, urban life and nature—creating a visual and emotional dance that captures the heart of their expressive creation. My brush strokes are rich, happy, dancing, and filled with movement, giving the viewer*



**APRIL 3**  
**paintings**

**Robert Pogatetz**



**MAY 1**  
**still lifes**

**Carl Holzman**

The Old Town Gallery proudly presents the works of Carl Holzman for its May showing. Of his upcoming show, Mr. Holzman writes: *After completing a series of paintings based on macro photographs of flowers, I returned to the challenges (and rewards) of the studio still life. In part, I wanted to experiment with certain effects of interior lighting. But I was also challenged by the idea of painting on a smaller scale than had been customary for me: smaller canvasses and smaller brushes in the service of greater specificity and intimacy. Some of the compositions in the series are lit by natural light; others by studio light. I have used studio light to create dramatic effects of shadow and reflection unavailable to me without it. Studio lighting can also heighten the contrast between foreground and background to dramatic effect, bringing something of the Renaissance atmosphere to even the most contemporary subjects. One of the challenges for me has been to compose the elements of the paintings without cliché or gimmickry. One sometimes labors mightily to avoid the appearance of laboriousness. A successful still-life arrangement, I believe, should combine elements of the natural and the artificial in fresh ways, consistent*

*an original, thought-provoking snapshot of life. The rich, buttery texture of oil paint achieves my goal of celebrating and documenting life. When people see my work, I'd like them to be inspired with positive energy and come away feeling*

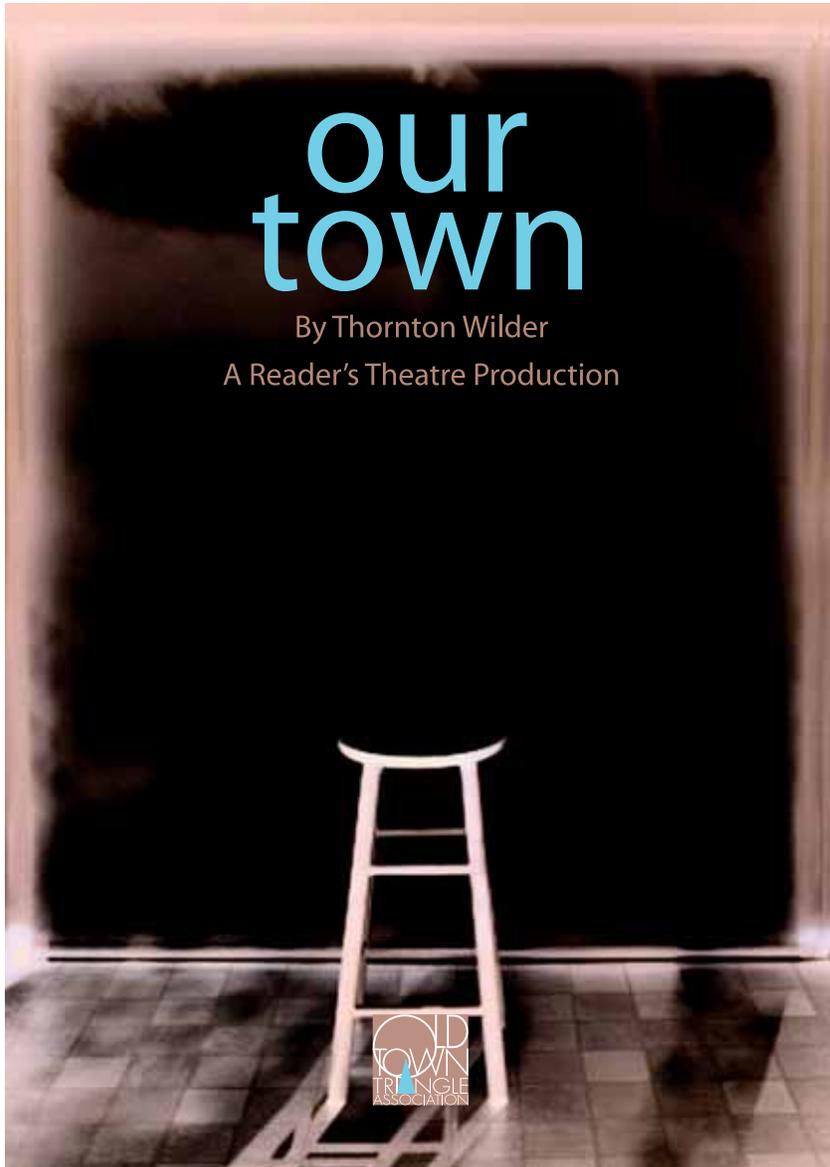
*with the mood being communicated. The arrangement, once conceived and properly lit, must be bathed in the artist's individual sensibility if it is to live. I have tried to have to*

*highlight the playful, often surprising, effects of lighting and reflection; to showcase textural contrasts; and to create some arresting illusions of perspective. Everything is grounded in nature and observation. My goal is to create unified, well-painted images that delight the viewer. Mr. Holzman was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas. He received a BA in English and French Literature from Swarthmore College in 1971 and an MA in English Literature from the University of Chicago in 1974. He returned to the University of Chicago in 1982 and earned an MBA. For over two decades, he worked in corporate finance in the publishing and health care industries. Ten years ago, he began pursuing art seriously and studies drawing and*

*good with an expanded awareness. Some of Robert's published works include "Marilyn," a finger-painting in Marilyn in Art; and "Madonna" in Madonna in Art. The formal opening for the paintings of Robert Pogatetz will be held on Sunday, April 5, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is invited.*

*painting at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. He went on to study with portrait painter Richard Halstead. Last year, he took early retirement from the business community and now devotes his full time to painting. His work is featured in many corporate and private collections; and he has exhibited throughout the Chicagoland area. Holzman's work will be installed on May 1, 2009. The formal reception will be held on May 3 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park. Refreshments will served and everyone is invited.*





*Our Town* is a play in three acts by Thornton Wilder. The entire play takes place in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire between 1901 and 1913. Act I shows a day in the life of Grover's Corners. The day is May 7, 1901. Act II takes place three years later, on July 7, 1904, and is entitled "Love and Marriage." Act III is set in the cemetery in the summer of 1913.

*Our Town is not a picture of life in a New Hampshire village or a speculation about the conditions of life after death. It is an attempt to find value in the smallest events of our daily life. The village is set against the largest dimensions of time and place. The recurrent words in the play are "hundreds", "thousands", and "millions". Emily's joys and griefs, her algebra lesson and her birthday presents—what are they when we consider all the billions of girls who have lived, who are living, and who will live? Each person's assertion to an absolute reality can only be inner, very inner. And here, the method of staging finds its justification—in the first two acts there are a few chairs and ladders; but when Emily revisits the earth and the kitchen on her twelfth birthday, even the chairs are gone. Our claim, our hope, our despair are in the mind, not in things, not in scenery. The climax of this play needs only five square feet of board and the passion to know what life means to us.*  
Thornton Wilder

Directed by Shirley Baugher

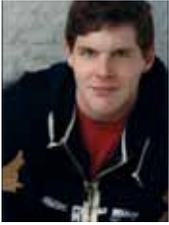
**C A S T**

<b>Lucy Baldwin</b>	Myrtle Webb	<b>Amy Ewaldt</b>	Mrs. Gibbs
<b>Roc Roney</b>	Dr. Gibbs	<b>Michael Warnick</b>	Mr. Webb
<b>John Blick</b>	George Gibbs	<b>Mary Fons-Misetich</b>	Emily Webb
<b>Rose Ryan</b>	Rebecca Gibbs	<b>Berit Waterfield</b>	Sally Webb
<b>Christopher Cordon</b>	Simon Stimson,	<b>Riley Loop</b>	Joe Crowell,
	Howie Newsome,		Si Crowell,
	Professor Willard		Sam Craig
<b>Alex Shibicky</b>	Constable Warren,	<b>Shannon Waterfield</b>	Mrs. Soames
	Joe Stoddard,	<b>Jeff Weaver</b>	Stage Manager
	Townsperson		



**Lucy Baldwin (Myrtle Webb)**

Lucy Baldwin lives in Old Town with her husband Dan, daughter Greta, and two dogs—Tulip and Ruby Slippers. Her oldest daughter currently lives in Copenhagen, where she dances with the Royal Danish Ballet Company. Greta is a student at Whitney Young High School where she is a member of the rowing team. She also heads up the Artists' Aide Committee for the Old Town Art Fair. Lucy is an active community volunteer and chaired the Old Town Art Fair for two years.



**John Blick (George Gibbs)**

John is thrilled to be working with Shirley Baugher for the first time. He has been acting in Chicago for about six years most recently in *The Solid Gold Cadillac* at the Athenaeum Theatre. When not on stage, he can be found working at the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association and checking out any number of wonderful spots in Our Town, Chicago.

**Christopher Cordon (Simon Stimson, Howie Newsome, Professor Willard)**

Chris is thrilled to be revisiting



Grover's Corners after 14 years. He has also been seen in productions at the Court Theatre in Chicago and Chicago Dramatists. He was often featured in Dramatists' Saturday Series Readings. Chris is a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**Amy Ewaldt (Mrs. Gibbs)**

"Miss" Amy is the Menomonee Club's (and Old Town's) favorite drama



teacher. A director at the Menomonee Club, Amy teaches musical theatre to a group of talented young students from the Old Town area. Under her direction, they have just released their first cd, *The Monday Night Collection*, featuring songs from well-known Broadway shows. Amy has also published a most creative children's book called, *The Wiggle Tooth*. She has performed in a number of local theater productions, and is happy to return to the stage in *Our Town*.

**Mary Fons-Misetich (Emily Webb)**

Mary is making her second appearance on the Old Town Triangle stage



(she starred in *Love Letters* in 2005). She is a professional freelance writer/performer, a nationally ranked slam poet, and a proud Neo-Futurist, performing weekly in Chicago's longest running late-night performance art extravaganza, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. Visit [www.mary-fons.com](http://www.mary-fons.com) for more about this talented actress and to read her popular blog *Paper Girl*.

**Riley Loop (Joe Crowell, Si Crowell, Sam Craig)**

Riley Loop, 15 and an Old Town resident since birth, is a freshman at Lincoln Park High School. He has always had an interest in theater and has performed in many school plays. Riley is an avid sportsman and currently plays on his high school soccer and lacrosse teams. When he is not in school, playing sports, or running around with his friends, he enjoys hanging out with his new dog, a German shorthair named Reiser.



**Roc Roney (Dr. Gibbs)**

Roc is known to most of us as the owner and restorer par excellence of



the historic, now-purple house on North Park. His friends know more, however. They know that he is an accom-

plished actor, having graced the stage in a number of high school and college productions. This is his first acting gig in Old Town, and we are pleased to showcase his talents as Dr. Gibbs in *Our Town*.

**Rose Ryan (Rebecca Gibbs, Woman in the Balcony)**

*Our Town* is Rose's first stage performance, and she is honored to be participating with such an illustrious



cast. This talented young actress is in Mr. Jeff Peters' fifth grade class at Near North Montessori School where she has many good friends. She is also a member of the Musical Theatre Group of the Menomonee Club and recently cut her first cd with the group: *The Monday Night Collection*.

**Alex Shibicky (Constable Warren, Joe Stoddard, Townsperson)**

Alex will be making his stage and theatrical debut in the Triangle's presentation of *Our Town*. Neighbors know him as a dedicated CAPS participant, a tireless chairman for the annual Spring Clean-up, and a willing volunteer for the Art Fair and other neighborhood activities. His participation in this show is a gesture of love for his wife, Monika, for whom *Our Town* is a favorite play.



**Michael Warnick (Mr. Webb)**

Michael is an experienced actor, model, and photographer. You have all seen his photographs in the Triangle newsletter, but you may not have heard his incredible baritone voice doing radio and television



voiceovers in the nineties or seen his hands in ads for various products. Michael is Secretary of the OTTA Board of Directors and good friend

to Old Town canines: Molly, Hemy, Winston, Sprungli, Gus, Rocky, Margie, Nellie, and Lacey, among others.

**Berit Waterfield (Sally Webb)**

Berit is nine years old and a student at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School where she excels in art, science, and P.E. She was born in Chicago and is a true Mid-westerner. She knows this because she does not

need a coat for temperatures of 24 degrees and above, which "drives her mother crazy." With her family, she has lived in their Menomonee Street house most of her life. She loves Old Town because of the great food and the near-by chocolate shop. *Our Town* is her first acting experience.



**Shannon Waterfield (Mrs. Soames)**

is a Seattle transplant with no acting experience, until now. She came to Chicago on Valentines Day in 1998, having reunited with her first-love, first-kiss guy, Johnny, after a 24-year separation (they were in sixth grade for that first kiss). She says she found him online, and neither of them had ever married. John moved to Chicago from New York, and Shannon joined him. They were married in 1999 and have two amazing children, Berit and Scottie. They moved to Washington State briefly in 2008, only to learn that there's no place like Old Town. They are back for good now. She says this is a perfect time to have *Our Town* performed right here, on her corner, as a reminder of how fortunate their family is.



**Jeff Weaver (Stage Manager)**

Many of you know Jeff as the Music Director of Walter Payton High School, and leader of the incomparable *Sounds of Sweetness*, an all-male barbershop group that has performed nationwide and lends its talents to the Entertainment Stage at the Old Town Art Fair. Jeff has been Equipment Chair for the Art Fair for many years, and is a dedicated volunteer for many Old Town activities. He, too, is revisiting Grover's Corners, this time as the Stage Manager. Some time ago, he played the role of Sam Craig, returning for his cousin Emily Webb's funeral. **T**

from → 2 (Chicago weather, you know). Your help would be most welcome. All of you Cleaners and Greeners who are coming out on April 25th should meet at the Triangle at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and rolls, and pick up your cleaning equipment before setting out to apply muscle to our walks and parkways.

**Alderman Vi Daley** informs us that street cleaning has begun. The 2009 street cleaning schedule will be on the alderman's web site: [ward43@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward43@cityofchicago.org) You can sign up for street cleaning alerts on the web site. You will receive a notice on Friday of the preceding week and another reminder one day in advance of the cleaning.

We are pleased to announce that the **Menomonee Musical Theatre**, under the direction of **Amy Ewaldt**, has produced a cd featuring members of the Monday Musical Theatre group. Entitled **The Monday Night Collection**, the cd contains songs from well-known Broadway hits including: Hairspray, West Side Story, Into the Woods, Wicked, Anne of Green Gables, A Chorus Line, Pippin, and Annie. This charming recording is available at the Triangle and at the Menomonee Club. A suggested donation of \$5.00 would be appreciated.

As many of you know, friend and neighbor **Norman Baugher** suffered a heart attack a few weeks ago. Fortunately, the men from our local fire station on Armitage and Laramie responded immediately to our 911 call and rushed him to Northwestern Hospital where an excellent cardio surgical team took over, diagnosed the problem, and located the areas of blockage. Within days, they had inserted two stints and opened the blocked arteries. He now has a fully functioning heart again. Your outpouring of support and good wishes during this time meant more to him, and to me, than we can ever express. We've said it before, we say it again, there's no place like Old Town and Old Town neighbors. Thank you very, very much.

Sadly, this month, we note the passing of four longtime Old Town neighbors and friends whose time among us gave us joy and enriched our lives.

*What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains, and is immortal.*

**Nancy Pinzke** was a talented pastel artist whose works graced the walls of the Triangle Gallery in solo shows and in concert with those of her fellow students at the Old Town Art School. No one knew Nancy as well or loved her more than her best friend, Reven Fellars. Here are Reven's remembrances of Nancy.

*Nancy and I met in 1988 during the building of the Oz Park Playground. She was shy, pretty, competent, and generous-- doing all the graphic arts and brochures for us for nothing. We became much closer friends after Herb, her husband, died in 1991. We celebrated Thanksgivings, birthdays, and Christmases together. When she began to do pastels, we would find pastel artists whose work we admired, then stalk and pester them until they agreed to teach us. We met Elizabetta Franchini that way and more recently, Kathie Newman. As an artist Nancy showed an appreciation for subjects that others overlooked. Take potholes. This past winter, while most of us were swearing at the ever deepening car traps, Nancy was analyzing them as potential art works. She would spot a particularly appealing one, we would screech to a halt and she would jump out to photograph it. Back in her studio, she turned the photograph into art. Her pastel pothole series won her a show and a radio spot.*

*Nancy married Herbert Pinzke in 1980. Together, they ran Pinzke Design, a graphics arts company in Chicago. After his death in 1991, she continued to run the company, specializing in service to non-profit organizations. Even run-*

*ning a business, she was devoted to raising her two young sons. As a mom she was nurturing and resourceful. "She was the most loving and caring mother in the world," says her son Nick. "Her policy in raising us was to have ten phrases of support to one of criticism" Older son Daniel adds that "She would always choose soothing redirection over confrontation. She was compassionate and always urged us to do the right thing."*

*Her dear friend of 30 years, Esther Altschul, spent a great deal of time traveling, sailing and enjoying theatre with Nancy. "She was a devoted friend and an exciting, positive and enthusiastic person to travel with, to spend time with and just be with." She was a mentor, teacher, friend, and an inspiration," says Jane Ignacio who worked with Nancy for 13 years. Her companion of the last ten years Barry Lipka said, "She brought a joy that made these years the richest and happiest of my life".*

*She possessed a keen intellect and an unfailing zest for life. Even after her ovarian surgery two years ago, she rarely complained about the side effects of chemo, the fatigue and the neuropathy that made her feet feel like they were always asleep. "I know this sounds crazy," she said to me recently, "but having cancer has had its positive aspects." She tapered her work load down to one client after the initial diagnosis, focusing more on what was most important to her-- her family, her friends and her painting.*

*Even at the end, she lived her life full throttle. The day before she went into the hospital for the last time, she won an award at the Chicago Pastel Painters annual show.*

*Nancy Lindberg Pinzke died March 24th in Chicago after a courageous two-year battle with ovarian cancer. Reed Fellars said on her passing, "She is irreplaceable".*

A celebration of Nancy's life is scheduled for Sunday, April 19 at 1 p.m. at Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue in Chicago.

**James Ward** was a familiar figure in Old Town for forty years. Who could miss his oversized glasses and flamboyant personal style. For many of us, he was Mr. Friday Night, offering us reviews of his favorite restaurants and ending with his signature sign-off, "Ciao Chow, For Now".

While James was best known for his two decades of reviewing restaurants on WLS-Channel 7, he was also a talented author and editor. In 1979, he published his oeuvre, *Restaurants, Chicago-Style*, a 307 page account of the city's top restaurants along with histories, photographs, and recipes from each. His Tribune column, "Bread and Circuses, was a readers' favorite and was especially valued by current critic, Phil Vettel. For Phil, having James like the places he did brought a sense of validation.

James was born in the Chatham neighborhood. He received his high school education at De La Salle Institute. He later earned a bachelor's degree in history from Loyola University and a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of Chicago. He toyed with the idea of becoming a teacher, but decided, after a less than satisfactory experience as a student teacher, that he would set his sights on a different career. Lucky for us, that career was food writing and criticism. He wrote for, and eventually became associate publisher and editor of the food industry trade publication *Restaurants and Institutions*. Moving on to RR Donnelly, he became editorial director for their travel and food division. Becoming a restaurant food review was a natural outgrowth of these experiences.

His flair for color and design is evident in the renovation of his Eugenie Street home in Old Town, a landmark for those of us who live here. He also accumulated a colorful wardrobe to go along with his elegant house, including the trademark

glasses—heart shaped for Valentine’s Day, green for St. Patrick’s Day, and bright red for any other day. “Sometimes outrageous, but always fun” was how his wife Johanna described him. Because of his television show and his food columns, James became a recognized celebrity. When he swept into a room, he attracted every eye in the place, even if he wasn’t the star attraction. The buzz spread quickly, “there’s James Ward”.

For all his savvy, he was not a food snob. Johanna said he took great pleasure in simple preparations that were done honestly and well. He enjoyed a good burger and a beer as much as a revered boeuf bourguignon.

James succumbed to cancer at the end of February leaving the green house and Old Town a lot lonelier. Thank you for the good times, James. And “Ciao-Chow, for now.

**John Holabird** was an Old Town and a Chicago legend. He belonged to a family dynasty of architects that shaped some of the city’s renowned early skyscrapers. During his long life, John exercised his talents in many areas: as an Army parachutist in World War II, a drama teacher at Francis Parker School, a television set designer, and, finally, an architect.

John’s grandfather, William Holabird, established their eponymous firm in 1880 at the outset of a Chicago building boom that would revolutionize tall building construction by using internal cages of steel rather than load-bearing exterior walls. Holabird’s firm was renamed twice. As Holabird and Roche in 1883, the group designed the famed Marquette Building at 140 S. Dearborn. Renamed Holabird & Root after World War II, the firm was responsible for the design of such Art Deco gems as the Palmolive Building, the Board of Trade, and 333 N. Michigan Avenue. Holabird and Root still operates as Chicago’s oldest architectural firm.

Born in 1920, John attended the Francis Parker School, from which he graduated in 1938. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1942. As a parachutist with the Army in World War II, he received the Silver Star for bravery after an attack on a German-held bridge in Holland. In broad daylight, facing German guns, John and his comrades paddled their boats across the river to capture a bridge that was necessary to the Allied advance. That battle was brought to the movie screen in 1977 in a film called *A Bridge Too Far*. Robert Redford played a character that was a combination of John and several other officers.

After the War, John returned to Harvard where he studied under renowned architect I. M. Pei. He received a Master of Architecture degree in 1948 and joined the family firm. At Holabird and Root, he contributed to the design of the main pavilion at Ravinia and worked on the Kersten Physics Teaching Center at the University of Chicago. He was a director of the Chicago Commission on Historical and Architectural Landmarks from 1981 to 1985 and was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1974. In 2007, he received a Lifetime Achievement award from that group. This award was commemorated in a documentary film entitled *John Holabird: A Lifetime of Service*.

In Old Town, we remember John most fondly as a member of Kay Smith’s Watercolor Class. Every Thursday morning, he would set up his painting surfaces, arrange the items he would use as his subjects, and apply his brush to paper at the moment of creativity. His classmates would marvel at the speed with which he painted and the beauty of his creations: flowers, whimsical children’s scenes, and landscapes. Sadly, all of his work was lost in a fire at his Michigan home a few years ago.

John loved Old Town architecture. In 1964, he wrote an essay in which he described our neighborhood as a “grand and glorious mixture of styles and building skills, now called Victorian”. He praised the common scale and quality of materials in Old Town buildings and said that our wood and brick structures were built at a time when masons and carpenters took pride in their skill and versatility. He also praised our “lovable and disorderly city plan” as opposed to “strict standards, proper street widths, proper set-backs, proper rear, front, and side yards, and all such hocus-pocus”. He said it was “refreshing to find how well Old Town still functions with streets and lots of all widths, going nowhere. Streets are short. They start and stop. But one street’s ending stops the eye, encloses the space, the starts with an entirely new vista in a different sense. It is difficult to park and to speed under these conditions, but then....so what?” Well said, John!

For thirty years, **Jack Blackmon** lived in Old Town and was an enduring part of our lives. A true bon vivant, he walked away with all the winnings at the Skeens’ annual Derby Day party, excelled on the golf course, beat his buddies at pool, and was always there for Carolyn during her tenure as Art Fair Chair. We will miss him (See PostScript, *Looking for Jack Blackman*, below.



*He’s gone. I do not understand.*

*I only know that, as he turned to go and waved his hand,*

*In his eyes a sudden glory shone, and I was dazzled by a sunset glow.*

*And he was gone.*

RUPERT BROOK

#### LOOKING FOR JACK BLACKMON

Jack Blackmon died on February 14, 2009. His passing left me with a great sense of loss—especially since I did not have a chance to say good-bye. It was as though there were a great hole in the atmosphere that I could not cover up or eliminate. I decided I would have to find Jack, so that I could say good-bye and, finally, let him go. So, I set about looking for Jack Blackmon

I looked first in the most logical place of all—the North Park condo where we first met in 1978. Jack and Carolyn lived

at 1715 N. Park #4; Norman and I at 1715 N. Park #3. We were upstairs, downstairs neighbors for eight years; and over those years, we became best friends. We spent birthdays, holidays, and just plain days together. We were inseparable. I see him now, sitting in his blue and white chair by the fireplace, across from Carolyn, a vodka martini on the table by his side, and a smile on his face. I can’t remember seeing Jack without a smile, except, of course, when Carolyn lost her battle with cancer. Then, there was nothing about which to smile. I walked through the North Park condo, from the kitchen, down the long hallway, and into the living room. Jack wasn’t there.

I went next to the red brick house at 234 W. St. Paul, where the Blackmons moved on Halloween in 1995. How Jack loved that house! Each little thing they did to the place gave him an enormous pleasure: the shutters in the living room, the oriental runner up the stairs to the second floor, the pool table on the lower → 8



from → p7

level, the big blue leather chair in his den facing St. Paul, the newly remodeled kitchen, his grill on the back deck. He loved it all. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, Norman and I crossed the street to 234 to have a glass of champagne with the entire Blackmon clan. Later, when I could no longer have champagne, Jack would supply me with the boutique water of the year. I went carefully through every room of the house that Jack didn't build, but lived in. He wasn't there.

On a whim, I tried Lincoln Park, where in 1982, Jack and I participated into a barbecue contest sponsored by the *Chicago Tribune*. Every contestant had to submit recipes in three categories: barbecued chicken, potato salad, and cheese cake. The recipes had to be accompanied by a story. Contestants could work in pairs, and the *Tribune* would supply the chickens and the grills. Now, I don't particularly like cheesecake; the only potato salad I make is a Middle Eastern version from my mother; and I was definitely not a grill chef. BUT, Jack Blackmon was, and he agreed to be my partner. We got together before the appointed day to go over our battle plan: I would make the cheesecake, the potato salad, and my mother's special barbecue sauce—a butter and vinegar based concoction we believe was Southern in origin. Jack would tend the grill. Oh boy, did he tend the grill! That chicken was the best I ever put in my mouth, although the judges awarded first place to a more traditional tomato-based sauce. Still, we came in second, and that was fine with us. I roamed the grounds where we had cooked and shared recipes with other contestants. To no avail. Jack wasn't there.

So, I headed up to Erwin's on Halsted where the four of us often ate. Jack and I would always order liver and onions—which we were forbidden to eat at home because neither Carolyn nor Norman could stand the sight or smell of this delicacy. But they couldn't control us at Erwin, and we munched happily away on our calorie and cholesterol-laden meal. We joked, and laughed, and basked in the joy of each other's company. Sadly, Jack wasn't there.

So, I came back to 1710 Crilly Court. We had spent every New Year's Eve here from 1985 until Carolyn left us in 2006. I can see them walking through the back door at 6:30 each December 31—Carolyn with a bowl of shrimp and a plate of deviled eggs; Jack with some red and white wine and his infectious smile. Dinner was always served at eight, and no matter what I served, Jack praised it lavishly. He was the perfect dinner guest. We always had Rosemary Clooney and Nat King Cole singing in the background and we toasted the New Year in front of a roaring fire—the only one Norman built all year long, because Carolyn expected it. At ten o'clock, they left and we climbed the stairs to bed—having already ushered in our New Year. I looked all over our house but. Jack wasn't there.

I didn't bother going over to the new condo on Crilly Court because he wouldn't be there. He never believed that to be his place. He called it "Carolyn's house", even though she never lived there. So, where was he?

Then, suddenly, I knew. I couldn't find Jack, because I had never lost him. He wasn't in *any* of the places I searched—he was in *all* of them—with Carolyn at his side, as she had always been. The hole was closed. Good-bye Jack. And, hello, for always. 