



Times

CALENDAR

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

TRIANGLE EVENTS

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

OTTA Board Meeting

April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Improvements Meeting

April 20, 7:00 p.m.

HD/PZ Meeting

April 22, 7:00 p.m.

CAPS Meeting

OPENINGS

March 14, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Rine Boyer: *The Animal Series*

April 11 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Shine: *Photographs and Fine Art*
Alexandra Lee

SPECIAL EVENT

April 25, 2:00 p.m.

The Sounds of Music

Featuring choirs of Lincoln Park High School

Lincoln Elementary School, Franklin Fine Arts Academy, and Walter Payton College Prep High School

THE OLD TOWN TRIANGLE TIMES
IS ON THE WEB IN **COLOR**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRIANGLE

ART FAIR

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

CLEAN UP

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

SAFETY

GARDENS

CONTRIBUTIONS

NEIGHBORS

ART GALLERY

ART FAIR 2010

CHRIS BEER, GENERAL CHAIR

The 61st Art Fair is on the way, and it's bringing something special--just for you: 260 fabulous artists, the biggest and best Entertainment Stage yet, a host of new children's activities, and a mouth-watering group of vendors in the food court. There's more.

We are happy to welcome several returning sponsors to the fair: Artful Framers Studios, Blick Art Materials, 93 XRT, Chicago Tribune, Rose, and Yelp.com. This group helped make the 60th fair an enormous success, and we expect they will do the same this year.

Our *Friends of the Fair* campaign is in full swing, and we are grateful to all of you who have responded. Year after year, you answer the call, and we literally could not do this without you. If you haven't sent in your contribution, there's still time. Checks can be mailed to the Old Town Triangle Association, 1763 N. North Park Avenue. Donations received prior to April 1, 2010 will be recognized in the Art Fair program.

If you would like to have your bit of Eden included in our Gallery of Gardens, aka the Garden Walk, please contact Claire Leaman, deaman@gmail.com or at 504-701-0570. People who come to our fair love looking at

the homes and gardens of Old Town, and are always amazed at what neighbors can do with a tiny plot of land.

Co-Chairs Shirley Baugher, Paige Hungerford, and Jacqui Thams are busily planning the *First Sight, Friday Night* party, this year titled, *On the Road Again*. Neighbor and Chicago media personality, Candace Jordan ([candicandace](http://candicandace.com)), has agreed to act as honorary chair of the event, and to lend her beauty and talent to the festivities. The evening will include a silent auction by some exhibitors in the Fair and entertainment by the Andrew Pratt Trio..

Old Town's favorite restaurant, *Perennial*, will be the prime sponsor of the party and will provide the food and the signature drink: *One More for the Road*. They will be joined by other sponsors A New Leaf Studio, The House of Glunz, and Sir Speedy Printing & Graphic Design. The venue will once again be The New Leaf Studio at 1818 N. Wells.

Mark your calendars!

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

DIRK VOS, CHAIR

The big news with Neighborhood Improvements is the growing popularity of the *OTTA Brick Repair, Replacement, and Beautification Program*. The program, which was begun last fall, provided 20 percent cash back to Triangle neighbors who replaced and/or repaired the parkway and/or sidewalk brick work next to their homes. Not only did the new brick walkways make the area more attractive, they also enhanced the charm and character of the Old Town neighborhood. Accolades poured in from residents who took advantage of the offer.

Brad & Beth Burk wrote: *We are long Old Town residents and are proud to be active in the community. The OTTA Brick Program...is one of the most valuable and we've seen & →p2*



➔ **p1** certainly one of the easiest to participate in. EVERYONE should jump in. **Roc Roney** said, *Thanks for coordinating the OTTA Brick Program—the crew did a great job and completed the work a day early. Competitive bids from competent contractors normally cost 50 percent higher than our quote—before the OTTA reimbursement! I am pleased to encourage any fence sitters to take advantage of this terrific new program.* From **Rich Christian**: *Love this OTTA Brick Program. Kudos to Shannon & her team who made the process beyond simple—Old Town neighbors, you MUST participate—the street looks beautiful.*

With the arrival of Spring, you'll want to be one of the first to submit your request and take advantage of this terrific program. To learn more, visit: <http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/association/nic/BrickProgram.FINAL.pdf> If you have questions or would just like to get started, contact Shannon Raglin Cecola (brickprogram@oldtowntriangle.com). She and her volunteer team will be happy to guide you through the process. As Shannon says: *Maintaining the beautiful historic bricks of our lovely neighborhood is something we can all do together. Let us hear from you and, be sure to look out for the workers wearing their bright orange OTTA Brick Program vests!*

KEEPING OLD TOWN CLEAN

On Saturday, May 8, the Old Town Community will have its annual **Spring Clean-up Day**. This is the day when neighbors gather at the Triangle and spread out through the community to shovel up and bag old leaves, sweep the sidewalks, and clean away winter's detritus so that the Triangle is spic and span for Spring and for the Old Town Art Fair. They also do planting in community flower boxes and in front of the Triangle Center. Spearheading this operation is good neighbor **Alex Shibicky**, aided and abetted by the members of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee and all Old Town neighbors.

As in the past, volunteers will meet at the Triangle at 9:00 a.m. for rolls and coffee. Then they will gather up brooms, rakes, shovels, and bags needed to get the job done (the

City will supply the equipment). So, join us on May 8 and be part of the ongoing effort to keep Old Town beautiful!

MUSIC AND DRAMA AT THE TRIANGLE

SHIRLEY BAUGHER

With actors transformed from Occidentals to Orientals by make-up artist Candace Jordan, musician and videographers in place, and Norman's fingers poised above the lighting board, *The Teahouse of the August Moon* opened to a packed house of friends and neighbors on March 6 and transported them to an island in the South Pacific at the end of World War II. For two hours, the audience laughed and empathized with an Occupation Army trying to bring democracy to a group of people with their own ideas about what was best for them. The actors' efforts were rewarded with appreciation and thunderous applause. Out thanks to everyone: who made this event possible: actors, stage managers, donors, and supporters (See PostScript). And check out Candace's blog, candidcandace.com, for her view of the production. As we so often say, "Only in Old Town".

Looking ahead, we hope you will all join us for a tribute to Spring when the Triangle will present *The Sounds of Music*, a concert featuring choirs from our local schools: the Lincoln Park High School, the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, the Franklin Fine Arts Academy, the Sounds of Sweetness from Walter Payton College Prep High School, and the Senior Choir from the Hermon Baptist Church. There will also be a dramatic reading of Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*, starring two of the actors from *Teahouse*. (see ad, p. 7)

This special program will be held on Sunday, **April 25, 2010, at 2:00** at the **Midwest Buddhist Temple**, 435 W. Menomonee. Admission is free. Just call or e-mail Shirley if you would like ➔ **p3**

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

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JACQUI THAMS
DIRK VOS

to attend: 312-337-1938; sbaugher@oldtowntriangle.com

CRIME IS DOWN IN OLD TOWN

SHIRLEY BAUGHER

At our February CAPS meeting Officer Chris Shenck informed neighbors that crime in Old Town is down significantly from the same period last year. He attributed the decline to more people being home during the day and being on the alert for suspicious activity. There is also a greater awareness of the importance of reporting incidences of questionable behavior by strangers in the neighborhood.

In an unusual twist Officer Shenck related that the thief who recently robbed the Chase Bank on Wells and Eugenie had been apprehended and charged. The alleged perpetrator, who lives across the street from the 18th District Police Headquarters, was taken into custody at a bus stop after robbing a bank at State and Chicago. Red dye from the band holding money he had taken was found on his hands. After he had been arrested, police learned that he was the person who had also committed the theft at the Wells Street facility. Kudos to Chicago's finest for their good work.

Two Willow Street neighbors who

attended the meeting reported that individuals had been scaling the gates and coming through their back yards during the night. So far, no criminal acts had occurred. Police suggested putting bells on the gates that would sound when the trespassing occurred. They also stressed the importance of proper lighting and keeping branches trimmed on trees and bushes that could obstruct a clear view of intruders.

We encourage all neighbors to attend CAPS meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Triangle Center at 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to share safety issues → 6

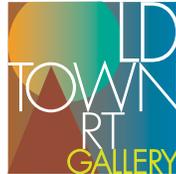


MARCH animal series

Rine Boyer

In March, artist Rine Boyer will bring her Animal series to the Triangle Gallery. In Boyer's words, the series focuses on the "perennial denizens of independent show spaces, used book stores, dive bars, and alternative art festivals". Drawn to a strikingly large scale, the subjects of her work find themselves on stark backgrounds without the context of the people and places with which they chose to associate. The drawings are inspired by the work of Cy Twombly and continue Boyer's

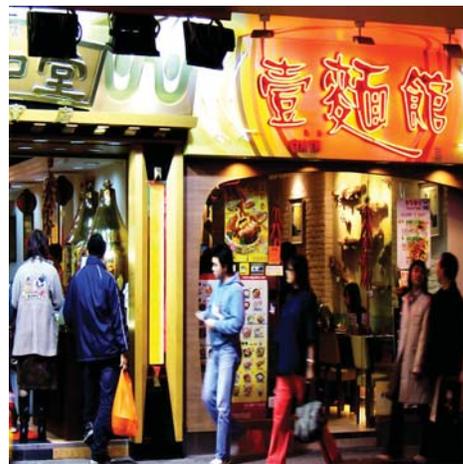
focus on pointillism and portraiture. They are rendered in ink on a variety of papers and adhered to wood. Animal icons replace traditional crosshatching as a means of shading, but the connection between these icons and the subject is left ambiguous. Whether the animal serves as a totem to represent the subject's personalities or a meaningless flight of fashion is left to the judgment and imagination of the viewer. The show will be up during the month of March and will have a formal opening on March 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Gallery. T



APRIL shine

Alexandra Lee

Alexandra Lee was born in Hong Kong. She is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute in Chicago and was named a "Chicago Artist to Watch"



by the Chicago Artists Coalition in 2008. Lee is a multi-disciplinary artist. Her concept-driven work incorporates layers of urban life, culture, tradition, and the delicate interplay between human beings: their interaction with each other, their environment, and nature.

She has exhibited at ART Gallery, the Evanston Art Center, the Hyde Park Art Center, and Woman Made Gallery in Chicago; as well as venues in New York and Hong Kong. She was one of the artists selected for the City of Chicago Riverwalk Public Art Project and was featured in the Chicago Public Library's Women's History Month in 2009. "Shine" is about Hong Kong. Lee says that *Hong Kong is a city that changes every minute, moving with the latest technology and the latest trends. Every year I go back to visit, something is different: buildings get torn down and taller, bigger ones go up. Each time, fewer things recognizable from my childhood remain. At first glance, Shine documents the city's progress and the society's obsession with advancement and wealth. Underneath the layers of gloss and glitz, however, the residents are still very traditional people who long for a brighter future. Their longing and spirit are the foundation of this series.* "Shine" has its formal opening at the Triangle Gallery, 1763 N. North Park on April 11 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. T

OLD TOWN ART SCHOOL SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS

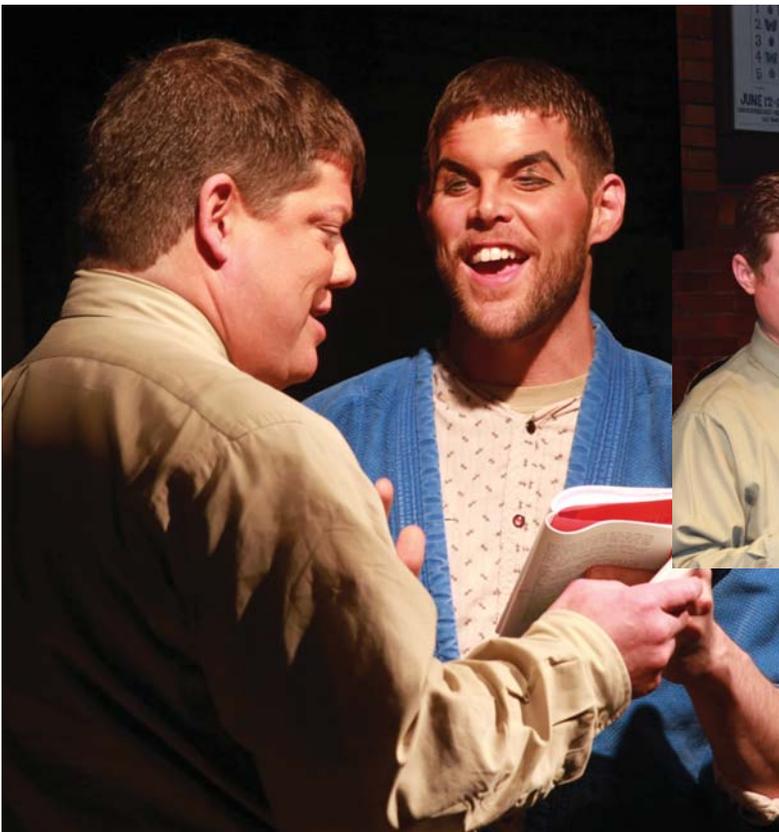
Spring sessions began March 22, end June 3. Summer sessions begin June 22, end August 28. Class schedules are available at the Triangle Center and online at oldtowntriangle.com.

Cast with supporters, flutist, prop master, stage manager, director ▶



▲ Before and behind the curtain, the incomparable Candace.

▲ The director.



▲ Colonel Purdy and Captain Fisby
◀ Colonel Purdy and Sakini.



▲ The relatives and the "goat," Lady Astor, board the Jeep to Tobiki.

▲ Villagers presenting gifts to the captain, Getas, chopsticks, lacquered cup, and a cricket cage.

▲ Testing Batata 7 Star Brandy, prelude to a capitalistic success.

▼ Gathering in The Teahouse of the August Moon.



→ **p3** and concerns, and to interact with neighbors who have similar concerns.

OLD TOWN SUPPORTS WORTHY GROUPS

ALICE HUFF

People frequently ask how the proceeds from the Old Town Art Fair are spent. In addition to maintaining the Triangle Center and offering cultural programs and activities for our residents, OTTA funds are used to preserve the character of the neighborhood through care of its trees, parkways, and small parks. Contributions are made to local schools for worthwhile programs that enhance the education of our children; to organizations that involve children and adults in meaningful activities, and to groups that strive to improve the quality of life for citizens in the greater Old Town area. To date, the Association has made contributions to **Deborah's Place**, a group dedicated to ending the cycle of homelessness for women in Chicago; to the **Oz Park Baseball Association**, a family-oriented baseball league for children between the ages of 4 and 10 that brings quality instruction based youth baseball to communities surrounding Oz Park; to the **Lakefront Sculpture Exhibit**, a program that allows 20 local sculptors to create outstanding pieces of art and place them at sites where

they can be viewed and appreciated by all Chicagoans, but especially residents of the 43rd and 44th wards; and to **Lincoln Park Village**, an organization that provides services for seniors that allow them to remain in their homes and communities as they grow older.

WHO'S WHO IN OLD TOWN

*(This month, we introduce a new feature to the newsletter: **Know Your Neighbors and Neighborhood**. In months to come, we will introduce you to people and institutions you may, or may not, know whose contributions and services improve and enhance our lives. We begin with an essay on **Linda Somers**, a friend, neighbor, and, as Harry Porterfield would say, someone you should know. Thanks to new Board member **Jacqui Thams** for preparing this interview.)*

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

BY JACQUI THAMS

Linda Somers, her husband Paul and their son Eero (seven in March) have lived in Old Town for the past four years. You may know that Linda is a native of Elkhart, Indiana and that she is an avid admirer of modern architecture and her sister, Karen, also an Old Town resident. What you may not know is that she is also a dietitian who received a degree in dietetics from Bell State University, followed by an internship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. She has worked as a registered pediatric dietitian at Children's Memorial Hospital for approximately 20 years and in several area clinics, including the Nutrition Evaluation Clinic and the Safe Kids Clinic, which monitors children who may be victims of neglect or abuse. I had the pleasure of hearing Linda speak at a parent group, something she does frequently, and she graciously agreed to share some of her nutritional wisdom with us.

Linda is very concerned about obesity in a growing number of children and adults in the United States. She notes that, as our lives become busier, we often ignore healthy lifestyle habits, getting less sleep, engaging in

less physical activity, and preparing fewer home-cooked meals. As a result, 16 percent of children and teens, and about 30 percent of adults in the United States, are obese. Improper diet can also lead to heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Here are a few of her dietary observations that will enable people to have healthier, happier lives.

A diet rich in whole grains, not just in fiber, can reduce your risk of heart disease and diabetes. Grain products which contain two to three grams of fiber per serving and can be designated whole, grain include wheat, oats, and barley. Breakfast cereals, bread, tortillas, pita, crackers, pasta, rice can all be purchased as whole grain. Be advised, however, breakfast cereals can be high in sugar even if they are whole grain. The guideline is at least three grams of fiber and no more than six grams of sugar per serving.

Healthy fats should be part of everyone's diet. Examples include nuts and nut butters, seeds and seed butters, avocados, and olive oil. Avoid hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated products, (not just those containing 0 trans fat) and high fructose corn syrup.

Linda recommends following the 5,4,3,2,1 healthy living guideline as compiled by the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC.net)

- 5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day
- 4 cups of water a day
- 3 servings of low fat dairy a day
- 2 hours or less of screen time a day (TV or computer)
- 1 hour or more of physical activity a day

She points out that most of us suffer from Vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to certain cancers and autoimmune diseases such as diabetes, lupus and multiple sclerosis. Vitamin D is typically acquired from ultra violet light, sunshine. During long Chicago winters, our bodies do not absorb adequate sunlight to meet our Vitamin D requirements. In the summer, when we could absorb enough of the vitamin to store for the winter, skin cancer concerns dictate that we wear sunscreen, which blocks UV absorption. Linda recommends, therefore, that every one over the age of two get 1000 IU of vitamin D through a supplement.

Thanks Linda! **T**

CALL TO OLD TOWN GARDENERS

Include your garden in the June 12 and 13, 2010 Old Town Art Fair Gallery of Gardens.

Its easy. Just go to:
gardens@oldtownartfair.org
or call Fran Tuite
(312)-787-9061.



The multi-talented **John Blick** has produced a tour de force at the Steppenwolf Garage Theatre. John, who works as Executive Director

of the Old town Merchants and Residents Association by day, becomes an actor (*Our Town*, *Teahouse of the August Moon*, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*) and a theatrical producer by night. His current production at the Garage Theatre, *The Twins Would Like to Say* has received rave reviews from Chicago critics and is likely to be nominated for a Jeff award. The play tells the real life story of identical twins June and Jennifer Gibbons who grew up in Wales in the 1970s and spoke only to each other. They became writers of short stories and poems set in romantic locales and featuring young people doing strange things. *Twins* is staged promenade-style—the audience heads to different corners of the room to watch various aspects of the twins’ family life—a style which Tribune theater critic Chris Jones calls... *inventive and compelling*... This is a don't miss!

Our neighborhood high school, **Lincoln Park High School**, announces its annual fundraiser, *Dream, Believe, Succeed*. The event will take place on April 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center. Tickets are \$65, and you can reserve a table for \$500. You can send

your check payable to Friends of Lincoln Park Spring Fling, 2001 N. Orchard, 60614. Event planners say they need auction items—no item is too small. Click the Friends webpage for a donor form.

Other interesting news of the school includes:

- The LPHS Pep Band was one of ten in the state to play at March Madness 2010.
- The Math team place second at the Regional Competition and will be competing in the State finals in April.
- Twelve students competed in the City Science Fair at the Museum of Science and Industry; four qualified for presentations at the Science symposium.
- Seven LPHS students have moved

- on to the finals of the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- The National Council of the Teachers of English awarded *The Lion's Pause*, LPHS literary magazine, an Award of Excellence for their 2009 edition. **T**

the sounds of music
A musical tribute to Spring a choral concert
and reading of Shel Silverstein's
The Giving Tree

2:00 p.m Sunday, April 25, 2010
Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W. Menomonee

admission free
contact Shirley 312-337-1938
sbaugher@oldtowntriangle.com

choirs
Lincoln Park High School
the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
the Franklin Fine Arts Academy
the Sounds of Sweetness from
Walter Payton College Prep High School
the Senior Choir
from the Hermon Baptist Church

and dramatic
reading
of Shel Silverstein's
The Giving Tree
starring actors from
the OTTA Production
of *The Teahouse*
of the August Moon



*No one here to guide you, now you're on your own,
Only me beside you, still you're not alone.
No one is alone, truly, no one is alone.*

Stephen Sondheim

How do you put on a play in Old Town? With a lot of help from your friends. In 2005, I decided to do a salute to the dramatic arts. I chose a play called *Love Letters*, a modest vehicle requiring no scenery, no props, and no costumes—just two actors sitting across a table, reading. Actually, I used four actors: Greta Baldwin and Joey Rotter as the young star-crossed lovers; Andy Shaw and Mary Fons as the lovers grown-up. I ran off the scripts on the office copier (a no-no, but we didn't charge admission, so I wasn't violating any copyright laws); and, because of everyone's busy schedule, we decided on only one rehearsal. We were only reading, after all. It didn't take us long to recognize that one rehearsal was not going to give the actors enough time to connect with their characters and with each other. But the actors were troopers. They loved the script, and they knew what they

needed to do. Greta (or rather Greta's mom Lucy) contacted a professional actress who worked with her until she was spot on with the part. Jeff Weaver, who had recommended Joey, coached his protege after school and helped him get inside young Andy's head—and heart. Andy and Mary stole time from their professional lives to rehearse and to become the characters of the adult Andy and Melissa. To say they succeeded would be an understatement. When the four came together to speak their final lines as Andy and Melissa, the audience rose to their feet in thunderous applause. I was crying too hard to applaud.

Going the extra distance didn't stop with the actors. When it appeared that more people wanted to see the show than the Triangle space could accommodate, **Amy Narea**, then principal of LaSalle School, offered us the auditorium and brought in three of her students to do the lighting and sound. She had the Art Department prepare posters which she hung all over the school; and she arranged for a custodian to prepare the space. My wonderful **Norman** designed a poster that was a giant valentine to the play, and neighbors **Darlene Fahrenkrog** and **Alice Huff** volunteered to be stage managers. Miraculously, we had a the- **8**



from
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p. 7



ater, a cast, and a crew. On the day of the show, an audience of friends, friends of friends, and friends of friends of friends packed the house. I realized I had never been alone!

Five years and two productions later, I embarked on a much more ambitious project: the 1953 Pulitzer Prize winner for drama, *The Teahouse of the August Moon*, a play that would require costumes, music, lighting, make-up, props, store-bought scripts, a cast of 13, and at least three rehearsals. This was going to be tougher.

Staging *Teahouse* at the Triangle was a challenge, to say the least. We had no stage, no lights, and no sound equipment. **Norman** (after consulting with **Tom Weis**) drove out to a production studio on the west side called Design Lab to get poles, lights, a lighting board, and a lot of free advice from some very accommodating pros. We hauled it all back to the Triangle in our ancient Avalon, where **Michael (Warnick)** was waiting to help us unload. I say us—I mean Norman and Michael. I was only there for moral support. **Brett Wolf** had already put the judo mats away and cleared the south room. Norman and Michael set up poles, attached overhead lights, positioned spots, and installed the lighting board. Voila—a theater!

Super neighbor **Steve Weiss**, head of Zacuto Productions, donated his time and staff to video the show so that those who were unable to attend the live performance could see it online. **Bob Dowey** gave up a Saturday afternoon to photograph the event—before, during, and after. He even had a commemorative photo book made for me so that I could always remember

the day. **Norman** designed a poster that any Broadway producer would envy, as well as postcards and programs.

When **Myrna Hogan** learned we were doing the show, she offered us costumes and props from her personal collection: a gorgeous silk kimono, getas (Japanese sandals), chop sticks, parasols, fans, and laquered bowls. She even found an authentic Japanese flutist for us, **Michael Firman**, who brought a set of hand-crafted shakuhachis (Japanese end-blown flutes) from which he produced haunting Japanese folk music. **Jacqui Thams** and **Leslie Wolfe** took over as props and stage managers. Jacqui spread out all of the props in order and had everything ready to hand the actors. Leslie saw to it that everyone got on and off on cue. **Paige Hungerford** managed the front of the house and got everyone seated. And **Candace Jordan** came three hours early to do the actors' make-up (go onto candidcandace.com to see what an incredible job she did).

As for my wonderful actors; you should have seen them rehearsing individually and collectively to transform themselves into Okinawan villagers and Occupation officers: **John Blick, Charley Jordan, Chris Cordon, Riley Loop, Amy Ewaldt, Chloe Loop, Phil Wasik, Roc Roney, Alex Shibicky, Michael Warnick, Molly Warnick, Sofia Boehm, Shelby Katz, and Jamieson Katz.** They captured their parts and stole our hearts on the way to the teahouse in Tobiki Village. In three weeks and three rehearsals they had become a family of players. And, like family—they would be back.

And that, my friends, is how you put on a play in Old Town. As Hillary Clinton so aptly put it, "...it takes a village". 