

Times

OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR

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

TRIANGLE EVENTS

January 21, 2010 6:30 p.m.
Annual Meeting and Dinner
**Note: this event is January 21 and not January 28 as stated in the last newsletter.*

January 19, 7:00 p.m.
HD/PZ Meeting

OPENINGS

December 6, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Glass Up Against the Wall
Fused Glass Art Work by Michelle Rial

January 17, 2010 2:00-5:00 p.m.
The Art of Franz Atschuler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to All and a Happy New Year



FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS



small detail of a holiday scene



Isabel Weiss and a collection of her holiday art shown above, right, and below



GRAB YOUR CHANCE REGISTER FOR THE OLD TOWN ART SCHOOL WINTER SESSIONS

Old Town Art School winter Sessions began January 9, 2010, and run through March 18, 2010.

Class schedules are available at the Triangle Center and online at oldtowntriangle.com.



small detail of a holiday scene



MEMBERSHIP

MICHAEL WARNICK, CHAIRMAN

A big thanks to everyone who attended the annual Holiday Caroling event and who contributed to the 18th District Food Drive. More than 60 bags of food were collected. Many families will now be able to put food on their tables this holiday season. Officer Chris Shenck, representing the 18th District CAPS program, had to bring a van (paddy wagon) to take everything back to district headquarters.

And thanks especially to Jeff Weaver and the *Sounds of Sweetness*. Their singing was inspired and instilled the holiday spirit in everyone.

We urge all our members to attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner on **Thursday, January 21, 2010**. The Triangle will provide the food and beverages, and there will be entertainment for the children. President Fern Bomchill Davis will review the highlights of 2009 and outline the Association's plans for 2010. She will also acknowledge the retiring Board members and introduce the new Directors. Our 18th District CAPS officers will be present to speak about the CAPS program and to answer questions



about neighborhood issues and the importance of family participation.

CONTRIBUTIONS

ALICE HUFF

The Old Town Triangle Association was pleased to contribute to the Senior Bingo Party hosted by 43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley. Area seniors look forward to this event every year. They enjoy participating in the Bingo games, and they especially appreciate the "goody" bags they receive thanks to the generosity of local organizations.

The Association also made a contribution to the Lincoln Park Juniors Rowing Association. This group started in 1998 with a grant from the U. S. Olympic Committee. It is headquartered in the first boathouse built in Chicago more than 100 years ago. Located in our own back yard, the group is open to anyone in the City of Chicago and offers teenagers from different neighborhoods and socioeconomic backgrounds an opportunity to participate in a sport that has been said to "change lives".



A warm welcome to our newest Wells Street neighbor, **Delightful Pastries**, 1710 N. Wells Street. This welcome addition to our favorite shopping street features European-style

pastries, cakes, cookies and breads.

Their Christmas menu includes pecan pie, apple cranberry streusel pie, home-made eggnog, key lime pie, sticky toffee pudding, and various bread puddings. They also have tables in the front of the shop where you can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee with your sweet treats. Do stop by and check them out.

If you haven't tried the breads at **Catering-Chocolate**, 1712 N. Wells, you don't know what you're missing. They have a new baker, Lucas Tashey, and he is amazing. His baguettes are arguably the best you'll taste this side of Paris; and his assortment of daily specials will keep you coming back for more. Among his specialty breads are: cinnamon raisin, foccacia, pita, fruit and nut, sourdough, pumpernickel, ciabatta, oatmeal wheat, marble rye, multigrain, cinnamon crois-

sants, English muffins, and a challah so good you'll want to buy several loaves at a time so you'll never run out. Be sure to try the Parker House Rolls. You can buy them frozen, let them thaw, and pop them in a 350 oven. The aroma is incredible, and the taste even more so.

Kudos to our favorite judo instructor, **Brett Wolf**. Brett has initiated a judo program for special needs children at Blair Elementary School on the southwest side. He says the children love it and are progressing very well. He is also conducting an adaptive judo program on Saturdays at the Rehab Institute. Called *Caring for Kids*, the program is geared to helping children with physical disabilities. In January, he will team up with the Chicago Park District to initiate a judo program for visually and mentally disabled children citywide. Way to go, Brett!

The 18th District recently honored a local hero, **James Grass**, from the Lincoln Park neighborhood, Beat 1814. James witnessed a strong-armed robbery in progress. Not only did he intervene, but he held the offender for the police. The victim was an 82-year old woman. Thank

you and well done, James.

Our neighborhood is sporting five brand-new trash cans, replacing the unsightly and well-worn ones throughout the area. While OTTA owns the cans, a number of businesses have graciously accepted to look after those that are near their properties. These include: **Twinn Anchors, LaSalle Language Academy, Sedgwicks, Nookies, and Chase Bank**. Thanks to all of them for being such good neighbors.

Accolades to a group of young men we love to claim as our own: **The Sounds of Sweetness**, the all-male barbershop choral group from **Walter Payton College Prep High School**, and to their amazing director, **Jeff Weaver**. Since SOS first performed for us—many years ago—they have grown in numbers and prestige. They are so much in demand to perform they now have an agent to do their booking. They have sung in New York, Washington D.C., and Beijing. Recently, they sang at Soldier Field for a ceremony honoring the late, great Walter Payton. In attendance, along with tens of thousands of Bears fans, were Walter's wife, mother, and children. →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

SHIRLEY BAUGHER, Editor email: sbaugher@oldtowntriangle.com

OLD TOWN TRIANGLE CENTER 1763 N. North Park Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60614

Tel: 312.337.1938 Fax: 312 337 4015 www.oldtowntriangle.com email: sbaugher@oldtowntriangle.com or: lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com

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

December brings a most unusual show to the Triangle Gallery: *Glass Up Against the Wall*, a collection of fused glass works by Michelle Rial. After receiving a degree in Visual Communications, Michelle first designed trade show exhibits. But she really wanted to seek a more creative artistic path. She had always been intrigued by glass, so she taught herself how to design and produce leaded, stained glass windows. This led to learning to fuse glass, which involved creating multiple layers each with its own unique pattern. One by one, the layers of fused glass sheets were cut, broken, and ground to fit specific shapes. They were then stacked to create a finished image. Additional elements, such as



DECEMBER
glass—up
against the
wall

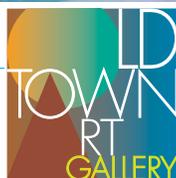
Michelle Rial

finely powdered glass, chips, and stringers were added to increase texture and highlights. Once all of the layers were complete, the pieces were placed in a glass kiln and fired—an eight-hour process. Only when the glass has cooled to room temperature can the kiln be opened,



revealing the full color, texture, and beauty of the piece. ♪ Michelle has participated in many art shows featuring glass work, the 2009 season. The show will be up from December 4, 2009 to January 15, 2010. A formal reception will be held on December 6 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Gallery. ™

In mid-January, an exhibition of the late artist, Franz Altschuler will open at the Triangle Gallery. While many of you may not be familiar with his name, you will immediately recognize some of his work: the haunting portrait of Edgar Allen Poe with a raven superimposed; an American Indian, one side of his face in shadow, resting against the stars and stripes; an old man pointing to an identification tag that, in no way, resembles him; brilliant watercolors of landscapes, desert scenes, and countrysides; and line drawings “so delicate, free, and whimsical it seems to have been guided by a thought rather than a human hand”. ♪ Altschuler was a gifted illustrator, painter, and designer. As a designer, he was said to have few peers in Chicago or anywhere else. His works are a part of the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he first exhibited in 1949, the year he won the Pauline Palmer Prize. He taught, for many years, at the School of the Art Institute, where his students regarded him as “inspired”. He instructed them to think of an art class as a gym class, where they had to exercise and work up a sweat. “Productivity,” he said, “isn’t just for guys puddling steel. It’s a concern for the artist...doing hundreds of thumbnails just to explore ideas, writing while you draw...virtually forcing yourself to throw up graphically until you’ve exhausted everything you have got. The real work is getting the right visual relationship....You have to work for ideas. No technique will shield you if you don’t have an idea.” ♪ Illustration is a big part of Altschuler’s creative output—from children’s books, to modern novels, to the papers of James Madison. Among his best known children’s books are *Melinda*; *Monster Tales: Vampires, Werewolves,*



JANUARY
FEBRUARY

Franz
Altschuler

and Things; The Pup Who Did As She Pleased; and King Snake. He also illustrated a history encyclopedia for Rand McNally. More recently, his watercolor, *Mother Bird*, commanded a great deal of attention when it was sold at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers. ♪ Franz was important to the Old Town community for his art, but also for his commitment to the well-being of the neighborhood. In 1958, he became part of the Center for Neighborhood

Renewal, an action-research project to help citizens working in community groups to participate in urban renewal. His group was responsible for producing a series of articles on what local groups could do to preserve Chicago’s neighborhoods. The series was published in 21 neighborhood newsletters. The group also conducted tours of urban renewal project areas, including Lincoln Park, to give people a first-hand knowledge of renewal. During his tenure Altschuler attended some 46 meetings with city officials and community leaders to help formulate an urban renewal plan for Lincoln Park. The plan contained such things as community goals to be accomplished by renewal, property rehabilitation, recommended traffic changes, recommended community facilities and general locations for these, tentative areas of blight to be treated by clearance, and suggestions of the re-use of land which was to be cleared. ♪ Franz Altschuler passed away on December 12, 2009 at the age of 86. He had a long and productive career, spanning more than 50 years. A memorial gathering and retrospective of his works will take place at the Old Town Triangle Gallery, 1763 N. North Park Avenue, on Sunday, January 17, 2010, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friends and neighbors are invited to attend. ™



HOLIDAY PARTY COOKIE ROOM

NORTH ROOM MUSIC ROOM



party makers,
bakers, shakers . . .

and
partakers

lottery winners Paul
and Darlene Farenkrog
and artist Michelle Rial

giving
and receiving

thank you
18th District Police
Department and
contributing
neighbors

singing and listening, in the glistening north room
with decorations by Michael Warnick and Michelle Rial



photos by Norman Baugher



**SOUTH
ROOM
ROMP
ROOM
PLAY
ROOM**

*shake, run
jump, whisper
trace, color
gather 'round
the balloon lady
...what kids do*



photos by Norman Baugher

The group was also invited to participate in the Ceremony of Lights parade, opening the holiday season on Michigan Avenue. They rode on top of a double-decker bus with the star of the upcoming musical production, *Billy Elliot*. Recently, they sang at the Chriskindl Fest in Lincoln Square, and in the lobby of the building at 500 W. Monroe—not to mention at our OTTA holiday party. We couldn't be more pleased with their success and that they always choose to come home—to Old Town.

More kudos to friend and neighbor **Diane Gonzalez** for her role in developing a program celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Lincoln Park Research Initiative (LPCRI). On November 5, 2009, the group joined with the Chicago History Museum to celebrate the event and to share with the public a special exhibit, *Lincoln Park, Block by Block*. A special part of the festivities was a play entitled *The Mailman Knows Who Shovels*—performed by members of New Leaf Theatre, and based on memoirs of Lincoln Park residents. The LPCRI was very pleased with the turnout and the interest shown by the community. They hope that neighbors and residents will join them for future program. For more information, visit LPCRI at cgiadepauledu.Research/Research.html

Our favorite chef, **Ryan Poli**, chef de cuisine at **Perennial Restaurant** has received yet another in a long line of accolades. In the December issue of *Food and Wine* magazine, Ryan's **black truffle gnoc-chi** was singled out for praise as one of the 10 best restaurant dishes of 2009, \$12 and under. The reviewer described it as a *geometric configuration of perfectly browned, perfectly shaped cubes of pasta beneath sautéed mushrooms and a tangle of frilly greens*. Ryan serves this dish with parsnip puree, glazed parsnips, and hen-of-the-woods mushrooms. I've had the dish, and it is spectacular. It's worth a special trip just to order this appetizer. But don't neglect his delectable winter entrees and desserts as long as you're there.

Lincoln Park High School, the Triangle's local high school, tells us that we can go to any U.S. Cellular store between now and January 15th, pick up cards with unique codes to use online, and vote for LPHS. After you vote, put your favorite student's name on the card and save it. Each person can vote only once and must be 18 years old to vote. If LPHS wins the

contest, the student who turns in the most voted cards will win a MacBook. Second and third place winners will receive an iTouch. The ten schools receiving the most votes will receive \$100,000 each.

IT HAPPENED IN 2009

A number of friends and neighbors moved out of Old Town this past year—for warmer climes, for changing times, and for a host of other reasons.

MOVING OUT. After many years, **Nancy Hyer** pulled up stakes and left her lovely Louis Sullivan row house on Lincoln Park West for the convenience of the Belden Stratford. Although another Hyer, Nancy's son Richard, now occupies the home, it will always be Nancy's face we see in the window there.

Rose Nadolsky and Lexie Henning left Crilly Court for a new home in Lakeview. Crilly Court is just not the same without Lexie charging up and down the courtyard with her cape flying and her saber (not a real one, of course) drawn.

Hard to believe, but **Margaret and Gladys Russell** have been transplanted to Florida. Margaret says she loves it there and has made many new friends, but we still believe her heart belongs to Old Town (especially on those hot, humid summer days) and to all her buddies at the CAPS meetings.

It was probably inevitable that the southwest would draw in **Sarah Potter and Tom Melk**. The children are thriving in the schools there. Sarah is adapting just fine, thank you. And Tom, well, he gets back to Chicago just often enough not to develop a serious case of homesickness.

Rick & Ann Herrick made good on their threat to find a place all on one floor. St. Paul will never be the same.

We loved spending time with all of you. Don't forget us.

MOVING IN. While some neighbors moved out, others moved in, and are already fitting comfortably into the Triangle way of life. **Keith and Jacqui Thams** took over where Lexie and Rose left off without skipping a beat. With their beautiful daughters, Mita and Stephanie, they have become an integral part of Crilly Court. Jacqui has been tapped to act as Co-Chair for the *First Sight, Friday Night Party*, and Keith does everything from hanging paintings to set-

ting up chairs, to tasting chili. Nice to have a Renaissance man in our midst.

Kathy and Ray Clark have set up a little *pie a terre* in the North Park condos. Although they alternate their time between North Park and their suburban home, Old Town has drawn them in. Kathy now serves on the Membership Committee, and Ray lent his gourmet palate to judging in the Great Old Town chili contest.

Rob and Kathleen Katz are ensconced just outside the Triangle limits; but their Perennial Restaurant has moved into Our Old Town and has captivated the hearts and taste buds of all our neighbors who have dined there. Their beautiful children **Shelby and Jamieson** joined the other Old Town kids bouncing on the Moonwalker and munching on Sloppy Joes at the fall hoe down.

Eddie Freidheim has also succumbed to the charms of the North Park condos. He purchased a unit across the way from his parents Crilly Court home and can be seen coming and going from work and waving a friendly hello to all.

The Roney family not only occupy one of the loveliest homes in Old Town, they have become an important part of all our Triangle Activities. Roc showed his acting skills in the April production of *Our Town* and promises to come back for more.

To them, and to all of the others who decided to put down roots here in 2009, welcome. We're so glad you're here.

MOVING AROUND. Some moved out, some moved in, and a few just moved around. **Caroline Baldwin** is dancing her way to stardom with the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen. She is now doing nightly performances of the perennial holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*. She says, *I'm doing snowflakes and the Waltz of the Flowers. It is so much fun, but sooo tiring after classes and rehearsals during the day.* What a joy it would be to see Caroline floating across the stage as a snowflake. Proud parents, Dan and Lucy, keep us updated with photos of her in current productions and rehearsals for upcoming shows.

Megan Nishi spent the last semester in, of all places, Copenhagen. Who would have thought that two of our brightest young people would end up in the same place at the same time. Their incredibly busy schedules kept them apart, however,

despite being in the same city. Megan's studies have taken her all over Europe. She took classes in Finland and Estonia. On her rare breaks, she visited friends in Paris, Madrid, and Berlin. And, on her own, she took a side trip to Valencia. What an experience!

Chloe Loop is concluding her studies at the University of Wisconsin. She is still doing work with the Chinese Consulate, and is seriously contemplating her future. With her skills, there will be a wealth of opportunities waiting. She promises to come and perform for her Old Town neighbors in our winter production of *Teahouse of the August Moon* which is set in the little Okinawan village of Tobiki at the end of World War II. Chloe will both act and dance as Lotus Blossom, the Number One (and only) geisha girl in the village.

MOVING BEYOND. As always before we cross the threshold into the new year, we pause to remember those who have left us since last December.

Good-bye to the irrepressible **James Ward**. James put down the menu, took off his red framed glasses, and said a final *ciao chow for now*.

A fond farewell to **Jack Blackmon**, who took a last walk around the neighborhood and went off to join his beloved **Carolyn**. Can't you just see them in their easy chairs by another fireplace, raising

their glasses in a toast to one and all.

So long to **Nancy Pinzke**. Nancy tossed her head scarf aside, put a box of pastels under her arm, and, with her engaging smile, departed to paint potholes in a studio far, far away.

And good-bye to **John Holabird** who now extols the architectural beauty of pearly, rather than iron, gates. We hope that he is also creating enchanting watercolors of heavenly flowers and that he is delighting the angels with his charm and talent.

Good night to **Bernice Held**. We are so happy you no longer need a magnifying glass to see your canvas or the colors on your palette. With your 20-20 vision, you can tread on heaven's scene as sure-footed and lithe as you were in your prime. Actually, Bernice was always in her prime.

A last bravo to **Lee Pelty** now performing Tevye and Don Quixote on a more ethereal stage. Time was when he lived on Lincoln Park West, shared a kitchen with his neighbors in the row house at the end of the block, and sang in theaters and cabarets all over the city. Both his stage and his audience have grown larger, and his magnificent voice stretches across the heavens.

Good-bye **Franz Altschuler**. Old Town will never forget your magnificent paintings, designs, and illustrations. You captivated a nation with your creativity, and future generations will marvel at your

works in galleries and museums all over the world. Thank you, too, for the endless hours you spent in meetings during the tumultuous urban renewal period of the mid-twentieth century, conceiving a plan for the redevelopment of Lincoln Park that would preserve our venerable old buildings and plan new ones suitable to the neighborhood you loved so well.

And finally, good-bye to **Walter Cronkite, Teddy Kennedy, Michael Jackson, and Patrick Swayze**. Though you were never really our neighbors, you were so familiar we felt as though we knew you. **Walter** you came into our living rooms every night with your unique perspective on the news and your familiar sign-off, *That's the way it is*. **Michael Jackson**, we thought you were dancing only for us when you raised your sequined glove and stepped, as only you could, through that amazing moon-walk. **Patrick Swayze**, you stole our hearts in *Dirty Dancing*, and had us cheering when you marched in, took Jennifer Gray in your arms and declared, *Nobody puts baby in a corner*. And **Teddy Kennedy**, you were such a brilliant negotiator, truly the *Last Lion* of the Senate, commanding respect from both sides of the aisle. With your passing, the dream of Camelot is gone; and those of us who were young and hopeful in the sixties, may never feel quite so intensely about our surroundings again. **T**



☞ *We met at nine. (We met at eight.) / I was on time. (No, you were late.) / Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ *On a cold afternoon in December 2008, we ended the year with our annual holiday party. We satisfied our souls with the music of the Sounds of Sweetness,*

and gratified our bodies with home-made cookies brought by the neighborhood's best bakers: peanut butter delights, Beat 1814 Chocolate Chip wonders, cowboy extravaganzas, brownies, and many, many more. Generous neighbors brought sacks full of food for distribution to less fortunate families. And children's faces and hands were adorned with whimsical tattoos. Amid the munching and mingling, we all agreed, it was a very good year.

☞ *We dined with friends. (We dined alone.) / A tenor sang. (A baritone.) / Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ *On January 14, we officially welcomed 2009 with our Annual Dinner. We feasted on Polish delicacies from Kasia's, were serenaded by guitarist Neil Dixon Smith, and watched our kids bounce away on the Moonwalk. We said good-bye to President Lee Freidheim and hello to incoming president, Fern Bomchill Davis. We also welcomed new and returning directors. Though it was, in Tom Skilling's immortal words, barbaric outside, inside, we were warm with good food, good company, and good cheer. 2009 looked just fine.*

☞ *That dazzling April moon. (There was none that night. And the month was June.) / That's right, that's right! (It warms my heart to know that you remember still the way you do.) / Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ *We brought Our Town to Old Town in April. Local actors joined with professionals to take up residence, ever so briefly, in Grovers Corners, New Hampshire. For a few hours we mingled with the citizens of the town as they attempted to find value in the smallest events of their daily lives. We experienced their joys and their griefs, their hopes and their disappointments, and, ultimately their understanding and acceptance of life. Following on the heels of a downtown production of the same play, we all felt that our effort was much more heartfelt, and, well better. Jeff Weaver was magnificent as the Everyman Stage Manager; and he was more than supported by the townspeople: Lucy Baldwin, Roc Roney, John Blick, Rose Ryan, Christopher Cordon, Alex Shibicky, Amy Ewaldt, Michael Warnick, Mary Fons Misetic, Berit Waterfield, and Riley Loop. Look for them to come back in 2010 in the whimsical comedy, *Teahouse of the August Moon*.*

☞ *How often I've thought of that Friday night (Monday)/When we had our last rendezvous. / And somehow I've foolishly wondered / If you might by some chance, be thinking of it too?*

☞ *In June we celebrated two memorable events. On Friday, June 12, we boarded the good ship *First Sight* for a peek at what* ➔ **8**



was to come in the Old Town Art Fair. Co-chaired by Shirley Baugher, Paige Hungerford, and Jacqui Thams, *Ship Ahoy* was a huge success. Marion Perry opened up her New Leaf Studio for the event and provided an ambience that put everyone in a party mood. Steven Graham, mixologist from *Perennial* restaurant created a special *Ship Ahoy* martini that had the crowd oohing, ahing, and hovering around the bar. Handsome maitre d' and emcee Erich Steeger was the darling of all the ladies. Andrew Pratt and his lively band kept us entertained all evening long. And the delicious hors d'oeuvres from the ever-popular Catering-Chocolate added to a gala evening.

But the real show stopper was the art. More than sixty exhibiting artists submitted paintings, sculpture, and jewelry for sale in a silent auction. An appreciative audience not only admired their works, they bid on their favorites and walked away happy with their winning purchases. Same time next year?

On June 13 and 14, Art Fair General Chair Chris Beer, aided and abetted by her trusty Vice-Chair Emily Rose and hundreds of faithful committee chairs and volunteers, put on the *ne plus ultra* of art fairs. Tens of thousands of patrons passed through the gates to admire the art, enjoy great entertainment, and stroll through our neighborhood gardens. Except for a brief shower on Saturday, it was a perfect week-end.

And yes, it did rain on the Thank-You Party, but that didn't stop happy volunteers from crowding into the Triangle Center and celebrating a very successful 60th Old Town Art Fair. As the song goes, "their hearts were warm, their bellies were full, and

they all had a real nice time".

☞ *That carriage ride. (You walked me home.) / You lost a glove. (I lost a comb.) / Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ The year was winding down. In October, neighbors came to the Triangle for a foot-stompin', hand-clappin', shoutin' good time hoe down. We went country with the music of the Whiskey Holler Bluegrass Band; and we had a chili contest where neighbors sampled some of the best chili this side of Texas. The event was so much fun that even Chef Ryan Poli, who came over from *Perennial* to be a judge, declared that he wanted to be a contestant next year. The two Lucys, Wojtas and Baldwin, walked away with second and first place honors respectively.

☞ *That brilliant sky. (We had some rain.) / Those Russian songs. (From sunny Spain.) Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ Our little year was rounded with one last party. Once more, voices of *The Sounds of Sweetness* poured out through the room bringing Christmas and Hanukah greetings to all. Neighbors brought so many bags of food, it took a van (paddy wagon) to carry them back to the 18th District. The little ones flocked around Miss Amy who put their hands to work making holiday gifts for their parents. Then they went over to our favorite "balloon lady" to watch her transform those little rubber objects into mystical, magical creatures. Even the big kids were clamoring to take home one of her *objets d'art*.

☞ *You wore a gown of gold. (I was all in blue.) / Am I getting old (Oh no, not you. How strong you were, how young and gay; a prince of love in every way.) / Ah yes, I remember it well.*

☞ Happy New Year! **TC**