



Times

CALENDAR

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

OTTA BOARD MEETING

December 14, 7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

February 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING

January 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OTTA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

OTTA ANNUAL DINNER AND ELECTION

January 27, 2011 6:30-8:30 p.m.

ART GALLERY OPENING

ECCLECTIC PERSONALITIES:

THE PAINTINGS OF ELIZABETH WEBER

December 5, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SLATE FOR 2011 OTTA BOARD

Jeff Pines, Chair and members of the Nominating Committee have announced their recommendations for the officers and directors to succeed outgoing Board members. They are—

President:

PHILIP GRAFF

1st Vice President:

SHANNON WATERFIELD

Secretary:

Todd Humes

→ p3

TRIANGLE HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF

New Executive Director Hired By Board of Directors, pages 2 & 3

OTTA Annual Holiday Party, Gallery Opening, Food Drive, and Warm Hands, Warm Hearts to be held on December 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m, page 5.

Annual Dinner and Election to be held on January 27, 2011, page 5

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

MOVING FORWARD

As you may have noticed from last month's newsletter, the Board has adopted a revamped committee structure for the Old Town Triangle Association to better serve the evolving and growing needs of the association. We are also pleased to announce that we have established the new staff position of Executive Director to direct and manage our organization. Our Executive Director is a full-time employee of the association reporting directly to the Board. Our part-time administrators will report to the Executive Director. These changes come as a result of a great deal of time and effort. I would like to give you some of the background and details about the changes.

As elected officers and board members of the OTTA (the "Board"), we are obligated to operate the organization to meet the needs and wants of the entire membership in a fiscally responsible manner. To this end, among other things, in mid 2009, we conducted a survey in an effort to elicit these needs and wants. The survey went out by snail mail and electronic mail to *all* members and to former members who had for one reason or another let their membership lapse. We had an approximate 25% return, which is positive in "survey-land."

In the November 2009 newsletter, in the President's Message, I listed what we believed were the major messages to the Board: more frequent communications about what is happening, especially by email; membership expansion —to bring the next generation and their resources to the OTTA to work and play with our long-term members; the addition of new and different activities to our traditional enjoyable fare; and an expanded role for the organization.

As also detailed in the November 2009 newsletter, we took what we heard from the survey and established a Long Range Planning Committee ("LRPC") and invited any members who were interested to join the committee. We wanted a committee that could represent all the varying interests of the neighborhood. Over the next six months, the LRPC met and in mid 2010 provided a detailed report with various recommendations. Over several meetings, the Board discussed and evaluated the report, and ultimately, with minor modifications, approved the LRPC's recommendations. We have now begun to implement these recommendations.

We revamped the standing committee structure and set forth goals and suggestions for 2010-2011 fiscal year. There were no dramatic changes, but in response to our members' suggestions, we attempted to better define the role of each committee, to populate the committees with interested members from a cross-section of the membership and to provide accountability by appointing a board member to co-chair each committee, along with a non-board member. The new structure is → p2

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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*
CHRISTINA BEER, *Secretary*
JOHN KNOCHE, *Treasurer*

DIRECTORS

SUE APEY
DEBBIE DAY
ALICE HUFF
JEFF PINES
JACQUI THAMS
DIRK VOS

COMMITTEES

HISTORIC DISTRICT PRESERVATION,
Jeff Pines/Sue Apey
MEMBERSHIP, *John Knoche*
EVENTS, *Chris Beer*
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS, *Dirk Vos*
NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS, *Debbie Day*
COMMUNICATIONS, *Phil Graff*
OLD TOWN ART FAIR, *Emily Rose*
CONTRIBUTIONS, *Alice Huff/Sue Apey*
CONTINUING EDUCATION, *Jacqui Thams*

ANNUAL COMMITTEES

NOMINATING (2010), *Jeff Pines*
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, *Sue Apey,*
Martha Connolly, Phyllis Hall

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

←p1 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

still being tweaked, but the goals and responsibilities of the committees and the co-chairman were discussed at the last three board meetings. The new committees were identified in the last newsletter but not “officially” announced. We will provide more detail in a future newsletter, but the official titles going forward are:

- Capital Improvements
- Communications
- Continuing Education (Gallery)
- Contributions
- Events
- Historic District Preservation
- Membership
- Neighborhood Improvements
- Neighborhood Relations
- Nominations
- Old Town Art Fair

It has been clear for the last two years that our two part-time administrators are working at full capacity and do not have the time to sufficiently address the OTTA goals and mission or the new initiatives our membership wanted. We also believed that the initiatives required special skills and time that were not available to the volunteer board. In addition, we believed that it was our responsibility as the Board to provide inevitable transition. It is not appropriate for us to detail personnel issues, but we concluded, based upon the information that we had, that now is the time, as we seek to expand our membership and services, to bring in a full-time Executive Director to provide appropriate oversight and ensure essential continuity.

The Board determined the “required credentials” for the position: a candidate with a minimum of five to seven years experience in not-for-profit or public agency management, including experience supervising paid staff and volunteers and working with a board of directors, with an interest in the arts, the ability to multitask, a working knowledge of not-for-profit management, including fiscal, event management background, accounting and budgeting, and effective writing and oral communication skills. Higher education, optimism and a sense of humor were high preferences. Obviously, we also wanted someone who we believed could work well with Shirley and Leslie. We had considered a consultant or a search firm, but in accordance with our fiduciary obligations to ensure fiscal responsibility, we decided to attempt to find an appropriate candidate on our own.

We also spent a great deal of time considering the advisability of hiring someone residing inside or outside of the community. After much discussion, we concluded that it was in the organization’s best interests to limit our search to outside of the community. Our neighborhood association is unique and we could not thrive without all the volunteer assistance we have. However, OTTA paid staff have obligations to the organization, and a full time, at will, Executive Director will have supervisory duties and other responsibilities for which we compensate him/her, that need to be performed without regard to prior personal relationships. Such an employee should have the right to leave and the Board should have the right to evaluate and terminate such employment if circumstances so dictate, also without reference to relationships outside of the OTTA. We concluded that it would serve the interests of the association and the neighborhood relations to look to fill the position from outside the community.

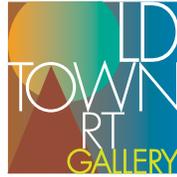
We did not know whether or when appropriate candidates would be available. We advertised on npo.net (non-profit organizations). Over the next few months, we received numerous applications, several of which met our qualifications, and after much review and discussion, we settled on one candidate—Dee McKinsey. We offered and she accepted the position beginning January 1, 2011 (part-time from November 15-December 31, 2010).

Dee McKinsey is a former Regional Director for Volunteers and Volunteer Boards at the Chicago office of the American Cancer Society. Prior to joining ACS, Dee was the senior editor at Marketplace Productions, a daily public radio business program in Los Angeles. She had held several public relations positions in Chicago, including the ABA, DePaul University and the Red Kettle Campaign of the Salvation Army, and worked as a media consultant and journalist for many years. Among other things, she served on the White House Press Corps and was a producer for numerous major stories, such as the Pope’s visit to Chicago, Whitewater, Iran Contra and the Challenger disaster. Notably, Dee won a Peabody award and was nominated for a Pulitzer.

Some may ask--if it ain’t broke why fix it?” Well, it may not have been “broken,” but there were cracks that were our responsibility to fix before a break. As noted above, we took these actions based upon the survey results, the information we were provided and our belief that it was time for the organization to →p3

Tom Francesconi and students' November gallery show draws crowds

The gallery was packed all afternoon on Sunday, November 14, when art lovers, friends, and neighbors gathered for an exhibition put on by students of Old Town Art School instructor **Tom Francesconi**. From the very beginning, the show was truly a combined effort of the students and their instructor. They submitted the application and images, arranged for the announcement, mounted the show, and provided the entertainment and refreshments. They arrived hours early to set up tables, arrange flowers, and “work the show”. Their efforts were not only appreciated, they were rewarded. A record thirteen pieces were sold. Well done! **T**



DECEMBER eclectic personalities Elizabeth Weber

In December, local artist Elizabeth Weber brings her distinctive work to the Triangle Gallery. Weber uses a variety of styles and subject matter in her paintings. She goes from dreamlike landscapes to detailed portraits and exhibits a number of artistic personalities—not limited to any one genre, color palette, or subject matter. Her paintings represent her time spent in different parts of the country as a sailor, garden designer, care giver, resident artist, and observer of the human condition. She finally chose Chicago as her home and studio site. **T** Weber's forests, harbor scenes, and portraiture all depict her intricate patterns and angles, as well as her fine brushwork. The canvases, individually and as a group, evoke strong emotional responses and invite the viewer into the environment created by the artist. This is a strong and dramatic show that you won't want to miss. **T** Eclectic Personalities will be on display in the Triangle Gallery from December 4 through January 14. The formal opening takes place on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue—sharing the space with the OTTA's Annual Holiday party. It should be a gala event, and you won't want to miss it. **T**

FIGURE WORKSHOP

And don't forget about the one-day figure workshop on **Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This is a water-color workshop taught by popular instructor **Tom Francesconi**. Tom

will demonstrate his painting process from the beginning drawing to the finished painting. Topics include gesture drawing, creation of simple shapes to convey the form, and use of color. Students may work from their own photographs, or they may use photographs supplied by the instructor. **T**

← 2 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

move forward. Throughout this process, we acted in what we believed to be in the best interests of the OTTA. (We remain hopeful that the OTTA continues to have the benefits of Leslie's and Shirley's con-

tributions.) We are moving forward with a stronger organization that has all the wonderful attributes of our existing operations and the benefits of enhanced programming and membership. **T**

ASSOCIATION NEWS continued

Treasurer:

Tom Midura

Directors:

Beth Burk

Robin Cecola

BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE NOMINEES

Philip Graff (President) and his wife, Janet, have lived in

the Old Town Triangle for the past 25 years where they've raised their two children. Phil has served on the OTTA board for the last 5. Currently he is 1st Vice President of the association. He's been an Art Fair volunteer for several years co-chairing the OTAF Traffic Committee and also helps maintain the Triangle website. Philip is a partner in Graff Valve & Fittings Co., an industrial plumbing distribution business he started

with his brother 34 years ago. As an avid inline skater, Phil joined the National Skate Patrol 10 years ago and helps to lead Chicago themed group skates on 1st and 3rd Fridays. During the summer months Phil and his Skate Patrol comrades offer free stopping lessons on Saturday afternoons at the Oak Street Beach.

Shannon Waterfield (1st Vice President) has lived in the Old Town Triangle for 11 years.

Shannon served on the OTTA board from 2006-2007. She has been and is currently an active participant in several Old Town Art Fair committees, CAPs and has directly supported many OTTA social events. Shannon is actively involved with Friends of Lincoln and is a PTA member at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Shannon spends her days raising her two children and running a family business from her home. **→ p4**

Tom Midura (Treasurer) has been an Old Town Triangle resident since 1996 and currently resides in the triangle with his wife, Janna, and their three children. Tom and Janna were married at St. Michael's church in Old Town and Tom formerly served on the St. Michael's Finance Council. Tom is currently Director of Corporate Development at Graycor, a privately held construction services firm, where he oversees the firm's acquisitions and investment strategies. Prior to joining Graycor, Tom spent 14 years as an investment banker at BMO Capital Markets, William Blair and ABN AMRO, Inc. initiating and executing merger & acquisition transactions and public equity offerings. Prior to graduating from business school, Tom worked for Lehman Brothers in New York and Keyser Marston Associates (an institutional real estate advisory firm) in San Francisco. Tom has an MBA from the J. L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern

University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California-Berkeley. Tom is an avid sports fan and also serves as a guest lecturer at the University of Notre Dame.

Todd Humes (Secretary) is currently a Managing Director with Volt Professional Search. He has distinguished himself as a manager, mentor, and coach, overseeing a staff of top performing Professional Search Recruiters in both Canada and the U.S. Previously, Todd spent six years as a Technical Resource Manager at an IT Consulting Company in NYC. Todd and his partner, Alan Naragon, relocated to Chicago in 2003 and were immediately drawn to the Old Town neighborhood where they currently live with their rescued greyhound, Famous Amos. They have been passionately restoring their historic home on Menomonee street since 2006 and have volunteered at the Old Town Art Fair for the past three years. Todd earned his BS in Psychology from SUNY – Cortland. He is currently the VP of Programs for the Staffing Management Association of Greater Chicago, a special interest chapter of SHRM

(Society of Human Resource Management), where he has served as an active board member for the past 6 years. Todd is excited to share this experience and make a positive contribution in his new role as Secretary for the Old Town Triangle Association.

Robin Cecola (Director) is the founder and principal partner of the RobinRandall group – an award winning full service promotion, production & creative marketing firm recognized for daring creativity, embracing 'the impossible' and expert execution. A native Chicagoan, Mr. Cecola leads all business activities and manages the firm's roster of fortune 500 and high profile clients. Robin and his wife Shannon are longtime Old Town residents (Shannon 15+, Robin 9+). Shannon is a formal member of the Neighborhood Improvements Committee, while Robin has played an important supporting role. Together, they created and currently manage the successful OTTA Brick Repair, Replacement & Beautification Program, and plan to remain active in the community.

Beth Burk (Director) has been a resident of Old Town

for 20 years. She currently resides on Sedgwick Street with her husband, Brad, and their two children. Beth has been a member of OTTA since the mid-1990's, and has participated on various committees. She was a member of the Historic Planning District/Zoning committee from 2002- 2005 and has participated on the Neighborhood Improvement Committee since 2008. She also volunteers at the OTTA Art Fair to facilitate the artist breakfast or man a gate. From 2008-2010, Beth was a member of the Local School Council at the LaSalle Language Academy as a Neighborhood Representative. Her son is currently in first grade at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Beth is a corporate lawyer at Aon Corporation, where she has been employed since 2004. She is responsible for all employee benefits and employment matters for the company. She attended the University of Michigan for undergraduate studies and Chicago-Kent College of Law for law school. Beth spends her free time participating in various professional and community activities. She is an avid runner, gardener and cook. 

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

BETH BURK

The Neighborhood Improvements Committee is painting the town GREEN. In response to reader feedback from the 2010 OTTA survey, the NIC recently hosted the first in a series of "Green Lectures" that focus on gardening topics. On the evening of October 14th, Charlie Miller, of Care of Trees, led a lively discussion about tree care at the Triangle Center. Charlie provided excellent advice regarding caring for parkway trees in all seasons, mulching techniques, and the proper selection of trees for small Old Town lots. He also debunked some common mispercep-

tions about trees and their care. Charlie's top tips for tree care initiatives for Fall and early Winter include:

- Continue to water trees through the Fall, and apply mulch around the base of the tree to keep moisture in. Parkway trees and shrubs may need special care to protect them from street salt, such as burlap wrapping around the street-side of the parkway.
- Late fall is a good time to trim back shrubs and flowering bushes. It gives the shrubs and bushes more time to adjust to the changes before the Spring blooming season begins. When buds form in early Spring, it is often too late to trim.

- Old Town soil often needs a boost of special mulch, compost, or a professional compost “tea.” Trees benefit from these types of treatment year-round.
- When the Christmas season is behind us, we can re-purpose the tree branches as nice ground cover for Spring bulbs and plants.
- If you’d like to suggest a future topic for the NIC’s “Green” Lecture series, please email the Triangle at Info@oldtowntriangle.com.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY TO TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 5, AT 2:00 P.M.

The OTTA Annual holiday party and food drive will take place in the Triangle Center on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Many exciting activities are planned for this event. The ever popular *Sounds of Sweetness* from Walter Payton College Prep High School will offer a concert of seasonal favorites under the direction of Payton Music Director and Old Town neighbor Jeff Weever. *Sounds* is an all-male a capella ensemble made up of freshmen through seniors. Their repertoire includes pop, doo-wop, spirituals, gospel, contemporary, and barber shop numbers. It is one of the only groups of its kind in the Chicago Public Schools, and is in great demand to perform, not only at holiday time but throughout the year. They have sung at all the major league sports arenas in the city, as well as prestigious national and international events. Last year, they performed at the Festival of Lights with the cast of Billy Eliot and at the lighting of the Christmas Tree in the Hancock Plaza. The list goes on. The Triangle is fortunate that they make time in their holiday schedule to perform here. Following the concert, Jeff will lead neighbors in a group singing of holiday songs.

In addition to the musical portion of the event, our own Miss Amy Ewaldt will conduct a crafts activity and invite young people to make special gifts for parents and relatives. The Moonwalker (bouncy-bouncy) will be here for all our little jumpers.

Michael Warnick will make his special holiday punch, and we are asking neighbors to bake cookies to go along with the punch.

As usual, at this time, the Triangle, in cooperation with the 18th District Police, will hold its **annual food drive for needy families in the greater Old Town area**. Neighbors have always been very supportive of this drive, and have helped make the holidays a lot brighter for those in need. We are also participating in the 18th District’s “Warm Hands, Warm Hearts” program in which we hope to collect new hats and gloves for children and seniors. Officers from the 18th District will be present to accept our donations. We hope that all of you will come out for this fun neighborhood gathering and that you will encourage your friends to join us as well. No matter what’s going on outside, it’s always fair weather when Old Town friends and neighbors get together.

OTTA TO CUT BACK ON HARD COPY PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER

In an effort to “go green” and save money, the OTTA will publish fewer hard copy issues of the newsletter. Instead, there will be more online content, and more frequent updates of information. In the coming year, there will be seven printed newsletters and monthly online versions. In the future, this will be reduced to four. You will still be able to read the newsletter online and get up to the minute information about what’s happening in the neighborhood and at the Triangle.

IT’S NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT THE OTTA ANNUAL DINNER AND ELECTION.

This year, the dinner will take place on January 27 at the Triangle Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Election results will be announced, and we’ll have something for everyone: music, games, and probably the bouncy-bouncy. It wouldn’t be a party for the kids without it. The food and drink will be supplied. All you have to do is come, bring the kids, and have fun.



CAPS REPORT

At the October 28 CAPS meeting, Beat 1814 officers reported that thefts were down 37 percent for the month. Most thefts were, as usual, from automobiles. They noted that the latest items targeted are cell phone chargers, in addition to anything else left in plain view that can be sold or traded. Other popular items are i-phones and i-pads. Many of these are taken not only from cars but snatched from individuals on the street, especially in the area of the new Apple store on North Avenue. It appears that thieves are taking these devices and selling them to independently owned cell-phone store, mostly on the south side. Officers have been able to capture perpetrators where they attempt to get rid of the merchandise because the new i-phones have built-in tracking devices.

Because of personnel cutbacks, there will be a change in the CAPS meeting time beginning in January 2011. Meetings will be held **every two months** in the Triangle Center on the **second** rather than the fourth Thursday of the month. Beat 1812 will join us for these bi-monthly meetings. **T**

NEWS FROM LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL



SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES NEEDED. The LPHS Science Department needs volunteers to judge their annual Science Fair, to be held this year on December 13. They expect more than 500 student projects to be entered. Judges should have a background in science, computers, math, psychology, engineering, or architecture. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kevin Krakovsky at KDKrakovsky@cpsedu.

BAND/ORCHESTRA OPEN HOUSE A BIG SUCCESS. The Band and Orchestra Department at LPHS held a very successful open house at the school in late October. Many doors and local vendors contributed to the event, which raised more than \$1,400 for the Band and Orchestra Program. Suzanne Fushi and the Bein & Fushi Violin Company provided over 100 strings for violins, violas, and cellos for the orchestra. Bein and Fushi has also made a master class opportunity available to LPHS violin students at their store in the Fine Arts Building. Highlighting the evening were performances by band and orchestra students.

There is other musical news from LPHS. **Robert Alonzo, Barbara Moreno, and Grzegorz Piekosz** were selected for the Illinois All District Jazz Band. Ten choral students were selected as the top singers in the Illinois Music Education Association District I: **Emilis Belciak, Rebeca Browne, Keshawn Coleman, Loreto Delgado Haydee Irizarry, Samuel Mason Lisa Mishra, Chaya Otikor, Josue Silva, and Mahalia Stover. Gerardo Fernandez** (baritone sax) and **Philip Perkins** were winners in the All District.

The Old Town Triangle Association has supported the music program at LPHS for a number of years. Its contributions have enabled the school to purchase much-needed instruments and encouraged students participation in music activities. Last year, the OTTA awarded scholarships to two graduating seniors in music programs who planned to continue their music education at institutions of higher learning.

In other departments, LPHS art students will participate in the 2011-2012 Chicago Vehicle Sticker Art Contest,

the theme of which is *Education is Key*. **Ana Patricia Juarez** won second place in the CPS Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Competition. The Social Science Department is planning a Social Science Fair, to be held on February 3, 2011. This year's theme is *Debate and Diplomacy in History—Successes, Failures, Consequences*. This local fair is the first stage in the Chicago Metro History Fair competition.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

St. Michael's Church is holding its **Old Town Christmas Concert** on Saturday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This year, the concert focuses on the Journey from Advent to Christmas. Parishioners, neighbors, and music lovers will not want to miss this event. The combination of the magnificent organ and the glorious voices of St. Michael's choir will be a perfect way to get into the spirit of the holiday season.

The much-anticipated Moody Bible Church's Annual Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 12 in the church, 1630 N. Clark Street, at 6:00 p.m. The doors will open at 5:15 p.m. Because this event attracts visitors from all over the city, as well as Old Town neighbors, free parking will be available in the Moody Bible Institute parking lot on Chicago and Wells. There will be shuttle service to and from the church.

Congratulations to favorite Old Town restaurants Perennial and Twin Anchors who recently received Michelin Guide Chicago's Bib Gourmand Awards. The restaurants learned of their awards through a chalk outline of the Michelin man painted on the sidewalk outside their doors on the morning of November 10, 2010.

The *Bib Gourmand* is awarded to restaurants judged to offer very good food at a very good value. For Michelin's purposes, a "very good value" means an appetizer,

and entrée, plus a glass of wine will cost \$40 or less." The *Bib Gourmand* is really a great honor," says Jean-Luc Naret, director of the Michelin Guides. "It signifies they do good cuisine at a very reasonable price. Especially in these recessionary times, people are looking for a good deal... I call [these restaurants] gems of Chicago."

There is other news from **Twin Anchors** that will delight neighbors. They have recently opened **Twin Anchors Catering**. Now you can have a party with all of your favorite Twin Anchors favorites delivered right to your door: their famous ribs, barbecue chicken, pulled pork, creamy cole slaw, and more. Group and a la carte orders are available. To see a complete catering menu, go to www.twinanchorsribs.com. To place an order, call 312-266-1616; fax 312-943-3528; or email slapmatier@twinanchorsribs.com. Catering packages are for a minimum of 20 people, and orders must be placed at least three days in advance.

And—Twin Anchors announces the addition of a **new sauce, Prohibition Sauce**, described as having a "sweet start and a fiery finish". The sauce is all natural and gluten-free, and features a unique blend of brown sugar, cracked black pepper, and a dash of ghost pepper, the hottest pepper in the world. Mercy! "Try it on our ribs, chicken, pulled pork, and even our grilled salmon. Just 50 cents gets you sauced, prohibition-style," says owner Paul Tucci.

Perennial keeps racking up the accolades. This month's *Today's Chicago Woman*, features a review of the restaurant by famed Chicago pastry chef and food maven Sarah Levy. Sarah raves about the "fantastically fresh and seasonal dishes, including confit duck croquettes, goat cheese tart, fish tacos, and roasted baby beets." She urges diners to try the flavors of a Snickers Bar dessert. "Who knew," she said, "that if you take chocolate Bavarian, salted caramel mousse, peanut ice cream, and 40-second chocolate cake, you would end up with what tastes like a Snickers bar, but about 20 times better." She goes on to cite the incredible brunch, which includes whimsical Cap'n Crunch pancakes, and French Toast fingers with caramelized bananas. Kudos again to Chef Ryan Poli and his talented kitchen crew.

Most of you know our own **Sofie Hall** as the pixie granddaughter of neighbors Pat



grader, Sofie recently ran in a citywide meet and placed 14th in her age group. Congratulations, **Sofie**. Grandfather John and father Greg (Goose Island Beer owners and brewers) are so proud of her they even named one of their designer beers after her: **Sofie**, of course. And you don't have to go to one of their restaurants to try it. It's available at your supermarket.

and John Hall. But little Sofie is not so little any more. She has become a beautiful and talented young lady of eleven and the star of the Bell School track team. A sixth

Chicago Food Planet Food Tours has long been bringing groups through Old

Town for delicious food tastings from one-of-a-kind specialty food stores and small restaurants. But now, they have become so enamored of our neighborhood that they are leading their groups through the residential area and pointing out homes of architectural and historical interest. Two of the houses featured on the tour are 216 W. Menomonee and 314 W. Menomonee, both examples of "kit houses" built shortly after the Chicago Fire of 1871 and before construction of wooden buildings was forbidden within the city limits. They prepared a script for tour participants to follow, using Shirley Baugher's *At Home in Our Old Town* as their information source.

Former Old Town neighbor **Bernadette Berent** recently passed away. She had many friends and relatives in the area. Funeral services were held for her at St. Michael's Church on Tuesday, November 9. **T**



REMEMBERING LARRY

*The morning ends, I think about you
I talk to friends, I think about you...
Doing every little chore, the thought of you
stays bright*

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

It is difficult to look in the window at 1712 N. Wells and not see Larry Taylor sitting there. He was there when Cobey Catering moved in; he was there when the shop became Catering•Chocolate; he was there until October of this past year—and then he wasn't. Larry left us far too soon, on October 24, 2010. He was fifty years old.

We all have our special memories of Larry—many of them involving food. He was a great cook, but more than that, he understood food. If you needed to know how to turn sautéed chicken into something special, you asked Larry. If you needed to buy the best balsamic vinegar for a salad or to perk up some leftovers, you asked Larry. If you needed the best cheese to serve friends, you asked Larry. I remember tasting one of the cheeses he recommended and all I could say was, "Oh, My God"! After

that, when I went in and asked for "Oh My God", he knew exactly what I wanted.

"Oh My God" wasn't limited to cheese. A few years ago when he put a tin of Sarabeth's Hot Chocolate Parisienne in my hand and said, "Oh My God", I bought it. It was beyond good. When he sold me Seville orange honey,

knowing that I hate honey, I became a convert. When he plied me with amazing cookies that he wouldn't eat for fear of gaining weight, I willingly consumed them—even at the risk of needing doorways **→p8**



Larry & one of his abstractions

POST Script
BY SHIRLEY BAUGHER

→ p7

widened to get through. I never refused a Larry recommendation.

Now, Larry is gone. I won't be able to dash in a few hours before a CAPS meeting and ask for a tray of cookies to be assembled while I waited. I won't be able to point to a salad tray or a chocolate display and ask for "some". Larry had an amazing knack for knowing just how much "some" was. And I won't be able to go in and dish the dirt on what was going on in the neighborhood. No one could dish the dirt quite like Larry.

Others of you will miss different things. His artistic abilities (someone mentioned at his memorial gathering that she had eight of his paintings, and that he had personally come over to help her hang them). His love of music. His devotion to his little Chihuahua Tina. His wry wit and generous spirit. The twinkle in his eye. His addiction to "junk" food like Hostess mini powdered sugar doughnuts and vanilla flavored instant coffee (well, nobody's perfect). We will miss all of these things about Larry. But, Jay Shindler put it best. We will miss our friend. 



Jay & Larry

