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## CALENDAR 2012

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRIANGLE

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



### TRIANGLE EVENTS

#### January 29, 6:30 p.m. **OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION** 

*January 28, 5 p.m.* **ART FAIR JURYING** 

*January 29, 5 p.m.* **ART FAIR JURYING** 

February 16, 7 p.m. **BOARD MEETING** 

February 20 TRIANGLE CLOSED, PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 21, 7 p.m. HDP&Z



GALLERY

January 13 - March 2, 2012 **INTAGLIO PRINTS: MARY GEHR** 

# ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING FEATURES **ELECTION OF NEW BOARD, FISCAL REPORT AND CHANGES IN THE OLD TOWN ART FAIR.**

There will be an uncontested election during the Old Town Triangle Association's Annual Meeting and dinner, 6 p.m., Jan. 26. Also on the agenda will be remarks from outgoing president Phil Graff, a fiscal report, and a presentation on the 2012 Old Town Art Fair.

The Old Town Art Fair report will be given by Debbie Day, chair. Day will discuss building on the success of previous years, and changes designed to drive attendance and revenue. Jurying for the art fair entrants will be this coming weekend, Jan. 28 and 29.

The board nominating committee picked a slate, which was challenged in two position — president and secretary. The nominating committee had slated Philip Graff as president and Dan Barson as secretary.

According to the bylaws, any resident who wished could submit their names for consideration with the required number of signatures on a petition by Dec. 10. Vi Daley presented her petition for president, as did Karen Pfendler for secretary. Current Secretary John Knoche verified the names and certified that they were eligible to run for election.

Graff and Board Members Jacqui Thams and Barson decided to step away from the board effective at the annual meeting. Tham's position can be filled by the incoming president because there is only a year in that term.

The uncontested slate, listed below, can be affirmed by voice vote.

Candidate	Office	Term expires
VI DALEY	President	January 2013
Jeff Smith	First Vice President	January 2013
Karen Pfendler	Secretary	January 2013
Claire Leaman	Treasurer	January 2013
Lance Hornaday	Director	January 2015
Robert Gibbs	Director	January 2015

As one of his last duties, Graff will preside at the Annual Meeting. Daley is on a longplanned vacation and will not return until after the annual meeting. T

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRIANGLE

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### **VI DALEY TAKES THE OTTA HELM JANUARY 26**

#### Looking toward a productive next quarter

As your new president, I look forward to the coming year filled with challenges and opportunities, and working with the new board and the entire Old Town Community. I would like to thank especially Phil Graff and the former board members for all that was accomplished last year.

One of my goals is to work with our Alderman Michele Smith, to address bicycle routes that may impact our community to follow through on improving pedestrian safety at Clark and Menomonee as well as an ongoing project for the improvement to the Eugenie/Clark/ LaSalle intersection. We are not only a community of residents but businesses as well, so we need to continue working together on issues that affect all of us.

There is a lot going on in this very small area of the City. Old Town is truly one of the best places to live and we all need to work together to keep it that way. I am always open to suggestions, so please feel free to contact me.

Look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood.

Vi Daley

### NEWS OF THE 43RD WARD

#### **CITY-WIDE REDISTRICTING PASSES THE CITY COUNCIL**

Ald. Michele Smith announced the final decision, passed by the City Council, in the redistricting debate following the latest census.

The first proposal, and the one that drew more than 650 mostly Lincoln Parkers to DePaul for a public hearing, was heavy handed in its dividing up of Lincoln Park. Only the Old Town Triangle Association was left intact in this map, with the exception of the coop at North and N. North Park avenues.

The map adopted by the City Council does put a small portion of the Triangle in the second ward—south of Eugene and West of Hudson.

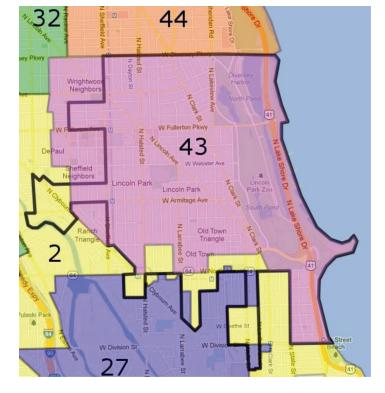
"Unfortunately, we were unable to save the entire Ward, and we are forced to say goodbye to some old friends," Smith wrote in her message to constituents. "I am happy to announce, however, that almost all former 43rd Ward resident will now be in the new 2nd Ward served by Ald. Bob Fioretti. Alderman Fioretti is a fine alderman with a strong reputation for serving constituents.

Smith said that the redistricting of the wards is not immediate. Implementation is expected to take from three months to a year, according to news reports.

In other developments, despite a proposal that LaSalle Language Academy be factored into the overcrowding at neighborhood schools, principally Lincoln Elementary, that will not happen.

"While one possible solution included change LaSalle's status as a magnet school, that option will not be pursued and LaSalle's status remains in place," according to a letter from Chicago Public School Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard to the parents of LaSalle and Lincoln pupils. Brizard pledged to continue working toward a solution to the overcrowding at Lincoln.

Smith said she was pleased with the outcome, and would work toward finding an acceptable solution to the overcrowding. au



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Old Town Triangle Times

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRIANGLE

# PHILIP GRAFF RECOUNTS THE PAST YEAR AND PROMISES TO STAY INVOLVED

#### Dear Association Membership:

What a year. Who could/would have predicted the bizarre twists and turns we experienced riding the rails of the 2011 Old Town Triangle Association roller coaster which so severely disrupted the Board?

Make no mistake: as an organization, we have suffered a trauma. Every OTTA director and officer who sat on the Board after last years general election has either resigned before the expiration of their term on the Board or (as in my case) decided against running for re-election. It is a shame but the shrill relentless voices of a few, lobbing unfounded accusations impugning the integrity of well-meaning volunteer Board members, took a breathtaking toll.



Especially for this reason, I want and need

to express my gratitude to all of the staff and Board members with whom I have had the honor to serve and pleasure to know over past the six years. Through their considerable efforts we have done well and we have done good.

Despite last year's noise, I am proud to tell you that we have accomplished a lot.

#### In 2011 alone we:

• Launched a wildly successful membership perk: "I Buy Old Town", or the iBot program, offering members and merchants value: discounts to members and customer loyalty to merchants.

• Ramped up programming in new directions hosting nationally recognized writers e.g. NPR's Scott Simon, Thelma Reyna, Judith Martin (aka Miss Manners) and her daughter, Bina Martin who teaches at Second City, as well as MacArthur recipient, Stuart Dybek, who did a reading and spoke to a packed house just this month.

• Purchased a large screen television, that has already been used by our art gallery, to show movies to Triangle small fry, and (just last week) at our first in what we hope is a series of movie nights. Special thanks to Monika Betts, Mitch Cobey and Milos Stehlik of Facets Multimedia for helping us get this off the ground.

• Replaced the tile floors at the Triangle Center.

• We have sold out the first-ever (again, in what we hope will be of a series of) Old Town Triangle doggie calendars.

• The Historic District Committee hosted an architectural boat tour, led by the Triangle's own Diane Gonzalez, following by a mini Octoberfest of beer and brats.

• We had our first ever Shred and Shed event of community catharsis where neighbors unloaded old records and personal papers; watching as a truck-sized shredder destroyed them - kind of a modern day bonfire. Neighbors cleaned their closets in a community-wide yard sale. Much of what was not purchased was donated to the Salvation Army. At the end of the day we filled an entire large Salvation Army truck. Despite the rainy, cold weather, association members declared it a success and we are planning a repeat event tentatively in July.• And then of course, there was the jewel in our crown, the Annual Old Town Art Fair; despite foul weather on Saturday, declared a huge success by exhibiting artists. The First Sight event was well attended as was the volunteer party.

• At the end of the day (year), I would think most would consider this a success despite the obstacles. We have increased our voting membership by 93 (or 26%) and set the stage for even further growth in programming and membership in the coming year.

On Sunday, December 11th I announced that I would not seek re-election as the OTTA Nominating Committee's slated candidate for Old Town Triangle Association's President. At the same time, Dan Barson also declined to run as the Association's Secretary, and Jacqui Thames announced her intention to resign from the Board a year before the end of her term.

While there is no contention between Vi and me; I couldn't see any possibility of conducting a competitive campaign without risking revisiting the acrimony which I had hoped we had put behind us. I sincerely wish Vi and the OTTA well and I intend to offer my support and remain involved, continuing to serve on the various committees and look forward to helping Debbie Day and John Knoche put together one "Kick Ass" Art Fair. (our life blood, after all.)

It has been my honor to have served on the Old Town Triangle Association's Board of Directors for 6 tremendously rewarding years: three as a director, two as Vice President, and this past year as its President. Thank you all for affording me the privilege of getting involved and learning about so many facets of this gem of a neighborhood in which we are so fortunate to live. I have been enriched in more ways than I can easily express. I applaud each and every board member with whom I've shared this experience and am humbled by the efforts and contributions that all of you: neighbors, friends, and colleagues have made in pursuit of the OTTA mission namely to enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Phil Graff

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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

#### TREE SURVEY DONE FOR THE NIC TREE PROJECT

In November, Charlie Miller of Care of Trees completed his survey of trees commissioned by the Neighborhood Improvement Committee (NIC) as part of their proposed comprehensive strategy to maintain and improve the trees in the Old Town Triangle.

Included in the survey were Ogden Park, Lincoln Mall, Wisconsin/Sedgwick Park, and the pocket parts at Menomonee and Willow streets.

Miller tagged the Triangle's 939 trees in order of needs, with 4 being no apparent problem, and 1 having extreme problems, and should be considered for removal. Trees with the 2 label should be considered for pruning or treatment to reduce risk.

Among Miller's concerns were the 25 ash trees in the Triangle, which were treated in 2010 by the city to prevent the spread of ash borer, of those 22 are in poor conditions and are not recommended for treatment. He said it is difficult to tell about the other three ash trees, because the ash borer is sometimes not visible for several years, and when it becomes evident sometimes it is in a critical state.

Now that Miller's survey is completed, members of the NIC committee will present a recommendation and strategy to the board of directors for approval to improve trees in the Triangle.

In other NIC news of interest to the neighborhood, NIC Member Karen Pfendler continues to work on improving the system of servicing the Triangle trash cans. Besides changing companies to obtain a lower rate, she has been monitoring the cans on a daily basis.

Problematic was the trash can on Wells in front of Chase Bank, which was offered the opportunity to retain the can if they serviced it themselves, as was the management company for the condos. Both could not adequately service the can, and the Triangle stood in jeopardy of being fined by the city, and the can was removed. The committee had been in advised of the steps to be taken, and registered no objection.

Shannon Cecola, "The Brick Chick," says the brick program has been suspended for the season. To date, 70 homes have participated with more on the docket when the season begins again.

NIC will begin meeting in February.

#### 43RD WARD OFFICE, 2523 N. HALSTED

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday Tuesday – Thursday Friday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. 773-348-9500

yourvoice@ward43.org

#### **EMAIL:**

CONTACT:

To sign up for the Alderman's newsletter go to: <u>Ward43.org</u> In the upper right hand corner is a place to sign up for Alderman Smith's newsletter.



### OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ARTIST MARY GEHR'S INTAGLIO WORK MAKES UP THE CURRENT SHOW AT THE OTTA CENTER

In a way, Mary Gehr who died in 1997 at the age of 87, has come home to the Old Town Triangle neighborhood she called home for 40 years.

Her works will be displayed until March 2, with a reception to celebrate what would have been her 102nd birthday from 2-5 p.m. on Feb. 12, at the Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Ave. Gehr and her husband Bert Ray were among the founding artists of the Old Town Art Fair, as they exhibited their art work along with her neighbors on their front fences and yards.

She preferred to work in intaglio, as her current show illustrates, but she was also accomplished in oils and acrylics. She had more than 50 solo exhibitions at galleries and art museums around the world.

She attended Smith College, and studied painting with Paul Weighardt at the Art Institute of Chicago and its summer school at Saugatuck, MI. She also studied etching at the Illinois Institute of Technology with Misch Kohn.

Not only was she a printmaker and book illustrator of more than 30 books for children, she was a former dancer and had a featured role in the original "Frankie and Johnnie," choreographed by Ruth Page.

A world traveler, Gehr drew her paintings from these travels in a series of sketchbooks now in the Newberry Library's permanent collection.

Mary Gehr's artwork is in several other permanent collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Library of Congress, the Philadelphia Museum and the University of Illinois at Chicago, Special Collections Library.

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#### LASALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY RECEIVES OTTA ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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#### By Bridget Veitch

LaSalle Language Teacher

One of the things that really makes LaSalle Language Academy unique is the Overseas Exchange Program, which gives eligible students the opportunity to put into practice the world language skills they have learned from Kindergarten to 7th or 8th grade.

The LaSalle travel programs were initiated in 1979 and have allowed more than a 1,000 students to travel to Spain, Italy, France, Germany, and China, and to welcome their exchange partners back to Chicago. When students travel they stay with families and are immersed in the language and culture of the country. LaSalle teachers organize the trips and the hosting, assisted by parent volunteers. This allows us to keep the price down so that families only have to pay for the travel portion of the trip. Friends of LaSalle (the school PTA) ensures that financial assistance is available for students in need.

OTTA partnered with LaSalle language Academy this year to provide for the first time a number of academic travel scholarships to support students who have demonstrated excellence in their world language studies.

A rubric was developed to rank all students who plan to travel to Italy, France or Spain in 2012. Categories included such criteria as enthusiasm for speaking in the target language, participation, quality of assignments, regular completion of independent world language study using RosettaStone or other online resources, current grades, and citizenship.

The following students achieved the highest scores in the rubric and were selected as the recipients of the Old Town Triangle Academic Scholarship Award:



Catherine Conley\* (French) Caitlin Kirchberg (Italian) **Ulana Coutts (Spanish)** 

Sarah Moresi (French) Thomas McKeon (Italian) Billy Lynn\* (Spanish)

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\*students residing in the Old Town Triangle area

Principal, Elisabeth Heurtefeu, the World Language Department and the six well-deserving students would like to thank the Old Town Triangle Association for supporting the Overseas Exchange Program and encouraging all students to strive for excellence.

**NEW CLASSES OFFERED AT THE OLD TOWN TRIANGLE: PHOTOSHOP AND FRENCH** 

For the first time, classes in Photoshop and conversational French will be offered at the Old Town Triangle Center.

Bob Dowey, who is best known for his wonderful pictures of the Old Town Art Fair, will teach a five-week, 11/2 hour class in Photoshop. Students should bring their own laptops as Bob shows those in the class to expertly navigate this useful tool.

The cost will be \$125 for the session, which will start Thursday, Feb. 23, and run through March 29, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Kim Hitchcock will teach a 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour class in French 101, which will emphasize conversational French, and grammar. The cost for this class is \$180 for eight weeks. The French class will be from 6:30-8 p.m., beginning Feb. 2 through March 22.

Both instructors will collect their own fees, and take reservations.

To contact them, email: Photoshop@OldTownTriangle.com, and French@OldTownTriangle.com.

For information on other classes at the Old Town Triangle, T see the website at www.oldtowntriangle.com.



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JEFF SMITH, First Vice-President DEBBIE DAY, Second Vice-President JOHN KNOCHE, Secretary/Treasurer

### **OLD TOWN TRIANGLE VOTES TO INCREASE FEES**

#### BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

At the December Board Meeting Treasurer John Knoche moved to increase membership fees by about 25 percent in all categories. The move had been discussed several times during previous meetings.

The new rates, effectively immediately:

#### **Types of Membership:**

1 yr. Individual \$25	1 yr. Family \$40	
1 yr. Senior \$20	3 yr. Senior \$50	
3 yr. Individual \$65	3 yr. Family \$95	
1 yr. Senior Family \$30	3 yr. Senior Family \$80	
Individual Life \$300	Family Life \$450	
1 yr. Business/Condo Assoc/ Not for Profit \$65		

President Graff suspended the meeting, to allow Chasse Rehwinkel to discuss the requested parking time change in the Triangle. Board Director Jacqui Thams has proposed that the times change throughout the Triangle—to discourage those who

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

park in the Triangle and then take public transportation downtown. Changing the current times of 6 p.m. until 12-midnight to 6 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. would benefit people who reside in the neighborhood, and those who patronize Triangle area businesses.

Rehwinkel said that he would send the proposal to the Transportation Department for feedback, rather than go through hoops if the department will not approve. He said he does know that the department would oppose 24-hour bans. He also said he did not expect an immediate response. Because it is a large area there may be problems with an area-wide ban because of streets such as Sedgwick, which is a bus route, he said.

Director Alan Lougee said he was concerned about the teachers and parents at LaSalle School and that their ability to park may be harmed. Everyone has to deal with parking, said Thams, who added that she did not see why the LaSalle people are entitled to neighborhood parking.

On another matter, says that despite other information, pothole maintenance will continue throughout the winter. As to the pothole on LPW, he said there are other complications because it is a sewer collapse, which is not as easy to repair.

As the Year of the Dragon begins bringing vitality and enthusiasm, come join us at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in exploring universal truths as a way to embrace an ever-changing world and develop our connection to others.

#### **BUDDHISM 101**

#### Rev. Ron Miyamura, sensei

An introduction to general Buddhism and Shin Buddhism. Any student of Buddhism should come with a "beginner's mind" so that

we can all learn and experience the profound Teaching of the Buddha.

\$10 non-members / \$5 members Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 pm Jan 25, Feb 1

### **EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING:** A MINDFUL PERSPECTIVE

#### Dr. Manuel Silverman, clinical psychologist

In this 6 week workshop, we will explore current aspects of modern psychotherapy with

the use of mindfulness and the Dharma wheel. Using a Decision Therapy model as a guide, we will explore and implement a decision making process that works. We will all gain in selfawareness and those elements in each of us that makes up our own unique personal style of decision making. Continued practice of the principles of this workshop will assist individuals in the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle and active, productive decision making.

\$10 per class non-members / \$5 per class members Thursdays, 12 - 2 pm Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23

### Am I listening? Dharma-listening as a Path to Awakening



Photo credit: Athitha Kongsup

The need to control, fix and/or "keep busy" can fill one's life with anxiety. Learning to listen receptively can relax the urge to fidget and ease one's discomfort with stillness, uncovering a natural state of gratitude.

Weekly sessions will include general guidelines for and direct experience with receptive listening and gratitude expression following Shin Buddhist traditions. Come listen to the Dharma (teachings or universal truths) and cultivate receptivity in the same way warm weather and water soften winter-hardened soil.

#### First class free

\$10 per class non-members / \$5 per class members Thursdays, 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

# For more information or to sign up for classes, contact Jesse Zavala

Midwest Buddhist Temple 435 West Menomonee Street 312-943-7801 office@midwestbuddhisttemple.org

www.oldtowntriangle.com



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# MENOMONEE CLUB JUDO NEWS

### JUDO FOR WOMEN BEING OFFERED THIS WINTER

In conjunction with the Menomonee Club, Sensi Brett Wolf will be teaching an eight class course tailored to women. The class will be Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8 p.m., Jan. 23 and 30; and Feb. 6, 13 and 27; and March 5, 12 and 19 at the Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Ave.

The cost is \$100 for the eight-class session.

The goal is to introduce judo to women of all ages and levels of experience, according to Wolf, and will enable participants to develop confidence through core strength building, muscle condition and enhancement of mental focus.

To take the session, register directly through the Menomonee Club at www.menomoneeclub. org. Registration has already begun.

For additional information contact Wolf at 773-230-6070.

### **VISUALLY IMPAIRED ATHLETE BRINGS HOME** THE GOLD AND THE SILVER

In other judo developments at the Triangle, Howard Wilson who trains with Wolf took gold in the visually impaired men's heavyweight division and silver in the men's masters - 220-pound division at the 11th Annual Denver Classic.

Wilson participated in a four-day camp for elite visually impaired Judoka (Judo Player) held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

"It was a good experience and I learned quite a bit, but I've still got lots of room to improve," said the 47-year-

old Wilson, who started Judo training less than a year ago.

Organizations like World Sport Chicago, the Chicago Park District, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools and the Menomonee Judo Club have come together to create these fantastic opportunities for our athletes," explained Wolf, who is certified to train the disabled.

"Howard is an inspiration to us all. He takes his training and tournament preparation very seriously. I wish I had 50 more players just like him." T

# WE WANT YOU! JOIN US!

#### The Old Town Triangle is launching an intense membership drive. We want you!

The Old Town Triangle Association invites you to join one of the most unique communities in Chicago. North of North Avenue, West of Clark and East of the former Ogden Avenue, The Old Town Triangle is one of the most celebrated Chicago neighborhoods.

Nestled inside its boundaries is a Historical Landmark District, where residents proudly retain the architectural standards dedicated to preserving the unique features of this small community, rebuilt up after the Great Chicago Fire. Only St. Michael's church's exterior survived, as wave after wave of residents built many current structures unique to the area.

It is this close-knit, but open community, we urge you to join and share in a classic Chicago living experience.

Besides the wonderful programming that makes up the core of the Old Town Triangle Association — the Art Gallery and classes the health and fitness classes, during the next year the Triangle is expanding programming to meet the needs of association members.

Please join us on line, or send in this application to: Old Town Triangle Association, 1763 N. North Park Ave., Chicago, IL. 60614

□ My check is enclosed made payable to the <b>Old Town Triangle Association</b>		<b>Types of Membership</b> (please check one)
Charge my VISA/MasterCard (ple	case complete all lines below)	□ 1 yr Individual\$25
Account number		□ 3 yr Individual\$65
Expiration date	Amount authorized	□ Individual Life\$300
Signature		1 yr Family\$40
Name as shown on card		3 yr Family\$95
Name		□ Family Life\$450
Address		□ 1 yr Senior\$20
City	State Zip	□ 3 yr Senior\$50
Home Phone	Work Phone	□ 1 yr Senior Family\$30
E-mail Address	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	□ 3 yr Senior Family\$80
12 muit / Mui (000		□ 1 yr Business/Condo Association/

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Volunteer opportunities available. Please let us know your interest!





1763 N. North Park Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60614



January 13 – March 2, 2012 **INTAGLIO PRINTS: MARY GEHR** 

# **EVENTS**

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We've been busy, the last few months of the year, and the beginning of this year...



In November, we had our first Turkeyless Potluck, which was a big hit, and we welcomed Miss Manners, fed our new member contest winners a sumptuous... cooked by our own hands...





In January, we welcomed another world-class author, and hosted our first movie night, and began preparations in earnest for the 2012 Old Town Art Fair...

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In December

we celebrated

the holidays,

and sold our first ever doggie

calendar, now sold out!...

And the year has just started...