



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RICK RAUSCH

As I am writing this, I am returning from a short Mother's Day trip to Florida where my wife and I met our daughter, her husband, and her three-year-old and one-year-old children. It was a great trip, but the grandparents were exhausted after five days of helping to manage two small children. Many times during the trip I thought of the title of Hillary Clinton's book, "It Takes a Village." It really did take four adults to manage these two small ones for five days.

When I think of the final preparations for this year's Art Fair, I also think of Hillary's book, because it does "take a village" to put on this Fair. Last year, we printed 619 volunteer badges, and I expect the demand for volunteers this year to be equal to that number or greater. We are fortunate because many more individuals than our Old Town Triangle Association members volunteer to make this event a success. Most of our volunteers do it to help out, but also because they enjoy being part of this fun-filled popular event. June is the start of summer, but for many it is also the time of year to help out at the Old Town Art Fair.

We all know that the Art Fair is one of the defining events in our neighborhood because of the quality of the event. It also defines our neighborhood because it is so successful and generates most of our revenue each year. What would the Old Town Triangle Association be like if we could not afford to support and maintain our Old Town Triangle Center at 1765 N. North Park? What would OTTA be like if we could not invest \$50,000 that is generated from the Fair back into our parks, planting trees and repairing bricks and other areas in the Triangle? And what would our neighborhood be like if we could not use \$40,000 of the Fair's profit to support our local schools and other nonprofit organizations, as well as many other events and projects? The success of this event is felt all over our neighborhood and beyond.

If you are reading this before the Fair and have not yet volunteered, please call the Old Town Triangle Center and ask how you can help. A successful Fair creates a successful future for this neighborhood. Remember, it really does "take a village" to put on this Fair. I hope you will be part of that village this year. 🌻

Best Regards,
Rick Rausch, President

**Get Involved.
Be a volunteer.**



A Warm & Hearty Welcome

To all the Fine Artists participating in the 66th Annual Old Town Art Fair, Chicago's original art fair. THANK YOU for helping to make this one of the best art fairs in the United States!



OTAF NEWS: The 66th Annual OTAF Countdown Begins! | By Linda Saindon (Triangle resident since 2013)

In just a short time, the 66th Annual Old Town Art Fair will be here, so mark your calendars for June 13-14 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. This year's fair will be better than ever, and once again our jury has done an outstanding job of choosing the 250 artists who will be exhibiting, including 100 new entrants...

In addition to all the wonderful art, Fair patrons will be able to enjoy music, food, beverages, and other activities around the neighborhood. Below are some highlights and reminders.

ENTRY TO THE FAIR

The main gate is at the intersection of Lincoln and Wisconsin. There is a \$7 suggested donation per person, with free admission for children under 12.

GARDEN WALK

Over 50 gardens will be on glorious display during this year's Garden Walk! You'll find a map with all the locations when you pick up your program book at the gates.

(Continued on page 2)

MUSIC | The musical line-up this year includes some new acts as well as returning favorites!

MAIN STAGE Lincoln at Wisconsin

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

- 11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Donna Herula & Tony Nardiello**
- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Juli Wood & Alejandro Urzagaste**
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Sam Fazio Trio**

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- 11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Harris Family Band**
- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Jack Cassidy & SYMBIA**
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm **The Messengers**

FOOD COURT North Park at Menomonee

- Saturday & Sunday 10:30am - 6pm
Brad Cole & Friends

MENOMONEE & WELLS STAGE

- Saturday & Sunday 10:30am - 6pm
Vibhas P. A. Kendzia

LINCOLN PARK WEST STAGE

- Saturday & Sunday 10:30am - 6pm
Classical Oasis
We'll See you at the Art Fair!

OTAF NEWS: The 66th Annual OTAF Countdown Begins! | (Continued from page 1)

FOOD

Phil Stefani's Restaurant Group and several area restaurants will again be providing the food service at this year's fair. Check out the Food Court for Adobo Grill, Billy Goat Tavern, DaLobsta, Marian's Sweet Tooth, Ranalli's, Stefani's, Applelicious, and Kim & Scott's Crave Bars.

WINE TASTING

New this year will be a wine tasting (for those over 21), compliments of Cupcake Vineyards.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

We have our friends from Menomonee Club handling activities at the Children's Corner including art and fun for kids of all ages.

FIRST SIGHT

Our First Sight Gala will take place on Sunday, June 7 starting at 6:30 pm at Perennial Virant. Summer appetizers and beverages will be on the menu, as well as live and silent auctions for art and other merchandise. New this year is a raffle. If tickets are still available, you can find them online at <http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/old-town-art-fair/first-sight/>.

LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering, we still need volunteers for multiple shifts at the gates, as well as a few other areas. And new this year, we'll be having a fun "Gates" training session for all gate volunteers, with training compliments of our friends at Second City. The training will take place on May 27 at Ranalli's on Lincoln starting at 6:15 pm sharp. Beverages and appetizers will also be served. You must be signed up as a volunteer to attend. For more information and to volunteer, please email volunteers@oldtowntriangle.com.

DURING THE FAIR, PARK ELSEWHERE

Parking restrictions will be in effect beginning Saturday morning at 5:30 am sharp. Avoid those tow fees and during the Fair, park elsewhere in the neighborhood!

You can also find more information as well as any updates at the Triangle website, www.oldtowntriangle.com.

🌸 🌻 *We'll see you at the Art Fair!* 🌻 🌸

COMMITTEE NEWS | First Sight Committee | By Dee DeCarlo, Chairperson (Old Town Triangle resident since 1980)



What better way to kick-off this year's Old Town Art Fair than with a fantastic event right in Old Town at Perennial Virant Restaurant on Sunday, June 7th from 6:30 – 10:00pm?



This year's event will include Live and Silent Auctions featuring artworks from the 2015 Old Town Art Fair, a week in a lovely Florida beach condo plus round trip tickets on Southwest Airlines, a 2-night stay at The

Drake Hotel, a private Art Institute Tour, a \$1,000 gift card at Walter E. Smythe Furniture, a gift card from Handle With Care, and a ceramic mask from Peter Vale Gallery.

If it is entertainment you want to bid on, there are tickets to Steppenwolf, The Second City, plus box seats for the Cubs. Add to that VIP reservations at Gibsons Steakhouse, Stefani's, Vinci, J Parker and more.

This year there will be a raffle (\$10 per ticket or 3/\$25) where you could win massages, facials, salon services, gift baskets with spice, olive oil and other delicious goodies.



The food will be from the Perennial's Chef's Selection of canapés and seasonal Delights and the wines from Ninety+ Cellars. Of course, there will be a live jazz trio to add to the evening.



It will be quite a night and you won't want to miss it. Tickets are \$125 and space is limited. Purchase tickets at the Triangle Center or visit www.oldtowntriangle.com/old-town-art-fair/first-sight

CALL TO ACTION | By Phil Graff (Triangle resident since 1985)

This time we are calling for your submission. The Old Town Triangle Association has a voracious appetite for photographic content. We use your photos in this newsletter, on our website, our Facebook page (visit and like us, please), and in various hard copy and online communications. After all, we are living in one of Chicago's most vibrant and happening neighborhoods. There is so much going on here - and we need your help documenting it.

So submit! Submit your photos. Most immediately, we are looking for photos of the neighborhood and its folks, photos of the upcoming (or past if you have them) Art Fair, First Sight Gala, and Volunteer Thank You Party. We are looking for pictures from the Children's Corner and Music Stage, pictures of our gardens and parks, our dogs and our

doorways. We are looking for images that help tell the story of the lives we are living now in this historic Triangle and we are looking for images that commemorate our august past.

"How can I get my images over to you" do you ask? It's a snap...Just snap and then submit your full resolution pictures attached to an email addressed to pics@oldtowntriangle.com which will forward to Leslie in the OTTA office and to the Old Town Times Newsletter editors. It would be incredibly helpful if, in the body of your email, you give us captions for the shots, identifying "what", "when", "where", and "who" as best you can.



So that's this issue's Call to Action: Snap and Submit! Thanks! 🌻

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT ON LIZ CASSIDY | By Diane Gonzalez (Triangle resident since 1974)



Paul & Liz Cassidy

Liz Mercurio Cassidy's deep-seated roots on Hudson Street and in St. Michael's Church can't be matched by many current Triangle residents. Liz has been in her two-flat at 1639 N. Hudson since age six. Of Italian heritage, Liz's parents bought their Hudson house in 1947. Liz attended St. Michael's Grammar School across the street and went on to St. Michael's High School, where Liz was too modest to mention that she had no less than 14 awards and activities, listed in the 1959 yearbook.

Liz attended DePaul University for two years before heading to work at Underwriters Laboratory where she met her husband, Paul Cassidy, a South-side Irish-Polish fellow. In 1973 they married at Assumption Church because St. Michael's wouldn't allow them to wed on Sunday morning. Since Assumption Parish and Liz were Italian connected, the church agreed to a 9:00 am Sunday wedding, but afterwards, it was back to St. Michael's.

While her parents and brother lived on the first floor, newlyweds Liz & Paul made their home upstairs where they raised their son George. Today, Liz & Paul live on the first floor. Liz said the neighborhood has changed, yet in some ways it has remained the same. She recalls that in her youth, more children resided on her block of mostly two-flats. The families included Italians, Germans, Irish, and Greeks. Liz's home was near the fire station, located south on the block, with St. Michael's across the street. Between fire engine sirens and church bells, Hudson got pretty noisy at times. On Hudson after dinner, people gathered, children played on the street and in the alleys while their mothers chatted on the porches.

When shopping for complete Italian fare, her family went to Little Italy where Liz recalled a grocery store that sold live snails. She remembers one time when the snails escaped their basket and crawled up the store walls.

Weekdays, Liz's dad arrived home late from his produce house on 14th Street, so the family typically ate together only on weekends. Liz's father sold vegetables. As a distributor, he stocked cases of garlic. Liz reflects about her Uncle Phil, employed by her dad, who would step on garlic that had rolled out onto the floor. Wearing his wedge-soled shoes, he'd head to the bus after work. Those garlic-infused shoes always guaranteed him a seat! Some Sundays, Liz's dad took her and her brother to his business. Liz recalls that the merchant next to her father cooked sauerkraut. Aptly nicknamed the "Aromatic Place," the produce market had a lower level dubbed "Banana Basement" where bananas were sold.

Other Sundays, while her mother cooked dinner, Liz, her brother, and dad headed to nearby Sieben's Bier Stube. In the beer garden, her dad sipped real beer while the kids enjoyed root beer. They had the best sandwiches, a beautiful wall of stained glass windows, and waiters who wore long white aprons, each carrying twelve mugs.

Occasionally, Sundays were spent at Lincoln Park Zoo. At that time you could bring a bag of peanuts to feed the animals. One Sunday, the gorilla named Bushman got out of his cage. Liz and her family stayed in their car!

Liz likes lots of things about Old Town, including the camaraderie of its families. When urban renewal came, neighbors supported the landmark status partially out of fear that Old Town would become a Sandburg Village. Liz recalls a circulating petition to save Old Town.

Today, Hudson has more single family homes with fewer children. St. Michael's lost its schools, but kept its congregation. Currently Liz heads the Prime Timers group at St. Michael's, and ushers on Sundays when Paul is a Eucharistic minister. After church you will likely see the couple heading down the block to their much-loved home. 🌻



CALL TO ACTION

Become a Member of the Old Town Triangle Association

Join OTTA today and become part of the neighborhood organization that makes the Triangle such a great place to live, work and visit. Make new friends! Being part of the OTTA brings us together as a community and provides a common thread of shared experiences that is unique in Chicago.

Support the preservation of one of Chicago's historic districts while enjoying community spirit, safety, neighborhood improvements and our neighborhood loyalty discount program, iBOT (I Buy Old Town). OTTA gives back to community organizations and institutions with charitable grants. Membership is open to everyone, including property owners, former property owners, renters, businesses, friends of the Old Town Art Fair and visitors.

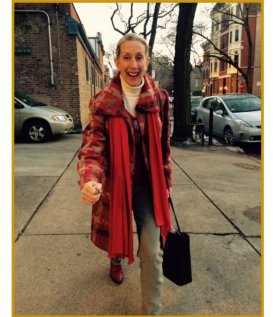
Memberships start at \$20/year. Join Today! Pick up a Membership Application at the Triangle Center or visit www.oldtowntriangle.com/get-involved/otta-membership.

Voting rights are reserved for members living within the boundaries of Chicago's historic Triangle. The Old Town Triangle Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 in the State of Illinois. Members receive 6 issues/year of the OTTA Newsletter THE TIMES, discounts on Art Center classes, member-only discounts from participating merchants of iBOT (I Buy Old Town), invitations to and member-pricing for OTTA events & activities.

(Left Photo) The 1600 block of N. Hudson had a Chicago Fire Station on the east side of the street, close to North Avenue. Here, in 1949, firemen conduct a "run out" (practice). This view looks north, with St. Michael's High School on the left and familiar houses on the right, including the Cassidy's and Milito's homes. Photo from Ken Little Archives. Photographer: Wade Hansen, 1949. **(Right Photo)** St. Michael's High School, directly across from Liz Cassidy's home at 1639 N. Hudson. Firemen testing their aerial ladder. Photo from Ken Little Archives. Photographer: Wade Hansen, 1949.



(Left to Right) Spring means neighborhood clean-up day organized by Alex Shibicky (2nd from left) of the NIC. Barbara and Leslie with the 2015 OTAF poster. Anetta, Agatha, Beata cleaning up Sedgwick. Thanks to Elaine's Coffee Call, Starbucks, Catering/Chocolate, Do-Rite Donuts, Dunkin Donuts for providing breakfast.



(Left to Right) Jemmie Dolan enjoying her newly created bling. Green City Market. The crab apple trees are in bloom throughout the Triangle in early May. Diane Fitzgerald, co-editor of The Old Town Triangle Times, off to a committee meeting.



(Left to Right) The Events Committee provides fun activities such as a Night of Bellinis and Bling. December came again with mild temperatures and a lack of snow. Honoring a favorite past time at one of the Old Town Art Center's classes. Nicki Herbst with Ben, Frankie and Jack admiring the tulips in front of Green.



(Left to Right) Board Member Anne Giffels and President Rick Rausch. Neighbors helping neighbors during the February blizzard. Another full house at the first of two Aldermanic Candidates Nights. Patti Engstrom and Bill Evans at the Annual Dinner and Meeting in January.



(Left to Right) The 2nd Ward at the January forum. The new OTTA Board: Top Left: Diane Gonzalez, Anne Giffels, Dee DeCarlo, David Pfendler, Robert Jones, Leslie Wolfe (Director of Arts and Operations). Bottom Left: Chris Nelson, Rick Rausch, Karl Hjerpe, Claire Leaman. A sure sign of spring – Opening day at Green City Market!

GRANTS AWARDS SPOTLIGHT | Franklin Fine Arts Center

By Diane Sokolofski (Triangle resident in 1969-1970 and since 2006)

Franklin Fine Arts Center, a Chicago Public Magnet School, celebrated its new stage with the annual "Big Show," featuring Franklin's music students performing April 23rd and 24th. "We could not have done it without the help and support of the Old Town Triangle Grant Program! The students, parents, faculty, and staff at Franklin are truly grateful for the Old Town Triangle neighbors' generosity," said Mathew Lombardo, Assistant Principal.

Franklin, located at 225 West Evergreen Avenue, is the official adopted school of the Old Town Merchants and Residents Organization. Students from all over the City enter a lottery in the hopes of going to Franklin where fine and performing arts are integrated into the educational program. Franklin's greatest need was to upgrade the performance space. The auditorium is used as a lunchroom due to limited space in the building. "The hand-made wooden stage was beginning to splinter, break, peel, and crumble, creating a dangerous performance space for the students. It was literally duct-taped together and painted over after each of three annual performances" said Lombardo. It needed to be dismantled and discarded and replaced with a new structurally compliant, safe, and aesthetically pleasing performance

platform. The Old Town Triangle Grant money spearheaded the project and motivated vested partners to fund and complete the upgrade. Also, the grant helped utilize Franklin's partnerships with Bailiwick and Steppenwolf theatre companies to consult on design aspects of the stage construction and the professional development of stage usage and etiquette for all students and staff members.

The new construction followed the footprint of the old stage but with vast improvements. The new surface is hardwood flooring instead of plywood. The structure is made of steel supports with fireproof drywall replacing the two-by-fours. The new stage is symmetrical, with portable staircases replacing the old odd shaped stage with an awkward ramp. Safety railings were added along the sides. The front of the stage is now closed off and finished, no longer allowing the audience to see underneath the stage. The existing curtain was steam-cleaned to remove all the dust, debris, and wrinkles, and looks brand new.

Franklin is the fifth oldest school in Chicago. The actual building that exists today was built in 1979 and named Franklin Fine Arts Center, for the sole purpose of integration and commitment to the arts. For almost 30 years, students have explored, created,



Franklin Fine Arts Center renovated stage, funded, in part, by a \$5,000 grant from the OTTA.

and developed their artistic talents from kindergarten through eighth grade. Franklin's challenging educational program encourages students to work collaboratively, focusing on individual learning styles, developing life and social skills, and promoting respectful behavior towards peers and adults. Artistically, Franklin students have become working actors, scene designers, visual artists, graphic designers, singers, dance teachers, and film directors. More than 80 percent of the students have gone on to college.

The Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA) gives back to the community each year by awarding a number of grants to schools and non-profit organizations. The Old Town Art Fair (OTAF) net proceeds fund the grants, which are presented each year at the OTAF Thank You Party & Grants Awards Presentations on the first Friday after the OTAF. See a full list of the 2014-2015 Grant Awardees at www.OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.COM. 🌻

COMMUNITY CORNER | Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)

THE GREENHEART SHOP (<http://greenheartshop.org>), located at 1714 N. Wells Street, has its **Special Sale & Samples** at the shop during the Old Town Art Fair on Saturday, June 13th. On Father's Day (Sunday, June 21st), join them for a **Craft Beer & Chocolate Tasting** from 6-8pm. On Saturday and Sunday, July 18th-19th things get serious at the shop when they offer a presentation about **Eradicating Human Trafficking**. Shopping discounts all-day those days. For more information, call Kara Rhodebeck at 312-264-1625.

LINCOLN PARK VILLAGE is at the forefront of "the village movement" in the US. Adults 50+ from all over Chicago's north side neighborhoods have found community, member services, connection, engagement

and fun. Save the date for their **6th Annual Anniversary & Benefit** on Thursday, June 18th. A fantastic evening of theatre with Steppenwolf's Amy Morton and Tim Hopper performing *Love Letters* follows the spectacular silent auction and raffle. For more information, call 773-248-8700 or visit www.lincolnparkvillage.org.

THE SEDGWICK STOP invites neighbors to an informal **Neighbor Night** to mingle and enjoy complimentary tastings on the 3rd Monday of every month from 6-7pm (June 15th, July 20th and August 17th). Visit www.thesedgwickstop.com to learn about their fun summer parties. Open for lunch: 12pm daily, 11am Saturdays & Sundays.



THE MENOMONEE CLUB offers

an abundance of weekly specialty camps that run all summer long. For more information, visit www.menomoneeclub.org/summer-session or call Sara Bosaw at 312-664-4631.

THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM (<http://www.chicagohistory.org/>) presents its **Annual Fourth of July Celebration** on Saturday, July 4th from 10am-12pm. Save the dates of August 7th-8th-9th for the **3rd Annual Chicago Hot Dog Festival**. Both events feature music and are free, outdoor fun for the whole family. For more information, call 312-642-4600.

ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN (www.st-mikes.org/) is hosting **WingOut Chicago** on Saturday & Sunday, June 6th-7th, a tasting of dozens and dozens of the best chicken wings in the City! For tickets, go to www.st-mikes.org/.

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COMMUNITY CORNER | (Continued from page 5)

greencurtainevents.com. Save the date for the **Annual Oktoberfest 5K Run** on Thursday, September 17th...but get involved **NOW** to help with the planning. Contact Toni Dunning at 312-642-2498, ext. 211 or tdunning@st-mikes.org for more information.

The **CHURCH OF THE THREE CROSSES** (<http://www.churchofthethreecrosses.org/>) presents **Grill on the Green**, their food & beverages café & resting place at Orleans and Wisconsin, during the Old Town Art Fair (Saturday & Sunday, June 13th-14th, 11am-5pm). With a delicious menu and enthusiastic volunteers, this is their biggest fundraiser during the year. Save the date for Sunday, June 28th for a **Meditation Retreat** from 1-5pm. For more information, contact Rev. John Hobbs or Erika Colin, Office Manager, at 312-951-7916.

The **MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE** (www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org) is hosting its **Annual Book Sale** during the Old Town Art Fair weekend, Saturday & Sunday, June 13th-14th. Proceeds will benefit the earthquake relief in Nepal.



The Annual Book Sale proceeds will be sent to the Midwest Buddhist Temple's temple in Nepal.

LaSALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY is a magnet school in Old Town near the center of the Triangle and it's *where language learning comes alive!* Its Local

School Council (LSC) just announced the selection of their new principal, Beth Bazer, who will be taking the reins from Elisabeth Heurtefeu in July. Learn more about Ms. Bazer and LaSalle at their website <http://www.lasallechicago.com/>.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL (www.lincolnparkhs.org) As both a neighborhood school with attendance boundaries and a high school with three magnet programs, LPHS students come from 150 elementary schools. The Washington Post named LPHS the most challenging high school



First Place winner A Mother's Work by LPHS student Vicky Tan

in Chicago and 3rd most in Illinois. This is the school's highest ranking ever, based on college-level tests at the school on a per-student basis. Also, 2 students won **Gates Millennium Scholarships** which provide funds for unmet needs and are

renewable up to 10 years! And student **Vicky Tan** was distinguished as the first place winner of the 5th District Congressional Arts Competition for her painting below, *A Mother's Work*, which will be on display in Washington, DC. For more information visit the Friends of Lincoln Park High School website <https://flphs.ejoinme.org/?tabid=667480> or email folphs@gmail.com.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is our neighborhood elementary school. Learn more about Lincoln Elementary School by visiting www.lincoln.cps.k12.il.us.

Get Involved. 🌻 🌸 🌻 🌸

COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE | Chris Nelson, Chairman (Triangle resident since 2005)

With the Old Town Art Fair upon us, it is important to remember to thank all the OTTA members who volunteer all their time to make the OTAF the huge success it is every year.

OTTA membership continues to gain new members – we have 20 new members since January 1, 2015! That is great news, but the Membership Committee knows we can do better. The best recruitment tool we have is you, our current members. I'm sure we all have a neighbor or two who are not members or have not renewed in a while.

Why not invite them to join again? We are working hard to improve our outreach to the community to demonstrate that we are a community organization that reflects the Old Town that we all love. The Art Fair is a great event and a way that we can give back to the community. When the Art Fair is a success, the community benefits by receiving grants from the OTAF to neighborhood schools and organizations.

The Membership Committee is revamping our membership brochure, increasing our presence on social media, and planning

some fun community events. The more we get out there, the more people will see the value of joining the OTTA.

If you have any questions about membership, or would like to find out how you can help the Membership Committee, feel free to contact the OTTA Office and they will put you in touch with me!

Here's to a great Art Fair in 2015! 🌻

MAY

Sunday, May 31st, 2 – 5 p.m.
GALLERY RECEPTION: STUDENT/FACULTY ART SHOW | EXHIBITION: MAY 23ND – JULY 2ND

JUNE

Sunday, June 7th, 6:30 – 10 p.m.
FIRST SIGHT GALA | PERENNIAL VIRANT

Saturday, Sunday June 13th & 14th
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

OLD TOWN ART FAIR

Friday, June 19th, 6 – 10 p.m.
THANK YOU PARTY & GRANTS AWARDS PRESENTATION

Sunday, June 21st
FATHER'S DAY

Monday, June 22nd, 6:30 p.m.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Monday, June 22nd, 6:30 p.m.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JULY

Saturday, July 4th,
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thursday, July 9th, 6:30 p.m.
CAPS

Tuesday, July 14th, 7 p.m.
BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 15th, 7 p.m.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Saturday & Sunday, July 18th-19th
SHEFFIELD MUSIC FESTIVAL & GARDEN WALK

Tuesday, July 21st, 7 p.m.
HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Sunday, July 19th, 12-5 p.m.
DEARBORN GARDEN WALK

Saturday & Sunday, July 25th-26th
TASTE OF LINCOLN AVENUE

Monday, July 27th, 6:30 p.m.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

iBOT Spotlight | Thomas Masters Gallery | By Linda Saindon (Triangle resident since 2013)



Gallery owner and artist, Thomas Masters

Mastering the Fine Art of Customer Service: Thomas Masters Gallery

Chances are, as an Old Town Triangle resident you've walked or driven by the Thomas Masters Gallery at 245 West North Avenue tens - if not hundreds - of times. But have you ever actually stepped inside? This hidden gem is a neighborhood must-see for Triangle fine art collectors and neophytes alike. I recently sat down with the owner, Thomas Masters, who is an artist himself, to chat about the gallery, his formula for success, and to learn what's next.

Commitment Supports Business Growth

Thomas Masters decided to open his gallery in 1993, and found his ideal space at the corner of North Avenue and North Park. He dove in with both feet, signing a 10-year lease at the

outset and cementing his commitment to the neighborhood early on. The business grew steadily without outside backing or funding and Thomas eventually built clientele from around the neighborhood and around the world, including art buyers from America's East and West coasts, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The gallery is truly an international business. According to Thomas: *"Consistency is so important - this lets customers know what to expect and eventually you become known for this. The style of Thomas Masters Gallery is primarily about contemporary painting with a very strong emphasis on international collections. We've built the business this way and found this to be a core component of our success."*

Your Neighborhood Resource for Fine Art

Thomas is as committed to the neighborhood and his patrons today as he was over 20 years ago when he first opened his doors. There are

Openings at the gallery almost monthly, as well as periodic education sessions on topics like "how to buy and invest in art" and "how to curate your own art collection." The current installation is by artist Jonathan Stein and is called "Cyphers" - a stunning collection of quiet, minimalistic abstract paintings. "Cyphers" runs from May 8th to May 29th.

The gallery will host its next show August 21st to September 15th. A very exciting group show called "Babel" will feature a dynamic international collection of artists showcasing a mix of paintings, sculpture, and works on paper. This show debuted in Paris and will make a stop in Chicago before moving on to New Zealand.

Writer's Notes: Special Thomas Masters Gallery Offer: To celebrate this year's Old Town Art Fair, Thomas is offering 15% off a purchase to OTTA members who bring this article to the gallery - valid June 1- June 30, 2015. 🌻

iBOT-I BUY OLD TOWN | Neighborhood Loyalty Discount Program | By Lynn Smith (Triangle resident since 2001)

One of the best things about life in the Old Town Triangle is the wonderful variety of local merchants at our doorsteps. As we all know, in order to keep the neighborhood vibrant and the storefronts filled and bustling, we need to support our local businesses. To make things even more appealing, many of our neighborhood merchants gladly offer generous discounts through the I Buy Old Town (iBOT) neighborhood loyalty discount program. All Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA) members are eligible for iBOT discounts. If you haven't picked up your iBOT card yet, stop by the Old Town Triangle Office to get one. If you haven't become an OTTA member yet - what are you waiting for?

Here is our current list of iBOT merchants. The **new participants** are noted in **BOLD**. Go to www.oldtowntriangle.com and click "Shop" for discount details, special offers, and exclusions.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adelaide | Judy Maxwell Home | Salon Rouge |
| Adobo Grill | Kanela Breakfast Club | Salpicon |
| Catering Chocolate | La Fournette | Sara Jane |
| Cocoa + Co. | Marge's Still | The Second City |
| Corcoran's Grill & Pub | Massage Envy | The Sedgwick Stop |
| Delightful Pastries | Near North Animal | The Spice House |
| Dinotto Pizza e Vino | Nookie's | String A Strand On Wells |
| The Dog Joint | Occhiali Eyeglass | Thomas Masters Gallery |
| Finishing Touches | Old Town Gardens | Tiptre Hardware |
| The Fudge Pot | Old Town Oil | Twin Anchors |
| Galleria Liquors | Old Town Valet Cleaners | The UPS Store |
| Greenheart Shop | Ranalli's | Vision Boutique |
| Hotel Lincoln | Red Orchid Theatre | Zanies Comedy Club |

Editors Note: A special thank you goes to Lynn Smith for her ongoing iBOT Membership solicitation efforts this year. 🌻

HISTORIC DISTRICT / PLANNING & ZONING | Karl Hjerpe, Chairman (Triangle resident since 1996)

A new restaurant is looking to open within the Triangle - a neighborhood French Brasserie called The Blanchard. Featuring a modernist take on classic French cuisine and run by Chef Jason Paskewitz, it will be located on the cul-de-sac at 1935 North Lincoln Park West.

Jason has previously owned two other Lincoln Park restaurants: Gemini Bistro and Rustic House. Hoping to open by summer, he applied for the liquor license in February and is now seeking a permit for an outdoor patio for up to 60 diners. From the plans we reviewed, it will

be a tasteful addition to our dining landscape. Pun intended. Jason presented plans for his restaurant and patio for the HDPZ at our meeting on May 19th at 6pm. Our meetings are open to the public. 🌻

EVENTS COMMITTEE | Anne Giffels, Chairperson (Triangle resident between 1996-2000 and since 2006)

The Events Committee is looking forward to our **5th Annual Old Town Triangle Yard Sale** later this summer. It will soon be time to clean out the closets, basements and garages and sell your extra stuff to the hundreds of visitors walking our beautiful neighborhood that weekend.

Watch for announcements with details sometime after the Art Fair! 🌻

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Anne Giffels, Chairperson

The Communications Committee is behind this great newsletter you are reading now. We are always looking for news and pictures about the Old Town Triangle, so please contact us at info@oldtowntriangle.com if you have something to contribute. Let us know what's happening with you and your neighbors!

Get Involved.

Be a volunteer. 🌻 🌻 🌻 🌻



1763 N. North Park Avenue
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OldTownTriangle

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION IS A COMMUNITY-BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN AN AREA OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO BOUNDED BY NORTH AVENUE, CLARK STREET AND THE GHOST OF OGDEN AVENUE ("THE TRIANGLE").

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact
Leslie Wolfe or Barb Guttmann
during office hours

OFFICERS

RICK RAUSCH, PRESIDENT
ROBERT JONES, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
LINDA SAINDON, OTAF CHAIR,
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Get Involved. Be a volunteer.


JOIN US – JOIN US – JOIN US – JOIN US – JOIN US – JOIN US



Old Town Art Center Gallery

OTAC Student-Faculty Exhibition

Exhibition: May 23 – July 2, 2015 | Reception for the
Artists: Sunday, May 31st 2-5pm

This is the show to kick off the Art Season at the Triangle. We are proud to showcase the work of Roger Bole, Marie Burke, Tom Francesconi, Kathleen Newman, and Didier Nolet and their many students. (the invitation artwork is the 2nd photo for this) 

Old Town Art Fair Events

First Sight Party I Sunday, June 7th | 6:30-10pm
Perennial Virant Restaurant, 1800 N. Lincoln Street (\$125pp)
www.OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.COM/old-town-art-fair/first-sight

The 66th Annual Old Town Art Fair & Garden Walk

Saturday, June 13th | 10am-6pm

Sunday, June 14th | 10am-6pm



OTAF Volunteer Thank You Dinner & Grants Awards Presentation

Friday, June 19th | 6-10pm Outside the Old Town Triangle Center