

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Come out and VOTE at the Annual Meeting on January 27th. Get to know the candidates on the Nominated Slate for the 2022 OTTA Board of Directors.....[Page 1, 2](#)

Check out the Community Safety Committee's important safety summary with tips on how to stay safe and keep our neighborhood safe with recommendations by 18th District Commander Jon Hein.....[Page 3,4](#)

In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of The Great Chicago Fire, learn about the two authentic fire cottages that share the distinction of surviving 150 years in our historic Old Town Triangle neighborhood.....[Page 8,9](#)

Meet Karl Hjerpe, preservation advocate, Air Force pilot veteran, dedicated Triangle volunteer and more[Page 8](#)

Check out Mesa Urbana, our newest iBOT restaurant.....[Page 9](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all...As we look back at 2021, we do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. We did not know what the year would bring, but we were strong and united in our mission to make the Old Town Triangle shine again. And shine it has!

Last January, the Art Fair was only a dream as so many factors had to come together but come together it did. Thanks to Chair Anne Giffels and all the dedicated and hardworking volunteers for their time and patience. The 2021 OTTA Art Fair was one of the first major events to open in Illinois. It kicked off with a VIP ribbon cutting ceremony, garnered the best revenue ever, and had countless happy artists and visitors.

Throughout the year, the Association continued to grow with many new people joining and several former members renewing their memberships. The influx of energy brought a lively Thank You Party, Octoberfest, and a delightful Halloween Parade for the children.

A huge thank you must also go out to Kathy Clark and Eury Chrones who did the near impossible with the Then & Now Fundraiser at the Chicago History Museum. Not only was the attendance and funds raised record breaking, but members and friends had quite a social evening.

We had major progress from all committees this year. The Bylaws were reviewed and revised, HD/PZ continued to monitor and stay involved in any new developments, Neighborhood Improvements worked on reviving the Bricks Program, a new Accessibility Committee was formed, and the Community Safety Committee remained a constant factor in neighborhood safety concerns.



On October 22nd, thanks to Sachi Kubo and Barb Guttmann, there was A Walk with 18th District Commander Hein along with Alderman Smith, Senator Feigenholtz and a large group of concerned neighbors to address safety issues in the Triangle. The group asked the Commander questions and pointed out areas of interest. We are planning to do more to keep our neighborhood safe.

And finally, thanks to an extraordinary Board of committed people, this was a very good year. It truly showed that if we come together, we can achieve great things.

Wishing you all a warm and wonderful holiday season.

Dorothy DeCarlo

Dorothy DeCarlo
president@oldtowntriangle.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2022 OTTA Board of Directors Nominated Slate

Darius Tandon, Chairperson

On October 27, 2021, the Nominating Committee submitted to the OTTA Secretary the list of candidates the Committee slated for the 2022 Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee is an ad hoc committee of 4-5 people, including a current OTTA Board Member, chosen by the Board each year in September with the task of selecting a slate of candidates for Officer and Director positions from OTTA members who express an interest in serving the neighborhood. The slate of candidates is then presented to and approved by the OTTA Membership in an open vote that takes place in January, at the OTTA's Annual Meeting & Dinner. Members interested in opposing the slate and running for a Board position can do so by following the process set forth in the Bylaws on the OTTA website, <https://www.oldtowntriangle.com/about/otta-mission-goals/by-laws/>.

This year there were six open positions. All applicants had a 30-minute in-person interview in which similar questions were asked of all candidates. Once all the interviews were completed, the Committee deliberated on each candidate, taking into consideration a range of factors in selecting the slate, including consideration of previous time served on the Board, skills and expertise needed to help committees function effectively, and an understanding of our neighborhood's history. The Nominating Committee was unanimous in their selection of each of the six candidates.

Nominated Slate for the 2022 OTTA Board of Directors

President: Dee DeCarlo*

Vice-President: Chris Nelson*

Secretary: Marya Lucas

Treasurer: Brad Neuman*

Director: David Montgomery

Director: Alan Lougee

*Indicates serving on 2021 OTTA Board

Continued on page 2



Save The Date

ANNUAL MEETING
AND DINNER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27TH,
6:30 PM AT THE TRIANGLE CENTER

2022 OTTA Board of Directors Nominated Slate



Dee DeCarlo is currently the President of the OTTA and would very much like to lead the Association and continue the significant work that has been done. Dee has strong managerial skills which she developed at ESPN as Director of Marketing and Underwriters Laboratories as international liaison. Her compelling leadership was honed as the first woman president of the Illinois Restaurant Association, Chair of the Museum of Science and Industry's President's Council and Marketing Professor at DePaul University and Loyola University Quinlan School of Business. Mother, mentor, and lifelong runner with boundless energy, she is ideally suited for the role of President of the OTTA. She has served the OTTA as a Director, Events Chair, First Sight Chair and Grants Chair plus worked on any other program that needed her. She would like the opportunity to continue serving the community.



Brad Neuman and his wife, Linda, purchased their home in the Triangle in 2015. Since March, Brad has served as the Treasurer of the OTTA, where he has simplified and updated the chart of accounts to make reports easier to understand and helped draft new Bylaws' provisions to reduce the risk of future litigation. He also worked with the Finance Committee to establish standards for needed cash reserves, freeing up funds to be used for the betterment of the community. Previous service included creating the Old Town Doors calendar to raise funds and photographing and editing all the Old Town posters to create the online collection. Brad brings deep financial expertise as a CPA with a MBA from the University of Chicago, corporate experience as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Homart Development Co., and over 30 years' experience serving on corporate, nonprofit, and governmental boards.



David Montgomery moved to the Triangle in 2017, and he and his family have enjoyed being part of the OTTA ever since. He has been a volunteer at the Old Town Art Fair, serving as a Gate Captain and on the Traffic Committee. This year, he served on the OTTA Bylaws Committee, and he has also assisted the Events Committee. He has been an attorney for over 30 years, working for law firms, the government and in the legal department of a Fortune 500 corporation. Dave believes that an effective Board member is one who listens to the viewpoints of others and keeps in mind the mission of the OTTA: to enhance the quality of life for residents who live in the Triangle. In his spare time, Dave enjoys walking his dogs around the neighborhood and meeting neighbors at Marge's.



Chris Nelson has lived in the Triangle since 2005. He has been actively engaged with the OTTA since 2006 in a variety of roles including Art Fair Gate Captain 2006-2020; Chair, Membership Committee 2015-2020; Chair, Communications Committee 2018-2020; Art Fair Gates Co-Chair 2018-2020; First Sight, 2018-2019 assist with setup and slide show of Artists. His background in marketing and advertising in managerial positions of Vice President and Executive Creative Director have suited him well to assist with the needs of the OTTA. In addition, working with technology and remote work situations has allowed him to assist with the OTTA systems, keeping them up-to-date and current on evolving technologies.



Marya Lucas has lived in Old Town since 2008. Originally from Columbia, Missouri, Marya bounced around the city neighborhoods (living in Rogers Park, Gold Coast, and Lakeview) until she happened upon a ramshackle, yet charming one-bedroom on Hudson Avenue between the Midwest Buddhist Temple and St. Mike's Catholic Church. The spirit of Old Town -- with its history, architecture, art, and personalities -- immediately grabbed her, and she was "home". Marya has been a proud member of the Traffic Committee for the Old Town Art Fair and enjoys helping artists settle into their booths. She looks forward to serving as Secretary for the OTTA, where she hopes to utilize her balanced judgment and strong interpersonal and communication skills for a vibrant community. In her free time, Marya works as an attorney for an Appellate Court judge and photographs her dog, Ferris Beagle.



Alan Lougee has lived in the Old Town Triangle for over 30 years. Previous service on the Board was as a Director and as Vice President. He and his wife, Janet, are strong supporters of the neighborhood and the people who live here. Alan actually met Janet at a Christmas party in the yellow house across from the Triangle Center (a very chance encounter, as neither had been invited). They, along with the entire neighborhood helped to raise their two children, Paul and Lauren. They also have a condo in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Alan recently served 6 years on the Board of The Village Chicago - a wonderful organization that brings together older Chicagoans who remain active, engaged and live longer by "ageing in place". They are active supporters of the Art Fair through the Garden Walk and helping to booth sit when needed.

"On behalf of the OTTA's Board of Directors, I wish to thank Nominating Committee members Maggie Dotts, Liz Traines, Karl Hjerpe, and Janet Lerman-Graff for the time they devoted to this process. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and commitment to our community." – Darius Tandon

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Brad Neuman, Treasurer

The Board approved a revised budget at the September 14th meeting to partially offset an error I made in the budget materials. The budget for Major Projects was reduced from \$50,000 to \$35,000 and Grants were reduced from \$75,000 to \$55,000. There were no changes to the year-end report that was covered in the last newsletter. The organization remains on a very sound financial footing.

Click on the corrected budget link for details:
[revised budget cover letter to members draft v3](#)
[\(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chris Nelson, Chairperson

The Bylaws Committee has completed the work on the Bylaws and has reviewed our proposed edits with legal counsel (Paula Goedert at Barnes & Thornburg, LLP), and the OTTA Board. The previous Bylaws Committee used Ms. Goedert for their review as well and the Committee felt that she had the credentials to review our work again. Ms. Goedert is a Partner at BT LLP and is Chair of the firm's Association and Foundations Group. You can review her credentials on the firm's website: <https://btlaw.com/en/people/paula-goedert>

The Bylaws Committee is sending members a redline version of our Bylaws that shows our proposed edits, along with some comments that provide some context. A link to the redline version of the Bylaws can be found here: [A link to the redline version of the Bylaws can be found here](#)

In accordance with the Bylaws, we sent the proposed Bylaw changes to membership with the intent of approving these changes at the December 14th Board Meeting:

SECTION 1:

AMENDMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Directors at any regular meeting or at any special meeting by a vote of a minimum of 7 members of the Board of Directors voting in accord. If any such amendment is so proposed, notice of such intention to amend by the Board of Directors shall also be provided to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to such regular meeting or special meeting, as applicable. The Board of Directors will provide the notice, at a minimum, by posting an electronic copy of the notice on the Corporation website, posting a hard copy of the notice on the notice board on the exterior of the Corporation office, and sending an electronic notice via email to all Voting Members who have provided their email addresses to the Board of Directors for purposes of receiving Corporation communications.

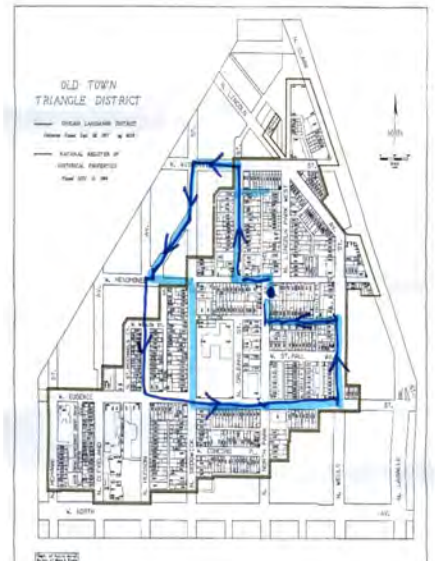
If you have any questions regarding these proposed revisions, please contact us at bylaws@oldtowntriangle.com.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE | Sachi Kubo, Chairperson

The Community Safety Committee has created two subcommittees. Protecting Old Town Triangle Subcommittee focuses to identify alternative options that may reduce the risk of personal injuries and property damages in the community. Community Engagement Subcommittee focuses on promoting public safety through liaison with Aldermanic Offices (2nd and 43rd Wards), CPD 18th District and its CAPS Office, and neighborhood organizations.

Our Walk & Talk with the 18th District Commander Jon Hein and Alderman Michele Smith on October 22nd was a great success. Thank you all for participating in the Walk. Members might have seen this neighborhood safety walk featured on NBC Chicago Evening News and their reporter Vi Nguyen interviewing OTTA President Dee DeCarlo and Jeff Peters, who is leading the Protecting Old Town Triangle Subcommittee. This Walk & Talk was made possible thanks to the partnership between Alderman Smith's office and OTTA.

This is my last report as Community Safety Committee Chair as I retire from the OTTA Board. I wish everyone a safe and festive holiday season.



Our Walk & Talk Map – light blue is where we walked; dark blue is where we planned to walk



Walk & Talk with the 18th District and the 43rd Ward

Continued on page 4

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Here is a summary of the Walk & Talk with 18th District Commander Jon Hein on October 22nd:

- Know your neighbors as knowing them will enable them to recognize when something is wrong, with you or your property. Increase communications with your neighbors.
- Keep your neighborhood clean and orderly.
- Always call -911 if your gut tells you there is a problem.
- Cooperate with the police. You help the police do their jobs.
- If you are a victim, go to court to testify against the criminal. Cases are thrown out when the victim does not show up. Victims do not get retaliated against, typically.
- Do not walk alone after dark. Walk in pairs or small groups.
- Meet and stay connected with local law enforcement. Apparently, people in the 18th District – which includes The Triangle, Navy Pier and Michigan Avenue and goes from Fullerton to the Chicago River and Lake Michigan to the Chicago River – express their appreciation of the police officers who work the beats of the district, which is very appreciated and motivating for the officers, especially the new ones.

TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Install bright exterior lights, on all sides of your property
- Install exterior security cameras, attached to 18th District if possible, on your property entrances and street/alley, if possible

FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

- Look in the eyes of people as you pass them on the street – it will deter any potential thief or criminal, apparently
- Carry a whistle and blow it if you feel threatened
- Give a criminal everything they ask for



EVENTS COMMITTEE | Carly Jenkins, Chairperson

First and foremost, I want to say thank you to all of the Committee members and to all of the incredible volunteers/neighbors that have made the past two events true delights and successes. It's a true feeling of being part of a community when you see everyone coming together to help out and to enjoy each other. We were able to have two events, October Fall Fest and Halloween Parade, that had great turnouts and the feedback couldn't have been more positive. We will keep the Halloween Parade as an annual event due to the overwhelming feedback from the community. Special thanks to our neighbor Danielle Klinenberg for keeping it going!

Stayed tuned and read the OTTA Weekly Posts every Friday to find out about our next OTTA event. We hope to have one more this year, pending timing and Covid. If you would like to join our AMAZING AND FUN committee, email events@oldtowntriangle.com.

Again, much love and thanks to all those that plan, volunteer, and attend these OTTA neighborhood gatherings!

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE | Dorothy DeCarlo, Chairperson

The Accessibility Committee held its first meeting on October 4th. The members discussed Committee objectives, with the first objective to be a review of the accessibility of the 2021 Old Town Art Fair. Access Living has been contacted to see if they can review the footprint and make suggestions and recommendations for improvement. The next meeting will be set once the Committee hears from Access Living. If you might be interested in joining this new committee, please contact Dee at president@oldtowntriangle.com

Continued on page 5

THEN & NOW – OUR OLD TOWN

Kathy Clark and Eurydice Chrones, Co-Chairpersons

The party may be over, but the memories will live on for the approximately 200 neighbors and guests who gathered together on September 24th for a festive evening at the Chicago History Museum.

THEN & NOW – OUR OLD TOWN, formerly FIRST SIGHT, celebrated the past and present and raised \$27,190-and-counting for the mission and goals of the OTTA!

Guests were greeted with appetizers, a glass of bubbly and the smiles of Committee members Eurydice Chrones (co-chair), Vi Daly, Sasha Mayoras, Kate Nash, James Gillock and Gabe Sklan. Patrons were entertained with the musical stylings of the Matt Jarosch Trio and a slide show, created by Eurydice Chrones, featuring the past and present looks of Old Town and its residents. Blue Plate Catering provided a plentiful array of tasty treats.

Weather was perfect to be outside on the newly renovated patio which was the perfect setting for the raffle table chocked full of great items. Under the leadership of Lucy Baldwin and her teammates Emma Rahme and Greta Baldwin, the raffle raised money for our organization.



The Chicago History Museum's newly expanded patio area was the perfect outdoor setting for proper social distancing...and the event raffle!

The Silent Auction, under the guidance of Jeanette Ivankovich, included 37 enticing packages. Donations from several new businesses in Old Town and works from artists, who also were in attendance, made for some exciting bid choices. Thank you to Committee members Caitlin Hill, Dave Montgomery, and Peggy Williams. Special thanks to Myrna Hogan and Lucy Baldwin for traveling all over Chicago seeking donations.

The return of a live auction, led by OTTA Board President Dorothy DeCarlo, added to the fun. A highlight was an exciting offer organized by Sasha Mayoras for 100 patrons to attend a summer cocktail party in three Old Town homes featuring food, music, and a house history.

A sincere thanks to each and every Committee member and to Carly Brando and Kate Nash for generously giving their time and talents.

A special thank you to Barbara Guttman and Gabe Sklan for their expert documentation and assistance working with the Committee and to Art Fair Chair Anne Giffels for her support.



(l.to r.) Joan Goldstein, Barb Guttman (OTTA's Director of Operations), Antonio Reyna and Then & Now Co-Chair Kathy Clark.

HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Zac Bleicher, Chairperson

Our Committee is currently working on various projects, and we'll report results when they are available.

Fern Hill, a development company proposing redevelopment of the Treasure Island site on Wells Street and neighboring parcels of land near North and LaSalle, in partnership with the architecture firm Adjaye and Associates, is seeking input from the community. They will be hosting an open meeting for community members November

22nd at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. Fern Hill's owners Nick Anderson and Mike Elch will present an engagement tool that will be used to gather community feedback. We will provide details of this meeting in the next issue of the Newsletter. Look in Dorothy DeCarlo's Weekly Posts for up-to-the-minute details.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21st, 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend.

OTAF COMMITTEE

Anne Giffels, Chairperson

We look forward to welcoming guests to our beautiful neighborhood for the 72nd Old Town Art Fair during the weekend of **June 11-12, 2022**. Artist applications are open now and will close December 15.

For the 2022 Art Fair, we are keeping the same footprint as the one we had in 2021. Artists

and guests liked the additional spacing between the booths and extending the entrance all the way down North Park to Eugenie Street.

The 2022 Art Fair will have 215 artists and we will be including some emerging artists, and beautiful art from our Access Living partner.



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Elaine Frei, Chairperson

The NIC has been very busy on a variety of projects: Trash can beautification, the Brick Project, and the OTTA external grounds beautification. We have an energetic Committee with a lot of great ideas. Our next meeting is December 7th at 7 pm.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

DECEMBER 2021

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 6 PM
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NIC) MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 7 PM
BOARD MEETING (OPEN TO ALL OTTA MEMBERS)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 6:30 PM
HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING (HD/PZ) COMMITTEE MEETING

HOLIDAY SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 19TH-JANUARY 2ND
ZOO LIGHTS, LINCOLN PARK ZOO

NOVEMBER 28TH-DECEMBER 6TH
HANUKKAH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26TH-JANUARY 1ST
KWANZAA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST
NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 2022

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 6:30 PM
ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER (ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED)

FEBRUARY 2022

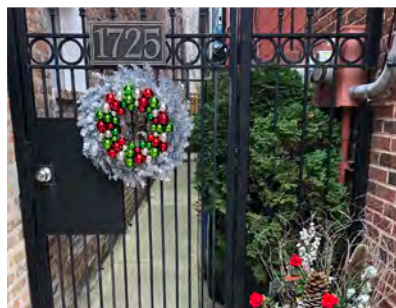
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 7 PM
BOARD MEETING (OPEN TO ALL OTTA MEMBERS)

PHOTO GALLERY | Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald

Contributing Photographers: Kathy Clark, Diane Fitzgerald, Anderson Knapp, Jenn Knapp, Jeremy Punsiruk, Caroline Vickrey

The Triangle was colorful and lively this past Fall and early Winter, and we celebrated our vaccinations and boosters by being together! A lot! Relive our Then & Now event at The Chicago History Museum, the Oktoberfest Fall Festival, the Chicago Marathon cutting a path down Segdwick, and Halloween - one for the records! And enjoy your 2021 hoiliday season – treasure the moments together!





NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | Meet Preservation Advocate & Air Force Pilot, Karl Hjerpe

By Diane Fitzgerald

Karl Hjerpe is an aeronautical engineer who loves culture and history. From the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO to the First Gulf War in Kuwait (1990-1991) and on to the Old Town Triangle (1996), Karl landed in Chicago compliments of United Airlines, for whom he's been a commercial pilot for 26 years.

His love of history was inspired in his native Massachusetts, just 30 miles from Plymouth – America's Hometown with homes dating to the mid-1600s. The country's celebration of our Bicentennial on July 4, 1976 was formidable in shaping Karl's interest in our heritage. This fascination with and respect of our past through the built world – urban planning, architecture, and civil engineering – lead him to a special property at 1816 N Lincoln Avenue which he bought and restored to its original 1876 glory. The careful demolition of the building's 1950s façade revealed the cast iron columns of a typical Chicago storefront. He learned that over the years this property was home to a grocery store, pharmacy, barber shop and confectionary with a residence on the second floor.

The 2004 Air & Water Show was the place that Karl met the woman who would become his wife, Teresa. Today, they live with their 10-year-old son at their second Triangle property, 1618 N Cleveland.

Karl has been active in the neighborhood, through his volunteerism with the OTTA on various committees, like the Historic District/Planning + Zoning Committee, and his engagement with the Old Town Art Fair security team. But his claim to fame, other than being a combat pilot, is creating the Historic Photo Gallery on the OTTA website (no small task!) AND developing 6 mobile phone tours of The Triangle for the OTTA, including Forgotten Storefronts. They are all fantastic, free, and filled with aha-moments!

EDITOR'S NOTE: I couldn't help but notice the magic of the house numbers of the two properties Karl owns – 1816 and 1618 – and Karl's preference for living on the fringe. Both properties are on the borders of The Triangle, east and west, and both properties feature mailboxes from Sweden, where his family is from.



1816 N Lincoln Avenue – BEFORE (1971) + TODAY. This corner at Lincoln and Wells is the gateway to Lincoln Park. Karl converted the triangular 2-story building to a single-family home.



1618 N Cleveland – BEFORE (1911) + TODAY. In the shadows of St. Michael's Church, the reason Old Town exists, Karl converted this to a single-family home, too, where he and his family live.

iBOT SPOTLIGHT | Mesa Urbana | By Diane Sokolofski

Come celebrate our newest iBOT participant, Mesa Urbana--a deliciously affordable neighborhood spot featuring a stylish contemporary global Latin cuisine and artisanal cocktails served by a welcoming, helpful staff in a positive, forward-thinking culture. Truly a Triangle neighbor, Mesa Urbana generously donated their special house made guacamole, chips and salsa, white bean hummus and signature margaritas to our Old Town Community Halloween Parade celebration.

Chef Mauricio Trujillo, originally from Mexico City, along with his team create unique and carefully crafted incredibly flavorful Latin fusion dishes from scratch using fresh, local ingredients. A chef favorite is Carne Asada, a USDA prime Allen Brothers skirt steak, Aji Amarillo with fingerling potatoes and the show-stopping Skate Wing (NEW) with lemon caper sauce, grape tomato medley, spinach and shiitake mushroom risotto. Small plates not to be missed include a flavorful Grilled Kale Salad with-golden beets, candied beets, queso fresco, onion, lemon juice, chili-oil, and Harissa sauce and the Shrimp Ceviche with passion fruit, habanero, jicama, mango, avocado, and cilantro.

Mesa Urbana, located at 1935 N. Lincoln Park West, is a family-owned and operated restaurant. Family member Ash Abu-Taleb manages and welcomes guests, making sure they enjoy their dining experience. Mesa Urbana ("city table" in Spanish) opened in 2017 in Glen-

view, then moved to Lincoln Park in 2021. Despite a challenging time to relocate, they were quickly discovered by a dedicated clientele that enjoy dining on the charming tree-lined outdoor patio or in the contemporary bright spacious inside venue surrounded by beautiful artistic works of local artists, including our own Triangle neighbor, Danielle Klinenberg.

Abu-Taleb shared a heartwarming story about a local jeweler neighbor and loyal regular who loves the place so much he recommends it to all his friends and customers. When they come to dine, he even comes over to check and make sure they are enjoying their dining experience as much as he does. Now if that isn't an endorsement, I don't know what is!

Mesa Urbana does personal and corporate catering--perfect for the holidays. Stay tuned for new Happy Hour and winter hours, including Saturday and Sunday brunch. Check out the new delivery menu by following Mesa Urbana on Instagram and Facebook. OTTA members get a 10% discount on weekdays. Learn more at <https://mesaurbana.com/>.

iBOT (I BUY OLD TOWN) is a discount loyalty program for OTTA members offering services, merchandise and products at special rates by Old Town merchants. See <http://www.old-towntriangle.com/shopping/shop-local-the-ibot-program/> for a complete list of merchants and discounts. To receive your personal iBOT card, visit the Triangle Office.



To acknowledge – not celebrate! – the 150th Anniversary of The Great Chicago Fire (October 8-9-10, 1871), it seemed fitting to call out the fire cottages that were relief shelters provided to families-in-need in the days, weeks and months following the days that Chicago burned to the ground. Historic preservation advocate and neighbor, Karl Hjerpe, recently presented the significance of these buildings to the Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee of the OTTA. What follows is a blend of his presentation and my additional research.

The statistics of the Chicago Fire are grim: about 300 dead, 100,000 homeless with 17,500 buildings destroyed. What preceded the fire was unprecedented growth, with the population exploding from 400 people in 1833 to 300,000 people in 1870 – that's a 750% increase over 37 years. Like it is now, Chicago was a city of opportunity, attracting hard working, proud people – before and after the fire.

The heart and soul of Chicago today has its roots in the Chicago of the mid-1800s. The Chicago Relief & Aid Society, founded in 1851, provided employment services, food, fuel and other necessities for those it helped. It came into prominence when Mayor Roswell Mason appointed it as the primary relief organization for Chicago after the fire. The Society raised over \$5 million from sources around the world to support their efforts in providing for Chicagoans. Interestingly, medical care was also a high priority of the Society at the time and, most notably, they funded the smallpox vaccinations of over 60,000 people.

For the Society to manage their efforts immediately after the fire, they divided the city into 16 administrative districts. They flexed their collective muscles to hedge the prices of lumber*, still an okay building material post-fire. They offered two styles of “shelter homes” or cottages or relief shanties – measuring 12' x 16' (192sf) and 16' x 20' (320sf) – which cost \$75-\$100 or \$125 furnished with a cooking stove and utensils, several chairs, a table, bed and bedding, and crockery. These structures were considered “simple but sufficient” and delivered to properties as kits (plans and materials) containing pre-cut lumber, windows, a door, a



Chicagoans fleeing the Chicago Fire of 1871. The “wooden city” – and many were in the 1880s – burned to the ground. Kit houses were given to survivors, delivered to where they would build it themselves. For those not able, the fire cottages were built in a central location and delivered already built!

chimney and a flexible room partition.

It is estimated that 40,000 people were sheltered in 13,209 shelter homes built between November 17, 1871 and May 1, 1873! About 5,200 were built in the month following the fire! Barracks-style buildings were constructed to house the destitute, but these were limited in number due to concerns of the depravity they might cause. Relief shanties also served as distribution centers for food and clothing. The relief shanties didn't last very long as fire survivors moved on to more permanent housing. Those that did survive were obscured by renovations, moved, or covered with other materials making them unrecognizable.

It is exceptional to have two original examples of fire cottages in our historic neighborhood. The Old Town Triangle has two authentic fire cottages, and they enjoy the distinction of surviving about 150 years: the front portion of 216 W Menomonee Street (previously 28 Menomonee) and all of the rear building at 1801 N Sedgwick Street/348 W Menomonee (previously 557 Sedgwick, 82 Menomonee).

** North Town (what Old Town was called then) was somewhat of a rural outpost in the 1860s and 1870s but eventually wood was banned there in 1874*

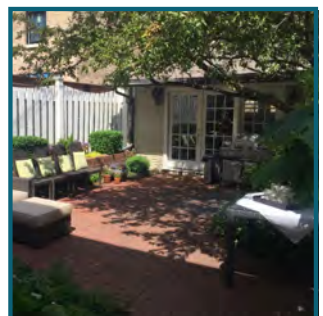
EDITOR'S NOTE: Over 10 years and by 1880, Chicago's population grew from 300,000 to 500,000. To put this in context, Chicago's population today is 2.71 million. So, over 141 years, we've grown in population by only 18%. Interesting...Considering the time, I wonder how many horses perished in the fire? We're looking into that now. Sources: Digital Research Library of Illinois History Journal, 1984 National Registry of Historic Places Application, insurance atlases



Today, 216 W Menomonee stands as a fine example of an original fire cottage “relief shanty”. Originally measuring 320sf with 2-rooms, now the residence is 780sf and was valued at \$687,250 by the Cook County Assessor in 2016. The same fence was used as the display area for the Old Town Art Fair, circa 1950s.



On the same street as 216 W Menomonee, the historic rear building at 1801 N Sedgwick Street is the elegant Guest House to the Main House, while still being an incredible homage to the past.





Green City Market is offering convenient, contact-free curbside pick-up and home delivery all winter long. Curbside pick-up will be available at Swedish Covenant Hospital (5140 N California Ave) on Wednesday evenings starting December 1st.

Green City Market will not have an Indoor Market in the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum this winter. GCM will reopen in Lincoln Park and the West Loop in Spring 2022. Subscribe to our newsletter at www.greencitymarket.org to stay in the loop on how to support your local farmers and food producers all winter long.



**ST. MICHAEL
IN OLD TOWN**
Redemptorist Fathers & Brothers

St Michael In Old Town raised over \$5,000 for Thanksgiving turkeys for needy families at St. Malachy Parish, the home of Santa Maria Adolorata Pantry, Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry/St. Agatha Parish, and Casa Romero, the after-school program in Back of the Yards.

Check out the new website and logo. Visit st-mikes.org and learn about events and masses during Christmas and New Year's Day. The new website photo of St. Michael Church was taken by local photographer, Barry Butler, <https://www.barrybutlerphotography.com/>.



Want to help? We are collecting 300 toys for well deserving children. Go st-mikes.org and click on the Toy Drive information.

Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation, Immaculate Conception, December 8th, will be held at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM in Church.

Christmas ornaments are on sale at St. Michael. Please check <https://www.st-mikes.org/bulletins> for more information.



Lincoln Park Cooperative Nursery School is now accepting applications for our Parent Tot, Nursery, and Junior Kindergarten programs for the 2022-23 school year. Please visit our website lincolnparkcoop.org or contact Membership@lincolnparkcoop.org to apply or for more information.



LaSalle Language Academy hosted CPS' first vaccine event for young children! Over 600 doses were administered to the Old Town, Lincoln Park, and city-wide LaSalle community with the support of Ward 43 and Instagram.

LaSalle hosted the Fall Into Fun Festival, which brought together hundreds of families to celebrate the fall season, and the Latino Heritage Month celebration involving traditional dancing, food, and cultural learning. Go to <https://www.lasallechicago.com/> to learn more.



The Village Chicago is hosting a Thought Leader Event, Co-Housing: A Solution to the Affordable Housing Crisis? Wednesday, December 1st - on Zoom. Free.

Q&A with 'Chicago's Great Fire' author, Dr. Carl Smith, Thursday, December 2nd, 4-5 PM - on Zoom Free. Dr. Carl Smith, award-winning author and Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University, will discuss his latest book, Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City. For a full description of both events and to RSVP go to thevillagechicago.org.



FOLPHS
FRIENDS OF LINCOLN PARK
HIGH SCHOOL

Grant Some Wishes at Lincoln Park High School! Our fall fundraiser needs your help. The money we raise in the [FOLPHS Wish List](#) will help pay for necessities that the CPS budget falls short on funding. Please click here to check out the items that LPHS desperately need and make your tax-deductible donation now: Thank you for your support!



150 YEARS STRONG
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY
150TH
ANNIVERSARY
EST 1871
WE BUILT THIS TOGETHER

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, is celebrating its 150th year! Notable events include our upcoming new website, a return to COVID-safe band concerts and dramatic student performances. Thank you to all former, current, and future students and their families who support our vision. Go to <http://www.lincolnelementary.org/> for more information.



Lincoln Park Community Services needs meal volunteers during the holidays. Meal volunteers provide delicious meals for our shelter guests, either cooking on-site or dropping off a prepared meal. To learn more, visit <https://www.lpcs-chicago.org/> or email volunteer@lpcs-chicago.org.



Art on Sedgwick collaborated with Edgar Miller Legacy, and artist Hannah Dykstra during her residency at Edgar Miller's iconic Glasner Studio to explore Old Town's rich history in a new Graphic Novel with Local History & Treasured Neighborhood Architecture. The book spans the 20th century and the strange threads that drew world events into the house and Old Town neighborhood itself. This is the house of an immigrant who made it big in the US, the workshop of an inventor, a safehouse for the Black Panthers, an artistic and social haven in the late 80's, and the culminating work of Edgar Miller, the quiet and iconoclastic creator. The house and its exquisite craftsmanship give the backdrop for a strange mixture of the nightmares and dreams of the past century as well as the assurance that a home, more importantly the people that make it such, can be considered one of humanity's greatest accomplishments. Learn more at hannahleedykstra.com, Glasner Studio and Miller's work at edgarmiller.org, and artonsedgwick.org.



Hannah Dykstra during her residency with Edgar Miller Legacy

COMMUNITY CORNER

Continued from page 10



Church of the Three Crosses invites all to attend the following events and services:

Sunday, December 12th: Annual Cookie Exchange (After Worship - Around 12:00pm) Bake and bring a favorite holiday treat, and after Worship make a box of cookies to take home. You don't have to bring cookies to take cookies - there's always plenty to go around. Masks are required indoors.

Tuesday, December 21st: Blue Christmas Worship (6:30pm); *In-Person & Online* Come for prayer and support. We all feel grief, loss and sadness. Know you don't have to hold those feelings alone. Masks are required indoors.

Friday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Instrumental Service (5:30pm)

Christmas Eve service features instrumental music. This service will have no singing, except for the final hymn, then process outdoors with candles (weather permitting). Masks are required indoors.

Friday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service with Singing of Carols (8:00pm)

We offer a second service this year and sing carols at the 8:00pm service, then process outdoors with candles (weather permitting). Masks are required indoors. Learn more at www.churchofthethreecrosses.org



Lincoln Park Conservancy

Please support Lincoln Park Conservancy during our 2021 Annual Appeal. Visit <https://lincolnparkconservancy.org/support/2021-appeal/> to make a donation, provide survey feedback about future Park projects and to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

If you're looking for ways to get involved, save the date for these Spring 2022 events: Earth Day on April 23rd and the Gala for Lincoln Park on April 29th. Thank you for being a Friend of Lincoln Park!



Enriching Children's Lives Since 1946.

The Menomonee Club's Winter Session begins December 6th. Join us for Judo, Fencing, RetroActive Sports, Taekwondo, and Basketball. Registration is open now!

We pause our regular winter programming from December 20th - 31st for Holiday Camps. Keep the kids active during their school break--join us for a day or a week! RetroActive Sports, Fencing and Lego camps available. www.menomoneeclub.org



Interested in sending your child to Chalkboard? We have rolling admission and welcome new students all year round. We

ensure our children play safely without incident due to our vigilant cleaning and handwashing protocols, required mask wearing and huge HEPA air purifier. If interested, call Amanda Betts a call at 773/255-7352, chalkboardpreschool@outlook.com.



Hjordis & Jim Garner, at home in their garden on Lincoln Park West, circa 2012.

A FAREWELL TO... Jim Garner

By Diane Gonzalez

The Old Town Triangle lost a treasure with the passing of Jim Garner on September 24, 2021. Triangle pioneers Jim and his wife, Hjordis, resided on Lincoln Park West in one of the Louis Sullivan row houses for more than fifty years! Hjordis' father initially thought they moved to a slum when they arrived in 1960, and Hjordis recalled washbasins in many rooms in what may have served as a rooming house.

But here The Garners would raise their two children and become very involved in the neighborhood. Part of an early group of close neighbors who played active roles in The Triangle, Jim was proud of his artist wife Hjordis, his children, his home, and neighborhood. Daughter Brekken recalled her parents as "gentrifiers."

Jim hailed from Louisiana, Missouri, a small town a bit like Old Town in some ways. He arrived in Chicago for an initial post-college job as a time management engineer at the Montgomery Ward warehouse on Chicago Avenue. Hjordis, his future wife, had a college friend from Jim's Missouri town. She took her friend's suggestion to look-up Jim, who was in his first apartment in an Edgar Miller unit on Burton Place. She had settled in to nearby 219 Eugenie, formerly owned by Mr. Wizard, of TV fame. After they wed, the couple moved to their Lincoln Park West home.

Jim biked to work, rain or shine, and he went on to become a marketing executive for educational films. He later worked as a recruiter for attorneys and finally retired as a PBS video marketing executive.

Jim made friends easily wherever he worked and lived. Neighbors recall his ready smile and gentle way of making his point. Young Jim likely smiled as he discussed efficiency procedures with the Montgomery Ward packers.

Hjordis & Jim allowed preservationists to tour their Sullivan home, which, despite removal of the washbasins, maintained its integrity with original moldings, fireplace, and staircase.

Jim was involved in many aspects of early Old Town Art Fairs, including opening their garden for the Garden Walk. But the Fair's auction stage was his specialty. Neighbors recall that Jim was one of the few who knew how to assemble the heavy, awkward contraption of early years. The joke was that many Old Town men suddenly had ailing backs when it came time to assemble the stage. Jim not only helped erect the stage, but he assigned himself a long rod which he kept on his front porch during the Art Fair weekend. If it rained during the Fair, the pole became a means of getting water off the heavy canvas roof.

The Auction is gone and The Garners moved a mile south. Jim's favorite Fair continues, in its 72nd year! His friends will always remember Jim's love for all that is Old Town. Farewell, dear Jim!



ESTABLISHED IN 1948

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2021-2022

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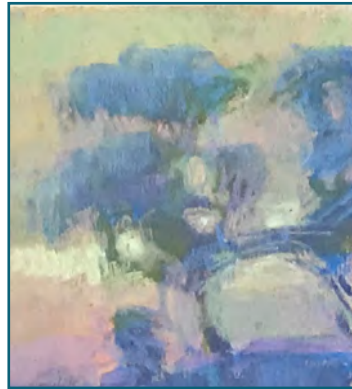
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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").



LESLIE WOLFE GALLERY

January | February

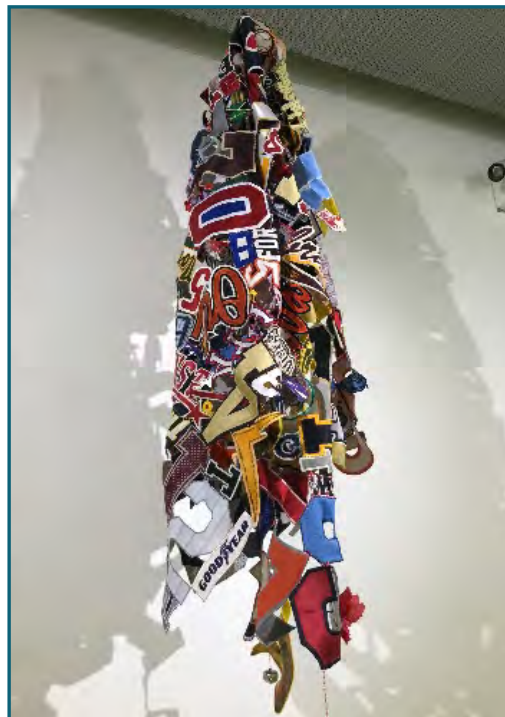


JANUARY | PAUL GERARD SOMERS

Paul Gerard Somers is an artist whose work is based on a personal investigation of societal institutions, rituals, masculinity and the exploration of their influence on our culture. His work is realized in the form of sculpture, installation, and performance as well as in curatorial work. He is known to use discarded, collected, and emotionally charged materials and objects, often hand stitched to create sculptural forms and installations.

Exhibition: January 7 – February 4

Reception: January 9 2 – 4 PM



FEBRUARY | LOVE: IN REAL TIME

The Old Town Art Center/Leslie Wolfe Gallery will exhibit a themed competition of "Love: In Real Life".

Members of the Triangle and visitors to the Gallery during February will be encouraged to vote for their favorite representation. The artist who wins your heart (and the most votes) will be awarded \$500. There will not be any on-line voting, this is about being there – "IN REAL LIFE".

Exhibition: February 4 – March 4

Reception: February 6 2 – 5 PM

