



CALENDAR

SUMMER IS GONE



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

TRIANGLE EVENTS

- September 8, 7:00 P.M. OTTA Board Meeting
September 15, 7:00 p.m. HD/PZ Meeting
September 21, 7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Improvements Meeting
September 24, 7:00 p.m. CAPS Meeting

September means back to school, back to the Old Routine, and back to the Old Town Triangle for another year of activities that bring Old Town neighbors together in a spirit of community and camaraderie.

- September 12 to December 3 January 9 to March 18, 2010
October 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
December 5, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
January 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
February 13, 4:00 p.m.
Early Spring
Late Spring
June 10, 6:30-10:00 p.m.
June 11-12

- Triangle Art and Fitness Classes
Triangle Art and Fitness Classes
Annual Hoe Down and Great Chili Cook-off
Old Town Holiday and Caroling Party
Annual Meeting and Dinner
Old Town Players Present I Remember Mama
Sounds of Music II, with Hermon Baptist Church
Old Town Players Present The Glass Menagerie
First Sight, Friday Night
The 61st Old Town Art Fair

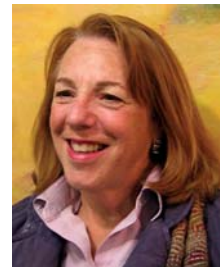


OPENINGS

- September 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Faculty Show
October 11, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Image, Imagination, Imagery Paintings by Norman Baugher
September 12 - December 12 Old Town Art School Fall Session

In addition, we will have our annual Spring Clean-up Saturday in May and our OTTA Board, Committee, and CAPS meetings throughout the year, and our Old Town Gallery openings on the second Sunday of every month.

As you know, in order for these activities to be successful, we need your participation. So please, check your newsletters for dates and descriptions of events, and if you would like additional information call 312-337-1938 or e-mail the office at info@oldtowntriangle.com



FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS

SPECIAL EVENTS

- October 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Annual Old Town Hoe-Down and Chili Cook-Off

Check it out The OTTA Times with color photos—online at oldtowntriangle.com

Most of you know that the Triangle operates through the volunteer activities of its committees; but you may not know the names of those committees and what their purposes and objectives are.



OLD TOWN ART FAIR COMMITTEE

CHRIS BEER, GENERAL CHAIR

The Art Fair Committee, operating under a General Chairman with the assistance of a Vice-Chairman, is responsible for orga-

nizing, planning, and implementing the event. Now sixty years old, the fair has grown from a handful of neighbor craftsmen exhibiting on back yard fences to become one of the largest and most prestigious outdoor fairs in the nation, featuring the work of 260 world-renowned artists.

Though much has changed with the fair, a lot remains the same. It is still a community activity run entirely by volunteers, and committed to the concept of presenting the best possible offerings to fine arts lovers.

from → p1 ties. The Triangle supports educational programs designed to improve the quality of learning in local schools, and implements neighborhood improvement projects that preserve the beauty and viability of the Old Town Triangle.

A number of sub-committees constitute the larger group and address individual components of the fair: Artist Aid, Artists Breakfast, Booth Sitting, Children's Corner, Contributions, Entertainment, Equipment, Exhibitors, First Sight Friday Night, Food Court, Garden Walk, Gates, Information, Artists' Liaison, Security & Grounds, and Thank You Party.

General Chair Chris Beer reports that planning for the 2010 Old Town Art Fair is underway! Joan Goldstein (Exhibitor's Committee Chair) and Ann Holmberg (Exhibitor's Committee Vice Chair) have been working with Leslie Wolfe to send invitations for the 2010 fair to artists based on their jury scores from the 2009 fair. Do you know a talented artist who would like to exhibit in our show? Let them know that artists can apply to the 2010 Old Town Art Fair on Zapplication [www.zapplication.org](http://www.zapplication.org) between September 15, 2009 – December 15, 2009.

Chris and her Vice chair, Emily Rose, are always looking for enthusiastic, energetic volunteers to help with the fair. Volunteering with the fair is a great way to meet neighbors and have fun. Our committee will have a kick-off meeting in November and we'd love to have you join our team! To lend a hand, please contact Chris at [chair@oldtownartfair.org](mailto:chair@oldtownartfair.org) or (312) 320-5992. If you'd like to receive email updates on the OTAF, please email her to sign up for the mailing list.

According to Chris, the easiest way to keep up to date on the Old Town Art Fair is by joining the group on Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)? There are over 300 "fans" of the fair on this popular social networking website and you are encouraged to join. It's easy and free of charge.

Please mark your calendars for all of the 2010 festivities. First Sight Friday Night will be held on June 11, 2010 at our very lovely neighborhood hot spot, A New Leaf. (If we're lucky, those handsome bartenders from Perennial will return to make more of their delicious martinis.) The 2010 Old Town Art Fair will be held on June 12-13, 2010, 10 am-6pm, no rain, just sunshine. Chris and Emily and have put in a request with Mother Nature for that perfect 80 degrees and sunny weather and they know that she won't let them down!) And, Chris says, "We'll raise a glass, eat some yummy BBQ, and congratulate ourselves on a job well-done at the Thank You Party on June 18, 2010. And then, we'll start planning for 2011.... Why? Because we love Old Town".

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE 2009-2010

DIRK VOS, CHAIRMAN

The Mission of the Committee is simply to help the OTTA achieve one of its primary goals: "Develop and maintain the physical environment of the Triangle, including improvement of

open spaces, green areas, sidewalks, and parkways."

The continuing Programs we run for the benefit of the neighborhood, include The Triangle Parkways Tree Program, designed to provide an extra financial incentive to all residents to maintain the trees in their parkways, the Trash Can Program which provides and services the dark green trash cans located throughout the neighborhood and general park maintenance of the eight parks in the Triangle. During the 2008-09 year, the Old Town Triangle Association, through the Neighborhood Improvements Committee, spent just under \$15,000 for these programs.

The projects we undertook during 2008-09, which, as in previous years, remain works in progress. Continuing budget constraints at the City have held up the planned redesign and renovation of Eugenie Triangle Park and the assumption of responsibility by the City for liability insurance for the children's plan lot we donated to the City in 2006. However, as in past years, NIC was successful in gaining neighbor participation in the funding of two projects. These were the purchase and installation of new fencing and plantings along Fern Court and Menomonee. We remain supportive of the Alderman's initiative at the City to redesign and renovate Eugenie Triangle Park in calendar 2009 or 2010.

Our primary goal is to continue to manage our ongoing maintenance programs for the neighborhood. **Our Parks General Maintenance Program** includes landscaping and tree maintenance, scheduled semi-monthly light cleanups and spring and fall heavy clean ups. **The Triangle Parkways Tree Program** and the **Trash Can Servicing Program** are ongoing as is the **Old Town Triangle Park Maintenance Program** under the guidance of Dan Baldwin.

We are adding a new program this year. Designed like the Triangle Parkways Tree Program, it is the **Triangle Brick Repair, Replacement and Beautification Program**. It will provide a financial incentive to residents to maintain the historic brick sidewalks/parkways next to their homes as well as a source for the ideal brick paver that closely matches the color, shape and texture of the existing bricks and as a preferred provider contractor for the work.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

JEFF PINES, CHAIRMAN

The Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee acts as a liaison between the Old Town Community and the Landmarks Commission, reporting the Committee's recommendations and working cooperatively with the Commission to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

Each month, members consider requests for proposed exterior changes to existing buildings, new construction, and applications for zoning changes in the Triangle. Their deliberations range from the appropriateness of building materials used in → p4

The Old Town Triangle Association Times is published ten times a year by Old Town Triangle Association Bounded by Clark Street, North Avenue, and the ghost of Ogden Avenue

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday-10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday-10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Administrators Shirley Baugher or Leslie Wolfe at the office during those hours.

### OFFICERS

FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS, President  
PHILIP GRAFF, First Vice-President  
CHRISTINA BEER, Second Vice-President  
MICHAEL WARNICK, Secretary  
MARTHA CONNOLLY, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

MATT BEER  
DEBBIE DAY  
ALICE HUFF  
JEFF PINES  
EMILY ROSE  
DIRK VOS

In September, the Old Town Art Gallery is proud to present the works of the current instructors in the Old Town Art School. This is one of the most popular shows of the gallery show, and highlights the mediums, styles and some signature pieces of the enormously talented art school faculty. ¶For popular artist **Robert Brasher**, Chicago provides the background for many of his works, which focus on form, texture, and light. He also emphasizes the relationships between structural surroundings and the human elements inhabiting them. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Indiana University, Purdue University, Loyola University, and Roosevelt University. His works are exhibited in galleries and corporate offices nationwide. ¶**Tom Francesconi** studied with Irving Shapiro at the American Academy of Art in Chicago after majoring in art at Eastern Illinois University. Tom worked as a commercial artist for many years before devoting time to his own painting and teaching. He is a former president of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and a signature member of the National Watercolor Society. ¶**Didier Nolet** was born and raised in Paris,



France where he studied at the world-famous Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He moved to the United States in 1979, where he has painted and displayed his art ever since. His works are shown in the

Once again, the Old Town Art Gallery proudly presents the works of one of Old Town's most talented artists: Norman Baugher. He brings his inimitable style and dramatic sense of color to the Gallery in October with a collection of new paintings which he calls **Image, Imagination, and Imagery**. In describing his show, Norman likens his creativity to that of a composer. ¶*A composer's music is not merely a staff full of notes—the notes are just code. The notes decoded and interpreted by the performer are music. The objects in the composition of my works are like notes. A table is not a table when it is an object in a painting. The painted table is its own thing—a product of image plus imagination rendered in brilliant colors and placed in a defined space. How the table (a note of a composition) is performed on canvas—how it is stroked, how it is fitted into its unique two-dimensional environment, how it advances the artist's feeling, vision, or concept—is how art is made from objects. Perspective may be ignored or pushed to extremes, color may be intensified, shadows become active elements, and the spaces among objects take on a particular value. The table is made to reach out and become more than a passive object. ¶Paint is made from finely ground earth materials marinated in a binding solution until it becomes a fine colorful mud. In*



Perimeter Gallery in Chicago and can be found in numerous collections worldwide. ¶**Philip Renaud** studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and graduated cum laude from the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He has been a free-lance illustrator, painter, and teacher for many years, exhibiting locally



at the Chicago Cultural Center, the John Hancock Center, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Playboy Museum Collection. ¶**Kay Smith** has been painting on assignment since



1971, gaining prominence for her watercolor renditions of American historic sites, landmarks, and events. In 1994, Kay was elected Artist Laureate of Illinois. Among her recent commissions was a book on life in the Illinois Governor's Mansion and a traveling exhibition of paintings depicting scenes and important events in the life of Abraham Lincoln. ¶**Grace Cole** studied

at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Chicago, and the French *Ecole Albert du Fois*. She is represented in galleries in New York, Glencoe, and Chicago. Her work can be found in private, corporate, and university collections across the country. ¶This don't-miss show has its formal opening on September 13, 2009, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Gallery, 1763 N. North Park. The paintings will be on display throughout the month of September. ¶



SEPTEMBER  
instructors'  
show  
TOWN  
ART  
GALLERY

OCTOBER  
image  
imaginaiton  
imagery

Norman  
Baugher

*a sense, then, painting is like playing in mud and bathing in a rainbow at the same time. Of course, it is much more. It is a tactile experience that summons past memories and experiences and gives pleasure from close observation of an object that goes beyond seeing. ¶Painting is also an exercise of imagination that encourages lateral thinking and toys with images that arise while giving hue, value, and saturation to surface areas. The potential is for this play, this celebration, this expression of learning and experience to be contagious, and to arouse the emotions of an observer; just as watching a child at play brings joy at a distance. ¶Baugher's exhibit showcases the best of his imagery and imagination—from his daring new oils: an *Annunciation* painted in muted blue and gold tones, a billiard table alive with a still life arrangement of fruits and vegetables in electric colors waiting to be played, and brilliantly conceived landscape and floral compositions; to whimsical gouaches displaying his unerring color sense: an array of eggs in *Neverland*, and *A Man and His Iguana*. ¶Image, Imagination, and Imagery will be exhibited throughout the month of October. The formal opening will take place at the Triangle, 1763 N. North Park Avenue, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 11. You won't want to miss this outstanding show. ¶*

from → 2 rehabbing and construction projects to the height of fences and building additions. *The Guidelines for Alterations to Historic Buildings and New Construction*, prepared by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, serves as the basis for their recommendations. These recommendations are sent to the Alderman of the 43rd Ward and to appropriate city commissions and departments for approval. In every instance, the final decision on any rehab project rests with the Landmarks Commission.

Members of the Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee work with neighbors to maintain good relations between persons who are making changes to their properties and those who live in adjoining buildings.

On matters of neighborhood-wide concern, a community meeting is held and all neighbors are invited to express their views on the issue. In most cases where a community meeting is held, the 43rd Ward Alderman is a key participant in the proceedings.

The Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee meets in the Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue, on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The Committee is chaired by a Director of the Old Town Triangle Association. Interested neighbors with knowledge and experience in the area of historic preservation are invited to become members.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MICHAEL WARNICK, CHAIRMAN

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to maintain the existing membership and to encourage neighbors who are not currently members of the organization to join. The Committee meets at the discretion of the Chair to perform the following tasks:

- Supervise mailings to past OTTA members to rejoin the organization
- Provide ongoing information to existing and prospective members on the OTTA web site
- Publish regular newsletter articles/announcements encouraging new membership and requesting that OTTA members bring non-members to activities and events
- Disseminate requests for new membership through mailings and on the web site
- Determine and offer special packets to new members, e.g., copies of Old Town books, Art Fair poster(s) from previous years, 50th Anniversary Art Fair book, Art Fair t-shirts
- Host Triangle events, e.g., October hoe-down, holiday caroling party, Annual Dinner and Election, dramatic productions, and other special events
- Work with local realtors to learn about new residents in the Triangle
- Encourage online readership of the newsletter

The Committee's goals for 2009-10 are to increase membership with concentration on new residents and to promote community activities and social interaction

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## GALLERY

EMILY ROSE, CHAIRMAN

Have you stopped into the Old Town Triangle on a Sunday afternoon recently? If not we encourage you to discover the Old Town Art Gallery. The Gallery is a recognized and highly prized exhibit space among aspiring local artists.

The purpose of the Gallery is to encourage appreciation of the visual arts by offering artists in our community and the broader Chicago area an opportunity to exhibit their work. The Gallery Committee, composed of a group of artists, dealers and knowledgeable aficionados, juries examples of work submitted by local artists.

Artists or groups of artists are selected from among the submissions and are offered month-long shows in the Gallery. Gallery openings are usually held on the second Sunday of the month at the Old Town Triangle. The local community and art lovers throughout the Chicagoland area are invited to meet the artists and view the work.

In the coming year, the Triangle will continue to offer diverse monthly exhibitions by Chicago's emerging and established area artists, selected by the Gallery Committee. Through these shows, the Committee hopes to promote cultural enrichment in the community and to provide talented aspiring artists exposure to a wider audience. The Gallery will also proudly feature exhibitions by students in the Old Town Art School and by the school's talented faculty.

We hope that you stop by to take in the wonderful works throughout the year! If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved with the Gallery please contact Leslie Wolfe at [lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com). See you at the openings!

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## 43RD WARD PROGRAM COMMITTEE

DEBBIE DAY, CHAIRMAN

This is a new committee instituted by the Board President. Since many matters arise in other districts, as well as our own, that affect (or are of interest to) the Triangle, the Chair of this committee is asked to attend meetings where these issues are discussed and report back to the OTTA Board. These reports may be solely informational or may contain a recommendation for action.

The Chair has been involved in discussions on issues as varied as the creation of art projects for widely used underpasses, OTTA's participation in community-wide projects that improve the health and education of residents, and discussions of plans for new buildings (or uses for old buildings) in the community. The Chair also attends meetings at the Alderman's office where matters of ward-wide interests are covered.

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## THE CAPS PROGRAM

CAPS is a program designed to keep neighborhoods safe by building a partnership for crime prevention among the community, the police, and other City departments. The rationale for the CAPS partnership is really quite simple:

- Each of the City's 25 police districts is divided into beats—small geographic areas in which the Chicago Police Department, City agencies, and citizens work together to fight crime.
- A team of police officers is assigned to each beat for at least one year. This allows residents to get to know their beat officers and the officers to get to know both the residents and the neighborhood. Beat officers patrol the neighborhood, responding to police emergencies on the beat and working with neighbors to solve crime problems in the area.
- Beat officers are supported by other teams of police officers in the district. These officers respond to emergency calls for ser-

- vice and focus on specific problems such as gangs and drugs.
- Through CAPS, residents become partners with the police and work with beat officers to identify and solve crime problems in their neighborhoods.

Other City agencies take care of those conditions that can lead to crime in a community, such as graffiti, abandoned buildings and cars, and broken alley and street lights.

The Old Town Triangle is located in beat 1814. Regular beat meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue at 7:00 p.m. All Triangle residents are encouraged to attend these meetings, address issues of common concern, and work with the beat officers to solve these problems. A summary of these meetings and of crime statistics for the neighborhood are published monthly in the OTTA newsletter. **T**



WELL, PROVE IT.

**OLD TOWN ART SCHOOL  
AUTUMN SESSIONS**

OLD TOWN ART SCHOOL AUTUMN SESSIONS BEGAN SEPTEMBER 12, 2009, AND RUN THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2010. CLASS SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TRIANGLE CENTER AND ONLINE AT [OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.COM](http://OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.COM).

DO IT.  
WE CAN HELP.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS**

Notice to Chicago Area Artists: If you are interested in having a month-long one person or group show at the Old Town Triangle Gallery in 2010, please send a CD of five to ten images of two-dimensional work, a resume, and a SASE to the Old Town Art Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614. Your work will be juried by a group of artists and gallery owners. Submissions must be post-marked no later than October 15, 2009. For further information, please contact Leslie Wolfe at 312-337-1938.

Old Town welcomes two new eateries to its burgeoning restaurant scene. **Evisa**, at 1531 N. Wells Street, opened in June and features a tapas menu.

Evisa, the local pronunciation of the island of Ibiza, wants to revolutionize tapas in Chicago. The chef, Dudley Nieto, has put together a varied menu and combines traditional fare with modern techniques. Menu items include a grilled organic chicken with caramelized pear and port reduction, grilled calamari with white beans, and an outstanding sausage sampler. Their cocktail menu is immense with more than 20 different offerings. Notable among them is Sola, a combination of gin, pear liqueur, and cucumber. There is also the standard sangria, but infused with vanilla beans and cinnamon for a warm, spicy taste. The setting is gracious and old-world in feeling; and the prices are reasonable. Judging by the crowds waiting to get in, it looks as though Evisa is a big hit.

**The 33 Club**, just opened at 1419 N. Wells, is the latest offering of successful Chicago restaurateur Jerry Kliner. The restaurant offers contemporary American fare in an old world European setting. Kliner and chef Daniel Kelly (Tramonto's Steak & Seafood and Avenue M) worked closely together to create an affordable, elegant menu of updated classics, including white veal ragout and lobster stuffed chicken breasts. An innovative bar menu features truffle oil deviled eggs, bacon popcorn, and whitefish hoagie sandwiches.



The décor is stunning with 20-foot mahogany ceilings and walls, wooden and mosaic herringbone flooring, and a grand staircase to the second level complete with custom-made rails and fine carpeting. Separating the main dining area from the front of the building is a 20 foot tall mahogany and glass bar. The bar also has a fireplace and brass coach lights. Even the washrooms are show stoppers—dark green walls with mahogany doors and brass highlights. This restaurant has a lot going for it, and should become one of Old Town's most popular dining spots.

Prima ballerina, **Caroline Baldwin**, is back in Copenhagen for the 2009-10 season of the Royal Danish Ballet, after spending the Spring and Summer dancing in Tokyo and London—with a brief stop-over in Old Town to visit family and old friends. You would think all her achievements and accolades might have changed our young star, but you would be wrong. She is still the same lovely, warm, friendly Caroline we have known for years. I'm guessing she always will be.

You must check out the September/October issue of *Chicago Home and Garden*. **Neighbors Lauren and Matt Ziol's** Crilly Court house is featured in the magazine and there is a terrific photograph of Lauren and son Miles on the cover.

The **Triangle** is gearing up for fall with a new season of art classes, a series of activities and dramatic productions to bring neighbors together, and ongo-

ing offerings of yoga, pilates, and NIA classes. You can check these out on our website, [oldtowntriangle.com](http://oldtowntriangle.com) In addition to our regular offerings, we will be adding special activities based on popular interest. One such addition is an Old Town Players group. This group will meet periodically to read and rehearse plays that will be offered as Readers' Theatre productions free of charge to the community. Two plays being considered are: *I Remember Mama* by John van Druten for a mid-winter presentation and *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, projected for late Spring. We are also planning a musical gala at the Hermon Baptist Church, similar to our successful production three years ago. This year, the offerings will be vocal rather than instrumental. We will solicit participation from the Church's gospel choir, and from the choral groups of our local high school and elementary schools. We will also feature dramatic readings from the works of Shel Silverstein and Jules Feiffer performed by the Old Town Players. There will be more information on these activities in the next issue; and we invite your participation.

Sadly, we announce the passing of friend and neighbor **Jane DeGraff**. Jane, who lived with her husband Sherwin at 1838 N. Cleveland, left us on August 17, 2009. She was sixty-three years old. A talented artist, her works graced the walls of many businesses and galleries. The following is a remembrance from her friend Darlene Fahrenkrog. **→p6**

from → 5 I have known Jane for many years. Our daughters were in the same group at the Lincoln Park Coop Nursery School. Jane actually designed the logo for the nursery school many years ago. It still appears of the building. Jane and I were both graduates of the School of the Art Institute—although in different years, as was her husband, Sherwin.



Jane and Sherwin exhibited their work in the Ferguson Gallery at Concordia University. I was Director of the Gallery at that time. She also designed an ostrich egg for five years running for the HOPE benefit, a project that supported the HIV Clinic at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. I was on the board for the Hope project and enjoyed so much working with

this talented and lovely woman. Jane was a very creative woman and dedicated to the arts, as was attested by all who spoke at her memorial service, held at St. Michael's Church on August 22. Her friends remembered her as a gentle, caring person whose beauty was reflected in her work. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Sherwin; her children Roxanne and Michael; and her legion of friends. T

## MILESTONES

We tend to measure our lives in milestones. Birthdays, rites of passage, career moves, life-altering experiences, we remember them all. And, once in a while, we are touched by events so monumental they almost defy comprehension. The death of Walter Cronkite on July 17, 2009, reminded us of some of those events and caused us to cast a nostalgic look back at milestones we had shared.

First, a word about Walter Cronkite. Walter was an American icon. As a broadcast journalist, he was so well-known and respected that accounts of his life and his accomplishments filled dozens of newscasts and hours of television time. Many of us grew up and grew older watching Walter Cronkite. He covered some of the most important occurrences of the twentieth century, from World War II to the moon landings. In between he was there for the Vietnam War, the death of JFK, Watergate, the arrival of the Beatles, the 1960 Winter Olympics, and the Iran hostage crisis—events that touched us all in one way or another.

He was the first television broadcaster to be designated an “anchor”—in itself a milestone. In July 1952, he was covering the Republican National Convention, the first time a presidential nominating convention was nationally televised. Walter was the point person for CBS correspondents. Looking for a term to describe his role, someone came up with “anchorman”. The designation caught on, and became part of our national vocabulary.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY MILESTONES, CRONKITE, AND US

### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

We who are of a certain age can tell you exactly what we were doing when we experienced one of the most devastating milestones of the twentieth century: the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. I was teaching an eighth grade history class in Winnetka, Illinois, and my students were just returning from a gym class. Together, we watched and listened as Walter Cronkite recounted details of the shooting in Dallas on November 22, 1963. We continued to listen as Cronkite reported what was known and what was evolving—until, at length he removed his trademark glasses and announced haltingly, *President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central Standard Time*, and glancing at the clock added, *2 o'clock Eastern Standard Time, some 38 minutes ago*. He replaced his glasses and fought to keep back tears before concluding: *Vice President Johnson has left the hospital in Dallas...*



Presumably he will be taking the oath of office shortly and become the 36<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

### CRONKITE AND VIETNAM

In February of 1968, the man we trusted to chronicle our milestones, traveled to Vietnam to report on the aftermath of the Tet Offensive. By then, we had become accustomed to chants of “Hell no, we won't go”, daily scenes of draft card burnings, and news reports of a war becoming ever more frustrating and unpopular. Walter delivered a rare editorial report for CBS when he returned: *To say that we are mired in stalemate seems the only realistic, yet unsatisfactory, conclusion. In the next few months, we must test the enemy's intention, in case this is indeed the last big gasp before negotiations. But it is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as an honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could.* Following Cronkite's broadcast, President Lyndon Johnson is reported to have said, “If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost Middle America. Several weeks later, Johnson announced he would not seek reelection.

### CRONKITE AND THE 1968 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

In Chicago Walter Cronkite shared another milestone, one closer to home. He anchored the CBS network coverage of the now-famous, or infamous, Democratic National Convention of 1968. Outside the convention hall, there was violence on the streets and rioting in Lincoln Park by young people demanding an immediate end to the war. Images of protesters being led away in shackles by police were etched into our collective memory both from the actual events and from Haskell Wexler's critically acclaimed semi-documentary film *Medium Cool*, depicting the stunned mother of an MIA Vietnam soldier walking aimlessly through rioting crowds of students looking for help. Inside the hall, Dan Rather was punched to the floor, on camera, by security personnel, and Cronkite commented, “I think we've got a bunch of thugs here, Dan.” He suggested “packing up and leaving this town”. Mayor Richard J. Daley was furious. A few days later, Walter and Daley made up on camera.

### CRONKITE AND THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

Through the years, as Walter continued to bring us the news, he acquired the sobriquet “the most trusted man in America”. Many of us looked forward to his newscasts and his famous closing phrase “and that's the way it is”, followed by the date. On January 16, 1980, Day 50 of a sad milestone in our history, the Iran hos-

# Howdy!

Hitch up your wagons, put on your jeans and checkered skirts and come on down to the annual **OLD TOWN FALL HOE DOWN.**

This year, we're a-goin' to have a **Great Chili Cook-off** and pot luck supper. 🍴 Neighbors will bring their own special chili—enough for 10, corn bread, and cole slaw. 🍴 Don't fret about desserts. They'll come from the big box general store on Main Street, you know, that Costco place. 🍴 The local saloon will be pouring beer, and wine—soft drinks and water for the young-'uns. 🍴 You big folks can stomp your feet to the **Whiskey Holler Band**, little-'uns can jump on the **Moon Walk**. 🍴 Jist a few things you ought to know: We're a meetin' on **October 17**, at the **Old Town Triangle Building, 1763 N. North Park Avenue** round about **4:00 p.m.** Vittles will be served at **4:30**. 🍴 And, it don't cost a thing. Just give Shirley a holler if'n you plan to enter the chili contest—**312-337-1938**, or try that new fangled e-mail thing, **sbaugher@oldtowntriangle.com**. She'll be glad to hear from you.

*For lo! The very stars are gone.  
Brave Admiral, speak, what shall I say?"  
"Why say, 'Sail on! sail on! and on!"*

COLUMBUS, JOAQUIN MILLER

With a favorable trade wind blowing, three caravels—rolling, plunging, and throwing spray—cut down the last invisible barrier between the Old World and the New; and an era that began in remotest antiquity ended. Rodrigo de Triana, lookout on the Pinta's forecastle, saw something like white sand gleaming in the moonlight on the western horizon, then another, and a dark line of land connecting them. "Tierra, tierra," he shouted. Martin Alonso Pinzon, after a quick verification, waited for the flagship Santa Maria to approach, and fired a shot to its Captain, Christopher Columbus. At daylight, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria came ashore on the first land of the Western Hemisphere sighted by Columbus on the eastern coast of one of the Bahamas, now officially named San Salvador. Columbus, along with the captains of the Pinta and Nina, Martin Alonso Pinzon and Vincente Yanez, left their boats, knelt on the ground, and thanked the Lord for having led them safely to their destination. Surrounded by many natives, Columbus raised the banners of the expedition on which were depicted a green cross with an F (Ferdinand) on one and a Y (Ysabella) on the other, and took possession of the island in the name of the Catholic sovereigns.

Of this achievement, the historian John Bartlett Brebner wrote in 1933, *Unless mankind is to embark some day on interplanetary exploration, there can never again be a geographical adventure like the discovery and*

*exploration of the Americas.* And for his discovery, Christopher Columbus was given a title no man had ever held before or since, "Admiral of the Ocean Sea."

We will never know how Walter Cronkite might have reported on the Admiral's milestone voyage, but we do have the words of another trusted "reporter", American historian Samuel Eliot Morison: *He enjoyed long stretches of pure delight such as only a seaman may know and moments of high, proud exultation that only a discoverer can experience. The whole history of the Americas stems from the four voyages of Columbus, the stout-hearted son of Genoa, who carried Christian civilization across the Ocean Sea.*

## THE LANDING ON THE MOON

*...From the first of time, before the first men tasted time, we thought of you.*

*You were a wonder to us, unattainable, a longing past the reach of longing,*

*A light beyond our light, our lives—perhaps a meaning to us...*

*Three days and three nights we journeyed, steered by* → p8

tage crisis, Cronkite added the length of the hostages' captivity to the show's closing, reminding us of the unresolved situation. We watched and waited for that day on January 20, 1981, Day 444, when he told us it was over.

## CRONKITE, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, AND THE JOURNEY INTO SPACE

Before we venture into space with Walter Cronkite and recall what was possibly the quintessential milestone of his career, we might put that event into perspective by considering its most significant forerunner: the landing of Christopher Columbus on the eastern coast of the Bahamas 477 years earlier, at 2:00 a.m. on October 12, 1492. Of course, neither Cronkite nor we were there to witness this milestone, but it changed the world, and thus our lives, forever.

*Before him lay the gray Azores,  
Behind the Gates of Hercules;  
Before him not the ghost of shores,  
The good mate said: "Now we must pray,*



*farthest stars, climbed outward,  
Crossed the invisible tide-rip where the floating dust  
falls one way or the other  
...Encountered cold, faced death...  
Then, the fourth day evening, ...we set foot at dawn  
upon your beaches,  
Sifted between our fingers your cold sand.  
We stand here in the dusk, the cold, the silence,  
And here, as at the first of time, we lift our heads. Over us....*

VOYAGE TO THE MOON, ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

It was with Walter Cronkite that we experienced one of history's most monumental milestones. On July 21, 1969 at 4:17 p.m., Neil Armstrong and Col. Edwin Aldrin, Jr. brought their ship to rest on a level, rock-strewn plain near the southwestern shore of the Sea of Tranquility on the moon. Armstrong radioed to earth and mission control in Houston, Texas, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." About six and a half hours later, Neil Armstrong opened the landing craft's hatch, stepped slowly down the ladder and declared, as he planted the first human footprint on the lunar surface, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Cronkite, watching and reporting, shook his head, laughed, and could only say of this incredible achievement, "Whew Boy!" The astronauts returned to ticker tape parades, public adulation, and honors too numerous to mention.

Cronkite's reporting on America's space program, from his commentary and enthusiastic coverage of the early Mercury launches, through the historic Gemini missions, to the Apollo 11 and subsequent moon landings earned him a special award from NASA. At a ceremony in March 2006, he was given a piece of a moon rock, the only non-astronaut to receive such a memento. He wasn't actually allowed to keep the rock—it is illegal for any US citizen to own lunar samples brought back by Apollo astronauts. So he loaned the specimen to the Center for American History at his alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin.

We have marked milestones and crossed frontiers without Walter Cronkite since July 17. In late August, Usain Bolt shattered the world record for the 100-meter sprint by running it in 9.58 seconds. Whew Boy!

On August 26, Ted Kennedy laid the last sword on the round table and closed the door to Camelot. For those among us who have traveled the path with the Kennedys since the 60s, an era was over. To have been part of their work, their hope, and their dream seems rosy and romantic to those of us who were young then because, quite possibly, we will never feel quite so intensely about our surroundings again.

There will be more milestones for all of us: scientific breakthroughs, political changes, sports records achieved and broken, personal triumphs and tragedies. And we will acknowledge them as we see fit. Though, perhaps, at the end of each, we might, with a nod to Walter, conclude "That's the way it is." **T**