

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to the new and returning 2023 OTTA Officers and Directors. Find out what exciting new things are planned for 2023 in Message From The President and Committee News.....**Pages 1,2 3.**

Lots to “quack” about in this issue. Meet the Benson Family and delight in learning about their happy Duck House adventures...a must read.....**Page 5.**

Speaking of “ducks” what local artist and artwork inspired the “duckie” graphics for this Spring Newsletter? Find out on.....**Page 5.**

Our local school, LaSalle Language Academy, now a magnet school, has come a long way since it first opened in 1869. Read about its history, the construction of the new building in 1961, and its rebranding that has made it the outstanding academic institution it is today.....**Page 6.**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and Happy 2023 to all. New beginnings and new opportunities are coming to the OTTA. I would like to thank all the members for their support in electing me as your new President. We are all grateful for the hard work and dedication of our outgoing Board members, Dee DeCarlo, President, Chris Nelson, Vice President, and Steve Nichols, Director. We thank them for their many meaningful accomplishments including our solid financial position, By-Laws revisions, creating the Accessibility Committee and our continued focus on historic preservation. We are pleased to welcome our new Board members, Aneta Tomaszekiewicz, Vice President, and Beth Burk, Director. Returning Board members include Anne Giffels, OTAF Co-Chair and Second Vice President, Marya Lucas, Secretary, Brad Neuman, Treasurer and Zac Bleicher, Elaine Frey, Carly Jenkins, Alan Lougee and David Montgomery, Directors. A big thanks to all members who contributed to our 2023 Annual Meeting in January. We've just completed our initial February Board meeting with many initiatives being planned for the neighborhood this year, and we're thrilled to have the business of the new Board well underway.

A principle focus for this year is to continue our work in Strategic Planning. A commitment to this endeavor was agreed to at our Annual Meeting in January 2022. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed last year, chaired by Brad Neuman. Workgroups are developing plans for the OTTA that will ensure our neighborhood

stays vibrant, engaged, and safe. Our key focus is twofold: community engagement and community stewardship. The Board and its Standing Committees are also exploring new events, activities, and business opportunities that will help us achieve our goals while preserving the charm and character of our community.

We understand how important it is to have the voices of our residents heard. We are committed to listening to everyone's ideas and concerns and to engage with our residents, the many other neighborhood associations in the 43rd Ward, and our Alderman in meaningful, effective ways. With your ongoing support, we can continue to develop the energy, enthusiasm, and momentum for a better future for our OTTA community. We look forward to working together to bring about positive change and to make our community a better place for all. Thank you for being a part of our team and for your commitment to our neighborhood. **Our Mission: Connect, Collaborate and Care.**

Sincerely,

Raymond Clark

Raymond Clark, President, OTTA



COMMITTEE NEWS

Compiled by Jane Bachmann

ART FAIR COMMITTEE

Anne Giffels, Chairperson

In just four months, The Triangle will welcome many thousands of guests to our beautiful neighborhood. More than 700 artists applied to be part of the 73rd Annual Old Town Art Fair and an accomplished jury of gallery owners, art educators and artists met to select the finalists. Our Exhibitor's Committee is working on the invitations, which will be issued very soon.

One of the most exciting pre-Fair events took place on January 26th at the Old Town Triangle Annual Meeting – the reveal for this year's Art Fair poster! The artist is a local – Andrew Arkell – and the poster truly represents the growth of the Fair and its strong Chicago roots. We hope you love it as much as we do.

In addition to the juried artists, the Exhibitor's Committee is working to invite Chicago-area emerging artists to be part of the Fair. We hope to include artists from community groups, non-profit organizations, art schools and our friends from Access Living to showcase the art created by the many diverse voices of Chicago.

As always, we will have our Garden Walk, Children's Corner and musical artists. The Old Town Art Fair has something for everyone – mark your calendar for June 10 and 11!

The Art Fair Committee has been hard at work for several months, and we are moving into high gear with planning and preparation. Committee chairs and volunteers represent the very best of Old Town, and we invite everyone to join us.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 NEW AND RETURNING OTTA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

Ray Clark, President

Aneta Tomaszekiewicz,

First Vice President

Anne Giffels,

OTAF Co-Chair & Second

Vice President

Marya Lucas, Secretary

Brad Neuman, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Zac Bleicher

Beth Burk

Elaine Frey

Carly Jenkins

Alan Lougee

David Montgomery

Seated l.to r: David Montgomery, Ray Clark, Brad Neuman, **Standing l.to r:** Beth Burk, Aneta Tomaszekiewicz, Zac Bleicher, Alan Lougee, Carly Jenkins **Missing:** Elaine Frey, Anne Giffels, Marya Lucas



2023 Art Fair poster by Chicago artist, Andrew Arkell.

Continued on page 2



A rodeo at Ogden Park Mall.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NIC)

Corinne Svoboda,
Committee Member

Old Town Triangle residents enjoy green spaces in its parks and pocket parks and in all, we count 11! NIC manages and oversees the biweekly maintenance of 2 pocket parks – Willow Park and Menomonee Park (both between Wells and Crilly Court at Willow and Menomonee) – plus 3 parks, including Triangle Park (Clark and Wisconsin, with fountain), Sedgwick Planting Mound (just north of the two John Kearney horse sculptures) and Fern Court Planting (between Willow and Menomonee, adjacent to the Midwest Buddhist Temple). The other parks in our neighborhood are maintained by CDOT.

Green spaces are essential places! You never know what you will see in the parks: A music teacher leading a young cellist through her lessons at Triangle Park; children and dance theater groups at Ella Jenkins Park creating sidewalk art or trying out new moves; and, a mother and father having wine and cheese on their picnic blanket at Sedgwick Planting Mound adjacent to the Children's Playlot while their toddlers play nearby. These encounters are precious and point out the essential need of parks for all of us to enjoy a truly energizing urban lifestyle.



Cello lessons at Triangle Park.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Zac Bleicher, Chairperson

The Grants Committee oversees and administers the grant program that the Old Town Triangle Association offers to schools, institutions and organizations in our neighborhood and that serve our community. Grant applications are accepted annually: **The deadline is Saturday, April 1st.** Applications can either be picked up at the OTTA office or downloaded from the OTTA website (OTTA-GrantApp.pdf (oldtowntriangle.com)). Grantees are honored and awards distributed at the Old Town Art Fair Thank You Party in mid-June.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Brad Neuman, Chairperson

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, members assigned a high priority to preparing a strategic plan. Exploring ways to fund the project at a low cost, we were referred to the Compass organization, who recommended John Engman. In addition to John's extensive consulting experience, he served as Executive Director of the Chicago Architecture Foundation. John has generously supported the activities to-date on a pro bono basis.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) includes outgoing President Dorothy DeCarlo, new President Raymond Clark, Past Presidents Phil Graff and Rick Rausch, Zac Bleicher, and Diane Fitzgerald. Our work has been further supported by four sub-committees:

Community Development: Planning, Development, Improvements – Chair: Phil Graff, Gene Brockland, Karl Hjerpe, Steven McClellan, David Raino-Ogden, Jennifer Yengoyan.

Stakeholders: Constituency, Community Engagement, Membership, Events, Programs, Marketing – Chair: Dee DeCarlo, Sandy Bredine, Vi Daley, Jacob Ringier.

Governance: Setting Policy, Continuity/Leadership/Training, Bylaws, Advocacy – Chair: Zac Bleicher, Beth Burk, Chris Nelson, Darius Tandon.

Finance and Operations: Art Fair, Fundraising, Grants, Art School – Chair: Diane Fitzgerald, Shel Beugen, Claire Leaman, Leah Marshall, Rick Rausch, Erica Reavis.

Status

Of the seven purposes for the Strategic Plan, three have been completed to-date:

- Prepared Organizational Assessment by independent consultant, John Engman (access the Assessment Reports Summary and full report on the OTTA website – see access notes below)
- Gathered input from Members, Government, Business and Nonmembers
 - 21 in-depth interviews of OTTA past/present leaders and government officials
 - Neighborhood Outreach: postcards to 4600 residents (over 300 survey responses)
- Identified Organizational Issues

The effort to develop a lower risk, more effective, less divisive advocacy strategy is in process. Efforts to identify new opportunities, define target audiences and build our capacity to effectively govern remain.

For More Information

Project Description, Assessment Report Summary, Statement of Purpose, the survey, survey results, drafts of mission/vision/values and project updates are available at <https://www.oldtowntriangle.com> – click on “+ About OTTA” and you will see Strategic Planning as the second menu item. Be sure to take the survey if you haven't already done so. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on the mission, vision and values. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of the Officers/Directors by emailing us at planning@oldtowntriangle.com.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

David Montgomery, Chairperson

The OTTA joined the 43rd Ward Alliance to host a forum with the candidates for the 18th District Police Council on Friday, February 10th. This is a new Police Council, and three people will serve in each of the city's police districts for four-year terms, and receive a monthly honorarium of \$500. The six candidates for the 18th District are:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Kimberly Lynn Bowman | • Robert Johnson | • Brad Kessler |
| • Amy Cross | • Karen Kane | • Lisa Seigneir |

Those elected will be tasked with building connections between police and communities, developing community policing initiatives, getting community input on CPD policies, and ensuring the citywide Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) hears the community's concerns. For more information about the Council, please go to https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/ccpsa/supp_info/serving-on-a-district-council.html.

HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING + ZONING (HDPZ) COMMITTEE

Beth Burk, Chairperson

With the leadership of outgoing chairperson, Zac Bleicher, 2023 is off to a great start for the preservation of the Triangle's heritage, with the very first Mid-Century Modern home in the Historic District on track to becoming a designated Chicago landmark property! The Walter & Dawn Netsch House at 1700 North Hudson was suggested for landmark status by its current owners, Will Forrest & Mark Smithe, who bought the home in 2014 and lovingly restored it. On January 12th, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks voted unanimously to give a preliminary landmark recommendation to the home. The designation is not only for the home's exterior but also for the interior, which commissioners said is a rare practice in Chicago. "We've learned it's not just a home but it is an extension of the community," Forrest said. "We are committed to it being an ongoing community and information space for members of the local community and architectural community of Chicago." Discussions are in the works to arrange a private tour for OTTA members later this year, so stay tuned!



ABOVE: 1700 N Hudson Avenue, built in 1973-74 and designed by Walter Netsch of Skidmore Owings & Merrill. Residence of Walter & Dawn Clark Netsch until 2013. Now the proud stewards are Mark Smithe & Will Forrest.

CALL TO ACTION

GET OUT AND VOTE ON
FEBRUARY 28TH

By Jane Bachmann

Six candidates running for 43rd Ward Alderman are up for election on Tuesday, February 28th. The candidates include:

- Steven Botsford <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sfbots>
- Brian Comer <https://briancomer.com>
- Rebecca Janowitz <https://rebeccajanowitz.com>
- Ald. Timmy Knudsen <https://www.knudsenfor43.com>
- Steven McClellan <https://43forsteve.com>
- Wendi Taylor Nations <http://wendifor41.com>

The candidates participated in several forums in January and February including forums at DePaul University and Lincoln Park High School. They responded to questions about property taxes, public safety, neighborhood development & beautification and transparency in government.

Get to know your candidate. Vote on February 28th. If no one receives at least 50 percent of the vote, the top two candidates will proceed to a runoff on April 4th.



January 17th Forum at DePaul University. Photo courtesy of Erin Henze of The DePaulia.

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2023

FEBRUARY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
PRESIDENTS DAY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 6:30 PM
HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 3 PM
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
CHICAGO MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD, 3 PM
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 6TH
CASIMIR PULASKI DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1813 (WEST SEDGWICK & WEST)

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH,
2050 N. FREMONT

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1814 (EAST SEDGWICK & EAST)
WINTRUST BANK, 100 W. NORTH AVENUE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 20TH
FIRST DAY OF SPRING

TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST, 6:30 PM
HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST
GRANT APPLICATIONS TO OTTA DUE TODAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH
CHICAGO MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH
PASSOVER BEGINS

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH
EASTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH, 6:30 PM
HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

MAY

TUESDAY, MAY 7TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1813 (WEST SEDGWICK & WEST)
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
2050 N. FREMONT

TUESDAY, MAY 7TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1814 (EAST SEDGWICK & EAST)
WINTRUST BANK, 100 W. NORTH AVENUE

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH
MOTHER'S DAY

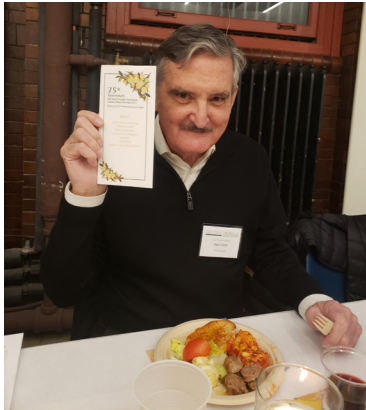
MONDAY, MAY 29TH
MEMORIAL DAY





Contributing Photographers: Kim Beis, Stephen Benson, Diane Fitzgerald, Barb Guttman, Michael Warnick

The cold snaps between November and now didn't keep us from enjoying the activities of the neighborhood, like the OTTA Art School Student Art Exhibit opening reception or the Annual Dinner & Meeting. Did you notice the very colorful mural on the building on Clybourn at Larrabee, painted by Chicago artist Brett Whitacre? With our generally mild winter (!), The Benson Ducks have made a few appearances at their pond at 215 W Eugene. Walk by and say hi!



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

The Benson Family & Their Duck House

Diane Fitzgerald

The delight of surprise is what makes our days memorable, right? Well delight in the fact that we have duck-neighbors at 215 W Eugenie, if you don't already know that?

Stephen Benson, partner Kim Beis and his children – Jack (15), Marie (13) and Tess (10) – moved into The Triangle from Hyde Park in March 2020, the same day that Chicago and the country shut-down due to Covid, Sunday, March 15th. They are 2-doors east of the Covid Concert house at 219 that graced us with concerts every Friday night during the lockdown! And then that late Autumn, after considering chickens as pets – as inspired by one of Marie's best friends – but dismissing them after extensive research by Dad, the kids came home from school one day to two baby ducks, their new pets! And so, it begins...

We know dog and cat breeds and now you will know duck breeds! The Benson Family has three breeds of ducks: Indian Runners, Call Ducks and a Black Swedish, for a total of 6 ducks. Five are female. They are named Maple (male), Saturn, Ivy, Matilda, Darla and Eclipse. The Call Ducks can fly but never fly away. Their habitat has been upgraded since the lockdown and now features a pond, lush landscaping and a memorial to Daisy the Duck who passed away in 2021. The Benson Ducks have been hand-raised, love the love of people and are more like dogs than cats – socialized to feel the love of the family! By day and with most weather conditions, the ducks hang in the front yard. By

night they luxuriate in their Garage Mahal, indoor space that has been converted for their every need – food, water and bedding with heating pads! They are non-migratory, and they forage.

The Benson Ducks have a routine. They usually sleep-in. The girls lay eggs – one a day-ish, good timing considering the supply/demand issues with eggs in our food supply, and inflation. Every morning, they march along the gangway from the garage to the pond, looking out for each other on the hike. At the end of the day they prefer to hike home down the alley making their morning and evening trek a loop. Lettuce is a duck treat and they are treated to it every day, usually after their feeding of meal worms. About 10 finches or barn swallows join in with the ducks at feeding time, and the ducks don't mind...at all! They are happy to share their home with wildlife!

Have the Bensons found a duck-sitter for the ducks? You bet. The family's three dogs have a walker who also takes care of the ducks and stays at the house when the family is traveling!

As the weather improves for people, make sure you swing by 215 W Eugenie to see the 6 ducks – who have thrived during the winter months because ducks are hardy! – doing a little water ballet in their fabulous pond. Here's a preview video clip <https://www.flickr.com/photos/00000009/gp/128866721@N02/VY4pp068i7>. And stop by @littleeugeniezoo in Instagram for more duck delights!

Editor's Note: We've featured a duck story once before in the OTTA newsletter – in the July/August 2012 issue and titled "The Mallards of Menomonee", written by long-time Triangle neighbor, Candace Jordan. She and her husband, Chuck, moved from the Triangle in 2013. Of note in her story – their backyard at 217 W Menomonee was registered as a wildlife sanctuary! Newsletters are archived on the OTTA website here [Old Town Triangle Association » Newsletter Archive](#).



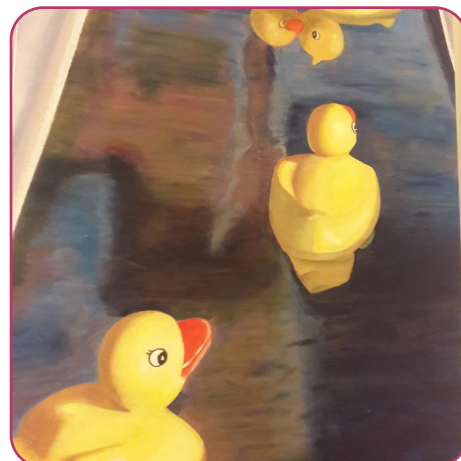
ABOVE: Meet Matilda and Darla in September 2020. Darla, left, is an Indian Runner and Matilda is a Black Swedish. **RIGHT:** And here are (l to r) Saturn, Maple and Ivy in April 2021, the small-ish Call Ducks, direct descendants of Mallard ducks. Where is Eclipse? You'll see her in the video!



ABOVE: The Benson Family. Top Left l to r: Stephen Benson, Tess, Marie and Jack. Bottom Center: Kim Beis (zooming from Mexico) and Diane Fitzgerald.

ART INSPIRATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER GRAPHICS

The graphics inspiration for this issue is "Lucky Ducks" by artist Jamie Murphy. Jamie has been taking art classes at Old Town Triangle for about 20 years and is a teacher's aide in a Wednesday evening OTT art class. She's a lifelong Chicagoan, and likes to paint things she sees around the city, especially at night when lights are glowing. In the past she was very much attracted to carnivals and painted a few carnival scenes. This artwork was inspired by a popular carnival game at Fiesta del Sol that worked like this: "If you picked the right duck, you won a prize, and the prize was determined by the number on the bottom of the duck."



ABOVE: A rare photo of the old school next to the new one under construction. From the Chicago Sun-Times, 1961, courtesy of Jim Duckworth. RIGHT: 1950 photo of the original school, built in 1881 – north half of east facade on N Orleans

HISTORY OF OLD TOWN THE HISTORY OF LASALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY

By Paul Kendrick

In 1869, a school opened on Clark near North Avenue called LaSalle Street Primary School. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 burned it away, so as Chicago recovered and population moved north, a new school was in demand.

The City opened a new school on January 10, 1881. It was a twelve-room school on Eugenie and Hammond (now Orleans), named after the French explorer of the Illinois Valley, René-Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle. Back when Old Town was a quiet German settlement, LaSalle School was three stories tall, with twelve high-ceilinged classrooms. Its design made the school a Chicago highlight.

An 1893 addition facing Eugenie included an assembly hall/auditorium and gymnasium on the third floor. The addition was made over where the playground had been so children played in the street—or inside St. Michael's Church in bad weather. Priests caught them playing hide and seek in the pews and confessionals!

Homer Bevans was the principal from 1884 until 1908, 24-years as the school's second and longest-serving principal. It was said he was "only appreciated by intellectual people." He was known to read Thoreau's Walden Pond to the kids.

When the windows were open, you could hear the dress factory and a horse barn next door. By the mid-20th century, many Old Town settlers were gone and bigger rooming houses and hotels came in. The school had 16 nationalities represented from the immigrant laborer families in the neighborhood. The school was proud of having students whose great-grandparent alums were still in the neighborhood—and alums who gave their lives in both World Wars.

In 1961, 80 years later, a new building went up with 21 classrooms after the City bought a factory site and nine housing lots. By 1966, there were 800 students, but a decade later, enrollment fell to only one hundred. The school wanted to restore parent faith in public schools.

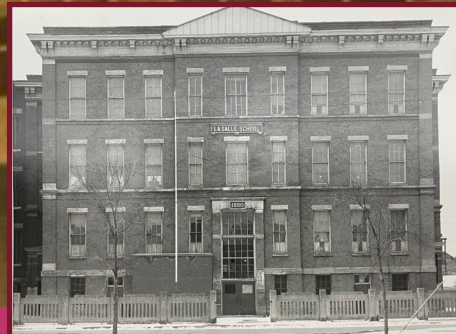
The result was rebranding the school in 1978 as LaSalle Language Academy. Principal Helen Marcy brought French, German, Spanish, and Italian offerings to the racially integrated school focused on an appreciation of different cultures. Becoming a magnet school, neighborhood students mixed with those admitted through the application process. The population rebounded to 500 by 1985.

Alum and current Local School Council member, Steven McClellan, remembers principal Dr. Amy Weiss Narea (1984-2007 or 23 years!) doing intercom announcements in four languages. The school facilitated students taking trips to the countries of languages they were learning. Overall, the close-knit community of the school and the novelty of language exposure, starting in kindergarten, made him feel fortunate to attend.

The community felt so close-knit in part because LaSalle Alumni have returned to teach. Special education classroom assistant Reed Lubin said, "I graduated from LaSalle in 2006 and came back to work here in the fall of 2017! Mr. Van Steen was my favorite teacher as a kid and coming back and getting the chance to play basketball with him almost every day was one of the coolest things I've gotten to do in my adult life.

Alum Jim Duckworth has organized a [Face-book group of alumni](#), "LaSalle Elementary School, Chicago Illinois," that has connected with more than 1,000 graduates. Using class record Jim has found dating back to 1914, he calculates that 6,745 students have graduated from LaSalle since then. We're checking into records from 1881-1913...

LaSalle opened a beautiful, multi-purpose green turf field in 2019, built over what was an asphalt blacktop. During construction, remnants of the original buildings' plumbing and infrastructure were found! It's amazing to imagine all of the students who've played hard and studied hard here at LaSalle for the last 142 years!



LaSalle School playground, circa 1950s. Where are the trees? Check out 1710-1720 N Sedgwick Street in the background, including the current homes of Beth & Brad Burk, Donna & Payam Zarei and Kim & Trigg Thorstenson!



Students from Room 8, 1893 – five years after George Eastman went to market with his "Kodak" camera!

Special thanks to Diane Fitzgerald and Ericca Reavis for digitizing early LaSalle documents, as well as Jim Duckworth, Kat O'Brien, Reed Lubin and Steven McClellan for help with this story.

Editor's Note: Paul Kendrick is an OTTA member, Lincoln Park resident, and an author of three historical books, most recently, *Nine Days: The Race to Save Martin Luther King Jr.'s Life* and *Win the 1960 Election*.



GRANT SPOTLIGHT LaSalle Language Academy's Art Department Project

By Diane Fitzgerald

From LaSalle's Art Teacher, Chris Thomas: LaSalle Language Academy has partnered with the artist Matthew Hoffman and his organization YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL (you-are-beautiful.com) to

design and paint a mural on the storage container in the school's parking lot, facing Sedgwick Street. Recently, Matthew's project manager, Shae Synnestvedt, visited LLA to take measurements and photos of the container. From there, YAB's design team is creating multiple digital mock-ups of possible designs for the installation/mural. There will be student involvement painting the mural, which is expected to be completed in late May. This art installation will not only provide beautification to the school and neighborhood and positive messag-

ing to the community but also enhance LaSalle's students' art education. None of this would have been possible without funding from the OTTA. We cannot thank you enough for the support and look forward to sharing the end result with you and the Old Town community.

Editor's Note: LaSalle Language Academy was awarded \$5,000 from the OTTA for this outdoor mural project, the full amount of their request.



Green City Market Is Back Outdoors April 1st in Lincoln Park and May 6th in the West Loop.

The neighborhood's favorite Farmers' Market brings together dozens of local, sustainable farmers and food producers, community programs for all ages, and more. Check out the market schedule on our website. www.greencitymarket.org.



Lincoln Park Co-op is currently accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year. We have limited availability in our 5 part-time programs that serve children 18 months

to 5 years old. You may apply on our website lincolnparkcoop.org or reach out to our Membership Committee with questions: membership@lincolnparkcoop.org.



LaSalle annually celebrates various cultural and international traditions. For Black History Month, we're hosting our **Annual Black Business Fair!** Old Town families are encouraged to attend and support Black-owned businesses of all kinds on Friday, February 24th at 4 p.m. in our gymnasium (enter off the playground entrance). For more information about the school, visit www.lasallechicago.com.



The Village Chicago is the City's premier social and services community network for people over 50. We offer fun and engaging social activities (400 plus events a year) where you can make friends and be a part of a larger community. We also bring together academics, authors, and experts to help you learn and grow—and manage life transitions. And when you need extra support, we are here to connect you to expert referrals, volunteer assistance, or just offer a listening ear.

For information, an online calendar of events or to learn about becoming part of The Village go to info@thevillagechicago.org or call 773-248-8700.



Lincoln Park Community Services

Lincoln Park Community Services welcomes you to join us at our **Annual Metamorphosis** fundraising event! The festive gathering of the community includes savory food and drinks with a dose of doing good. Come celebrate highlights of the LPCS community while supporting our mission of empowering Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. For more information visit www.lpcschicago.org.



Art on Sedgwick still needs people to send in photos for the **Old Town Portrait Project**. The Old Town Portrait Project invites people who live or work in the Old Town community to submit a photo of their choosing to Art on Sedgwick.

Veteran Chicago artist, John Bakker, will then use these photos to create portraits that will last over 100 years. Each portrait is hand-painted on a wooden box with a hand-lettered biography that

tells the story of those pictured. More information is available at: <http://www.artonsedgwick.org/blog/old-town-portrait-project/>.



Lincoln Park Conservancy

Join the Lincoln Park Conservancy on **Earth Day, April 22nd** for a Park workday & celebration at North Pond. Then, kick off the Summer Solstice with the Conservancy during our annual **Gala for Lincoln Park** on **June 22nd**. Become a 2023 sponsor and receive promotional benefits including event tickets and web exposure year-round. Learn more at lincolnparkconservancy.org or contact info@lincolnparkconservancy.org with questions.



The Menomonee Club's Spring Session begins **March 13th**. Join us for Judo, Fencing, Taekwondo, RetroActive

Sports, and Basketball Gametime! For more information go to www.menomoneeclub.org.



Do you believe in magic? The Friends of Lincoln invite you to join us on **March 10th** for a night of dinner, drinks and magic as we celebrate our Lincoln Community at The Fairlie (339 N Bell Avenue). This special gala event includes an online auction to raise funds to support the students of Lincoln Elementary. Purchase your "**Believe in Magic**" tickets here: TICKETS.

Also, are you interested in a school tour? Registration is on our website <https://www.lincolnelementary.org/>.



Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. Weekday masses are held during Lent (February 23rd – April 5th) Monday through Saturday. See website for detailed schedule.

Lenten Food Drive

The goal of the **Lenten Food Drive**, an annual parish project sponsored by the Human Concerns & Needs Commission, is to stock the shelves of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry with food. See website for details.

The Keys to the Bank Gala is Friday, May 5th at Wintrust's Grand Banking Hall.

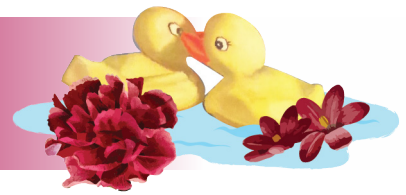
For more information, visit our website www.st-mikes.org.



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 March | April



MARCH | DAN NELSON

With color and humor, he paints stories and tries (very successfully) to insert some humor. He could tell you what he believes that story is, but encourages you to imagine for yourself what is happening in the painting.

Dan is a Chicago born and raised artist living on the north side. He is a 1975 graduate of Chicago's Ray Vogue School for Graphic Design and has worked in advertising since graduation. He began painting about eight years ago, starting with abstracts, moving to sunrise/sunsets and changing to his current collections of pets and their people.



All The Right Moves

EXHIBITION: FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 31
OPENING RECEPTION: MARCH 5 | 2-4 PM

APRIL | CHUNBO ZHANG

Food Treasure Series: Zhang's current art practice involves paintings and installations that reflect her interest in the difference and connection between Chinese and American cultures, and the anxiety she experienced as a foreigner living in America and adapting to its culture. She chose food as the subject because it is not only essential in our daily life, but also an entry point for a foreigner to understand an unfamiliar culture.

Snow Series: This series was inspired by Chicago's snowy winters. She was drawn upon the close-up texture of icy snow. To present the exquisite, transparent and salt-melted nature of snow, she worked primarily with salt, water, and ink. This allowed her to work intuitively based on observation and interpretation. In some paintings, the abstract images serve as the background layer, and

then Chinese fine-style painting and printmaking technique is applied for the final touch. This spontaneous (uncontrolled) and fine-style (controlled) painting and printing processes are used alternatively in order to create detailed and imaginative world within and beyond the existing imagery.



LEFT: "Bagel" RIGHT: "Deep Dish Pizza" Both artworks are part of her Food Treasure Series.

EXHIBITION: APRIL 1 – APRIL 28
OPENING RECEPTION: APRIL 9 | 2-4 PM

NEWS YOU CAN USE | "The Times" Production Team | By Diane Sokolofski

Meet two behind-the-scenes people who make the magic of The Times happen: **Dee Clark**, graphic designer, and **Christie Renfro**, production manager.



Since 2010, **Dee Clark** takes our words and creates the artful layout that makes them interesting stories. She takes our photos and offers them up one wonderful page after another, helping us record our own history as we make it. Dee creates the colorful interactive digital graphics and enabled us to make an easy transition from print to digital. She is always open to new ideas and opportunities but creates a shared vision in the final design. Her full-time job is as brand designer who brings idealistic and conceptual vision to inspiring designs that communicate across multi-channels of the brand. Dee came to the OTTA via Robert Gibbs, former Board member and the first Chairperson of the Communications Committee. Check out Dee's website at: www.deeclarkcreative.com.



Christie Renfro is the extremely efficient Design and Marketing Manager with Riverside Graphics for 20 years. She has been working with the Old Town Triangle Association since 2016, printing and mailing our OTTA newsletter. She has an eagle eye when it comes to quality output and on more than several occasions saved the day in pre-production. When we took the newsletter digital in 2021, Christie continued to produce magnificent, low quantity runs of The Times for our members who were without email.

Christie and Riverside Graphics, serving Chicago since 1965, have provided other printing services to the OTTA, like the recent neighborhood survey. Over the years, they have consistently delivered a finished product of the utmost quality in a timely manner. Visit www.riversidegex.com.

