



# FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS



**Come to the 71st Old Town Art Fair June 12th and 13th. Reserve a Fair Ticket. Pre-Register Today!**  
**[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our **EVENTBRITE** page.**

Find out the latest happenings in the Art Fair Committee Report .....[Page 1](#)  
View Creative Sidewalk Art and meet the “behind the scenes” neighbor who brought love and hope to our Triangle neighbors during the pandemic and today in Neighborhood Spotlight.....[Pages 4.5](#)  
Learn how Little Meatball, a local iBOT business owned by Triangle residents the Marino family, managed new success-

es during the pandemic, by packing in “big flavor” with their all-family friendly menu and award-winning pizza in iBOT Spotlight ..... [Page 5](#)  
Meet our newly appointed OTTA Treasurer, Brad Neuman in Neighbor Spotlight.....[Page 7](#)  
Our Triangle neighbor, Margaret Fracassi, turns 100 on May 15th.....[Page 8](#)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**W**hat could make me happier than to say – THE OLD TOWN ART FAIR 2021 is happening!!!! It was announced by Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago. This is great news for the OTTA, the neighborhood, artists, and art lovers everywhere. This will be a challenge, but Anne Giffels and the entire Art Fair Committee have been tirelessly working to make the 2021 Fair happen. It was difficult to give 100% when no one was sure the event would even occur. But they moved forward with plans to make the Art Fair a safe and healthy celebration. It is a bright light for the whole community to show our resilience to adversity.

There will be other events returning this year. In September, First Sight will be back in a new way and with a new name. Kathy Clark and Eurydice Chrones are co-chairs with big, bold plans. Look for the Neighborhood Improvements & Beautification to work their

magic and some innovative ideas coming from the Events Committee.

The Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee continually monitors and stays involved in any new developments. They are working to make sure we keep the historic integrity of the Old Town Triangle by working to resolve any issues that might arise. We are here to work together for the good of all our neighbors.

These past few months have been fruitful and brought a sense of harmony back into our daily lives. Make no doubt about it, we as a community have turned a corner and are heading into a bright new season.

*Dorothy DeCarlo*

Dorothy DeCarlo  
[president@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:president@oldtowntriangle.com)



## Join Us FOR THE 2021 OLD TOWN ART FAIR ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH AND SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL THE ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 71st OLD TOWN ART FAIR. TO RESERVE A FAIR TICKET, PRE-REGISTER TODAY. [CLICK HERE](#) TO VISIT OUR EVENTBRITE PAGE!

## COMMITTEE NEWS | Compiled by Jane Bachmann

### ART FAIR COMMITTEE | Anne Giffels, Chairperson



Anne Giffels, Art Fair Chairperson

Great news... our fair permit was granted, and the 2021 Old Town Art Fair is on! Planning is going strong for the 71st Annual Fair and we are excited to welcome more than 200 artists back to Old Town and invite everyone to come and enjoy their beautiful work and our charming neighborhood.

The emphasis this year is on safety for our neighbors, guests, artists, volunteers, and workers. We will be observing strict COVID safety protocols and limiting our guests to stay within mandated capacity limits. Pre-registration is required with a suggested donation. Details are available on our website [oldtownartfair.org](http://oldtownartfair.org).

Due to indoor capacity restrictions, our pre-fair fundraiser, First Sight, will be held at the wonderful Chicago History Museum on Friday, September 24. Planning for Then and Now, Our Old Town is underway, and it will be an evening to remember!

This past year has been difficult for everyone, and the return of the Old Town Art Fair is welcomed. Come visit us on June 12 and 13 – we will see you at the Fair!



The Art Fair Poster was taken from the artwork by artist Seth Carlson, titled Firefly Pin.

## 71 YEARS OLD IN 2021, NOTHING STOPS THE OLD TOWN ART FAIR

Since 1950, the Old Town Art Fair has brought thousands of artists and visitors to The Triangle, always in early June. As it turns out, it jumpstarts the summer festival season in Chicago and it's become the #1 outdoor juried art show in the United States. It takes an army of volunteers and the generosity of spirit of neighbors to enable this gigantic event to happen. Nothing stops this force of nature...except another force of nature in 2020, COVID-19. And then there was that time in 1963 when the local politics almost forced the cancellation of the Fair!

*The excerpt below is from page 23 of the "Old Town Art Fair 1950-1999: Fifty Years and Counting" written by the 50th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Diane Gonzalez. The 1999 OTAF was chaired by Norman Baugher.*

"Politics almost caused the cancellation of the fair in 1963 when Alderman Paddy Bauler refused to allow an admission charge or the sale of food. Alderman Bauler also insisted that the sidewalks be kept open for pedestrians and that no gates be allowed....The fair committee...sent a delegation to City Hall...and met with Mayor Daley to plead their case. ...The next night...a permit had been granted. It is rumored that Alderman Bauler's restrictions were related to his recent election losses...The following year, to avenge Old Town's defiance of his authority, Bauler held his own art fair on OTAF weekend in his saloon at North & Sedgwick (now an empty parking lot)."



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mathias "Paddy" Bauler was a Chicago saloonkeeper and Alderman of the 43rd Ward, from 1933-1943 and again from 1947-1967.

### BYLAWS COMMITTEE | Chris Nelson, Chairperson

We had our second Committee meeting on April 6. Each Committee member was responsible for reviewing a different section of the OTTA Bylaws. After a very productive discussion about our current Bylaws, we are not recommending major changes to them. There are small discrepancies the committee will continue to discuss and a general "clean-up" of language and grammar. We will continue to meet monthly, except for May and June to accommodate the Art Fair planning. If there's any issues you think the Bylaws Committee needs to consider, please email us at [Bylaws@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:Bylaws@oldtowntriangle.com) with your thoughts. OTTA members are welcome to attend our meetings. Look for the days/times and Zoom links in future Weekly Posts.

### EVENTS COMMITTEE | Carly Jenkins, Chairperson

The Events Committee has summer/fall activities and ideas in the planning stages. One timely and perfect social distancing activity is a newly-formed Peloton group: Carly has set up a link for anyone with a Peloton exercise bike, treadmill or Peloton app subscriber. Join the Old Town Triangle crew at #oldtowntriangle or [click here](#).

### FINANCE COMMITTEE | Brad Neuman, Chairperson

The newly formed Finance Committee welcomes Jack Schindler and Board Directors, Anne Giffels and Zach Bleicher. The Committee is working on recommendations for the amount of money that is available for grants and for neighborhood improvements. It is exciting to consider the potential of resuming direct giving to the community. With a rich history of giving, the OTTA granted over \$955,000 from 2011-2019! Including neighborhood improvements, this amazing total jumps to almost \$1.2 million. All this is made possible because of the generous donations of time, talent and money of our members. Thank you for making a difference, for your continued support and for your cash donations.

If anyone has knowledge of QuickBooks, and time to lend a hand, we could use some help with automating the new financial reports. The new formats are designed to be easier to understand as well as provide more information for OTTA members and directors. QuickBooks expert, we need you. Thanks!

### HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONING (HDPZ) COMMITTEE | Zac Bleicher, Chairperson

HDPZ is off to a busy start this year, welcoming new and familiar faces back to regular monthly meetings, on the third Tuesday of each month, currently being held via Zoom (the link is sent out in the OTTA Weekly Post the week prior to each meeting). We hope that soon we'll be able to safely transition back to in-person meetings as our community continues to adhere to all public health guidelines and protocols.

Aside from the regular review of district architectural projects and zoning matters, one of the Committee's tasks this year will be creating a new social media account dedicated to sharing the beauty and history of the Old Town Triangle. Our aim is to celebrate our neighborhood's heritage and to raise awareness of its unique history of architecture, design, and preservation within the City of Chicago. Keep an eye out for more information in OTTA's Weekly Post about our new HDPZ account on Instagram, launching soon! If you have a favorite building or story you wish to see featured, please email us at the address below. And to further bring this heritage celebration to life, each of our monthly meetings will begin with a brief member's presentation of a house history or the history of a special area of The Triangle.

HDPZ is also undertaking a "refresh" of the Committee's webpage. We want to know your thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve our webpage and what information you wish were more readily accessible. All suggestions, however big or small, are welcome. You can review our current webpage at [www.oldtowntriangle.com/about/committees/historic-district-planning-zoning-2](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/about/committees/historic-district-planning-zoning-2)

Please let us know your feedback and questions by emailing us at [HDPZ@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:HDPZ@oldtowntriangle.com)



## MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE | Darius Tandon, Chairperson

There are several goals for the Membership and Community Engagement Committee in the coming year. Increasing membership is always a priority. To do so, we must develop effective approaches for reaching new Triangle residents and communicating with all residents about the range of OTTA neighborhood improvement and community events. We intend to work closely with the Events Committee to create new and varied events for Triangle residents to interact (safely). Suggestions are always welcome on what these events might look like. We hope to make the I Buy Old Town (iBOT) program more visible to members and neighborhood businesses. Supporting our local businesses is even more vital as they continue to weather the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, we hope to make members' interactions with the OTTA more streamlined through a new membership database that we found to be more user-friendly for commonly used features such as scheduling classes. We would be delighted to have individuals broadly interested in membership and community engagement reach out to be part of our Committee. Each of the areas briefly described above have Triangle members working on them, but we have not yet held a larger Committee meeting this year. Please feel free to reach out to Darius Tandon, Membership and Community Engagement Chair, directly at [dariustandon@gmail.com](mailto:dariustandon@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

### MAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 9TH**  
MOTHER'S DAY

**TUESDAY, MAY 11TH, 6 PM**  
CAPS MEETING: BEAT 1813  
(VIRTUAL)

**TUESDAY, MAY 11TH, 7 PM**  
BOARD MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**THURSDAY, MAY 13TH, 6 PM**  
CAPS MEETING: BEAT 1814  
(VIRTUAL)

**TUESDAY, MAY 18TH, 6:30 PM**  
HD/PZ COMMITTEE MEETING  
(VIRTUAL)

**SATURDAY, MAY 22ND, 9 AM**  
SPRING CLEAN-UP

**MONDAY, MAY 31ST**  
MEMORIAL DAY

### JUNE

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY,  
JUNE 12 & 13TH**  
71ST OLD TOWN ART FAIR

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15TH, 6:30 PM**  
HD/PZ COMMITTEE MEETING  
(VIRTUAL)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH**  
FATHER'S DAY & FIRST DAY  
OF SUMMER

### JULY

**SUNDAY, JULY 4TH**  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**TUESDAY, JULY 13TH, 6 PM**  
CAPS MEETING: BEAT 1813  
(VIRTUAL)

**TUESDAY, JULY 13TH, 7 PM**  
BOARD MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**THURSDAY, JULY 15TH, 6 PM**  
CAPS MEETING: BEAT 1814  
(VIRTUAL)

**TUESDAY, JULY 20TH, 6:30 PM**  
HD/PZ COMMITTEE MEETING  
(VIRTUAL)

### AUGUST

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 7 PM**  
BOARD MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 6:30 PM**  
HD/PZ COMMITTEE  
MEETING (VIRTUAL)

# NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Brad Neuman – OTTA Treasurer

By Linda Neuman

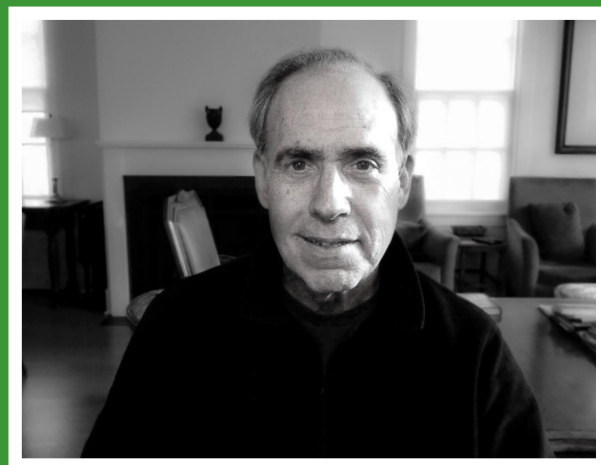
Four years ago, Brad Neuman left a lifetime of suburban living in Northbrook, to be closer to his daughter and her family in the Old Town Triangle. Brad and his wife, Linda, have been thrilled to call the circa 1872 "Jacob Lauer Residence" their home. Just steps across the LaSalle playfield to their daughter's front door on Willow, Brad loves to spend time with his grandchildren, or to simply stop by for a quick "hello" on his daily walk around the neighborhood. He delights in seeing children playing in the Triangle parks along with the impromptu gathering of parents, which help build a strong sense of community. He's a fan of Marge's, Nookie's and Twin Anchors, and his particular favorite is the chocolate ice cream bar from Twin Anchors. "It's a good thing X-Sport Fitness is close by", says Brad.

He appreciates the charming streets and architectural detail of our landmark community. Purchasing their home in 2015, the 18-month renovation of the historic Chicago worker's cottage, was both an adventure and learning experience that helped Brad understand landmark neighborhood challenges. He quickly learned how to properly move (or leave alone) a commercial dumpster in the alley when it fell on top of him, sending him in an ambulance to Northwestern Hospital with a concussion and bleeding head.

Having been appointed by the Board to serve as OTTA Treasurer, he comes armed with an educational background steeped in math, business and accounting, along with a work career that spanned years in finance and real estate. His experience on government, hospital and non-profit boards should prove to be helpful as well. He credits his strong faith in guiding him. Brad shared, "As treasurer, he hopes to help the Board make sound financial decisions."

A scientific approach to solving business and policy problems through research and data analysis, has been a passion and a gift Brad is thankful for and he's often problem solving late into the evening. His wife Linda adds, "His remarkable math skills have come into play in more ways than one over the years and were a powerful attraction for me when we first met back in 1969, contrasting my own 'right brained' tendencies and early arithmetic shortcomings."

Brad is humbled by the opportunity to serve as treasurer on the OTTA Board and considers it an honor and a privilege to be living in the Triangle at this time in his life.



Brad Neuman, our newly appointed OTTA Treasurer

# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT | The Marvel & Delight of the Sidewalk Chalk Art

By Diane Fitzgerald

To be a magician is to have the secret powers and exceptional skills of surprise. Add a touch of delight and you get sheer joy and enchantment. That's what Caitlin Hill is...a magician, and you can feel it when in her presence, even with masks on!

Using the facade of her house and with her husband Vince Curtin and their two grade school daughters, they created a special new world-during-COVID – in the windows or on the sidewalk outside of their home on Sedgwick at Menomonee. Messages of inspiration and whimsical drawings got our attention. Caitlin connected with us at a time when our fast-paced lives came to a screeching halt and our worlds got very small.

It all started with the “bear hunts” in the early days of COVID-19. Instead of teddy bears in her windows, Caitlin displayed LOL Dolls – big-eyed, tiny collectible dolls – with conversation bubbles featuring personal stories taped over their little heads. They got a lot of attention. And a lot of smiles!

Next came The Windows of Old Town, conceptualized by neighbor Danielle Klinenberg as “art with heart at a distance”! For that “exhibit”, Caitlin featured the artwork of her brother, Chicago artist Robert “Booby” Hill, a series of bold kitsch pen & ink renderings, and poof! The Window Gallery was born.



Then fourth grader Ava and Kiera, in second grade, started displaying their own art. Caitlin mimicked the gallery nights in River North by “hosting” First Fridays and solicited favorites from passersby with Peoples’ Choice Awards. Neighbors loved the Window Gallery with all its post-it messages. Instagram postings boosted the number of sightseers and conversations, no surprise.

With the warming weather, the Window Gallery expanded to the sidewalk with amazing and magical chalk drawings by the girls and their friends. The perfect outdoor, socially distancing activity, Caitlin divided the sidewalk and offered themes to inspire the girls’ artwork. The sidewalk soon became a message board with encouraging phrases and quotable quotes. Caitlin left a basket

with a rainbow of big, fat sidewalk chalk on her front stoop, all day, every day, so we could draw, too, and the gallery was renamed The Corner Gallery.

“We moved here eight years ago, and I missed interacting with our neighbors when COVID struck. Each of these different “exhibits” drew people in. It seemed that they made people happy. Us, too. This has been awesome for our family!” Caitlin told me.

The Corner Gallery was a phenomenon. It’s worth a mention that Eva and Keira’s desks were moved to the living room and positioned looking out the windows overlooking the whole scene outside! They saw everyone’s reactions and watched as people responded to Caitlin’s COLOR YOUR HEART OUT message in chalk. Neighbors would

run to 1801 after a rainfall to see what survived and what was newly added...and it always delighted. The chalk drawings became chalk paintings with the accidental – and then deliberate – addition of rain and use of water. The giant, colorful fairy wings that appeared one day were fantastic in and of themselves; but they weren’t complete until Eva lay on the ground between them to become a fairy princess! It was performance art!

Neighbors throughout the Triangle started making art with chalk on their sidewalks. So, thank you Caitlin, for magically transforming our neighborhood and giving us a happy place – your dynamic, interactive corner of The Triangle. You and your family delighted and inspired many!

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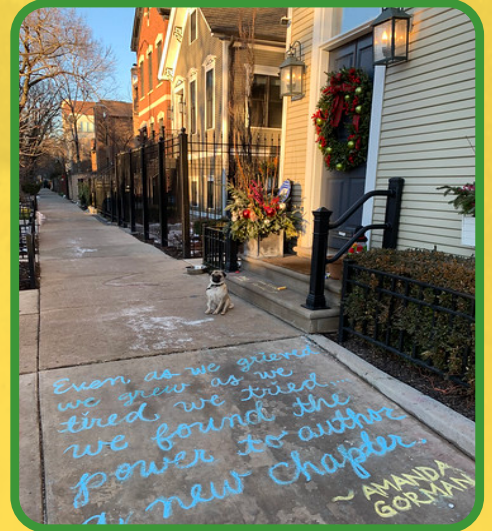
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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** From March 17, 2020 until April 19, 2021, Chicago children stayed at home to attend school remotely via Zoom or Teams or Meet, in compliance with Illinois' quarantine guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



The Hill-Curtin Family has inspired children of all ages!



## A FAREWELL TO Salli Eley – Neighbor and Art Fair Chair

By Diane Gonzalez

1968-1969 General Art Fair Chair, Salli Eley, passed away on January 20, 2021. Originally from Cedar Falls, Iowa, a young Salli – armed with her art and design talents – moved to New York City. Salli left NYC for Chicago where she met and married the late Tom Eley. They raised their sons on Wisconsin Street before they moved to Chalmers Place.

During their Triangle years, Salli and Tom were generous volunteers who did whatever had to be done. Friend and former neighbor, Mary Shea, recalled that they were fun and beloved by everyone. Both were leaders who greatly contributed for years to the success of the Old Town Art Fair.

Salli had the job of chairing the OTAF during the only time it was moved from its traditional second weekend in June. Due to Robert Kennedy's 1968 assassination, the 57th Street Fair was shifted to the second weekend of June; artists came to Salli to ask that Old Town's Fair be rescheduled to the following weekend. The request was granted. Exhibitors spread the word via a chain call, and

the 1968 Fair was a big success. Salli followed her years as Art Fair Chair by designing the OTAF posters for the next three years.

Another former neighbor, Carol Hoerger, recalled Salli's sense of humor when she revealed that for Tom's 50th birthday day, Salli hired a CTA bus to drop him off at his office near Michigan Avenue. Tom boarded and to his surprise found his bus full of neighbors. The bus then breezed on by frustrated passengers waiting at regular stops. Neighbors sang Happy Birthday when Tom reached his workplace.

In turn, Tom gave Salli a surprise birthday party and rented out the Biograph Theater on a Sunday morning. Old Town friends waited inside and their son Tom Jr. manned the ticket office. The film shown was *Gilda* starring Rita Hayworth.

Today, 50 plus years after Salli's turn as Fair Chair and poster artist, the 2021 Art Fair looms with a new set of challenges. The legacy of Salli's creative and engaging spirit survives in today's Old Town Art Fair crew of volunteers.



The late Salli Eley, neighbor and General Art Fair Chair 1968-1969



Salli Eley designed the 1970 Old Town Art Fair poster





**GREEN CITY MARKET (GCM)** is back for season 22! Wednesdays and Saturdays through October, 7am to 1pm. Visit [www.greencitymarket.org/safeshopperguidelines](http://www.greencitymarket.org/safeshopperguidelines) for health and safety guidelines. Seasonal products from 50+ local, sustainable farmers and food producers, on average just 65 miles from Chicago. New vendors this season: Frillman Farms, Daisies, Paper Tiger Eats, Star Farm, and Theo's Plant-Based.

As part of its nonprofit mission to expand food access in Chicago, GCM welcomes and matches Link (a.k.a. SNAP or EBT) dollar-for-dollar up to \$15 per household per market day!



We've missed you! Come worship with us again. Participate in our liturgies in person on Tuesdays, 8:00am; Saturday Evenings (anticipated liturgy for Sundays) 5:00pm; Sundays 9:00am and 11:00am. Register at [www.st-mikes.org](http://www.st-mikes.org). Live-streaming mass continues daily at 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am on Facebook.

**Save The Date:** St. Michael Gala, Friday, September 24th at the Union League Club, Chicago. Find this and more at <https://st-mikes.org>.



**LINCOLN PARK COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL HAS OPENINGS!** Since 1950, our play-based, parent-run cooperative has served children ages 2 - 5.

We now have openings in our part-time drop-off programs, offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact our Membership Committee: [membership@lincolnparkcoop.org](mailto:membership@lincolnparkcoop.org).

Attention! Join our 70th birthday celebrations scheduled to (safely) take place later this year. If you or your children attended Lincoln Park Co-op, contact Executive Director Emily Darrell to be added to our mailing list [admin@lincolnparkcoop.org](mailto:admin@lincolnparkcoop.org).



**LASALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY** is a magnet JK-8 school in The Triangle. Nearly 75% of our students have returned to school for in-person instruction, as of mid-April, attending either Shift A (Mondays/Tuesdays) or Shift B (Thursdays/ Fridays). Most of our youngest students at-

tend four days/week. We provide robust remote instruction for those learning at home. <https://www.lasallechicago.com/>.

Programs are resuming: Before school supervision, Racial Equity workshops for parents and staff, and more. NEW! "Leopard Day" – for remote students, replacing typical subjects with special activities led by our teachers, like cooking meals, taking nature walks, or presenting favorite moments in history! May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and Leopard Day will fit that theme. June's Leopard Day focuses on "Career Day".

For more, see our virtual tour @llapincipal on Twitter. Sign up for our newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/y54ncvn2>.



**THE VILLAGE CHICAGO** is a network for people over 50 offering many ways to find community. Village members boost their social life, discover and learn, stay healthy and fit, and find support when it is needed ([thevillagechicago.org](http://thevillagechicago.org), 773-248-8700).

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILY CARE-PARTNERS** – Caring for a loved one with cognitive loss or a neurodegenerative disease? This popular program helps connect you to others experiencing the same things. Care-partnering is stressful and can be isolating. Explore coping, reacting and adapting to the many challenges of providing care for a loved one. Learn from others and establish sustainable support. Meet for 10 weeks via Zoom for 90 minutes – to be followed by regularly scheduled maintenance meetings. Maximum 12 participants. Series is \$25 and includes program workbook. Registration ends May 11, 2021. Contact Jen Hurd [jhurd@thevillagechicago.org](mailto:jhurd@thevillagechicago.org). Program schedule to follow.

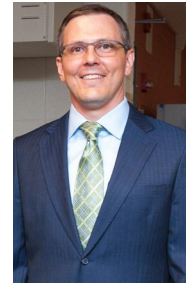


**LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL** is our neighborhood high school.

Friends of Lincoln Park High School (FOLPHS) is

launching a new fundraiser! LPHS faculty and staff created a **Wish List** of items the school desperately needs but are not covered by the CPS budget. Check the list and donate if you can [FOLPHS Wish List](#).

FOLPHS will **MATCH** every donation, dollar for dollar, for the top 3 items up to **\$80,000**. **Give ANY amount!** Donations made on items that are not fully funded will go toward LPHS' general funds, supporting the school and its activities. The **Wish List** closes on May 31st. Any questions, contact [folphswishlist@gmail.com](mailto:folphswishlist@gmail.com).



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, our neighborhood elementary school, has a new Principal – Dr. Eric Fay, who started on February 22, 2021. Previously Assistant Principal of William Jones College Preparatory High School for 7 years, he has been an educator for 20+ years. The Local School Council (LSC) completed the recruitment/hiring

process within 3 months. Under Dr. Fay's leadership, Lincoln students were able to transition smoothly from the remote learning phase to in-school learning.

Following spring break, 76% of Lincoln students were back in school for hybrid learning. The PTA coordinated Picture Day for hybrid and remote learners as well as a Virtual Book Fair during the remote learning phase. Parent volunteers organized grade-level outdoor gatherings in a safe and socially distant manner. Friends Of Lincoln continue fundraising activities in creative ways. EFAC, the Lincoln's French Program, has resumed. ALESMA, Lincoln's Band Program, has been offering virtual music programs. In short, the uncertainty due to COVID has not diminished the spirit of the Lincoln community. <http://www.lincolnelementary.org/>



**Lincoln Park Community Services**

**LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES (LPCS)** empowers individuals facing homelessness and poverty to secure stable housing and make sustainable life changes, serving 500+ individuals in Chicago from Lincoln Park and Old Town facilities. Founded in 1985 as a seasonal, overnight shelter, LPCS has grown into a full-service shelter, offering Interim Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Drop-In Services for street-based individuals, and Graduate Services. 5,000+ active volunteers and donors play crucial roles from cooking meals, to teaching classes, to providing funds to supply our shelters.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

Continued from page 6

**Lincoln Park Community Services (continued)** Save The Date: Annual Gala, Metamorphosis – May 21, 2021, 7-8pm. Virtual event is free to attend. <https://www.lpcschicago.org/>



**CHALKBOARD PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP** is back again, June 21st – August 13th! For 2 ½ - 5 year-olds, from 9am-1pm daily. Fun things planned include making kites, water games, nature walks, obstacle courses, science experiments, working in our butterfly garden, playing games, running relays, making dog biscuits for our neighborhood doggie friends and just being with friends – outside, enjoying summer.

**NEW!** Choose your own camp schedule – from the number of weeks, to which days each week – to fit your summer travel plans. For registration packet, contact Amanda Betts at 773-255-7352 or [chalkboardpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:chalkboardpreschool@outlook.com).

**OPENINGS FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!** See Facebook for photos of activities. Come visit. (20+) [chalkboard preschool](#) - Search Results | Facebook Located at 450 W Menomonee Street. [www.chalkboardpreschool.com](http://www.chalkboardpreschool.com).



The Little Meatball packs in "Big Flavor".



Rosario, Stella and their daughter

## iBOT SPOTLIGHT

### The Little Meatball – Little and Mighty!

By Stella Marino with Diane Sokolofski

If you love classic Italian family favorites and some of the "best meatballs in the city", look no further than The Little Meatball. "When Rosario and I moved to the Triangle in 2014, we began looking to share our love of food with our wonderful neighbors and community", said Stella Marino, Triangle neighbor and part owner of The Little Meatball with her husband Rosario. After searching for many years, Rosario and Stella found the perfect location for The Little Meatball at 2364 N. Lincoln Avenue. They created a menu featuring their most popular Italian classics originating from the Marino family's first restaurant that started in 1993 in Berwyn, Illinois.

Since Rosario Marino was a boy, his father would take him to the family business to learn and help his family. The family has been cooking favorite family recipes that date back to the early 1900's from a small town in Sicily, Alta Villa, where Rosario's parents originated. Rosario and his brother Enzo expanded the family's restaurant with a second location in 2004 where they served the La Grange community for 17 years. In 2018 Stella and Rosario opened The Little Meatball.

This little gem of a spot serves up Italian classics, featuring their famous classic hand-rolled Italian meatballs, hand-rolled chicken meatballs, made with Italian herbs and gluten-free oats and veggie meatballs, each served in a sandwich topped with their homemade marinara sauce and baked in a blanket of mozzarella cheese then sprinkled with Italian herbs. Or try the hand-rolled Greek meatballs drizzled in olive oil and topped with fresh marinated tomatoes, feta cheese and sprinkled with oregano. They

also make a meatball pizza and a variety of pasta dishes prepared with the option of meatballs, as well as a selection of pizzas, pasta, sandwiches, and salads!

The favorite menu item at The Little Meatball is our Chicago Famous Deep-Dish Pizza ranked #2 best Deep-Dish Pizza Spots in all of Chicago by Yelp. Check out <https://blogyelp.com/2021/03/top-10-deep-dish-pizza-spots-in-chicago> and <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CNSbfEOL-Xf/?igshid=dph4vovuhbz>. It's a must try... along with the Meatball Sandwich, Thin Crust Pizza, and Lasagna.

The Little Meatball is a fun, casual BYOB restaurant everyone can enjoy with affordable prices and high-quality ingredients in their made-from-scratch dishes.

iBOT members get a special offer of 15% off their purchase (excludes delivery apps and online ordering). The iBOT discount can be used by calling in an order for pick-up or delivery and for dining in. Call 773-360-8496. Pick-up, delivery which includes Old Town and the Triangle, and dine-in are available!

Stella and Rosario relish the sense of community living in the Triangle and feel so lucky to have such kind neighbors. "We appreciate the architecture and history of the Triangle and enjoy being surrounded by so many wonderful families, especially because we have a 4-year-old child and another one on the way", says Stella. They invite and welcome all their neighbors to come visit them at the restaurant. Check out The Little Meatball at <https://thelittlemeatball.com/>.

**EDITORS' NOTE: 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.oldtowntriangle.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.





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**Diane Sokolofski**  
Co-Editor

**Diane Fitzgerald**  
Co-Editor

**DeAnna Clark**  
Graphic Designer

**Jane Bachmann, Diane Gonzalez,  
and Donna Zarei**  
Contributors

**Barbara Guttman**  
Director Of Operations

**Gabe Sklan**  
Administrative Assistant

#### CURRENT OFFICE / GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
10am – 5pm

#### OFFICERS

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CHRIS NELSON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

ANNE GIFFELS, OTAF CHAIR & SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

DARIUS TANDON, SECRETARY

BRAD NEUMAN, TREASURER

#### DIRECTORS

Zac Bleicher

Elaine Frei

Carly Jenkins

Sachi Marie Kubo

Steve Nichols

Shannon Waterfield

#### OLD TOWN TRIANGLE CENTER

1763 N. North Park Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Tel: 312.337.1938 ~ Fax: 312.337.4015

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OldTownTriangle

[www.oldtowntriangle.com](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com)  
[info@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:info@oldtowntriangle.com)

#### 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").

## NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT – SPECIAL EXTRA

### Happy 100th Birthday, Margaret Fracassi

By Jean Middleton



Margaret Fracassi yesterday and today.

Raise a glass and toast Margaret Fracassi, our Triangle neighbor for 82 years, who turns 100 on May 15th. On the afternoon of May 15, 1921, Margaret Mesich was born in Ironwood, Michigan, the third child of what would become a family of eight children. When she was nine years old the family moved to Wakefield, Michigan so that her dad could work in the iron ore industry. She graduated from Wakefield Township High School on June 9, 1939, Margaret heard about a couple, Rose and Peter Brackett – originally from Wakefield who now lived in Chicago, who were looking for someone to live with them and take care of their daughter, Marilyn.

On July 3, 1939 she took the train to Chicago and moved in with the Bracketts at 161 Eugenie Street, the building which currently houses the bridal shop, Love-ly, at the street level of Wells and Eugenie. Margaret said, "I was so surprised the next day on July 4th, to see

some neighbors hanging out their laundry. That would never have happened on holidays in Wakefield."

She met the love of her life, Emil Fracassi, at Baldi's Tavern on Wells (currently a high rise). The couple bought a home on Concord Place in 1970 and have lived on the block for over 50 years. Emil passed away in 2007, a few months shy of their 50th wedding anniversary. It is incredible to hear Margaret relate stories about the neighborhood spanning so many years, and she remembers all the details. Although her knees are giving her a bit of a challenge, she tries to get out on nice weather days and walk up to Dunkin Donuts for coffee and conversation. It's amazing that even during this past challenging year of COVID, Margaret has remained positive and fascinating with her stories of Old Town! Happy 100th Birthday, Margaret! Thank you for sharing your many wonderful years with us!

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Introducing Gabe Sklan

By Diane Sokolofski



Welcome Gabriel Sklan, affectionately known as "Gabe", our new Triangle Administrative Assistant. He works on the Art Fair and social media, websites, both the Triangle and Art Fair, the Weekly Post emails, events calendar, art school calendar and the new membership database.

His first day was Tuesday, May 4th and his current hours are Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 5pm. His email is [gabe@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:gabe@oldtowntriangle.com). Stop by the Triangle office to say "hi" and introduce yourself. We're happy to have Gabe "on board".

chicago's original  
OLD TOWN ART FAIR

Join Us

2021 OLD TOWN ART FAIR

Saturday, June 12th and Sunday, June 13th

