

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Check out the Nominated Slate for the 2024 OTTA Board of Directors and read about the candidates.....[Page 1, 2, 3](#)

In this season of giving, read how our new ad hoc Community Services Committee has been busy giving and helping over the last few months.....[Page 4](#)

Learn how Old Town became a “twin arrondissement” with Montmartre, Paris and discover the French food “finds” in the hood.....[Page 7](#)

Discover the fascinating French connections of three Old Town families in Neighbor Spotlight.....[Page 8, 9](#)

Find out how OTTA Grant recipient, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, helps support neighbors with limited and insufficient resources and more.....[Page 10](#)





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Old Town neighbors! I hope everyone is into the holiday swing, enjoying traditions and creating some new ones. Our

Association had another milestone year thanks to our Board of Directors, Committees, staff, volunteers, and membership. A new feature this fall is the ad hoc Community Service Committee, an all-volunteer group working weekly to collect clothing and blankets, and prepare meals for our city's migrants, homeless, and veterans.

Thank you to Marya Lucas and the Events Committee for putting on some memorable get-togethers. Oktoberfest was attended by over 300 guests. We met some new members and connected with

neighbors and friends enjoying food, beverages, and music. The Halloween Parade was great fun for both kids and parents, marching through Old Town led by a Dixieland band, despite the rain! The Art Gallery Committee hosted a second annual Lincoln Park Art Night as well as the Student and Instructor Exhibition. This year's exhibition featured not only works of art from our instructors and students, but also the addition of a Holiday Artisan Pop-Up Shop. Thank you to Barb Guttmann for organizing the many monthly artist showings throughout the year.

OTTA received a grant for \$150,000 appropriated from the "Build Illinois Bond Fund", for costs associated with capital improvements to our building, the Old Town Triangle Center. Upon notification of the grant by Representative Margaret Croke in June, the Board appointed an ad hoc Committee to oversee the development of this project. The Committee has outlined the potential scope of building improvements, interviewed architectural

consultants and will host a workshop in early January, open to members, to get further input on the building improvements program and initiate design.

Another significant achievement is the establishment of a "sister-neighborhoods" agreement between La Commune Libre de Montmartre in Paris, the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association, and the Old Town Triangle Association. Montmartre, a deeply historic area of Paris, shares the arts focus, creative history, artists, studios, and other attributes of Old Town. For 2024 we are planning events to engage our community.

Happy Holidays to all as we continue to live our Mission, Vision and Values into 2024!

Raymond Clark, President, OTTA

Save The Date **ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER**
Thursday, January 25th At 6:30 pm at The Triangle Center

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
"2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATED SLATE"

By Annette Hobbs Magier

The Nominating Committee is an ad hoc group of four to six people, including a current OTTA Board Member, that is chosen each year by the Board in September. They are given the task of reviewing, interviewing, and selecting candidates for Officer and Director positions from the pool of OTTA members who express an interest in serving the neighborhood.

This year's committee included OTTA Director Carly Jenkins and Old Town neighbors Katherine Keenan, Rick Rausch, Vi Daley, Caroline Vickrey, and Annette Hobbs Magier (Chair) who had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing a well-rounded group of highly qualified and motivated candidates. Interviews

were completed by October 26th. The Chair submitted the slate for the 2024 OTTA Board of Directors to the Secretary on November 1st. The Nominating Committee takes into consideration a variety of factors when selecting the slate, including previous time served on the Board, skills and expertise needed to assist committees, ability to contribute to the Board efficiently and effectively and, perhaps most importantly, an appreciation and understanding of our neighborhood's history.

The Nominating Committee was unanimous in their selection of each of the six candidates.

The slate of candidates will be presented to and approved by the OTTA Membership in an open vote that takes place on January 25th at the OTTA's Annual Meeting & Dinner. Members interested in opposing the slate and running for a Board position can do so by following the process set forth in By-Laws section on the OTTA website, <http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/about/otta-mission-goals/by-laws/>.

NOMINATED SLATE
FOR THE 2024
OTTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RAYMOND CLARK*
President

ANNE GIFFELS*
1st Vice President

DREW ROESCH
Treasurer

JANE BACHMANN
Secretary

LOTIKA PAI
Director

ANETA TOMASZKIEWICZ*
Director

*Indicates serving on the 2023 OTTA Board



President: Ray Clark* and his wife Kathy have been residents of the Triangle since 2008, initially in a condo at 1709 N. North Park before moving to a townhome on Willow in 2014. They have three children and four grandchildren. Ray served four years as President of the North Park Condominium Association. He is an architect and structural engineer focused on technical issues related to the design and construction of the built environment and has been responsible for design management, engineering systems integration of large scale, technically complex multi-use projects. He began his career at SOM as a Senior Structural Engineer and later he managed teams of architects and engineers in the design and detailing of building components and systems as Senior Technical Architect. Ray has extensive experience with the City of Chicago departments and agencies, as well as international experience throughout Asia, Europe, the UK and Middle East. He hopes his neighborhood spirit will enable him to guide our members in more OTTA engagement.

corporate tax. Though she has worked at “Big Four” firms and Fortune 500 companies, she is not the typical tax professional. Anne’s specialty is counseling tax departments in identifying and implementing ways to work more effectively, and her guidance resulted in companies saving thousands of hours of time, improving accuracy, and empowering the tax teams to become valued business partners.

Anne has worn many hats for the OTTA. She served as a Board Director for three years, chaired the Nominating Committee, volunteered for the Art Fair on multiple committees and most recently served as Chair for the 2021-2023 Old Town Art Fairs. In addition, Anne is the Board President for the Crilly Court Condo Association. Originally from northern Ohio, Anne earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame. She jokes that she’s gradually moving west, from Ohio to Indiana and now Chicago. But she’s found her forever home in Old Town, so her westward migration has ended in the best neighborhood in Chicago.



Secretary: Jane Bachmann moved to Old Town from Oak Park over ten years ago. As soon as she moved to Old Town, she pursued the Old Town Triangle Association to ensure that she could be part of the annual Old Town Art Fair, where she has headed the Booth Sitting Committee for the past eight years. Originally from Nebraska, Jane used her accounting degree to secure a healthcare consulting opportunity in Chicago with Ernst & Young. In 1988, after Jane married and decided to start a family, she pursued her own consulting firm working with hospitals across the country and successfully maintained her business until last year, when she retired.

Jane has combined her love for travel with volunteering and has been part of eight Habitat for Humanity domestic and international builds. She fills much of her retired life with volunteer duties, including being part of the Pastoral Council at her church, St. Michaels of Old Town, helping at a nearby shelter every week, serving as an Election Judge, and volunteering at the Chicago Marathon.



Treasurer: Drew Roesch and his wife Kerri have been residents of Old Town Triangle since 2016. While renting an apartment for 5 years, they fell in love with the neighborhood and became homeowners in 2021. Originally from Hoffman Estates, Drew returned to Chicagoland after college, where he worked as a commodities trader. In 2021, he joined AT&T in their cybersecurity consulting division as a lead financial consultant. Drew is passionate about serving his community. After all, he met Kerri while volunteering for a non-profit at Creighton University!



Director: Lotika Pai and her husband Girish have been residents of the Old Town Triangle since 2007. They initially moved into a neighborhood Crilly Court on Wells condo where their son Sameer was born then moved to a row house on North Crilly Court. The family loves living in the Triangle and cherishes being a part of the strong community that defines the neighborhood.

Lotika has almost three decades of diverse professional experience ranging from invest-



Vice President: When **Anne Giffels*** moved to Old Town in 2007, she was “coming home” after previously renting an apartment at North Park and Eugenie in the early 1990s. Anne’s work responsibilities took her to the Chicago suburbs for a time, but she was ecstatic when she was able to return to Old Town as a homeowner, purchasing a condominium in the Crilly Court complex. Anne is a CPA and PMP (Project Management Professional) and has spent her entire career in



Continued on page 3

Director: Lotika Pai (continued)

ment banking, management consulting, economic development, and entrepreneurship. Earlier this year Crain's Chicago Business named her a 2023 Notable Chief Financial Officer. Appointed by Governor Pritzker, Lotika serves on the bipartisan Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board, to provide governance and investment oversight for the retirement program. Lotika also serves on the Advisory Board of the First Women's Bank in Chicago, which is the only women-founded, women-owned and women-led commercial bank in the country. She is an active angel investor and sits on the Investment Advisory Committee for Lakeshore Ventures. Lotika loves run-walking, travel, action movies, British TV shows, and is a voracious reader and an avid NPR listener.



Director: Aneta Tomaszewicz* has been living in Old Town for over six years with her husband Jack, twin daughters Agatha and Beata, and their dachshund Woody. Growing up in the historical town of Krakow, Poland, she enjoys the quaint streets of Old Town and its green surroundings. Most of all, she appreciates the friendliness and warmth of its people. She has served on the Grants Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee and has helped for many years as a gatekeeper for the Art Fair. Additionally, she is involved in many charities throughout Chicago and sits on the Board of the Paderewski School of Music. She is passionate about a regenerative approach to living and the arts. She works full-time at ICG Rehab Services as Chief Financial Officer and is hoping to utilize her organizational skills on the Old Town Triangle Association Board.



COMMITTEE NEWS | Compiled by Jane Bachmann

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

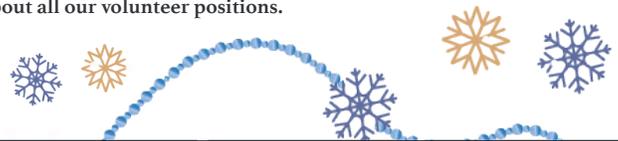
By Ray Clark, Chairperson

The mission of the Accessibility Committee is to make the Old Town neighborhood, including its streets, structures, and activities, more accessible to persons with disabilities and to enhance awareness about the needs of persons with disabilities to create a friendly, approachable environment. To that end, 2023 has been a busy year. Current completed initiatives include the renovation of the South Room Accessible Restroom for full ADA code compliance; review of The Triangle Center entry thresholds; and we worked closely with Anne Giffels, 2023 Art Fair Chair, to ensure accessibility issues were undertaken in the event planning. Initiatives for 2024 will include the Triangle Site Walk to inspect and record repair requirements for curbs, curb cuts, sidewalks, driveways, tripping hazards, etc. in The Triangle, and reporting to the Alderman's office for City action; incorporation of an ADA Accessible parking space near The Triangle Center entry; and continuation of our support for the 2024 Art Fair Committee on accessibility concerns. We look forward to recruiting new volunteers from membership and community residents to reach these and many new goals.

ART FAIR COMMITTEE

By Chris Nelson, Chairperson

As we begin to celebrate the holidays with friends and family, I am reminded that there is work going on in the background in preparation for the 74th Old Town Art Fair. June 8 & 9, 2024 will be a very different scene in our neighborhood from the holiday lights and chill in the air we are currently enjoying. The artists' applications are rolling in and our jurors will begin selecting the artists in the beginning of the year. We are actively looking for a Vice Chair for the 2024 Art Fair, so if you have any interest or know someone who would be a great addition to the Art Fair leadership team, please reach out to chair@oldtownartfair.org. In addition, there are so many other volunteer opportunities to help at one of the last fully volunteer-run street fairs in Chicago. You can contact us at volunteer@oldtownartfair.org to find out about all our volunteer positions.



COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

By David Montgomery, Chairperson

The Community Safety Committee (CSC) has developed and launched a Slack channel dedicated to community safety issues for all neighbors (including non-OTTA members) to join. If you are not familiar with Slack, it is a cloud-based freemium cross-platform instant messaging service created by Slack Technologies in 2013 and currently owned by Salesforce. While initially developed for professional, organizational and productivity communications, it has also been adopted as a community platform because of its ease-of-use and effectiveness. Over the last couple of years, the CSC has learned that one of the keys to neighborhood safety is for neighbors to get to know one another and communicate. The more eyes we have watching our streets and communicating on Slack, the safer the Triangle will be. We are still discovering the ways that Slack can assist in making our neighborhood safer, such as:

- If something unusual is spotted in the neighborhood, one can post a description (with a picture, if possible) to let neighbors know. Examples include a car parked on the street with its windows smashed, a missing pet that has been located, potential flooding caused by a backed-up sewer drain, a large group in the neighbor-

hood causing property damage, etc.

- For those who have security cameras, one can post videos to Slack of the person committing the crime, so neighbors can watch out for that person.
- If there is a crime in progress and after calling 911, one can let neighbors know so neighbors can avoid becoming a victim.
- Informing others of crimes committed in the neighborhood so neighbors know what they should look out for.

Currently, we have 60+ neighbors on Slack. If you would like to join the OTTA Slack channel, we'd love to have you. Please send an email to slackadmin@oldtowntriangle.com and say you would like to be part of the OTTA Slack channel. You will receive an invitation to join the channel as well as a User Guide. There is no cost to join. At the Annual Meeting in January, the CSC will give a report on how Slack is working. Assuming it is successful, we will continue rolling it out to the entire neighborhood.

The CSC is also working with the Alder's office and the CPD's 18th District to improve lighting on the walkway next to Ogden Mall Park (a.k.a. Chess Park), as well as identifying other safety issues in the Triangle. If you would like to join the CSC, we'd love to have you! Or if you have a safety issue that you think needs addressing, please email safety@oldtowntriangle.com.



Each lunch includes a sandwich with meat and cheese, hard-boiled egg, banana, fruit juice, and snacks. Neighbors sign-up to make 10-15 lunches twice monthly and drop-off at The Triangle Center and Committee Members deliver to the 18th District. The Community Services' goal has been to get 150 lunches twice a month!

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE | By Pat Kilduff, Committee Member

The Community Service Committee was created to address the desire of OTTA residents who wanted to be involved in service projects but didn't know where to begin.

On September 20th, a group of OTTA residents prepared the first lunches to be distributed to the asylum-seekers at the 18th District Police Station. The following week, an initial group of six – Beth Burk, Kathy Clark, Vi Daley, Suzie Krohn, Pat Kilduff, and Sharon O'Brien along with Barb Guttman – met with neighbor Amanda Betts, the volunteer migrant support team co-leader at the 18th District, who outlined additional needs.

OTTA residents prepared lunches in batches of 10-15 and delivered to The Triangle Center for distribution to the 18th District, every other Wednesday, distributing over 480 lunches to date! A shout out to John Knoche, who is fluent in Spanish and helped us with the distribution. Since October, all of our requests to neighbors have been fulfilled,

for: clothing, shoes & boots, bedding, personal care products; donations for gift cards for the maintenance personnel; and funds for a meal for the officers at the District. Through our relationship with The Church of the Ascension (1133 N LaSalle), our donated items were available for the asylum-seekers who shop at the church's The Free Store every Wednesday, to pick out what they need.

A laundry brigade is being led by Adrienne Eltink who recognized a need for cleaning clothes and bedding. She has made 3 trips to the laundromat, providing around 75 families with clean clothes, totaling over 1,740 pounds! Consider donating to help sustain this initiative.

We have worked with a Fifth-Grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary and a Girl Scout troop leader at Francis Parker. The students donated Target gift cards for the asylum seeking children plus clothing and personal care products.

An OTTA resident suggested we do something

for the US Veterans. After meeting with her, we supported her work with Officer Margaret Benz at the 18th District, collecting clothes and shoes & slippers, which we delivered to the Little Sisters of the Poor's St. Mary's House.

We learn of more needs that can be addressed in our community and have additional information and sign-up on our website. We have collected nearly \$7,000, with some of the money designated to veteran projects, asylum-seekers laundry costs and the meal for the 18th District officers.

What can you do to get involved? Volunteers are welcomed and needed! Subcommittees need to be created to manage specific efforts. Please reach out to us at service@oldtowntriangle.com.

Editor Note: *All asylum-seekers living in tents at the 18th District have been taken to shelters. Please email above address for further updates on how you can help.*



Committee Members Sharon O'Brien & Beth Burk at the 18th District Police Station



Committee Members Kathy Clark, Sharon O'Brien, Beth Burk, Vi Daley, and Barb Guttman

EVENTS COMMITTEE | Marya Lucas, Chairperson

The Events Committee kicked off fall with the OTTA Oktoberfest celebration on September 30th. It was an absolute blast, and we are already planning Oktoberfest 2024! Order your lederhosen, dirndl, and stein now!

Catered by The Glunz Tavern (a family-run establishment since 1888), Oktoberfesters enjoyed brats, potato pancakes, beer, wine, and great polka music from hall-of-famer and Grammy award-winning Keith Stras and his band, Polka Confetti. Plus, there was a Steinholding competition and trivia. Champions won Munich mustard, a personalized stein, and/or the incomparable La Fournette baguette.

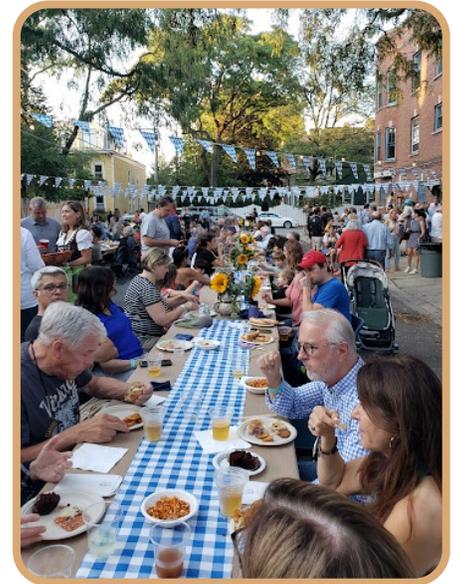
In addition to Glunz, other generous donors included: Butch McGuire's; Roots Handmade Pizza; former alderman and long-time OTTA member Vi Daley; Green Inc.; and many OTTA volunteers. The beautiful sunflowers and dahlias came from Flower Gardens at the Green City Market Lincoln Park. [Here, you can read a little history](#) about the Old Town neighborhood and the German settlers who inspired this Oktoberfest.

Then, on October 29th, the Events Committee celebrated, New Orleans-style, as *Big Shoulders Brass Band* led the way for our fourth annual neighborhood Halloween Parade. Although the weather outside was frightful, it sure didn't dampen spirits. Children, adults, dogs, and costumed creatures marched to the jazzy NOLA beat, despite the rain. Old Town homes kindly offered candy and cheers. What an intrepid crowd in our remarkable little neighborhood!

Following the parade, Halloweeners were welcomed to the Triangle with a red-carpet entry and dreamy balloon installation by *Luft Balloons*, Chicago's premier balloon outfit. *Mesa Urbana* and companion company *Atolito* catering, delivered the delicious Mexican food and margaritas. Volunteers provided treats.

The Events Committee looks forward to more such enjoyable parties. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)

RIGHT: The OTTA Oktoberfest was a fantastic block party.



HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING & ZONE (HD/P+Z) COMMITTEE

By Beth Burk, Chairperson

Please join us for our final OTTA historic walking tour of 2023! On **Sunday, December 10th, from 4-5 pm**, Diane Gonzales and Corinne Rohr will lead members through a neighborhood tour exploring holiday traditions in Old Town. The sign-up link will be provided in the OTTA weekly posting.

This tour completes a robust schedule of historic tours offered in 2023 and led by various members of the Historic District/Planning & Zoning (HD/P+Z) Committee, which included visits to the Driehaus Museum, walking tours highlighting our historic district and the culturally significant art-related structures in our neighborhood, and a Triangle pub history tour. If you have ideas for future tours you'd like us to consider, please send your suggestions to hdpzcommittee@otta.org. Our neighborhood has a rich history, much of which has been preserved by the decades of efforts of the OTTA, and we enjoy exploring it with you.

The HD/P+Z Committee is planning other fun and educational programs for 2024. We will also be adding to the resources available on the OTTA website for homeowners in the district. While the site already contains lots of helpful tools, we plan to add more, including an overview of the permitting process for exterior alterations and links to presentations explaining the advantages of historic preservation. We will share more details on our plans for 2024 in future newsletters.

GRANTS COMMITTEE | By Zac Bleicher, Chairperson

The 2024 grant applications are due on January 15th. For more information, contact grants@oldtowntriangle.com.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

By John Engman, Consultant

At the November OTTA Board Meeting, the Board resolved and approved Goals & Objectives for the next three to five years. There are seventeen objectives supporting four major goals:

- Expand Social Engagement and Membership
- Enable Collaborative Stewardship
- Improve Operations
- Expand Board Capacity to Govern

The full list of Goals and Objectives for 2024-2028 can be found at <https://qrco.de/OTTAGoals>

The Board also passed a resolution that committees and staff will submit to the Board each December a short list of proposed goals for the coming calendar year as well as key measures they will monitor and report. The Committees are now working on refining the Strategic Planning Committee's draft of the 2024 Goals and Measures for presentation at the OTTA Board Meeting on December 12th.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NIC) | By Leah Marshall, Committee Member

Over the years, NIC has been discussing composting options for the Old Town neighborhood. What does composting look like in a dense, urban area? Composting is a way for households to dispose of their leftover food waste, paper towels, pizza boxes, natural fiber products (e.g., cotton, silk, etc.), yard waste, and more. A couple of prominent composting companies use buckets or bins to accumulate this waste and empties the bins periodically, just like "normal" garbage and recycling routines. The St. Michael's High School Condominium Association, encompassing over 40 units, is leaping into the composting concept. Beyond the important positive impact on the environment, composting

potentially offers a myriad of benefits to homeowners and the community. It:

- Extends the life of the property's pipes
- Enhances the property's market value by appealing to environmentally conscious buyers
- Enriches the soil when used in landscaping
- Diverts organic waste from landfills, reducing the overall volume of garbage produced by the community.

All of the above reasons led the St. Michael's Board to consider piloting a composting program in

2024. Stay tuned to learn more about the evolution of the program and its best practices, in the coming months.

For more local resources on composting, explore Waste Not Compost: <https://www.wastenotcompost.com/plans> and Block Bins: <https://blockbins.com/ourservices>

Also, NIC has acquired two new trash cans for the neighborhood. The group is also working to install two sharing library units, one being a kit that Troop 79 will put together which will be located near the OTTA office, and the second to be placed at Ella Jenkins Park. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend.

PHOTO GALLERY | Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald

Contributing Photographers: Diane Fitzgerald, Michael Warnick and others, not known but appreciated!

Autumn 2023 was exceptional in every way, with many events and activities bringing the neighborhood together again. Oktoberfest was a home run, and despite the downpours, the Halloween Parade was well-attended and greatly appreciated. Relive all the fun of the HD/P+Z historic Pub Crawl and the gallery openings of some spectacular art exhibits. Our collective hearts were called to action for the hundreds of asylum-seeking migrants who were camped out at the 18th District – we provided food and clothing. We have lots planned for the coming months, so hope to see you around the neighborhood!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Old Town and Montmartre – The Twin Arrondissements –

By Diane Sokolofski

Can you identify the photos?
Which is Old Town, and which is
Montmartre?

Perhaps these similarities explain why Old Town, Chicago and Montmartre, Paris are becoming “twin” Arrondissements (neighborhoods)! Did you know that Chicago and Paris have been Sister Cities since 1996? Now the Old Town Merchants & Residents Association and the Old Town Triangle Association are partnering with La Commune Libre de Montmartre, a community organization in Montmartre, Paris to “twin” our neighborhoods and share culture and friendship. Both share histories as thriving artistic communities with pasts as bohemian centers of culture. Both are rich in architectural treasures, cathedrals, cobble stone streets, and neighborhood restaurants and bars.

The Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion,

which is an initiative of the Chicago-based non-profit Working in Concert, performed on September 3, 2023 in Paris. At that performance, the President of the Montmartre neighborhood organization made an announcement of the Old Town/Montmartre partnership. The Chicago-Paris Sister City Committee has been key in facilitating this partnership. A special thank you to OTTA & OTMRA member Caroline Shoemaker and Chicago/Paris Sister City Co-Chair David Reithoffer for all their behind-the-scenes support.

We look forward to this pairing leading to new opportunities for neighbors to participate in exciting French-themed events and possibly drive some unique Old Town neighborhood communications and collaboration. Share your interests and suggestions for activities you would like to see come out of this connection at info@oldtowntriangle.com.



FOODBYTES | How French is Old Town? | by Diane Sokolofski

How French is Old Town when it comes to food? I decided to scout the neighborhood and find out. Here are my discoveries.

Parlez vous francais? Don't be surprised if you are greeted by “Bonjour” or hear French spoken by the “regulars” when you walk into La Fournette at 1547 N. Wells Street. Try their authentically French flaky delectable croissants, French pastries, macarons, crusty baguettes, assorted breads, savory quiche, croque monsieur and more. La Fournette traces its origin to Alsace to the Zimmermann's family boulangerie in Schnersheim, France where they developed its expertise over four generations (110 years). In 2010, World Baking Champion, Pierre Zimmermann and his wife Michele came to Old Town and opened La Fournette. Their fresh daily assorted baked goods are not to be missed. And celebrate the French holiday traditions with their Buche de Noel for Christmas and Galette des Rois – the King cake in January.

Cozy up to a rich and delicious Parisienne Hot Chocolate and Chocolat Bonnat chocolates from France at Cocoa and Co. at 1651 N. Wells Street. Looking for French themed holiday gifts? Wow your friends and family and indulge in a 12-inch-high solid milk chocolate sculptured Eiffel Tower or Eiffel Tower chocolate lollipops created by the Fudge Pot at 1532 N. Wells Street.

Dom's Kitchen & Market at 1233 N Wells Street carries a variety of French cheeses including Brie, Triple Crème, Petit Basque, French Roquefort and Mimolette. Perfect for your holiday

cheese platter.

Spice up your savory dishes and meats with a pinch of French specially blended seasonings: Herbes de Provence, French Thyme, Tarragon, Parisian Shallot Herb Blend and Fleur de Sel available at the Spice House at 1512 N. Wells Street. Their quality, freshness and variety of spices are ideal for personal purchases and holiday gifts.

Nookies, our favorite neighborhood family diner, 1746 N Wells Street, celebrates French cuisine offering homemade crepes with your choice of fillings. In summer, they serve a seasonal French special—a fluffy 3-egg omelette with ratatouille.

Looking for fine French wines? Look no further than House of Glunz, wine merchants since 1888, located at 1206 N. Wells Street. The Glunz family offers a vast selection of fine French Bourgogne or Burgundies, Bordeaux's, Alsatian Whites, Chardonnays, French Champagnes and more, along with their expertise and knowledge to help guide you with your selection. Galleria Liquors offers wines, beers and liquors at 1559 N Wells Street and carries French liquors: Cognac, Armagnac, Chartreuse and Pernod, Pastis and more to toast the holidays.

Craving Steak Frites or Mussels Provençal? Enjoy these classic French entrees “a little off the beaten track” at Gemini Bistro, 2075 N. Lincoln Avenue. Savor with a bubbly glass of champagne.

Celebrate our Old Town/Montmartre partnership, toast to the holidays and enjoy these and your favorite local French foods. Bon appétit!



Parisienne Hot Chocolate at Cocoa & Co



French Cheeses at Dom's Kitchen & Market



Croissants at La Fournette



Bourgogne wine at House of Glunz



French Herbs at the Spice House



LEFT: 2010, Paris – Visiting Montmartre. **RIGHT:** 2017, Paris – Along the Seine River

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

FRENCH CONNECTIONS:

Isabelle & Jeanlouis Muller

By Diane Fitzgerald

Isabelle & Jeanlouis Muller got their first taste of life in the United States between 1990-1993 when they moved to New York City for his work on the commercial side of the steel industry. Fourteen years later, Jeanlouis' role shifted to steel production which landed him in the heart of the US steel industry in East Chicago, Indiana as a plant manager. They returned to the US with their young family, relocating to Chicago because of the availability of French immersive education through Lycée Français de Chicago in Lincoln Square, one of 522 schools in 139 countries that are part of a unique international network. The continuity of the same core curriculum across all of the educational establishments was very appealing to Isabelle & Jeanlouis – and that local network continues to be a source of French community for them, despite their (almost) empty nest!

They settled on the 300 block of Willow Street, in the heart of The Triangle, in a fabulous townhome designed by Harry Weese and featuring a wonderful courtyard garden. They loved the vibe of the neighborhood and its feeling of a village – with the narrow streets, colorful and varied homes and peaceful quiet. The proximity to everything that makes city living so pleasing is an added bonus of living in Old Town. On top of that, the transformation of the neighborhood into an artists' colony with the annual Old Town Art Fair & Garden Walk was reminiscent of back home in France, especially Montmartre – one of their favorite “walking cities” with all the bars, restaurants, and all shops and outdoor dining.

There are quite a few French offerings in Chicago, they discovered pretty quickly. While Isabelle & Jeanlouis miss Kiki's Bistro and Chez Moi, they are often found at Marchesa on Wells Street, a fabulous European establishment with a heavy dose of French influence.

As Old Town becomes more French-like because of the new “twinning neighborhood” relationship with Montmartre, they suggest we celebrate **Fete de la Musique**, or World Music Day, on June 21st every year – a day of free concerts performed by professional and amateur musicians all over Old Town! Montmartre will be celebrating, too!



August 2022, Chicago – Overlooking Lake Michigan

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

FRENCH CONNECTIONS:

Gabrielle de Coudenhove
& Antoine Cordier

By Diane Fitzgerald

Gabrielle & Antoine lived in Paris but they both wanted a big new adventure in their lives. An experience in the United States was on their bucket list. When Antoine had a work opportunity to move to Los Angeles, California, they didn't hesitate. It was in 2015.

They moved from Los Angeles to Chicago in June 2018, at first renting an apartment with an incredible view of Lake Michigan. But with two children growing up, they needed something bigger. It was during summer, and they were visiting friends here – they had a nice walk in the Old Town neighborhood...for the first time. Gabrielle & Antoine instantly fell in love with St. Michaels Church and all the colored houses around it. She said to Antoine, “If we have to find a house somewhere, I would like to find it here!” They moved to their townhome facing The Midwest Buddhist Temple in August, 2020.

Old Town reminds Gabrielle & Antoine of their beautiful villages in France. The cathedral, the colored houses around it, the fountain, the Bavarian-style houses, the Art Fair. They think you can easily forget that you are in a big city when you live in The Triangle. Although the landscape and density here are very different from Montmartre, there are similarities when it comes to art. Both neighborhoods are vibrant with artistic events. They love the Old Town Art Fair and attend every year!

The family stays connected to their “local” French-roots through their children's bilingual program at Lincoln Elementary School – the Ecole Franco-Americaine de Chicago (EFAC) – where they have expanded their circle of French friends in Old Town and Lincoln Park.

Given the chance to encourage French immersion here in The Triangle, Gabrielle & Antoine have suggested we add January 6th to our calendars to celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men in Bethlehem (L'Épiphanie) with a cake called La Galette des Rois. You can find some at the award-winning bakery Vanille Patisserie (2108 N Clark Street), or make your own following this recipe: https://www.marmiton.org/recettes/recette_galette-des-rois_10832.aspx.



Paris 2023



Chicago
2021

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

FRENCH CONNECTIONS: Dina & Georges Culioli

By Diane Fitzgerald

Chicago is a hidden gem and Dina & Georges are glad they discovered it. Chicago quickly became their beloved, treasured city and Old Town their marvelous neighborhood! Here is the short story: Dina is American (Brooklyn), Georges is French and they met in Washington, DC. They got married in 1986 and planned to spend two years in Paris before returning to the US...but those years became 20-years and included two children in their bicultural family.

Georges' career in consulting enabled them to live anywhere they wanted! Because of several business opportunities over the years, Georges had been introduced to a bit of Chicago and added it to their short list of possible places to live – Boston, Washington DC, New York, Chicago. The family traveled to each city for a weekend and Chicago won, unanimously! That was 2008.

After living in Paris, Dina & Georges thought they already had everything and more a hometown could offer. But then they found Old Town, with its stunning aesthetics, rich cultural life, a deep sense of history, lots of space and welcoming, friendly neighbors. And walkability...past the charming homes and landmarked buildings, gorgeous gardens, canopies of trees and close to Lincoln Park and The Francis Parker School, which their son attended.

Comparing Old Town with “twinning neighborhood” Montmartre, they were both red light districts and artists' communities that grew into their evolved selves, with the Old Town Art Fair and Place du Tertre. A few ideas about blending France with Old Town: Richie Daley already started

this blending by bringing the design sensibilities of Jean-Claude Decaux to the bus stops of Chicago. Also, given the contributions of Marquis de Lafayette to the fledgling United States, Dina & Georges think a day celebrating Lafayette is in order. And the Chicago History Museum might consider a cultural exchange with the Musee de Montmartre – sharing the transformational development from an industrial area to a lively, liveable artists' colony.

The gem that Dina & Georges discovered and revere needs to be promoted, they think, so it's no longer a secret. Twinning is a good beginning.

Editor's Note: At the time they were considering relocating, Georges' business partner was renowned chef Alain Ducasse, Michelin's highest ranking chef

2023, Chicago. Georges, Alexa, Dina and Raphael.



DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 7-15TH
HANUKKAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 4-7 PM
HOLIDAY WALK, HOSTED BY HD/PZ COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 3:30 PM
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NIC) MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 6:30 PM
HISTORIC DISTRICT/PLANNING + ZONING (HD/PZ) COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 26-JANUARY 1ST
KWANZAA

JANUARY 2024

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1813 (WEST SEDGWICK & WEST)
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2050 N. FREMONT

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2-4 PM
GALLERY OPENING FOR BEVERLY NASH

MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY AND OTTA GRANT APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

UESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 6 PM
18TH DISTRICT POLICE COUNCIL MEETING, LOCATION TBD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 6:00 PM
OTTA ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING (ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED)

FEBRUARY 2024

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
PRESIDENTS DAY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 6 PM
18TH DISTRICT POLICE COUNCIL MEETING, LOCATION TBD

MARCH 2024

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH
CASIMIR PULASKI DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1813 (WEST SEDGWICK & WEST)
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2050 N. FREMONT

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH, 6 PM
CAPS MEETING, BEAT 1814 (EAST SEDGWICK & EAST)
WINTRUST BANK, 100 W. NORTH AVENUE

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH, 7 PM
OTTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 6 PM
18TH DISTRICT POLICE COUNCIL MEETING, LOCATION TBD

GRANTS SPOTLIGHT

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

By Diane Fitzgerald

The Old Town Triangle Association was pleased to support Marillac St. Vincent Family Services' (MSV) Wellness Closet at their Lincoln Park facility, on Halsted at Webster — with a \$2,500 grant in June 2023.

MSV is a comprehensive, multi-generational human services organization working to change the direction of people's lives through quality early childhood education, youth services and community outreach services. They deliver person-centered, wrap-around services to our Old Town Triangle neighbors who have limited and insufficient resources, helping to end the cycle of poverty by helping families to not only survive but to thrive.

The Wellness Closet is stocked with home goods such as paper products, hygiene items, towels, blankets, diapers, light clothing and more for individuals, families, and, recently, an influx of immigrants and refugees.

Supporting the Wellness Closet meets several key goals of the OTTA Mission: To improve conditions of life, work, recreation, health, and safety and to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Editor's Note: MSV is continuing the legacy of service to the poor which began with Vincent de Paul and Louis de Marillac in 17th Century France! After 100 years of operating independently, Marillac Social Center and St. Vincent de Paul Center joined together as one organization, in 2002.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Compiled by Donna Zarei



The Church of 3 Crosses invites you to the following:
Sunday, December 10 12:00pm - Cookie Exchange (after 11:00am Worship)
Sunday, December 24th 11:00am - Taize Christmas Morning Service 5:30pm - Christmas Eve Service: Lessons and Carols. For more information visit www.churchofthreecrosses.org



Music of the Baroque Holiday Brass & Coral Concert traverses through time from the medieval age to the present with ethereal chant, majestic works for brass, and some of the best choral music ever written. Friday, December 15th, 7:30pm.

Christmas Masses at St. Michael in Old Town - Nativity of the Lord, December 24th; Vigil Mass: 5pm; Midnight Mass: 12am; December 25th 10am.

12 Nights of Christmas Lessons and Carols For more information go to St. Michael in Old Town <https://st-mikes.org>.

Sock Sunday – January 20-22. We are collecting warm, brand-new socks for homeless adults and children.

St. Mike's NextGen Young Adults. We have a Mass and "digging deeper" gatherings once a month for young adults - all are welcome to join!

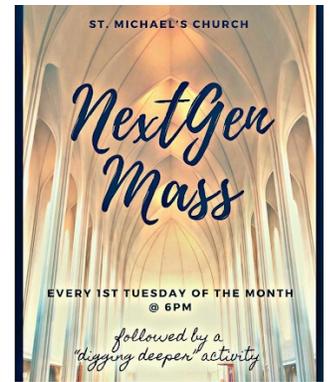


Applications for the 2024-25 school year are now live. Apply to one of our five part-time programs that serve children 18 months to 5 years old and their families. Join us on a prospective family tour - meet current parents, our director, and see the classrooms in action. We can't wait to meet you! More information is available at lincolnparkcoop.org/tours.html

We are hiring! LPCNS is seeking an office manager to start ASAP. The position is 30 hours a week during the school year with reduced hours over the summer. We are also looking for qualified substitute teachers for the 2023-24 school year. Visit our website for more information.



We have some activities planned to support our holiday recognition as well as our diverse celebrations. Please consider joining us and celebrating as a community. On December 14th, "My Little Leopards" and our Choir will perform in our **Musical Winter Assembly** themed with kindness. Immediately following we will celebrate **La Posada**, a cultural experience and exposure to support learning. On February 16th, we are hosting a presentation to celebrate Lunar New Year! On February 23rd, we invite you to our **3rd Annual Black Business Fair!** For more information visit our



Continued on page 11

The Village Chicago

The Village is presenting in Old Town, a two-part presentation, "Who Will Take Care of Me?" It covers situations in which help may be needed - from illness through all the tasks that must be done on one's behalf after death. It explains the purpose of advance directives and documents that enable others to carry out your wishes when you cannot. Check the Village Event Calendar for the date and location at www.thevillagechicago.com.

Nobody has to be lonely anymore.



Village Members Den Bell and Joan Goldstein with Volunteers Sarah Grossman and Caleb Harris

The Village offers...

- Opportunities to make new friends
- Hundreds of in-person and online social activities and events
- Lifelong learning and volunteer opportunities
- Belonging to a community
- Reduced fee membership so everyone can participate

Visit our [website](http://www.thevillagechicago.org), give us a call, or stop by our office - we'd love to meet you.

The Village Chicago
2502 N Clark St
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 248-8700
www.thevillagechicago.org



Lincoln Elementary School is hosting a Middle School Dance, December 15th with proceeds funding 8th grade graduation.

School Tours: Please check our website for school tour dates. School Tours Link: https://www.lincolnelementary.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=474971&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=1008034&hideMenu=0

MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE
435 W Menomonee Street - Chicago, IL 60614 - 312-943-7801

In November, our resident minister, Rev. Ron Miyamura, retired after a 50-year ministerial career. The Midwest Buddhist Temple is grateful

to have had Rev. Miyamura's leadership for these many years and we will always honor him for his major role in the history of our temple. We wish him the best in his retirement. MBT also welcomes Rev. Todd Tsuchiya who relocated from Minneapolis to become our new resident minister. Weekly services are on **Sundays at 10:30 am**. For more information visit www.mbtchicago.org.

FOLPHS FRIENDS OF LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL



Lincoln Park High School (LPHS) is both a magnet and YOUR neighborhood school. It's proud to be in the top 3.7% of U.S. high schools. Approximately half of our students are from low-income households and benefit from additional support. CPS schools, including LPHS, are significantly underfunded. LPHS receives fewer funds per student than the average CPS school because we do not qualify for federal grants, based on our student demographics. This is where Friends of Lincoln Park High School and our broader business community come in! Friends of Lincoln Park High School (FOLPHS) need your help with our critical fundraising efforts. Please join Lion Pride as an LPHS Community Business Sponsor. For more information visit <https://www.lincolnparkhs.org/>.



The Menomonee Club Winter Session begins 12/4/23. Join us for all your winter faves! We will host day camps during the long holiday school breaks.

Come for one day or a whole week... RetroActive Sports, Winter Wonderland Engineering with LEGO, and Crazy Chemworks with Mad Science. Sign up at www.menomoneeclub.org

If you've passed by the Clubhouse recently, you've seen a lot of activity! The Bader Family Alumni Lanes are near completion, and we are excited to welcome you in early 2024. For information go to info@menomoneeclub.org



Green City Market (GCM) will continue operating their indoor market location in Avondale this winter. GCM Avondale is located at 3031 N Rockwell Street, located on Rockwell Street

between Belmont Avenue and Elston Avenue. It's open from 8 am - 1 pm on the following dates:

December 2, 9, 16, January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16, and 23. For information go to www.greencitymarket.org/avondale.



ART ON SEDGWICK

<http://www.artonsedgwick.org/>

High School Art Job

Applications will open soon for Art on Sedgwick's After School Matters Job! We'll meet February 27th - May 11th on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 4:00-7:30pm. To apply, go to afterschoolmatters.org/teens/apply, Art & Impact program. Email create@artonsedgwick.org to let us know you applied and for further instructions and information on how to schedule an interview.

Chicago International Puppet Festival

Art on Sedgwick welcomes the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival to Old Town as part of their Free Neighborhood Tour on Friday, January 19th at 4:30pm. The program fosters an appreciation of puppetry in every corner of the city. All ages are welcome. [Reservations are recommended for this free event.](#)

Strands of Wisdom

Calling all neighborhood seniors! Please join us at Art on Sedgwick for an informational session on Tuesday, January 30th at 5:30pm to learn more about our cross-generational sewing program. [Please register to attend.](#)



The Lincoln Park Conservancy is celebrating 40 years as the park's nonprofit champion. Here's how you can help support our work. [Donate](#) during our year-end appeal and your dollars will be matched. Celebrate the holidays with us at our after-hours Conservatory [events](#). Celebrate our 40th anniversary with your Lincoln Park "love letters." Share your #LP Love photo, poem, memory, or artwork at lincolnparkconservancy.org. We'll post these special stories on our social media and website all year long! Learn more at www.lincolnparkconservancy.org.

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OFFICE/GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

OLD TOWN TRIANGLE CENTER

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The Old Town Triangle Association
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MISSION

We enable all who live and work in the Old Town Triangle to connect, collaborate and care for our community.

VISION

The Old Town Triangle Association will build on its history of success to become recognized by residents and businesses as the center for engagement, information, collaboration and advocacy to maintain and improve our quality of life. We will foster a sense of community and belonging by connecting neighbors, collaborating on issues of common concern and promoting safety, art and preservation.

VALUES

Community • Welcoming People
and Ideas • Stewardship • Integrity •
Respect • Collaboration



JANUARY | BEVERLY NASH

Beverly Nash began her career as an artist working with fibers. Learning to make her own colors through hand-dyeing was the catalyst to becoming an artist. She currently works in acrylics and oil on canvas, painting what she sees around her every day. Color and the use of color and form express her vision of the things in this world. She is a representative painter but leans into abstraction. Beverly simplifies forms and alters colors to emphasize the nature of the things she sees. As she says, "I find joy in the mundane".

OPENING RECEPTION: JANUARY 14TH: 2-4 PM | EXHIBIT: JANUARY 6TH – FEBRUARY 2ND



Left: Jolanta and Linda in Prague. RIGHT: Girl at the Fair by Beverly Nash.

JANUARY | WINTER CLASSES

Winter Classes begin shortly after the New Year! All skill levels are welcome. Beginners and long-time artists will each find inspiration with our fabulous instructors. We will offer drawing, oil, and watercolor painting. Whether you have time during the day, in the evening, or during the weekend, there is a class for you. We also offer scholarships – you still need to bring your own supplies, but we will pay your tuition. If you've wanted to try a new course of expression, this is the time for you.

Classes and registration will be available later in December on our website. Questions? Drop us a note at info@oldtowntriangle.com. We'd love to hear from you.

INSPIRATION FOR GRAPHICS | By Diane Sokolofski

Sandra Holubow's "The Other Side of the Tracks" was the inspiration for "The Times" Winter Issue graphics. "This artwork is part of a train series showing how public transportation slices through neighborhoods, defining us, serving us, coalescing us, and even separating us. What inspires my artwork is Chicago! I love the city!", says Holubow. In October, she along with two other of Old Town's favorite artists, presented "Triad" at the Leslie Wolfe Gallery and this painting was included.

Sandra Holubow was born and raised in Chicago and her primary concern has been City/Community/Neighborhood. She uses the concept of the generic urban area that could be anywhere, crossing international boundaries, inclusive of all people.



Sandra Holubow's "The Other Side of the Tracks"