

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RICK RAUSCH

Don't say you don't. It is hard to walk around our neighborhood and not appreciate the character and diversity of our homes and buildings. When you walk in Old Town, you can imagine what it was like to live in Chicago 100 years ago just by looking at the architecture and the dates on some of the buildings. When neighborhood residents decided to work towards landmark status in

1977, they preserved that "look" for many generations to come. It took considerable work to obtain that status and it takes considerable ongoing work to maintain that status. But I think when we became a Historical Landmark District, we preserved something else, something equally as important.

When I was President of Lincoln Central Association, we frequently would be asked to give our opinion on requests for zoning variations. In Lincoln Central, almost 100% of the requests for zoning variations involved tearing down an existing structure and constructing a new, larger, single family home. Frequently, the request was to include a raised backyard with a breezeway that connected the garage and the main level of the home. Whenever I was asked to vote on these requests for raised backyards, I would usually vote no. I had multiple reasons for voting no. A raised backyard prevented adequate

drainage of rain water, it prevented the owners from planting a tree in the yard that could grow to the height of the home, and it would also include a 10-foot wall on both sides of the property to support the raised backyard and allow some privacy to the owners. If you live on either side of this 10-foot wall, your backyard changes considerably. If there is a new home on both sides of your house with an elevated backyard, you end up living in a canyon. But these were not the issues that concerned me the most. Putting high walls around a new home isolates those home owners from the neighbors and the neighborhood. If you are the one living between two of these raised backyards with 10-foot walls, you have little chance to develop a relationship with your new neighbors. It is hard to have a conversation with someone who is looking down at you from over a 10-foot wall.

In Old Town, though, it is very different. We not only preserved the "look and character" of our neighborhood, we preserved that old sense of a community. And neighborhood. A community where you can talk to your neighbors over the fence in your backyard. A community where you can check out your neighbor's garden each day as you go out back to your garage. And, a community where we can look out for each other because we know each other.

All those things are so much the culture of Old Town. 

ENJOY THE SPRING. *Best regards, Rick Rausch, OTTA President*

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | HERE COMES THE JUDGE!

By Maja Ramirez (Triangle resident since 1959, on and off)

Judge Debra Walker is one of six children born to an Illinois tenant farmer, in a house that had water but no toilet for the first nine years of her life. Few know she was born with *purple* eyes! She has done what most of us would consider backbreaking work, weeding soybean fields and detasseling corn as long as there was daylight. It may be these humble beginnings - not to mention listening to the arguments among her four

brothers - that paved the way for her eventual life's work.

The University of Illinois at Chicago is lucky to call Deb "alumna", both from her undergraduate days and the College of Law, where she earned her JD in 1987. She has paid back her calling many times over by serving her alma mater in numerous volunteer capacities, such as on its Recent Alumni Advisory Board and the Board of Visitors. She is a past president



DEBRA WALKER

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



2008 Swearing In Day, with Tim Evans and the kids

of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, and last year was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. She is soon to receive the UIC College of Law's "Alum of the Year" award.

Before running for the vacant judgeship, she worked as an accountant, then on many malpractice cases. Twenty years of commercial and civil litigating, hewing ever toward justice and the truth, honed her to a keen edge in her 2008 run for a judicial vacancy, which she won handily, with well over 50% of the vote in the three-way primary race. As nearly every judge does, Deb started in Traffic Court. She was next assigned to the Domestic Relations Division (Divorce Court) where she currently sits in Child Support Enforcement at Daley Center.

Filmmaker Rich Christian, a small-craft pilot, has been her husband for 15 years. They have two bright kids, Colleen and Carlton, and a Wisconsin summer home they love to get away to. Deb is a frequent volunteer at Old Town's LaSalle Language Academy.

She is kept rather busy with not only her duties on the bench and as a mom, but also because this year she is president of both the Illinois Bar Foundation and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. She has been active with the Economic Club of Chicago and the Illinois State Bar Association.

Deb is also very active in Old Town's Church of the Three Crosses, where she has served on numerous committees and is a deaconess who loves to sing. I am quite sure if accounting and/or lawyering hadn't worked out for her, she could have cut an album!



Deb in the Land of Lincoln



The Walker-Christian Family on Voting Day outside LaSalle Language Academy

NEWS YOU CAN USE: Foodbytes | THE GREEN REVOLUTION

By Diane Sokolofski (Culinary Professional and Triangle resident in 1969-1970 and since 2006)

With St. Patrick's Day and the welcoming of Spring, March 20 now is the perfect time to "think green". Make 2014 the year of the vegetable and experiment with fresh baby spring greens: kale, collard greens, arugula, Swiss chard, dandelion greens, watercress, escarole, spinach and mesclun. Spring greens are part of the brassicaceae family, sold as loose heads of thick green leaves. They do not have the hard core in the middle like other vegetables in this family (cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli). The leaves are dark green, coarse, often tough, and can be more strongly flavored. They are rich in vitamins C, A and K, folic acid and dietary fiber, making them a very healthy food choice.

Spring greens are great raw in salads and sandwiches, cooked as a side dish with butter and seasoning or added to soups and stir-fries. To clean the greens, remove the leaves from the loose head and wash thoroughly. Place in a salad spinner or on a paper towel or dish towel and roll-up loosely to remove excess moisture. Smaller leaves can be left whole, but most greens will be easier to handle, cook, and eat if broken down. Tear rather than chop greens to minimize bruising and keep their crunchy texture. Super stiff greens like collards and kale can be chopped without bruising leaves. For kale and collard greens, cut out any large ribs from the center of the leaves. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

NEWS YOU CAN USE: Foodbytes | THE GREEN REVOLUTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



Dandelion Greens



Lacinato Kale



Collard Greens


A quick tip: To remove kale leaves from the stem, hold the stem end in one hand and with your opposite hand, run your fingers down both sides of the stem removing the leafy greens.

Try this easy recipe for Kale Chips even finicky eaters will love. Preheat oven to 300°F. Wash and thoroughly dry 1 bunch of kale leaves. Trim the stem ends and cut out any large ribs from the center of the leaves. Chop into 2 inch pieces. Gently toss with olive oil until evenly coated and place on the baking sheet in a single layer. Sprinkle with sea salt. Bake for 20 minutes, remove, and let cool. Kale will crisp up as it cools. (Note: If leaves bake until crisp, they will char and taste burnt.)

Spring greens can be steamed or stir-fried. To steam, place the leaves in a steamer and cook for 5-7 minutes or until just tender. To stir-fry, heat 1 tbsp. oil in a frying pan and add the greens, stir-fry for 3-5 minutes or until just tender. For a spring salad, simply toss greens with a vinaigrette or step it up adding seasonal treats like peas or pea shoots, radishes, green onions, green garlic or asparagus.

To store spring greens, wash and thoroughly dry, removing excess moisture. Place in an airtight plastic bag and refrigerate. It will keep for 3 to 5 days.

According to Beth Eccles of Green Acres Farm, look for local farm fresh “spring greens” at Green City Market in mid-April and May. For “spring greens” recipes go to www.greencitymarket.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A few of you asked what “culinary professional” means after reading Diane's story in the January/February Issue. Diane has been working in the food industry for 30 years, with responsibilities ranging from recipe developing & testing to recipe content manager for Comida y Familia and Food & Family magazines. After 18 years with Kraft Foods, she started her own food consulting business called Culinary Solutions. 



Kale Chips - See the recipe above!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)

CAROLYN ARMENTA DAVIS was awarded a prestigious Honorary Membership in the American Institute of Architects, one of the highest honors that the AIA bestows on people outside of the profession of architecture, for her work on architects of African descent which “...lifted the profile of the contemporary Black practitioners and served as a catalyst for inclusion of an often-neglected perspective in broader discussions about art.” Incredible lifelong achievements that make a difference. Congratulations, Carolyn!

Alderman Michele Smith and her team periodically email us an informative newsletter with updates on **43rd WARD** issues. But you can also visit the 43rd Ward's website at <http://ward43.org/> for comprehensive news, events, and updates. It's an easy-to-navigate site chock full of information you can use immediately!

We hear from Madame Elisabeth Heurtefeu, Principal of **LaSALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY**, that the top “world language students”

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COMMUNITY CORNER | (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

received their letters announcing their scholarship awards – funds used for their trip to Europe. “We had an amazing group of 13 students this year. We used the OTTA Grant of \$3,000 to sponsor an amazing trip-of-a-lifetime. World Language Coordinator Madame Veitch has a photo journal of the trip which will appear in an upcoming OTTA Newsletter issue. In the meantime, see all the news about LaSalle at their website <http://www.lasallechicago.com/>.

ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN (www.st-mikes.org/) is in partnership with BRICKS 4 KIDZ SUMMER CAMPS (www.brick4kidz.com/oakbrook) sponsored by LEGO, offering a fantastic summer program in Oak Brook. Innovative, exciting and fun, the programs are \$195/week with discounts for early registrations. Check out their website and register today.

Our **CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT’S 18th DISTRICT** holds CAPS Meetings (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) for the **10 Sector** which includes Beats 1811, 1812, 1813 and 1814. These meetings are held at the Old Town Triangle Center – 1765 N. North Park Avenue – on the second Thursday of every odd month. Mark your calendars for the next meeting on **THURSDAY, MAY 8th at 7pm**. Come meet your Beat Officer, discuss current crime trends and share ideas for problem-solving in our neighborhood. For more information, call the Precinct at 312-742-5870 or visit <http://ward43.org/2012/12/18/changes-to-18th-district-caps-meetings-for-2013>.

Don’t forget to consider becoming a **COURT ADVOCATE**, a neighborhood volunteer who attends court hearings, a strong indication to the judge, attorneys and defendants that we will not tolerate crime in our neighborhood. Volunteer to work with other community members tracking court cases and attending judicial hearings. Contact Officer Joe Incaprerla (312-742-5778 direct) for more information. Or email CAPS018district@chicagopolice.org.



LW purse

Turns out, Leslie Wolfe’s *PURSEverance* exhibit from January 10th – February 15th at **ROY BOYD GALLERY** in River North (739 N. Wells Street) was the last solo exhibit for the gallery...ever! After 42 wonderful and amazing years, Roy announced on February 11th the closing of the gallery and his retirement. “The closing of the gallery will be a long one, and I anticipate that it will take 6 to 9 months,” Roy said in an email. “During that time, doors will be open and work will be sold. Shows will be group shows and on a rotating basis, so please stop in to see the work from our amazing stable of artists”...including our very own LESLIE WOLFE.



Roy Boyd - exterior


The **MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE** triumphed at their March 9th concerts blending the sounds & music of Irish performers Paddy Homan, Dennis Cahill and Teresa Shine alongside the team of Japanese drummers Ho Etsu Taiko. Great reviews from our own Rick Kogan. Stay tuned for other “neighbor friendly” events at the Temple...not to be missed! 

PHOTO GALLERY | THE WINTER OF 2014 | By Deborah Chapman, Roving Photographer (OTTA member since 2012)

The Winter of 2014 in Chicago saw the Polar Vortex, 79” of snow, persistent temperatures below zero, potholes galore and “named” blizzards. The last winter to get our attention this way - but not quite this way - was in 1979. Since our first snowfall in late October 2013, low temperature records were broken and businesses, schools and road closures were common as well as massive airline flight cancellations in January, February and March 2014. There will be a lot to clean-up in the Triangle this year. Save-the-Date for our **Triangle Spring Cleaning on Saturday, May 17th from 9am-12pm**. 



Jack Kearney's horses knee-deep in the snow

GRANTS AWARDS SPOTLIGHT | ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: SHOWCASING STUDENT ART |

By Mark Armendariz, Principal & Katie Moncton, Art Teacher



Students viewing the 3-dimensional works of their classmates

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, a neighborhood Chicago Public School established in 1871, has proudly served the community of Lincoln Park. Located at 615 W. Kemper, Lincoln Elementary has 800 students and it strives to teach the connection between the arts and the "core" content,

promoting the humanities-based curriculum as an integral component of the school culture. The Old Town Triangle Association Grant Award allowed Lincoln Elementary to purchase two tall (72") display cases and three counter-height (40") display cases, which are located in the school's middle staircases. As students and visitors enter the school, the display cases show that the arts are infused in the curriculum promoting an integrated learning climate.

The display cases showcase work from all grade levels, K-8 with the focus on 3-dimensional art work, in addition to some 2-dimensional work, depending on the students' projects, along with student writings based on the artwork. The display cases are a wonderful accompaniment to the artwork that is featured all over the school.

The first artwork displayed were three projects done by three different grade levels. Two of the counter-height display cases are filled with mixed-media birds made by first graders. These colorful sculptures, inspired by artist Alexander Calder, are made out of cardstock/paper, collaged magazine pieces, pipe cleaners and feathers. Students made the sculptures following a science unit on birds. A selection of their written reflections are also displayed. The third counter features handmade accordion books by the sixth graders. The covers of the books are painted with watercolor and each page explores a different art element captured through

photographs taken by the students throughout the school.

Our two taller display cases showcase abstract modernist sculptures made by the eighth graders. Students studied four abstract sculptors from the modernist movement and each created their own free-standing piece using wire hangers, stretched nylon, acrylic paint, and embellishments of wire, thread, beads, etc. Each sculpture is accompanied by a written piece that includes title, description, and artist influences.

Last year the school held a very successful 1st Annual Lincoln Art Walk, an evening for Lincoln families to come tour the Lincoln hallways, which were transformed into an art gallery featuring K-8 artwork made throughout the year. Student docents were on hand to give visitors a deeper understanding of the exhibited artwork, as well as perform hands-on art activities. This year the display cases will be important in showcasing students work during the **May 8th, 2014 Art Walk**.

Lincoln Elementary School is extremely grateful to the Old Town Triangle Association for its continued support! Your generous donation allows the school to maintain its vision of promoting a humanities-based curriculum.



Alexander Calder inspired these colorful bird sculptures, as did a Science unit on birds.



An uncommon scene seen in the Triangle this winter!



A common scene seen in the Triangle this winter!



Martha Connolly's home on Concord Place - her own toboggan chute?

COMMITTEE NEWS


NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE |

Karen Pfendler, NIC Committee Member

The Neighborhood Improvement Committee is preparing for spring. We will be signing another 3 year contract with a landscaping vendor to keep our pocket parks and our Wisconsin & Clark Park well-trimmed. We will continue to prune the Fern Court area near the Buddhist Temple and continue to monitor CDOT's required maintenance of our North & South Ogden play lots. Now that we have 30 new trees, we will need to ensure that their growth and general health are not ignored. If you have a new tree in front of your property, we hope that you will keep an eye on it and water it (2 good soakings per week). We will begin collecting the tree watering bags that are currently around the new trees. They will be stored at the Triangle if you decide you will need one this summer. We had intended to do this in the fall but the snows came too soon to complete this task. Please let Leslie know if you have any concerns about any of our new trees and we'll get someone from the NIC over to your address ASAP. We don't want to lose any of these new baby trees.

The date has been set for **Spring Cleanup Day**. It will be **Saturday, May 17th from 9 a.m. until noon**. We try to schedule this within about 4 weeks or so before our Art Fair. Back in the day, we used to get about 200 people out to help spruce up our lovely neighborhood. In the last few years, we've only been able to attract 25-35 people. This event is a wonderful way to interact with your neighbors at the onset of spring and to tidy up your streets and parkways after an exhausting winter. We order materials from the City for you to use and we offer coffee, juice and coffee cake for your nourishment. The more of our members that can be a part of this activity, the "spiffier" our streets and parkways will appear to visitors who come to explore our historic area from all over the world.

Lastly, we will be setting the schedule for ash tree removal in our 3 parks. All of the park ash trees are diseased and present an impediment to healthy land cover growth and development. Our intent is to replace all the trees we remove with new trees a year or so after the diseased trees have been removed. We were informed several years ago that the City was going to begin removing ash and other unhealthy trees from the parkways. Department of Forestry is not required to give notice when they schedule removals. The only way you will know something is imminent is by visible orange signs tied to the trees with removal dates. OTTA has no authority to ask the City to forgo these parkway tree removals. Contact Department of Forestry if you ever have any concerns or questions.


Spring should be here any time now. NIC members look forward to seeing you in and around the neighborhood very soon. Please put our Spring Clean up on your schedule! 

GRANTS COMMITTEE | Diane Gonzalez, Chairperson

The 2014 Grants Committee had their first meeting on March 10th. The Triangle has received three completed grant applications so far. The committee is in the process of following-up with last year's recipients. If any organization is interested in applying, the Triangle website includes an information sheet and the two-page application. The deadline is April 1, 2014. Grants are presented at the June Art Fair Thank-You Party.



EVENTS COMMITTEE | Anne Giffels, Chairperson

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 19th**. The OTTA will be celebrating spring at last with an **Easter Egg Hunt**. While the hunt is for the little ones, from "walkers" to 10 year olds, there will be coffee, juice and doughnuts for the grown-ups. The event will be held at North Ogden Playlot (1828 N. Sedgwick) beginning at 10:30 a.m. Be sure to bring a basket or bag, and please call the office at 312 337-1938 if you are planning on attending. We want to make sure the Easter Bunny has enough eggs! Check our homepage (www.OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.COM) in case of last minute changes/cancellation. 

CALENDAR

APRIL

Tuesday, April 8th, 7 p.m.
BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m.
GRANTS COMMITTEE

Sunday, April 13th, 2 – 5 p.m.
**GALLERY RECEPTION, LARRY CHAIT
PHOTOGRAPHY, "SPHERES OF IMPERFECTION"
EXHIBITION: APRIL 4TH – MAY 1ST**

Saturday, April 19th, 10:30 a.m.
**OTTA EASTER EGG HUNT
NORTH OGDEN PARK PLAYLOT**

Sunday, April 20th
EASTER

Tuesday, April 15th, 7 p.m.
HDP & Z COMMITTEE

Monday, April 21st, 7 p.m.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 22nd, 6:30 p.m.
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

MAY

Thursday, May 8th, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
**GALLERY RECEPTION, ROB HOGAN, PAINTINGS
EXHIBITION: MAY 3RD – MAY 29TH**

CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Thursday, May 8th, 7 p.m.
CAPS

Sunday, May 11th
MOTHER'S DAY

Tuesday, May 13th, 7 p.m.
BOARD MEETING

Saturday, May 17th, 9 a.m. – noon
OTTA SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Monday, May 19th, 7 p.m.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 20th, 7 p.m.
HDP & Z COMMITTEE

Sunday, May 25th, 5:30 – 10 a.m.
BIKE THE DRIVE

Monday, May 26th
MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 27th, 6:30 p.m.
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

JUNE

Saturday, June 7th, 7 p.m.
FIRST SIGHT GALA

Saturday/Sunday, June 14th & 15th, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
OLD TOWN ART FAIR



Vintage lingerie displayed among new and old artifacts of our lives at Judy Maxwell house.

iBOT SPOTLIGHT | JUDY MAXWELL HOME – AN URBAN GENERAL STORE WITH HEART

By Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)



Judy Maxwell home is located at 1363 N. Wells Street...and it awaits you!

When you walk into Judy Maxwell Home, you know you're someplace special. You'll be immediately attracted to the array of colorful memorabilia from our youth. But then you notice the modern, funny, edgy greeting cards next to the zippy magnifying readers and fragrant soaps. The silky negligees hanging from the vintage clothing rack – part of the shop's 1950s vintage lingerie collection – are carefully positioned near the helium-filled heart balloons. Back to the greeting cards where you find a dandy one and you're all set with a lovely gift for your sweetie! You've had so much fun – maybe your visit was even a hoot!

Judy Maxwell Home is as charming and delightful as its owner, Joan Cusack. She's created a friendly, fun, flexible environment and business model, quite different from a typical cut-throat, bottom-line retail business. The variety of items in the store, plus the variety that will eventually make it to the store as she shops and buys constantly to keep things fresh, seem limitless...just like the general stores from the 1940s. One surprise after another, the shop features a combination of new and vintage items. To say there is something for everyone is an understatement.

A surprise to Joan has been the very favorable response to Judy Maxwell Home's gift baskets. In fact, they have earned a fantastic reputation for them, both corporate and individual. The personal touch and tender loving care that goes into selecting the items and assembling them are apparent. Funny enough, the Home Team goes through a process – almost spontaneous – of brainstorming about a customer's gift basket contents just like an ensemble does

with improvisational comedy theatre. Lots of delight. Lots of fun. Great ideas...like the 40 corporate gift baskets that included fudge in vintage tins (all different, all sourced from local antique fairs) and Joan's famous hot fudge recipe!

Judy Maxwell Home is filled with joy and a great, positive energy. Joan and her Home Team present the shop to us in this way on their website: *General Store – generally pretty good gifts, cards, amusements, useful & imaginative, clown noses, tokens of appreciation, buttons...no, not really buttons.* What a hoot!

It's nice to know that there's a place you can go where everyone knows your name, and it doesn't take long for Joan and her team to get to know you! Judy Maxwell Home is located at 1363 N. Wells Street, on the southwest corner at Schiller (<http://judymaxwellhome.com/>; https://www.facebook.com/JudyMaxwellHome?ref=br_tf).



Judy Maxwell Home is magical with surprises everywhere. See the elephant helping out on the right?

By the way, Judy Maxwell is the Barbra Streisand character from the wild and wacky movie **What's Up Doc** (1972), one of Joan's favorites.

iBOT (I Buy Old Town) is a discount loyalty program for Old Town Triangle Association members offering services, merchandise and products at special iBOT-only rates by Old Town merchants, including restaurants & pubs, food stores, an animal hospital, women's retail shops, The Second City and more. See www.oldtowntriangle.com for a complete list of merchants and discounts. To receive your personal iBOT card, OTTA members can visit the Triangle Office and see Leslie Wolfe.





1763 N. North Park Ave.
Chicago, IL. 60614

ESTABLISHED IN 1948

The Old Town Triangle Association TIMES is published by the Old Town Triangle Association Communications Committee.

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OLD TOWN

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OldTownTriangle

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Old Town Triangle Association is a non-profit organization that promotes and supports the arts and culture in the Old Town Triangle area. We are committed to providing a platform for local artists to showcase their work and to fostering a sense of community and pride in our neighborhood.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Leslie Wolfe at the office during these hours.

OFFICERS

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DIRECTORS

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Old Town Art Center Gallery | April and May, 2014

Rob Hogan: Pointillism Mixed Media work
created with dots and negative space

May 2 – May 30, 2014

Reception for the Artist: Thursday, May 8, 5:30 – 8:30pm



"SUN SET OVER INDIANA"



"SPHERES OF IMPERFECTION"

Larry Chait: Spheres of Imperfection
Archival inkjet prints

April 5 – May 2, 2014

Reception for the Artist: Sunday, April 13, 2-5pm