



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RICK RAUSCH

As we enter the holiday season, it means the business of this year's Board of Directors and the Association is winding down. At the Annual Meeting & Dinner on January 22, 2015, we will highlight all of the accomplishments of our volunteers and the Board, but I wanted to focus this message on two activities that stand out.

On November 1st, our Nominating Committee presented the slate for the 2015 Board of Directors. I feel the Nominating Committee is

the most important committee of any organization like ours. They are tasked to recruit and select the leadership of our organization for the next year. Again this year, that committee did a stellar job. The individuals on that slate are highlighted in this newsletter, but I wanted to personally thank those members who agreed to serve and congratulate those who were slated. With those Board members who will still be on the Board and with this new group, next year's Board should be very productive. I also want to acknowledge and thank those who served on the 2015 Nominating Committee: Kitty Freidheim, Chairperson, John Burcher, Vi Daley, Steve Nichols and Kim Penning. Thanks to each of you.

I also want to acknowledge our Events Committee. The Events

Committee not only provides the opportunity for all of us to gather socially, they provide a great opportunity for new people in the neighborhood to see first-hand what the Old Town Triangle does. The past two OTTA Events were exceptional – 350 people came out in late September for the 2nd Annual Oktoberfest and they had a great evening and 25 people attended our "On the Triangle Table" in early November where we discussed the future direction of the OTTA. All of the OTTA Events are fertile opportunity to recruit new volunteers for all of the ongoing projects within the Triangle. At the Oktoberfest, I talked to someone who is interested in chairing the Art Fair in 2016 and at the On the Triangle Table I talked to two new members who might be interested in organizing a Junior Board for us and possibly organize the First Sight event in June. The events that Anne Giffels and her Events Committee organize are critical for OTTA to continue to grow and serve our neighborhood.

As we close the year, I want to thank all of our volunteers for the efforts they have contributed to our neighborhood in 2014. OTTA is a special organization because of the talents and efforts of these volunteers. We cannot do it without you!

Rick Rausch, President

Happy
Holidays!

COMMITTEE NEWS | Nominating Committee | Kitty Freidheim, Chair | John Burcher | Vi Daley | Steve Nichols

The Old Town Triangle Nominating Committee has completed its work and is presenting a slate for the membership vote at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2015 at 8pm.

We grounded our work in the By-laws of the Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA). The bylaws helped us to understand our role as a Nominating Committee as well as the duties of the Officers and Directors of the Board.

Over a number of weeks beginning in August, 2014, the Committee worked diligently through a systematic process to understand the responsibilities of the Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA) Board of Directors and its current needs. We reached out to the community for candidates, and ultimately reviewed each individual against established criteria. The slate we are presenting is a diverse and compatible group, strong in leadership with a mix of institutional knowledge and fresh perspective who will provide an equitable representation of our community.

The following are the steps we followed in identifying the recommended slate:

1. **Understanding the Task:** to determine the vacancies on the Board and recruit the best candidates for each role.

This included the five Officers who are elected for a one year term and six Directors who are elected for alternating three year terms, with two positions opening every year over a three year period. Two of the Board members are reaching the end of their three year terms.

Functions of each position as described in the By-laws were reviewed and the President of the Board was consulted as well, to understand the functions of the various positions.

2. **Search Guidelines:** the By-laws of OTTA require that each Board member be a resident within the OTTA boundaries and

be a member of OTTA for at least ninety days prior to the January election. One candidate was eliminated because she did not meet these requirements.

Further criteria were established to guide the selection which included strong leadership, talent and experience, geographic diversity and interest group diversity.

3. **Identification of Candidates, Evaluation of Qualifications and Compilation of a Final Slate:** the Committee reached out to the membership for candidates through an e-mail to all OTTA members, a posting on the Triangle Office bulletin board and through personal recruiting by the Committee. Some individuals stepped forward and others were nominated by neighbors. More members had a desire to serve than available open positions.

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The slate contains a mix of current tenured Officers, one new Officer with very strong leadership experience both inside and outside our community, and two new Board members who offer strong backgrounds which we believe will be valuable in contributing to the Board and our community.

4. **Presentation of the Slate to the Membership to be Voted Upon at the January Board Meeting:**

the By-laws require that we submit our nominees to the Board Secretary by November 1, 2014, which we did.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED SLATE:

President (1 year term) – Richard Rausch*

1st Vice President (1 year term) – Robert Jones*

Secretary (1 year term) – Karl Hjerpe

Treasurer (1 year term) – Claire Leaman*

Board Position (3 year term) - Dorothy DeCarlo

Board Position (3 year term) - Chris Nelson

**Current OTTA Board members in 2014, who are being renominated*

NOMINEE BIOS

Rick Rausch has served as President of the Old Town Triangle Associate for the past year. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Central Association for five years, including leading the Board as President for four years and chairing the committee that worked to rehabilitate Bauler Park. Rick and his wife, Gwenn, were married at St. Michael's and also baptized their three children there. After living in Lincoln Park for almost 35 years, including homes on Hudson, Cleveland, and Mohawk, Rick and Gwenn moved in 2010 to Eugenie Terrace Townhomes, where Rick is completing

his third year as President of the Condo Association. A physical therapist, entrepreneur, and administrator, Rick is founder and CEO of Sovereign Rehabilitation and a former president of the Illinois Physical Therapy Association.

Robert Jones has served as the 1st Vice President of the Old Town Triangle Association for the past year. He currently serves as Elder Board Chairman at Harvest Bible Chapel, a mega church with seven campuses in the greater Chicago area. Additionally, Robert has served on the Board of the Dunhaven Woods Homeowners Association in Palatine, including holding terms as President and Treasurer, and the Palatine Celtic Soccer Club, where he led the 1,500-strong program as President for two terms. Robert and his wife, Merri, have lived in Chicagoland for more than 30 years, including a home in Palatine, a condo in the Gold Coast and, as of 2012, a row house on Crilly Court. Robert is Senior Vice President of an agricultural commodity broker group for ABN AMRO Clearing Chicago, LLC, and a Board member for the National Grain and Feed Association.

Claire Leaman has served as Treasurer from 2012 to 2014 on the Old Town Triangle Association Board of Directors and as co-chair of the Art Fair Garden Walk since 2008. Holding a BA in computer science from Cornell University, Claire has worked in technology and banking, which took her to Hong Kong for two years and, then, to London, where for 13 years she was a managing director of Deutsche Bank. When she returned to Chicago in 2008, she moved in to her home on Orleans and also returned to school to earn a degree in interior design. She is a native of New Orleans.

Dorothy "Dee" DeCarlo has lived in the Triangle for 35 years and currently resides

on North Cleveland. She is a marketing specialist who has worked for ESPN Television as Director of Marketing as well as the Underwriters Laboratories and Rainworks Omnimedia. She currently teaches marketing and communications courses part-time at Loyola University, Roosevelt University and DePaul University. Dee has been active in the community over the years beginning with her son's activities at the Menomonee Club and the Art Fair. Dee is anxious to share her skills with the Old Town Triangle Association.

Karl Hjerpe has lived in Chicago since 1996 when a career move brought him here. He settled in the Old Town Triangle buying a home on the corner of Wells & Lincoln and extensively renovating the façade of the building. Following his marriage and the birth of his son, Ian, in 2005 he moved to larger quarters on Cleveland while keeping the house on Lincoln. He currently serves as Secretary of the Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee. He is a pilot for United Airlines where he has had extensive training in management and leadership. His personal passion is for history, architecture and building and he looks forward to giving back to the Old Town Triangle community.

Christopher Nelson has been an Old Town Triangle resident since moving back to Chicago in 2004 and cannot imagine living anywhere else in the City. He particularly appreciates the support of the arts that the OTTA continues year after year. He has volunteered as an Art Fair Gate Captain for the past six years and wants to lend his skills and talents as a creative professional and manager to the continued success of the neighborhood. Chris, his wife and two children live on West Willow. ❄️

IN THE FIRST PERSON | The Door Project | By Anne Giffels (Triangle resident in 1996-2000 and since 2006)



One of the two French doors during the stripping process

The Crilly Court buildings were built by Daniel Crilly in 1893 and 1894 on the block bounded by Wells Street, Eugenie, St. Paul and Crilly Court. There were 90 rental apartments for a decade but in 2006 and 2007, the buildings were sold and converted to condominiums. I've lived there since the conversion in one of the condominiums. During one of the Old Town Triangle Yard Sales, a neighbor pulled out three interior doors that she had rescued from a dumpster that the developer discarded during the conversion. I hated the idea of those doors leaving our building, so I bought all three.

I have two French doors with glass panels, which are old yellow pine, and one solid oak door. I don't have any of the hardware, but all the glass is intact. The doors are in great shape, but they had been painted several times – typical of rental apartments. I wanted to take all the paint off and see what I had, and then decide how to finish them. The glass panel doors would become closet doors, and the solid oak door would become a door into my den. My ceilings are over 10 feet, and the doors aren't that tall, so I put vintage stained glass panels over the top.

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IN THE FIRST PERSON | The Door Project | *(Continued from page 2)*



You can get a sense of the multiple layers of paint I had to take off. (The box underneath was pulled out of our trash dumpster and I used it to capture the paint as it was stripped from the door.)

to build a door frame estimated that the French doors are from the 1950s, but the oak door could be original (1893). The oak door is now fully installed, but I'm still searching for the stained glass for one of the closet doors. Of course, in my mind, I'll find the perfect windows in an alley here in Old Town, and they will be beautiful! Alternatively, I'm searching all the area antique warehouses, yard sales and of course e-Bay.

One of the doors has been obviously chewed – probably by a dog – but I left it unchanged. Like many of us, the doors have had life happen to them, and there's no need to hide the fact that they aren't perfect. I like them more because they have some dents and scratches. ❄️

Over the course of one summer, I stripped, sanded and stained all three doors in the courtyard between the two buildings. I made an enormous mess, and the work seemed endless. I had taken on smaller refinishing jobs before, but never one this extensive. It was a lot of fun, but a lot of work! One of the benefits I didn't expect was I got to meet many of my neighbors as they stopped to see what I was doing.

I finished the varnishing just as the weather turned cold and the evenings grew dark. A contractor I hired



All finished! I found the leaded glass over the door at Jan's Antiques.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT | Crilly Court | By Shirley Baugher (Triangle resident since 1978)



The interior courtyard shared by the Crilly Apartments, which were converted to condominiums in 2006-2007.

Crilly Court was born from the vision of Daniel Crilly, a south side contractor who bought the property from St. Paul to Eugenie in 1877. Crilly Court was cut through the center of this property, and during the next ten years, Mr. Crilly built houses and apartments on either side of the street, and he set about making them a community.

The Crilly houses, completed in 1885, were a group of twelve, two-plus story Queen Anne-style row houses, fronted by wrought iron fences, tiny gardens, and wooden stairs leading to the main floor entry. Among the first masonry structures to be built in Old Town following the Great Fire of 1871, the houses followed the same interior design. The basement level had asphalt flooring and huge overhead heating pipes. The main floor consisted of a living room, parlor, small dining room, and kitchen with butler's pantry. A second floor had four bedrooms and a bath—perfect for the young professionals who were its designated first residents. The houses remained the domain of young, and later not-so-young professionals through the years.

Crilly completed the apartments across the court a year later. He had the names of his children carved above the doorways: Isabelle, Oliver, Erminnie, and Edgar and rented only to people in the arts. Early residents were artist Hadden Sunbloom, creator of the Quaker Oats man, Aunt Jemima, and the Coca-Cola Santa; film stars Gloria Swanson and Wallace Beery; poet Eugene Field; a Ziegfield Follies dancer; and a pair of noted concert pianists. They gave Old Town its artsy identity.

In the 1960s, another generation of artists took up residence in the North Park apartments across the Crilly courtyard: poet Henry Rago; author and editor Herman Kogan; newspaperman Jon Anderson and his model wife, Jennifer; newspaperwoman Virginia Kay; arctic explorer Slim Williams, and freelance illustrator Lois Axeman. This lively group socialized with each other and brought in notables from the outside world: novelist Saul Bellow, poet Robert Frost, French mime Marcel Marceau, journalist Hoke Norris, and James Dickey best known for his critically acclaimed movie, *Deliverance*.

"We would meet each other constantly," recalled one young resident, "going to work or the grocery store...even arguing over the back fence. Everyone knew everyone else and could be counted on for help of any kind. One day, my sister decided to wander over to the LaSalle School to try the swings. We searched frantically for her until Hoke Norris triumphantly came around the corner with Martha in his arms. That was our community." ❄️



Built in 1885, three of the 12 Crilly Houses line the west side of Crilly Court.

iBOT SPOTLIGHT | Marge's...Still a Neighborhood Institution | By Linda Saindon (Triangle resident since March 2014)

Marge's Still. You're no doubt familiar with this neighborhood tavern at the corner of Sedgwick and Menomonee, but you may be less familiar with Marge's rich history stretching all the way back to 1885. I recently sat down with Pam Farley, who along with her husband owns and operates Marge's, to learn a bit more about this neighborhood institution.

The bar has been in almost continuous operation since the 1880's. During the Prohibition Era the tavern purportedly made bathtub gin on the second floor, serving it downstairs in the bar just as fast as it was made.

Sometime during the late 1930's – early 1940's Marge's namesake – Marge Lednick – purchased the bar. She was the first WOMAN to obtain a liquor license in the city of Chicago! She kept the license in her name through the years and



Take a look at Marge's "Before and After" - the façade of the bar was opened up considerably when the Farley's remodeled the building, bringing in light and adding more appeal to the streetscape

enjoyed running the bar, often a fixture there with a drink and cigarette in hand. When she passed away, her children took over the day-to-day operations. Not having full rights to operate the tavern because the liquor license was in their mother's name meant that Marge's had to eventually close.

The bar remained shuttered for a short time and was almost turned into a condominium building. The Farley family stepped in and eventually purchased the property from Marge's children, then set about the arduous process of obtaining the appropriate licensing and permits from the City. An ambitious remodeling plan was developed while the permitting was happening, so that the new owners could be poised and ready to quickly remodel once they got the green light from the City.

In thinking about how to update yet preserve this historic landmark, the Farley family took great pains to stay true to the original design aesthetic. Case in point, they painstakingly replaced and replicated the trims and finishes to ensure the historic look and feel of the bar remained intact, including the tin ceiling and the tiled floor. Much of the paneling and molding was custom made to match the original finish, look and feel. The new windows also added some much needed light to the space and created an inviting view into the warm, welcoming atmosphere. You will have to look hard to find one of the vintage parts of the space – it's the door behind the bar that leads into the basement that was saved and salvaged. This was actually the original front door.

Some newer touches also add to a nice ambiance in the bar – the large painting of a nude woman (you can't miss it) as well as the

light fixture in the entryway, both belonged to Pam Farley's father. They thought it a fitting tribute to have some of his personal belongings featured in the space.

If you've not stopped by Marge's recently you're in for a treat. Whether your visit brings you in for a meal, a beer or a cocktail – the Farley's have designed the menu to appeal to neighborhood singles and families alike. Marge's also has drink specials every day of the week. What's not to like about that?



The warm and cozy wooden bar is the centerpiece of the space and was designed to replicate the original wooden bar, on a slightly smaller scale.

Writer's Note: The Farley's have kindly put together an exclusive offer for our Old Town Triangle Association readers! Bring in an original of this article and receive your choice of Marge's hand cut blue cheese chips or delicious homemade hummus. Offer good until the end of January, 2015. One per table please.

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 www.OLDTOWNtriangle.com for a complete list of merchants and discounts. To receive your personal iBOT card, visit the Triangle Office and see Leslie Wolfe or Barb Guttmann. ❄️

FOODBYTES | Holiday Food Finds | By Diane Sokolofski (Culinary Professional and Triangle resident in 1969-1970 and since 2006)

I like to celebrate the spirit of the season and shop the neighborhood for unique food gifts and local foods to minimize hectic holiday stress and add a "taste of Old Town" to entertaining and gift giving. Here are my favorite picks.

Hey Baby Chocolate Peppermint Bark – Jay Shindler, chef/ chocolatier of [Catering Chocolate](http://CateringChocolate.com), makes this festive favorite; rich, dark chocolate laced with peppermint candy cane and Oreo cookie chunks. It's a sweet ending

to a holiday meal or a perfect hostess gift. A quarter pound is \$8.75 or one pound bulk is \$32. Catering Chocolate offers the best in catering, chocolates and gourmet foods, 1712 N Wells Street, (312) 397-0090.

Co Op Sauces – Jazz up those traditional dishes with a selection of Co Op Hot Sauces, a collaborative effort with local farmers and businesses. Two favorites are Three Sisters, a medium level spiced sauce that is perfect for chili, marinades and barbeque. The flavors pay homage to the traditional

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FOODBYTES | (Continued from page 4)

Native American practices and quality goods Three Sisters Garden Farm churns out year after year. The second sauce pick: Bat Sauce of Koval Distillery, offers maximum spice thanks to its ghost peppers and blueberries. Koval Distillery produces organic whiskey, liqueurs and spirits from scratch right here in Chicago. They partnered to produce this unique hot sauce with a sweet undertone and fiery flavor. Try it on a salad, in marinades or add a splash to spice up a Bloody Mary. A 5 oz. bottle is \$9.95. Greenheart Shop, 1714 N. Wells Street, (312) 264-1625.



Co Op Sauces

Ethnic Chicago Neighborhoods Spice Blends Gift Box 1 – For those visiting family or friends that live out-of-town, a spice gift box from the Spice House makes the perfect “taste of Chicago” hostess gift. This top seller blend selection includes the four most popular Chicago inspired seasonings, each created to reflect a particular neighborhood. All seasonings are mixed fresh weekly, right in the store, to give you the highest quality flavor. Each box includes a brochure listing ingredients, usage suggestions and a neighborhood name explanation. Included is Old Taylor Street Cheese Sprinkle, the Lake Shore Drive Seasoning, Bronzeville “Galena Street” Rib Rub and Old World Central Street Seasoning for \$22.95. New for 2014 is a pig-lover’s delight, Pork Pit Masters Gift Box, a collection of four best pork seasoning blends for \$23.95. Spice House, 1512 North Wells Street, Chicago, IL, (312) 274-0378.



Chicago Ethnic Neighborhoods Gift Box

Handmade Pierogi – A holiday tradition in our house is pierogi from Delightful Pastries. These traditional Polish stuffed dumplings come in three flavors: meat, potato & cheese, and sauerkraut & mushroom. Serve as an appetizer, a meal or the perfect accompaniment to your holiday turkey or brisket. Check out the numerous Party Tray selections which includes a Gluten Free assortment of pastries and cookies. Delightful Pastries, 1710 N. Wells Street, (312) 255-0724. ❄️



Pierogi from Delightful Pastries



Thursday, January 22, 2015
OTTA's Annual Meeting & Dinner
6:30pm Dinner, 8pm Meeting

Thursday, January 29, 2015
6-9pm Meet the
Aldermanic Candidates

CALLS TO ACTION

Engaging the OTTA Membership

By Phil Graff (Triangle resident since 1985)

VOLUNTEERS

Get involved...Be a Volunteer! The OTTA is a volunteer organization and we are always looking for people willing to serve on our various committees that help support everything we do. We need about 700 volunteers for the Old Town Art Fair in June plus we have volunteering opportunities throughout the year with committee work. Our committees include: Education & Programs, Infrastructure Resources, Member Relations/Membership, Art Fair, Capital Improvements, Marketing & Communications, Continuing Education, Events, Grants, Historic District/Planning & Zoning, Neighborhood Improvement, and Neighborhood Relations. For more information about volunteering for the OTTA, please contact Leslie Wolfe (312-337-1938; lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com) at the Triangle Center.

2015 OLD TOWN ART FAIR CHAIRPERSON

The Old Town Triangle Association is looking for a very special volunteer to chair the 2015 Old Town Art Fair. The Chairperson's responsibilities are to act as CEO of the Art Fair taking the lead and coordinating the various committees that run the Art Fair. A very strong team is already in place to provide direct assistance with: artist management, Fair parking, pre-Fair towing, security and clean-up, recruiting and assigning gate volunteers, Garden Walk, Fair brochure and the recruitment of advertisers. The ideal Chair will manage the Art Fair budget, recruit major sponsors, serve as official Fair spokesperson, coordinate food and beverage vendors, recruit a committee to host the First Sight Party and organize the Volunteer Thank-You Party.

If you are interested in being considered for this crucial role, please send an email to Rick Rausch, OTTA President at r-rausch@sovrehab.com.

SNOW REMOVAL

Winter is almost upon us and it's time to remind you that it is your responsibility to shovel your walks! The City of Chicago municipal code states “Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person in charge of any building or lot of ground abutting upon any public way or public space shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk.” The City requires individuals to clear a 5' wide path along the sidewalk. This width allows pedestrians in wheelchairs and people with strollers mobility and access.

ALLEY ADDRESSES

For your safety please put your house address on your garage or rear fence. ❄️

COMMUNITY CORNER | Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)

The **MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE** (www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org), has a full schedule of programs for the coming months, including the 50th Annual Mochi-Tsuki Rice Pounding Festival (free – Saturday, December 13th from 8:30am-12:45pm), the New Year's Bell Ringing Ceremony (Wednesday, December 31st at 11:30pm), and the Japanese Tea Ceremony on January 27th. For more information about these programs – and all the Temple's programs, events and activities – visit their website.



Before the rice cakes are made, the rice is pounded!

The **CHURCH OF THE THREE CROSSES** (<http://www.churchofthethreecrosses.org/>) has a full schedule of programs between now and the end of the year, including Day-After-Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch (Friday, November 28th at 12pm) Zoo Lights (Sunday, December 14th at 6pm – meet at the Church, walk to the Zoo and return to the Church for hot cider, snacks and caroling!) and Holiday Cookie Exchange (Sunday, December 21st after services at about 12:30pm). For more information, contact Rev. John Hobbs or Erika Colin, Office Manager, at 312-951-7916.

The **MENOMONEE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB** (www.menomoneeclub.org) announce their Winter Session (running from 11/17/14 – 3/29/15). Register now! Also, they are offering *daily holiday break camps* over the winter holidays. For more information contact Sara Bosaw at 312-664-4631.

There is nothing like **LINCOLN PARK VILLAGE**. Adults 50+ from all over Chicago's north side neighborhoods have found community, connection, engagement and fun. The Village presents many ways to start off your year with an experience that can change it for the better. For a preview of January, 2015 programs visit www.lincolnparkvillage.org

- For information on Lincoln Park Village or these exciting events, open to both members and guests, please call the Village office at 773-248-8700.

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, January 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>.

Alderman Michele Smith and her team email us an informative YOUR VOICE newsletter with updates on **43rd WARD** issues – like registering your dog 4-months old or older, due to a new City Ordinance. 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!

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, our neighborhood elementary school, was recognized by the Chicago Board of Education for achieving the highest NWEA math and reading scores of any Chicago neighborhood (non-magnet/non-selective) school. At that meeting, Vice Principal Cynthia Gerber spoke on behalf of Principal Mark Armendariz and credited Lincoln parents, teachers, and students for this proud achievement.

Also, Lincoln Elementary School speaks your language! There are 19 languages spoken as first languages by students and parents at Lincoln Elementary. Principal Armendariz recently announced an initiative to identify current families who speak those languages and match them with new families to Lincoln as "Language Liaisons." Learn more about Lincoln Elementary School by visiting www.lincoln.cps.k12.il.us.

LaSALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY is Where Language Learning Comes Alive! Learn more about LaSalle at their website www.lasallechicago.com/.

ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN (www.st-mikes.org) presents fun and engaging community events for the holiday season, including Breakfast with Santa (Sunday, December 7th, 10am-12pm) and Holiday Pops hosted by NBC's Rob Elgas (Saturday, December 13th, 7pm).

Also, plan ahead for Wednesday, January 28th at 6pm in the Parish Center Café for a wine & cheese book discussion with Jennifer Weigel, author of "Stay Tuned" and daughter of sportscaster Tim Weigel. Contact Toni Dunning at 312-642-2498, ext. 211 or tdunning@st-mikes.org for more information on all of these events. ❄️



DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 3rd,
NEWSLETTER SUMMIT MEETING, 6:30- 8:30 p.m.

November 29th – January 4th
WINTER FLOWER & TRAIN SHOW
LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY, FREE
CHICAGOPARKDISTRICT.COM/EVENTS

Now – January 4th (Various Dates)
ZOO LIGHTS AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO
LPZOO.ORG/EVENTS, FREE

Now - March 1st
ICE SKATING AT THE FARM-IN-THE-ZOO
LPZOO.ORG/EVENTS , ADMISSION CHARGE

Sunday, December 7th, 2-5 p.m.
GALLERY RECEPTION: GABRIELLA BOROS
EXHIBITION: DECEMBER 6TH – JANUARY 15TH

Tuesday, December 9th, 7 p.m.
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 16th, 7 p.m.
HDP & Z COMMITTEE

December 22nd – January 5th
EVERY MONDAY - TRIANGLE OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY

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

Sat. & Sun., January 11th & 12th
ART FAIR JURY, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 17th,
EXHIBITORS COMMITTEE, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Monday, January 19th
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Thursday, January 22nd, 6:30 p.m.
dinner, 8pm. meeting
ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

Thursday, January 29th, 6 – 9 p.m.
MEET THE ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES

(Right photo) We discussed stronger communications initiatives, expanding the offering of family events, welcoming new neighbors with a Welcome Wagon program, engaging with more area institutions like Moody Bible Institute and Herman Baptist Church and affiliating with Chicago Cares.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Neighborhood Improvements Committee | Alex Shibicky, Committee Member

Oh, Rats! Your Neighborhood Improvement Committee's (NIC) mission is to develop and maintain the physical environment of the Old Town Triangle. NIC services refuse containers throughout the Triangle, replaces aging benches, and landscapes and cares for our neighborhood parks. NIC installed the play lot in North Ogden Park and funds and manages our ongoing parkway tree and brick programs defraying costs to neighbors interested in maintaining those streetscape elements.

The Committee endeavors to identify projects which address neighborhood needs and infrastructure opportunities within the Triangle and works with both public and private offices to address those projects emphasizing safety, beautification and maintenance.

A perennial and seemingly intractable problem of course is rats. Solutions have been few and include the use of poison, educating residents to limit food sources (open garbage cans, unattended dog feces, etc.) and working with local restaurants to secure their waste.

Frankly, all of these strategies together will never eliminate the rodent problem. Moreover, many residents are hesitant to introduce poison into

the environment because of its potential danger to pets and local fauna under the principle of unintended consequences. Over the years, the Committee has been stymied in search of a workable solution until now.

NIC is considering a strategy that has been extremely successful in pockets around the city, county and country, namely The Tree House Cats at Work Project www.treehouseanimals.org.

This "green" and humane program removes feral cats from life-threatening situations. The cats are sterilized, immunized, and relocated to new territories where their presence helps control the rodent population. Volunteer caretakers humanely manage the cats, providing outdoor shelter and food with ongoing support from Tree House as mandated by Cook County's "2007 Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance".

The cat's scent alone repels rodents, causing them to leave the cat's range. When fed regularly, cats will only hunt rats on occasion. Working cats provide a reliable, ongoing solution and a win-win for both humans and cats.

If you notice conditions that may contribute to rodent activity, call 311 or contact Alderman Smith's office. If rats can't feed, they can't breed! ❄️

Events Committee | Anne Giffels, Chairperson

After a spectacular Oktoberfest, the Events Committee is turning their sights on how the Old Town Triangle can better serve the community and Triangle members. You might recall that on May 12th the Chicago Community Trust organized a one-day, city-wide event, *On the Table 2014*, to engage the region in conversations to stimulate ideas to help build and strengthen the bonds of neighbors, organizations and institutions to take action to improve the quality of life and build a sustainable future for the Chicagoland area. On November 12th, we hosted an *On the Triangle Table* meeting, as a follow-up to our popular and successful May event.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussions among neighbors, members and non-members, in a town meeting format. The goal of the meeting was to engage the participants and identify actionable NEXT STEPS – strategic priorities, tactics and what we have to do to realize the ideas suggested by attendees and or write-ins. We will be back with our findings and suggestions for future plans.

As we head into the holiday season, the Events Committee is planning for next year. Since 2015 is a Chicago election year, we will be hosting a Meet the Aldermanic Candidates for 43rd and 2nd Ward on January 29th. We will send details in early January. Also plan to attend our Annual Meeting & Dinner, with another wonderful Taste of the Triangle Potluck Dinner on January 22nd. ❄️





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ESTABLISHED IN 1948

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OldTownTriangle

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Call to Action

OTTA Newsletter Summit Meeting Tuesday, December 3rd,
6:30-8:30pm at The Triangle Center to discuss 2015
Editorial Plan and recruit contributors.

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").

Old Town Art Center Gallery: December, 2014 & January, 2015



Paintings and Prints by Gabriella Boros

December 7 – January 15, 2015

Reception for the Artist: Sunday, Dec. 7th 2-5pm

Boros says "So often, small events catapult us into deep whirlpools of thought. The narratives which I produce are depictions of these thoughts in visual form". The Israeli born artist begins with a written thought which then moves into the visual language of painting and woodblock printing.



Fire and Ice - Paintings and Works on Paper by Didier Nolet

Jan 16 – Feb 27, 2015

Reception for the Artist: Sunday, February 8 2-5pm

Didier Nolet, a longtime faculty member at OTAC, has developed a series of works which began as he jogged through the magical quiet of our Forest Preserves in winter. It is a time for nature to recharge its batteries. The obvious counterpoint became fire, also awesome and magical in its power.



OTTA Art Classes: The Winter Session Classes at the Old Town Art Center begin on January 6, 2015. Check the website for courses/teachers.