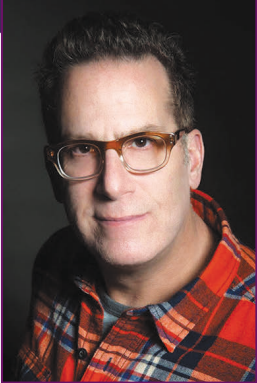




## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall is here. It's hard to bid farewell to summer, but what a great summer it was!! Lots of "fun in the sun" coupled with pretty fantastic weather. We had Tuesday kids play nights at the LaSalle play-lot, a very successful Art Fair, a well-attended First Sight gala, a number of terrific OTTA Gallery receptions, art classes that helped to expand the students' artistic talents, but mostly we just plain enjoyed life in our beautiful Old Town Triangle.

As the leaves are changing from vibrant green to warm fall colors clocks will be changing as well. I'm feeling great excitement in anticipation of our first "Great Mac and Cheese and Cupcake Cook-Off" set for Saturday, October 22. Neighbors will compete for prizes in both categories and the rest of us will get to eat the spoils. Come and spend time

with neighbors and friends. I expect a lot of entries, so good luck to everyone. If you don't feel you want to be a contestant, then just show up, like me, and enjoy the food and the company.

Halloween is becoming legendary in the Triangle. Year after year homes are not just decorated, but transformed into spooky destinations for kids who come to the Triangle on Halloween from all over the city. Remember when you were a kid and there was one great neighborhood that you wanted to go to for trick or treating? So come on friends--let's make our streets and homes scary & spooky demonstrating once again that Old Town Triangle is the most spirited neighborhood in Chicago.

Lastly, mark your calendars and plan on showing our neighborhood spirit while cheering on Bank of America Chicago Marathon runners as they make their way south down Sedgwick Street on October 9, 2016.

Best regards, **Steve Weiss, President** 🍂

## TREASURER'S REPORT for Fiscal Year Ending July 31, 2016 | By Claire Leaman, OTTA Treasurer (Triangle resident since 2008)

**FY2016 PERFORMANCE:** The Fiscal Year 2016 budget was approved at a near balanced operating budget plus a \$22,500 spend from savings mainly to complete repair and preservation of the OTTA's historic wooden windows. Actual net income performance was a \$57,000 surplus, and a positive difference of \$82,000 relative to plan. The three largest components of this variance were:

- \$61,000 Art Fair: exceeding revenue plan by 12% and beating expense plan by another 12%
- \$13,000 Occupancy: \$10,000 insurance premium deferred, \$3,000 property maintenance under plan
- \$8,000 Neighborhood Improvements underspend

A full set of FY2016 financial reports are available on the OTTA website at [www.oldtowntriangle.com/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/board-meeting-minutes).

If you are interested in participating in the planning or management of OTTA initiatives,

please join a committee or submit your name for next year's board!

**BALANCE SHEET:** Total FY2016 savings finished at \$763,000 held in checking, savings and money market accounts. The OTTA continues to be in a strong financial position between its current assets and ability to create ongoing annual balanced budgets. The Old Town Art Fair which celebrated its 67th year in 2016 continues to be the association's financial life-line and most important asset by far.

**ART FAIR 2016 PERFORMANCE:** Total revenues were \$453,000 compared to \$378,000 in 2015. Gates donations were up substantially due to the increased suggested amount of \$10. Sponsorships and program ads were up substantially to \$28,500 versus \$8,500 last year, and Friends of the Fair was well above budget thanks to our many gracious donors.

Total Art Fair direct expenses were \$100,000 vs budget \$114,000. Art Fair 2016 net income was \$353,000, the highest in 20 years. The average of the prior five years (2011-2015) is \$271,000, and of the prior ten years (2006-

2015) is \$269,000.

**ART FAIR ATTENDANCE:** Total 2016 donating attendees of 17,600 was down slightly from last year's 18,130. Saturday attendance was lower than normal likely due to unseasonably hot mid-90 degree temperatures, but Sunday's weather was much better and attendance higher than normal.

Going forward, the OTTA will continue to face competition from the seven other major fairs and festivals taking place in Chicago during the same weekend. From 2002 to 2012, we saw a sharp decline in our donating attendees from approximately 36,000 to 17,500 which we believe to be a direct result of the now numerous weekend festival choices during the second weekend of June. The fact that we have been able to reverse this trend and hold it for four years now is a reflection on the enormous effort, teamwork and a job done extremely well by all participants - the nearly 700 volunteers, the OTTA's office staff, and all who so graciously gave their significant time and talents. 🍂

*\* Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.*



## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE | By Phil Graff, NIC Member (Triangle resident since 1985)



The sidewalk before the repair

The Neighborhood Improvement Committee has worked hard this spring and summer in fulfilling its mission to the OTTA and its members. NIC pays great tribute to Corinne Svoboda who tirelessly spends each week walking through our historic district overseeing the necessary landscaping maintenance to all our parks. Many thanks also to Dan Baldwin for his unceasing care and attention to the Old Town Triangle Park at Wisconsin & Clark. He has diligently personally attended to this park since its creation in 2002.

NIC planted 14 trees last fall and intends to plant at least 10 more this fall. Our biggest

project was replacing the brick sidewalk area on the north side of the Triangle Center. It was extremely unsafe to walk that section of Menomonee. After a series of pedestrian accidents, it was decided by the NIC and the OTTA Board to go forward with this Capital Improvement project. Christy Webber was the contractor of record and as you can see by the before and after pictures they did a superb job. For a full report of how your NIC dollars are put to work visit <http://www.OLDTOWNTRIANGLE.com/board-meeting-minutes>.

In Fall, NIC begins winding down its infrastructure maintenance tasks. NIC asks that as leaves begin to accumulate by the street curbs, individuals help do their utmost to keep the sewers clear so that rain water can drain. It is recommended that leaves be swept and bagged and not blown into the street. Fall is a favorite time of the year for so many of us; so take time to stroll through your delightful neighborhood and enjoy nature at its best. 🍂



Under construction



The finished project.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT / PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE | Report by HD/PZ Committee

As most of our membership is probably aware, on July 25, 2016 a Landmarked building located at 322 W. Willow Street was demolished. The building had suffered decades of neglect and hadn't been occupied for a minimum of 15 years. The current owner purchased the building through a foreclosure sale in 2015. He met with OTTA's Historic District/Planning & Zoning (HD/PZ) Committee in September, 2015 and presented them with his plans for renovations to the property. In June, 2016 the Department of Buildings (DOB) granted him a building permit for his approved renovation plans. However, during the initial phase of

his rehab, excessive deterioration of the foundational structure became apparent. The owner subsequently requested an additional inspection by Landmarks and the DOB. It was determined during the re-inspection on July 12, 2016 that the structure was in a "very dangerous and hazardous condition." This determination immediately triggered an administrative order from the DOB to tear down the structure immediately.

The loss of this building is regrettable. The loss of any of our historic buildings is devastating. This incident has triggered the need for

the OTTA & HD/PZ to increase its active involvement in landmark property renovations. The HD/PZ Committee has identified several more "at risk" buildings in our neighborhood. We intend to work proactively with the property owners, Aldermen, Landmarks and the DOB to try to prevent them from reaching the level of deterioration that occurred with 322 W. Willow Street. Our Association will take steps (including retaining legal counsel) to see that we are well positioned to continue preserving the architectural and historic character of the Old Town Triangle which is our highest priority. 🍂

## GRANTS COMMITTEE | By Diane Gonzalez, Chairperson (Triangle resident since 1974)

As mentioned in the July-August OTTA newsletter, Grants Committee held their wrap up meeting 7/13/16 when we reviewed what went well this year and what we could improve for next year. Here are a few details of our discussion. The February and March reminder emails sent to all of last year's applicants resulted in approximately the same number of applications for 2016 as in 2015. Ways to improve the process were discussed including OTTA President Steve Weiss' ideas for transparency. All OTTA members will be invited to attend presentations. Members will

also be invited to the May Board meeting when the vote to approve Grants' recommendations is taken and members can relate to the Board their opinions on the chosen grant recipients' requests. The Committee supports this process provided we are in control of the Committee's assigned tasks and decisions. Thank-you letters from this year's recipients are available to be viewed in the Triangle office. For next year Grants has requested a \$50,000 budget, the same amount as received this year. 🍂

## EVENTS COMMITTEE | By Shirley Baugher, (Triangle Resident since 1978)

It's A Two-fer': The Great Mac and Cheese and Cupcake Cook-Off

Everyone loves mac and cheese, and almost everyone (including Kraft Foods) swears he or she makes it the best. Well, here's your chance to prove it. On Saturday, October 22nd, The Events Committee will hold the first ever in Old Town the "Great Mac and Cheese and Cupcake Cook-off." All Old Town cooks are invited to enter one or both contests. All entries will be judged by a jury of neighbors. There are probably a million ways to make mac and cheese, and we want to sample yours.

Cupcakes—those rich, moist, mouthwatering little cakes, made even more decadent with lots of frosting are perfect for those who crave a little something sweet. We would love to sample your version of these little treats at the "Great Mac and Cheese and Cupcake Cook-Off." As with the mac and cheese entries, your cupcakes will be judged by some expert neighborhood bakers. Recipes will be collected and entered into immortality by being included in the "Great Mac and Cheese and Cupcake Cookbook," which will be available to OTTA members and certain to become one of

Old Town's most requested publications.

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in this very special Old Town Triangle event. More details will follow. 🍁



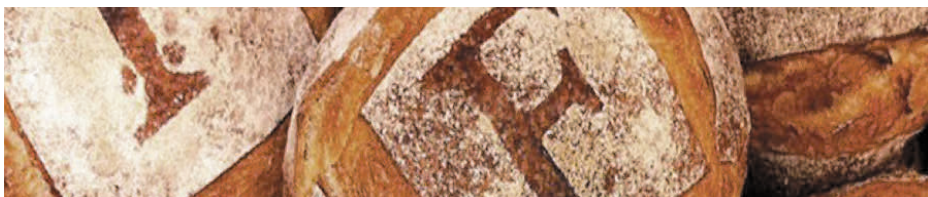
## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE | By Christopher Huff, Chair (Triangle Resident since 2011)

Recently, the focus of Capital Improvements Committee has been to assess and conduct repairs to our building in need of attention. While we still have a few projects on our list, the Committee is starting to think beyond the "needs" and more towards the "wants." If you have ideas about how the Association might improve this valuable and unique community asset, please bring them forward to the Board! Send in your suggestions to [info@oldtowntriangle.com](mailto:info@oldtowntriangle.com). 🍁

## iBOT SPOTLIGHT | La Fournette; A Slice of French Heaven | By Diane Sokolofski (Triangle resident in 1969-1970 and since 2006)

Stepping into La Fournette, a family-owned authentic French bakery and cafe at 1547 N. Wells Street, is like entering a boutique French village boulangerie. Cheerfully greeted by the charming Michele Zimmermann, I was overwhelmed with deliciously authentic freshly baked traditional French breads, croissants, brioche, beignets, macarons in addition to a menu of du jour seasonal soups, savory and sweet crepes, quiche, salads and sandwiches.

La Fournette is run by husband-and-wife duo Pierre and Michele Zimmermann, who moved to Chicago in 2009 to open the shop on Wells in 2012 after selling Boulangerie Zimmermann, a 110-year-old family operation in the Alsatian village of Schnersheim, France. Pierre Zimmermann, Master Baker and World Baking Champion 1996, taught L'Art de la Boulangerie at The French Pastry School. While teaching, he developed a plan for La Fournette that ensured his customers would enjoy the same exquisite flavor and texture of breads and pastries he baked in Schnersheim. I spoke with Luc, one of the sons, and asked him why the family picked the Wells Street location to open the shop. "We wanted a neighborhood where people had traveled and could appreciate our unique authentic French niche; people who care about what they eat."



The Miche, Pierre's Signature country style sour dough round loaf.

Chef Zimmermann and son, Nicholas, do the baking while Michele directs the front-of-house operations with Luc. Pierre and Nicholas start their day in their West Loop bakery at 1:00 a.m. hand forming loaves of bread... "crusty, aromatic, and flavorful; the way bread is supposed to be." Most of the breads are made with a natural sourdough starter – a slow process that results in superior flavor and texture.

My favorite bread is the Miche, Pierre's Signature country style sour dough round loaf with a dense, spongy crumb and chewy texture. Not to be missed is the bread of the month, Beer Bread, a house specialty made with rye flour, mashed potatoes and beer with a crackly beer crust. A "must-try" are the authentically classic French baguettes, Pierre's Famous Alsatian Bretzel, the melt-in-your-mouth light, flaky croissants with a toss between plain, dark rich chocolate-filled or almond, and the sugar-sprinkled buttery brioche – all made fresh daily. I asked Luc what

his favorite bread is- "3 Cheese Bread- sooo cheesy with clusters of Parmesan, Asiago and Conte." Yum!

La Fournette sells their own homemade granola, fruit jams and spreads including Willamette Raspberry Jam (which followed me home) and Chocolate-Hazelnut Spread. Some La Fournette breads are also available at Treasure Island and Whole Foods. A special thank you to La Fournette, who generously donated croissants to our 2016 OTAF's Artist Breakfast which they freshly baked that morning just for us! See more by visiting <http://lafournette.com/> or call 312-6724-9430 for more information.

**iBOT (I Buy Old Town)** is a discount loyalty program for the OTTA members offering services, merchandise and products at special rates by Old Town merchants. See [www.oldtowntriangle.com](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com) for a complete list of merchants and discounts. To receive your personal iBOT card, visit the Triangle Office. 🍁



**PHOTO GALLERY | Our Ray of Sunshine - Leslie Wolfe | A Huge Thank You From All Your Friends in Old Town** | Photographs by Roving Photographers Lynn Smith, Michael Warnick and Lucy Baldwin | Compiled by Nancy Jordan 🍁



"GREAT LISTENER"



"HANDS ON"



"COMMUNITY ORGANIZER"



"DIRECTOR OF ARTS, OPERATIONS AND SO MUCH MORE!"



"DESERVES A THANK YOU EVERYDAY"



"ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE"



"A FRIEND TO ALL"



"WE GIVE HER TWO THUMBS UP!"



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

**CAPS – NEW MEETING LOCATION!!!** Our **CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 18th DISTRICT** holds CAPS Meetings (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) for the **10th Sector** which includes Beats 1811, 1812, 1813 and 1814 at St. James Church located at 2050 N. Fremont on the second Thursday of every odd month. The next meeting



is on **THURSDAY, November 10th at 6:30pm**. For more information, call the Precinct at 312-742-5870.

**THE MENOMONEE CLUB** ([www.menomoneeclub.org/](http://www.menomoneeclub.org/))

offers an abundance of after-school programs throughout the school year. Please join them for their **WINTER SESSION** programming and **HOLIDAY CAMPS** during school breaks! For more information, visit their website or call Sara Bosaw at 312-664-4631.



## ChicagoHistoryMuseum

**THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM** ([www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)) is opening a new exhibit! **Making Mainbocher: America's First Couturier** Opens October 22, 2016. Chicagoan Main Rousseau Bocher (1890–1976) established a fashion empire serving royalty, Hollywood icons, and the social elite. Raised in a modest home on the city's West Side, he transformed his passion for the arts to become a tastemaker of twentieth-century style. His acclaimed designs include the wedding dress for the Duchess of Windsor in 1937 and a corseted look that anticipated Christian Dior's New Look.

Highly regarded for his impeccable construction and understated elegance, Bocher balanced his elite brand by designing uniforms for the United States Navy, the Girl Scouts of America, and Chicago's Passavant Hospital. Featuring nearly thirty garments from the Chicago History Museum's collection as well as fashion illustrations and photography, this exhibition explores the life and legacy of a remarkable man and his journey to become Mainbocher, the first American couturier. For more information, call Emily Osborne 312-799-2161.

### The CHURCH OF THE THREE CROSSES

(<http://churchofthethreecrosses.org>) has a line-up of fall and winter events and programs.

**October 16th:** 50th Year Anniversary celebration 11 am (during worship)

**November 30th:** Advent Group Study 7pm every Wednesday Nov 30-Dec 21

**December 4th:** Church of the Three Crosses' Advent Event 12:30pm

**December 24th:** Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

**December 25th:** Christmas Day Service 11am

For more information, contact Rev. John Hobbs or Erika Colin, Office Manager, at 312-951-7916 or [admin@churchofthethreecrosses.org](mailto:admin@churchofthethreecrosses.org).

**ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN** ([www.st-mikes.org/](http://www.st-mikes.org/))

is the reason Old Town is what it is today! Mark your calendars with these activities and events for the coming weeks and months.



**The Yoga of 12 Step Recovery (Y12SR)**

combines the tools of a 12-step program

with yoga. Classes are free and meet every other Tuesday, 7-8:30pm (September 20, October 4, 18, November 1, 15, 29 and December 13, 27 at the Parish Center, 3rd Floor. Please enter through the 1711 N. Cleveland door). Contact Christine Kordiuk at 312-642-2498, ext. 301 for more information.

**October Book Club Selection** *Waiting For Snow In Havana* by Carlos Eiré, winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction and an autobiographical look at Operation Peter Pan – the mass exodus of 14,000 unaccompanied Cuban minors to the US between 1960-1962, will be discussed on Thursday, October 27th at 7pm. Contact Toni Dunning in the Parish Office at 312-642-2498 to RSVP and get more information.



**Planning Ahead** St. Michaels needs your help planning Breakfast With Santa (held on Sunday, December 5th) and donations supporting their Turkey & Hunger Relief Drive (beginning immediately) and Christmas Gift Drive (beginning Saturday, November 5th). For more information, contact Toni Dunning in the Parish Office at 312-642-2498.



### CALENDAR | OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

#### OCTOBER

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2 – 5 P.M.**  
SPECIAL GALLERY EXHIBITION  
LESLIE WOLFE, TREASURES FROM MY STUDIO

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH**  
COLUMBUS DAY

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 7 P.M.**  
BOARD MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 7 P.M.**  
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 7 P.M.**  
HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 5 – 8 P.M.**  
SPECIAL EVENT: GREAT MAC AND CHEESE AND CUPCAKE BAKE-OFF

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 6:30 P.M.**  
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH**  
SPOOKY ZOO SPECTACULAR  
[www.lpzoo.org](http://www.lpzoo.org)

**NOVEMBER**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH**  
ELECTION DAY



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 6:30 P.M.**  
CAPS (Note New Location)  
St. James Church,  
2050 N. Fremont

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 7 P.M.**  
BOARD MEETING

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**  
VETERAN'S DAY

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2 – 5 P.M.**  
GALLERY OPENING  
Barbara Guttman: Sculptors on Paper  
EXHIBITION: OCTOBER 15th – NOVEMBER 17th

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 7 P.M.**  
HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH**  
MAGNIFICANT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 7 P.M.**  
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH**  
THANKSGIVING DAY

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH – JANUARY 1ST**  
(Various Dates) ZOO LIGHTS

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 6:30 P.M.**  
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### DECEMBER

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2 – 5 P.M.**  
GALLERY OPENING  
Maria Cruz  
EXHIBITION: NOVEMBER 13TH – DECEMBER 15th

## OLD TOWN HISTORY | 218 Menomonee Street: Glimpses of Its Past | By Diane Gonzalez (Triangle resident since 1974)

Tales of four families who have resided in 218 (formerly 30) Menomonee Street provided glimpses into its past. Johann Stroh, a scavenger and blacksmith, was a Prussian immigrant who moved into 30 Menomonee around 1866. During the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, Stroh packed the family belongings into their wagon –but when the wagon began to burn, he unhitched his horse and fled on foot. His wife Maria and their four children hid under a seven-foot-high wooden sidewalk for about a week until the family was reunited. This tale is from the late Sharon Sweeney, great, great-granddaughter of Stroh. Stroh rebuilt his home as well as a stable behind the house.

In 1879, Stroh rented an upstairs apartment to Johann Brunkhorst, his wife Ida, and their four children. Brunkhorst was a founder of True, Brunkhorst, & Co. and was located where Hemingway House is today. Described in *The Story of Terra Cotta* as a “massive figure, red faced and two fisted, with slouched hat, curly hair, faded blue suit, and impressive waddle...[Brunkhorst] was trusted at sight, and trusted others the same way.” His successor company, the Northwestern Terra Cotta Co., was responsible for the terra cotta trim on many historic Chicago buildings. In 1886, Brunkhorst tragically died at the age of 36. His bust was displayed at the 1893 Columbian Exposition and now sits in storage in the basement of the Chicago History Museum.

Stroh lost his wife to pulmonary tuberculosis in 1895, and then his son died in a train accident that occurred at Lincoln Avenue and Addison Street. Distraught, Stroh turned to drink. *The Inter-Ocean* revealed that after being kept drunk for a week Stroh signed over the title to his home to saloon keeper August Bienke. Stroh sued and recovered his home, which he sold to Theodore and Katharina Jost in 1897.

In 1898, a tailor named Mr. Jost – who claimed to have made suits for Kaiser Wilhelm – expanded the building into the front yard with a brick storefront. Marilyn Krenger, a Jost descendant, related that a



LEFT: 218 West Menomonee today (Photo by Diane Gonzalez) RIGHT: Peter Stroh and Spot in Sacramento, CA in 1927. Peter grew up in 218 Menomonee in the 1870's-1880's (Photo gift of Sharon Sweeney, Peter's great-granddaughter)

robber once entered the shop and was promptly knocked down by Jost. Katharina, a “rather large” woman, sat on the man until the police arrived. Jost was a proud small business owner and became insulted when a Marshall Field's rep offered him a position at the department store. Jost's son-in-law operated a barber shop in the tailor shop. Snippets of hair joined scraps of fabric on the floor.

In 1927, Jost sold his home and shop to Viggo and Alma Juhl, immigrants from Denmark, who owned “218” while operating a grocery store across the street at 225 Menomonee. For a time, a “what-not store” occupied “218's” first floor. The Juhs eventually replaced the storefront window with double hung windows and bricked in windows on the west wall (the windows with extant glass are still under the bricks). The upstairs apartment was divided to provide homes for Juhl's two married sons, but later it was converted back to a single apartment to meet code.

By 1974 the Juhs had moved to Florida and rented the downstairs apartment to newlyweds Diane Gonzalez and Tom Leibig. Three years later, when the Juhs died, the Gonzalez/Leibigs became the fourth owners of 218 Menomonee where they have happily resided since. 🍂

## NEWS YOU CAN USE | Foodbytes for Fall | By Diane Sokolofski (Triangle resident in 1969-1970 and since 2006)



Caramel Dipped Apples with Nuts and a Chocolate Drizzled Version from Cocoa + Co.

Time to have your last sips of Cold Brew and start celebrating Fall.

If you're into carving pumpkins, try carving carrots. These easy-to-make pumpkin-shaped carrots turn basic veggies and dip into a fall fiesta! Or surprise your family and friends with a Pumpkin Patch Salad of mixed greens and crunchy sweet pumpkin-shaped carrots tossed with a favorite dressing. Directions for “How To Make Pumpkin-Shaped Carrots” can be found on our website [www.oldtowntriangle.com](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com).

Love caramel apples? What's not to love with these hand-dipped caramel apples using heirloom apples from Nichols Farm, coated with a rich buttery caramel and pecans,



Pumpkin-Shaped Carrots and Pumpkin Patch Salad

Marcona almonds or peanuts at from Cocoa + Co. For “chocolate-lovers” a “must have” is the chocolate drizzled version. Don't forget to check out the other chocolate Halloween treats while you're there. Cocoa + Co. is located at 1651 N. Wells Street. 🍂



## NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | Love for Vintage “Drives” Two Old Town Residents | By Catherine Tierney (Old Town resident since 2014)



A 1957 Chevrolet Nomad is the backdrop for Diane & Burt in their Collector's Car Garage.

Old Town is the perfect neighborhood for Diane Fitzgerald and Burt Richmond. These two displaced New Yorkers have found a way to combine their love for vintage and their talents for restoration in a complex and quirky house on North Sedgwick. Like many of their neighbors, the couple believe in giving back to Old Town and maintaining the history of this beautiful and historic corner of Chicago.

“Everything we do has to do with heritage,” says Diane. “We contribute today to things that will be historic to others.” From real estate to motorcycles, their lives are directed by the passion to preserve beauty and history for future generations to appreciate.

“Some people think old houses are more trouble than they’re worth,” Burt explains. But his career in architecture and expertise in automotive restoration prove that what seems old and unredeemable are really things with hidden stories waiting to be told. Their own renovated home, with its front door on 1722 North Sedgwick and its back door on 1723 Fern Court, is a clear example of the value of restoring something to its former glory. The structure they bought 17 years ago bears little resemblance to the renovated home they live in.

After considerable research and work with the Landmarks Commission, acquiring the needed zoning and building approvals, and the OK from neighbors, they got down to business

with a full-gut rehab of their 1882 property. They utilized Burt’s architectural expertise and their unique design sense to make the house structurally sound, functional and comfortable while honoring its historic nature.

The result is a unique combination of modern, eclectic and historic. On display throughout their home are artifacts collected during their travels around the world. Every inch of the house has a purpose. The 6,400 square foot complex is comprised of their home on the second floor, a first floor apartment, and basement guest quarters. They built a three-story coach house on Fern Court that houses their offices, private motorcycle museum, and workshop/garage. In their second floor motorcycle museum, 20 vintage European motorcycles, including Ducati, Aermacchi, and Moto Guzzi, are on display.

The pair, married in 2004, have a shared history of wanderlust. While their roots are firmly planted in Chicago, they have often headed to Europe, South America and Asia as owners of Lotus Tours, an international upscale motorcycle touring company that Burt started in 1982 and Diane joined in 1999. While they no longer guide tours, they still give their friends around the globe advice when they want a motorcycle adventure!

Diane has used her creativity, understanding of education, business acumen, and love of

vintage automobiles to develop a program for RPM Foundation – Restoration. Preservation. Mentorship. - where she serves as President, to inspire and encourage an interest in young engineers and craftsmen to build careers in automotive restoration, funding educational programs in the United States and Canada. RPM is associated with LeMay – America’s Car Museum in Tacoma, Washington.

Burt has called Chicago home since 1963. His passion for design and restoration led him from a successful career in commercial architecture to automotive preservation. “Everything I’ve done in my career comes back to this... cars and motorcycles are as meaningful to heritage as buildings are.” He still travels the globe to attend motorcycle rallies and scavenge for old parts that he can use to restore vehicles.

They volunteer with the Old Town Art Fair, Diane with this newsletter, and they’re always ready to share fun facts about the history of the area. What they share with their neighbors is a commitment to maintaining the beauty, safety and history of Old Town. 🍁



Diane & Burt in their 1958 BMW Isetta, an Italian designed microcar.

**Writer’s Note:** Catherine Tierney has lived in Chicago for two years, coming from 12 years in Hinsdale. She has known Diane Fitzgerald since childhood in Garden City, NY. Happily, Cathy lives around the corner from the Triangle.



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Chicago, IL 60614

#### ESTABLISHED IN 1948

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#### 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").

#### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 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  
Barb Guttmann  
during office hours

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**Get Involved.  
Be a Volunteer.**

## OLD TOWN ART CENTER GALLERY: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER



### OCTOBER | THE LESLIE WOLFE TREASURES FROM MY STUDIO - ONE DAY ONLY

This is a reception and exhibit of works by Leslie Wolfe, from her personal, sculptural creations to prints from her days at Four Brothers Press.

**Reception for the Artist:** October 9th, 2016, 2-5 pm

### OCTOBER | NOVEMBER CHICAGO SCULPTURE EXHIBIT

CSE on the Wall introduces works by artists identified with the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit. Usually seen in large-scale formats, On The Wall offers a unique look at smaller scale art created by artists who are known for their work in metal, stone, or fiberglass.

**Reception for the Artists:**

Sunday, November 13th, 2-5 pm

**Exhibition:** October 14th - November 18th.

