

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Vi Daley

We made it through the winter. We had some beautiful snow days and the neighborhood looked like a winter wonderland. However, I believe that most of us are looking forward to spring and strolling down Lincoln Park West and Orleans to admire the pink flowering trees.

Spring is also a time to think about cleanup in the Triangle. The Neighborhood Improvements Committee will be reaching out to each block asking that we all participate in cleaning up our streets

and help with planting the flower boxes throughout the neighborhood. So please look out for this opportunity to help keep Old Town beautiful.

The Old Town Art Fair is just around the corner, June 8th and 9th. There is still a lot of preparation required prior to the event so if you have some time we are looking for volunteers. Call Leslie at 312 337-1938 or email lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com. You can also read the latest updates from John Knoche, Art Fair Chair, in this issue!

2013 is the 65th Anniversary of the Old Town Triangle, making this is

our official anniversary newsletter. We are taking a walk down memory lane with rediscovered photography, a great Neighbor Spotlight on our own local historian, Diane Gonzalez, and many other nods to the rich history of the OTTA and The Triangle. Throughout the next year we will host a number of anniversary events. The first will be in the Triangle center, Sunday, April 21st from 2 pm-5 pm. Old photos will be displayed and a great slide show of photos of our past. We are fortunate to have our own well known historians, Diane Gonzalez and Shirley Baugher, who will give tours of our historic district. This is an event not to miss.

We are all saddened to have lost a couple of very special people in our community. Joe Tipre of Tipre Hardware passed away the end of February; the out pouring to celebrate Joe's life was truly a tribute to his business commitment to the neighborhood. Dawn Clark Netsch an amazing woman who as the Sun-Times headline stated "She paved the way". Dawn contributed so much to Illinois politics, government and legal education. She and Walter moved to Old Town in 1974. Dawn enjoyed the Old Town Art Fair and for many years was part of the live Auction. She was loved by all and will be greatly missed. 🌈

Happy Spring and get involved, it's a great way to meet your neighbor.

Warmly,
President
Vi Daley, OTTA

P.S. - Don't miss our first anniversary event on April 21st from 2pm. Details on page 6.

ART FAIR NEWS | by John Knoche, Chairperson

Time is flying and so are the preparations for the 64th Old Town Art Fair! I am excited to report that two of our major revenue sources are already well in hand: (1) artist application/booth fees, and (2) fees for food and beverage concessions with Stefani's and other local eateries.

The next major efforts we are undertaking are the soliciting of sponsorships and donations from local merchants and "Friends of the Fair" and also the release of tickets being sold to the First Sight Friday Night fundraising event. This year, the First Sight Friday Night event will be held at Germania Place. This is a great location for a memorable evening to enjoy with family, friends and to meet other friends of the fair. So please save the date (June 7th) and start spreading the word.

All readers of the Triangle Times will be receiving invitations to donate as "Friends of the Fair" and to attend First Sight Friday Night. I cannot encourage you enough to participate in these two fundraisers that directly benefit our community. Look out for the invitations and GIVE!

Last but not least, we are also working hard on ways to grow gate revenue, another considerable source of art fair income. We continue to evaluate ways to get the word out and really engage people with our beautiful neighborhood throughout the weekend of June 8 & 9. Please think hard and let us know if you are able to help with ideas, time or sheer manpower. Maybe you know someone who works for a newspaper or magazine? Maybe you have a couple of hours a week to spare in May?

In other art fair news, you might have noticed that our Facebook page is growing week by week at www.facebook.com/oldtownartfair. So



Looking forward to a perfect summer for our 64th Old Town Art Fair

please come and join the discussions and share your thoughts or memories of the art fair. This is a completely public forum and a great way to give people a taste of what to expect when they visit our corner of Chicago. I would also like to encourage everyone to post any photos of past art fairs, pictures of your art purchases, favorite art fair posters and so on...

FUN FACT: As we always hold the Fair the second full weekend of June - this year is the earliest the Art Fair can be (8th & 9th); in 2014 it will be the latest the Fair can be - (14th & 15th). 🌈

IN THE FIRST PERSON | TRIPLE TROUBLE IN THE TRIANGLE | By Gary Lawson (Triangle resident since 1983)



Lawson triplet (1996)

October 27, 1994 was one of the happiest days of my life. I was awakened by the phone ringing a little after 4 in the morning. The boys' mother, Amy was on the other end crying. I could not understand what she was saying, so I just asked if we were going to have some little visitors. She was in Michael Reese Hospital for premature labor and her water had broken. We were in the operating room by 9 am that morning, and with the countless medical staff it was like a mob scene!

Kirby Powers was born at 9:22 (3lbs, 12 oz). Maxwell Crippen was born at 9:23 (3 lbs, 11oz) and Louis Leibig at 9:27 (2 lbs, 6 oz).

They were two months premature. Kirby and Maxwell were in intensive care for two weeks, Louis for a month. I like to say their mother can do in seven months what most women take twenty-seven months to do.

I have lived in the Old Town Triangle for almost thirty years, moving here to be close to Amy's aunt and uncle, Diane Gonzales and Tom (Conk) Leibig. First at 1916 N Lincoln, which when we lived there was known as 1908 N Ogden. Try getting gas service or even a pizza delivered to that old address! We next lived at 305 W Wisconsin and then bought a condominium in 1987 at 1918 N Clark. The "Parkview" building was built in 1883 as a modern four family flat for the upwardly mobile middle class. One of the great things about our neighborhood is the Menomonee Club for Boys and Girls, established in 1946. Under Neal Bader's leadership, the club has always offered high quality programming and my boys have enjoyed all these activities; Cub Scouts, T ball, baseball, flag football, basketball, judo, fencing and last but not least, the game room with Linda.

The triplets are now eighteen and seniors. They attend some of the best schools in Chicago. Kirby is at Jones College Prep, Maxwell is at Lane Tech High School and Louis is enrolled at Walter Payton H.S. Their younger brother "JJ", 13 is in 7th grade at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School.

Kirby's cross country team at Jones won the state championship this year. He was named "all state" and his fastest time in the mile was 4:32 pm at the state track meet last spring. The boys are all making big plans for the next year.

While it is a challenge to have four boys in four different Chicago Public Schools, I feel very blessed and grateful to be living in Chicago and in our neighborhood. My boys are all able to get to school on their own because of our great location and public transportation. It seems like just yesterday when we cruised the sidewalks of Old Town, North Avenue Beach, the zoo and the many playgrounds in the Runabout® triplet stroller. 🌈



The Lawson triplets with Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White and the other Jesse White Tumblers"

INTRODUCING "THE TRIANGLE COLLECTION" | By Robert Gibbs (Triangle resident since 2005)

In celebration of our 65th anniversary, we are pleased to announce a new, permanent collection of Triangle memorabilia. Spanning well over a century of Old Town history, "The Triangle Collection" is a growing body of vintage media that communicates the social, cultural and civic stories from in and around the Old Town Triangle. Throughout this newsletter you will find a few of our favorite images from this newly formed collection, accompanied by a short description. If you own any pieces of Old Town memorabilia that you would like to either donate or loan to the collection (photographs, souvenirs, audio and video clips etc) please send an email to rjkgibbs@oldtowntriangle.com. You can also find more news about The Triangle Collection on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OldTownTriangle 🌈

IN THE BEGINNING -1950

On the last day of May in 1950, members of the founding board, and art fair committee members, hang the first parking sign for the first Old Town Art Fair (known then as the Old Town Holiday Festival, or simply as "an outdoor arts and crafts show"). These dapper gents are, from left to right, Mr K.A. Dean, Mr J.E. Beverly, Mr Harry Bauler, Mr Llyod Johnson and Mr Thomas Keegan (taken on Lincoln Park West).

From The Triangle Collection





WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? -1950

Who could guess that this photo, taken at the corner of Menomonee and Lincoln Park West, preceded a “big street square dance” at the first Old Town Art Fair? At the dawn of a new decade, these post-war Chicagoans believed “town living is at its best” in Old Town, and the art show was staged to showcase the neighborhood and the city’s most distinguished artists. Spot those period styles, the details of the art and boy scouts in the garden.

From The Triangle Collection

TEACHERS SPOTLIGHT | A TRIBUTE TO KAY SMITH

By Reven Fellars (OTTA art student since 2002)



Kay Smith and Reven Fellars

Kay Smith started teaching 21 years ago, at the age of 69. After 21 years of teaching art classes at OTTA, she is now retiring from teaching to pursue another top priority (read on to discover what this is).

When I joined Kay’s class 11 years ago she had already been a teacher here some nine years and welcomed me as she does all new students, with warmth and encouragement. Thursday mornings with Kay have pretty much been a part of my life ever since. I had no idea how much fun I was going to have. The point is, Kay so obviously loves painting and teaching. She makes the class irresistible. If you miss a Thursday, you feel deprived. Partly it is her eagerness to share her treasure trove of painting skills - her tricks of the trade. But really, what ups the ante is her personality, her elegance, intelligence and style that makes it a joy to be around her.

The night before class she works on a demo painting to illustrate the day’s

lesson. That demo sits on the easel as she paints another to demonstrate just how she achieves the trees, water and clouds. Then we try to duplicate. When a student is stumped, Kay sits down to help, thoroughly engaged. Every once in a while I look at her, astounded by her energy, beauty, and good humor. Her exclamations of delight pepper the air when she spots an area of originality or authenticity. “Oh, How did you get that green?” Or “Come look at how he did this.” Her excitement is contagious, her congeniality a magnet, her cheekbones a topic of conversation. Her Christmas party highlights the Christmas season. She also can drink most of us under the table. And she is a flirt. So what was that other top priority that lures Kay away from us?

In 1994 Kay was honored as artist laureate of Illinois business in recognition of her more than 250 paintings of American History. So, after spending a good deal of her life putting historical figures and places on paper, she is determined to find a permanent home for her Legacy Collection, to insure its safekeeping and share its value in academia or as a travelling collection.

Most people would be daunted by such a mission. Not Kay. She is fearless. She carries authority and intelligence in her demeanor and her manner of speech. “Kay went from being my neighbor to being my teacher and through the experience in her art class, she has been my inspiration to live life by continuing to learn new things, meet new people, and try new experiences. She is a woman who has moved with the times and has earned the love and admiration of all who know her.” Mary Boeder, student.

Her generosity of spirit and unique turn of phrase are summed up in this comment to her students after her 90th Birthday celebration; “If only I had the words to tell you how much I have learned from each of you, how much you have helped me grow as an artist and an individual. If I had the right words, they would fill a monastery.” 🌈

-So Kay.

SWEAT EQUITY -1968

In an era defined by the women's lib movement this novice do-it-yourselfer, Janice Robinson, was featured in a Chicago Sun-Times article. Janice "wanted a home of her own with plenty of space. She found it, and almost limitless opportunities to use her own creativity and elbow grease...". Miss Robinson rolled up her sleeves, tied back her hair and got to work renovating this Victorian house that "had the charms and drawbacks to be expected of a home of its age". Sound familiar?

From *The Triangle Collection*



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE TRIANGLE: DIANE GONZALEZ, HISTORIAN

By Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)



1987 at the installation of the National Register District plaque, 13 years after Diane moved into the Triangle. L-to-r Alderman Edwin Eisendrath, Diane, HDC Chairperson Amy Forkert and OTTA President, Bruno Ast. See the plaque in the courtyard at Menomonee & Wells.

While the Triangle is celebrating the 65th anniversary of its founding this year, Diane Gonzalez is celebrating her own: 39 years of living in the Triangle! In the summer of 1974, Diane and her husband, Tom Leibig, moved into the first floor unit of a brick two-flat on Menomonee. They learned about the rental from a colleague of Diane's who was relocating. Interestingly, not only did Diane & Tom get the apartment but Diane was promoted into her colleague's position at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston! Diane & Tom bought the building, circa 1882, and discovered they were only the fourth owners of the property, which intrigued her. That was in 1977, the same year that members of the Triangle's Historic District Committee obtained our local historic landmark designation after neighbors Walter Netsch, Roy Russinof, Ben Weese and Vesta Angle, to name a few, testified in favor of it. Diane wasn't engaged with the community then...yet. She thought the neighborhood was cool but she was into her family - Abby was born in 1978 - and career as a social worker helping teen parents.

It didn't take long for her to get involved, though, and by 1980 she joined the HD Committee, working with Bill Hyer (Rick's dad) Leigh Sills and Amy & Maurice Forkert to document and catalog "...the mish mash of post-Great Fire architecture," explained Diane. "By this time I had come to believe

that *our history is our integrity* and that keeping our history makes our sense of community very strong and desirable. I was thrilled to be part of the team that made the presentation in Springfield in 1984 for designation on the National Register." In 1986 & 1987 Diane was General Chairperson of the Old Town Art Fair and she sat on the Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA) board for 10 years.

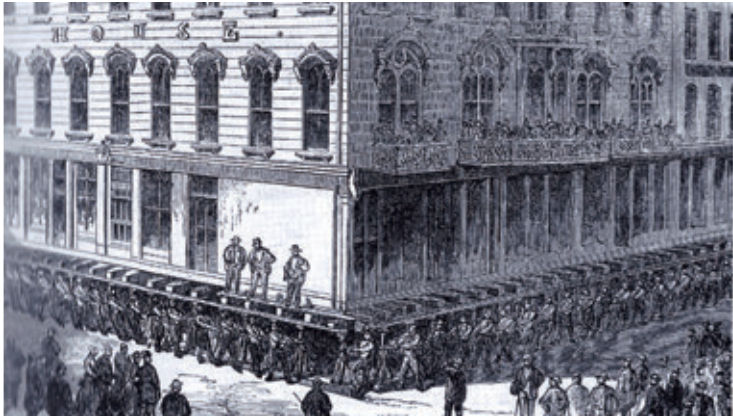
Over the years, Diane lived in parallel worlds of social work and social history - her phrase for her research into local history because it is so people-focused - and in 2003 she retired from one and devoted all of her time to the other. Today she continues her involvement with the Historic District, Planning & Zoning Committee but she also leads walking and boat tours focusing on history and architecture for *Chicago From the Lake* and is a "house history consultant" through her company, Chicago House Histories, which she started in the early 1980s.

Sixty-five years ago, the founders of the OTTA built the foundation for a neighborhood filled with people who shared a strong sense of community and commitment to preservation, beautification and history. They attracted dedicated and devoted new neighbors over the years who continued that tradition... and Diane Gonzalez is a star among them! 🌈



Diane today

Vacationing Editor's Note: Without intention, this issue of the Old Town Triangle TIMES is rich with Diane Gonzalez stories, writings and mentions. What a nice, accidental way to acknowledge meaningfully our resident historian! Maybe we should call March & April each year OLD TOWN HISTORY MONTHS and let that newsletter be Diane's Issue? In the 2014 March/April issue we'll tell you how Diane & Tom met in her native Ohio, reconnected in Hyde Park and ended up being sisters-in-law with her college roommate!



The Briggs House Hotel at Randolph and Wells. Weighing 22,000 tons, it was lifted 4.5 feet and a new foundation was added.

In the 1800s a man was buried up to his shoulders on a muddy Chicago street. A passer-by asked if he could help. “No, thanks,” the man responded, “I’m more concerned about my good horse who is under me.” This Chicago anecdote was widely told through the mid 1850’s when Chicago’s streets were dirt paths not far above the sand, silt, and water that lie beneath the city built on marshland. Streets were either muddy and wet (full of disease) or dry and dusty (with huge ruts). The first solution was to plank the roads, but that resulted in poor drainage and rotted wood. Underground sewers were the answer, but they were not easily constructed in a city sitting just above water level. The solution would also include raising the grade level of streets between four and fourteen feet. The initial phase took over twenty years, beginning in 1856, allowing pipes to slope into the Chicago River.

This would be the first comprehensive underground sewer system in the United States, and Ellis Chesbrough of Boston was hired as the designer of this daunting project. How did he accomplish it? Some structures were jacked up on their foundations. Big buildings had a team of men turning hundreds of jacks at once. When the Briggs House Hotel (pictured) was

raised in 1857, British tourist David McCrae wrote that its hotel guests continued to use the building while workmen turned their jacks. Big shoulders indeed! Another option was to move to the second floor, erect new stairs, and use the ground level as a basement. Neighborhoods including Pilsen, Wicker Park, and Old Town have surviving structures like this. 1625 N. Mohawk and 1616 N. Cleveland are nearby examples (pictured).

Others chose to move their building to a new location where the grade had yet to be raised. The owner would erect a new foundation and set the old structure atop. The same British visitor was amazed at the number of houses that were moved. He exclaimed tongue-in-cheek that “Never a day passed that I did not meet one or more houses shifting their quarters. One day I met mine. Going out Great Madison Street in the horse-cars, we had to stop twice to let houses get across.”

Not until after the Fire did Old Town’s streets elevate. And by 1873 sewer lines were under Lincoln Avenue as far north as Dickens, and Clark and Sedgwick had sewers running north to Lincoln Avenue. Menomonee between Sedgwick and Wells had sewers installed in 1875, followed by the remainder of the street in 1885.

The sewer installation-street raising efforts required landfill, dredged from the Chicago River or, later, gathered from Fire rubble. Next time you see a street being dug, you might spot the evidence... or even find a man on his horse. 🇺🇸



(L to R) A brick and frame structure today at 1616 N. Cleveland with its raised sidewalk. A frame structure today at 1625 N. Mohawk with its raised sidewalk.

GRANT AWARD SPOTLIGHT | LASALLE LANGUAGE ACADEMY | By Diane Sokolofski

The Old Town Triangle Association has been a generous supporter of local schools for over 40 years. LaSalle Language Academy was awarded \$7,000 for the Fine Arts Residency Program and \$3,000 for the Academic Travel Scholarship Program. The 2012 Dance Residency program held March 7-March 19, 2012 after ISAT testing week benefited all students in grades K thru 8. Students learned a variety of dance movements as well as how to observe dance, enjoying performances by the guest artists.

The Dance Residency program kicked off with screenings of dance/dance-related videos and movies including Mad Hot Ballroom and Mao’s Last Dancer, followed by DanceWorks featuring hip hop dance and choreography; Natya Dance Theatre, demonstrating Bharata Natyam, a classical dance theater form from India; and DanceWorks Chicago, introducing traditional ballet, jazz and modern dance forms.

“The best part of the dance residency was learning about so many different kinds of dances like tap, hip hop, disco, and ballroom. We learned several dance moves like The Sprinkler, The Pony, and The Jazz Walk. It was also great to get extra exercise after ISAT testing last year. Thanks for your support OTTA!” quoted Colleen Christian.

“Dance is accessible for all ages and skill sets and is a fun thing to do. The students demonstrated proof of this by their enthusiastic participation and excitement”, said Paige Ben-Dashan Co-chair, Fine Arts Committee, Friends of LaSalle/PTA.

A recommended book list was distributed to students and parents. If you

are interested in the suggested readings, please email OTTA Newsletter.

OTTA awarded a grant for the Academic Travel Scholarship 2012. Six hard-working student recipients demonstrated excellence in all areas of World Language study (listening, speaking, reading and writing), performed well in their core subjects (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science) and set a wonderful example for younger students with exemplary behavior in all areas of school life. Award winners and their immersion exchanges were: Catlin Kirchberg and Thomas McKeon, Immersion exchange to Piacenza, Italy; Billy Lynn and Ulana Coutts, Immersion exchange to Barcelona, Spain and Catherine Conley and Sarah Moresi, Immersion exchange to Liffre, France. The students spent two-weeks in “family-stay” accommodations, immersed in the language they were studying at LaSalle and coping with foreign everyday experiences. By the time the students returned to Chicago, they were thinking and even dreaming in the target language.

The award-winning students shared their experiences at the 2012 Travel Fair. Each group of travelers teamed together and presented a bilingual multimedia presentation for parents and community.

LaSalle Language Academy would sincerely like to thank the Old Town Triangle Association for their generous grant, which allowed the school to offer the World Language Study and Fine Arts Residency Program and continue to promote academic excellence for all students. 🇺🇸

EVENTS COMMITTEE | Anne Giffels, Chairperson

In celebration of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Old Town Triangle Association, join us for an afternoon of fun and memories. Old Town neighbors Diane Gonzalez and Shirley Baugher will take us on a journey into the architectural history of Old Town through a short walking tour and a visit to the archives. We'll have pictures from past Old Town events, and refreshments will be available at the Triangle center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue. Event is Sunday, April 21st, from 2-5 p.m. 🌈

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE | Robert Gibbs, Chairperson

The committee is pleased to announce the formation of "The Triangle Collection" - a permanent collection intended to depict our neighborhood's social, cultural and civic development. This curated collection of memorabilia will be made available to all via the new website, and occasional exhibits. The committee urges everyone to share their own Old Town memorabilia with The Triangle Collection, either as a donation or on loan (as original media or as duplications). Please email rjkgibbs@oldtowntriangle.com for more information.

Our latest committee members, Adam Solarz and Peter Granat are already providing considerable support in the form of Social Media and Public Relations activities (respectively).

The new website for the OTTA and the art fair is underway, as well as a refresh of the OTTA branding guidelines (including our color palette and logo usage). However, the majority of the committee's time has been dedicated to the daunting tasks associated with promoting this year's art fair across relevant audiences. And we're always looking for more help, so please volunteer if you would like to get involved. 🌈

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS | Jeff Smith, Chairperson

Spring is in the air and that is just the time when activities on the NIC start gearing up! 2013 will be another banner year, so keep your eyes open for our upcoming annual Spring Clean Up day. Most likely, we will hold this on Saturday May 4th, but stay tuned. Some other items we are rolling out:

- 2013 annual tree maintenance and care programs ranging from the spraying of crab apple trees throughout the Triangle for scab and rust, to fertilizing efforts to keep our parks beautiful.
- The Rat Abatement project is still under discussion for the best ways to abate the rodents without negatively impacting our local environment. Remember, rats need food - trash and dog excrement are invitations for more rats to join the party, regardless of what measures we take to destroy the rats. So pickup, clean up and whenever you see trash in the gutter, sidewalk, wherever, please take time to clean it up. Overflowing garbage cans are also a huge problem. Renters and landlords: please help keep our streets clean. Since the city is cutting back on neighborhood services, area residents need to take more ownership of neighborhood needs. So take pride in Old Town and keep it clean, safe and respectable. Remember: Together, Everyone, Achieves, More.
- The Wisconsin/Clark Park and corresponding repair of the damaged trellis due to high winds last fall is almost complete. Stay tuned for the better, stronger and more beautiful structure brought to you by the humble MEMBERS of the OTTA. 🌈

APRIL

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL MONTH

Monday, April 8th, 7 p.m.
GRANTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 9th, 7 p.m.
OTTA BOARD MEETING

Friday April 12th
LAST DAY TO REGISTER VIA 311 FOR
CHICAGO "CLEAN & GREEN"

Monday, April 15th, 7 p.m.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 16th, 7 p.m.
HISTORIC DISTRICT & ZONING COMMITTEE

Saturday, April 20th
CITY OF CHICAGO "CLEAN AND GREEN"

Sunday, April 21st, 2 p.m.
OTTA 65TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Tuesday, April 23rd, 6:30 p.m.
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

65th Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to join us at the Triangle Center on **April 21st** at **2pm**



R.S.V.P. to info@oldtowntriangle.com

May

Sunday, May 12th – MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 12th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
GALLERY RECEPTION – MEET THE ARTIST!

Tuesday, May 14th, 7 p.m. – OTTA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, May 18th
VOLUNTEER FOR OTTA SPRING CLEAN DAY!

Monday, May 20th, 7 p.m.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 21st, 7 p.m.
HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Monday, May 27th – MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 28th, 6:30 p.m.
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June

Friday, June 7th, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
FIRST SIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT AT GERMANIA PLACE

Saturday - Sunday June 8th & 9th, 10:00 a.m.-7 p.m.
64TH OLD TOWN ART FAIR

GET INVOLVED... BE A VOLUNTEER

We are a volunteer organization and we are always looking for new members as well as people willing to serve on our various committees. We need at least 700 volunteers for the Art Fair. To volunteer for an Art Fair committee, please email info@oldtowntriangle.com and provide your name, email, and the area that you would like to volunteer. If you wish to volunteer to work at the Art Fair, please indicate your preferred date (June 8th or June 9th) and time (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.).

iBOT SPOTLIGHT | ADOBO GRILL

By Ellen Starmann (Triangle resident since 2005)



Friendly faces and superb drinks at Adobo Grill

It started with a road trip to Mexico for three weeks. Six individuals flew into Mexico City, packed up a van and drove across the country to savor the local cuisine of central Mexico, Yucatan and Oaxaca regions. The goal was to find the very best Mexican flavors and recipes to help build a menu for a new Mexican restaurant in Old Town. The trip included days of visiting local markets and restaurants and turned into evenings of tequila tastings... and a few throbbing headaches the next day. But as the saying goes, “no pain, no gain” and their pain resulted in a big gain for Old Town. Enter Adobo Grill.

In 1999 Paul LoDuca, owner of Vinci, an Italian restaurant in Lincoln Park, was inspired to try a new venture with Mexican cuisine. By enlisting the help of George Ortiz, a longtime colleague at Vinci and now Managing Partner of Adobo Grill, Paul found the perfect location for his new restaurant in Old Town. Paul had the foresight to use space for his new restaurant that was once “That Steak Joynt”, a 30 year old established steakhouse in Old Town. This same space was also once used as a German bakery owned by the Pipers, where horses and carts could ride up along Piper’s Alley to get fresh loaves of bread for delivery to the local neighborhood households. What resulted in the new Adobo Grill restaurant design was a colorful, warm and lively atmosphere that preserved the beautiful, hand crafted wood bars from That Steak Joynt; which you’ll see on the first and second levels of the restaurant.

Today at Adobo Grill you’ll find Mexican cuisine



The Steak Joynt

made from scratch, including moles from Oaxaca, seafood recipes from Vera Cruz and Campeche, and traditional dishes from the Yucatan. One customer has ordered the Pescada a la Veracruzana (a red snapper dish) 166 times! Other specialties include their margaritas made from fresh lime juice every day, a fabulous selection of tequilas and custom guacamole prepared table-side.

Some things you may not know about Adobo Grill include:

- Monthly Tequila dinners are offered the last Thursday of the month
- Brunch is available on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Frequent diner program - points can be earned/redeemed for food or drink
- Catering and delivery services
- 3 private rooms that can seat 32/40/80 people respectively

Check Adobo Grill’s website for upcoming events including Cinco de Mayo at www.adobogrill.com

Adobo Grill is a successful member of the I Buy Old Town (iBOT) program where Old Town residents can receive a 10 % discount on their meal. Additionally, you will receive a 20% discount if you bring this article in for lunch!

For more information on the iBOT program please visit www.oldtowntriangle.com for more information. 🍴🌮

CALLS TO ACTION | By Phil Graff (Triangle resident since 1985)

Help us pitch the 2013 Old Town Art Fair, or just pitch in...

- The days are getting longer and the Old Town Art Fair already seems as if it’s just around the corner (which calls for some action). Our Art Fair’s success, year after year, is a true triumph of volunteerism where over 750 enthusiastic individuals come together to put on one of Chicago’s most highly regarded neighborhood

events. So, as always, we need **you** to volunteer. We can always use more volunteers for the gates, as booth sitters, at the artists’ breakfast, for artist aid, at the merchandise and information booths, and don’t forget the Traffic Committee (near and dear to my heart). Or, if you can’t make up your mind just let us know and we’ll find a spot for you. Volunteer at: http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/volunteer_signup

- I have one more special call to action to any of our members who are also members of Chicago’s world class public radio station. If you happen to be a dollar-a-day subscriber to WBEZ, please consider using your membership benefit on-air dedication to boost this 64th Old Town Art Fair on WBEZ. If you email Communicationscommittee@oldtowntriangle.com we can help. 🍴🌮



1763 N. North Park Avenue
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ESTABLISHED IN 1948

The Old Town Triangle Association TIMES is published by the Old Town Triangle Association Communications Committee, chaired by Robert Gibbs

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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 Leslie Wolfe at the office during these hours.

OFFICERS

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JEFF SMITH, *FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT*
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KAREN PFENDLER, *SECRETARY*
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DAVID PFENDLER

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").

The Triangle Collection

