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 NEWS



MARCH

VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 2 | 2017

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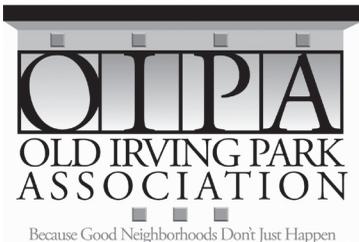
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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS Volume 31 🏠 No. 2 🏠 March 2017

A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for and about people living in the neighborhood bordered by Montrose, Addison, Pulaski and Milwaukee Avenue. The Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) is a non-profit, all volunteer community group active since 1983.

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Create a Happier Neighborhood for Everyone.

– Lynn Ankney, President

Did you know that March is “National Meet Your Neighbor Month”? Me either, because it’s not. There are, however, a surprising number of national observations¹ during March, including National Celery Month, National Umbrella Month and my personal favorite: Caffeine Awareness Month. At the risk of overwhelming those observing “National Cheerleader Safety Month,” I’m submitting for all OIPers’ consideration “Meet Your Neighbor Month” to your March celebration agenda. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Knock on doors, introduce yourself and ask your neighbors to join your Spring 2017 block directory. This can be an old-school printout of names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails or an electronic list of neighbors’ e-mail addresses. Your new directory can double as a hyper local neighborhood watch. We have a Google Group on the 4300 block of Keeler and use it for everything from alerting each other to vacation schedules to checking if neighbors received their copy of the Sunday paper.

Get social. Now that you know how to reach everyone, put it to good use and start planning for a Summer 2017 block party. I’m embarrassed to say that during the twelve summers we have lived here, we’ve never had a block party. Maybe it’s because our stretch of Keeler is so heavily traveled, we worry our permit would be valid for a ridiculous time frame (Approved from Sunday from 2 – 7, er...AM)? Perhaps it’s because our block used to be split between two Wards? (Prior to 2010, the East side was in the 45th and the West was in the 38th). Now that our block is all in the 39th Ward, we have no excuses. A quick Google search of

“Chicago Block Party Permit Information”² yielded a straight forward path to getting the party started.

Community with a mission. Other neighborly get-to-know-you efforts you and your immediate neighbors could take on revolve around Spring Cleaning. Need to clear out unwanted or unused household items? Hold a block-wide garage sale. Need to clear the parkways and sewer drains on your block? Rally the troops for your own Spring Clean & Green, followed of course, by a neighborly social event, where all can revel in the good deeds you took on together, get to know one another, and maybe swap some recipes. Wait. What? Yes, because March is also “National Sauce Month”, “National Peanut Month”, and “National Nutrition Month.”



¹ www.nationaldaycalendar.com

² www.cityofchicago.org



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

on February 13, 2017 — Bart Goldberg, Secretary

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Howard Silver, Anna Sobor, Meredith O'Sullivan, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Joan Tunney and Bart Goldberg

The Board meeting commenced at 8:17 p.m.

Treasurer's Reports: The Treasurer's Report for December and January were unanimously approved.

4300 W. Berteau: As reported last month, the demolition of this distressed six unit building has now occurred. The Board was contacted by some of the residents of the neighborhood that live close to the property to request that the Board support their efforts to downzone this property from RS-3 to RS-2. This would limit the density of what could be built there in the future. The Board agreed to support his recommendation to the Alderman.

4301 W. Montrose: The administrative hearing regarding this property on 1-17-17 was continued, and President Ankney will again attend on February 17, 2017 on behalf of OIPA.

Banner Program: President Ankney reported that all payments from the sponsors of the banners that are decorating our local street poles have now been received.

Website: The prior newsletters and historical walk information will continue to be added and other content was discussed.

Century House Plaque Program: Meredith, Megan and Lynn met with Matt Krecun of the Historical Society Committee to discuss the pricing and procedure for once again issuing Century House plaques.

Next General Meeting: The next public meeting of the Association will be on March 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Irving Park Baptist Church and will feature Patti Conroy of the Portage Park Neighborhood Association, who will be speaking about the proposed Portage Walking Museum. For the May meeting, the Board is going to see if the meeting can be held at Schurz High School so that many of the improvements there can be showcased

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

NEXT MEMBER MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2017 • 7 p.m.

Lower Level of
Irving Park Baptist Church

AGENDA

Patti Conroy of the Portage Park Neighborhood Association, will be speaking about the proposed Portage Walking Museum.



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting

on February 13, 2017 — Bart Goldberg, Secretary

Prior to the Meeting:

About fifteen minutes prior to the meeting, after observing approximately 25 protesters outside of the Irving Park Baptist Church, the Batmobile pulled to a screeching halt and the Caped Crusaders jumped from the vehicle and were overheard to say:

Robin: Holy Mass Meeting of Malcontents, Batman! (He then rubs a gloved fist into his other glove rather aggressively, expecting, and possibly hoping for an altercation.) These people are loitering on a public sidewalk, congregating in a menacing manner without a permit, and potentially blocking a means of public egress as well as a fire lane, all in violation of countless municipal ordinances. I will call Sergeant O'Hara to round up the perpetrators.

Batman: (Speaking patiently and kindly to his youthful ward, while pointing one gloved finger at him in this moment of important education) No, Robin, (dramatic pause) I don't think that will be necessary. These people appear to be fine citizens of our community exercising their right to voice their opinions in the public discourse. Perhaps you recall the 1st Amendment from your Civics class.

Robin: Gee, your right again Batman! I now also recall reading in the Gotham Gazette that the earnest and honorable elected representative of the 45th Ward (no relation to Burt Ward), Alderman John Arena, will be speaking here tonight at an OIPA meeting. These good people are simply engaging in the political process. It sure would be neat to stay and watch, and report back to my Civics class. (Unfortunately, there was an urgent message from Commissioner Gordon on the mobile Batphone and they sped off into the night).

While the above may be fairly categorized as "Fake News" (since no one else has corroborated the presence of masked superheroes) there were actually about 25 people demonstrating outside of the meeting, which was certainly a first in the years that I have served as Secretary. The issue galvanizing them concerned the proposed construction of a multi-story building in Jefferson Park that would contain low income housing. The crowd was very well behaved, and President Ankney made it clear to them that they were allowed to enter the meeting. About half a dozen did enter, most of whom stood at the back of the room holding signs throughout the meeting stating that their views have been silenced. One person, apparently affiliated with the others, tried to steer the discussion in that direction at one point, but Ex-President **Anna Sobor** correctly pointed out that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss issues in Old Irving Park and not Jefferson Park.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

President Ankney commenced the meeting at 7:03 p.m. The crowd was quite large, with probably 50 or 60 people in attendance. There were several new members including **Janna** who lives on Kostner, and **Ray** of the 3800 block of Milwaukee. The President updated the membership on several of the ongoing projects in the neighborhood. A highlight was the news that the ride sharing company **Lyft** is moving their Chicago office into the second floor of the Centrum development building located at the corner of Irving Park, Avondale and Keeler. A representative of **InDivisible** Chicago left literature and encouraged



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

people to open a local chapter of this group. **Claudia Hine** announced on behalf of the Garden Club that their first meeting of the year would be on March 18.

Main Speaker – Alderman John Arena:

Alderman Arena is good enough to speak to our group at least once a year concerning issues relating to our neighborhood and his efforts in the City Council. It is always eagerly awaited, and that is certainly the reason for the large crowd. This year the main thrust of his talk concerned education.

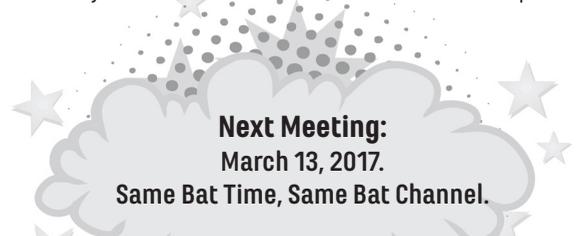
Chicago Schools – The Alderman spoke of the problem of overcrowding in our local schools and the nearly two billion dollars of deferred maintenance facing the CPS. The City is issuing bonds to address this using funds from the re-enactment of a prior levy, and the Alderman is understandably excited to be able to use our share of the funds to address maintenance issues locally. He noted that Prussing Elementary was but one example of a terribly overcrowded school, and one that was in great need of maintenance (this was the school where 90 people were hospitalized after a CO leak). He was particularly proud of a creative solution that he has advocated to relieve the overcrowding in the elementary schools. Seven million dollars will be spent to establish a pre-kindergarten at the location that used to be St. Cornelius School. This new Pre-K will serve a larger area than just the boundaries of one elementary school. About six to eight local school districts will now send their children to this new Pre-K. The beauty of this is that all of these elementary schools will no longer have Pre-K classrooms and that this will go a long way to solve the overcrowding problems at those schools. The Alderman also mentioned the project at Schurz. As has been reported several times previously in the Newsletter the Alderman is intending to go forward with the improvements to the

field (without closing Waveland Avenue) which is to be paid for out of TIF funds. He said that the project has now been broadened to also include repairs to the indoor swimming pool and kitchen. He also discussed about the signs of progress at the school. Finally, he mentioned that he has been meeting with neighbors regarding their petition to make Disney II at least primarily a neighborhood school, but stated that the process of considering that request would unfortunately be a long one.

Policing: The Alderman stated that 24 additional officers have been assigned to the 17th District. He discussed the new Civil Office of Police Accountability (COPA) which he had been very involved in enacting. This replaces the old IPRA, has a broader scope and is funded with additional manpower. In particular, he noted that it will have a broader mission, and that their recommendations will have to either be implemented or at least responded to.

Other Matters: The Alderman also updated us on the two new large commercial developments that have been previously discussed (including Binny's, Culvers, Ross, and Aldi, etc) and said that he expects that construction of the one located at the old Northwest National Bank site should start this spring. In response to a question from **Michelle Daily** he said that he would look into the problem of the trash being left on Kostner Ave. from employees of the Koch Food Plant.

The Alderman took many questions, and the meeting then adjourned at near the scheduled time of 8 p.m.



**Next Meeting:
March 13, 2017.**

Same Bat Time, Same Bat Channel.

OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



February Anniversaries

- 1 Kevin Cisner & Terrie Carpenter
- 2 Megan & Eric Stalder
- 9 Roseanne & Ronald Cherepski
- 9 Martha & Sam Lubbat
- 11 Raymond & Corinne Brichetto
- 11 Carol & Robert Szalacha
- 14 Kate & Michael Roche
- 23 Lisa Casanova & Timothy Byrnes

February Birthdays

- 2 Luella Yoder
- 3 Jim Mortier
- 4 Sheryl Keith
- 5 Chris Craig
- 6 Jopey Sevigny
- 8 Missy Goldberg
- 8 Anna Sobor
- 10 Jennifer Boyle
- 12 Molly Melick
- 14 Irene Flaherty
- 14 Dave Pierce
- 16 Richard Hoffman

- 17 Maria Montadas
- 17 Tara Tidwell-Cullen
- 18 Dave Cloud
- 21 Dave Sheets
- 23 Tim Huizenga
- 23 Lauren Innocenzi
- 23 Liam McLaughlin
- 23 Charity Miska
- 24 Dominic Ricci
- 25 Howe Martha
- 27 Shirley Buss
- 27 Jennika Thomas

March Anniversaries

- 6 Cindy & Karl Kuhn
- 10 Patricia & Scott Gustafson
- 10 Paul & Kara Tapscott
- 15 Stacey & Warren Stevens
- 23 Jenifer & Shane Knox
- 24 Kim & Rob Starmann
- 28 Tasha & John Wilkins
- 29 John & Debbie Cook
- 31 Dana & Michael Schindele

March Birthdays

- 1 Anne Gruber
- 5 Mai-Phuong Johnston
- 8 Eguis-Aguila Carlos
- 8 Monica Graff
- 8 Bob Tell
- 9 Frank Nagorka
- 12 Patt Timlin
- 13 Ginny Pollock
- 14 Roger Essex
- 18 Barry Bebart
- 18 Beth Valukus
- 19 Maria Czyzewski
- 20 Charles Graff
- 20 Goeff Reu
- 20 Jennifer Seitz
- 20 Steve Sonberg
- 20 Eileen Stern
- 21 John Buss
- 22 Martha MacMorris
- 22 John Mueller
- 23 Cecilai Coppney
- 23 Karl Kuhn

- 23 Tasha Wilkins
- 25 Cindy Kuhn
- 25 Jim Mindak
- 25 Steve Poskus
- 28 Jessica McDonogh
- 29 Roseanne Cherepski
- 30 Margaret Hageman
- 30 Dan Jacobs
- 30 Christine Levy
- 30 Victoria Ross
- 31 Phoebe Craig
- 31 Vanessa Reu



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

(F) = Foreclosure Sale

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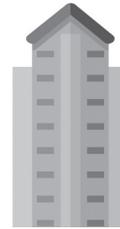
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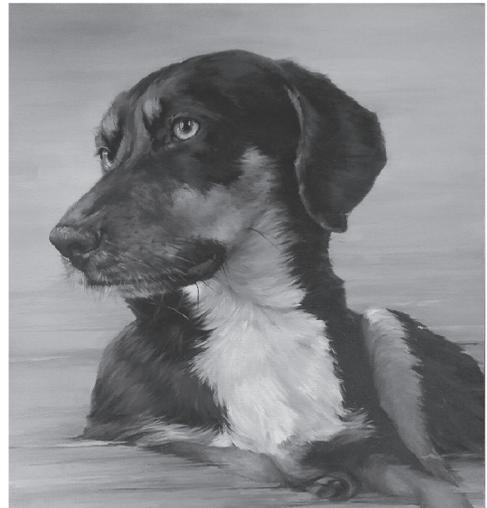
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IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

Get your tools ready

for weeding, pruning, and digging at the Irving Park Garden Club's March 18 meeting, where Dave the Sharpening Guy will hone them into shape. We'll also learn more the Milkweed for Monarchs project.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



Garden Club Considers Plight of Monarchs

— Claudia Hine

The Irving Park Garden Club opens its 2017 season on March 18 with a video presentation featuring Kay MacNeil, Garden Clubs of Illinois, Milkweed for Monarchs chairman. Milkweed for Monarchs is a multifaceted project involving planting native swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, and common milkweed where appropriate throughout the state. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs.

The National Wildlife Federation says the monarch butterfly population in North America has plummeted by more than 90% in the past 20 years. We'll learn what we can do help reverse this trend.

The March meeting takes place at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., at 10:00 a.m. We will be renewing all memberships for 2017, and we look forward to welcoming new faces. Our dues are \$20/household.

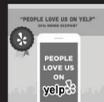
Added incentive—we'll offer one free pair of gardening gloves per household for each new or renewed membership paid at the March meeting.

Added attraction—**Dave Nells (AKA Dave the Sharpening Guy)** will be at our March meeting, prepared to sharpen our gardening tools and more. Prices vary, but charges for pruning shears are \$6.00 and hedge loppers are \$8.00. Garden club members can drop off their tools with Dave on their way into the meeting.

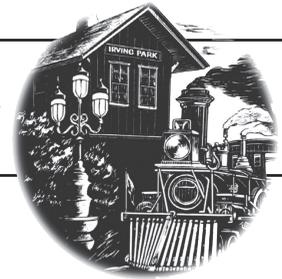
Dave will tackle the tools for garden club members first, but the OIPA community at large is invited to take advantage of this opportunity also. If you are not a garden club member, but you wish to have knives or tools sharpened, please bring them to his van after 10:45 a.m.

It's time to shake off the winter doldrums and get ready for spring. Come out and join us, and be sure to follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates.

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More OIPA Trivia! Test your history knowledge with these fun facts about Old Irving Park.

1. What is former resident Ella LaBagh famous for?
2. What historic structure stood on the site of Carl Schurz High School prior to 1909?
3. What is the name of the former tollroad known as the Northwestern Plank Road?
4. What did the building housing the Irving Park Country Club later become?
5. Why was the Ropp-Grabill house once threatened with destruction?

NOTE: The answer to question 4 in the February issue was incorrect:

4. What "mistake" can be found on the front of the Van Bergen home at 4221 N. Kedvale?
– Some of the balusters in the railing were installed upside down

1. Ella LaBagh was instrumental in helping to establish the Cook County Forest Preserves

2. An old windmill from the old Haymarket District once stood on the site of Schurz

3. Milwaukee Avenue was once a tollroad and known as Northwestern Plank Road

4. The Irving Park Country Club later became the location of Lydia Children's Home

5. The Ropp-Grabill house was once threatened with destruction when a serious fire on the southwest corner of Keeler and Belle Plaine almost destroyed the entire west side of the 4100 block of Keeler



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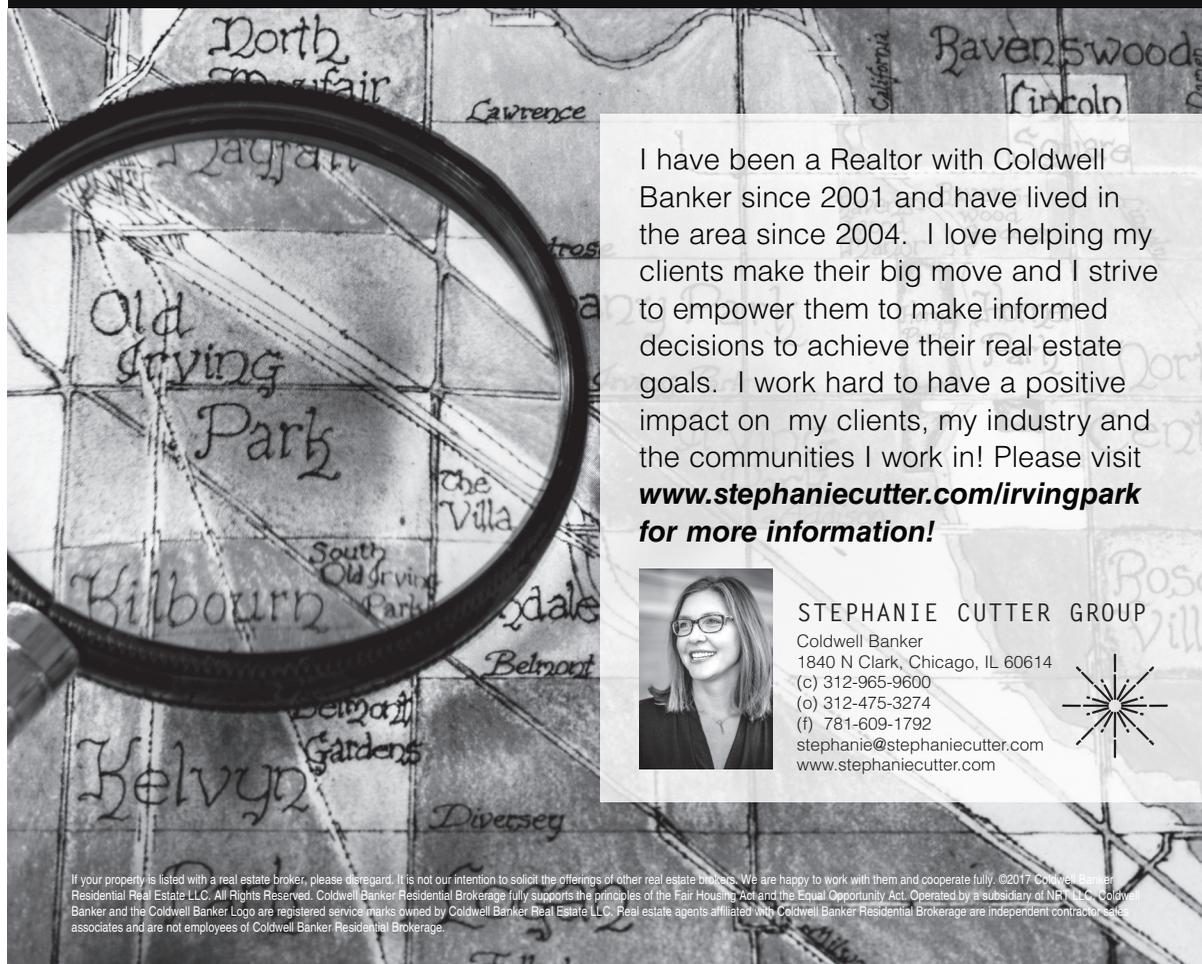


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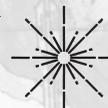


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Meet Karla Krengel Hood

Kitchen & bath design expert Karla Krengel Hood lives in The Terraces of Old Irving with husband Bill and dogs Tillie and Sadie.

Where else have you lived and how did you wind up in Chicago?

I'm originally from St. Paul, Minnesota. When I was young my family moved to York, Pennsylvania. A post-college TV career took me to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and then to Hartford, Connecticut. I spent two years skiing in Vermont before settling permanently in Chicago in 1997 to join the family's kitchen and bath business.

Why did you choose Old Irving?

We wanted to be close to downtown and transportation, and be in an area with trees and green space. The Terraces were a perfect fit because I traveled a lot, and the homeowners association took care of plowing, shoveling and landscape maintenance. There's even a nature trail in the development.



Krengel & Hood represents Kitchen & Bath Industry products for fine living. Photo used with permission: Christine & Chris Gorz's kitchen. Designed by Fred M. Alsen, fma Design

What do you do, and what is the path that led you there?

I'm a manufacturer's representative for three lines of cabinetry with a five state territory. My father pioneered the concept of using computers to design kitchens. I was probably the only 10 year old anywhere who knew what brand of cabinets hung in our kitchen. I avoided being the third generation in the business by going into communications instead. Ultimately, I decided to use my marketing, social media skills, and knowledge of the kitchen and bath industry to forge my own niche.

What are some of your favorite things in OIP?

The sense of community among neighbors, meeting people walking our dogs. Walkability to restaurants, including Community Tavern and Old Irving Brewing. Being treated like a dear friend at Pert Cleaners. Accessibility to highways and public transportation. Looking forward to Eris Brewery & Ciderhouse!

If you had one wish, what would you change here?

I would welcome more restaurants with outdoor patio spaces, and less litter.

To learn more about Karla visit:
www.krengelandhood.com

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Food with a Heritage — Lisa Murata

Heirloom — a valuable object that has belonged to a family for several generations.

Have you ever walked through the grocery store, garden center, or even a friend's garden and wondered what an 'heirloom tomato' was? We see the term heirloom popping up on more and more seed packets from private garden centers to big box stores.

What is so special about a heirloom tomato? At the end of every growing season, a gardener chooses tomatoes from a specific plant that holds exceptional flavor, displayed a high yield of produce, and was least harmed by disease. The seeds from these tomatoes are kept for the following growing season. As any heirloom can be defined, heirloom tomato seeds are valuable. Not only do they produce beautifully colored tomatoes with different flavor profiles, heirloom tomatoes are necessary for plant biodiversity in our ever-dwindling agricultural gene pool. Different varieties are grown in specific growing conditions and regions. They may also have their own pest and disease resistance. In fact, many heirloom tomato varieties have become extinct due to lack of preservation. Preservation is necessary for genetic biodiversity in order for a species to continue. Threats such as fungal and bacterial disease as well as pests can wipe out entire populations.

Where are the variety?

Why aren't the black krim, green zebra, and Cherokee purples of the tomato world in our grocery stores? As consumers, and partial thanks to the fast food industry, we are more comfortable purchasing items that look uniform in shape. Our food has not naturally evolved to fly across the country, let alone the world without some type of genetic modifications. Crop scientists have bred tomatoes for their shape, durability,

and shelf life and have placed flavor last on the list. Today, a tomato from Florida or Mexico must make the journey of being picked, packed, shipped, gassed, and distributed all while remaining unbruised and freshly 'ripe.' Heirloom tomatoes, on the other hand, just don't have the genes for that bustling trip. Their odd shapes and sizes don't pack well and their skins do not have the stiffness of their hybrid cousin, causing them to bruise easily. Their juiciness, which oozes from your burger causing you to slurp it up, would burst all over the inside of trucks during transportation.

Grow Your Own

For the novice gardener, I encourage you to try an assortment of heirloom tomato plants in your garden this year. The Kilbourn Park Plant Sale is a great place to pick up many heirloom variety starters. For those of you with great vegetable gardening success, have you planted from seed yet? Why not start this year! It is inexpensive and it can give you a jump-start on the growing season, and creates a greater sense of accomplishment and appreciation for your food. You can buy seed starting mix and all your heirloom variety seeds at The Farmer's Market Garden Center located on Elston.

Buy Local

Don't have the space or the green thumb to grow some heirloom tomatoes this year? Head over to the Independence Farmer's Market when the season starts and try some from nearby farms. You won't be disappointed by the incredible flavor!

For more information on how you can save your heirloom seeds, visit: www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/saving_seed_top_notch_tomatoes
Upcoming: May 20 & 21, Organic Plant Sale, Kilbourn Park, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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Old Irving Brewery — Eliana Kelly

Old Irving Brewery is located on 4419 W Montrose Avenue. The atmosphere captures the neighborhood and its city. TVs surround the side room. Also in the side room, there is a section for bean bag toss. In the background, anyone could see the amazing process for making beer. As a child I can't drink alcohol but I had my mother sample the beer. Out of all of them my mother recommended the "Pinnacle of the Pith," she said that the citrus aspect of the beer made it amazing. For older kids, I would recommend the ginger beer. It can be a little bitter but I loved the taste. I didn't try any other drinks but it's a kid friendly place so I bet there's something everyone could enjoy. As an appetizer we got the smoked salmon, which was

so fresh and amazing. Generally I don't trust seafood in Chicago, but that salmon changed my perspective. Along with the salmon there was a truffled egg salad and bread, I highly recommend this dish. For an entree, I got the burger with fries, it was perfectly cooked and I honestly think it was perfect. For other kids who don't eat as much as I do, there is a kids menu packed with the usual kids meals, but elevated. My sister got the mac and cheese, it wasn't the best she's ever tasted but it she loved the breadcrumbs at the top. The servers were super helpful and nice, they seemed to appear and disappear at the perfect time. Overall this restaurant was awesome and I think it goes on the list of one of my favorites.

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St. John's to Host Chicago Author Natalie Moore

WHITE CHURCH DISCUSSES RACIAL SEGREGATION IN CHICAGO

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner Ave. Chicago, IL 60641

St. John's Episcopal Church will host author Natalie Y. Moore for a discussion of her book, "The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation." The event will take place Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. in Chicago. Residents of Old Irving Park, Portage Park, Mayfair, Independence Park, Albany Park and other nearby neighborhoods are invited to attend.

Moore, a native of Chatham, is the South Side reporter for WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio 91.5 FM. Her book, published in 2016, highlights the impact of Chicago's historic segregation and the ongoing policies that keep the system intact. "Segregation is crippling because it's the common denominator in innumerable challenges in black communities, from housing to jobs to food access to education to violence," she writes.

She has been invited to St. John's by the congregation's African-American book group, which is reading the classic literature of the black experience in America. The group's reading list includes current titles such as Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me," Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," and Margo Jefferson's "Negroland."

The book group is an outgrowth of anti-racism efforts on the part of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, under the direction of the Right Reverend Jeffrey Lee, bishop

of Chicago. The Natalie Moore event at St. John's is a contribution to the diocese's efforts to help forge a new conversation on race in America. During Lent, Bishop Lee and other diocesan leaders will hold an online book discussion of "Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America," a collection of essays, personal stories, and theological reflections. The online discussion begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. See www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/anti-racism/ for more information.

Copies of "The South Side" will be available for purchase and signing by the author at the March 14 event. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to read the book in advance, however, so as to participate more knowledgeably to the discussion.

"The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation"

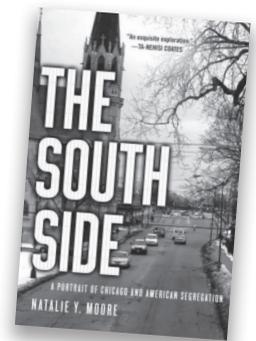
by Natalie Y. Moore

St. Martin's Press, New York

250 pages, ISBN 978-1-137-28015-2, \$27.99

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-south-side-natalie-moore/1121780538>

St. John's Episcopal Church is located on Chicago's northwest side, on the corner of Byron and Kostner. Additional information may be obtained on the St. John's website www.stjohnschicago.com. Contact: Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, rector@stjohnschicago.com or 773.725.9026





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- Sat., March 4 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Klezmer Class
Sat., March 4 | 2 – 4 p.m. Rent Party
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Sun., March 5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Bluegrass Jam
Sat., March 11 | 2 – 4 p.m. La Pompe,
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Photo by Kaitlyn Keely

Prop Theatre | 3502 N. Elston

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Sat., March 4 & 11 | 2 p.m.

Sun., March 5 & 12 | 2 p.m.

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Schurz High School Academic Decathlon Team Big Winners

– Contributors: Barb Cohn and Tara Tidwell Cullen

On Saturday, January 28, the Schurz High School Academic Decathlon team participated in the First Round of the City Championship. The team won 4th in their Division and 6th overall out of 28 schools competing.

The young team which has many first time participants, consists of one senior, 4 juniors, and the rest sophomores.

Mr. Mitch Arsenie, the coach of the Bulldog Team, is very proud of the success of the students and thanks the administration, tutors in math speech, music and art who have helped the team achieve their goals.

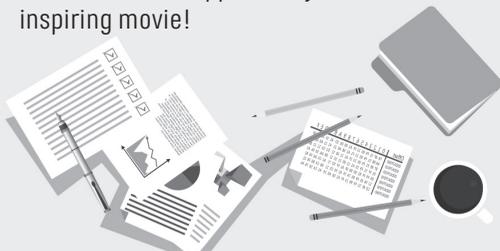
City Finals will be held at Whitney Young on February 18. Go Bulldogs!



Schurz High School Academic Decathlon Team Big Winners, photo provided by Tara Tidwell Cullen

***Hidden Figures* Field Trip Inspires**

Thanks to dozens of neighbors who volunteered as field trip chaperons, more than 300 Schurz students were able to see Oscar-nominated *Hidden Figures* at the Logan Theater. It was exciting to see community members so eager to get involved and give the students an opportunity to see this inspiring movie!



Schurz Launches Sports Hall of Fame to Benefit Student Athletes

On March 25 at 11 a.m., the community is invited to celebrate the launch of the Carl Schurz High School Sports Hall of Fame. The first two inductees will be **Bob Kowalski** (Class of '80) and **Michael Karnuth** (Class of '83), both decorated captains of their wrestling and football teams. The event will raise money for the Gerald A. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Fund, established in 2015 in memory of the former Schurz teacher, coach, and principal. The fund directly benefits Schurz sports programs and student athletes by purchasing equipment. As the fund celebrates the past achievements of its Hall of Fame inductees, it aims to support the success of current and future Schurz student athletes.

Schurz High School, continued on page 20



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Yolobe Schurz Pilot Launch

Community members, business owners, and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Schurz High School administrators turned out at Las Tablas restaurant on Thursday, February 9 to learn more about the exciting new partnership between Schurz High School and Yolobe, Inc., a professional social platform a la “LinkedIn” aimed at students 13-24 years of age, strives to connect students with local businesses, as well as the community at large. Yolobe will launch a pilot program at Schurz High School in mid-March and is eager to invite businesses and not-for-profits alike to join them.

Please join us on Thursday, March 9, in the stunning Schurz Library, for the launch of this extraordinary program!



TIPS FROM A NEIGHBOR | Benefits of Yoga

Excerpted from Benefits,
www.yogaalliance.org

Stress relief: The practice of yoga is well-demonstrated to reduce the physical effects of stress on the body. The body responds to stress through a fight-or-flight response, which is a combination of the sympathetic nervous system and hormonal pathways activating, releasing cortisol – the stress hormone – from the adrenal glands.

Pain relief: Yoga can ease pain. Studies have shown that practicing yoga asanas (postures), meditation or a combination of the two, reduced pain for people with various health conditions.

Better breathing: Yoga includes breathing practices known as pranayama, which can be effective for reducing our stress response, improving lung function and encouraging relaxation.

Flexibility: Yoga can improve flexibility and mobility and increase range of motion. Over time, the ligaments, tendons and muscles lengthen, increasing elasticity.

Increased strength: Yoga asanas use every muscle in the body, increasing strength literally from head to toe.

Improved circulation: Yoga helps to improve circulation by efficiently moving oxygenated blood to the body's cells.

Cardiovascular conditioning: Yoga practice can provide cardiovascular benefits by lowering resting heart rate, increasing endurance and improving oxygen uptake during exercise.

Presence: Yoga connects us with the present moment. The more we practice, the more aware we become of our surroundings and the world around us. It opens the way to improved concentration, coordination, reaction time and memory.

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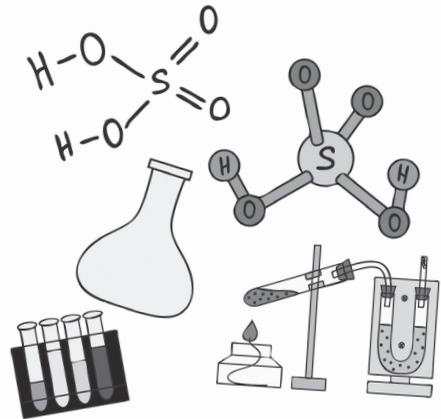




The Buzz at Belding — Lisa Owens, 4th Grade Reading/Social Studies Teacher

Family Science Night

Parents and students had a special night of Hands On Science on January 25. The evening included opportunities to participate in laboratory science and try fun new experiments in which they explored the science of polymers with balloons, used the forces of motion to create art, and learned about how chemical reactions cause things to glow. Leading up to the evening, students attended a daytime assembly "Close Encounters of the Chemical Kind" presented by Science Alliance. Students were witness to the wonders of chemical reactions by creating and viewing colorful, bubbling, and exotic solutions.



S.A.F.E. — Stuffed Animals For Emergencies

Students and teachers at Belding are working to increase service learning in our community, our country, and our world. Student council members worked towards this goal by organizing the collection stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, and blankets for children in crisis. Through the S.A.F.E. Organization, all donations were sent to a pediatric hospital in Miami, Florida, a military organization in Rio Hondo, Texas, and a non-profit helping families in crisis in Connecticut.

Are you curious to see what Belding Elementary has to offer your child?

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. This is a great opportunity to see Belding teachers and students in action, and to learn more about our school. Upcoming tour dates include: February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 and May 30. Tours begin at 8 a.m. in the school office.

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Stay tuned for upcoming events at stviatorchicago.org or on our Facebook page.

We Believe in Cultivating Tomorrow's Global Citizens

St. Viator students hosted seven Cultural Exchange Students from the cities of Wuxi and Shanghai, China. The exchange students stayed with families of our students for three weeks, shadowed the 7th graders during the school day, and went on field trips throughout Chicago during the weekends. The 7th graders did an amazing job as hosts, and many of the teachers incorporated the program into the curriculum.



Congratulations to Our 10 New National Junior Honor Society inductees!

Students in 6th-8th grade were selected based on their grades and level of commitment to the five pillars of NJHS: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship. The new inductees will join our four current members as they hold chapter meetings, elect officers, and coordinate service projects to benefit the school and community.

Photos: 10 new National Junior Honor Society inductees join the four current members:

NJHS members:
Maia Downes (President)
Amelia Bustamante
Emma Jones
Nicholas Wilkerson

NJHS inductees:
Josephine Ayala- Lopez
Lindzy Berdon
Gabriel Christensen
Michael Devlin
Delilah Downes
Lily Hayes
Mary Odisho
Liliana Rohlf
Matthew Russette
Kellie Wijas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Soiree | March 4, 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of dining, dancing and bidding on silent-auction items at Biagio Events: www.viator.gesture.com.

Primary Gym | March 4 and 18 and April 1, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Primary gym offers a relaxed yet active environment where children and parents can participate in basketball, baseball, scooters, floor hockey and parachute. St. Viator Gym, 3644 N. Kedvale.

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup • FREE March 9 and 23, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

This fun and FREE playgroup is for children in the community (ages newborn-4) and their parents/ caregivers. Open gym with balls, blocks, hula-hoops and more! St. Viator Gym, 3644 N. Kedvale.

Join our growing community!

Plans are in full swing for the 2017-2018 school year, and we invite you to join our community. For those who submitted an application, acceptance letters will be mailed March 16. Prospective students can apply on a rolling basis, space permitting. For more information, please call 773-545-2173 or email Marge Tiritilli at mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org.

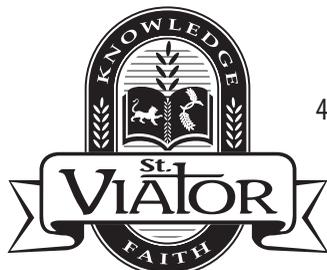


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ADMISSIONS EVENTS

Weekday Open Houses

Wednesdays, March 15 & May 17
& Friday, April 7
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Visit classes while they are in session

A Special Open House Featuring the Art Zone Student Exhibit & Academic Fair

Sunday, April 9
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come see our students shine as the school halls are transformed into an art gallery displaying the work they created in the Art Zone program.

Visit our classrooms where student's academic work is proudly on display.

**Admissions applications are being
accepted for 2017-2018**

*Please feel free to contact us
with any questions or to schedule
a personal tour at
MTiritilli@stviatorchicago.org.
or call 773.545.2173.*



Registration is open for the 2017-2018 school year for Pre-K 3 through 8th grade. We invite you to see why we give our students so much more than just a seat in the classroom. For information call 773-736-9133!

Our 24th Annual McNulty/ Kelly Corned Beef Dinner



Sunday, March 5, 12- 5 p.m. | St. Edward Gym, 4447 N. Lowell

Irish music, entertainment, and the Shannon Rivers will take place throughout the day. The corned beef dinner is \$12/plate and kids' and sandwich only meals are \$7/each. Meals are also available "to go." Tickets available at the door. All proceeds from this event will provide scholarships to St. Ed's 8th graders that will attend Catholic high schools in the fall. To date, over \$80,000 in scholarships have been awarded. Thanks for your support!

Annual Big Red Auction "Lei'd Back Luau"

**Saturday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.
Midnight Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell**

This Hawaiian-inspired evening will feature Live and Silent auctions, dancing, and award show fun! Adults only please join us for the largest fundraising event of the year!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 28 & 29

Have you ever watched St. Edward's favorite game of pinball? Whether you come every year or have never seen a game, come to St. Edward's gym, Buckley Hall, from 3 - 5 p.m. for the tournament.

Wednesday, April 12, 1:45PM

Students will participate in Living Stations of the Cross at 1:45 p.m. in St. Edward Church, 4350 W. Sunnyside. We invite you to participate in this special Easter tradition.

For over 100 years, St. Edward School has provided a Catholic education to children from three-year old pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. We have an average student-teacher ratio of 18:1, and feature an extensive music program as well as art, gym, sports, chess, and Spanish at all grade levels. Our students matriculate to highly selective CPS and Catholic schools in Chicagoland. Our school is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133, or visit www.stedwardschool.com.





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**Registration is open for the 2017-2018 school year
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For more information, visit stedwardschool.com or call us at 773.736.9133.

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Making Magic

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior's birthday, a group of service-minded kids gathered at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym on Martin Luther King Day. Among several service projects tackled that day, kids organized art supplies for the **Magic After-School Place (MAP)**, while adults assigned literacy levels to donated books.

Volunteers are welcome: The MAP program welcomes adult and high school volunteers for homework help and free time activities. (Adult volunteers are asked to undergo a background check.) MAP staff will make sure you receive an orientation to the program and overview of our daily schedule. It's a great way for teens to earn service hours.

MAP serves 50 kids from Murphy and Belding schools, the majority of whom come from low-income households. MAP's affordable tuition and engaging programming keeps kids safe and offers peace of mind to working parents. For more information or to schedule a visit to the program, contact Program Director Rachel Lockhart at mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org.



The MAP program includes service projects led by 5th-7th grade students. MAP kids pictured here helped make sleeping mats for homeless people.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Carthage Faculty Trio

On Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m., the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present the Carthage Faculty Trio in the final concert of its 2016-2017 season. The trio is comprised of Wael Farouk, piano, Andrew Williams, violin and Allegra Montanari, cello. The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

The program will include Johannes Brahms' Trio No.3 in C minor, op. 101. A reception with the artists follows the concert. Admission is free, donations are welcome.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 23rd season, was begun by Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is a program of Carlson Community Services.



Neighborhood kids organize MAP supplies at a Martin Luther King Day of Service held at Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym

Photos by Liz Mills

MAP is a program of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through culture, education and service. To learn more, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mills, Executive Director at lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org or 773.398.6766. Follow us on Facebook for photos and info about our programs and events!

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Trivia 2017— Join Hands to Help on Friday, April 28

On Friday, April 28, help stop the cycle of homelessness in our community and test your trivia knowledge. **Join Hands to Help Ministries at the Filament Theatre, 4041 N. Milwaukee, Chicago from 7–11 p.m. for our annual Trivia Night fundraiser.**

Early bird individual tickets are available for \$45, and table of 8, which includes a bottle of wine, for \$350. Reservations can be made at the Hands to Help's website: www.handstohelpministries.org. Enjoy tasty food, test your trivia knowledge, support your neighbors, and meet new friends.

During the event, Hands to Help will honor **Laura Singer**. Laura served as Hands to Help's board chair as well as our Treasurer. In addition, she directly served neighbors experiencing homelessness. Under her leadership, the organization has grown to better serve the Irving and Portage Park community.

Hands to Help is grateful to our many supporters who help make this event a success. We have formed an event committee to plan the event and engage the community. Businesses are also joining us by becoming event sponsors as well as providing gift certificates for restaurant dinners and services. They are also

providing food for the event. There is room for additional committee members and business partnerships. For more information, please contact Gayle at hthexecdirector@gmail.com or 773-599-0502.

Hands to Help is a grassroots organization started with the help of area churches and fellow neighbors in the Portage and Irving Park communities. Our small staff plus many volunteers provides resources to neighbors on the brink of losing their homes and those who are living on the streets.

Each year we serve an average of 100 neighbors. Hands to Help reaches out directly to neighbors living on the streets. These services lead to homeless neighbors attaining housing. We also serve neighbors on the brink of losing their home to help them maintain their housing. We provide financial assistance as well as resources in our community decreasing the barriers neighbors face and allowing them to focus on employment, mental health, and other critical needs.

Please join us on Friday, April 28th to honor Laura and to help us fund our crucial services throughout 2017. To purchase your tickets or for more information visit Hands to Help's website

Our Mission Hands to Help Ministries works to find housing for homeless people living in our neighborhood, and provides assistance to those in danger of becoming homeless by:

- Offering long-term relationships and a stable support system for those in need
- Connecting faith communities and their resources
- Advocating for systematic change in services for people in need
- Providing referrals for housing, healthcare, jobs, and benefits
- Providing financial assistance for rent, transportation, and identification.

*Gayle Nelson, Executive Director
Hands to Help Ministry,
c/o St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner, Chicago, IL 60641
(P) 773-599-0502
hthexecdirector@gmail.com
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Hubberts Named Volunteer Manager

Long-time volunteer Gina Hubberts has agreed to serve as Co-Volunteer Manager for the Pantry. She will coordinate volunteer assignments and operations for our Wednesday distributions, while Lee Stein continues to manage our monthly Tuesday night program. If you are interested in volunteering on Wednesday mornings, please contact Gina at ginahubberts@sbcglobal.net.

(Left) Executive Director John Psiharis welcomes long-time volunteer Gina Hubberts to her new position as Volunteer Manager for our Wednesday operations. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Nutrition Classes

The Pantry has restarted its Nutrition Classes for clients on Wednesday mornings with the help of students from Dominican University. The programs show clients how to use foods received through the Pantry to create tasty and nutritious meals. The classes will be run by Lisa Artega, a senior Nutrition & Dietetics student, and Melissa Morales-Perez, a first-year ACEND Certificate student who holds a B.S. in Food Science & Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois.



Executive Director John Psiharis and former nutrition instructor Alicia Theofanis (second from right) show the Pantry's new Nutrition Class instructors around the facility. The two, from Dominican University, are Lisa Artega (second from left), and Melissa Morales-Perez. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Thank You and Acknowledgments

In January, the Pantry served 1,129 people in 389 households. That total included 97 people in 30 households during our Tuesday night hours. We also provided pet food to 182 households and helped 12 people in seven households apply for SNAP benefits. We appreciate everyone who has helped through donations of money, food, time and effort to allow us to continue to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Thank you to Dr. Sarah Hadzic of Paws & Feathers Veterinary Clinic for a donation of several hundred pounds of pet food and to **Randy and Susan Patke** for regularly obtaining large donations of pet food from **Pet Supplies Plus on Elston**. Thanks also to the **anonymous CARE supporter** who donates \$100 monthly for pet food, as well as to **Target** and three **Pet Supplies Plus stores** (Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood and Morton Grove) for their ongoing support of the Pet Food Corner through periodic donations of pet food.

St. Viator Elementary School's 8th-grade class, led by teacher **Don Slawik**, visited the Pantry in February and helped sort some of the toiletry donations that continue to come in and performed other activities to help out. We appreciated their help! We are always open to visits from classes who want to pitch in for a few hours (and gain service hours).

*Article submitted by Craig Shutt. John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry
3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago IL 60641 | e-mail: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, Web: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.*

Community in Action

Organizing for Action in our Community, our Country and our World! Our understanding of God's love and concern for all people leads us to train and mobilize all interested people. You are invited to ACTION 30 MONDAYS!

ACTION 30 MONDAYS, MARCH – MAY

Mondays, 7 – 7:30 p.m. We are inviting the neighborhood to come learn about topics of social concern and take action on them! We will start with a speaker and conclude with an action, or two, to implement. Invite your friends who want to make a difference in our current political climate. This is not limited to people with a particular faith understanding

March 6 Immigration and Refugees and what we can do.

March 13 Homelessness in Chicago and what we can do.

March 20 Environmental Care and Justice and what we can do.

March 27 Self-Care while advocating for Social Justice.

Suggested donation of \$5 at the door to help with supplies and speakers. Child care will be provided on site for \$1 per child.

LENTEN SERIES – Draw the Circle Wide

Our Lenten emphasis is "Draw the Circle Wide" and we are planning interactive worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., and additional activities on weekends, for all ages, that will help us extend our reach in

sharing God's love. Our worship services will look at the people that we can invite into the circle and how we can celebrate together what God is doing among our broadening community! Watch for more details coming soon! The first Sunday of Lent is March 5, and our series begins with Welcome to the Neighborhood. Subsequent Sundays focus on An Inter-cultural Welcome; An Open and Affirming Welcome; A Welcome for all Faiths; Palm Sunday - All Creation Welcome; Easter Sunday - Everyone Come and Celebrate. Everyone is welcome, and as always, please extend the invitation to someone who may not know that they are welcome!

Upcoming Youth and Family Events

March 10 WINTERJAM – 10 bands for \$10

March 17 – 18 SUPERSTART RETREAT for youth grades 4-7

March 25 Feed My Starving Children – Gather at church at 6:00 p.m. We are scheduled in Schaumburg from 7 – 9 p.m. Youth and families.

All are welcome

Irving Park United Methodist Church welcomes all people regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, immigration status, economic level or political opinion.

Irving Park United Methodist Church

3801 N. Keeler Ave. | Chicago, IL 60641 | 773-283-6262
irvingparkumc@comcast.net

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

For complete event details, go to the organization's feature page.

**OIPA NEWS
APRIL
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE**

**Advertising &
Editorial
BOTH DUE
March 14
(SECOND TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH)
BY 5 p.m.**

MARCH

-
- 9 Schurz to Launch the Yolobe Pilot Program**
6 p.m. | Schurz High School Library
-
- 13 OIPA General Meeting**
7 p.m. | Lower Level of Irving Park Baptist Church
-
- 14 St. John's Episcopal Church will host author Natalie Y. Moore for a discussion of her book, "The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation."**
7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church at 3857 N. Kostner Ave.
-
- 18 Irving Park Garden Club – Milkweed for Monarchs & Tool Sharpening**
10 a.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

APRIL

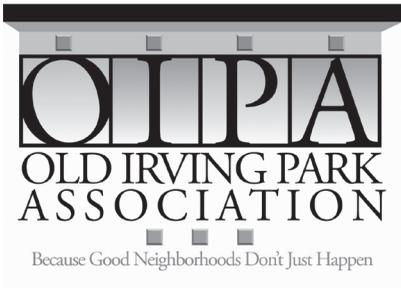
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- 23 Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Carthage Faculty Trio
Piano, Violin, Cello**
2 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave
www.carlsoncommunityservices.org
-
- 28 Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser for Hands to Help**
7–11 p.m. | Filament Theater, 4041 N Milwaukee



OIPA MEMBERS

We have two meetings between now and the June Ice Cream Social. Do you have a topic of conversation you would like covered or an idea for a guest speaker?

Let us know, by emailing:
oldirvingparkassn@yahoo.com.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please complete the form below. If renewing, please use this form to let us know about any changes.

We like to celebrate our members. Birthday and anniversary information is optional. If you wish to be included on the birthday and anniversary page in the newsletter, please complete the information on the form (adults members and spouses/partners only).

This is a: New Membership Renewal Gift Membership

NAME (FIRST/LAST)

BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (FIRST/LAST)

BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

- \$20/year
- \$14/year Seniors (age 65+)
- Add \$16/year for OIPA NEWSLETTER deliveries out of boundaries

(Boundaries: Montrose, Addison, Pulaski and Milwaukee Avenue.)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
are due September 1
and expire August 31**

SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO:

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Meredith O'Sullivan
OIPA Director / Membership
4061 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

Make checks payable to:

Old Irving Park Association **OR** join or renew online with PayPal at www.oldirvingpark.com

Gift Membership: Simply complete the form above or the online form with your neighbor's name(s) and address. You may not know their birthday/ anniversary info. That's okay – we'll follow up with them. Please indicate this is a gift subscription in the final box titled, "Special Instructions."

THE SOCIAL NETWORK | OIP Members Out and About



SPOTTED: OIP Neighbors at Neighbor Appreciation Night at The Cabin at Old Irving



Above: Lynn Ankney, President, OIPA and The Cabin co-owner Harry Nyholm

Right: Mark, Kyle and Betsy McKelvey



Meridith Cannon, Adrienne Chan and Rosa Karbowski



Claudia Hine, Kaitlyn Keely, T.J. Hine, Kathleen Kearns, Maria Nyholm (Cabin co-owner).



Rich & Colleen Kenny

All photos by Lynn Ankney



THE SOCIAL NETWORK | OIP Members Out and About

SPOTTED at the Soup & Bread Benefit for Carlson Community Services

Wendy Jo Harmston serves soup from Tre Kronor and the kitchen of Susan Ford.
Photo by Kathleen Kearns



Bob Huston, as part of the band, entertains the crowd.
Photo by Kaitlyn Keely



Alderman John Arena and wife Jill chat with
Soup & Bread volunteer Kris Sonnenberg
Photo by Liz Mills



Liz Mills, Executive Director,
Carlson Community Services and
Soup & Bread volunteer greets
guests at the door.
Photo by Kathleen Kearns



T. J. & Claudia Hine and
Mrs. & Mr. Agronomoff at
Soup & Bread for Carlson
Community Services.
Photo by Liz Mills

SUBMISSION TO THE NEWSLETTER POLICY

All members are welcome to submit letters, photos, articles (450 words maximum without photos) for publication. Send your contributions to: Kathleen Kearns at k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com. Please include **"OIPA" submission** in the subject line of the email. Also include the category of the item you are submitting — advertisement, article or event for community calendar, etc.

Photos should be accompanied with a caption(s) and photo credit. If your files are too large to email, please use <https://wetransfer.com>. You can send several files at a time using [wetransfer](https://wetransfer.com).

**New
deadline
policy for
editorial.**

Deadline for advertising AND editorial submissions is the second Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m. Materials SUBMITTED AFTER this date will be held over to the next month's issue.

**Purchase ad space and upload your ad at:
www.oldirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad**

AD SIZES: Full Page: 6.25" X 7.5"
Half Page: 6.25" X 3.75"
Quarter Page: 3" X 3.75"

ACCEPTABLE AD FILES: High Resolution (minimum 300 dpi) grayscale; jpg, PDF, or eps. **Microsoft Word files are NOT acceptable.**

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Information printed in the newsletter may be reproduced with Old Irving Park Association cited as the source. Opinions in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Old Irving Park Association.

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