



The Chicago Mayoral Forum on Community and Environmental Issues Held in Streeterville

by Jill C. Heise

Nearly 1,700 guests and members of 17 community and environmental organizations, came together on January 19, 2011 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile for The Chicago Mayoral Forum on Community and Environmental Issues. Alderman Brendan Reilly welcomed guests and introduced the dynamic Andy Shaw, Executive Director of the Better Government Association. Mayoral candidates, Gery Chico, Miguel del Valle and Carol Moseley Braun provided insightful answers to difficult questions. Rahm Emanuel was invited, but chose not to participate.

The format of the event allowed each candidate an opportunity to speak about their position on community development and environmental issues. Questions for the candidates were submitted in advance by the organizing groups to moderator Andy Shaw. Each candidate had equal time to respond to the questions. By focusing attention directly on community and environmental issues such as visions for parks, pedestrian-friendly streets and condominium ordinances, the forum provided guests a unique opportunity to learn about issues that have not been readily discussed in other forums or the press where concerns about taxes and public schools dominate. Guests also learned about each candidate's plans for stalled developments such as the Spire and DuSable Park and the potential Children's Museum move from Navy Pier. If you are interested in learning more about the mayoral

candidates, please contact them directly or check their web sites.

The Forum was organized by the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR) and Friends of the Parks (FOTP) in partnership with Developing Communities Project, Friends of Downtown, Fulton River District Association, New Eastside Association of Residents (NEAR), North Dearborn Association, and River North Residents Association. Environmental organizations including Great Lakes Alliance, Chicago Recycling Coalition, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Friends of the Chicago River, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Openlands, Sierra Club, and The Trust for Public Land also contributed to the forum. These prominent community and environmental non-profit organizations were pleased to facilitate this discussion.

In addition to the participating organizations, the following businesses generously provided in-kind support: Jeff Brown/All Events Photography, Better Government Association, Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Kurth Lampe public relations, Print Dog, Suzana Ristov, graphic designer.

The collaboration of effort among these influential organizations highlights the importance we all place on sustaining Chicago as a city of neighborhoods for all to live in, work in and visit.



Carol Moseley Braun, Andy Shaw, Miguel del Valle, and Gery Chico.

[More pictures on page 5](#)



Many other organizations partnered with SOAR to make the mayoral forum a success.



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Please regularly review www.soarchicago.org for details and updates.

- April 16 Clean and Green Earth Day Clean Up
- April 20 Alderman Town Hall
- June 9 Streeterville Clean Up
- August 6, 8 Beautification Award Walks

Word on the Street...Save the Date(s)

- SOAR members enjoy \$30 Friday tickets to *As You Like It* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater! Use promo code "SOAR" when ordering before February 11 on-line or by phone at 312.595.5600. Limit 4.
- Free 2011 pocket calendar, from North Bank, while supplies last. Two locations: 360 East Ohio and 431 North Clark, 312.644.4000, Member FDIC www.northbank.com
- Fullline Printing is happy to offer SOAR members a 10% discount on all business printing until March 31, 2011, includes brochures, business stationery and newsletters. Interested SOAR members will need to mention this discount when placing order.

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Executive Director's Message

Continuing a family tradition, this winter I attended the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's "Welcome Yule" program. Each year this dynamic performance never fails to perform and inspire beyond my expectations. The 2010 performance was particularly interesting as it related to Chicago neighborhoods, Streeterville in particular. The program highlighted many Streeterville landmarks from the Hancock to Navy Pier, Michigan Avenue and everywhere in between. It is clear our community stands out as a special place to live, work, visit and celebrate.



Speaking of celebrating, I hope you had an opportunity to attend SOAR's annual holiday party. This much anticipated annual event provided SOAR members an opportunity to celebrate the season as well as community. At SOAR we continue to plan dynamic social, educational and environmental opportunities in cooperation with residents, businesses and institutions as we celebrate our neighborhood and its uniqueness within Chicago.

Recently, SOAR expanded and enhanced community and business memberships intended to promote fresh programming opportunities for members of all levels. As we continue to expand our circle of community participants we anticipate that they will bring energy, enthusiasm and creativity to our organization and programming events. More reason to celebrate.

As you continue to read the articles in this newsletter, you will learn more about past programs and events that have provided SOAR members valuable, timely information regarding neighborhood proposals, concerns, initiatives and events. You will discover new programs such as the development of a social media marketing plan which will provide additional opportunities for current and new members to engage and celebrate with SOAR. Our greening committee is diligently working to develop Streeterville into the "greenest community" in Chicago and our pets committee is about to embark. I hope that as you read along you will find areas of interest which will further your participation in nurturing the development of SOAR as your community organization.

As we welcome a new mayor to the city, change is inevitable. One thing we know is certain: there will continue to be reasons and opportunities to celebrate Streeterville. Thank you for your continuous support of SOAR. I look forward to seeing you at our next celebration!

Jill C. Heise

President's Message

It's no secret that living downtown has certain added expenses that residents routinely incur during the course of an average day. For example, if you live in Streeterville and own a car, you probably pay more to lease or own your parking space than you would pay for a similar space in a neighborhood farther from the Loop.



If you are a Streeterville car owner who doesn't have a garage space and relies solely upon street parking (I tried it once years ago and became sadly familiar with various pedestrian routes to the auto pound on Lower Randolph Street) then you must pay double the meter rates of the residential neighborhoods to the North, West, and South of downtown. Rates will rise again in 2012 and 2013.

Not only are local metered spaces higher in price for residents and guests alike, but the option of purchasing a "zoned" permit for residents-only parking is not available anywhere in Streeterville. This option gives many Chicago residents that chance to pay an additional \$25 fee when they buy their annual city sticker, to encode the city sticker with a permit number that allows for parking on certain streets designated as residents only.

Consider the \$25 per year annual cost for subsidized parking on the public way, versus the \$250 per month or more that Streeterville residents must pay for space in a private garage, and you begin to see how downtown residents don't always get a fair deal compared to other neighborhoods.

Another example is an additional 1% tacked on to your check at your favorite downtown restaurant. This extra tax supports the operations of Navy Pier and McCormick Place, and while it's primarily targeted at tourists, everyone who dines downtown pays it. Since downtown residents tend to dine at downtown establishments, and there are more of us than there are tourists, we likely provide a greater share of this revenue than its intended target.

For the most part, Streeterville residents take these inequities in stride. We live downtown because we value its offerings, access to arts, culture, shopping and entertainment. We recognize and accept that our lifestyle choice comes at a cost that may be higher than other locales, but we believe it's worth the price.

Yet our tolerance is not without limits. As government faces an unprecedented budget crisis, elected officials are tempted to look at the reliable revenue stream provided by the economic engine that is downtown, and ask for more. It may come in the form of eliminating the refuse collection rebate for condo buildings, increasing the special tax on downtown

Continued on page 9

SOAR Business Sponsor, InterContinental Chicago, Serious About Green Initiatives by Muriel Glick

SOAR is happy to welcome the InterContinental Chicago as one of our newest business members. The hotel's commitment to community outreach and the synergy between its serious certified green programming and SOAR's Greening & Sustainability Task Force to make Streeterville a sustainable community helped to facilitate this relationship.

"Preservation of the environment is a major focus of the global InterContinental chain of luxury properties," explained Robert De Luca, the Chicago hotel's director of training whose responsibility it is to lead corporate responsibility programming. "Corporately we partner with National Geographic, an organization that inspires people to care about the planet. Once we learned of SOAR's commitment to environmental issues, we knew it would be an ideal community organization for a partnership."

True to its environmental commitment, the InterContinental Chicago maintains a rigid environmental purchasing policy and has a Corporate Responsibility Task Force to oversee compliance. Just a few examples of the hotel's environmental compliance programs include use of green products throughout, recycling of hotel waste, use of the most eco-friendly amenities available and reduction of water consumption by featuring climate tolerant plants needing infrequent watering, and limiting pressure washing of sidewalks and docks.

The InterContinental got off to an impressive start as a SOAR business member by bringing 75 hotel executives and employee volunteers to help SOAR volunteers at the Jane Addams Park/Ohio Street Beach "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" event and contributed greatly to its success.



The pool inside the InterContinental Hotel is a lovely green oasis on Michigan Avenue.

According to De Luca, the staff had fun while making a meaningful contribution to our community. Plans to participate in future SOAR programs like viaduct and park clean ups are evolving.

Truly a "good neighbor" the InterContinental, in addition to working with SOAR, supports a number of service organizations in our community and city. "We look for organizations that we believe will derive particular benefit from the unique professional skills offered by our staff" explained De Luca.

For example, the hotel regularly prepares and serves approximately 200 meals at Jane Addams Hull House. "Because food service is a major component of the hotel's business, we can deliver this service efficiently and also help the organization fine-tune its systems." De Luca explains.

The Greening and Sustainability Task Force

by Cherry Chen and Mary Houston

One of the most ambitious goals of SOAR is to make Streeterville the "greenest" neighborhood in Chicago....and the Greening and Sustainability Task Force is out to make that happen. We hope to increase residents' awareness of sustainability through educational programs, encourage developers to contribute to making Streeterville a leading "green" community, make residents proud of Streeterville as one of the greenest neighborhoods in Chicago within four years, and monitor and guide properties with suggestions on how to operate more efficiently.

The Task Force meets every other month on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the SOAR office to plan exciting events such as the Adopt-a-Street program and Neighborhood Clean-up, as well as educational events. Additionally, each year SOAR presents Beautification Awards at the Annual Meeting to honor Streeterville businesses and residents that contribute to either our greening efforts or to making Streeterville more beautiful.

If you have any questions about greening and sustainability, please contact greening@soarchicago.org. Be sure to review our "Green Tip" in SOAR's bi-monthly news briefs.

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents is an independent nonpartisan 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, founded in 1975. SOAR's mission is to work on behalf of residents of Streeterville by preserving, promoting and enhancing the quality of life and community.

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Chicago's Bike Lanes: "To Be" Or "Partially To Be"?

Editor's Choice

by Mary Houston

We are grateful to Alderman Reilly for having bike lanes painted along Grand and Illinois Avenues and on other streets in the 42nd Ward. However, these bike lanes present several challenges: they start and end in strange places, they are painted where buses typically move from the traffic lane to the curb, and they do little to prevent cars from driving in them. The problem, of course, is that there is not sufficient space with the parked cars along the street.

My husband and I have traveled extensively in Europe, where bicycle riding is a way of life in many countries. Last spring we saw a young woman arrive at the Staats Opera in Berlin, wearing high heels and opera garb on a bicycle which she parked in the designated location outside the opera house and went in to enjoy the performance.

The two pictures below show bike lanes in Paris and Stockholm. In Stockholm the bike lane is separated from vehicles with a curb and paved in a different type of stone. We were scolded by a bike rider for even walking in the bike lane. Needless to say there were no cars in the lane.

The Paris picture shows painted bike lanes clearly marked. There are no cars crowding the bike lane – they respect the bike lane for what it is. Perhaps one gets a ticket in France for driving in the bike lane? There are no parked cars on the street in either picture, thus allowing ample space for the bike lane and space for cars to drive.

Coincidentally, there are many underground parking areas in these countries. While removing parking has its political and financial ramifications, it is clearly the way to make bike lanes realistic and enhance the opportunity for people to travel safely by bicycle in our city. I did learn that CDOT is currently working on a prototype for cycle tracks in Chicago, and plans to install a few test miles at various locations in the future. That, in my opinion is "bike lanes to be."



Bike lane in Stockholm.

New Members

We welcome these new members who have joined SOAR between October 15, 2010 and January 15, 2011. To join or renew your membership, please visit www.soarchicago.org.

Residents & Non-Residents

Gordon & Paula Addington	Dr. & Mrs. Saul Kadin Wendy Kase	The SENDing Support Charitable Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Arkes	Dr. Manus C. Kraff	Joan Steel
Gary P. Beckman	Jules Laser	Elliott & Lynn Tarson
Eileen Berke	Gloria Lehr	Regan & Rhonda Thomas
John & Norma Bramsen	John Leonard	Irene Thompson
Carson Family Foundation	Maryann Mahan	Twelve Twenty-One Fund
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Dr. Paulette Dittrich	Marion Novak	Frank & Caroline Walker
Barbara Dow	Sally O'Malley	Harriet B. Wechter
Sam & Catherine Epstein	Beth Padera	Bruce & Beth White
Keith & Robin Frank	Michael & Karen Parent	Business
Avi & Wendy Fromm	Theresa Parzych	H. Horwitz Co.
Shirley & John Graham	Michael & Susan Pitt	Cultural
Evelyn Greene	Peggy Quinn	Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Jamie Haberkorn	Colleen & David Reitan	Lookingglass Theatre
Ira & Anita Halper	Marlin & Susan Rinehart	
George & Joan Johnson	Anne Rosen	
	Rosalie Rownd	
	Marcia Scavuzzo	
	Shimrit Scher	

SOAR would like to acknowledge unintentional errors made in the 2009-2010 SOAR Look Back publication. The Grand Ohio participated as a SOAR building member. Rosalie Harris provided her expertise as SOAR's first executive director; Jill Heise is SOAR's first full-time executive director.



Bike lane in Paris.

Real Estate Review

by Gail Spreen

The Neighbors Action Task Force (NATF) continues to monitor, review and influence major and minor projects throughout Streeterville. The task force meets monthly and is always looking for more SOAR members to volunteer and help us shape the urban landscape. A few of the notable projects and activities currently happening in Streeterville include the following:

Ronald McDonald House Charities is opening a new Ronald McDonald House—the largest in the world—in 2012. (We love having the best & largest in Streeterville!) It will be located at 211 East Grand Avenue, within blocks of Lurie Children's Hospital. An "early" groundbreaking was held November 9th and clean-up of the site has begun. Construction will get underway in early February and it is scheduled to open in September 2012. The 14-story house will also serve the families of children receiving treatment at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Prentice Women's Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Are you a Parrot Head? Then you will be thrilled to hear that the Midwest's first **Margaritaville Restaurant** is coming to Navy Pier this spring. Taking the place of Charlie's Ale House, Jimmy Buffett's signature restaurant will offer residents and tourists classic American and island-inspired cuisine as well as nightly entertainment and live music. A real change in attitude!

Bike lanes have been installed on both Grand and Illinois from the "Lakefront Trail" to Orleans Street. That's approximately 1.25 miles each way. Try them out! We are very thankful for the Alderman's continued support in getting these done.

A new 18,000 square foot **nightclub** has been proposed for the second floor at 322 East Illinois, by the AMC Theaters. A presentation was given to the NATF to discuss the overall project. SOAR feels that this is not the right type of project for this area and has voted to not support it. Many Streeterville condo associations have also sent letters to Alderman Reilly asking him to oppose these plans.

A new **Wine Tasting Room** called TR Napa Valley Wine Cellars has been proposed for retail space at 61 E. Oak St. This establishment will provide fine wine education and tastings, introducing Napa Valley wines to downtown residents.

Burberry has recently announced plans to demolish their current building and build a new, five-story structure on Michigan Avenue. SOAR initially reviewed these plans in January, so stay tuned as more information on the new development is forthcoming.

Navy Pier has unveiled new ideas for a **Renovation and Redevelopment** project. The Urban Land Institute was commissioned to create a new vision for Navy Pier and to recommend specific actions to achieve that vision through financially-sustainable renovation, redevelopment and

reprogramming. SOAR appreciates the opportunity to participate in this planning project. We encourage Navy Pier to continue to work closely with the community to arrive at a final plan that incorporates the character of the Streeterville neighborhood while optimizing Navy Pier as a popular attraction for tourists and residents.

The **Navy Pier Fly-Over Project**, a designated bicycle/pedestrian bridge, will extend from the Ohio Street Beach to the south side of the Chicago River. CDOT will take it to the Chicago Plan Commission in the next month for City approval. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2012. SOAR has reviewed these plans and is in support of this needed improvement of pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Preliminary plans have been announced for a new rental building on the **Peshtigo lot** located between Illinois St. and Grand Ave. at Lake Shore Drive. It is SOAR's hope that Solomon Cordwell Buenz, the architect on the project, develops a spectacular design for this building worthy of the location. Stay tuned for more information as plans for this project develop.

The **U.S. Post Office** located at 227 E Ontario Street closed January 7, 2011 and relocated to the base of Streeter Place at 355 E. Ohio Street on January 10th. Pending City approval, there will be a flashing zone on McClurg for short-term parking.

The **vacant parcel** across from the AMC Theaters was previously owned by the Hanover Company out of Texas. Recently Hanover has sold its interest in the piece to United Dominion Realty, a REIT out of Denver.

Safety and Security Issues:

- **New Riverwalk Cameras.** Eight new cameras are being installed along the RiverWalk on the north side of the River between Michigan Avenue and Lake Shore Drive. These are connected to the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) 911 Center. This is a welcome addition and a great way to keep incidents from occurring along this beautiful quiet stretch of the River.
- **New Vacant Lot Recommendations.** SOAR will be encouraging all owners of vacant lots to increase lighting, set back fences to eliminate blind corners and other recommendations that will increase the safety of pedestrians walking by their undeveloped parcels.
- **Doorman Phone Tree.** SOAR is planning to undertake a new project to increase communication among Streeterville's doormen. We are hoping to create phone lists for all buildings so that door staff can easily communicate with their neighboring buildings. The door staff are the eyes and ears of the building and could head off problems if they can quickly relay important safety information between buildings and to the police. More on this to come.

Cap Streeter Memorial Statue Unveiled

by Jim Houston

On a cold morning last December a hearty group of Streeterville residents gathered at the northwest corner of Grand Avenue and McClurg Court in front of Streeter Place Apartments for the unveiling of a sculpture of George Wellington "Cap" Streeter. Commissioned in 2010 by Golub & Company, a Streeterville developer for over 40 years, the eight-foot bronze statue was crafted by renowned local artisan Dennis Downes to commemorate the historical significance of Cap Streeter, our community's namesake, and bring enhanced interest and value to the area.

Cap, a legendary Chicagoan, ran his steamboat, the 35-ton Reutan, onto a sandbar 451 feet off Chicago's north shore near the foot of Superior Street in 1886. In the construction boom in the years following the Great Chicago Fire, Cap encouraged excavation contractors to dump their rubble into the lake near his boat, thereby creating 186 acres of new landfill along Chicago's lakefront. Our beloved Streeterville neighborhood now resides on that landfill and the name "Streeterville" was born.



Sculptor Dennis Downes with Cap Streeter statue in front of Yolk.

Yolk, Enjoy Our New Breakfast and Lunch Neighbor

by Mary Houston

When I walk past Yolk, officially 355 E. Ohio (actually the corner of Grand and McClurg) I think "Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall." Who cares, because the food at Yolk is definitely worth the trip and even the wait. We have eaten there a number of times on week days when there is no wait, so we have had the opportunity to try many of their tasty dishes. There are several wonderful things about Yolk. First, they give you a choice of French Fries, fried potatoes or fruit, and the fruit is plentiful. Second, all servings are large and well coordinated. Third, the coffee is great. For breakfast, fruit and nut pancakes made with multi-grain batter (\$8.99) are excellent. The West Coast crepes are an interesting mixture of eggs, avocado, mushroom and cheese all in a sweet crepe (\$9.99). My husband tried the Bananas Foster crepes (\$9.99), which proved to be "dessert for breakfast." Corned beef hash (\$8.99) was the tasty selection on another visit. The Healthy Start Waffle is a wonderfully decadent combination of multi-grain waffle, yogurt, fruit and nuts. Of course various egg dishes and French toast are also available.

Lunch offers an array of salads and sandwiches. The tropical walnut chicken salad includes chicken, papaya, avocado, walnuts and strawberries with greens (\$9.99). The Avalon Sunset sandwich had a large chicken breast with bacon, avocado, tomato and melted Swiss cheese grilled on sourdough bread. There is also a vegetarian wrap and a guiltless garden burger which can be served with fruit.

The atmosphere is very pleasant with windows that overlook the Streeter Place garden on one side, and the new statue of Cap Streeter on the McClurg side. The wait staff has been friendly and the food arrives in a timely manner. Yolk also has a catering menu which you can get in the restaurant. Hours are Monday – Friday from 6 am to 3 pm and Saturday – Sunday 7am to 3 pm. Yolk has also been an active business member of SOAR, providing excellent food for the 2010 annual meeting. I encourage you to stop by; it is definitely worth it!

Streeterville History Scoop

This year is the 100th anniversary of East Lake Shore Drive and an opportunity to honor architect Benjamin Marshall, who designed most of the buildings on that tony stretch of road facing Oak Street Beach. The Benjamin Marshall Society, an organization dedicated to reviving interest in the legacy of Marshall and his significant influence on Chicago's skyline will host a gala at the Drake hotel on March 4th. Along with the Drake, Marshall buildings include the South Shore Cultural Center, the Blackstone Hotel, DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre and the Polish consulate.

SOAR partners with University of Chicago Booth School of Business

by Jill C. Heise

This past fall, SOAR was thrilled to be selected by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business' Local Optima team to develop a social media and online marketing strategic plan for SOAR. Team members Lakshmi Krishnan, Likun He, Malora Prendiv, Barun Devaraju and Deepak Raj are current MBA students at University of Chicago Booth School of Business. These students are interested in assisting civic minded organizations by utilizing their problem solving skills acquired through work and education. After meeting with our project team in September SOAR board president Brian Hopkins expressed great enthusiasm for the dedicated, smart team assigned to work with SOAR.

The team immediately impressed the SOAR board and staff by developing a comprehensive project plan. On a weekly basis, Lakshmi Krishnan, project manager, met with SOAR staff to discuss progress and plan development. Cherry Chen, SOAR board member and current Booth student graciously served as project liaison throughout the project. Together online surveys were developed, project scope solidified and a SOAR board communication plan developed.

After presenting their progress, research and discoveries at three SOAR board meetings, a final presentation was made in December. The presentation was extremely comprehensive, highlighting tactical planning strategies, business member engagement recommendations, resource commitment needs, return on investment measurement criteria and security controls. As a result, SOAR is developing a social media committee. This committee will be tasked with reviewing Local Optima's recommendations and developing a realistic plan for implementation. Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube were all included as potential social media opportunities that SOAR should explore.

SOAR thanks all resident, business, building and institution members who participated in responding to surveys and

President's Message

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restaurants, or by reallocating city resources based on the number of residents, as opposed to the true population density which includes daily employees, tourists, visitors, and shoppers.

SOAR, along with our partner organizations in the greater downtown area, must remain vigilant as the City moves to address its budgetary challenges, and oppose any attempt to unfairly target downtown residents to bear more than our fair share of the cost of government. I'll follow Cap Streeter and secede from Chicago the first time I stop at my neighborhood convenience store to pick up a five-pack.

Brian Hopkins

meetings with Booth students to provide insights into your SOAR experiences and recommendations. Stay tuned as the soon-to-be established social media committee works to implement many of the recommendations provided by our hard-working Local Optima team! If you are interested in participating on the social media committee, please contact office@soarchicago.org or 312.280.2596.



Pictured from left to right are Likun He, Barun Devaraju and Lakshmi Krishnan. Not pictured are Malora Prendiv and Deepak Raj. All are MBA students in the University of Chicago program who accepted the challenge of researching and making recommendations regarding how SOAR could best use Social Media. Our thanks to them for the information they collected.

A Bit of Advice from the Safety and Security Task Force

by Manny Martinez

With the the hustle and bustle of the busy holidays behind us, it's time to look back on the events and also the safety in Streeterville. This season brought the holiday shoppers to Michigan Ave. and the surrounding area in droves. People were out with their shopping bags, as well as their iPads, iPhones and pocketbooks.

With shoppers also come folks who are looking to take advantage of the season in more devious ways. iPads, iPhones and other smartphones were not only the most popular gifts this year, but also the hottest commodities for thieves.

We should also be aware that the fun electronic toys we're excited about are a distraction from our immediate surroundings. While we're busy plotting our next route on our phone with the high tech map and GPS, or texting our friend about the great bargain we just found, reading the latest email or Facebook update, or listening to our iPod, it is easy to forget about who or what is around us.

Be alert and be safe. We're in one of the busiest and most exciting neighborhoods in the city of Chicago. Have fun, but be aware of your surroundings and your personal belongings, during the holidays and everyday. Please be sure to review our "Safety Tips" in SOAR's bi-monthly news briefs.

Illinois Artisans Program comes to the Water Works Visitors Center

by Jill C. Heise

Did you know that on each second Friday and Saturday of the month, Streeterville residents and visitors have an opportunity to visit the work of selected artists who display, sell and demonstrate their craft? Each month you have an opportunity to browse the best made craft in the State, and importantly, talk directly to the maker.

The Meet Illinois Artisans monthly event grew out of a partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism, Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events and the Illinois Arts Council to present the 1st annual Marketplace at the Great Performers of Illinois in Millennium Park in 2009. The program hosted five Illinois Artisans in 2009 and again in 2010 for the weekend-long event. Based on the success of this event, the program was invited to highlight artists from different neighborhoods in the recently renovated Water Works Visitors Center.

The mission of the Illinois Artisans Program, administered by the Illinois State Museum, is to bring state and national recognition to the rich heritage of fine crafts in Illinois thus increasing in makers their sense of importance as valued members of their communities and increasing their potential for economic advancement.

The Illinois Artisans Program was started in 1985 by Governor Thompson. All talented artists apply and jury into the program. The program currently represents 1,700 artisans across a range of media and reinforces the image of Streeterville as a bustling urban neighborhood with ample cultural capital.

The program seeks to provide the craft movement in Illinois with service and leadership, by its involvement in all areas of crafts promotion, marketing, educational programming, public relations program development and advocacy. The Program markets craft through Illinois Artisans venues in Chicago and at Rend Lake, and museum stores in the Illinois State Museum, Springfield and Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown. Venues are operated under the statutory authority of the Illinois State Museum Society, the Museum's nonprofit entity. This is truly a unique shopping experience that connects you directly to the artist.

If you are interested in applying as an artist, you must be living and working in the State of Illinois. The application deadlines are March 28th and September 12th each year. The application is available online at www.museum.state.il.us/artisans.

Please save the 2011 "Meet Illinois Artisans" upcoming dates: February 11-12 and March 11-12, each event runs from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Water Works Visitors Center, 163 East Pearson Street. All program events are listed at www.museum.state.il.us/artisans or by calling 312.814.5321.



Lookingglass and SOAR Co-Star at Theatre Open House

by Pat Dragisic

More than 100 SOAR members and guests enjoyed "The Streeterville Sneak Peak" open house at the Lookingglass Theater in the Old Water Works Visitor Center in November. The purpose of the event was twofold: to interest attendees in theater subscriptions and in SOAR memberships. Refreshments included delicious cookies—the lemon bars especially drew raves—from First Slice Café, also in the Old Water Works, and beverages provided by the 7-Eleven in McClurg Court.

Company actors gave guided backstage tours about which a SOAR member from DeWitt Place commented, "I enjoyed the tour very much and was amazed to see how creatively the company uses the very small backstage areas available to them." Three long time company actors acknowledged the unique collegiality of the ensemble and explained that the actors are involved in decisions about which productions will be staged each season.

After the tours both SOAR President Brian Hopkins and Lookingglass artistic director Andy White welcomed everyone. Brian Hopkins noted that Lookingglass has long been a favorite of SOAR members. White explained that the theater was designed so the space would be flexible and that the configuration on the night of the open house was for the current production, "Peter Pan (A Play)". He then asked how many had attended a Lookingglass production and to his delight, almost every hand went up.

He then encouraged everyone to subscribe for the season which includes the theatre's own adaptation of the classic English novel "Ethan Frome," opening January 23. He went on to explain subscriber benefits which include a lower per ticket cost over single performance prices plus flexibility to change tickets even on performance days, a convenience not available at all Chicago theaters. Other subscriber benefits include a free martini at NoMi restaurant in the Park Hyatt after a performance when a ticket stub is presented, and reservation service at the theatre's dining partners which include NoMi and Mity Nice Grill. Lookingglass Theatre is located in the Old Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Avenue. For information call 312-337-0665 or log on to www.lookingglasstheatre.org.

ETHAN FROME - Adapted from the novel by Edith Wharton
Written and directed by Laura Eason



Featuring company members Philip R Smith, Andy White, Louise Lamson and Lisa Tejero, with Erik Lochtefeld.

A shattered body...A frozen heart...A legendary sled ride down an unforgiving hill. In the deep of winter, a strange mystery unfolds. The whole town knows the story. But does anyone know the truth?

SOAR Celebrates Holidays at D4

by Ed Cooper

Over 100 merry-makers made their grand entrance into the 2010 holiday season on December 4th by attending SOAR's annual holiday party held this year at D4 Irish Pub and Café. Though it was cold and snowy outside, the ambiance of D4 provided a warm, cozy atmosphere inside. The room was crowded and noisy which helped everyone quickly get into the holiday spirit. D4 provided an appetizing buffet of chicken fingers, vegetables, dips, sliders and other goodies and a cash bar was also available. It was another memorable neighborhood gathering, bringing neighbors together to discuss common interests and form new friendships while having fun! SOAR members have opportunities throughout the year to participate in social events such as the delightful holiday party. Be sure to visit www.soarchicago.org regularly for updates on activities like this one.

Kudos to D4 for its generosity in hosting this event; to Jill Heise and Buff Sergent who again did a superb job organizing everything, and as always, to Lloyd Sergent who was available to do whatever was needed. Among SOAR board members who attended were Maury Fantus, Bruce Florine, Christine Foh, Patty Frost, Brian Hopkins, Jim Houston, Mary Houston, Manny Martinez, Howard Melton, Sally Park and Gail Spreen. Pictures are courtesy of Jeff Brown/All Events Photography.



A lively crowd enjoyed the D4 Irish Pub and Café



Lloyd Sergent, Jimmy Damon and Buff Sergent



Susan Ross and Hugh Stevens



JoAnne and Howard Melton and Patty Frost

Mayoral Forum on Community Issues

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Alderman Brendan Reilly welcomed the audience and introduced Andy Shaw, the moderator.



More than 1,700 people filled the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott to hear the mayoral forum.

The Third Annual Streeterville Artisan Market: A Community Tradition

by Rosalie Harris

On November 19, 20 and 21, during the busiest weekend in the community—the start of the holiday season marked by a nationally televised parade—many neighbors, friends, tourists and employees of local businesses and institutions detoured off Michigan Avenue to land at the third annual Streeterville Artisan Market, sponsored by SOAR. Despite the competition for attention and the struggling economy this year, the event raised nearly \$3,500 for SOAR, closely matching last year's results.

Because the vast majority of art fairs are during the summer, the Artisan Market provides a significant sales opportunity for Chicago area painters, photographers, ceramicists, jewelry and home decor designers, and fiber/fashion artists. The event has a reputation for the professional and personal treatment of the artisans. Dana Killion, a participating fashion designer said, "I'm impressed with the organization and volunteer assistance. Everyone makes it easy to participate."

And these are the folks who made it possible:

Steering Committee

Irene Newman and Lisa Chizever: Co-chairs
 Mary Baim
 Patty Frost
 Rosalie Harris

Roberta Kovitz
 Sally O'Malley
 Sharon Mitchell
 Jill Heise, Executive Director
 Buffy Sergent, Assistant Director

Judges

Mark Millmore—Museum of Contemporary Art Shop
 Judy Saslow—Judy Saslow Gallery
 Maxine Weintraub—Museum of Contemporary Art Shop

In-Kind

680 N. Lake Shore Drive Garage
 The 900 Shops
 @Properties (Marla Hori, Peg O'Shea)
 Panera Bread
 Streeterville Properties
 7-Eleven

Special thanks to the folks at Northwestern University's Lurie Research Center who, for the third year, donated their impressive space.

Pictures being worth 1,000 words, here are some photographic highlights, courtesy of Jeff Brown, All Events Photography.



Barbara Goldberg, SOAR member, selling home decor items.



Brian Hopkins, SOAR president, and Irene Newman, co-chair and jewelry artist.



Sally O'Malley, committee member, and Lisa Chizever, co-chair.



Mary Baim, board member and committee member, selling hand-crafted jewelry.



Robert Florine, father of board member Bruce Florine, selling wood items for the home.



Eager shoppers crowd the Lurie center.

Newcomers Dolores and Keith Anderson On SOAR Volunteer Fast Track

by Mary Houston

Dolores and Keith Anderson moved to Streeterville from suburban Northbrook just last year and wasted no time becoming active participants in our neighborhood.

The Andersons began spending time in Streeterville after Keith's sister moved to Lake Point Tower. "We grew to love the lakefront, the museums, Millennium Park, the festivals, etc., and decided that this was where we wanted to live when we retired," explained Dolores.



In their first year as SOAR members they demonstrated a strong commitment to helping make Streeterville become even better known as a place with a unique neighborhood feel right here in the heart of Chicago.

The Andersons joined SOAR to meet people and to find ways to contribute to their newly adopted community. Among the activities in which they have already participated are serving as judges for the beautification award program and working on our Artisan Market by distributing posters and postcards to local buildings and assisting with cleanup. In addition, Dolores helps out in the SOAR office. Keith says "we are still learning about SOAR committees and Dolores would like to assist with the restoration of Jane Addams Park. We are open to assist wherever there's a need."

When asked their opinion of top priorities for Streeterville the Andersons noted that they see beautification as a priority because it not only benefits residents but also makes us more appealing to tourists who visit. Monitoring new construction is high on their list because it contributes to the overall 'livability' of the neighborhood. And they suggest SOAR and our Alderman should try solving the problem of begging in our community.

Streeterville has lived up to the Andersons' expectations, as evidenced by many meals at Bandera, D4 and Yolk and shopping at retailers like the UPS store, City Scents and Eddie Bauer to name a few. The Andersons see SOAR as a vital link to keeping Streeterville a neighborhood and SOAR appreciates the contributions they have already made and looks forward to their continued involvement in our community.

Green Roofs Update

by Mary Houston

The Bristol is the only Streeterville high rise to win a City Beautification award in the residential category. On November 6th Mayor Daley hosted his annual beautification awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Bristol Condominium at 57 E. Delaware won second place in the city-wide high rise residential competition. The 9th floor garden terrace was described in this way: "The combination of perennials and very colorful seasonal annuals have been designed to resemble paintings, and were created to be viewed from both the inside windows as well as from the deck itself. This unique approach in deck design was developed by John T. Young so that Bristol residents could enjoy magnificence for all seasons." Pictures of the garden in summer are shown below.

