



PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community
News & Views

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

Meetings and Announcements

Portage Park Neighborhood Association:

Next meeting -
Sept 14, 6:30 p.m.,

NOTE NEW LOCATION
Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Rd.
after mural dedication.
See note on Pg.2

Guest Speakers:

C.A.P.S. Meetings

All meetings at 7 p.m.
Beat 1624 - Sept. 23
at Biagio's Banquets,
4242 N. Central Ave.

Beat 1633 - Sept. 15
at Wright College (Theater)
4300 N. Naragansett

Beat 1634 - Sept. 24
at Portage-Cragin Library,
5108 W. Belmont Ave.

16th District CAPS Office,
312-742-4521 for more
information.

PPNA On-Line

Get the most current info
from the PPNA on our
website: www.portagepark.org

Contacting the PPNA board:
board@portagepark.org

General questions or info:
membership@portagepark.org
communications@portagepark.org
seniors@portagepark.org
web@portagepark.org

NEW! Renew or Join OnLine!

You can join or renew your PPNA membership online. You can get directly to the form via:

<http://www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html>
Pay with PayPal.

EDITORS NOTE: This is a combined Aug/Set issue. Advertisers will receive a one month credit to their ad buy.

Dickinson Playlot Park to reopen mid-September

by Dickinson Playlot Park Advisory Council

We hope you are enjoying the summer in the Portage Park neighborhood!

As many of you can see, the better weather has brought the play structures and rubber surface to Dickinson Playlot Park. A few weeks back, the Advisory Council was invited to a meeting with the Alderman and he directed the Park District to address our earlier concerns with the Park District's plans. We trust most of those items (which they acknowledged they would alter and address) will in fact come to fruition - we'll see when the "curtain falls".

For those of you who live around the park - we know much of the community and children very much appreciate your patience with this work. Soon enough, we will all be able to enjoy our a hoped-for "Indian Summer" Chicago style in our refreshed Park.

The latest information from the Ward office is that the park should be completed by mid-September. Watch your e-mail for an update.

Portage Park Gets Organic. We hope you have heard the news of a fantastic addition to our neighborhood. Our very own Farmer's Market at the northeast corner of Portage Park on the first and third Sunday of the month through October 4.

It keeps getting better and better as the farms share with us organic and natural fruits and vegetables of the season. All direct from local farms.

For its inaugural season, it sure has been a huge success on a number of fronts and we have to thank a few tireless neighbors who truly fought, pushed, urged and pleaded to bring this to our community. Please take the opportunity to visit the market this

coming weekend and not only enjoy the atmosphere but stop by the Friends of Portage Park tent and let them know what a great addition to our community they have brought and express your appreciation for their efforts. With no exaggeration, this market would not of happened without the community and individuals banning together, doing what it takes, not accepting an official's "no" in an effort to bolster pride in our community through civic opportunities like this.

Our **BIG THANKS** to Friends of Portage Park!

Jump on board! With the Farmer's Market, a new children's playlot and the Six Corner's streetscape enhancements gearing up - its good momentum and an exciting time for our community to build upon. Don't hesitate to take it upon yourself to get involved with one of the many community groups in need to volunteers.

Friends of Portage Park:
www.friendsofportagepark.org

Friends of Dickinson Playlot Park:
dickinsonpark@gmail.com

Portage Park Neighborhood Association:
www.portagepark.org



A market-goer looks over the selection at the Portage Park Farmers Market.



Dickinson Park Playlot sits ready to entertain an new generation of neighborhood children. The park is due to reopen in this month.

The Maurer Law Group

www.maurerlawgroup.com

Nick V. Maurer

Attorney

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Sept. Meeting Location Change

We will be joining forces with the Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) and the Six Corners Business Association to honor the artists involved in creating the mural at the viaduct on Irving Park Road.

All are invited to a dedication that will start at 6:30 p.m. on September 14th at **the viaduct on Irving Park Road just east of the Jewel grocery store**. After the dedication we will all walk to the **Irving Park Baptist Church at 4401 W. Irving Park Rd.** At this time a reception and general meeting will be held.

Friends of Portage Park Update

Earth Day was a success! Thanks to volunteers for cleaning the park, SmartCenter of Lincolnwood for test drives of Smart Cars and wonderful music from Steve Hartley's Blue Grass Band. Thanks also to Jewel/Osco for donating 200 reusable bags for Earth Day participants. The kids' sale was well attended and plans are being made for a fall kids' sale. If you are interested in registering as a seller, please send an email to portageparkplayground@gmail.com or call 427-8545 for more information.

Mark your calendar:

- **Playground renovation update:** *There are no formal plans for the playground renovation. The playground committee is looking for fundraising ideas and volunteers to research and write grants. We are sending another set of letters to our elected officials to support and help fund the playground renovation. Please do your part and contact our elected officials and request that they fund renovating the Portage Park playground.*

Thanks for your continued support! For more information, please visit: www.friendsofportagepark.org.

Kilbourn Park Greenhouse

Discover the wonderful world of nature! Spark your curiosity and explore the fun & educational offerings at the Chicago Park District's only park with a teaching organic greenhouse.

Beginning in September the Kilbourn Park Greenhouse will offer a series of six workshops for adults.

Kids can get their hands dirty while enjoying the 3-season Harvest Garden youth program, Garden Buddies program for toddlers, environmental-themed projects and crafts, as well as various family workshops.

This year's Family Harvest Festival—a free, annual Celebration of the End of the Growing Season—will take place on Saturday, September 12h from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Held in a festive autumn setting, this family-friendly event will include tastes from the organic garden, face-painting, and a craft project.

The first-ever public fruit tree orchard in a major metropolitan city was planted in Kilbourn Park at the Organic Greenhouse in fall 2008. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation generously donated 24 high-quality, mature fruit trees and helped plant with a team of volunteers. The fruit trees include apples, pears, plums, cherries, and paw paws. They are still getting adjusted to their new home, but we look forward to years of harvesting fruit in the park! In addition, we planted currants, gomme berries, blackberries, raspberries and several grape vines. These fruits are going to be a wonderful addition to our already abundant strawberry harvest.

The Organic Greenhouse is always looking for volunteers—including parents with their children!

Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse is located at 3501 N. Kilbourn Avenue. The greenhouse is open Tuesday through Saturday; hours of operation vary. The fieldhouse is open 7 days a week, excluding major holidays.

For further information regarding the park or its programs, contact the Kilbourn Park fieldhouse at (773) 685-3351. For information about Kilbourn's Organic Greenhouse and its programs call (773) 685-3359. Or visit the Chicago Park District's website at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com and search for Kilbourn Park.

News for residents of the 38th Ward

Property taxes for the City of Chicago will be reassessed in 2009. Look for Jefferson Park Township notices which will be mailed in late summer/early Fall. Taxpayers will have 30 days to review the "Notice of Proposed Assessment" and file an appeal. Reasons for filing an appeal include property description error or classification error, such as building, land or age. The results of the appeal will be mailed to the taxpayer. Taxpayers can then contact the Assessor's Taxpayer Advocate for re-review. The final result will be determined and the taxpayer may then file at the Board of Review. The Assessor's Office will have an Outreach Program by township. Please watch this space for further details.

The 10th Annual "Fall into Fitness" 5K Run and Walk will take place on Sunday September 27, 2009. The 5K Run/Walk starts at 8:30 a.m. in Portage Park, at Irving Park Road and Long Avenue. The certified course is a mini tour of the beautiful Portage Park neighborhood and the 38th Ward. I am co-sponsor of the race with Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center. Fall into Fitness will take place rain or shine. Proceeds will go toward providing health care for the indigent who are treated at Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center. Race registration information can be found online at www.signmeupsports.com or in person at Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison or the 38th Ward Service Office, 5817 W. Irving Park Road, 773-545-3838.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my service office at 773-545-3838 or via e-mail at ward38@cityofchicago.org.

Alderman Tom Allen - 38th Ward Service Office

Northwest Chicago Historical Society Exhibit at Taste of Polonia

The historical society will be presenting an exhibit inside the old Gateway theater at this years upcoming Taste of Polonia from September 4-7th. We will have old pictures of the northwest side on display. You can find more information on our events at www.nwchicagohistory.org

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic School - PRESCHOOL NEWS

To meet demand for our preschool program, we are adding another preschool classroom for the 2009-2010 year!

- Families who were on the waiting list can now register.
- Openings for full and half day are currently available.
- Before and after school care is available.
- The hot lunch program is also available to preschoolers.

Meet the Teacher Night

Meet the Teacher night is Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 P.M. We will begin the evening in the church, then move to the school where parents will meet with homeroom teachers in their classrooms.

Weekly Bulletins Available Online

We are publishing the Weekly Bulletin on our school website each Thursday: srb-chicago.org

Tiny Tots Fall Session

Tiny Tots, the program for two-year-olds and their parent/caregiver, begins on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. for a ten week session. The fee for the ten week session is \$50.

Find more information online at www.srb-chicago.org or call the office at 773-725-5133 for registration information.

Chicago Public Library Celebrating Diversity

Hispanic Heritage Month Program presents "Early Mexican Chicago: Missing Pages of History" on Thursday, September 24 at 7p.m. Presented by Dr. Antonio Delgado, this lecture will trace the rich and vibrant history of Mexicans in Chicago from World War I to the present. Learn about the highly personal nature of immigration and its impact on the development and growth of Chicago. The program is bilingual.

Hosted by the Austin-Irving Branch, 6100 W. Irving Park Road. Call 312-744-6222 for more information about library programs.

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR... **VOLUNTEER!**

PARENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lead efforts to provide services targeting parents and children. Contact John Arena at communications@portagepark.org for more information.

CAPS REPORTER

Attend and provide your background and community committee on issues raised at monthly community meetings. Contact John Arena at communications@portagepark.org for more information.

**POSITION FILLED.
LOOK FOR CAPS REPORTS
IN FUTURE ISSUES.**

SECRETARY

Secretary is an officer level position on the board of directors. Responsibilities include attending board and public meetings, keeping and distributing minutes. Contact board@portagepark.org for more info.

PPNA Financial Report

Balance sheet as of August 31, 2009

GENERAL ASSETS

Previous Ending Balance \$5,390.98
Current Ending Balance \$5,445.05

REVENUE

Newsletter Advertising \$1,230.00
Membership \$75.00
Parade Donations \$2,925.00
Parade Raffle \$568.00

Total Revenue \$4,798.00

EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing \$990.00
Communications Committee..... \$96.00
Membership Committee \$45.93
Community Development..... \$375.00
Parade Expences \$3,237.00

Total Expenses \$4,743.93



MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT—show your card and receive discounts from these PPNA business partners



Membership cards can be used to receive discounts at participating area businesses. Participating businesses and their discounts:

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT OFFERED
City Newsstand	10% off everything on Tuesdays
Drehobl Art Glass	10% discount
Dutch Cleaners	10% off dry cleaning
Easy Copy	4¢ b/w, 75¢ color copies everyday \$75 for 100 Business Cards
Energy Fitness	10% discount on all programs offered
Hands Over Stress	\$10 off 1 hour wellness massage \$5 off any 30 minute massage
La Peña Restaurant	10% off entire check, every day
Liberty Tax Service	50% off individual or business tax return
Meisa Cafe	10% off entire check, every day
Maria Pollock-Piano Tuning	\$10 off (773 286-6368)
New Six Corners Flowers	15% discount
Portage Park Handyman	10% off with proof of membership
Portage Theater	\$2 off ticket price. (except silent films)
Right Now Redesign	\$50 off a Room Redesign
Rudy's Cycles	10% off non-sale parts & access.
Veranda Lighting	10% discount on non-sale merchandise
Wong's Chinese	10% off entire check, every day

As businesses are added, they will be listed in this newsletter and on our web site. If you are an area business and would like to participate, please contact the PPNA at membership@portagepark.org. If you have not yet joined or renewed your PPNA membership, please do so to take advantage of this benefit. Cards will be mailed to each paid member, and will be valid through Dec. 31, 2008.

PPNA Public Meeting Agenda

Irving Park Baptist Church

4401 W. Irving Park Rd. after mural dedication. See note on Pg.2

- I. Call to Order:
Gerard Staniszewski
- II. President's Opening Statement:
Gerard Staniszewski
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. GUEST SPEAKERS
- V. Old/New Business
- VI. Meeting Adjourned



Rich Escallier, aka the Portage Park Handyman, offers home maintenance fix-it tips at the June public meeting.

See the agenda to the left for information about this months speakers.

Expires: 12/31/09

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Advertise your business in the PPNA newsletter

PPNA News & Views is distributed to 4,500 homes and businesses within the boundaries of the Portage Park Neighborhood Association (Montrose Avenue to the north, Grace Street to the south, Cicero Avenue to the east and Central Avenue to the west) on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).

In addition, we also publish 6 Member issues in the months of February, May, August, October, November. In these months, the newsletters will be mailed directly to paid members. 1200 additional copies are available to the general public only at business locations that are current advertisers or business members.

Electronic issues will be emailed to those members who request it and to certain individuals and institutions outside of the Association boundaries at the discretion of the PPNA Communications Committee.

The newsletter is delivered on or about the first weekend of the month. Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

RATES (per 3.5" x 2" ad)

10 issues—\$350.00 (4 quarterly, 6 Member Issues)

4 quarterly issues—\$180.00

Individual month—\$50.00

To reserve your ad space contact John Arena at 773-283-9887
or e-mail newsletters@portagepark.org

By Jan Kupka

Irises are lovely late spring blooming bulbs. They provide a striking vertical accent with their stiff sword-shaped leaves. Flower colors run the rainbow from deep burgundy red to pastel pinks and yellows, to every shade of blue and violet. The plant produces leaves, flower stems, and roots from a thick, root-like structure called a rhizome.

Irises require good air circulation so give them room to breathe. Plant them a minimum of 8 inches apart (less space for dwarf irises and more for taller varieties). Irises can be easily transplanted anytime from mid-summer when flowering is over to early fall, at least 6 weeks before the first frost so plants have time to get established. Plant the rhizomes in a sunny spot with the top of the rhizome exposed. Don't plant in clay or a waterlogged soil; the plants need well-drained soil and at least six hours of sunlight per day.

Prune back the foliage in the fall. This will reduce the chances of overwintering pests and diseases. The foliage needs to remain all summer to gather energy (through photosynthesis) to store in the rhizomes for future growth. In the fall cut back the leaves leaving fans about 5 to 6 inches long.

Do not mulch. Mulching retains moisture, and too much moisture will cause soft rot of the rhizomes. Mulch can be laid between clumps, but not on the rhizomes or crowns. Rhizome soft rot is common in some varieties and in wet growing seasons.

As the plant matures, the rhizome produces more rhizomes, which in turn lead to more leaves and flowers. Over time, however, the original rhizome withers and dies off. When this happens, bloom production slows and it is necessary to divide the plant, removing and replanting the baby rhizomes so they can develop.

Make dividing a habit. When the Irises become crowded blooming is reduced, so plan on separating every three or four years. Carefully dig the clumps with a garden fork or spade, taking care not to chop into the rhizomes more than necessary. Divide the rhizomes by pulling them apart with your hands. In some cases, you may need to use a sharp knife to separate the baby rhizomes from their mothers. A good rhizome will be about as thick as your thumb, have healthy roots, and have one or two leaf fans. Large, old rhizomes that have no leaf fans can be discarded.

Wash the soil off the rhizomes so that you can inspect each iris. Some gardeners like to wash their iris rhizomes in a 10-percent bleach solution to protect against disease, but that won't help plants that are already rotting. Soft, smelly, or rotting plants should also be destroyed. Discard any that feel lightweight or hollow. Clip off the leaf blades so that they're 4 to 6 inches long. This reduces the stress that the plant goes through as it concentrates on growing new roots instead of trying to maintain long leaves.

Dry the rhizomes for a day to callous wounds. Replant divisions with a bit of the top surface of the rhizome just visible at the soil surface.

The August Portage Park Garden Club meeting will be held Saturday, August 22 at 9:30am in the Community room on the 2nd floor (there is an elevator) of the Austin Irving Library 6100 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-744-6222. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jerry Garner speaking on "Orchids 101", a beginners class. Guests are always welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information call the Portage Park Garden Club at 773-794-1984 or e-mail the PPGC at portageparkgc@comcast.net

PPNA 2009 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

This is a New Membership Renewal

Would you like to receive email updates on PPNA news and events? Yes / No

Membership Type: Household Business

Dues: \$15 per Household, \$8 per Senior Household, \$25 per Business

Please check any and all areas for which you would be willing to volunteer/participate:

<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development/Zoning*	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising (Parade, Holiday Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> History
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior's Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (Distribution, Writing, Layout)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities (Members Only Events, Portage Park Palates)
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety/CAPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Website Development	

* Restaurants/Entertainment/Cultural Venues, Residential/Retail Development, and TIF Advisory Committee

Please list any issues and/or topics that you feel the PPNA should address this year:

Please list any special skills you have which may be helpful to the PPNA:
(Public Relations, Legal, Accounting, Musical/Artistic, Bilingual, etc.)

Membership renewals are due January 1 and expire December 31.

Bring completed membership form with payment to the next public meeting, held the second Monday of each month at 7:30PM.
Peoples Gas & Coke Building
4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

Or, mail completed membership form with payment to:
Portage Park Neighborhood Association
Attn: Jill Staniszewski
5159 W. Montrose Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641

GREEN CORNER

For Our Community, Our Planet



GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: Why Compost?

Choose or construct a bin for your compost. While you can compost successfully in a pile on the ground, a bin will keep the process a bit neater and help to discourage animals if you are composting food scraps. Depending on the construction of the bin, it can also help to regulate moisture and temperature.

Fill your bin with a balanced mixture for best results like green grass clippings with brown fallen leaves.

Green stuff is high in nitrogen which activates the heat process in your compost. Perfect heat-generating materials include: young weeds (before they develop seeds); comfrey leaves; yarrow; chicken, rabbit or pigeon manure; grass cuttings; etc. Other green items that compost well include fruit and vegetable scraps; coffee grounds and tea leaves (including tea bags - remove the staple if you wish); and vegetable plant remains.

Brown stuff is high in carbon to serve as the "fiber" for your compost. Brown stuff includes fall (autumn) leaves; dead plants and weeds; sawdust; cardboard & cardboard tubes (from foil wraps etc); old flowers (including dried floral displays; old straw and hay; and small animal bedding.

Your pile should be about as damp as a sponge that has been wrung out. Depending on your climate, you can add water directly or rely on the moisture that comes in with "green" items. A lid on the compost bin will help to keep moisture in. If a pile gets too much water in it, it might not get enough air.

Layer or mix the different materials in your bin so that they come into contact with one another and so that you avoid any large clumps. Especially avoid compacting large

quantities of green materials together, since they can rapidly become anaerobic.

Try for a mixture of anywhere from 3 parts brown to 1 part green to half and half, depending on what materials you have on hand.

Try and move the mixture from top to bottom. Break up anything that is clumpy or matted. Add water or wet, green materials if it seems too dry. Add dry, brown materials if the pile seems too wet. Turn it to introduce the new matter and mix it well with the older matter.

Try to avoid composting bread, pasta, nuts, and cooked food. They don't break down very easily, become quite slimy, and can hold up the heating, rotting-down process.

Never compost the following items for reasons of health, hygiene and inability to break down: meat and meat scraps; bones; fish and fish bones; plastic or synthetic fibers; oil or fat; pet or human feces (except for manure of herbivorous creatures such as rabbits and horses); weeds that have gone to seed; diseased plants; disposable diapers; glossy paper or magazines; coal and coke ash; and cat litter. Place these items in the normal garbage collection.

If all goes well, you will find that you have a layer of good compost at the bottom of your bin. Remove this and spread it on or dig it into your garden beds.

Very fresh compost can grow plants, but it can also rob the soil of nitrogen as it continues to break down. If you think you are not all the way done, either leave the compost in the bin for a while longer or spread it in your garden and let it sit there for a few weeks before planting anything in it.

Together for Awhile - The Mural at Kolmar and Irving Park Road

Elena Katz, a young woman who has lived in Old Irving Park all of her life, is the DePaul University art student who designed the Kolmar mural and coordinated the team of volunteers who enthusiastically helped her.

Elena has a list of some of the volunteers' names, but there were probably many more people who helped but whose names never got on a list because they unofficially joined the ranks of scrapers, sweepers, and painters.

There was a lot of hustle going on at that once-ugly railroad viaduct during the April-June days of community labor which transformed



Elena Katz

the beast into a beauty. Some people walked past the viaduct on their way to an errand. They stopped, asked what was going on, and when they heard that art was going on, they interrupted their errands long enough to pick up a scraper or a brush and joined in on the fun. We all seemed to have become characters in Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn.

The dedication wall is on the southwest edge of the mural. There you will see the title Elena gave the mural, Together for Awhile. She encourages us to bring whatever meaning we wish to those words because art is seen differently by each person. Together for Awhile, can remind us of the summer of 2009 when a number of us worked side by side to create that joyful mural.

The title can also refer to that quick moment of time when someone drives or walks past the mural and is mentally transported by the images and colors to a feeling of togetherness with nature even while standing in the middle of a busy city street.

However, Elena has her own personal and beautiful explanation of why she chose those words to name our mural. Her mother, Patricia Obosla Katz, died last year. She was Elena's inspiration to help create something beautiful in our community. Her mother was always an advocate of change and Elena wanted her to know that although they did not have as much time together as either of them wanted, they were together for awhile. And Patricia gave us Elena to give us her spirit of love and beauty. Thank you, Patricia.

Disney II Magnet

The PTA invites you to a FREE "Parent Coffee" on the first day of school, Tuesday September 8th. All parents are invited to join us for coffee in the cafeteria after the NEW 8:30 AM drop-off time. Homemade breakfast pastries are welcome :) If you can help with set-up or clean-up for this event, please contact Renee Linnemeyer at renegir@aol.com.

Jewel Shop and Share days will be September 28th through September 30th. Please contact the school office or the PTA for more information. Coupons will be available closer to the Shop and Share dates. I have included some helpful articles (below) about Back-to-School topics from the National PTA website, for anyone who is interested. Enjoy!

Renee Linnemeyer

Disney II PTA Social & Community Chair

Live cinema accompanied
by the Portage Theater's
newly restored pipe organ
at the **2009 Silent Summer
Film Festival**

The Silent Film Society of Chicago (SFSC) is pleased to present, now in its 10th successful year, Chicago's very own live cinematic event - The 2009 Silent Summer Film Festival! For six consecutive Fridays from July 24th through August 28th, moviewgoers experienced the magic of silent film as it was meant to be seen – and heard – in a original multimedia production at the historic Portage Theater in Chicago!

This year's festival promised to be a landmark event with the unveiling of a magnificent 1927 Grande Cinema organ, recently rescued by SFSC volunteers and restored to its former splendor. The new organ will be prominently displayed via an elevator lift, ensuring a dramatic return to its place in the spotlight. Dennis Wolkowicz, Managing Director of the theater, believes that the organ will play a central role in fostering a genuine silent film experience.

The movies screened at this year's festival showcase memorable performances by silent-era stars, such as comedy legend W.C. Fields and Mary Brian in the rambunctious farce *Running Wild* (1927); George Bancroft and Clive Brook in Josef von Sternberg's gangster saga and cinematic masterpiece, *Underworld* (1927); brilliant funnyman Harold Lloyd and Jobyna Ralston in the romantic charmer *Girl Shy* (1924); the first Chinese-American film actress, Anna May Wong, and Gilda Gray in the sexy thriller *Piccadilly* (1929); the mesmerizing Douglass Fairbanks in the epic adventure *The Thief of Baghdad* (1924); and the first recipient of the Academy Award for "Best Actress," Janet Gaynor, and Charles Farrell in the World War I drama *Seventh Heaven* (1927).

All films are projected in 35mm print format and presented with live organ accompaniment by celebrated organists Dennis Scott, Jay Warren and Michael Jacklin. Mike Bezin and his West End Jazz Band entertain arriving guests with live traditional 1920's jazz along with organist Dennis Scott prior to the opening- and closing-night features.

The 2009 Silent Summer Film Festival delivers a truly unique cinematic experience not to be missed! For ticket and group discount information, please contact Dennis Wolkowicz at 773.205.7372, or visit www.silentfilmchicago.com.

Portage Park Palates

by Jan and Jill

Portage Park Palates plus four went to Shokran Moroccan Grill on a warm June night. This place was recommended to us by a new member, she said that she had just gone there and loved it, so we decided to make this our next review. She had also found out Khalid, the owner, had gone to Morocco, and had written down his mother's recipes and brought them back. This made me want to try it even more. Shokran is located just east of the Blue Line Stop on Irving on the south side of the street. If you are driving and heading east, as you cross the traffic getting off the expressway, get ready to pull over to the side. There are plenty of meters open. It's more expensive to park at the meters, but the plus side is the open spaces in front. Once inside, we waited for all our dining companions and surveyed the lay of the land. The room in front has comfortable booths and a large case showcasing all the bakery items. Straight back is the kitchen. Jog slightly left and there is a small room for a group. Go a little farther, and find a really beautiful room with a multi-fabric ceiling, made to look like you're in a tent. We settled into a nook which was just the right size for our group. It was BYOB, and we had our wine bottles and beer in tow. There were a few couples in the room as well as our group.

The waitress, Laura, gave us our menus, and brought us glassware and silverware. We decided to try a few appetizers, to try as much as we could for the review. I ordered the hummus, the creamy chickpea dip, and it came with warm pita quarters. The pita had to be replenished, because the spread was delicious and addictive. We also ordered the Classic Moroccan salad, and the Blue Grill sampler-which consisted of chicken kabobs, steak kabobs, and shrimp kabobs, with onion rings. It was plenty for the six of us to pass around and try. We poured our drinks and looked at the menu for our dinner order. Laura, the server, was great. She really added to the enjoyable evening, and brought us everything we needed. Khalid, came by and asked how we were enjoying our visit. It may be Moroccan hospitality, but we all felt special.

After a bit, it was time to order dinner. Most everything is grilled, but there are tangines, which is a slow roasted Moroccan stew, and bastila, which is a baked phyllo dough with chicken, hard boiled eggs, crushed almonds, then topped with powdered sugar and cinnamon. Kind of savory, but also sweet. I was going to opt for that, but, the Grilled lamb chops called my name. All the entrees come with two sides, mine were garlic mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables. The plate was enough for two-so I brought home a dinner for another day. Another of us ordered the small lamb kabobs at \$8.99 with grilled veggies and yaktouka (roasted red pepper dip). The smaller portion was just fine for one, and it was really good. Two others of our group ordered the small chicken kabobs. And two others ordered the Merquez, which is the Moroccan sausage. Khalid told me he spent a week with a butcher to learn how to make it. The winner of the sides turned out to be the roasted pepper dip. Everyone agreed the food was fabulous. We were stuffed.

Even after all this, we decided on getting dessert. We ordered a couple, so everyone could have a bite. The apple turnover bites looked good, and we wanted to try the baklava. Khalid wanted to make sure we all had some, so he sent several portions to the table. We found room in our already full stomachs and devoured the desserts. I would come here just for pastry.

The Shokran Moroccan Grill (4027 W. Irving Park Road) has been open for about a year. It's open daily for lunch and dinner from 11am to 10pm, and they have fast delivery-call 773-427-9130. It's a very pleasant dining experience and it's even BYOB. We loved it and we agreed that it was a fine addition to our dining destinations. The food is well prepared, and the service couldn't be better. Now, if I could get the recipe for the hummus and the red pepper dip...

We invite members of the PPNA to join us as well as continuing to ask for suggestions naming your favorite restaurant in the area. In 2009, we hope you will continue to suggest restaurants and join us when we meet. If you would like to join us, our only requirement is that you do not notify the restaurant. We all pay for our own portion of the check, share the dishes and offer opinions for the review. An article about the restaurant will appear in the following PPNA newsletter. Send your emails to membership@portagepark.org or communications@portagepark.org.



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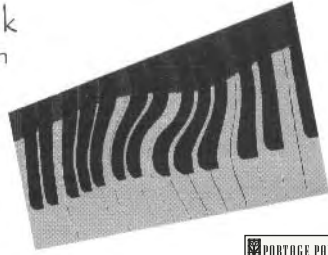



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Have You Noticed?? *By John Arena*

This past July 4th we had an act of violence that was alarming. But that act was met with multiple acts of kindness. The victim was Gary Heitz, a resident on Lawler Ave. Following is a letter to the community from his wife Laura:

Each year on 4th of July, one half of the neighborhood shuts the windows and waits for the noise and smoke to subside. Or, they leave town to avoid the chaos. The other half relishes the thrill and noise of fireworks.

These two groups came together this past fourth, near Dickinson Park.

Some teenagers blew up a port-a-potty, while adults laughed and egged them on. My husband walked over to express his opinion about the fireworks, and was attacked by people who were attending a party across from the park.

We spent eight hours in the emergency room.

We're asking our neighbors to stand up to these bullies. We need to let everyone know that this type of behavior won't be tolerated. If you saw anything, please contact us or the 16th District Police. We've also spoken with Alderman Levar and he's pledged his assistance.

Going forward, there needs to be a compromise between the pro and con fireworks people. We think that most of the "con" folks get upset over the noise and the smoke that ensues from the illegal stuff. On the other hand, the "pro" group loves the excitement and the thrills.

We can show the rest of the city how it can be done. We're not going to speak for our elected officials, but why not hold a fireworks festival, perhaps at Portage Park?

Let's think about what it would mean to do a neighborhood fireworks festival in the wide open spaces. We could have music, food tents, etc. Perhaps we could lead the way and start a trend? Our neighbors could choose to stay home or attend. It might lessen the tension between the opposing groups.

I think that whether you agree with us or not, civil people can express their opinions without using their fists. Let's not allow these differences to lead to another incident of cowardly behavior.

Portage Park is a wonderful area and we want to thank our terrific neighbors who have expressed their support in so many ways. We value your friendship more than you will ever know. Thank you.

Laura and Gary Heitz -- glheitz@sbcglobal.net

When I read her letter I was floored by her class and grace in the face of this kind of ignorance. Her suggestion needs to be considered and there should be a discussion of how the illegal use of fireworks will be addressed prior to the next July 4th holiday.

A petition requesting the removal of the police camera over Dickinson Park was circulated to residents and 25 signatures were submitted to Ald. Pat Levar. Since it was originally placed to appease one now-former resident without community input, I figured 25 current-resident voices would get it removed. Not so.

Despite the camera not producing an image that could identify a tagger working directly under it (I saw the images), the reply letter dated July 2009 states "Once the police department feels the camera has served its purpose, we will have the camera removed."

Gary Hietz was attacked about 100 feet from the camera as party-goers blew up a port-a-potty. Taggers defaced property along the entire block within direct sight of the camera. The camera is not a deterrent and it does not produce images that result in arrests. It should be removed.

Ald. Levar, next time please put that \$60,000 towards a policeman's salary. That would serve a purpose.

'Have You Noticed' contains opinions that may not be the opinion of the PPNA board or its members. Have you noticed anything that needs more noticing? Do you have an opinion? Send it to our new address: haveyounoticed@portagepark.org



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