

# CTPA March 6, 2012 Quarterly Meeting Write Up / Minutes

The CTPA quarterly meeting was held on Tuesday, March 6. This was the time for directory pick up and, if reserved in advance, to pick up a copy of the book **Streetwise**, made available by Holly Jensen CTG. This out-of-print reference explains Chicago street names. Holly had 35 copies she donated to CTPA requesting that the proceeds from the book sale benefit CTPA programs. Thanks Holly!

President, Donna Primas began the meeting by making sure all who were to get directories, had directories and if there were any corrections they should be made in writing to Al Walavich or to Donna. Mention was made that insurance cards were not included for the 40 members who opted to purchase guide liability insurance. Donna also introduced new members, Associate (company) members present. The newest certified guides names were announced—Pat Birch, Maureen Callaghan and Tony DeSalvo—and if present, they were given pin-on CTPA logo name badges by Certification Committee Chair Wayne Galasek CTG to commemorate their achievement.

Vote was taken to approve the CTPA Officer's recommendation to recognize two new honorary members: **The Field Museum** and **Lawry's The Prime Rib Restaurant**. Both were unanimously approved by the general membership and named CTPA Honorary Members.

Several CTPA members attended the National Federation of Tourist Guide Assns-USA (NFTGA) meeting in San Francisco in January 2012. While there was not time for a presentation about this conference, the members who attended—Esther Banike, Cathie Ruth, Michael Levinson, Herb Eiseman and Terry Hall—were asked to stand and members were directed to speak with them if they wanted more information.

Mention was made of the upcoming activities at the Symphony Center on March 7 and the Planetarium on March 13. The first ever movie night at Donna's condo theatre space will feature a documentary about Louis Sullivan dedicated to Aileen Mandel who speaks briefly in the film.

Donna mentioned also that this is an election year, with nominations being done in September and the CTPA bank account is healthy with about \$12,000.

Donna introduced our speaker for the evening, Tony Macaluso author of **Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront: A Celebration of the Grand Park Music Festival** and the author of the forth coming book **Secret Spaces atop Chicago**. It was also mentioned that Mr. Macaluso was once a Shoreline cruise guide!

The book in progress was highlighted in slides of photos by photographer Kate Joyce who has formerly worked for Hendrich Blessing and whose work has appeared in the New Yorker and other publications. Photo editor, Meg Handler who has worked with the Village Voice and Polaris is also a collaborator. The book is expected to be published in the spring of 2014 by Hat & Beard Press in conjunction with Princeton Architectural Press.

Macaluso's book, **Secret Spaces atop Chicago** is a photo history of the urge to climb above the city. Still being researched and written, Macaluso noted that it is sometimes hard to find images of the high spaces and some are difficult to visit. He is amazed by the variety of

places that were artist studios and was also surprised that not so many were CEO's offices.

Macaluso wanted to know why people were drawn to spaces atop the city. The Fine Arts Building is an example of a place to escape the city and to gain clarity. Cartoonist John T. McCutcheon (1870-1940), had a studio atop that building and when he went to work for the Tribune his contract indicated that he could choose any space he desired for his office and he selected the very top of the Tribune Tower.

Macaluso's collaborator Kate Joyce's current day photos comprise unique views looking straight up from the Jeweler's Building as well as 60 more that are being considered of interior spaces hidden away and the cultural history to visit and climb above the city.

As a note of the worldwide history of tall places of height, Macaluso mentioned the Tower of Babel, the Italian Tower of Pisa, pagodas and mosques.

In the book he will address at least seven types of spaces atop the city:

1. Observation areas
2. Exclusive Clubs
3. Places of Artistic refuge and Places for Pondering
4. Symbols of Power and Branding
5. Radio and television and other communication
6. Sites of Beauty and Vertigo
7. The Future Green Rooftops

There are several tales about places above the city that have urban legends attached, and he asked if we knew of any and/or if we knew where to find the TRUE story. As an example, he mentioned Sally Rand fan dancing atop the LaSalle and Wacker building. The speakeasy in the Jeweler's Building, aka the Stratosphere Lounge, was another. A CTPA member mentioned that the 311 S. Wacker building is *not* a wedding ring setting nor does it have anything to do with White Castle—as was verified by CTPA member Monica Hasbun by emailing the architect. There is not heliport atop Hotel 71, but there once was one at the Merchandise Mart.

Among the Chicago observation areas mentioned, was the 1890's mixed use Masonic Building (no longer standing), the Auditorium Theatre building tower where Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright both had offices, and the Montgomery Ward Building, where if you bought enough merchandise, you would get a ticket to visit. It was a prestigious thing to receive a postcard from someone who had visited one of these places. We were reminded that the Prudential Building once had an observation area and that the Hancock and the Willis Skydeck are simply the newest observatories.

The exclusive clubs included, the Chicago Club, Union League Club, Chicago Athletic Club, the University Club and the Stratosphere Club in the Jeweler's Building as well as the (now closed) Tavern Club at 333 N. Michigan. A few others were mentioned that have now closed or are only used for special events.

Places for artistic refuge and pondering included The Rookery, the Auditorium Tower and the Steinway Building (where the CNA building stands)--its 11<sup>th</sup> floor was home for Prairie School Architects. The Santa Fe Railway Exchange building, the Fine Arts Building (still home to many artists studios), and the Cliff Dwellers and the Civic Opera Building among others.

Buildings of branding and power were companies and institutions that used their buildings as

advertisements—the original Sears Tower on Homan Avenue, the Tribune Tower, the Wrigley Building, the Merchandise Mart and the Great American Furniture Mart (666 N. Lake Shore Drive).

The fifth type of space was for radio, television and communication. Again the Merchandise Mart is mentioned as the former home of the Chicago NBC affiliate, LaSalle and Wacker building where Studs Terkel would do his radio program, plus the Carbide and Carbon building. The Allerton Hotel had the Don McNeil Breakfast Club broadcast from the Tip Top Tap Room.

The sixth type of space atop the city was sites of beauty and vertigo. The example Macaluso used was Jimmy Terry, a dare devil high wire artist who walked back and forth between the Jeweler's building and the Carbide and Carbon in 1929 and balanced on the Montgomery Ward building in 1927. Also, at one time it was popular for celebrities to pose atop buildings for photo layouts.

The most recent roof top use—green roofs—are still in development and slowly becoming a way of life. Some examples are City Hall and the Cultural Center, the Logan Arts Center, Rush Medical Center and the original Sears Tower on Homan Avenue which also houses a performance space. There are several hotels that use their roofs as gardens for hotel produce and herbs used in seasonal menus.

Macaluso mentioned that no residential spaces will be featured in this project, as they could constitute a project in itself. In the future before or after publication of the book, Macaluso said he might work toward offering tours of some of the spaces.

The presentation concluded with members recalling places they have visited and asking questions about access to some spaces.

Tony Macaluso can be reached at 773-454-3445 or [tonymacalusotony@gmail.com](mailto:tonymacalusotony@gmail.com).

The meeting concluded with Donna thanking Tony Macaluso. Some members continued to network for a while longer.

***Minutes prepared by:  
Co-Secretary Gina V Driskell***