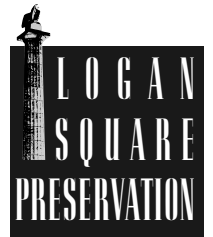


'RoundtheSquare

THE NEWSLETTER OF LOGAN SQUARE PRESERVATION WINTER 2019 EDITION



RIISING FROM THE ASHES

Stately Ash trees line Logan, Kedzie and Humboldt Boulevards. These emerald promenades make even simple road trips feel like grand events. But the truth is, the trees are doomed. They are victims of an invasive species that notoriously feeds on Ash trees—the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Ash Borer Disease hit Illinois and 24 other states extremely hard since it was discovered in 2002. In 2015, the Illinois Department of Agriculture determined it was too late to limit the spread of the EAB (*Chicago Tribune*, Oct 21, 2015). The battle to save most of our green and white Ash trees could not be won.

The fate of this foliage is much like that of the Elms that stood before them, which were cut down en masse in the 1970s when infested with Dutch Elm Disease. To avoid the devastation of a single species, most cities now install a variety of native and disease resistant trees. Dr. Andrew C. Bell, Curator of Woody Plants for the Chicago Botanic Garden, suggests new varieties of Elm, London Plane tree and Ginkgo among others. No new Ash trees should be planted.

Logan Square Preservation commissioned a detailed planting plan for Logan and Kedzie Boulevards in 2016. Produced by a local landscape architect, the plan details disease-resistant elm trees along the roadway and ornamental trees in the center of the green spaces. While it may take 30 years to fulfill the plan, we hope to obtain a permit and begin planting Logan Boulevard this Fall. Then the work will begin of taking down the dead and dying Ash trees so we can prepare the way for a healthier urban forest. ■

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2019

HAVE YOU RENEWED your membership for 2019?
Logan Square Preservation needs your support to continue our work to *Preserve, Beautify* and *Restore* Logan Square.
Please renew today! Easy to do via our website:
logansquarepreservation.org



LOGAN SQUARE STEPS UP TO SHOVEL LOGAN SQUARE

Upwards of 8,000 people depend on the Logan Square Blue Line every day. But during winter, snowfalls threaten to make the commute to the two main entrances at Kedzie and Milwaukee a little more treacherous. Thankfully, local groups and businesses, led by Logan Square Preservation, have banded together to pay for snow removal in and around the square leading to the Blue Line Station.

As of late February, Chicago has seen around 35" of snow—with more precipitation predicted through March. While property owners are required by law to clear adjacent sidewalks, and snow removal on streets and

MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings take place the third Thursday of every month at:

The Minnekirken

(Norwegian Church Hall at the Square)

2614 N Kedzie Blvd

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend these important and informative meetings!

Mar 21

April 18 May 16 June 20

July 25 August 15 Sept 19

Oct 17 Nov 21

at transit stops is taken care of by the city, Logan Square itself depends on the community to be cleared.

The Winter of 2018-2019 marks the fourth year in a row area businesses, groups, and politicians have donated. Neighbors can rest easy knowing the snow plows will come out anytime snowfall exceeds two inches. The cost: between \$2,600 to \$4,000 for the season, depending on what mother nature has in store.

Logan Square Preservation is grateful to the establishments and donors who made this possible. R. P. Fox & Associates, Logan Square Auditorium, Reno Chicago, Play, Scott Waguespack, 35th Ward Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, Logan Square Chamber of Commerce, The Whale Chicago and The Walk In. ■



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Logan Square Preservation has the need for some experienced volunteers to assist in our ongoing projects.

Archivist: LSP has a growing collection of photographs and Logan Square memorabilia. We now have a space to organize it and display it.

Grant Writer: We are constantly engaged in community based activities that would lend themselves to grants.

QuickBooks: Need volunteer to assist in growing volume of activity.

Events Volunteer Committee: We are now starting to organize our 2019 schedule. It's a good way to get engaged in Logan Square.



Park, Not Parking Lot

LOGAN SQUARE PRESERVATION is excited to let the community know that we've negotiated a small pocket park as a component of the new development at 3228 W. Palmer St. While the former Boy's and Girl's Club will be gone, the spirit of the former space, and the 100-year-old former synagogue that existed there before it, will remain.

A Living Circle

Amorphous forms recline, in plain air year-round, their undulating shapes rising from the cobblestone like concrete whales.

These sculptures, titled *Circulo Vivo* or "A Living Circle" are the centerpiece of the Logan Square Boys and Girls Club's *Barnet Hodes Sculpture Garden* – the city's first freestanding, community-built artwork.

Created by artists Lynn Takata and John Pitman Weber in 1981, the sculptures were built with federal and state funding support and substantial community participation. The project was under the umbrella of the Chicago Public Art Group, one of the premier public art groups in the country, that Weber co-founded almost 50 years ago.

The sculptures were inspired by Pedro Silva's *Grant's Tomb Mosaics* (1972-1974) and Antonio Gaudi's *Güell Park* ceramic-fragment-encrusted benches (1900-1914), as well as by the work of David Harding in Glenrothes, Scotland.

According to a *Chicago Tribune* article published in 2002, when an expansion of the Boys' and Girls' Club was being planned, Ald. Vilma Colom (35th) said a plan was in the works to move the sculptures to a vacant triangle of land at Milwaukee, Kimball and Diversey Avenues. While the fate of these sculptures is now uncertain, Logan Square Preservation is doing everything we can to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Chicago Tribune Feb 20, 2002. ■

Just what is LOGAN SQUARE PRESERVATION and what do we do?

LOGAN SQUARE PRESERVATION is a cornerstone non-profit organization working for over thirty years to preserve, restore and beautify the historic square, architecture and boulevards that make the Logan Square neighborhood unique.

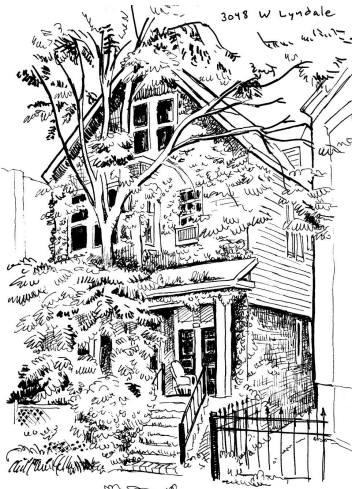
You can help support the continued beautification of this magnificent and historical area by becoming a member of Logan Square Preservation where you'll have a voice in important issues affecting one of the most desirable places in the city to live. Informative and topical meetings are currently held the third Thursday of each month. You'll be notified of locations and meeting agendas by email.

Join today if you'd like to help keep and preserve Logan Square the acclaimed neighborhood that it's always been and remains today. ■



City landmark district status achieved in 2005, protecting more than 200 buildings in what is today called the Logan Boulevards Landmark District.

— LOST HOUSES OF LYNDALE —



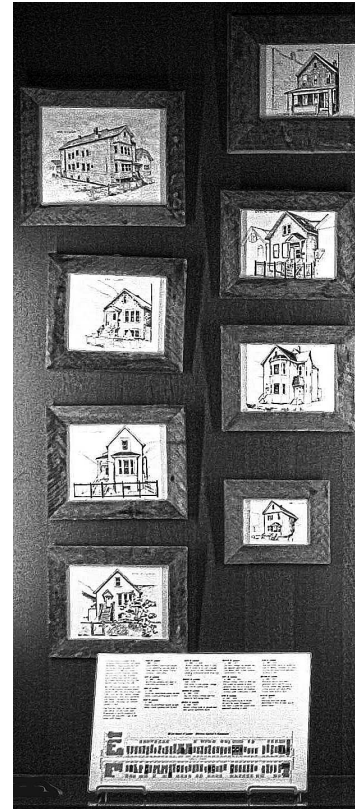
A drawing of 3048 W. Lyndale Street, is a sample of a home featured in the exhibit.

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, the two long blocks of Lyndale Street between California and Kedzie Boulevards have seen over twenty houses torn down for redevelopment. Many of these houses were frame cottages and 2-flats dating to the 1880s and 90s. Walking down the sidewalks of the street

Where I've lived for the past ten years, these old houses were familiar neighbors – each with a public face to the street and private history of those who lived there.

Today, construction crews topple the houses in a day, scraping the ground clean and erecting cinder-block towers with all the latest finishes. I'm sure in time these developments will become Lyndale's new familiar backdrop but to help myself remember what was once there I began drawing pen-and-ink portraits of the humble working-class houses that stood before.

Curious about the fates of the buildings, I looked at property records, census data and old city directories to piece



together a picture of what the street was like 125 years ago, learn a bit more about its earliest residents, and understand the street's historical path.

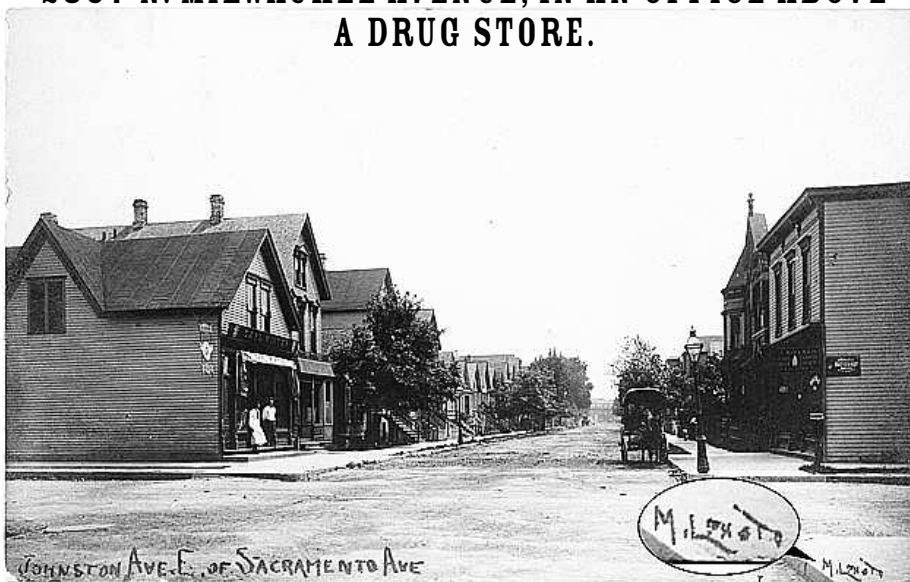
For an exhibit that ran from Nov. - Dec. 2018 at the Logan Square Library, I displayed the portraits in frames made from scraps of wood scavenged from the demolished houses, accompanied by miniature wooden house models containing relics, toys and photos left behind by former residents. As the old houses disappear, I hope that my portraits can preserve some small memory of the homes that stood proudly for over a century.

Help me tell their story.

If you live on Lyndale Street or know someone who did, please share your memory of what the street was like in the recent or far distant past. Contact logansquarepreservation.org.

REMEMBER WHEN

THE YEAR IS 1907. M-L PHOTO IS LOCATED AT 2837 N. MILWAUKEE AVENUE, IN AN OFFICE ABOVE A DRUG STORE.



At M-L Photo, photographers Leon Leonhard and Bismark "Ismar" Masure produce photo postcards of street views from Chicago as well as small towns and cities around Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

Like many partnerships, it began almost by accident. Leon, a barber-turned-photographer, lived with the family of his friend Arthur English, also a photographer.

Ismar likely learned the photography trade from his older brother Morris, who was a well-established portrait photographer with a studio near Maxwell Street at 14th and Halsted. Ismar and Morris lived with their parents at 912 W Belmont for several years before the family moved to the Woodlawn neighborhood.

There is a postcard craze in the air and M-L Photo is prospering. In fact, by 1913 it will have seven employees and Ismar will claim to make \$100 to \$150 per week (\$2500 to \$3800 in today's dollars), while Americans as a whole will mail more than 900 million postcards nationwide.

Ismar and Leon don't yet know that the public will lose interest in the postcard fad, that sales will fall and that they will have to close up shop in 1915 and move on – Ismar to Muskegon, Michigan, where he'll run a photo studio and greenhouse until passing away in 1952 and Leon to a career as an electrician, before passing away in 1938.

For now, it's business as usual and they're out taking pictures of Logan Square.

To view more historic photos of Logan Square, visit our website www.logansquarepreservation.org.

New T-Shirts are coming!

Wear your love of
Logan Square on

your
sleeve
with
these

designs from
Peoples Garment
Company.

Available now
from Logan Square
Preservation.

You can also purchase
mini-monuments and order
historic prints from our
website: <http://www.logan-squarepreservation.org>.



STAY TUNED!

Ready for a summer fling?
(Yes, you read that right.)
We are talking to St. John
Berchmans to host a summer
party and fundraiser in
their beautiful walled
garden exterior area. If
you haven't been, it's a
favorite "secret" spot.

In the next issue, we'll
explore the history of the
Grace's Furniture building,
including the rise and fall
of the exterior billboards,
and the structure's next
incarnation. (Hotel, perhaps? ■

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KEEP A PIECE OF LOGAN SQUARE HISTORY FROM GOING DARK



LOGAN SQUARE PRESERVATION is on a mission to restore the historic windows at the former 11th Church of Christ Scientist, today the Central Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Church, at 2840 W. Logan Boulevard.

The interior windows of the church, which were built by noted landmark architect Leon Stanhope, are in many places being held together with duct tape. If we're successful in raising the funds to restore these windows, the church has agreed to backlight the ones facing Logan Boulevard at night. Once again, they'll be a warm beacon to passers-by.



While the stained glass windows do not need to be removed, the cost is significant to fund the needed repairs. If you can help us, please visit our site to make a donation in any amount. ■