

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



EVENT RECAP

Wine and Cheese Party Comes Through Again

In November, GIPNA hosted the annual Wine and Cheese Party fundraiser at the Independence Tap in support of John B. Murphy School. Once again the Independence Park community turned out to enjoy the evening and give generously to the cause.

Attendees noshed, drank, played the cork game, and bought raffle tickets. Everyone enjoyed a new twist—the Wine Pop-up Bar, which offered limited sips of new and/or exotic libations—and

bid on silent auction items. Most importantly, we all had the chance to greet neighbors old and new.

Thanks to the support of the community, GIPNA was able to match last year's donation of \$8,000 to Murphy School, which will go to support its music programs. Murphy School held a presentation ceremony at its Sing-along on December 21.

We thank all our generous sponsors, both the businesses and the neighbors who were able to give items for the auction. Special recognition goes to George Lacon, the owner of the Independence Tap. We thank all our generous sponsors (listed on page 4), both the businesses and the neighbors who were able to give items for the silent auction.



GIPNA Board Meeting, February 5, Independence Park Bungalow, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



JANUARY

TUES., JAN. 1—The regular GIPNA Board Meeting **WILL NOT BE HELD** in January.

WED., JAN. 9—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

MON., JAN. 14—Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park. Meeting dates will be set for the rest of the year. See facebook.com/athleticfield.

WED., JAN. 16—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., JAN. 16—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, facebook.com/ipacchicago.

FEBRUARY

TUES., FEB. 5—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

WED., FEB. 13—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

WED., FEB. 20—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., FEB. 20—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, facebook.com/ipacchicago.

FRI., FEB. 22—Neighbors Night Out, 5:30 p.m., The Cabin at Old Irving, 4104 N. Pulaski Road.

MARCH

TUES., MAR. 6—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

WED., MAR. 13—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

WED., MAR. 20—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., Fairmont Care Center, 5061 N. Pulaski.

WED., MAR. 20—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, facebook.com/ipacchicago.

APRIL

TUES., APRIL 2—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

WED., APRIL 10—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

WED., APRIL 17—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., APRIL 17—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, facebook.com/ipacchicago.

MAY

TUES., MAY 7—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

WED., MAY 8—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

WED., MAY 15—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., MAY 15—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, facebook.com/ipacchicago.

POLICE NEWS

Pontecore Appointed as Commander for 17th District

Commander Ronald Pontecore has been named as commander of the 17th District of the Chicago Police Department. The 17th District area includes the Independence Park neighborhood.

Before transferring to the 17th District, Pontecore served as commander of the 8th District, which includes Chinatown, Bridgeport, and Brighton Park. Pontecore replaces Susan Moss, who served as 17th District commander for less than a year after replacing Elias Voulgaris. Moss has been transferred to Area Central as an executive officer.

In an interview with news media after his appointment, Pontecore acknowledged the 8th District has a higher crime rate than the 17th but identified gang violence and vehicle theft as issues he would be focused on in his new post. He brought

up community engagement and resident awareness as keys to successful policework. He was quoted as being interested in a “real community-based approach” and specifically mentioned increasing 911 calls via community outreach.

WINTER GET-TOGETHER

Neighbors Night Out Set for February 22

Need a bit of warmth during a cold stretch of winter? Join us for a night out with your neighbors!

GIPNA’s annual Neighbors Night Out will be held on Friday, February 22, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at a local tavern, The Cabin at Old Irving at 4104 N. Pulaski. Our Neighbors Night is the best way to break out of the monotony of winter.

The night is a very informal get-together to stretch our legs and meet up with friends instead of huddling under cover at home. Come on out to The Cabin for conversation and connecting with friends!

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE

The *Independence Park Community Voice* is published by the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), a 501(C)3 corporation.

This newsletter is for the Independence Park community. Please consider renewing your membership or joining GIPNA now. We need your support. Thank you.

Editorial: Jim O'Connor and others
Photography: April Bayne, Robin Hochstatter, Christine Zelenka
Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

For submissions for the March/April 2019 issue:

Editorial Deadline:
February 15, 2018

Advertising Deadline:
February 10, 2018

The editorial board reserves the right to edit all submissions. Errors in advertisements are the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

E-MAIL: GIPNMAIL@GMAIL.COM

MAIL: GIPNA, P.O. BOX 18184
CHICAGO IL 60618

WEBSITE: WWW.GIPNA.ORG

The Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA) is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the Independence Park community by involving, informing, and encouraging people to participate in matters relating to the community, and by protecting the historical, social, cultural, and architectural character of the neighborhood.

This all-volunteer publication is made possible by the creative voices of our community and the generous support of area advertisers.

Join GIPNA on Facebook

Check out the GIPNA Facebook page for news, alerts, and conversation with your neighbors. Post your own comments to get the word out on your activities and announcements.

To find the page and like it, search for GIPNA: Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association.

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COMMUNICATION

E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

All GIPNA members who have access to email should be receiving e-blasts each Thursday. The emails are compiled by GIPNA and feature such news as announcements of events in the community, crime reports, and notices of meetings.

If you're a member in good standing and are not receiving the blasts, send an email to us at gipnamail@gmail.com. We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

BUSINESS NEWS

Portillo's Proposed for Corner of Addison and Kimball

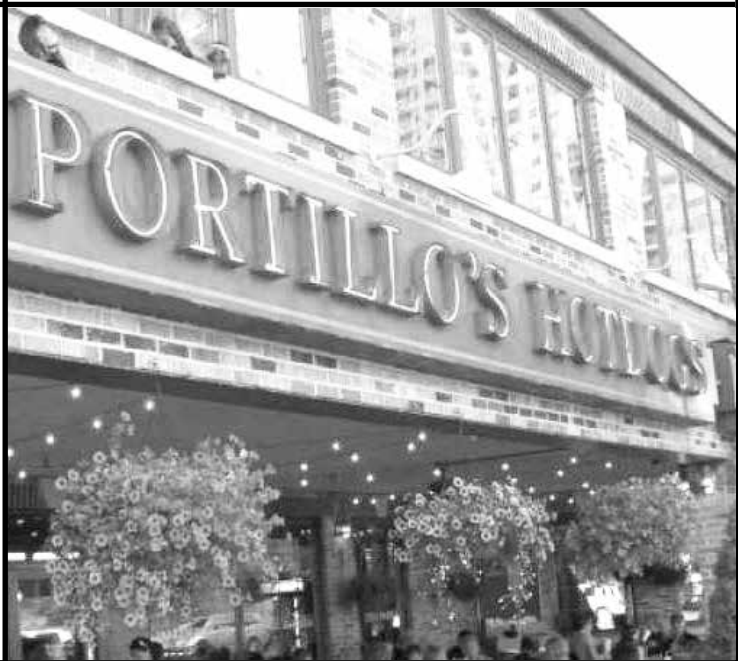
Portillo's is seeking approval to build a restaurant on the southeast corner of Addison and Kimball, across from the former CVS. 35th Ward Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa held a community hearing in November to hear neighbors' comments and questions.

Portillo's proposes to tear down the existing structure and build a new building. (City approval is needed for development, as the site will be converted from manufacturing to a commercial use.) The design would be very similar to other Portillo's restaurants in the city and suburbs, with 120 parking spaces and dual drive-through lanes. Plans also include an outdoor patio area.

The plan is to be open for lunch through dinner, until 11 p.m. on weekends. Alcohol sales are in the proposal. Portillo's projects a staff of 150 (full-time and part-time) and says local hiring is a priority. The projected opening would be in late 2019, depending on when and if the project is approved.

Most questions from the community concerned traffic. Portillo's foresees no significant increase in congestion, although most residents were not convinced. The plan stipulates right-turn only to or from Addison on entrance or exit—no left-turns allowed onto or from Addison. Left turns in would be allowed from Kimball.

Ramirez-Rosa also addressed questions on the vacant Kmart location on Addison, reporting that Portillo's didn't think that site would work. He says no plans for the site are in the works but sees it as an important commercial corner in the 35th Ward and promises it will be developed.



Wine and Cheese Party Donors

Thank you for your generosity, whether you gave an auction item, a cash donation, or simply your time and support. We couldn't do it without you!

Albany Park Auto Clinic	Ixtapateco Grill on Montrose
Always There Dental Care	Kathy Krumsee
AVP Jewelry and Beads	The Loewenberg Charitable Foundation
Ay Ay Picante Peruvian Cuisine	Lucas
Alison Benjamin	Lucky Dog Pet Services
Benny's Chop House	Katie Manion
Jan Berger and Robin Hochstatter	Amy and Chris Mastroianni
Meta Berger	Teresa Matchett
Max Bessen	Mirabella Restaurant
Bittersweet Pastry Shop	Jeff Murray
Chris Brink & Darryl Rouse	Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Russell Byrd	Dickie Nichols
Call of the Wild School for Dogs	Bobbie and Jim O'Connor
Cheesecake Factory	Old Town School of Folk Music
Chicago Athletic Clubs	Olive Garden Restaurant
Chicken Works and Salad Company	Original Alps Pancake House
Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant	Paddy Mac's/McNamara's
Pat Clark	Pierre's Car Wash
Classic Bowl	Tim Porcelli
Connoisseur Wine Collections	Dennis Puhr and Bernardo Bello
Crosstown Chiropractic	Bill Reedy
Chris and Kellie Cunningham	Rodinia, LLC
Terry Cunningham	Cindy Schuch and Mike Lynch
D. Engraving	Sharon Sears
Terry Davis	Greg and Liz Shea
Davis Theater	Shoreline Sightseeing
Liz Drew and Dan Lurie	Rachel Sloan
Eris Brewery and Cider House	Smoque BBQ
Farmers Market Garden Center	Sow Chicago
Sarah and Todd Ferry	Thai Thai Restaurant
Friends of Murphy	The Cat's Meow
Jose Garces	The Wooden Spoon
Chris Geymer	Triangle Auto Service
GIPNA	Vaughan Hospitality Group
Judy Glaser/NPK Associates	Deepti and Anthony Vito
Gray Tree Service	Volta Performing Arts
Kevin Haight and Peter Rogers	Anne and Mark Watkins
HaiSous Vietnamese Kitchen	Karen Wegrzyn and Kris Nowak
Hearth & Crust Restaurant	Tom and Kate Whitworth
Lisa Hinton	Roberta and Ken Wilk
Kristin and Andy Holub	Windy City Playhouse
Hot Woks, Cool Sushi	Wishbone Restaurant
Bob Huston	Helen and Craig Youngberg
Independence Park	Christine Zelenka
Irving Park Liquor Store	

Clean Water Begins with You

A Healthy Waterway Begins with You, a Guide to Water Wellness, a booklet published by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, was handed at one of last summer's Independence Park Farmers Markets. Among many interesting facts, the booklet offered Tips on Protecting Our Waterways. Although right now our waterways are more likely to be frozen than flowing, these ideas are worth remembering.

- Nutrient pollution in the waterways can kill aquatic life and impair waterbodies. Keep yard waste like leaves and twigs away from sewer drains, and never sweep it into the street. Choose environmentally friendly, organic fertilizers and select native plants for your landscape design—native species can thrive with minimal care. Don't allow fertilizers containing phosphorus or chemicals to run into the street or lake; instead, leave a buffer zone when near a body of water.
- Pet waste contributes to nutrient contamination. Never allow pet waste to enter the waterways. (The same goes for medication.) Always clean up after your pets and walk them away from waterbodies.
- Food waste can contribute to water pollution. Choose unprocessed, chemical-free foods and beverages. Not only will you be helping your water, but you will also be helping your health.
- Pesticides can be absorbed in soil and seep through into aquifers. Find environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical products.
- Rock salt (sodium chloride) and salt runoff are harmful to surface water. Reduce your salt usage on snow and ice in the winter.
- Car washes are required to properly dispose of wastewater. Many filter and recycle the water. When washing your car at home, set up on a pervious surface such as grass or gravel (not concrete or asphalt) so dirty water is filtered before reaching a waterbody. And use nontoxic, phosphate-free soaps.
- Pharmaceuticals should never be flushed down the toilet. Use a MWRD collection site, or check with your local pharmacy to see if they accept unused or expired medications for disposal. (You can take pharmaceuticals to the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, where there is a big box in the lobby.) Teach children never to handle medication without adult supervision, and talk to your teen about the dangers of pharmaceutical and over-the-counter medication.
- Misplaced waste and trash can harm waterways and take away from its beauty. Simply put, don't litter—dispose of your trash properly. Recycle paper, plastic, glass and metal. Buy reusable items and choose items that have the least packaging. Report water blockages, illegal, or suspicious dumping to waterways and sewers. Call the MWRD at 1-800-332-DUMP (3867).
- Microbeads are still used in hundreds of products, often as abrasive scrubbers. If a product says polyethylene and polypropylene, then there is plastic in it. Choose natural cleaning materials instead, such as a mixture of white vinegar and warm water to clean hardwood floors, or a mixture of baking soda, salt and water to clean your oven.



CRIME

Attend Your Neighborhood CAPS Beat Meeting

Community Police Beat meetings have been a part of the Chicago Police Department since at least the 1950s under various program names. CAPS (Community Alternative Policing Strategy) began in 1993, and is a program of the Office of Community Policing.

In order to stay informed about emerging crime and disorder issues, you should try to attend your beat meeting on a regular basis. Our local 1732-1733 Beat Meeting is held on the second Wednesday each month, on the second floor of the Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, at 7 p.m.

Beat meetings give community residents an opportunity to ask questions and engage in a productive dialog with the officers who are most directly involved in your community. At this meeting, residents and beat officers discuss priority crime and disorder issues, as well as develop strategies to address those issues.

When you attend a beat meeting, you have the chance to get to know the officers who work your beat, provide information about your concerns to police, meet other residents in your beat who may be working on similar issues, and bring back the latest information from police to your neighbors. Each beat meeting can be the beginning of developing successful law enforcement, city service, and community-based strategies to attack problems in your neighborhood. Guest speakers present varied educational programs at meetings throughout the year.

Community organizations including GIPNA, IPAC, the aldermanic staffs, some Park District staff, and local schools frequently send representatives and block captains to the monthly beat meeting. At the end of the meeting, these representatives also make themselves available for questions and concerns. GIPNA's 1732-1733 Beat Facilitators are Wes and Valerie Matucha. Please join your neighbors at the next meeting to help make our community an even better place to live.

FARMERS MARKET MANAGER WANTED

IMPORTANT NOTICE: GIPNA needs a manager and assistant manager for next year's Farmers Market. We have a lot of support in place for new leadership, but if we can't find a couple of neighbors to step in, we won't be able to sponsor the market in 2019. If you're interested, or if you'd like to get more information, please contact us at volunteers@gipna.org.

GIVING BACK

GIPNA's Community Donations for 2018

As we do every year, GIPNA's Board of Directors voted at the December meeting to make holiday donations from the general fund to support local charities and charitable efforts. When combined with our various efforts throughout the year, in 2017 GIPNA distributed more than \$11,000 to the Independence Park community.

We once again donated the proceeds from our Gourmet Pancake Breakfast in June to maintain community gardens and green space. The neighborhood looks better, and it's safer too. The Wine and Cheese Party enabled us to donate \$8,000 to John B. Murphy School for its music program.

We continued our support of the Adopt-a-Family program, donating gift cards to families from John B. Murphy School and Disney II High School. Additionally, the Board of Directors voted to make donations to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, whose service area includes Independence Park; Lydia Home, which supports families in crisis and children in abusive situations; Openlands, a nature conservancy group that facilitated tree planting in Independence Park; Carlson Community Services; and the Independence Park Advisory Council.



NEW BUSINESS

B Side Burgers Opens On Irving Park Road

There's a new burger joint in Independence Park. B Side Burgers, at 3734 West Irving Park Road, is serving up hamburgers, hot dogs, and more—all with a fun rock 'n' roll flavor.

Ted Theo opened B Side in November, at the former Bread & Wine site. The menu offers burgers, dogs, gyros, Italian beef sandwiches, sausage, chicken, and veggie options. You'll also find specials with rock-themed names each day.

Ted grew up in the neighborhood and has worked for years with his father, Bob, at the Alps Pancake House. He has decorated B Side with vintage album covers, guitars, and other rock 'n' roll items that give it a vibe of its own. B Side is open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.



Are you a GIPNA member?



Join today!

Use PayPal at www.gipna.org
 or mail in the form below with a check.
 For information, send an e-mail to: membership@gipna.org

PLEASE PRINT: DATE

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Check if you have moved into the neighborhood in the past year.

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Check if you would like to volunteer for events. (GIPNA is an all-volunteer association.)

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 Everything But The House
 Stephanie Cutter
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March 23rd, 2019
 1:00-3:00pm
 St. Viator Elementary School
 Recreation Center Lounge
 (2nd Floor)
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Go to stephaniecutter.com/downsizing for more information and to register for the event!



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Saturday, January 26 • 2:30-4:30pm
Visit our school and gym. Meet faculty, staff and parents who will be available to answer all your questions.

**Special Early Childhood Open House*
February 13 • 9:00 to 10:00 am**

We are inviting all parents and children who are interested in preschool 3 and 4 year old programs to visit our special **'Learn With Us' day**. You can talk to teachers and observe while your child interacts with current students and activities. RSVP Required
**Tours for all other grades will also be available*

**2019-2020
Application for Admissions**
forms are available online and in the school office

Please feel free to contact Marge Tirittilli with any questions or to schedule a personal tour.
4140 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60641 • 773-545-2173 • mtirittilli@stviatorchicago.org
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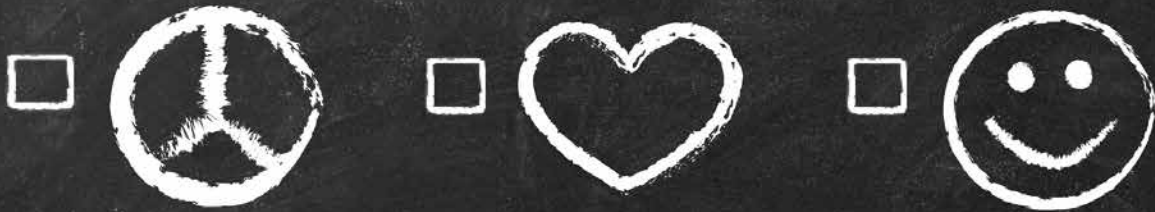
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Goals for 2019



Wishing you a happy and healthy new year,

-Connie



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CHE

CONNIE H. ENGEL



Jaime Andrade

40th District State Representative



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We encourage you to stop by if you need help accessing state services and to share your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve our community and state.

Online: www.staterep40.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andraderep40>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IL40thDistrictJaimeAndrade>



Peggy Brockhaus

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@properties®



EXPERTISE:

28 Year Resident of Old Irving Park
Top Producer
Residential Buyers and Sellers
New Construction
Historic Properties
Rehab Potential
Multi-Units
Active in Surrounding Communities
Designations: GRI, CRS, CNE

From the seller of 3937 N. Tripp Ave.

“Peggy Brockhaus is a great, friendly and professional Real Estate agent who knows and understands the market. Peggy’s knowledge and skill got me the best deal when selling my home in a multiple bid situation. She also helped me find the perfect condo. Her strong work ethic is amazing. I highly suggest Peggy for all your real estate needs. Thank You, Peggy.”

- Pat M.



**Infants · Toddlers
Twos · Preschool**

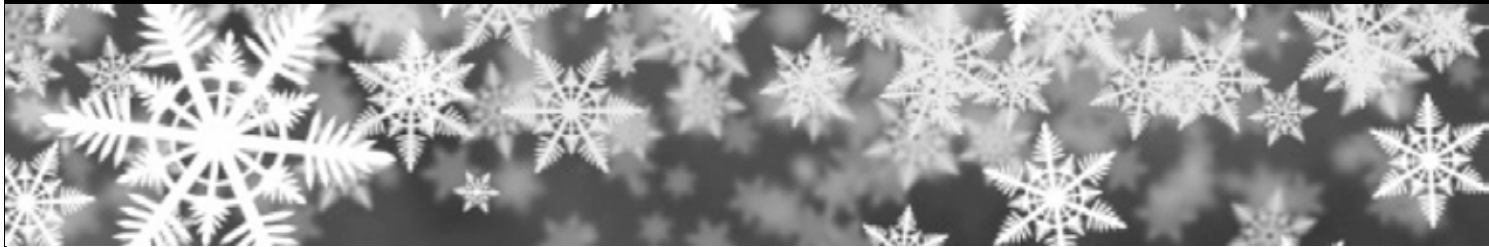


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Enrolling!**

3620 W Irving Park Rd.
LadyBug-Daycare.com
1-872-208-3448





JOIN TODAY

GIPNA Membership: What Does Your \$10 Buy?

Community-building activities and events

Independence Park Farmers Market

School Fundraisers

Community Gardens

Craft Fairs

Garage Sales

Alley Cleanups

Gourmet Pancake Breakfasts

The Independence Park Community *VOICE* Newsletter

E-Blasts, Announcements, and Alerts

A Voice with the 45th Ward

Support for Local Charities

Great neighborhoods don't just happen—a great neighborhood comes from a great deal of work and commitment. The events and services that make Independence Park the hidden jewel of the Northwest Side require time and money. Our wonderful volunteers give their time, and GIPNA membership helps provide the money. Please join GIPNA to make 2019 the best year yet, and if you're already a member, please renew.