

# WEST WALKER WIRE

FEBRUARY 2011

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## Got Cabin Fever? Plan to Attend the West Walker Winter Social on March 5

by Mike Webber

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR. The Winter Social is back, and it's bigger, better, and for the first time, actually in West Walker. It's five on five, and we're not talking basketball or roller derby, but the Fifth Annual West Walker Winter Social on the fifth of March from 7 to 10 p.m. at the new Remix Cafe located at 4347 N. Harding Ave.

Tickets are \$12 for members and \$17 for non-members (sign up for membership that night and get the member price). Price includes an appetizer buffet and three hours of mingling with the neighbors. The cash bar allows you to drink as you please, and the close-to-home location lets you walk, because it does always snow. If you feel lucky, a cash raffle will let you test your luck. See the back cover of the *Wire* for more details.

Check out Remix Cafe at [www.remix-cafe.com](http://www.remix-cafe.com). It's owned by a local family and is an exciting new addition to our neighborhood. We hope to see everyone old and new at this popular annual event.

RSVP by March 1 to Cindi Webber at 773.539.8346 or [webber.cindi@gmail.com](mailto:webber.cindi@gmail.com). Space is limited, so RSVP today!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**REMINDER: No February meeting.  
See you March 15 at the  
next WWCA General Meeting!**

**February 16 • 7 p.m.**  
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting  
17th Dist. Police Station Community Rm.  
4650 N. Pulaski Road

**February 18 & March 11 • 7-8 p.m.**  
Warm Stories on a Cold Winter Night  
North Park Village Nature Center  
5801 N. Pulaski Road

**February 21 • 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**March 12 & 20 • 1-2:30 p.m.**  
Maple Tree Tapping with the Family  
North Park Village Nature Center  
5801 N. Pulaski Road

**February 26 - April 3**  
Seanachai Theatre Company  
Presents *That Was Then*  
Third Floor Theatre, Irish American  
Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox

**February 27 • 1-4 p.m.**  
**West Walker Winterfest**  
Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve

**February 27 • 2 p.m.**  
Irving Park Fine Arts Committee  
Naperville Chamber Players  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4100 N. Harding Ave.

**March 5 • 7-10 p.m.**  
**West Walker Winter Social**  
Remix Cafe  
4347 N. Harding Ave.

**March 8 • 5-7:30 p.m.**  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Harding Ave.

You can also visit our  
Community Calendar online at:  
<http://westwalker.org/calendar.html>

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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# Dear Neighbor,

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND everyone that after our winter break, the events schedule starts in earnest in March.

Second, on Saturday, March 5, our Fifth Annual Winter Social will take place at the neighborhood's newest restaurant, Remix Cafe. See page 1 and the back cover of the *Wire* for all the details and come out and join your neighbors at this popular event.

And third, our first general meeting of 2011 will take place on March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Latvian Center. This meeting will have a slightly different format. Rather than a formal presentation we will explore two areas that have been extensively covered recently in the *Wire*, the 4247 project proposal and the WWCA survey.

We will take time during the March meeting to present and discuss responses we have received on both these topics. As they both present an opportunity to discuss the future goals of the community and the West Walker Civic Association's role in envisioning and molding that future, I am sure it will be an informative and lively discussion. If you have an interest in providing input in planning the future of West Walker, don't miss this meeting.

Mike Webber  
President, WWCA

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## Come out to the First Annual West Walker Winterfest on Sunday, February 27

LATEST BLAST from Ol' Man Winter got you down? Shrug it off, it's Chicago in February! For some outdoor winter fun, plan to attend the First Annual West Walker Winterfest on Sunday, February 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve.

Bring snow pants and sleds for the kids for fun on a kiddie-sized sledding hill. We'll also have a winter picnic with kettle fires, a marshmallow roast, hot chocolate, etc. The entrance to the forest preserve is immediately north of Indian Road on Central Ave. (south of Devon). Cancellation only due to lack of snow.

Please keep an eye out for more info on the West Walker Website: [www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

**You can now pay your WWCA dues—with either PayPal or a credit card—at the West Walker website ([www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org))!**

# WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## **West Walker Mission Statement**

"The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

**Celebrating more than 98 years of service to the West Walker Community**

## **2010-2011 OFFICERS**

President Mike Webber  
773.539.8346

Vice President Davor Engel  
773.202.1010  
[dengel@studiode.com](mailto:dengel@studiode.com)

Secretary Carol Barry  
773.478.5696

Treasurer John Minor

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

Dorie Westmeyer

## **CAPS COORDINATOR**

Jane Nagle

Send crime concerns to **Nicole Price**  
at [crimealerts@westwalker.org](mailto:crimealerts@westwalker.org).

## **WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF**

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Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky

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## **EDITOR**

Anne Marie O'Kelley

*The West Walker Wire is published monthly September through June by the West Walker Civic Association.*

**All story ideas, text, and ads are due a week before the first of the month.**

**Submit ideas and text to:**

**[west\\_walker\\_wire@yahoo.com](mailto:west_walker_wire@yahoo.com).**

*Please include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content.*

*For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at [WWWire@solsticepr.com](mailto:WWWire@solsticepr.com)*

## Good Food, Great Prices on the Menu at Remix Cafe

By the Nugent and Webber Families

WE ARE THRILLED to have a full-scale lunch and dinner restaurant in our neighborhood, within walking distance for many! We enjoyed our first experience at Remix. It's roomy, bright, and will be a great alfresco location during the summer months.

The menu features a good selection of appetizers, soups, salads, paninis, wraps, savory crepes, and entrees. The dessert menu features a large selection of crepes. Prices are very reasonable and range from \$4.95 to \$7.95 for appetizers. Soups/salads range from \$3.50 to \$6.95. Sandwiches are \$6.50 to \$7.95. Crepes range from \$5.35 to \$7.75. Entrees are \$6.50 to \$14.95. Desserts are \$3 to \$4.95.

We had a simple dinner featuring their two signature dishes. The Remix Crepe of ham, chicken, cheese, lettuce, and sour cream sauce was a very generous size and had good flavor. We also had the cevapi, the Serbian version of sausage, served with grilled onions and cheese. An enormous amount of delicious sausage, we brought half home with good intentions of serving it with eggs for breakfast.

The staff is super friendly and committed to making your experience fun and delicious. Remix Cafe has a full bar and decent wines by the glass that are really affordable (most under \$5!). The mixed drinks were also very affordable.

The best recommendation is that it is a family owned restaurant, owned and operated by a neighbor.

Good food, great prices! A touch of class in our neighborhood that matches the "Vision Statement" of our future community. West Walker neighbors, please support this business!

## WWCA Members

THANKS FOR RENEWING or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed from January 1 through February 7, 2011 appears below.

- Dorothy Homeyer
- Martha Lubbat
- Angela Motiejunas
- Melanie & Rick Reschke
- Angelique Rickhoff

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# CAPS Report

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

## Specific West Walker Issues Discussed at the January 19 CAPS Meeting for Beat # 1723:

Attendees reported continued loud, raucous activity on the 3900 block of Montrose (and surrounding streets) on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings generally during the hours of 1-3 a.m. If you happen to experience such activity, please call 911 and provide as much information as possible.

## Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker Neighborhood (December 15 - January 19):

Battery - Aggravated: Other Dangerous Weapon	1
Battery - Aggravated Domestic Battery: Other Dangerous Weapon	1
Battery - Domestic Battery Simple	3
Battery - Simple	2
Burglary (Forcible Entry)	1
Burglary (Unlawful Entry)	1
Criminal Damage to Vehicle	4
Deceptive Practices - Counterfeiting Document	1
Deceptive Practices - Forgery	1
Deceptive Practices - Theft of Labor/Services	1
Deceptive Practices - Fraud or Confidence Game	1
Motor Vehicle Theft (Automobile)	4
Non-criminal - Damage to Real Property: Fire/Explosion	2
Non-criminal Lost Property	1
Offense Involving Children - Child Abandonment	1
Offense Involving Children - Other Offense	1
Other Offense - Violation of Order of Protection	1
Other Offense - Harassment by Telephone	1
Robbery - Strongarm - No Weapon	1
Theft (\$300 and Under)	5
Theft (Over \$300)	1
Theft - Purse Snatching	1

Tired of graffiti? You can do something about it. Graffiti generally falls in two categories: tagging and gang-related signs and symbols. In order for the police to determine if graffiti is gang-related and a sign of things to come or related to a particular "tagger," they need a photo of the graffiti. Take a photo (camera phone photos acceptable, but do not use any zoom feature as that tends to be blurry) and send it with the address or location of the graffiti and the date and time photo was taken to: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org. If you have a smartphone, include the CAPS email address in your contacts and you'll be able to

make an immediate report. You can also drop off photos at the 17th District Police Station.

In order to have the graffiti removed, call 311 and be able to provide the following information: (1) address or location; (2) is graffiti on the front, side, or rear of building or on a garage; (3) is the graffiti on wood, brick, painted brick, or unknown; and (4) is the graffiti over 6 feet up? Ask for a tracking number. Because of budget cuts, it generally takes three to four days for graffiti to be removed, but if it hasn't been removed in a week, call 311 again and use the tracking number to obtain a status report. Remember, don't assume someone else has reported graffiti. Follow the steps above to make a report.

Parents: Often when a traumatic event involving a child occurs, parents have difficulty thinking clearly and are unable to quickly provide certain information about their child. Or the information may be scattered in different places. The CAPS office has child identification booklets to keep vital information about your child in a single place in the event tragedy strikes. The booklets are for parent use only; nothing is returned to the police or a government office. It compiles information such as contact information of close relatives and friends, fingerprints, hair sample, recent photograph, dental record, physical information such as height, weight, eye color, identifying marks, etc. Because of changes in physical characteristics while a child grows, certain information should be updated annually. If you are interested, stop by the CAPS Office at the 17th District Police Station to pick up child identification booklets.

As announced previously, the CAPS program is in the process of being revamped. At this time, Beat # 1723 will continue to have monthly meetings. Other beats may have bimonthly meetings with an opportunity to be heard at other beat meetings. We will monitor the changes to the CAPS Program and report the same. Please continue to attend meetings for Beat # 1723 as this may help retain our monthly meetings.

CAPS meetings for 2011 for our beat are currently held at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. monthly on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 16.

As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide a detailed physical description of the individuals involved in any incident, including clothing, shoes, and vehicle descriptions.

# 39th Ward Report



ARE YOU RECEIVING all of your property tax exemptions? You might be entitled to a refund if you haven't been taking all the exemptions to which you are eligible. My office conducts free one-on-one counseling with property owners to make sure they are receiving all of the tax exemptions they are entitled to. To

date, this has resulted in savings of more than \$300,000 to 39th Ward residents. You can find more information about property tax exemptions at the Cook County Assessor's website ([www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com)). If you'd like assistance in applying for property tax exemptions, feel free to call Jonathan in my office at 773.736.5594.

Just a reminder that early voting for the 2011 Municipal Election continues through Thursday, February 17, in the Administration Building at North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski. Voting hours at North Park Village are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Please note that this early voting location will be closed on Friday, February 11 for the Lincoln Birthday holiday. You can also early vote at the Chicago Board of Elections, 69 W. Washington. They have extended hours on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at 773.736.5594 or [Ward39@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward39@cityofchicago.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

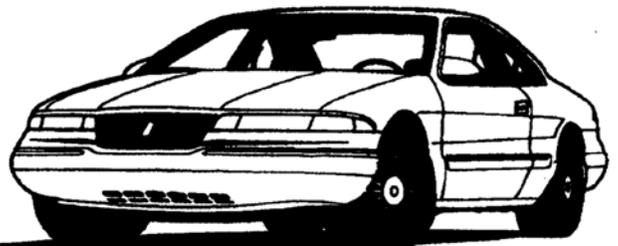
*Sincerely, Margaret Laurino  
Alderman, 39th Ward*

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## Building Resilience

by Michelle Kaicener

greenwestwalker@gmail.com

IT CERTAINLY is turning out to be a wild month—momentous events in Egypt, local Chicago elections and ballot issues, and an enormous snowstorm on the way, as I write. By the time you read this, anything could be happening, and probably will be, somewhere in the world.

What can we do when things start to spin out of control? The only thing is to be resilient and have made some basic preparations.

I have no idea whether the snowstorm will knock out power, or keep me indoors for several days, or be unable to get my car out of the garage. But I always have a plan just in case—an indoor propane heater in case the power is out. A Coleman stove for cooking. A few extra groceries in the pantry, including pet food.

I am able to get to any of my jobs via public transit, so as long as the bus or the train are running, I can still work. We are fortunate to have a food market in walking distance. I am fortunate to know neighbors who can help out in an emergency.

Resilience is all about having backup systems. I think about what we would do if something happened to close the Suez Canal, and we find ourselves short of gasoline. We need to be resilient and have a plan “B.” We need to make sure we can live, work, and recreate in close proximity, and build close connections to our neighbors.

Sustainable Cities investigate the best ways to do this.

**Website of the Month:** <http://sustainablecities.dk/>

Please join us for more conversations about sustainability at <http://westwalker.net>

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## News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

### Pantry's Client Total Stabilizes

The numbers have been tabulated for 2010 at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, and there was good news and bad news. The total number of households rose slightly in 2010 (from 7,376 in 2009 to 7,502), but the total number of people served actually declined slightly (from 21,417 people to 20,828).

Those totals indicate that a larger number of smaller households and individuals needed our help in 2010. The lower number of individuals who received a three-day supply of food each month is encouraging, but it's daunting to remember that in 2007, just three years ago, the Pantry served 15,042 people, so we're up more than one-third in that time! In December, the Pantry served 780 households with 2,480 people.

**New Board Members:** We've added Gerry Sikora from the Irving Park United Methodist Church and Eleanor Kepp from the Irving Park Lutheran Church as board members.

**Food Drives:** The Pantry is thankful to the large number

of wonderful schools, organizations, and companies that conducted food and toy drives during December. Those efforts replenished our pantry and aided our special holiday distributions, which helped so many in our neighborhood enjoy a happier holiday season.

Thank you to: KidWatch Plus, Terraces of Irving Park, Chicago International Charter Schools, Community Savings Bank, Emergency 24, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Scammon Elementary School, St. Andrew School, and Our Lady of Victory Elementary School.

We'd also like to thank all the kids from Park Ridge Presbyterian Church who helped with the Tuesday-night setups for our Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions.

Special thanks go to Tony Disalvio, pastoral associate at St. Viator Catholic Church. The church donated a large amount of food that had in turn been donated from Jewel-Osco. Tony delivered a carload of refrigerated and frozen food to us as we were making our regular weekly distribution, allowing us to quickly turn it around for those who urgently need it.

**Winter Coat Distribution:** Throughout the month of January, the Pantry distributed winter coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to many of our clients. Thanks to those within the community who hosted and supported the winter coat drives that made this possible. Special thanks to Carter Westminster Presbyterian Church, Disney Magnet II School PTA, Charity Piet Miska, and Jillian Flores for helping to coordinate.

**Augment Your Donation:** During March and April, monetary and food contributions to the Pantry are supplemented by the Feinstein Challenge, a \$1-million fund operated by Alan Shawn Feinstein to aid hunger organizations nationwide. The total we receive is based on the size of our donation, with food valued at \$1 per item/pound. It is not a strict matching fund, but it does provide extra funding and we appreciate your help in maximizing our contributions.

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John 6:63

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## News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving

Park community with a variety of outreach efforts.

### IPFAC Presents Naperville Chamber Players

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present the Naperville Chamber Players in a free classical music concert on Sunday, February 27 at 2 p.m. Principal musicians are Dorothy Deen, cello, and



The Naperville Chamber Players features Marie Bennett, flute, and Dorothy Deen, cello.

Marie Bennett, flute. They will be joined by guest artists Ben Melsky, harp, Jim Perona, guitar, Myung Hee Chung, piano, and Ben Wahlund, percussion. In a program titled "Happy 100th Birthday Hovhaness!" the concert will celebrate the 100th birthday of 20th-century American composer Alan Hovhaness and will feature a sampling of his work.

The concert will be held at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Admission is free, although

a free-will offering may be made. The performance will be followed by an informal reception with the artists.

Deen is a native of Chicago who has been a freelance cellist in the area for 25 years. She received a master's degree in cello performance and pedagogy from Northern Illinois University. Currently, she performs with the New Philharmonic and is the principal cellist with Light Opera Works. She also works with several other trios and ensembles.

Bennett holds a bachelor of music degree from Northwestern University and a masters of music from DePaul University, both in flute performance. She is an active recitalist and performer who has played with many regional and international orchestras. Bennett is an adjunct professor of music at North Central College.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 17th season, was begun by Roger L. Bingaman, director of music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high-quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood.



Diners enjoy the 2010 Chili Supper to benefit the Three Brothers Garden.



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### Save the Date for the Third Annual Chili Supper!

Save the date for the Third Annual Chili Supper on Sunday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Chili Supper, which benefits the Three Brothers Garden, will have a raffle, crafts for kids, and a cake walk. The event will take place in the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at 4057 N. Harding Ave.

For ticket info or to volunteer, e-mail [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale

THE IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH is hosting its 22nd Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale on Tuesday, March 8 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in their gymnasium on 4057 N. Harding Ave. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.



Come and join us for food, fun, and fellowship as we raise funds for the 2011 Magic Mushroom Summer Program! This event also gives parents their first opportunity to register their children for Magic Mushroom.

For more information on how to obtain tickets, call the church office at 773.267.1667. For information on Magic Mushroom, call Lee Stein at 773.267.0175 or email leesstein@spacecushion.com

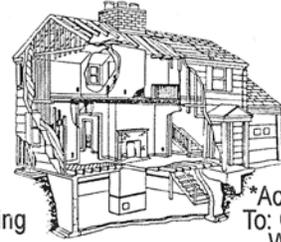
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## The Transformation of Elston Avenue

### We Have The Vision We Need A Plan

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into a bustling "Main Street" and pedestrian-friendly shopping district, where we can walk to restaurants and specialty shops, drawing the West Walker community together. Help us develop the plan to achieve the vision.

We don't need to build 6 condo buildings at 4247 N Elston to do this. *That will only lead to more congestion, parking problems. & more condos*  
**Join the growing number of West Walker residents who want to see other options for 4247 N Elston and a plan for Elston Avenue.**

If you agree, send us an e-mail: [elston@westwalker.net](mailto:elston@westwalker.net) or use our petition. at our Website at [WESTWALKER.NET](http://WESTWALKER.NET) and also learn about sustainability.

This message provided by Institute Services, a West Walker Web Development business [HighStyleInteractive.com](http://HighStyleInteractive.com) as a community service in support of The West Walker Sustainability Group



### CICS-Irving Park School News

**Food Pantry Drive**  
CICS-IP school students received thanks from the Irving Park Community

Food Pantry for their food contribution in December.

### Jump Rope for Heart

Our school will be supporting the American Heart Association Heart Program in February and March. Kindergarten through fourth-grade students will participate in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser, and students in grades five through seven will participate in Hoops for Heart. Their goal is to raise \$1,500 dollars in donations for helping children with "special" hearts.

### Leo Burnett Art Day

On February 8, our students received a supplemental art program courtesy of the Leo Burnett Co.

### St. Edward School

#### Big Red Auction

Many exciting prizes will be on the live and silent

auction block at St. Edward's annual "Big Red Auction." The gala will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 6 p.m. until midnight in Buckley Hall at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Partygoers must be 21 to attend.

### St. Edward School 100th Anniversary Celebration

St. Edward School will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, February 20! To honor the school, Cardinal George will celebrate Mass at St. Edward Church at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

A dinner-dance will follow Mass at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets can be purchased on St. Edward School's website at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com). For more information, call the school at 773.736.9133.

### St. Viator School News

#### Open Houses

We offer monthly open houses highlighting a floor each month through April. The whole school will be open for viewing, including the library and gymnasium. March and April open house information can be found at: [stviatorchicago.org](http://stviatorchicago.org).

#### Save the Date

On March 5, the Mardi Gras tradition returns, including a silent auction you won't want to miss. Please visit [stviatorchicago.org](http://stviatorchicago.org) for details.



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## Seanacháí Theatre Company Presents *That Was Then*



SEANACHAÍ THEATRE Company presents the Midwest premiere of *That Was Then* by Gerard Stembridge. The show runs from February 26 through April 3 in the Third Floor Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox.

Ensemble member Carolyn Klein directs fellow members

Anne Sunseri and Sarah Wellington, with Ira Amyx, Molly Glynn, and Joseph Wycoff rounding out the cast. Ensemble member Erin Diener is stage manager.

Familiar tensions between the Irish and the Brits surface in Gerard Stembridge's dark comedy about Dubliners Noel and May who host a dinner party for an English couple in hope of securing a substantial loan. Five years

later, the invitation is reciprocated, but the tables have turned. Booze, football, and Jamie Oliver (a culinary celebrity famous for trying to revolutionize the unhealthy way we eat) make for a heady and explosive cocktail in this dual-time period piece.

Gerard Stembridge, born in Limerick in 1958, works as a writer and director in theatre, film, and television. He directed the world premiere of *That Was Then* at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin in 2002.

From February 26 through April 3, *That Was Then* will be performed every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., and on Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$22-26. Visit [www.seanachai.org](http://www.seanachai.org) or call 866.811.4111

For one night only—on Thursday, March 3—Seanacháí is offering a special dinner-theatre evening, which begins at 6 p.m. During dinner, an ensemble member will welcome you and share special information about *That Was Then*. After dinner, walk a few feet to the theatre and enjoy the play. Afterward, meet the cast members for an informal post-show chat. For tickets to our one-night-only special dinner-theatre package on March 3, call 773.878.3727.



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# WWCA Winter Social

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 7-10 p.m.

Remix Cafe, 4347 N. Harding Ave.

Tickets:

\$12 for WWCA members \$17 for non-members

(Sign up for membership that night and get the member price)

Ticket price includes appetizer buffet and three hours of mingling

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RSVP by March 1 to Cindi Webber  
773.539.8346 or [webber.cindi@gmail.com](mailto:webber.cindi@gmail.com)

