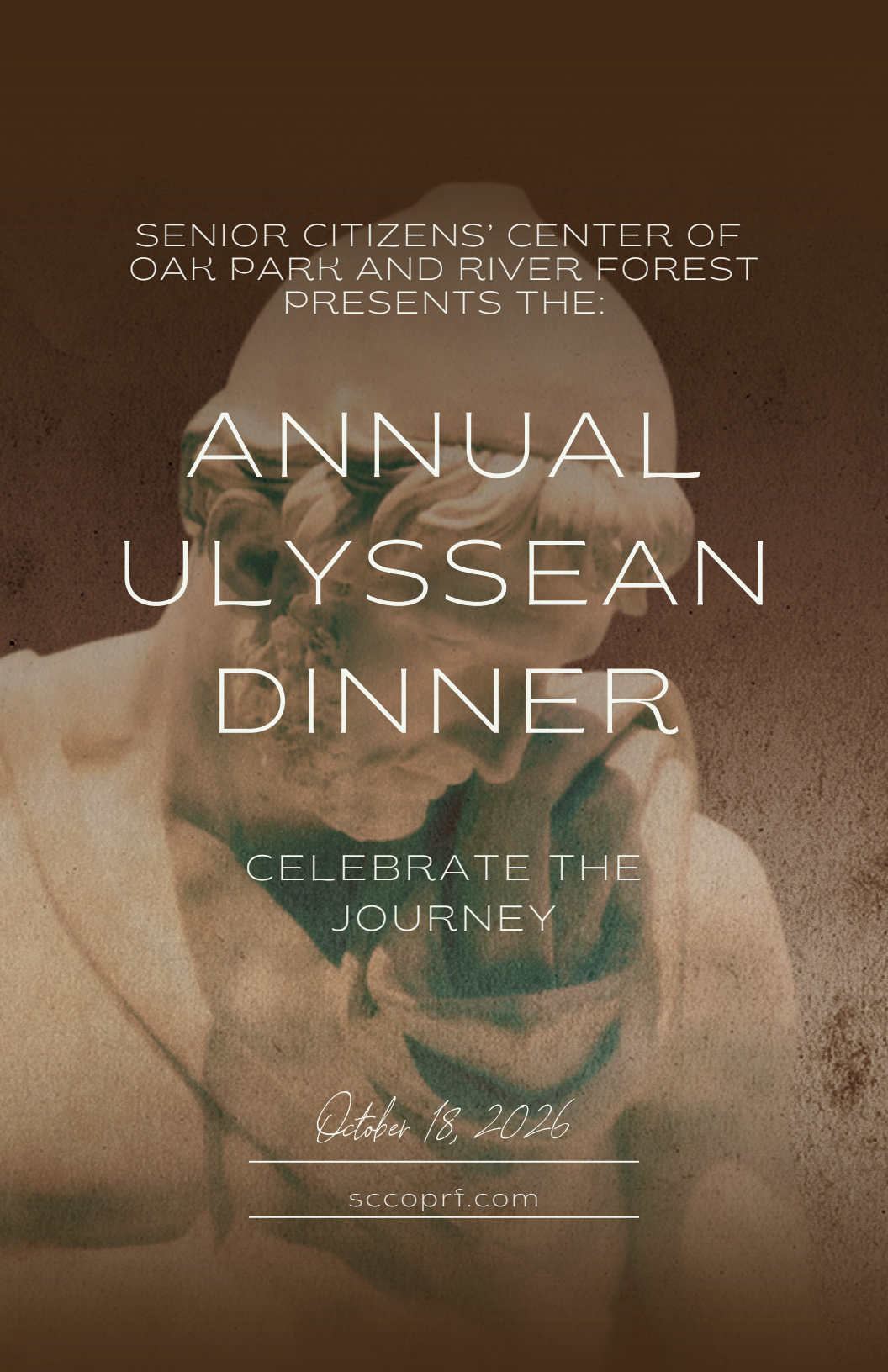


SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST PRESENTS THE:

ANNUAL ULYSSEAN DINNER

CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY

October 18, 2026

sccoprf.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 Table of Contents
04 Presenting Team
05 Program
06 Congrats 2026 Ulysseans!
07 About the Ulyssean Award
08 Ulyssean Biographies
14 About the SCCOPRF
16 Donors
17 OPRF Township
18 Don Harmon
19 Belmont Village
20 Brookdale
21 Economy Shop
22 PDOP
23 Downtown Oak Park
24 Oak Park River Forest Comm Found.
25 Spina McGuire & Okal
26 Forest Park Bank
27 Mastercare
28 Kolovitz Movers
29 Thrivent
30 Congrats

PRESENTED BY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgia Keleher, President
Helen Schmucker, Vice President
Jack Kennelly, Treasurer
Barbara Hunt, Secretary

Rita Anderson
Joanne Franklin Jennings
Jennifer Mack
Janis Martin
Amy Overby
Joanne Peters
Leticia Romero
Yolanda Ruiz
Abby Schmelling
Megan Ulczak
Donna Weaver
Nancy Wisti Grayson

Marea Cordero, Executive Director

SUPPORTED BY

The Economy Shop

PARTNERING WITH

Park District of Oak Park

PROGRAM

WINE & APPETIZERS (4:00P)

WELCOME
Georgia Keleher

DINNER (5:00P)

INTRODUCTION OF PAST ULYSSEANS
Jack Kennelly

INTRODUCTION OF AWARDEES & PRESENTATION OF ULYSSEAN AWARDS

LINDA BONNER
Amy Overby

ADE ONAYEMI
Jack Kennelly

JOYCE PORTER
Jennifer Mack

CLOSING
Georgia Keleher

Music provided by Ingrid Schimnoski

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 ULYSSEANS

LINDA BONNER
ADE ONAYEMI
JOYCE PORTER

From all the past Ulysseans:

2004	Redd Griffin* and Sherlynn Reid*
2005	Virginia Cassin* and Rev. F. Dean Lueking*
2006	Lee Brooke* and Chatka Ruggiero
2007	Gus Kostopulos* and Sylvia* & Gysbert* Menninga
2008	Roberta L. Raymond* and Norbert Teclaw*
2009	David Sokol and Sandra Sokol
2010	Lawrence Christmas* and Donald Offermann*
2011	Marguerite Bloch* and Barbara Furlong*
2012	Jeanette Fields* and Jim Bohenstengel
2013	Hariette* & McLouis Robinet and Nancy Waichler
2014	Harold T. Rohlfing* and John L. Hedges
2015	Mena & David Boulanger and Michelle Germanson*
2016	Ann & Gene Armstrong and Marty Noll
2017	Harriet Hausman* and Barbara Ballinger*
2018	Janet & Bob* Haisman and Ken Trainor
2019	Nancy Teclaw* and Rev. Don* & Dolores* Register
2020	Margorie* & Galen* Gockel and Stephanie Clemens
2021	Robert Downs, Mary Kay O'Grady, and Charles Williams
2022	John Seaton and Gerald F. Lordan
2023	Rose Meyer* and Tom & Marcia Palazzolo
2024	Marc & Dorie Blesoff, Robert Giles, and Sandy Lentz
2025	Tina Birnbaum and Paula Waldron

**Deceased*

ABOUT THE ULYSSEAN AWARD



Since 2004, beginning with the Center's 50th Anniversary Celebration, we have been honoring distinguished members of the community with our Ulyssean Award.

Ulysses, King of Ithaca, is one of the legendary Greek heroes of Homer's *Iliad.* He is most famous for the ten eventful years he took to return home after the ten-year Trojan War. He is the hero who is chronicled in Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey,* and is a man with unfailing vision to accomplish his goal, to return home.

Inspired by the 20-year epic of this hero, Tennyson created his poem, *Ulysses,* written in the 1800s. He presents the aging King a few years after his return to Ithaca. Ulysses is restless and seeks a future much like his past life of adventure.

Before he embarks on his final journey, he extols his thirst for adventure and knowledge and encourages his aged friends to join him. He makes a speech to them, ending with,

"'Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.'"

It is this thirst for learning, doing, and adventure of body and spirit that is the **Ulyssean Journey**.

The Ulyssean Award honors individuals in the community who exemplify this lifestyle and philosophy.

The specific criteria for the award are: an individual must be age 50 or above, they must have demonstrated commitment to the continued quest for lifelong learning, and they must have had significant involvement in, and made contributions to, the community which have served to broaden our social, educational, and/or cultural horizons.

Congratulations to our 2026 honorees:

Linda Bonner
Ade Onayemi
Joyce Porter

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

LINDA BONNER

Born in Englewood in the South side of Chicago, Linda Bonner moved to Evanston and then landed halfway between both places to Oak Park in 1974. That was the beginning of her incredible legacy of civic, cultural, communal and literary outreach here in Oak Park.

Linda is an incredible person to home school five girls. She also babysat other children instilling values of peace and justice in their daily lives. She activated her community by building library book clubs, creating storytimes for younger children, and affecting the library system to grow into the thriving organization it is. She worked at the Oak Park Public Library for many years retiring in 2021. She began numerous book groups including International Mystery, Read and Reflect, and Geneology/Family History. Linda is now the Literature chair of the Humanities and Enrichment Series programs at the Nineteenth Century Club. Her passion for literature, community and inclusion doesn't end there.

Beyond her literacy programming, Linda began Assist to fill gaps of services to those in need by finding transportation for seniors needing to travel to doctor's appointments, bringing food to those in need and even watching children for others. In the 1980s she created a food pantry called Soup on Wednesday. She literally fed her neighbors. She also created sustenance for those needing education. Linda created a philanthropy supporting women in education with over 200,000 programs. Education and resources were integral to her nonprofit that hosted international student housing for nearly thirty years. Today, she continues to defend the rights of immigrants detained at Broadview through protests every Friday.

Linda is an inspiration within whatever community action she takes. She is currently an active community member in Third Unitarian Church in Austin where she finds an outlet to connect and translate frustration into action.

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

LINDA BONNER

The children and grandchildren of Linda carry her entrepreneurial drive into future generations. Linda is currently living with one of her daughters' family of five and hosting a space for her granddaughter's small business. Linda Bonner has truly lifted up and activated a community by calling them toward a lifetime of learning and actionable change.

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

ADE ONAYEMI

For more than four decades, Ade Onayemi has helped shape Oak Park through architecture, education, civic leadership, and service. An architect, educator, Rotarian, and community leader, he has built his life around a guiding conviction: there is always more to learn, more to contribute, and another opportunity to serve.

Born in Jos, Nigeria, Ade was educated in Lagos before immigrating to the United States in 1976 to study architecture. He attended the State University of New York at Binghamton, then transferred to the University of Illinois Chicago, where he completed its five-year professional architecture program, specializing in Building Technology.

A licensed Illinois architect, Ade established Ade Onayemi Architects, P.C. in 1990. In 1995, he acquired Urban Resource, Inc. and merged the two architectural practices. As President and Principal Architect of Urban Resource, he leads educational, cultural, commercial, residential, and community development projects. The Field Museum has been a client since 1997, and his portfolio includes major accessibility programs at Illinois public universities, reflecting his commitment to inclusive public environments.

Ade has extended his expertise through teaching, mentorship, and professional leadership. As an adjunct instructor of Construction Technology at Triton College, he shared practical knowledge with future professionals. As the first president of the Organization of Nigerian Building Professionals, he helped provide scholarships and mentorship to students pursuing architecture, engineering, construction, and related fields throughout North America.

For Ade, architecture is a way to strengthen community institutions. That belief inspired decades of civic engagement, especially in public education. From 1997 to 2005, he served on the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Board of Education, including three years as Board President. During his tenure, the district replaced two aging junior high schools with new

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

ADE ONAYEMI

middle schools while transitioning to a sixth-through-eighth-grade educational model. All eight elementary schools received significant improvements. The building program was completed on schedule and within budget. He also served as Vice Chair of ED-RED, advocating for public education across the western suburbs.

Ade's public service spans local government, healthcare, and community design. He served three elected terms as an Oak Park Township Trustee, was President of the West Suburban Medical Center Board of Trustees, and chaired the Village of Oak Park Community Design Commission. He currently serves as an elected Commissioner of the Park District of Oak Park.

His commitment to community revitalization extends into Chicago's Austin neighborhood. As Chair Emeritus of the Austin African American Business Networking Association, he helped advance the Soul City Corridor vision along Chicago Avenue, promoting investment, cultural identity, and economic opportunity.

Since joining the Rotary Club of Oak Park–River Forest in 2005, Ade has served in leadership roles including Club President, Assistant District Governor, and District Governor of Rotary International District 6450 in 2022–23. Named Rotarian of the Year in 2016, he remains active in membership development, youth protection, international service, and humanitarian initiatives connecting communities in the United States and Nigeria.

Ade and his wife, Kathy, have lived in Oak Park since the early 1980s, raising their children, Justin and Christine, and welcoming six grandchildren. Members of Grace Episcopal Church since 1982, they share a commitment to faith, family, and community.

Proud of his Yoruba heritage, Ade embraces the values of integrity, respect, humility, and communal responsibility. The Yoruba proverb “Ìgi kan kò dá igbó ṣe”—“One tree does not make a forest”—captures his philosophy of collective achievement.

Through lifelong learning, collaboration, and service, Ade continues to strengthen institutions, connect communities, and create opportunities for others, embodying the spirit of the Ulyssean Award.

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

JOYCE PORTER

Joyce Porter was born in Chicago but moved to Oak Park in 1982. From an early age, she was drawn to the performance arts. As a child, she studied singing and dancing. It was not until college, that she had her first opportunity to act. From that point on, Joyce has relished the many opportunities that being a thespian can provide.

For 30 years, Joyce was a professor of theater and speech at Moraine Valley Community College where she developed the theater program. Over the years, she has acted in over 50 films and worked as a voice-over talent for which she has won numerous awards. In 2026, she was a co-producer of The Death of a Salesman which received a Tony Award for best revival play. Joyce was able to be onstage for the award presentation, which is one of her life's highlights.

Joyce served on the Board and later as President of the Oak Park Festival Theater for 20 years. Under her management, the theater became financially stable and provided opportunities for college interns to pursue their own artistic dreams.

In 2023, Joyce worked with other interested film enthusiasts to plan for an Oak Park film festival that would feature both Hollywood films with an Oak Park connection, as well as local Oak Park films. The first festival took place in 2024 and has become increasingly more popular drawing fans from around the country.

In addition to her acting, Joyce has published a book "Mastering Senior Life: Thriving and Surviving." Committed to lifelong learning, when asked why she feels lifelong learning is important, Joyce responded, "Getting older and retiring shouldn't be viewed as the end of something. It is just moving into a new phase of your life and exploring new things."

ULYSSEAN AWARDEE

JOYCE PORTER

Joyce walks the talk! She is active in acting workshops, a member of the Screen Actors Guild, enjoys swimming, takes aerobics classes and travels whenever possible.

Joyce is the proud mother of a son and two grandchildren who live in the suburbs. Joyce is indeed a person committed to lifelong learning and can be an encouragement to others.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST (SCCOPRF):

The Lifelong Learning Center for Active, Creative, and Inquisitive Adults Over the Age of 50



The **SCCOPRF**, chartered in 1954, is the oldest senior citizens' center in Illinois. As of October 7, 2019, we began collaborating with the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP).

Through the Park District of Oak Park's programming, we continue to provide educational, social, and cultural activities for people over the age of 50. Through these activities, older adults can be inspired to continue their quest for lifelong learning, rekindle their creativity and curiosity, and engage with the community. We strive to support individual independence and adventures in learning.

Since partnering with the PDOP, we have the good fortune to bring new and exciting opportunities to the community. This is a wonderful partnership that allows us to continue our mission and develop new ways to serve our neighborhood seniors.

Programming:
Ongoing activities include art, ceramics, crafts, weaving, lapidary and jewelry making, yarn craft, sewing, stained glass, language classes, exercise programs, game days, local trips, creative workshops, genealogy, film and documentary viewing and discussion, tech help, and more!

There are so many programs and classes to choose from thanks to the efforts of the Lifelong Learning team. New classes are added as suggestions are submitted and we are able to support them.

Lifelong Learning listings can be found at pdop.org. Classes are held at the Dole Center, 255 August St., Oak Park. You will find the Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest office there as well.

Membership:
Lifelong Learning membership is $75/year and is available through the Park District of Oak Park. Registration for membership and programming is available at Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, the Gymnastics & Recreation Center, the Community Recreation Center, or online at pdop.org/register.

Memberships provide many programs and classes at no additional charge. As a benefit, with a Lifelong Learning membership, there are some additional discounts offered through the Park District of Oak Park.

You do NOT have to live in the Village of Oak Park to participate in our activities. The Lifelong Learning membership is $75/year for everyone. (The Senior Center Board pays the difference between Oak Park resident and non-resident fees. Scholarships are also available.)

Other Offerings:
The Repair Cafe at the Fox Center brings together members of the community. Volunteers help others by showing how repairs can be made to broken, torn, or non-functioning items, keeping those items out of landfills. Repair Cafe, at 624 S. Oak Park Ave. is open 10:00A-1:30P on the first Saturday of the month. (Lifelong Learning membership is not required.)

Funding:
Thank you to the Economy Shop! We receive monthly grant funding from the Economy Shop where we are in charge of the Housewares room. We are always looking for volunteers to help us sort, price, and display items and also to work on sale days. Come join us as a volunteer or just come to shop!

Thank you! By attending this Award Dinner, you have already helped! A portion of your contribution provides funding for supplies and equipment for our programs, subsidizing out-of-district membership, and subsidizing volunteer memberships.

We would love to hear from you and have you join in! You might want to take a class or volunteer, or simply give us feedback. Please contact us via email or by phone.

sccoprf@sbcglobal.net
(708) 725-2715

DONORS

Shaya Antoniello
David and Philomena Boulanger
Elizabeth Dias
Michelle Fitzhenry
Karen French
Sam Hohmann and Donna Weaver
Barbara Hunt
Jennifer Mack
Chris and Mike Majkrzak
Joan Mueller Cochrane
Molly Narrod
Anastasia O'Brien
Stephen Ptacek
McLouis Robinet
Kelly Staley
Rafael Vilasuso

Additional donors can be found on www.sccoprf.com.

Congratulations to the 2026 Ulyssean Honorees:

Ade Onayemi

Linda Bonner

Joyce Porter



Seeking assistance for someone over 60?

When you don't know where to start...

start with us!

Our care coordinators trained through the Illinois Department on Aging are available to visit your home and conduct an assessment of your needs and develop an individualized care plan.

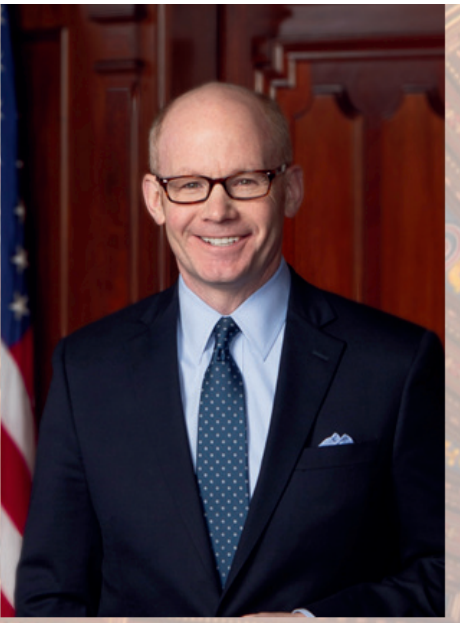
AS THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST, OUR TEAM IS HERE TO LINK YOU WITH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Call (708) 383-8060
to find out more about these options and all of the programs available through Oak Park Township.

oakparktownship.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn!

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP | RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP



Congratulations dear friends, Ade Onayemi and Joyce Porter, and Honoree Linda Bonner. Thank you for your commitment to Lifelong Learning!

SENATOR DON HARMON

Illinois Senate President

6941 W. NORTH AVENUE, OAK PARK

(708) 848-2002 HARMON@SENATEDEM.ILLINOIS.GOV



Expressing our Congratulations

to Linda Bonner, Ade Onayemi & Joyce Porter

Like the commitment to lifelong learning we honor tonight, Belmont Village Oak Park strives to make every day engaging and purposeful for our residents. We offer a full spectrum of support—from minimal physical assistance to full memory care, so as residents' needs change, we can change with them. Our experienced management team and specially trained staff provide just the right balance of care to suit any lifestyle.

We're proud to be part of the Oak Park community and invite you to step inside and experience what makes Belmont Village unique!

BELMONT Village
SENIOR LIVING
OAK PARK

BEST MEMORY CARE
U.S.News
2026

SETTLE IN WITH A
WARM WELCOME



Enjoy beautiful surroundings at Brookdale Oak Park. While you're here, dine on a delicious lunch, take a tour and meet our friendly residents and staff. From pet-friendly suites and fitness classes to book clubs, happy hour, several floor plan options and more, there is so much to discover!

Brookdale Oak Park
Independent Living
Assisted Living
1111 Ontario Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

▶ Lunch is on us!
To joinusorschedule a tour,
call **(708) 956-4618.**

BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING | brookdale.com

1859050 DSM

©2026 Brookdale Senior Living Inc. All rights reserved.
BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING is a registered trademark of Brookdale Senior Living Inc.

economy shop
green since 1919

A unique charity resale store

with 3 floors of shopping!

Sales are typically held on the first Thursday and second and third Saturdays of every month from Sept. – June, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For up-to-date information and to sign up for sale day reminders, please visit **www.economyshop.org**	economical ecofriendly **economyshop** **103 S Grove Ave** **Oak Park, IL 60302** **708-383-2449**

LIFELONG **LEARNING** MEMBERSHIP



The Park District of Oak Park's **Lifelong Learning Membership** is designed for individuals 50+ to enjoy specifically designed programs to foster community and engage in an active and healthy lifestyle. Memberships are $52/year and members enjoy programming, including arts & crafts, general recreation, and health and fitness in partnership with the Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest. Programs for members are FREE or greatly reduced and take place at Dole Center, 225 Augusta Ave.

Learn more about the Lifelong Learning Membership:

SCAN ME

pdop.org/lifelonglearning

PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

Proud to support the Senior Citizens Center of Oak Park River Forest!



Down town
OAK PARK
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

downtownoakpark.net

Funds for Today and for the Future

We are ***all in*** to help the West Cook community today—and we have an eye on tomorrow too. For over 65 years we've connected philanthropic aspirations with local organizations and initiatives to sustain important work for the long-term benefit of all.

Turn your financial gift into a lasting legacy—starting today and for years to come.



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

To learn more about setting up a charitable fund to benefit causes that matter to you, visit **oprfcf.org** or call 708-848-1560

SPINA MCGUIRE & OKAL, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
7610 WEST NORTH AVENUE
ELMWOOD PARK, ILLINOIS 60707-4195

Estate Planning ♦ Probate and Trust Administration
Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney
Acquisitions and Sales of Real Estate and Business
Litigation and Appeals ♦ Contracts ♦ Personal Injury



We are a full-service law firm providing legal services to the community since 1964
jack@smolaw.com
CALL US BEFORE YOUR OPPONENT DOES
TELEPHONE (708)453-2800 FAX (708)452-5088
ANTHONY F. SPINA, JAMES T. McGUIRE *, TIMOTHY H. OKAL
JOHN D. SPINA **, FELICIA M. DiGIOVANNI, JOHN M. KENNELLY***
* RETIRED, * * ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA, ***OF COUNSEL
Visit us on the Web at: www.smolaw.com

COMMUNITY IS WHO WE ARE.



FOREST PARK BANK

FORESTPARKBANK.COM

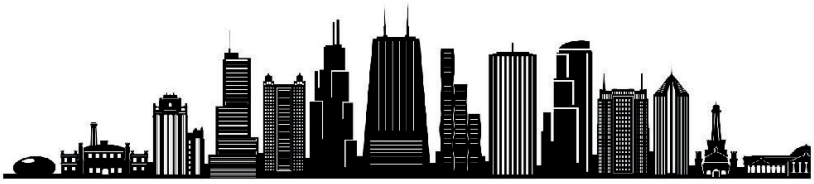
Member FDIC

Mastercare
Building Services Inc.

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2026 Ulyssean Award!

Mastercare Building Services is a full-service property management company with 38+ years of experience. We manage residential communities with an owner's mindset, providing reliable financial oversight, maintenance coordination, and customized support for boards and residents.

www.mcareservices.com



2026 Ulyssean Award Honorees:

Linda Bonner
Ade Onayemi
Joyce Porter

Kolovitz Movers

John M. Keleher

708.383.5567

info@kolovitzmovers.com

thrivent



Give a gift they can't outgrow

What if you could give your children or grandchildren a solid foundation for their financial future? With whole life insurance, you can. Purchasing whole life insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now can give them security throughout their life with:

- Lasting coverage.[1]
- Locked-in rates.
- Ensured cash value.[2]

Let's connect and talk about how life insurance can protect your loved ones—and fit into your financial strategy.



Ingrid Schimnoski
Financial Associate
219-707-0297

Scan to learn more.

Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

[1]As long as premiums are paid. Future insurability exists with the contract purchased as a juvenile, subject to coverage limitations.
[2]Loans and surrenders will decrease the death proceeds and the cash surrender value and may cause the contract to terminate without value.
This is a solicitation for insurance. A licensed insurance agent/producer may contact you. Thrivent provides advice and guidance through its Financial Planning Framework that generally includes a review and analysis of a client's financial situation. A client may choose to further their planning engagement with Thrivent through its Dedicated Planning Services (an investment advisory service) that results in written recommendations for a fee.
Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Thrivent.com/disclosures.

29252A R2-24

To all the honorees -
People like you make Oak Park such a great place to live!
Congratulations,
Chris and Mike Majkrzak

Congratulations to all of the honorees!

And a special Congratulations to Linda- Thank you for founding Yarns and Yarn Needlework Group!

— Barb Hunt