



As my two year OPRF Chamber Presidency comes to an end, all I can think about is how thankful I am for our wonderful Chamber staff, Board, and members. Because of all of YOU, we have made the best out of the last two years while faced with a worldwide pandemic. We have adapted, pivoted, advocated and supported those in need. Throughout this time we have worked together as a COMMUNITY to become stronger. Thank you so much for your support of me as Chamber President and for your support of both our small business community and your OPRF Chamber of Commerce!

#chamber**LOVE**



Mary Ann Bender  
Board President



**COMMUNITIES**

**Wednesday December 1, 4:30-5pm - Ribbon Cutting at Hines Insurance**

Come celebrate with us at the **Hines Insurance** ribbon cutting! Ribbon cuttings provide an opportunity to welcome and connect with a new business, network with other attendees, and celebrate our growing business community. Welcome Hines Insurance!

**REGISTER**

**Friday December 3, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Kalamata Kitchen**

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout at **Kalamata Kitchen**! We'll convene at Kalamata Kitchen to pick up our takeout lunch choices, and get to see each other for a bit while we're at it in a socially-distanced meetup. Lunch is a flat \$16 including tax and tip. Choose your meal at registration. Hope to see you there!

**REGISTER HERE**

**Thank you to the Village of Oak Park who will subsidize \$100 OFF the ad rates to any OP business who wants to participate.**

**Coming Soon!**  
Growing Community Media  
and the OPRF Chamber of Commerce  
present

**The 2021  
Holiday Shopping,  
Dining & Gifting  
Spectacular!**  
In print and online • Wednesday Journal and Forest Park Review

**Publication: December 8   Advertising Deadline: December 1**

If you have products or services to sell for the holidays or the New Year, this is the place to promote them!

**Crazy LOW Ad Rates:**

<b>For Chamber Members:</b>	<b>For Non Members:</b>
Quarter Page ads - \$148	Quarter Page ads - \$175
Half Page ads - \$225	Half Page ads - \$265
Full Page ads - \$383	Full Page ads - \$450

Contact **MARC STOPECK** at 708/613-3330 or [marc@oakpark.com](mailto:marc@oakpark.com)

**WEDNESDAY JOURNAL**  
of Oak Park and Forest Park  
OAKPARK.COM | FORESTPARKREVIEW.COM

**Advertising DEADLINE: Dec. 1**

**This marketing opportunity is great for service businesses!**



**Take a Break with Us**

We know that owning or working in a business has been particularly hard this past year and we are guessing that you could use some TLC!

Join us as we launch our **NEW Chamber program** aimed at taking care of you, our small business community. Welcome to our monthly Meditation Mondays! All it takes is half an hour (that's only 30 mins!) for us to help you put your to-do list aside, empty your head of all the chatter and truly look after yourself.

**Who will lead the meditation?**

We are thrilled to partner with the **Kadampa Meditation Center in Oak Park** to bring you this monthly meditation. The fabulous Kelsang Chogo will lead the meditation and talk you through every step. You don't need to do anything but show up and breath!

**Check out Chogo on WGN News!**

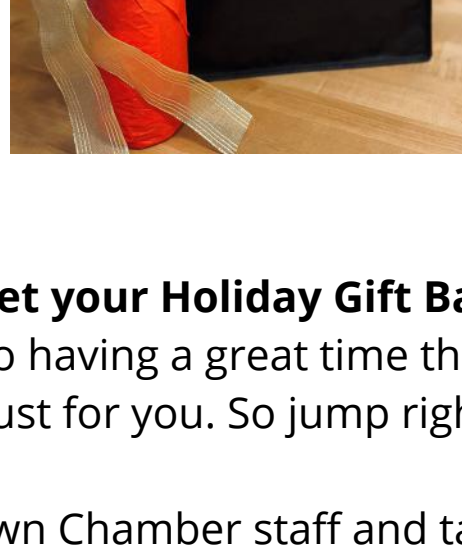
**REGISTER HERE**

**Join us to Celebrate!**

**It's that time of the year again and we would love to see you at our Holiday Celebration!**

**12/14/21**

**5-7pm**

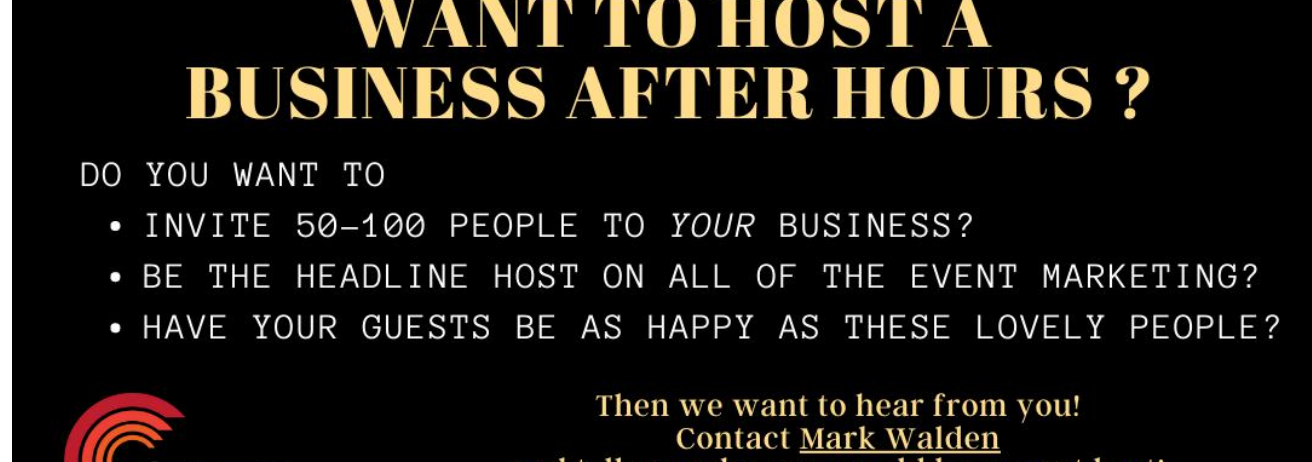


**Get your Holiday Gift Bag!**

Byline is so committed to having a great time that they have sponsored a Holiday Gift Bag just for you. So jump right in and grab one!

Curated by your very own Chamber staff and tapping into the best that our local members have to offer, this Gift Bag is perfect as a host gift, to bring to a holiday party or for those hard-to-buy-for people in your life! Heck, buy it for yourself and embrace self-care!

**REGISTER TO ATTEND & GET YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT BAG HERE**



**WANT TO HOST A BUSINESS AFTER HOURS ?**

DO YOU WANT TO

- INVITE 50-100 PEOPLE TO YOUR BUSINESS?
- BE THE HEADLINE HOST ON ALL OF THE EVENT MARKETING?
- HAVE YOUR GUESTS BE AS HAPPY AS THESE LOVELY PEOPLE?



Then we want to hear from you!  
Contact Mark Walden  
and tell us why you would be a great host!  
[mwalden@oprffchamber.org](mailto:mwalden@oprffchamber.org)



# SUPPORT LOCAL

**Purchase your digital giftcards  
TODAY!**

*Great gifts for corporate, teacher, & holidays gifts, & more...*

*\$10,000 giftcards purchased to date!*



**Be a Participating Vendor in the  
Shop Local OPRF Digital Gift Card Program  
& increase your SEO Ranking!.**



## Small Business Season!



**U.S. Small Business  
Administration**

### Learn how to apply

If you are eligible for **PPP Direct Forgiveness** because your lender has opted in and you have a PPP loan amount of \$150,000 or less. You can apply for forgiveness online using the SBA's PPP Forgiveness Portal. It takes only 6 minutes on average to complete the application and you can apply using a smart phone.

Currently, over 1.5 million business owners have applied for forgiveness through the SBA. We encourage you to apply today before payments are due.

**To apply, enter the portal and start your application: [directforgiveness.sba.gov](https://directforgiveness.sba.gov).**

Need help applying? Use the following resources:

Watch our experts navigate through the application portal and submit an application on a recorded webinar training.  
Review a database of frequently asked questions and answers.

Speak directly to a representative by calling:  
open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EDT

**U.S. Small Business Administration**  
**409 3rd St, SW, Washington DC 20416**  
**[www.sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)**

*Thank!*  
*You!*

**TO THIS  
NONPROFIT  
CHAMPION!**



Photo taken at the Chamber's Young Professionals candle-making event at Einnim in Oak Park.



Did you know that this year our very own Mark Walden and our Young Professionals Affinity Group raised enough money at the annual **Trivia Night to cover the membership dues of 12 nonprofit members?**

That's 12 nonprofits who can stay connected to our business community during these uncertain times. A huge thank you to Mark and his YP team for their dedication to the future of our Villages!

Want to learn more about how you can hang out with Mark and the Young Professionals? Reach out and let him know. He would love to hear from you! **Email Mark at: [mwalden@opr chamber.org](mailto:mwalden@opr chamber.org)**

*What a wonderful, fun night!*

### **2021 Trivia Night supported the following organizations!**

Wonder Works Children's Museum  
Nineteenth Century Charitable Association  
Oak Park Association of Realtors  
OPRF Museum  
Oak-Leyden Developmental Services  
Animal Care League  
Kadampa Meditation Center  
Housing Forward  
The Symphony of OPRF  
OP Regional Housing Center  
The Children's School  
Medical Ambassadors Haiti

#### **Sara Yount - Wonderworks**

"You truly make the difference for us and for the children in Oak Park and beyond, who rely on Wonder Works as a safe place to play, grow and learn. We are extremely grateful for your commitment to early childhood learning and non-profits throughout our community. Again, thank you for your generosity."

#### **Erin Payton - The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association**

"We were so thrilled that the OPRF Chamber's Young Professionals brought back their on-line trivia night for a second year. Doing the event via Zoom made it easy for team members who don't live in close proximity to participate together as if they were in the same room. Not only was it a fun night, but it's a great way to give back to the community."