

## Lincoln Village's most interesting people

**Josta Renz**

*Raised to be a cultural activist*



Josta Renz chose her residence across the street from Kosciuszko Park in part because of the diversity of the neighborhood. As a child she accompanied her mother on Civil Rights marches. "We had bomb threats so bad that my brother and I were sent out of state," she recalls. When the race riots were followed by the series of assassinations, Josta's mother decided to take her children to Germany. Between the 2nd and the 6th grades, Josta's family divided their time between the US and Europe, giving her a unique cultural perspective.

While she looks more like an Irish banshee than a person of color, Josta's background includes Ojibwe and North Carolina Cherokee ancestors.

### Recalling the stigma of racism

"Here my mother's best friend was an African American named Mrs. Scott," Josta said. The woman's daughter was also Josta's friend. Josta recalls a day when she was playing with her friend in her bedroom and her mother was having coffee with Mrs. Scott. Suddenly she heard her mother scream out angry words. When Josta came running to find out what the problem was, her mother explained that Mrs. Scott had just told her about an ugly episode she had gone through "just because she was" (Continued on back page)

## New Program: Operation Creative Class

*Coming to the Lincoln Village and Baran Park neighborhoods*



In 2004, Richard Florida wrote a book called *Cities and the Creative Class*. Florida defined a "creative class" as a conglomerate of knowledge workers, intellectuals, and various types of artists—all who have a propensity for diversity, tolerance, and technology. When an urban center can attract these individuals, the result is an economically flourishing area. Per Florida, Milwaukee has the raw ingredients to be a creative class city. Urban Anthropology Inc. (UrbAn) has implemented a program called Operation Creative Class (OCC).

UrbAn is working with a cadre of artistic and humanities organizations and residents and investors in Lincoln Village/Baran Park to draw poets, visual artists, LGBT families, performers, humanities scholars, and entrepreneurs to these two neighborhoods. Throughout 2011, tours will be conducted to attract potential creative class residents.

### Timetable

**2006 to 2010** (already completed projects). Old South Side Settlement Museum, two art pillars in Kosciuszko Park, neighborhood documentary, summer lecture series on humanities in Milwaukee, youth cultural programming, three art spaces along Lincoln Avenue (walls where local artists display their work).

**Autumn 2010 to autumn 2013.** Draw in over 20 creative class households to Lincoln Village and Baran Park. Begin Family Tree project that will add trees and public art to local parks.

**Autumn 2012 to autumn 2014.** Add streetscaping and public art to the two neighborhoods.

**Autumn 2010 to 2017.** Attract developers that will add galleries, museums/exhibits, coffee shops, studios, humanities organizations, cultural programs/facilities, creative new shops.

If you are a resident or investor in these neighborhoods and would like to join this effort, contact Rick at 271-9417 or RickPetrie@gmail.com.

## Our sponsors

*Lincoln Village has become a Healthy Neighborhood through these Urban Anthropology Inc. sponsors.*



NIDC, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee

## Ayuda disponible en ser propietario de una casa en Lincoln Village/Baran Park



Antropología Urbana Inc. ahora tiene un agente de bienes raíces para actuar como agente de los residentes en la compra de una casa en la Villa Lincoln. Su nombre es Chris Trotter. Cada mes, este boletín se publicará una página de web para todas las viviendas en venta en Lincoln Village. El enlace es <http://public.mlswis.com/link.html?rjzkzf7bjdq,,1>

Para acceder a su propio agente sin costo, y para aprender lo más reciente sobre becas en la compra de casas y préstamos, llame al 271-9417 Antropología Urbana.

## Help available in owning a home in Lincoln Village/Baran Park



Urban Anthropology Inc. now has a real estate agent to act as the residents' own agent in purchasing a home in Lincoln Village. His name is Chris Trotter. Each month, this newsletter will post a website for all homes for sale in Lincoln Village. The link is: <http://public.mlswis.com/link.html?rjzkzf7bjdq,,1>

To access your own agent at no cost, and to learn the latest on home buying grants and loans, call Urban Anthropology at 271-9417.

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a Negro." Josta remembers going back to her room to join her black friend. Shaking, Josta said: "I'm so glad you're not a Negro."

### Childhood to adulthood

As an adult, Josta was married, divorced, and had twin sons. Both sons became ice dance champions and coaches. Josta never forgot her activist upbringing. She implemented the first Milwaukee recycling program at Peltz Brothers and began an after school program with and about minorities in the MPS system. With St. Francis of Assisi as her model, Josta Renz also rehabilitates the neighborhood's stray and sick animals.

## What is special about October in the Park Neighborhoods?

### *Two U.S. presidents visited Pulaski and Kosciuszko parks*



On October 17, 1959, Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy visited Pulaski Park with Mayor Frank Zeidler and Rep. Clement Zablocki. The event was sponsored by the Polish National Alliance on Pulaski Day. The visit included a wreath laying ceremony at the foot of the Pulaski monument at S. 16th Street and W. Windlake. Kennedy spoke about education, employment, and healthcare.

On October 30, 1964, Kosciuszko Park hosted a visit by Lyndon Baines Johnson. He was also campaigning for the presidency. According to Johnson 46 years ago, the issues that plagued the American public were "immigration," "healthcare," and jobs.

It is October again. How much have the issues changed?