



Newsletter

Spring 2007

www.updowntowners.org

Coming Up

Downtown Performance Series

Every Wednesday, May 9 – September 26, 2007
Noon – 1 p.m.
Lincoln Community Foundation Gardens
FREE to everyone!
For a complete schedule, see article inside or visit www.updowntowners.org.

Membership Luncheon: Before the First Pitch: Getting Ready for Game Day

Wednesday, May 23, 2007
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Haymarket Park, 403 Line Drive Circle
\$12 Members; \$15 Guests
RSVP by May 17, 2007 by calling 434-6507 or online at www.updowntowners.org.

Updowntowners' Golf Classic

Monday, June 11, 2007
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Registration
1 p.m. Shotgun Start
\$85 Individuals; \$340 Team of 4
Register by calling 434-6902 or by visiting www.updowntowners.org.

Membership Luncheon: Jazz in June Turns Sweet Sixteen

Thursday, June 14, 2007
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery,
12th and R Street, UNL Campus
\$12 Members; \$15 Guests
RSVP by June 8, 2007 by calling 434-6507 or online at www.updowntowners.org.

Celebrate Lincoln Ethnic Festival

June 22 – 23, 2007
11:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
12th – 14th on N Street
\$2 adults; \$1 children under 12
Admission includes inflatable games and train rides.
FREE Admission Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
For more information, visit www.celebratelincoln.org.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer for our events contact: www.updowntowners.org or call our events office at 434-6902.

Come "Experience the World" at Celebrate Lincoln!

By Nancy Cain, Committee Chair

The 4th Annual Celebrate Lincoln Ethnic Festival presented by Lincoln Benefit Life will soon be transforming the streets of downtown Lincoln into a bustling World Market on June 22 – 23! Last year more than 30,000 patrons explored the many corners and colors of the world at the festival. This year the festival will stretch from 12th -14th Streets on N Street, filled with sights, smells and sounds that will allow patrons to "Experience the World."

as well as "Sunny" the Clown and crazy hair. Admission is \$2 for adults, and \$1 for children 12 and under.

A special thanks to our generous partners Lincoln Benefit Life, TierOne Bank, Wells Fargo, Time Warner Cable, Bud Light, US Bank, Broadcast House, KLKN Channel 8, Lamar Outdoor, Lincoln Journal Star and Three Eagles Communications for your commitment to bringing Celebrate Lincoln to our community. In

addition, this event would not be successful without our 30-member volunteer committee and the countless hours they dedicate to Celebrate Lincoln. Thank you for your time and

Celebrate LINCOLN

Entertainment presented by TierOne Bank will resonate from two stages at this year's festival. Patrons feet will be dancing on Friday, June 22 to the music of Ashanti African Roots at 7 p.m. and Seven Nations at 9 p.m. on the TierOne Bank stage. On Saturday, June 23, Tijuana Gigolos will start off at 7 p.m. followed by Coco Montoya at 9 p.m.

dedication. For more information about Celebrate Lincoln or to volunteer at the event, please visit www.celebratelincoln.org or call the event headquarters at 434-6902.



In addition to the sounds from around the world, festival patrons will enjoy a vibrant assortment of artisans' handiwork, performing arts and dance, live global music, educational activities and tantalizing food created in ethnic traditions. The event site will be abuzz with activity. And new this year, with the admission fee, children will enjoy FREE inflatable games and train rides,



Celebrate Lincoln
Ethnic Festival

Updowntowners, Inc. is a division of the Downtown Lincoln Association and is an equal opportunity organization. For newsletter contributions, inquiries or membership information please contact the Updowntowners events office at 434-6902.

Spring is in the air and Updowntowners is in full swing!

By Bryan Sullivan, President



Your organization has never been busier planning events for you and the Lincoln community. In May, Updowntowners kicked off both the Downtown Performance Series as well as the annual Special Olympics Torch Run. The Performance Series will run every Wednesday, May 9 thru

September 26, filling the downtown area with wonderful music. The noon performances will be held in the Lincoln Community Foundation Gardens and are free to the public.

Wednesday, May 16 was the Special Olympics Torch Run where we welcomed the Law Enforcement Torch Runners and wished all of Lincoln's Special Olympic athletes good luck in the Cornhusker State Games. The athletes, Updowntowners' members and Law Enforcement Officers enjoyed a ceremony, free food and a three inning softball game. Everyone was glad to be a part of this event!

Coming in June, will be the Updowntowners' Golf Classic as well as Lincoln's annual ethnic festival - Celebrate Lincoln. The golf classic will be held June 11, so mark your calendar now and be sure to get your team signed up. This is one of the most affordable tournaments in Lincoln with lots of prizes and fun activities planned. Following the tournament on June 22-23 is Celebrate Lincoln. Come join the fun in the streets of downtown Lincoln. If you've never been to the festival, you don't know what you're missing. You'll discover food, music, dancing and activities from around the world. The event has something for all ages and is designed for everyone in our diverse community.

We would like to welcome all new members to the Updowntowners family. A recent membership drive brought in nearly 100 members to the organization. Most of the new members that joined were referred from an existing member, which is the best way to expand our organization. As part of the orientation process for those that joined, Updowntowners recently hosted "Making Connections". This event allowed new members to learn more about what we do as an organization and to engage with our event chairs regarding future volunteer opportunities. Thanks to everyone involved who made the event a success!

Finally, be on the look-out for the upcoming Updowntowners' Board Election. This is when you choose who will lead our organization in the future. A ballot will be forthcoming in the next month, so make sure you are part of the process that sets up Updowntowners for success.

Have a wonderful spring and summer, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our next events!

23rd Downtown Performance Series Kicks Off!

By Lynnette Nelson, Committee Chair

Take a break from your daily routine and come join us every Wednesday beginning May 9th at the beautiful Foundation Gardens located at 1415 N Street for the Downtown Performance Series presented by Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. The Downtown Performance Series has a fabulous lineup of entertainers assured to take your work blues away. This free Series will run every Wednesday from noon to 1:00 pm through the end of September. Bring your lunch, listen to some great music and relax over your noon hour. See the schedule below for a complete listing of entertainers or visit our website at www.updowntowners.org. The Downtown Performance Series is presented by Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, produced by Updowntowners, Inc. and sponsored by Colby Ridge, Cornerstone Printing & Imaging and the Downtown Lincoln Association and in part by Lincoln Community Foundation. Join us during the lunch hour - we're sure you won't be disappointed!



2007 Downtown Performance Series Schedule

May 9	Executive Steel Band
May 16	Emanon
May 23	Sarabande Jazz
May 30	Tunafish Jones
June 6	Hardy Holm
June 13	Von Kampen Trio
June 20	Students of Lisa Watkins
June 27	DanzXplosion
July 11	Academy of Rock
July 18	Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet Meadowlark Music Festival
July 25	Wayward
August 1	Ok Chorale
August 8	Skylark
August 15	Derek Outson
August 22	The Melody Wranglers
August 29	The Clefs
September 5	Broad Appeal
September 12	Sarabande Seule
September 19	Terri Jo
September 26	The Wheezetones

Membership Committee Makes the Grade with Unique Experiences

By Randy Hawthorne, Membership Committee Chair

You may notice a few extra parking spaces recently near the University. That's because the co-eds have closed the books on another year. Their final exams are in and grades are posted. This past year our Membership Services Committee was put to a test with one single question: "Will this activity provide a unique experience for our members?" Let's take a look at the answers:

Most recently, the Updowntowners grabbed a sack lunch, climbed aboard our chartered bus and listened to stories from Polly McMullen, Terry Uland, and Arline Kraft of the past, present and future of downtown. In March, Douglas Theatres gave us a Grand experience as we watched trailers for this summer's blockbusters and then toured behind the scenes to see the latest in projection technology.

And speaking of behind the scenes, coming on May 23 Updowntowners will get an exclusive look at how Haymarket Park prepares for a Saltdogs game. And forget your standard ballpark faire. Levy Restaurants will treat us to skybox delights. On June 14, we'll help Jazz in June celebrate its Sweet Sixteen at the Sheldon Art Gallery. July takes us to the Nebraska Repertory Theatre stage to see just how a play is produced.

This past year has taken us from the Lincoln Children's Zoo to Westfield Shoppingtown. We've learned about Lincoln's Emergency Plan and unique retail offerings in Downtown Lincoln. The Updowntowners were one of the first groups to meet the new Lincoln Journal Star publisher and Pastor Tom told us how many people the People's City Mission helps.

With our social events, the Membership Services Committee found the best chili in Lincoln, took our families to the float factory for a behind the scenes look at the Star City Holiday Parade and to see a special visitor from the north. We bonded at Voda and recently took an amazing, exclusive tour of Empyrean Ales complete with samples and pairings with some of Lazlo's best appetizers.

With this increased activity we were able to initiate an exciting membership draft. Eight membership teams recruited 97 new members. The new members were invited to our Making Connections event to learn how to get involved in Updowntowners. Thanks to the winning recruiters, T.J. Casady, Luke Traynowicz, Teresa Ingram and Brandi Meredith who will be treated to a Saltdogs skybox experience in May!

As the Membership Services Committee wraps up their programming year, we're excited to announce that this terrific committee plans to stay involved in next year's events! Of course, we're always looking for a few good committee members, so if you'd like to get involved contact Randy Hawthorne at rhawthorne@updowntowners.org, 437-0111 or Tina Reeves at treeves@updowntowners.org, 434-6902.

Join Us on the Course, 6th Annual Updowntowners Golf Classic – June 11!

By Tina Bretting, Committee Chair

Excitement is building for the Sixth Annual Updowntowners' Golf Classic presented by Embassy Suites! Whether you are a beginner or a polished professional, the Updowntowners' Golf Classic will be enjoyed by all. Your day will include great food, golf, prizes and a silent auction for you to bid on some fun items. Proceeds from the event go toward the production of Updowntowners' events such as: Star City Holiday Festival, Celebrate Lincoln, Downtown Forums, Special Olympics Torch Run and the Downtown Performance Series.

The beautiful Yankee Hill Country Club will again be the host site for this year's tournament, which will be played Monday, June 11, 2007 at 11:30 am. The format is the ever-popular 18-hole, 4-person scramble. Cost is \$85 per person and includes: green fees, cart, range balls, lunch, dinner and awards. Divisions will be established for men's, women's and mixed teams, so there is sure to be prizes for many. In addition, many of our gracious sponsors will be located throughout the course offering fun activities to all golfers, such as a \$20,000 hole-in-one cash prize!

If golf is not your thing, we still have a few spots available for sponsorships. This is a great way to network your company to business professionals throughout our community, as well as give to a wonderful cause. Either way, we'd love to have you as part of the Updowntowners' Golf Classic!

See you on the course!

Annual Special Olympics Torch Run, Fun for All!

By Katie Navratil, Committee Chair

Wednesday, May 16th Updowntowners welcomed the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics to Lincoln. The event, held at Lewis Fields on 22nd and N Streets in Lincoln, began with a ceremony emceed by Gina and Joe of the B107.3 morning show. The Torch arrived at the Fields to the sound of "Chariots of Fire" and the excited cheers of the spectators. After the ceremony, Special Olympic athletes participated in a three inning softball game while enjoying free food and drinks provided by Great Wraps, Culligan Water and Pepsi. The event was a wonderful opportunity for Updowntowners to celebrate our Lincoln Special Olympic athletes. As always, we wish the athletes success at their State Games competition.

