

Uptown 5 Post's Evaluation of 3rd Valentine Ball
25 Feb. 1977

I. Scenes and Events most often told...

lady who complained at first, but changed at the end
work of the youth
fiddler
Keisers dancing
cheese cakes
smoothness of the day

II. After hear quotes:

parpmedic-- Where did you find all of these people?"
Do we have to wait until next year?
Who really put this thing together?
Fine comments on buses by those which got picked up
see VOICE quotes
elders and youth working together
impact of the program
appreciation of the care structures

III. What happened that we wanted to have happen?

youth participation-- also Ziegfield Follies
shift in image in community of youth
serving people
it was a community event--as well as focusing on the elders
total involvement in booths by agencies
drawing on elders for planning
steering committee was in charge

IV. Why did above happen?

timelining and working through steps
history
communal wisdom
engaging everybody
story told to all local businesses

V. What happened to Steering Committee?

keep on meeting
broad spectrum
agency-- grassroots
learn our methodologies
they take responsibility for the Ball

VI. Why did that happen?

Listing the Victories every week
singing
a well structured meeting
having a full story to operate out of
having Task Forces as well as the whole committee seeing the whole
Shadow principle
Short courses

VII. What didn't happen?

Uptown 5 Post's Evaluation of 3rd Valentine Ball
25 Feb. 1977 (cont.)

-2-

VII. What didn't happen?

number of people low from Uptown 5
didn't have response from ticket centers
didn't have helpers rotating
didn't have the "blue" behind stage
not wide age span
some helpers didn't come
climax didn't come off well
bus conflicts
bills still need to be paid
habaret--motivity---getting people to turn out --could have gone
better
starting time

VIII. Why?

visiting elders meetings was not carefully monitored
back up forces not procured early enough
orientation session cancelled
our contingency plan was short sighted

~~XI.~~ Where was it that this Ball pointed to a universal tactic that every Primal Community is to be about?

~~XII.~~ How did the Steering Committee inform this universal tactic?

~~XIII.~~ How does this inform what we need to do next?

~~XIV.~~ How do we preserve this event? or what do we do re. its
amplification? (world, Nexus, guild, community ?)

VIII. (cont.) had a TM image of steering committee but the size of the job
was bigger
needed a check back system
should have started our funding calls sooner
no car megaphone
proposals and grants started too late
core leadership didn't gel

INSERT AT END

Uptown 4 Post's Evaluation of 3rd Valentine Ball
 25 Feb. 1977 (cont.)

-3-

IX. What happened that we didn't anticipate?
 impact on individual lives
 numbers of displays and quality of those
 steering committee support--finances
 awakening tool of the day
 steering committee lives changed
 T.V. documentary
 photographers
 impact on total city

X. Contradictions dealt with:

<u>Frag. Vision</u>	<u>Neg. Image</u>	<u>Rootless M.</u>	<u>Indiv. Survival</u>
working tog. with everyone	buttows	Steering Com. letterhead	\$1.00 for ticket
all age groups	Aragon	grid appearing	serving people
publicity by other groups (also, VOICE)	TV coverage	3rd Annual	all agencies
Steering com. workingflyers	dignataries	Uptown 5 name	kind of food was symbolic and celeb.
business contrib.	Banks		
Dave Olsen joining in Uptown 5			
	numbers on the table-- other details		
	care structures		
	couple playing at entrance		
	# of gifts		
	"bumless"		

Reflections from Steering Committee celebration
on 3rd Valentine Ball
17 Feb. 1977

1. Events? Activities? Scenes? People?...

Troy was there all day
from the registration table... 1/2 way house group--could not speak
or write but their faces made all the work worth while.
couple dancing in wheelchairs caused me to dance after 30 years of
not dancing because I had lost all of my toes
women asked: does the 400 club still meet here?
Uptown Walty
Keesal (bank man) drove Sam G. home to pick up flowers for his wife
the boys deserve a toast

Bob Terket
Mary Hawkins
Follies
Booth displays
Dan Marovitz
Dennis Block
the couple with a violin and guitar... hadn't played violin in 50
yrs. then started when he became a Senior Citizen

Sen. Merlo said "How do you get so many here?"
2 teenage girls said: "I'll check it out for \$1.00" but never
came out

"Haven't been here in 20 years
"first time in Aragon/when young, my mother would not let me go"
"When will we do it again---once a month?" "Do we have to wait
one year?"

"Need more young folks to the same event"
"Youth were glad to serve elders"
"I didn't want to leave."
"Elders changed the attitude of youth

2. Surprised?

Hardwork but easy
12:00 people whoed up
Waited on better than last year
Broad representation over the city-- 4 from Elmhurst

3. Excited?

Fine workers
Appreciate work and organization and people working together
What can I do next...
Man with a wooden leg--enjoyed the Ball
Elders working with youth smoothly
Room filled with people
Flowers

4. Significance?

Looking forward to next year
Put together by and for community
Shows what Uptown can do when it gets together
In cloakroom--feared undesirables but had none of that---people
respected the fact that it was a fine affair.

Reflections from Steering Committee celebration
on 3rd Valentine Ball (cont.)

-2-

4.

It was like Christmas...everyone trying to make others happy
Buttons - Don spent hours making them-- Uptown is a Great Place...
only 6 buttons left...people were wearing them with pride

5. Happened to People?

Enjoyed selves unconsciously and consciously
Folks look forward to Christmas and the Ball
People got into action and want more
Many folks with no disorder

6. Happened to Uptown?

United more
Aides closed office---taking seriously participating in it all
Cleaner streets
Get rid of differences and became only Uptown

7. How Uptown Changed?

Uplifted--not fights
No more excuses for not working together
Discovered new strength

8. Learned about Being Steering Committee?

Cooperation pays off.
Socialization...
Start fund-raising early
Ongoing Steering committee for Uptown beneficial
Could trust others to do work
Well-organized

9. Learned about being Steering Committee?

Responsibility
People can get together and plan something
A lot depends on coordination
Community and agencies can do work together
ICA mythology for working together

10. Future?

July 4th celebration
Ongoing Steering Committee
Christmas
Uptown Olympics for youth and elders
Picnic
Clean up lots and streets
Fix up and Paint up
Help for individual seniors
Intergenerational aspects for all events-- all ages

11. Other Activities that Steering Committee might Sponsor?

Intercultural Festival
Luncheon once a month
Meet once a month

Town Meeting

Uptown Day
Boys Club..summer concerts...plus something else

Reflections from Steering Committee celebration
on 3rd Valentine Ball (cont.)

-3-

12. Toasts:

Continue to say "I can"
Meet and work in friendship
More youth involvement
Chicago comes to Uptown to learn how to get together
Phone in volunteers for steering committee work

Fixed Next meeting on 3 March 1977 at Lawrence House at 1:30
Ken Bernat was appointed to make the arrangements

COMMUNITY PRIDE

One reason for such pride is that people of Uptown 5 know their community. They know its borders and its landmarks, its businesses and its neighborhoods. They know who they are. The Steering Committee decided to affirm that when they used the map of Uptown 5 (some refer to it as a "grid") on their posters and publicity campaign. The area between Foster and Montrose, Marine Drive and Broadway and its 5 subdivisions, or Care Wards, has become a familiar symbol to residents across Chicago and within Uptown itself. Many people are saying, "That's Uptown 5. I live there. It's a great place!"

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

There are other symbols which are important and which played a big part in the success of the Ball. One is the Aragon Ballroom itself, a significant part of Uptown's heritage. It reminds us of glorious days gone by and the new Valentine's Balls there say that the present is glorious, too. The Ballroom looked magnificent and beckoned everyone to dance. One man who hadn't danced in 30 years, led the way. Many who were considered to be physically handicapped moved with boundless grace and ease. Don Sadofsky's original composition, "The Uptown Waltz," reminded all that being a part of Uptown that day was something to dance about. Continuously throughout the day and for weeks preceding it, people were aware that this was a local affair, put on for and by local people. Local man, himself, has become a symbol of care and commitment. This was also seen in the financial backing for the Ball. 75 local businesses, individuals and organizations made contributions of money, goods and services. *LOCAL SUPPORT* was one of the keys to making it all happen.

COMMON TASK

It was also shown that local people can work effectively side-by-side with agency staff. Any gap that may have existed in those relationships was closed when everyone pitched in on a common task. As one resident put it, "We got rid of our differences and became only Uptown." People discovered that they were great human beings and that their lives had meaning. The words of the day were "I can" and "We can."

BUILDING COMMUNITY

But what does all of this mean? The Third Annual Uptown 5 Valentine Ball, after all, is over. The project is completed, that's true, but the impact of the Ball goes on like the circles going out from a pebble thrown into a lake. Already people are asking, "What can we do now?" "When is there going to be another Ball?" "What else does Uptown need?" ...and on and on. The *POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE* are endless. People of Uptown 5 are awake, alive and ready to begin again. Everyone is welcome. Let's "Swing Along" together to build our community.

- Bank of Chicago
Paul Johnson
- Department of Human Services
Montrose Center - Hy Thurman
4707 N. Broadway - Tense Ojeda
- Hull House
Betty Orna
- Institute of Cultural Affairs
Jack Ballard
Barbara Caruso
Margaret Lazear
- Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens
and Handicapped
Ken Bernat
- Revolutionary Swing Orchestra
Don Sadofsky
- Robert R. McCormick Boys Club
Robert Turco
- St. Thomas of Canterbury Golden
Agers Club
Rose Malerich
- The Peoples Church of Chicago
Rev. Fred Haman
Martha Talbott
- Uptown 5 Elders Node
Ann Ensinger
George Miller
Esther Nelson
Rose Shanas
Willia Wentworth
- Uptown 5 Guild
Gerald Gearon
Ed Johnson
Sarah Parekh
Robert Vankos
- Uptown National Bank
Bruce Keesal
- Uptown Residence Centers:
 - Chelsea House
Hugh Ken Moore
 - Edgewater-Uptown Senior Center
Roger Hough
 - 5040 Kenmore Building
Arlene Del Rosario
 - Kenmore Plaza
Florence Block
Joe Coles
Maud Davison
Ruth Kahan
Hyman Kahn
Viola Medo
 - Lakeland House
Willia Wentworth
 - Lawrence House
Kathy Osterman
 - Normandy Terrace Social
Rehabilitation Center
A. Seneris
 - Sheridan-Argyle Center
Elsie Dunn
Sadie Losenisky
 - Sommerset House
Gilbert Altman
Joel Bedhke
Yvonne Krueger
- Uptown Senior Citizens Organization
Sam Graziano