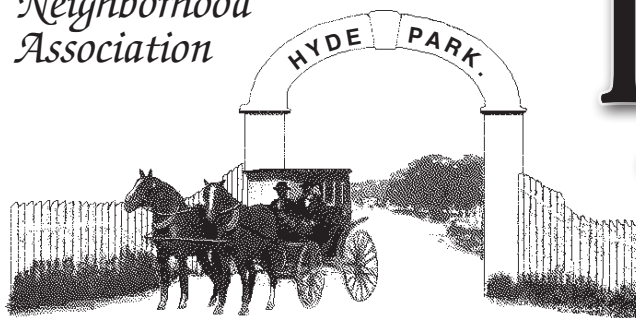


# January Meeting

HPNA will not hold a general meeting in January.

*We look forward to seeing you in February.*

*The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association*



# Pecan Press

January 2024 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 50, No. 1

## Hyde Park Holiday Parade & Party



The Banner Leads the Parade, Carried by HPNA VP Paul Smith and Michelle House of SPJST



The Ridgetop Scouts in the Parade, photo by Kevin Heyburn



Parade Underway!



Watchers Enjoying the Parade



Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the Elves, photo by Kevin Heyburn



First Light Books



Stephen Gonzalez & Jade Walker, Organizers of the Parade & Party



The Wish Tree, photo by Kevin Heyburn



Music at the Ney

# From the Desk of the President

Welcome to 2024!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. Four weeks ago, on a breezy Saturday in early December, HPNA helped kick off the holiday season by once again hosting Santa Claus in a parade through Hyde Park.

This time Santa was joined by Mrs. Claus and two adorable elves. Santa and his crew danced and waved from a brightly lit float, which was escorted by children, parents, grandparents, Ridgetop Girl Scout Troop 1387, and hundreds of neighbors. Santa's parade went up and down Avenue H and Avenue G, north of 40th Street. After the parade there was a big party at the Elisabet Ney Museum; it featured kolaches, huge trays of

meat and cheese, and for the adults – cider and wine.

This year we had a cookie decorating table courtesy (once again!) of our friends at Quack's Bakery. We had a table of crafts sponsored by the International Refugee Coalition and a table of wonderful books from First Light Books. We also had an online silent auction that raised \$4,150 for the Helping Hand Home for Children, a home for foster kids here in Hyde Park. A big thank you to all of the generous donors of items to the Silent Auction. As a side note, the raffle HPNA organized during last spring's Bunny Parade raised \$1,400 for the Hope Food Pantry. HPNA has been asked to do another fundraiser for the Hope Food Pantry this year. If you have an item you would like to donate to that fundraiser, please send an email to [hydeparkna@gmail.com](mailto:hydeparkna@gmail.com).

A big thank you to the Slovanic Benevolent Brotherhood of the State of Texas (SPJST) for once again loaning HPNA their spectacular holiday float. Thank you to SPJST Vice President Melanie Zavodny and her husband David, Austin SPJST Lodge President

Albert Klinkovsky and his wife Clara, and to Michelle House for bringing the float to Austin and helping to pilot the float through Hyde Park. We are also grateful to everyone who joined us for the parade.

Thank you to the Elisabet Ney Museum's Curator Jade Walker, who, along with Lindsay Barras and other members of the Ney staff, hosted the party and provided a wonderful party venue at the Ney. We also want to thank Fairweather Cider Company owner (and Hancock neighbor) John

Continued on next page

## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765  
[www.austinhypark.org](http://www.austinhypark.org)

– HPNA Officers & Steering Committee –

### President

• Kevin Heyburn.....[kmheyburn@gmail.com](mailto:kmheyburn@gmail.com)

### Co-Vice Presidents

• Kathy Jackson  
• Paul Smith

### Co-Secretaries

• Katie Vignery.....[vigneryk@gmail.com](mailto:vigneryk@gmail.com)  
• Ann Duncan.....[slomm3@gmail.com](mailto:slomm3@gmail.com)

### Co-Treasurers • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

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• Lorre Weidlich.....[lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com)

### Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Stephen Gonzalez • Holly Granato • Lisa Harris • Marsha Riti • Katie Turner • Brendan Wittstruck • Chris Wooster •

– HPNA Committees & Task Forces –

### ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee)

• John Williams.....[jawilli@grandecom.net](mailto:jawilli@grandecom.net)

### Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep.

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Suzanne Pringle, Realtor

JET of Texas: Carport, Patio, and Pool Shade Cover

Chris Wooster Creative

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## Pecan Press

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Editorial deadline: 10th of the month preceding publication.

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S of 45th/E of Speedway

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• Phillip Sparkman

For the Baker District, call..... 512-974-5340

## Submissions to Pecan Press

• Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at [lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com).

*Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.*

• Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at [herzele@gmail.com](mailto:herzele@gmail.com).

*All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.*



Staples for his generous contribution of his company's excellent beverages.

A big thank you to neighbor Stephen Gonzalez for once again organizing the parade, the party, and the silent auction. And thank you to all the neighbors who volunteered to help escort the parade and help at the party.

Also in December, the City Council, in a 9 to 2 vote, adopted what the Council calls the Home Options for Middle-Income Empowerment (HOME) ordinance. According to the *Austin Chronicle*, the HOME ordinance will change city zoning laws to permit three housing units on most single-family lots and the usage of tiny homes on those lots. It will also eliminate the number of unrelated adults who can live together in a single family home. The City Council will vote on further zoning changes next year. More information about how these changes will affect Hyde Park will be in future issues of the *Pecan Press*.

We will not have a General Meeting this month. Our first General Meeting will be on February 5, when we will vote on our annual budget. We are still working on an agenda for the February meeting. We welcome any suggestions you might have for issues we should discuss in February and at other meetings this year.

HPNA has big plans for 2024. Our membership has grown over the past year, but we still have more room to grow. Please remember to renew your HPNA membership, if you have not done so already. The HPNA looks forward to continuing to work with you and your neighbors to make Hyde Park a great place to live.

Happy New Year!

— Kevin Heyburn  
President, HPNA



## Monthly Calendar January

- 1 — Happy New Year
- 6 — Drawing Salon at Ney
- 8 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 12 — Recycling Pickup
- 13 — Drawing Salon at Ney
- 16 — FronteraFest begins at Hyde Park Theatre
- 20 — Drawing Salon at Ney
- 21 — 3M Half Marathon comes to Hyde Park
- 26 — Recycling Pickup
- 27 — Drawing Salon at Ney

## Join the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Join and renew online at [www.austinhdepark.org/join](http://www.austinhdepark.org/join).

- Secure online payment
- Opt-in for auto renewal
- Email reminders for renewals
- Join for multiple years

Residents 18 or older living within the boundaries of Hyde Park are welcome to join. Current members may vote on HPNA resolutions concerning issues facing our community. New and lapsed members (over six months) must wait 30 days after dues payment to vote on HPNA resolutions.

Learn more about membership options and policies at [austinhdepark.org/join](http://austinhdepark.org/join) or join us at a general meeting.

HPNA does not share, sell, or publish any contact information; it's only used for membership administration.

**Questions?** Email [hydeparkna@gmail.com](mailto:hydeparkna@gmail.com).

To receive reminders about HPNA events, email [subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com](mailto:subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com).

### Need to join by mail?

Complete and mail this form with cash or check (payable to HPNA) to  
**HPNA, P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewing Member

### Membership Types (choose one):

- Individual, resident: \$5/year
- Individual, non-resident (non-voting): \$5/year
- Senior, resident (65+): \$1/year
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# Around & About the Avenues

**Hyde Park Theatre Presents FronteraFest.** From January 16 through February 17, Hyde Park Theatre (HPT) (511 W 43rd Street ) will present its annual theatre festival of short plays, FronteraFest. Each night at FronteraFest, local artists will present a new, unjuried bill of four or five plays, no longer than 25 minutes each. Over the years, FronteraFest has hosted a little bit of everything, including brilliant monologues, plays in progress, comedy improv, cabaret singers, avant-garde dance, short films, and multimedia shows. Every Saturday night, there will be a juried series of Best of the Week performances, and the last week, February 13 through 17, there will be a juried Best of the Fest set of performances – with a few wild cards thrown in. A complete schedule, updated regularly, will be available on the HPT website, [www.hydeparktheatre.org](http://www.hydeparktheatre.org).



**Hyde Park Resident Collects Pumpkins for Rescue Pigs.** Hyde Parker Deaton Bednar took on a new project this fall: collecting left-over Halloween pumpkins (uncarved and unpainted) to deliver to Central Texas Pig Res-



Photo by Kevin Heyburn



Photo by Deaton Bednar

cue (<https://centraltexaspigs.org>), an all-volunteer pig sanctuary. The pumpkins were used to feed rescued pigs of all sizes.



**Carl Shepherd Celebrates 100th Birthday.** Long-time Hyde Park resident and dog aficionado Carl Shepherd celebrated his 100th birthday on November 21, 2023 with family, friends, and neighbors at his home on Avenue C. As a farmer's son from Williamson County, Carl joined the U.S. Navy at the beginning of World War II, where he served on the USS Rocky Mount in the Pacific Fleet. After the war, Karl and his late wife Dean bought their home in Hyde Park, where they raised two children, Werdna and Steve. After more than seven decades in Hyde Park, Carl told the *Pecan Press* last year that he couldn't have asked for better neighbors. For more information about Carl, please read the article about him in the December 2022 issue of the *Pecan Press*.

**Julio's Says Goodbye to Stella.** Julio's Restaurant, a neighborhood favorite, celebrated its 40th anniversary and the retirement of founder Stella Lucero in November. The party was hosted by two of Julio's new co-owners, Blake Thomp-

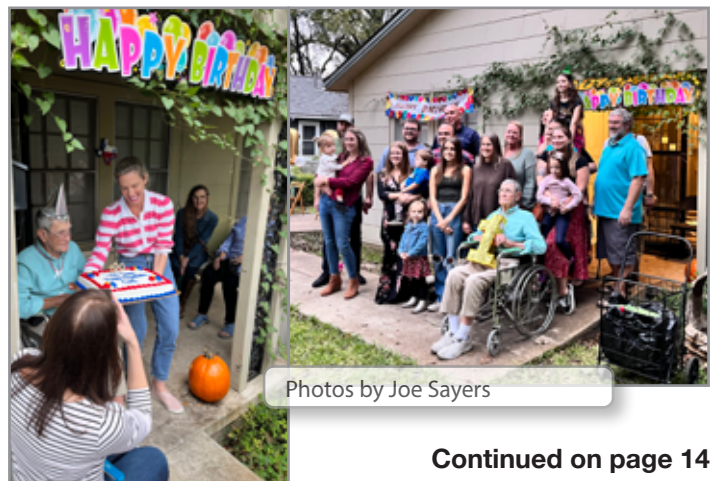


Stella Lucero, Mayor Kirk Watson, new Julio's co-owner Claudia Nelms, and Julio Lucero; photo by Kevin Heyburn

son and Claudia Nelms. Helping Stella celebrate were her son Julio Lucero, sister Bobbie Salinas, and other members of Stella's family. Both past and present members of the restaurant staff were there as well as many of Julio's regular customers, including Austin Mayor Kirk Watson. On a related note: *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin: Restaurants 2023" cited Julio's roast chicken and vegetable soup as a local dish that deserves a Michelin star. In the words of author Kimberly Jones, "Soulful broth, sliced avocado, essential add-on rice – it goes beyond nourishing. It's restorative."



**3M Half Marathon Coming to Hyde Park.** On January 21, 2024, the 3M Half Marathon will be making its way through Hyde Park, leading to road closures. Closures will begin at 3 am on January 21 near the starting line at Stonelake Boulevard. The remainder of the course will begin to close to motor vehicles at 6 am for the 7:30 am start. Roads will reopen on a rolling schedule following the final runner. Road closures will end at 11:30 am at the finish line at 14th Street and San Jacinto. In Hyde Park, the course will run east on 45th Street from Shoal Creek Boulevard to Duval and then south on Duval. See <https://downhilltodowntown.com>.



Photos by Joe Sayers

Continued on page 14



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-Stacy B.



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Read what others are saying:





We welcome in 2024, kicking off the Elisabet Ney Museum's 113th year! Thank you to the over 500 guests who attended last year's amazing Hyde Park Neighborhood Holiday Parade and Party.

We were thrilled to include a Night Market with the lovely products created by our community partner, the Multicultural Refugee Coalition. Your purchases supported their meaningful mission to provide refugees, immigrants, and asylees fair-wage, dignified work, in this case, through their art. In addition, First Light Books provided a holiday sampling like no other! The many children that attended loved decorating the tasty cookies from Quack's Bakery.

If you are looking for a Ney gift that can be given all year and sparks curiosity, visit the museum and pick up a Formosa Diorama created by MakeATX with the support of Pollen Architects and the Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum. They make a wonderful young artist activity as they can be custom designed by your little artist and help share the joy of Ney and her work. Thanks to the Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum for providing these opportunities for so many to be a part of the museum.

We kick off the New Year with an old tradition. Our Saturday morning Drawing Salons are back! Join us each Saturday

from 10 am to 12 pm in January to sketch Elisabet's realistic sculptures in her own Formosa

studio. Each session is hosted by our Museum Educators, and all of the required materials will be provided. Participation is free and open to everyone, regardless of age or level of experience. Enjoy the quiet moments of Formosa that Ney herself enjoyed and flex that creative muscle this year.

You can find out more about the Elisabet Ney Museum, The Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum, and all the Re-Imagining campaign updates on our website: <https://www.theney.org/> or <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/elisabet-ney-museum>.



## Dead Poets Society 1

Word Find by der Brat

D E A D P O E T S S O C I E T Y  
 P L A T H W G S H E L L E Y E S  
 P U F F I N O R Y B E L L O W B  
 B L U E M O O N U M B E R O O R  
 U G H O R H O W L B G U L L R O  
 R R S V P L S M H N D L A N D N  
 G E T P H R I G I I E N I L S T  
 T B A L L L A N N F T H A T W E  
 U S E A L O W C G I F M I S O T  
 U N K A R O M N I H M E A N R S  
 M I Y O R E O Z Z Y E M U N T O  
 A G E B Y L T O I L E T U C H R  
 P O E M S A R E G R E A T C U F  
 A S E H G U H G R E B D N I L L  
 T A D I C K I N S O N O O S E E  
 H E A V Y O U A R E M E L L O W

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. She put Lesbos on the map. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. He took the road less traveled. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. He HOWLed. (8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. She ended it all too soon. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
5. O Captain, My Captain! (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. TS or George. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Carl from Chicago! (8) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Sisters known more for novels. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Not a Beat poet/artist; lived to 101. (12) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Edna St. Vincent ??. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Anne Morrow ??. (9) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Wrote Frankenstein; married to a famous poet. (7) \_\_\_\_\_
13. lower case poet. (8) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Langston ??. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
15. She wrote lots of poems, published few. (9) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Lake poet and poet laureate. (10) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Him or his wife: loving couple. (8) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Dad of Ada Lovelace. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Not a short guy. (10) \_\_\_\_\_
20. Wrote on a Grecian urn? (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 14





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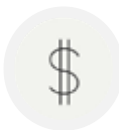
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Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses September, 2023

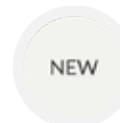


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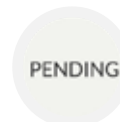
AVERAGE DAYS  
ON THE MARKET  
+24 days to 65 days



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+7% to 10,235



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INVENTORY  
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# Volunteers Needed at Interfaith Action of Central Texas

Interfaith Action of Central Texas (I-ACT) is a nonprofit that facilitates inter-religious dialogue, service, and celebrations. I am always glad when I make it to one of their celebrations - the Interfaith Thanksgiving is a particular favorite. Their headquarters recently moved quite close to Hyde Park, to 5307 Airport Boulevard, Suites B and C. I attended the open house for its new headquarters on Thursday, December 7. There were tours of the new facility as well as refreshments.



Because the new space is much larger, I-ACT is able to move most of its volunteer activities into it. If you are looking to do some volunteering without going far from home, you have some new options. I-ACT is most in need of mentors for youths from refugee families and Handy Helpers to repair homes. To volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Mondra Wright, who can be reached at [mwright@interfaithtexas.org](mailto:mwright@interfaithtexas.org) or (512) 386-9145, extension 320. For many of the volunteer opportunities, volunteers are required to pass a background check and attend a 30 minute orientation on Zoom.

If you would like to participate in a more physical volunteer activity, I-ACT's Hands on Housing program would welcome your help. Handy Helpers assist elderly, disabled, and low-income homeowners with minor home repairs such as replacing door handles, window panes, or faucets; painting; and minor carpentry. These projects can be completed any day of the week.

The other Hands on Housing volunteer opportunities are events in the spring and the fall. The Spring Blitz is in April and Raise the Roof is in October. Volunteers will paint and do minor exterior carpentry for ten homes of people who are elderly, disabled, and low-income. There will be a different team of volunteers for each home.

Individual volunteers are welcome; you don't have to sign up as part of a team.

If you would like a volunteer opportunity that is less physical, you could volunteer with I-ACT's programs to help refugees. The refugees who are helped by the I-ACT mentorship program are between 15 and 24 years old. As a mentor, you will provide career assistance, tutoring, help with cultural skills, and adjustment to life in Central Texas. You visit your mentee once a week for 10 weeks and make yourself available for weekly phone calls with your mentee.

Volunteers are also needed to assist teachers in the English language instruction program for refugee adults. The classes are offered both virtually and in-person during

the week. Volunteering with this program requires that you make a commitment to help for at least 3 months.

In the summers, I-ACT runs a summer program, ILEARN, to introduce newly arrived refugee families to how schools work here. Refugee youths are taught English, school skills, and cultural information.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with setup, registration, ushering, food, and so forth for I-ACT's many events.

— Lisa Harris



Open House, photo by Lisa Harris

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## Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

### Be a Part of the Recycling Solution: Prevent Recycling and Composting Contamination



#### Recycling and Composting Contamination

One of the biggest problems of recycling and composting is contamination: placing the wrong items in the blue recycling cart or the green compost can. Contamination is costly to the city's ratepayers, disrupts the recycling and composting processes, and causes serious safety hazards at the recycling and composting facilities.

Below are some of the culprits in the recycling cart:

- Aluminum cans – Do not flatten aluminum cans. The optical sorters recognize them by their cylindrical shape.
- Black plastic containers – Although these have a recycling number on the bottom, black plastic is very difficult for the optical sorters to recognize. Please try to reuse these whenever possible. Otherwise, throw them away.
- Garden hoses – These get wrapped around the machinery and have to be physically removed by the workers. The removal process is very dangerous. These can be given away if they are in good condition or placed in the trash can if they are not.
- Hazardous materials – Hypodermic needles, partially full aerosol cans, and broken glass are the most commonly found items. They pose a great danger to the workers at the recycling facility.
  - » Hypodermic needles should be placed in a plastic container with a tight-fitting lid and the container should be taped closed. It should be labeled "needles or sharps" and thrown into the trash can.
  - » Partially full aerosol cans should go to the Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center. Empty aerosol cans can go into the blue recycling cart.
  - » Broken glass should be wrapped in several layers of newspaper or placed in a sealed box labeled "glass." This should be placed into your trash can.

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- Large bulky items such as tires, PVC pipe, long handled tools, and golf clubs – These have been found on the conveyor belts at the recycling facilities. Tires can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. Other bulky items should be donated, whenever possible.
- Pizza boxes – Because they absorb food product, they contaminate the other paper recyclables in the recycling stream. Put pizza boxes into the green compost can.
- Plastic bags – These can wrap around the machinery and damage the processing equipment. Plastic bags should go to the plastic bag collection bins found at most grocery store.
- Plastic bottles with liquid in them – Plastic bottles are separated by weight. In the recycling facility, they are sorted by optical sorters and air currents. For the air currents to work, plastic bottles must be empty.
- Shredded paper – This needs to be bagged either in a paper bag or a compostable bag and put into the green compost can.
- Styrofoam – This cannot be processed at the recycling facilities. It should go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.
- Wet paper – This makes the other papers in the recycling process unrecyclable. Even if the paper dries out, it is not recyclable. It should be placed into the green compost can.
- Wire hangers – These get wrapped around the sorting machinery and cause a lot of damage. Wire hangers should be taken to a dry cleaner for reuse or placed into the trash can.

### Please Do Not Bag Recyclables!

Bagged recyclables are a huge recycling problem. We bag our trash and our compost, so it seems logical to want to bag our recycling materials. However, there is a reason why we must not put our recyclables in any kind of bag. Recyclable materials are dumped onto a conveyor belt when they arrive at the recycling facility. The workers do not have time to open and empty these bags, so the bags are removed from the conveyor belt and set aside to go to the landfill. Also, because there is no way to know the exact contents of the bags, they pose a potential health hazard to the workers.

Use this link to see what happens at the recycling facility as our recyclables are being processed: <https://vimeo.com/199912809>.

Below are some of the culprits in the green compost can:

- Balls – Tennis balls are ending up in compost cans. These need to go into the trash can.
- Clothing – Clothing is not compostable. Clothing can be donated or thrown into the trash can.
- Glass bottles – Glass gets crushed in the process of grinding the composting material. This glass contaminates the compost and the entire pile of compost has to go to the landfill. Glass bottles go into the recycling cart.
- Plastic bags – BPI-certified compostable plastic bags and paper bags are the only bags that can go into the green compost bin.

- Plastic take-out containers – These need to go into the recycling cart if they are clean and dry and have a recycling symbol on them. Otherwise, they go into the trash can.

### How is Recycling Contamination Costly to Ratepayers?

The city pays Balcones Resources and Texas Disposal Systems (our two recycling facilities) for all material brought in by the recycling collection trucks, based on weight. The facility then sorts and processes recyclable materials and sells them. The city receives a portion of the revenue from those sales. For any contaminated items, the city doesn't receive revenue and instead pays a processing fee to haul them to the landfill. This cost is passed onto the ratepayer by raising solid waste fees to cover the extra expense.

#### Please Remember:

- When in Doubt, Throw it Out! Recycling and composting contamination is a huge problem. If you have exhausted all reuse possibilities and are still unsure, put the item into the trash can.
  - Nothing Smaller than a Credit Card in the Blue Bin.
  - Remember the City of Austin Recycling Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.
- Stay tuned for future tips for creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to [denahouston3309@gmail.com](mailto:denahouston3309@gmail.com).

## Hyde Park Poets

### It Is Impossible to Live without Hurting Someone

When I was twenty, I was dumb as toast,  
 Not much better at thirty,  
 At forty I thought I had seen it all,  
 At fifty, even more,  
 In my sixties, I made all the mistakes  
 I was sure I was above,  
 In every decade, in complete oblivion,  
 I have hurt the ones I love,  
 There is no answer or reply,  
 There is no knowing why  
 Selfishness, as a survival tool,  
 A weapon with no peer,  
 Can shroud one's love and best intentions  
 With numbing dumbness;  
 I apologize – I can only hope and surmise  
 That someday, and somehow,  
 Maybe I will be wise

– Herzele  
 11/19/2020

# HPNA General Meeting Minutes: December 4, 2023

## MEETING TOPIC: Future Plans for the Elisabet Ney Museum

President Kevin Heyburn called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. He introduced Jade Walker, Site Coordinator and Curator of the Elisabet Ney Museum, and Laura Esparza, Division Manager of the Museums and Cultural Programs Division for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.


Jade Walker prefaced the presentation by saying the Elisabet Ney Museum is in a period of great change, involving significant capital improvements.

Jade emphasized the museum's focus on community engagement during the planning process. She then outlined 2023 events culminating in "Re-Imagining the Ney," a month-long series of events dedicated to shaping the future of the museum through an interpretive plan. The series focused on an inclusive and community-centered approach to updating the historic landscape around the museum.

- Artist Salon: On May 11, more than 60 artists from all over Austin gathered to talk about what would make the Ney more of an artistic hub. Three facilitators guided the discussion by probing topics such as what makes the space important and what possibilities participants could envision in the landscape.
- Group meetings: Throughout the year, meetings were held with groups of neighbors, non-profit organizations such as the Multicultural Refugee Coalition, and the HPNA Steering Committee. Participants were asked how the Ney was valuable to them and their families, memories they have of the Ney, and how they would like the museum to evolve.

### Re-Imagining the Ney Series

- September 17: "Draw Your Own Path: Museum Day." Members of Atelier Dojo, a fine arts school in Austin, were invited. They suggested ideas for additional family programs.
- September 21: "A Night in 19th Century Austin." Invited guests included Gail Cowan's Textile & Apparel class, Spike Gillespie, and representatives of the Brush Square Museums Foundation. Staff and attendees enlivened the event by dressing in period clothing.
- October 5: "A Night of Process." Erin Cunningham from the University of Texas at Austin demonstrated how to create a plaster mold. Local artist Renee Lai, who recently had a solo exhibit at the museum, said "As an artist I was influenced by the Ney."
- October 12: "A Night in the Landscape." Two architectural firms, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects and Catherine O'Connor's Co' design, discussed their visions for the Ney grounds. Robert Stepnoski, researcher and Senior Lecturer at the UT Austin School of Architecture, shared the work his class has done at the museum. They explained how they used drones for mapping and modeling paired with information technologies for analysis and discovery.



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- October 21: “A Community Art Bash.” Seven hundred guests attended this afternoon and evening event. Six artists, selected from the May 11 Artist Salon, were asked to create site-specific multicultural projects in the museum and on the grounds. Participants, including performative artists, explored the idea of an interpretive tour going through the Ney basement. Several food trucks on the grounds fed guests.

Out of these numerous 2023 events and conversations will come an Engagement Report, which will be shared with planners.

Jade and Laura next updated members on the Capital Improvement Project. A bid sent out last August received no responses. The proposal has since been revised and will go out to bidders after the upcoming holidays. Typically, six months elapse between bid and start of building construction.

In answer to HPNA member questions, it was confirmed that at present there is no construction start date and that the landscape plan is in a preliminary stage.

### Member Questions and Answers

*Q: What are the planned capital improvements?* A: They include a new HVAC system, renovated lighting, windows and doors, upgraded security, and some stonework repointing. After the basement gets a rehab, the hope is that it can be used to store more Ney archives.

*Q: Will artwork be removed from the building during construction?* A: Yes. UT Austin, which owns the sculptures, has allowed the Ney to place artworks into museum storage.

*Q: How long will the museum be closed?* A: Roughly 1½ years. Forthcoming exhibits will be based on the new interpretive plan, with a focus on telling Elisabet Ney’s story. The goal is for people to come away feeling as though they know the artist. To this end, Jade and Laura mentioned that they are collecting Ney anecdotes and encouraged people to share any stories they know.

*Q: Will the new landscape plan be based on the last plan that was submitted?* A: The new plan will be an evolved version. The goal is to make the museum and grounds more beautiful and to make the site read more like a museum.

*Q: Is outside lighting part of the plan?* A: Yes, along with additional seating. The aim is to create a social space where neighbors can hang out, have refreshments, and listen to music.

*Q: Will outdoor activities continue while the museum is closed?* A: Not on the grounds, because of construction equipment. Activities will take place in other places, such as Baker Center and Shipe Park. The new overall plan represents a doubling down on educational relationships.

*Q: What is the plan for the bungalow or lodge behind the Ney?* The building is in the 25-year floodplain. To be usable, it would have to be raised, then a long ramp or bridge constructed for possibly as far as across the creek. The museum itself is still in the 100-year floodplain. Jade and Laura hope project architects will come up with good ideas on what to do with the building.

## Updates

### Membership Software

Chris Wooster presented a membership end-of-year report. The new digital membership tool is now in place and processing renewals. Online payments, auto-renewals, and automated reminders are all working.

#### Growth:

- Membership grew from 98 verified members at the end of 2022 to 304 members (plus 5 business members) as of the beginning of December 2023.
- 62 memberships are for two to three years (three years being the maximum).
- 167 members renewed in just the last few weeks.

Chris described how the platform has been used in creative ways. For example, HPNA can now sell tickets through the platform: It processed \$11,500 in Homes Tour ticket sales this year. The membership tool also allows event sponsors to pay online (\$5,000 had been received as of early December).

In sum, Chris noted that \$2,100 was originally requested for the membership platform. Since it was introduced, HPNA has received \$2,500 or more in membership revenue--actually turning a profit!

### 2023 Homes Tour

Kevin noted that Homes Tour posters and booklets are still available. If you would like copies, contact Kevin at [kmheyburn@gmail.com](mailto:kmheyburn@gmail.com).

Kip Dollar reported that tickets sales were roughly the same as last year – remarkable considering this year’s cool, rainy tour day; sponsorships were slightly down. He thanked homeowners, house captains, docents, and the Ney Museum for their contributions. Kevin thanked Kip, Toby, and Homes Tour Committee members.

Kip announced that the 2024 Homes Tour will be held Sunday, November 10 and that five or six homes are already on the preliminary list.

This year’s tour made \$17,000 after expenses. The HPNA Budget Committee, meeting on December 5, will present spending recommendations to the Steering Committee.

### Holiday Party

Stephen Gonzalez reminded members that this year’s holiday party is Saturday, December 9. The parade starts at 5:15 at the Elisabet Ney Museum and ends between 5:45 and 6, also at the Ney. The party, held in the museum and on the grounds, is from 6 to 8 pm. There will be drinks and authentic Czech food catered from Temple. There will also be art activities, and the guitarist who entertained last year will be returning. This year, for the first time, an online silent auction will be held. The auction’s goal is to raise \$7,500 for the Helping Hand Home. The non-profit organization, at 38th Street and Avenue B, supports abused and neglected children who are unable to integrate into the foster care system. In another first, a Night Market will be held on Ney grounds. The Multicultural Refugee Coalition will have textiles and organic produce, and First Light Books will have a booth. MakeATX will be selling wooden dioramas that people can paint themselves.

Continued on page 14

**Affordable Apartments Prove Not So.** Several months ago, the *Pecan Press* reported that the City of Austin had bought several apartment buildings in Hyde Park. One was renamed “The Adler” after former Mayor Steve Adler. City staff told Austin residents that rent would not be raised and nobody would be displaced. That proved to be a lie: just before the sale became final, rents were raised, sometimes by as much as 25%, and residents were informed that they would be responsible for additional fees. While it is not totally clear who is responsible for the rent increases – city staff denies that it was the City of Austin, while at least one former employee of the original owners specifically states that the city wanted the rent increases – it has led to the displacement of a number of residents. To read the entire report, written by Audrey McGlinchy and broadcast on KUT on December 7, go to <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/austin-affordable-housing-adler-apartments-rising-rent/>.



**Graffiti Team at Work.** Hyde Park’s graffiti team, led by Lisa Harris, has been working to combat the abundance of tagging around the neighborhood, described in the article “Tagging in Hyde Park” in the November issue of the *Pecan Press*. We thank them for their efforts.



Members of the HP (Anti) Tag Team: Lisa Harris, Sara Paredes-Baumgartner, and Stephanie Taylor; photo by Jim Ellinger



**Holiday Market & Art Market.** On December 9, the parking lot next to Quack’s and the sidewalk along the 400 block of 43rd Street were full of tables and booths for shoppers to explore – artistic works, cookie decorating, handmade shoes, wonderful gifts for the upcoming holidays! The Art Market is already an annual event; we hope the Holiday Market will become one as well. We thank the organizers and participants.



Photo by Jim Ellinger

Kevin asked, “What is the easiest way to bid on items in the silent auction?” Stephen said people can scan the QR code (on page 1 of the December 2023 *Pecan Press* as well as on the HPNA website). He confirmed that all proceeds go to Helping Hand Home. Items can be bid on until 11 am Sunday, December 10. Stephen will send out an email asking for six volunteers to block streets and watch for pedestrians as the float passes.

### Announcements

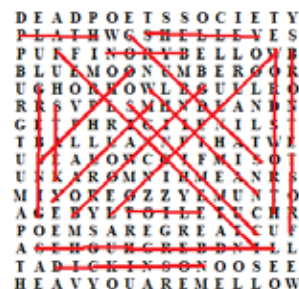
- On behalf of HPNA, Kevin congratulated Membership Coordinator Katherine Mydra on her recent marriage. He also welcomed Kelsey Brown, who will serve as HPNA Co-Secretary starting in 2024.
- Kevin will ask the Steering Committee about canceling the January 2024 General Meeting.
- Kevin reminded members that Austin City Council is holding a Planning Committee meeting on December 7 about the proposed HOME rezoning plan. He reminded members of his President’s Letter in the December *Pecan Press*, where he provided links to resources. Karen McGraw followed up by noting that HPNA is 50 years old this year. In that time it has funded conservation and historic districts. The HOME plan, she said, will not result in affordable housing, but in market housing. As Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, Karen hopes to start holding neighbor meetings. She concluded that the proposed rezoning plan is “terrible for the whole city.”
- Kevin thanked individuals who have worked out a compromise on the High Street Development Project. The plan goes to City Council on January 18, 2024.
- Paul Smith noted that 46th Street now has a new sidewalk on the north side.
- Kevin announced that, at the February HPNA meeting, a spokesperson will share information about the new bike lane project.
- Paul Smith mentioned the recent KUT story about the city’s purchase of several apartments in Hyde Park: <https://www.kut.org/austin/2023-11-30/austin-helped-buy-cheap-apartments-with-the-intent-of-keeping-prices-low-instead-rents-went-up>.

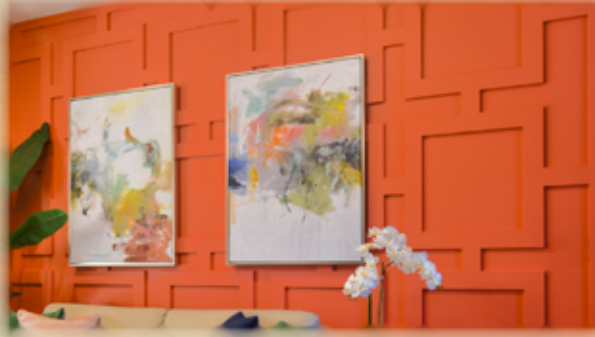
Kevin adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

– Submitted by Katie Vignery  
HPNA Co-Secretary

### Word Find Answers from page 7

- ANSWERS: 1)SAPPHO;  
2)FROST; 3)GINSBERG;  
4)PLATH; 5)WHITMAN;  
6)ELIOT; 7)SANDBURG;  
8)BRONTE; 9)FERLINGHETTI;  
10)MILLAY; 11)LINDBERGH;  
12)SHELLEY; 13)CUMMINGS;  
14)HUGHES; 15)DICKINSON;  
16)WORDSWORTH;  
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