

July Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 6, 2015

Where: Griffin School
5001 Evans Avenue

Note: HPNA meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for July 6

- ❖ **Flooding in Hyde Park:** Presentation and Discussion by City of Austin Staff and Hyde Park Neighbors Affected by Flooding on Memorial Day Weekend
- ❖ **Announcements**

See You There!



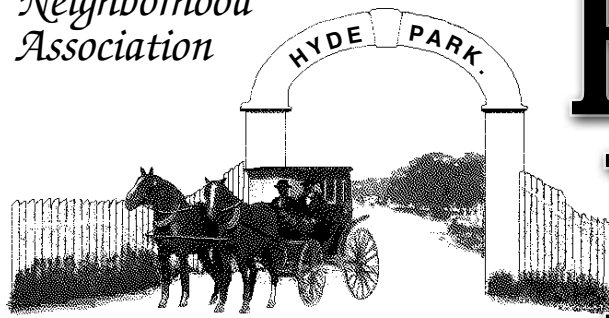
News From The Ney

Yes, Ney Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18!

Though originally scheduled for late May, the recent monsoon season basically washed that date off the calendar. As a result, on Saturday, July 18, Ney Day returns! At this, the Third Annual Ney Day, celebrate Elisabet Ney, her art and her legacy, with readings from Austin women authors, sculpting demos, food trucks, performance art, technology activities, clay crafts, health screenings, and much more. The headlining act will be Elisabeth McQueen, with Yes Ma'am Brass Band, the Djembabes, and more. And don't forget, Shipe Park Pool is right across the street. Bring your swimsuits and towels and make a day of it. The event will run from noon to 5.

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

July 2015 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 41, No. 7

Exploring Lives Interview with Jack Evins

Editor's Note: Jack Evins and his wife Debbie have lived in and around Hyde Park since 1974 and have been stewards of the Weisiger-White house on Avenue F since 1977. Jack served as president of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association for two terms beginning in 1978. As a longtime resident, HPNA officer, and owner of a historic home, Jack offers a unique perspective worth sharing before he and Debbie move to Debbie's hometown of Galveston to begin the next chapter of their lives. Jack was interviewed by his neighbor, HPNA Co-Vice President Kathy Lawrence.

Kathy Lawrence: You have lived in and around Hyde Park since 1974. What brought you to Austin and Hyde Park?

Jack Evins: I came here to do graduate studies in International Relations at The University of Texas after graduating from Texas A&M with a political science major and history minor.

KL: What is it like to be the steward of a historic landmark home?

JE: Our home, the Weisiger-White house built in 1892, was one of the first structures in the neighborhood to get historic zoning. When we bought our house, it had been divided into a triplex with one unit upstairs, one unit downstairs, and a garage apartment in the back. It needed extensive work on the foundation and elsewhere; we have made several attempts over many years to get it into its current condition.

KL: How did you become involved in the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association?

JE: In about 1976, shortly after the neighborhood association was formed, Debbie and I became aware of the HPNA and we began attending meetings. Merle Franke was president and Dorothy Richter was, as always, one of the main players in neighborhood efforts. Dorothy and others encouraged me to take a leadership role and I was nominated as president. I served for two terms, 1978 and 1979. As a student of history and political science, I was drawn in during an era when young people were inclined to be politically active. We were coming off the heels of Vietnam protests, Watergate, race riots, and assassinations, and so the notion of being involved in political issues that impacted a neighborhood that had historic merits was a natural fit and really engaged me. So, the HPNA favored me with the office of president for a couple of years, which was a real privilege, and at an exciting time to be involved. Of course, at the time, the neighborhood's reputation and standing as an historic neighborhood was not well established or recognized.

KL: Will you tell me about the work you did during that time?

JE: We saw historic zoning as an opportunity to protect some of the

Continued on page 13

From the Desk of the Co-Presidents

Flooding and Its Implications



Our profound sympathies go out to all our Hyde Park residents who were adversely affected by the Memorial Day flood. The news footage of apartment dwellers on 45th Street displaced by flood waters was sobering, to say the least. Hyde Parker Tim Hampton, in the 4400 block of Duval, reported that he provided temporary shelter for half a dozen people and their pets. Some were in such a hurry to get out they didn't even have time to put on shoes.

We are glad that the neighborhood has serious discussions about new development in Hyde Park. The recent meetings HPNA had about a proposed restaurant on 45th and Speedway come to mind.



Flooding on 45th Street, photo by George Wyche.

If commercial businesses opened up on 45th Street, they would inevitably create consequences for the neighborhood as a whole, especially if those businesses increased impervious cover in Hyde Park. Flooding should make all of us consider carefully how our social environment affects our natural environment.

We appreciate the efforts of our Co-Vice Presidents, Adrian Skinner and Kathy Lawrence, to put together a program that enables all of us to explore the issues raised by the recent flooding.

Our thanks go to Ken Webster at the Hyde Park Theatre for providing our June meeting place and talking to us about the theatre. We think it inspired a few meeting attendees to attend the latest production there.



Ken Webster, photo by Mark Fishman.

We were saddened that the Six Annual Shipe Pool Party was cancelled due to inclement weather, after all the organizational effort by the Friends of Shipe Park. We hope that some of its activities can be rescheduled for upcoming summer events in Hyde Park.

— Kevin Heyburn & Lorre Weidlich
HPNA Co-Presidents



Monthly Calendar July

- 6 — HPNA General Meeting
- 10 — Recycling Collection
- 13 — HPNA Steering Committee Meeting
- 24 — Recycling Collection

Pecan Press

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Editor

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee.
pecanpress@austinhypark.org

Poetry Editor

Charlotte Herzele herzele@gmail.com

Photo Editor

Lizzie Chen

Production Manager & Advertising Director

Robert M. Farr, 731-0617, bobfarr@austin.rr.com
7500 Chelmsford Dr., Austin, TX 78736

Payments for Ads

I. Jay Arons, P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Distribution Coordinator

Rimas Remeza, 4105 Ave. F, 371-3158, rimasx@yahoo.com

Area Coordinators

- N of 45th/W of Duval
- Rosa Maria Lopez Reed elsalvadorchrist@yahoo.com
- N of 45th/E of Duval
- Jay Gerard & Carrie Laughlin 371-1546
- S of 45th/W of Speedway
- Joanna Fitzgerald joannafitzgerald@icloud.com
- S of 45th/E of Speedway
- Martha Campbell 452-2815

Contributors Past and Present

Glen Alyn, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Steve Bratteng, George Bristol, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Kitty Clark, Betsy Clubine, Elsy Cogswell, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Pam Dozler, Cathy Echols, Mark Fishman, Merle Franke, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Barbara Gibson, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Lisa Harris, Anne Hebert, Ben Heimsath, Albert Huffstickler, Cynthia Janis, Paul Kamprath, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Susan Kirk, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Alejandro Puyana, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mark Sainsbury, Jessica Salinas, Mary Lou Serafine, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyianta Spelman, Julie Strong, Grant Thomas, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Adam Wilson, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Hermelinda Zamarripa

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
www.austinhypark.org

— HPNA Officers & Steering Committee —

Co-Presidents

- Kevin Heyburn kmheyburn@gmail.com
- Lorre Weidlich lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com

Co-Vice Presidents

- Kathy Lawrence mail@kathylawrence.com
- Adrian Skinner adrian.h.skinner@gmail.com

Co-Secretaries • Artie Gold • Reid Long

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

- I. Jay Arons ijaarons@aol.com
- Mark Fishman mlfishman@gmail.com

Additional Steering Committee Members:

- Heidi Bojes • Sharon Brown • Jessica Charbeneau • Betsy Clubine • Ellie Hanlon • Dorothy Richter • Debbie Wallenstein • John Williams

HPNA Committees & Task Forces

AISSD • Anne Hebert, anne@annehebert.com
Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, sky2wash@austin.rr.com

ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee) • John Williams, jawilli@grandecom.net

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Claire deYoung, anc_rep@yahoo.com

Beautification • Robin Burch, robinburch@gmail.com (903) 780-5275

Church-Neighborhood Liaison • Kathy Lawrence, mail@kathylawrence.com

CodeNEXT (joint HPNA-CT committee) • (unfilled)

Crime & Safety • Carol Welder, cjwelder@msn.com

Development Review • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

Finance • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

Graffiti Patrol • Lisa Harris, ljharrisus@yahoo.com 420-0652

Homes Tour • Carolyn Grimes, cgrimes@cunited.com

Membership • Sharon Brown, donsharon4213@sbcglobal.net • Karen Saadeh, kdmatthis@gmail.com

Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, mcgrawka@earthlink.net
Neighborhood Outreach & Communications • Sharon Brown, donsharon4213@sbcglobal.net

Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, mlfishman@gmail.com

Social • Deaton Bednar, deatonbednar@grandecom.net

Social Media Coordinator • Ellie Hanlon, ellie.hanlon@gmail.com

Tree Preservation • John Walewski, jwalewski@civil.tamu.edu

Website • Michael Crider, online@austinhypark.org

Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117

Hyde Park International

Hasta la vista, Hyde Park!

Editor's Note: From the time of Elisabet Ney, a German immigrant, Hyde Park has been privileged to provide a home for people from around the world. Their presence in Hyde Park has added to its richness and diversity. In the following article, one of those people, Cristina Pérez Guembe, whose family lived in Hyde Park for a year, says farewell to their temporary home.

It was in the early hours of July 15, 2014, after a long trip that included a four-hour delay in New York, that we arrived at the house on Avenue H that was going to be our home for the next 12 months, exhausted but excited with the prospect of the new adventures awaiting us.

It's been a great year, beyond our expectations and even beyond what we could have best imagined, a year that will be deeply embedded in our hearts forever and will always be cherished in the history of our little family.

I remember very well our first days and conversations with our backyard neighbor, Dorothy, the admirable lady Mayor of this Austin corner, and with Robert, Kathy, and their children, especially Lucy, with whom my girls had lots of fun back in those hot Texan summer days at Shipe Pool.

It is certainly going to be sad to close the door for the last time at the house that has been our home here on Avenue H, with those big windows open to the nature of the area, where I had the privilege to witness wildlife at its best, with the passing of the seasons, the squirrels, the blue jays, and the cardinals singing; it surprised us with a huge pecan rain one day or a full spring of white irises another. We will remember with a big smile the day we had that first paella night with Tim and Amie, an adorable couple who just recently became a family, who shared with us their Thanksgiving table. We wish you all the best!

Looking back with all perspective, it is curious to see how things developed in the weeks after our arrival and how what seemed to be at first casual encounters became later great stories to tell. As I'm writing this, I'm sitting at the very desk that once belonged to your dear neighbor, John Kerr, aka Squirrel Nutkin, who used to write in these same pages that help build your community so simply yet effectively, which have allowed me to know more about this little corner of Heaven on Earth. Being also a

journalist by education, I feel honored to be able to use the place where he most probably sat and wrote for you, too, as I sit and write for you now.

Back in September, in my quest for furniture without a car, I saw an ad that led me to the Kerrs' house on Avenue F, and a few days after, I was installing a decent number of pieces of their furniture and other accessories to make our stay comfortable. After knowing more about the history of this wonderful family of neighbors, I can honestly say that being surrounded by their things made me very happy, as I thought that it was the closest thing to being their guests at their very own home.

I wish I could have met them, as I'm sure we would have had great conversations about many topics, and surely the camino would have inevitably sprung, as the city where we currently live and my grandparents' nearby birthplace are part of that pathway. It is now nice to think that we might receive their daughter's visit one of these days when we get back home, as she is seriously considering following her father's steps. Wherever you go, Ellen, buen camino!

Shortly after that, I got also to know that one can never foresee that a first casual encounter provoked by a simple styrofoam cooler can bring the joy of a beautiful and lovely friendship. Thank you, Carol and Amon, for everything! Words will never be enough to express how much I have enjoyed the time shared with you and all my gratitude for all the things you have done for us! I hope it won't be long until we see you in Spain!

Continued on page 19

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership

• Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.

• All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

• New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.

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We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press

• Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to the **HPNA Steering Committee** at pecanpress@austinhypark.org.

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

• Send your poems to **Charlotte Herzele** at herzele@gmail.com

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

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	2012	2013	2014
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AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$401,513	\$477,040	\$470,565
AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE	1,606 SF	1,773 SF	1,565 SF
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$257.20	\$284.11	\$316.36
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	34 DAYS	44 DAYS	29 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 12/31/2014 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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Kid's Corner: Escape the Heat!

Welcome to the Pecan Press Kid's Corner where you can find out about kid happenings in Hyde Park. Feel free to submit anything kid related, including event info, kids' drawings, stories, comics, songs, poems, what have you! ppkidscorner@yahoo.com

Boy, it's hot! But don't let the heat keep you from having some summertime fun around the neighborhood. Of course, a dip at Shipe Pool will cool you off. You can take your tike for a healthy smoothie at Juice Land or yummy vegan ice cream treat at Sweet Ritual, 45th and Duval. Or, hit Dolce Vita for a delicious gelato. Check out their kids' specials - Sock Monkey Sundae and Sprinkle Cup, both served up with gummy worms! Casey's, across the railroad tracks at 51st, has been cooling off neighbors for almost 20 years with their New Orleans-style snowballs. They also have macaroons if you prefer. Don't forget Sno-Beach at 34th and Guadalupe for straight-up snow cone delights.

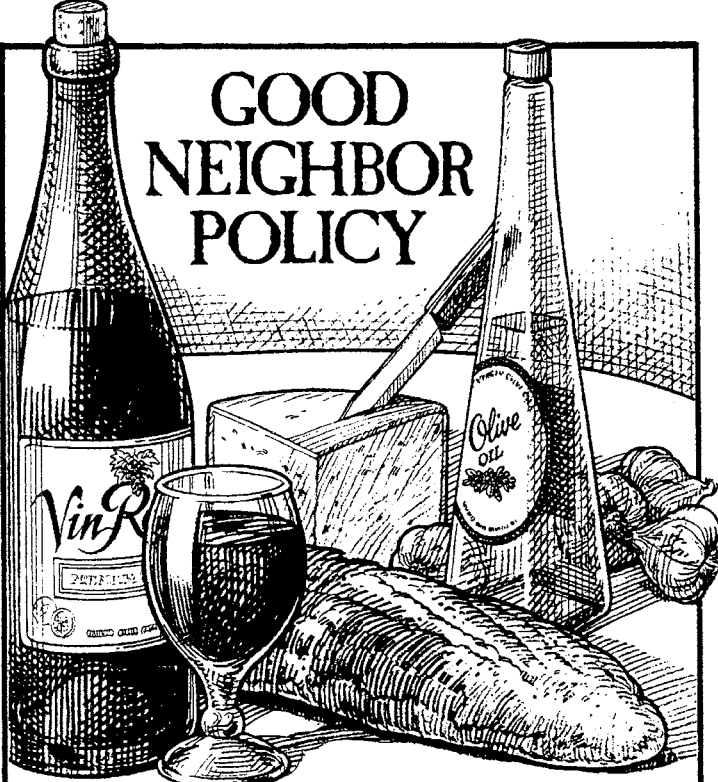
For some indoor fun, you might want to take a peek inside the Elisabet Ney Museum across from Shipe Park, or bike on over to UT and check out the dinos at the Texas Memorial Museum, kids' art tours at the Blanton, Texas history and the IMAX at The Bullock Texas State History Museum, Texas and American West landscapes by Frank Reaugh in August at the Harry Ransom Center, or bowling at the Union Underground. A bit further afoot, near Mueller, is the Thinkery for lots of kid fun - and dare I say education - and Café Monet at the Triangle to get their creative juices flowing. And of course, a stop at Quack's for a whimsical cut out cookie and cool drink will always bring a smile to a kiddos face. Have fun and stay cool out there!

News from the Ney... ...cont'd from page 1

You may also have noticed an addition to the 45th street side of the museum property; that's Jennifer Chenoweth's Dance of the Cosmos, a special project supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin's Economic Development Department. This remarkable piece will be officially opened at Ney Day. It will then grace the north face of the museum grounds for a year.

Remember too that the Ney's summer camp, Visual Literacy: Storytelling through Art, still has a few spaces in it! If you're interested, call 512-458-2255. August will see the return of Saturday morning drawing classes, too.

The Ney is at 304 E 44th Street and is a part of the History, Arts, and Nature Division of the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. Admission is always free.



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Hyde Park Places

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 S O U P S P C S O U T S K E E T
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 Y O R E O L D H A A A U N C L E
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 A L T I T L E E P U L A D A U G
 R P O S T O F F I C E B O X E R
 K B A R A N D G R I L L B I T E

Clues:

(The number in parentheses is the number of letters in the answer.)

1. Mexican food at the corner of Duval & 43rd. (6)

2. With 3. When you get to the fork in the road look up and you're there. (4,4)

3. See 2. (3,3,5) _____
4. Pastries by the laundromat. (6)

5. You'll love her vegetarian cuisine. (7,4)

6. Her castle is a museum. (8,3)

7. Once Shettles, then Hyde Park, now this UMC. (7)

8. With 9. One might be a cottage industry in Hyde Park; like the Adams House. (3,3) _____
9. See 8. (9) _____
10. On the west side, once informally called Asylum Street. (9)

11. The east boundary of original HP. (5,6)

12. It's not The Olive Garden (whew!). (4,9)

13. It's where Avenue E should be. (8)

14. Many Hyde Parkers vote here. (5,6)

15. Place to swim or wade or play ball. (5,4)


16. Get some gelato here. (5,4)

17. Get some groceries here. (5,4)

18. Get some groceries and gas here. (6,4,4)

19. At the corner of 43rd and Speedway. (4, 6)

20. Across Speedway from 19. (4,7)



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Recipe Corner



Cuneo Rum Cake

The world is full of rum cakes, but in the history of Austin, one stands out: the Cuneo Rum Cake, named after Cuneo's Bakery, which stood at 4225 Guadalupe Street for close to 36 years after its founding in 1925 by Mr. and Mrs. V.A. Cuneo. The picture shows it as it looked in 1956. Its rum cake, the creation of Cuneo's production manager, Ray Kennedy, became an Austin favorite.

Ray learned his skills at the Fleishman School of Baking in the 1930s. After 11 years at Cuneo's, he briefly opened a bakery in Cisco, Texas, where he spent part of his childhood, but ended up returning to Cuneo's. He left again in the 1950s and worked for 25 years at Mrs. Johnson's Bakery before retiring in 1978. He was a resident of the Hyde Park Annex and he served as a deacon of the Hyde Park Baptist Church for 57 years. He died in 2003 at the age of 89.

In 1977, Ray Kennedy shared the bulk version of his rum cake recipe in the Austin American-Statesman, saying, "They used to line up outside the bakery to buy those rum cakes, they were so good." Thirty-four years later, in 2011, someone requested the recipe from Monica Kass Rogers, Chicago food writer and owner of the website LostRecipesFound.com. Rogers reached out to Addie Broyles, food writer at the Austin American-Statesman, to track down Ray Kennedy's children, James Kennedy and Rita Bruton, who still had the recipe.

Rogers scaled the recipe down to a single cake and posted it on her website. After she posted the recipe, readers added such comments as "We use to receive this rum cake each Christmas. ... We lived in Houston and loved the rum cake every year." and "Cuneo's made my Wedding Cake fifty six years ago. I grew up in the area of Hyde Park surrounding the bakery. The donuts were delicious too!" In response to a request, Rogers adapted the syrup to include real rum instead of rum flavoring.

Yield: One tall, 10-inch, tube cake.

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE CAKE

- 4 cups cake flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- ¾ cup butter
- 6 eggs
- ½ tsp each lemon and orange extract
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup water
- 1 oz corn syrup
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp rum extract

FOR THE SYRUP

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup water
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp rum extract

PREPARATION

1. Generously grease a 10-inch angel-food tube pan. Trace and cut out a paper liner for the bottom round of the tube cake pan. Place in the bottom round and grease again over the paper.
2. Sift together the cake flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of a standing mixer, beat the sugar, butter, and shortening together. Slowly add eggs, one or two at a time, beating between additions. Beat for three minutes. When the batter is fluffy, add the extracts.
4. Mix in the dry ingredients in two batches, alternating with the milk.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared tube pan and bake at 325 for 1 ½ hours. Test for doneness by sticking a toothpick into the center of the cake.
6. Remove the cake from the oven and let rest for 15 minutes.

Continued on page 10

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Recipe Corner...**...cont'd from page 9**

7. While the cake is resting, make the butter-*rum* syrup. Stirring constantly, mix the sugar, water, butter, and salt in a small saucepan and heat until the syrup begins to thicken and bubble. Remove from heat. Let cool slightly. Mix in the *rum* extract.

8. Using a sharp knife, loosen the cake from the sides of the pan. Invert the pan onto a foil-covered plate and remove the pan center, using a sharp knife as needed to separate the pan center from what is now the top of the cake. Remove the paper from the top of the cake. Brush or pour syrup all over the cake. (Give the cake a bath in the syrup.) Remove the cake to a clean platter and serve.

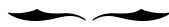
**Monica Kass Rogers' Syrup Adaptation
Using Real Rum**

1/2 C butter
1/4 C water
1 C sugar
1/2 C Bacardi dark rum

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Stir in the water and sugar. Heat to boiling and boil five minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in rum.

Sources:

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all other sunsets.
It enlarges our spirit,
and shames us too,
that we, God's greatest invention,
have seventy years to improve ourselves
while this great gift
will perish in moments
while we walk to the car.

— *Elzy Cogswell***Another Injustice**

A watery navel in the lake
is all that's left when a grebe plunges under
to find succulent greens below.
In that murky expanse a bird becomes lord
of a liquid Eden, cultivated invisibly
for avian munchies. He's in charge
and here we are above,
stuck with Dairy Queen.

— *Elzy Cogswell***Limerick**

A young seminarian in Memphis
each night he would read Thomas Kempis.
Both ends of the candle
was all he could handle,
that young seminarian in Memphis.

— *Miguel González-Gerth*
April 16, 2015



My Education

I crossed 45th and explored Waller Creek
where the signs say not to go
This was before the flood

On water flecked with sunlight that fell between the leaves of large oaks,
a momentary flash of red and yellow
The longer the looked, the more I saw—
tiny explosions in the water

They were platyfish, and they were courting,
the males erecting the fins along their backs
Life only begets more life, and being attractive helps
They normally call Mexico home
The waters of Austin have found their monk parakeet

— Luke Reding

Circle Broken

My snake, made of sawed wood – I thought it was molded,
Who knows what the artist saw that made her think of a snake,
She knew it was a snake and she told me she could repair it
After it was knocked to the floor,
This was not the first time the fated snake had fallen to its demise,

She was, once before, smitten, broken, and glued, by me,
Now shattered, will she rise again, to grace the wall on which she was displayed,
Phoenix-like, will she appear whole again?

— Herzele
3/01/2012

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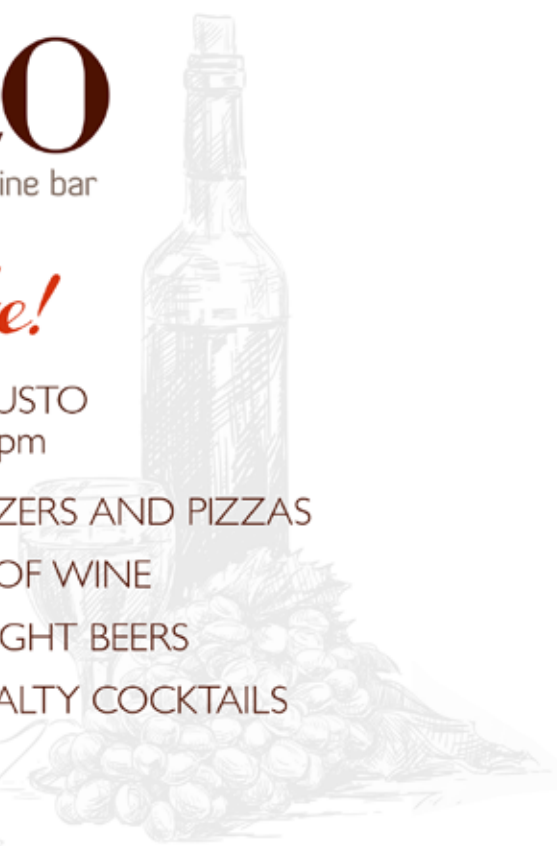
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Jack Evins...

...cont'd from page 1

landmark structures and try to stabilize the neighborhood. At the time, there was considerable pressure on the old housing stock. Absentee landlords, with little inclination to perform necessary upkeep for old, tenant-occupied structures, allowed homes to deteriorate. There was pressure from multi-family development to replace single-family homes. The Hyde Park Baptist Church was seeking parcels for surface parking, activities, and expanding their physical plant, and they demolished several houses.

Historic zoning was a mechanism used to stem the tide of deterioration and demolition and preserve the historic fabric of the neighborhood. We wanted to draw attention to the unique characteristics of some of the structures, which was a step in the right direction.

KL: How have you seen the character of the neighborhood evolve during the time you have lived here?

JE: Well, fortunately, we were in at the beginning of the wave of historic zoning, and then the neighborhood revitalized the Historic Homes Tour. We identified particular landmarks and then the tour generated some public support and appreciation outside the neighborhood for the unique characteristics of the built environment here. Of course, we had some contentious episodes with the Hyde Park Baptist Church as they expanded their footprint and threatened housing stock. Ultimately, the inherent beauty of the neighborhood with its distinctive older housing stock, urban forest, and proximity to central city amenities drew other people with sufficient resources who came in and started fixing up houses.

The flip side of that trend is a move toward some type of gentrification, and that is a double-edged sword. The neighborhood is an asset in terms of representing a certain historical epoch. Aside from the surviving structures, there are a number of people important to the history of the city and beyond who lived in the neighborhood and who are worth memorializing. However, the requirement to invest significant capital to preserve structures means that the neighborhood is less affordable for people with modest incomes. That concerns me because I believe the neighborhood benefits from having as much diversity as it can support.

KL: As a resident and neighborhood leader, which accomplishments are you most proud of?

JE: I served on the Travis County Historic Commission and I also served on the city's Commission (an urban master plan committee) back in the 1980s. In terms of actual results, I am proud of what Debbie and I did to preserve our own house. In terms of my work in HPNA, I helped in resolving an impasse between the City of Austin and the Texas Fine

Continued on page 14



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Jack Evins...

...cont'd from page 13

Arts Association that was impeding a commitment for funds to preserve the Elisabet Ney Museum. The museum structure had some serious issues and, like other historic buildings, it was deteriorating. We were able to persuade TFAA and the city to work together and that resulted in an agreement that led to significant funding from the city, the Heritage Society, and others. I took my sister to visit the museum for the first time a couple of weeks ago, and it was a real thrill to show her something that was so significant and to feel like I had some small role in its current vibrant state.

KL: *The Hyde Park neighborhood has a long history of intense division on important issues such as the demolition of houses, the Hyde Park Baptist Church development, the local historic district, the debate about accessory dwelling units, and commercial development. People who live here tend to be very civically engaged. How do you think these conflicts have shaped the neighborhood over time?*

JE: The conflicts have some pluses. To the extent that people have strong feelings about neighborhood issues, they become engaged with others in discussions that have to do with the larger fabric of the neighborhood. I think that is better than not caring at all, regardless of their position. As a political scientist, I think people should be involved in deciding what their community and larger society should be. I place a value on diversity of thought as well as socio-economic diversity. Dialogue is important. If there was a homogeneity of thought about what this neighborhood should be like, the neighborhood could develop tunnel vision and become unnecessarily hostile to or even oblivious to opportunities to evolve into something even better than it is now. Debate and emotive issues are good because they involve people. The local scene is a microcosm of what is happening at a national level. Ultimately I hope that people will find grounds to compromise and not get drawn in to non-negotiable hard-line stances where nobody is able to get anything done. That is disadvantageous. What we need to do is be able to voice opinions and try to synthesize some kind of amalgam solution that maybe makes no one totally happy, but at least moves the ball forward.

KL: *You have been very involved in the Halloween celebration on Avenue F. What part did you play in developing one of the best traditions in our neighborhood?*

JE: Debbie and I hosted a Halloween party annually for several years. We invited friends and co-workers. Our neighbors Earnest and Carol Adams also hosted a party. Over the years our own party took on too much of a life of its own and so we decided to stop having them, but Earnest and Carol continued. They began decorating their porch and we began incrementally upping our game in terms

of decorating and attracting more trick-or-treaters. It was just so much fun to have people come by and obviously appreciate the effort we and our neighbors put into the event. Even though they were often people from outside the neighborhood, it was great to have some means of providing a relatively safe environment that honored the tradition of Halloween because I don't know how much opportunity kids have any more to get a sense of what Halloween is. Each year, what we put together was beyond what we did the year before. We went way over the top. Apparently it was contagious and now many neighbors participate. It was great to get feedback about how much fun it was and how much people appreciated our efforts. I love the spontaneity of the event.

KL: *As you plan to leave Hyde Park, are there any thoughts you would like to share with your neighbors?*

JE: I encourage those who live here, who are aware of and sensitive to the unique character of this neighborhood, to continue to find ways to recognize and publicize the historical nature of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is not exclusively defined by its history, but it would be different without it. It is important to value its architectural constructs and the existence of the subdivision itself, frequently referred to as Austin's first suburb. Also, we should remember certain individuals who have resided in the neighborhood for key parts of their lives and their contributions to our Austin's development.

Austin is a unique community and Hyde Park defines a part of Austin and an important part of Austin's evolution. I feel fortunate that Hyde Park still exists in the state that it does. West Campus had a lot of structures comparable to Hyde Park. While a few homes still exist, the sense of the fabric of the neighborhood as it was has been forever changed. Parts of Fairview and Travis Heights still have a little bit of that flavor, but these areas are few and far between.

I am proud of the fact that my home and the one next door are the oldest side-by-side residences in the neighborhood. We discovered years ago that William D. Eyres built our house, the one next door, and the one immediately south across 41st Street, and that he also had a hand in the construction of the Elizabeth Ney Museum. It may be just the nerdy history buff in me, but these details are significant to me and part of what makes Hyde Park different from other neighborhoods. I would encourage those in the neighborhood to focus on the things that make us distinct and help foster public appreciation of those elements because absent that, those elements are in danger of being lost.

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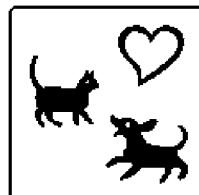
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June 2015 HPNA Minutes

Co-President Kevin Heyburn called the May meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to order at 7:09 PM at the Hyde Park Theater on 43rd Street.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of a resolution asking the city to select Hyde Park as one of the four areas to in which to evaluate potential CodeNEXT changes. Co-President Lorre Weidlich presented the resolution on behalf of the Steering Committee. If Hyde Park is accepted, none of these changes would be adopted earlier, but it would allow evaluation and understanding of the impact of the changes on zoning within the neighborhood. Analysis would likely be shared with the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team and the HPNA would coordinate any analysis of the proposals with the Contact Team. The resolution was adopted 34 for, none against, and no abstentions.

The next item on the agenda was a resolution supporting the application of the Griffin School for a variance to allow the school enrollment to increase to 125 students. In particular, the school is seeking a variance regarding street width. City code requires that private schools be located on 40' wide streets. Two of the streets that the Griffin School is located on are 27' and one is 30' wide.

Adam Wilson, Head of the Griffin School, presented some background on the request and the school. The Griffin School is a 9-12 grade college preparatory school that has been operating about 20 years, including 17 years in Hyde Park or in the Hyde Park area. When the school moved into the current location, the school applied for a conditional use permit that restricted enrollment to about 65 students. The current enrollment of the school is 93 students and thus it needed a new conditional use permit.

Since the original conditional use permit was issued, the school has worked to get more parking, which was a key issue with the original restricted enrollment. The school has since reached an agreement with Ridgetop Baptist Church to provide off-site parking. The Griffin School has been meeting with its immediate neighbors to address any concerns that they might have. Some initial proposals include entering into a restrictive covenant with the HPNA, limiting student parking to off-site parking only, one-way flow of traffic on Martin and Evans streets from the school for drop-off and pick-up, and enrollment verification.

Several neighbors spoke against supporting the variance. Several issues were raised about increased traffic, additional people in the neighborhood, and the school being out of character with the neighborhood. Concerns were also raised about issues that might arise if the school loses its current parking situation.



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Supporters of the variance raised the points that the increase is only about 30 more students than current enrollment and that the Griffin School has a long history of support for the neighborhood and a history of working with its neighbors to address any concerns.

The resolution passed 27 for, 4 against and 5 abstentions. It was noted at this time that Kathie Tovo was in attendance.


The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Ken Webster regarding the Hyde Park Theater. The theater holds about 75 people and typically has about 15 shows per year. Normally, a show runs every weekend during the year. The theater hosts Frontera Fest during January and February, which supports independent and small producers and playwrights. The contest has two different groups: Small Fringe, which is typically less than 25 minutes, and Long Fringe, which is less than 90 minutes. The theater focuses on American, Canadian, and Irish producers and playwrights. The theater has won numerous awards, including two acting awards this year for one of their earlier productions.

Finally, the meeting ended with announcements. Kevin announced that the Steering Committee would be meeting on June 8th at 7 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church. Additionally, the Board of Adjustment is meeting on June 8th at 5:30 to discuss, among other things, the variance for the Griffin School. The DRC is meeting on June 4th at 7 PM. Planning has begun for the Hyde Park Homes Tour. The committee is always looking for new volunteers to help with putting on the tour. The tour will likely be the first weekend in November. The opening party for Shipe Pool will be June 20th and will include food vendors, a movie, and possibly a puppet show. All are welcome to attend. A bench is being installed at Huffstickler Green by the Parks department. Kevin adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

— Submitted by
Artie Gold & Reid Long
 HPNA Co-Secretaries



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Hasta la vista...

...cont'd from page 3

Yes, "thank you" is the key word. Thanks to all these neighbors who overwhelmingly responded to my petition for furnishings to make our house feel again more like a home, after the previous renters claimed the belongings we had borrowed from them up until January. Thank you, Sue, and thank you especially, Lin, the sweetest lady I have ever known.

We enjoyed very much being part of your community and going to all the events that make Hyde Park such a magical place: the Fire Station Festival; the Halloween night that, together with the Easter party and egg-hunt at the Kennedy-Cigarroa home, was unforgettable for my daughters; the Christmas Party; the Shipe Park day. I enjoyed very much being part of the Homes Tour and getting to know first-hand about the history of this place and its first settlers. Thank you, Kevin, Carol, and all the neighborhood association friendly faces that I always encountered at those gatherings for those opportunities of enjoying neighborhood life.

We also enjoyed the walks to Lee Elementary School and the experience of school life as we helped our children get the most of the big experience of attending school in a different country. Lee is such a gem in the heart of this city. Both my daughters have made memories and friends for life, I'm sure. School was, at moments, challenging for all, including us as parents, but it also proved to be a great opportunity to share unforgettable moments, such as the programs, events, and those science projects we did, thanks to the generous collaboration of Don and his chicken eggs. Thanks to the staff at Lee and to those families who are Hyde Park neighbors as well, who eased very much our journey through the school year.

As you read this, I'm probably overwhelmed by the number of things that moving back home after a year abroad with a family of four involves, with mixed emotions about what lies ahead, just as much, or almost, as I had when we first came, surrounded by suitcases and piles of stuff to fold and pack, trying to get everything clean and tidy at the house for move-out requirements and the next tenants.

I wonder if I ever will be able to close these suitcases. I'm pretty sure that we will have huge excess baggage fees, as the bags we are packing are full of great memories of this magical year in Hyde Park. I sincerely hope we can come back someday again, walk around the letter streets, and enjoy the beautiful gardens, the delicious cheese of Antonelli's, the ice cream and the other culinary secrets of that concentration of yummy-ness revolving around the crossing of Duval and 43rd street.

Thank you, Hyde Park, for being such a warm, welcoming place, for all the joyful moments you have given us that will be forever part of us. Whenever somebody asks about the best place to live in Austin, I have no doubt about what will be the answer in my family.

Dear neighbors, you know very well that you have a treasure here, but it is not the nice houses that are valued at several thousands, nor the fact that it is close to UT or downtown or other useful services at hand, it is the people who live here that make the magic happen. Keep always alive that magic of Hyde Park.

– *Until we meet again,
Cristina, Ramon, Aitana, and Marina,
the Spanish family at Avenue H and 39th
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