

December Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 4, 2006

Where: Hyde Park United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for December 4th

- ❖ **Helping Hands** - Presentation on charitable opportunities with Helping Hands Home for Children
- ❖ **Fire Safety in Your Home** - Presentation by Tim La Fuente of Austin Fire Department Public Education Office
- ❖ **Mueller Project** - Discussion with Matt Whelan
- ❖ **HPNA Budget** - Official vote to be taken

Hyde Park Holidays Party December 15 • 6:00-7:30 p.m.

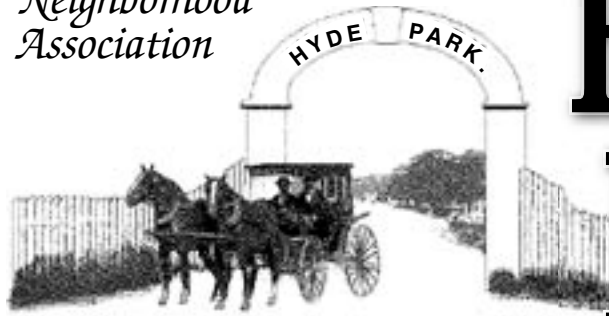


at Woodburn House B&B



Santa's Helper Welcomes Neighbors

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

December, 2006 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 32, No. 12

'Tis the Season!



Front Porch of Woodburn House

Hyde Park Holidays Party will be held Friday, December 15 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Woodburn House Bed & Breakfast, 4401 Avenue D. The HPNA invites you to come and share your own special holiday spirit with other neighbors. The officers and leaders of the Association and the gracious owners of the Woodburn House, Kristen and Noel De La Rosa, will be on hand to greet you.

This year's festivities will be even more fun than last year's, if YOU are there! Bring your own special dessert treat for others to enjoy. We'll have name cards to identify your dish so that you will hear all the wonderful compliments people give them. There will be delicious food catered by Greg Bontempo - owner of New World

Deli, and an extra treat from Pascal Nicolas- one of the new owners of Dolce Vita. Judy Pape will be coordinating beverages for all ages.

Children's activities orchestrated by Vickie Parsons will await our smaller neighbors. Jennifer Rochelle is organizing an effort to support our neighbor, Helping

Continued on page 5

How Many Districts Does it Take to Protect a Neighborhood?

There are various legal and regulatory vehicles that help in protecting a neighborhood's character. Many people don't realize how important they are. With this article I will try to describe what we have today and what it means, and what your neighborhood is considering for the future.

Today, Hyde Park has a National Register District (NRD) that generally includes the original Hyde Park development, and two Neighborhood Conservation and Combining Districts (NCCD's). These projects took thousands of volunteer hours and several years to achieve. Recently, there has been considerable talk about adding a Local Historic District (LHD) overlay to all or parts of the neighborhood. This has led to a lot of

questions about what protection we're getting from what we've already invested time in and how will a local historic district be any different?

A National Register District is part of the National Register of Historic Places. It lists structures, building sites and districts that are deemed important in American history, culture, architecture or archeology. A National Register District does not limit an owner's handling of the property in any way. A NRD is mainly an honor and recognition of historic value.

A Neighborhood Conservation and Combining District (NCCD) is a zoning overlay. It protects patterns of neighborhoods. It specifies how each property is zoned (single family, multi-family, etc.). It also lays out design specifications such as no garages on the front of houses, house setback standards and height limitations. These regulations are now part of the City's land development code and zoning ordinance.

A Local Historic District is also a zoning overlay, which specifies design standards that respect the historic character of the neighborhood. Each LHD should establish its own design standards such as appropriate scale, architectural styles, window patterns, building materials, etc. These design standards apply to the exterior of the building. Every building permit issued within a LHD has to abide by these design standards. It basically ensures that the new construction respects and maintains the historic character and buildings.

According to the City of Austin, "a local historic district is a geographically- or thematically-definable area, possessing a significant concentration of buildings, structures, or objects united by their history and architecture." In order to qualify as a LHD, "at least 51% of the principal buildings within a district must contribute to its historic character, and at least 60% of the property owners within the district must consent to its establishment before City Council can designate the area as a local historic district."

So why bother with an LHD? The reason is protection of historic character and maintaining (rather than losing) buildings that define the historic character of

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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the neighborhood. Currently, all building or demolition permits within a National Register District have to be reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC). The HLC makes recommendations to property owners and builders to help ensure that the project is appropriate to the neighborhood. This is considered a "complimentary" review but is not enforceable. We have had good results on occasion via this forum for communicating with folks prior to their start of construction. A LHD, on the other hand, provides the HLC a tool to actually enforce design standards. It would also govern demolition and relocation permits. This is the major difference - a Conservation District can maintain the general character but cannot control demolition. The LHD is put into place to keep the actual historic fabric (buildings) from disappearing and being replaced with replicas, or worse. It is an effort to keep that which is actually historic.

The first step towards creating an LHD is to collect maps of the area such as plat maps, tax maps and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. This will help determine what the boundaries should be for any Local Historic District(s).

The second step is to research the historic district. This information will include determining when the area was first developed, the names of the subdivisions and who created them. It will detail when the first buildings were constructed and when we experienced the greatest period of growth. Volunteers will research the city directory to determine who the residents of the neighborhood were to determine the social, ethnic, racial and economic character of the neighborhood and how it changed over the years.

The third step is to build a survey and gather an inventory of the structures. This would include determining if the principal structure is contributing or not. A contributing property is at least 50 years old, was built during the period of significance of the district and retains sufficient integrity of materials and design to convey its historic appearance. If a structure is less than 50 years old or has had significant architectural modifications so that it has lost its historic appearance, it would be considered non-contributing. The survey would include a photograph and basically a check list of features such as whether it has a front

Continued on page 4



Oops! Dept.:

After some late fact checking of last month's feature article, "The Fire Station Festival: Why We Celebrate" the author has concluded that the correct year of the 1st Fire Station Festival would have been 1974, not 1969. Let that be a lesson to all of us: Let's all begin keeping better diaries and make entries often.



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Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> \$1/year	Couple or Family: <input type="checkbox"/> \$2/year	
Dues paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	Date _____
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.		
		Make checks payable to HPNA. Bring to HPNA meeting, or send to: Doris Coward HPNA 4810 Red River St. Austin, TX 78751

HPNA Membership Info
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
❖
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 the designated boundaries.
❖
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.

— We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press —

Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry*) by the 15th of each month to:

Editor, Pecan Press
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*Send your poems to:

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<Nancy@ciphersbyritter.com>

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Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.

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09/04

President's Desk...

...cont'd from page 3

porch, the type roofing material, type of windows, architectural style, gables, etc.

The last part of the LHD is to develop the design standards for the neighborhood. These will be based upon the historic styles and features of the existing contributing buildings.

The National Register District nomination for the area south of 45th has already provided the research and "context" for much of the LHD work. The survey will have to updated and design guidelines created. For the areas north of 45th, more work will be required since there is currently no NRD.

A very important part of this work will be retaining the services of a preservation consultant to produce the work needed and to guide the work of any volunteers that HPNA can make available. This consultant's expertise will be essential in researching and writing the history and context, determining which structures are contributing, assembling the work, and drafting design standards. To work effectively with such a consultant HPNA must establish leadership and organization of its own for this project, not to mention the funds necessary to compensate the consultant.

I am pleased to announce that Sharon Majors has agreed to be our Local Historic District Chairperson. She will begin coordinating this effort and is looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of this project. Thank you, Sharon. The officers and members of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association thank you for accepting this challenging position and look forward to working with you on the LHD.

There are no doubt a lot of questions concerning a Local Historic District that need to be addressed. Clarksville is the first neighborhood in Austin to attempt to obtain a LHD. We should be able to learn a great deal through their efforts. I encourage all of our residents to attend meetings on this subject, educate yourselves and talk to your neighbors. We have had several demolitions and relocations over the past few years. If the number of contributing structures drops below 51% a LHD is no longer possible and we will have no way of protecting our neighborhood.

– Elaine Meenahan
HPNA President
<elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>



Pecan Press is on-line at
<www.austinhdepark.org>

Hyde Park Holidays Party...

...cont'd from page 1

Hand Home for Children at 3804 Avenue B. <www.helpinghandhome.org> More details to come on the <hydeparkaustin@yahoo.com> and posters around the neighborhood.

If you have any non-Christmas holiday decorations to loan Kristen and Noel, the help would be much appreciated. Let's make it a 'Holidays' party, rather than just a Christmas party.. Please contact them at <woodburnhouse-austin@hotmail.com>.

Is this fun or what?! You may also contact me directly at <deatonbednar@grandecom.net> or 512.371.3762 if you want to talk with me about the party. I so hope to see you there.

– Deaton Kivett Bednar
Chair, HPNA Social Committee
<deatonbednar@grandecom.net>



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Minutes: HPNA November 2006 General Meeting

On November 6, 2006 at 7 p.m., Elaine Meenehan, President of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, called the General Meeting to order.

Steve Sadowsky, the City of Austin Historic Preservation Officer, explained **Local Historic Districts**. In December, 2004, the Austin City Council adopted an ordinance authorizing the establishment of local historic districts to recognize and protect neighborhoods with particular historical significance to Austin.

These districts provide several new tools for preservation of historic neighborhoods such as ours. First, they provide a higher standard for evaluating and demolition or relocation of important buildings. Buildings that contribute to the historic character of the district but do not meet the high standards for designation as a historic landmark will be better protected.

Second, local historic districts also provide design standards for new construction and renovations, giving neighbors within the district a higher level of comfort that new construction will follow accepted design standards based upon the existing architecture within the districts.

And, lastly, local historic districts will provide a city property tax incentive for rehabilitating buildings within the district.

Steve noted that currently, HPNA has two National Register Districts: Hyde Park and Shadow Lawn. Adding local historic district status to these areas and to other areas of Hyde Park would provide significant protection to the historic character of the neighborhood.

The Historic Landmark Commission is developing the nomination form, a template for design standards, and a list of qualified rehabilitation expenditures to qualify for the property tax incentive.

In order to obtain local historic district status, all of the properties must be surveyed and evaluated. The nomination form must be completed and submitted. The proposed district must have at least 51% contributing primary structures, meaning that the structures "contribute" to the historic district. In addition, 60% of the property owners in the proposed district must support the district.

Steve noted that he expected the nomination form to be online soon. For additional information

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prepared by Steve, please visit <www.heritagesociety.austin.org/localdistricts.pdf>.

Next on the agenda was Brandi Clark, representing **Austin CarShare**, who introduced the Austin non-profit organization that is launching the first carsharing program in Texas. This program allows a participant access to vehicles without the cost of ownership. Why join the program? You might be interested if you need a car only occasionally; for example, if you can get to work by public transit or car pooling, but you might need a car to run an occasional errand at lunch. Once you join the program, you are given a key that accesses all of the vehicles owned by CarShare. You can make reservations online for the cars which are parked in CarShare parking places in Austin.



If you are interested in this new program, visit the website at <www.austincarshare.org>.

John Paul Moore gave members an update on the **Tree Task Force** which plans to meet on November 17, to review the City Manager's recommendations regarding tree trimming.


Elaine announced that the **HPNA Holiday Party** will be held on Friday, December 15 at the Woodburn House. Also, HPNA will hold the regular monthly General Meeting on Monday, December 4.

– Pam Whittington
Co-Secretary
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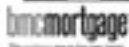
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Around & About the Avenues

♣️ **Mayor-on-the-Mend Dept.:** The bad news is that Hyde Park's Mayor-for-Life Dorothy Richter recently came down with so severe a case of something called "giant cell arteritis" that she spent eleven days in Seton Hospital; had a temperature that spiked at 105 and landed her in more than one immersion in a tub of ice; and experienced off-the-charts levels of pain. The better news is that, as we went to press, she was back home and feeling a bit better. Neighbors who want to convey their encouragement and support can send an email to <djrichter@grandecom.net>, a card to 3901 Ave. G 78751, or a call to 452-5117. Welcome home and Happy Holidays, Madame Mayor!



♣️ **Notable Neighbor Dept.:** Congrats and thanks to Sharon Majors of 3811 Ave. G, who, as noted in HPNA Prez Elaine Meenehan's column in this issue, has agreed to become our Local Historic District Chairperson. Anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact Sharon; for as Elaine notes, Sharon "...will need a lot of volunteers and resources to get this project going."



♣️ **Trees, Please!:** Congrats and thanks are also in order for HPNA Beautification Committee Chair Larry Freilich and his sidekick Lindsay Nakashima -- who, as indicated elsewhere in this issue, have succeeded in generating a great deal of local interest and participation in a collaboration with TreeFolks of Austin aimed at ensuring that "tree-lined" will continue to be one of the distinguishing characterizations of Hyde Park. Lindsay has asked us to remind tree-adoptive neighbors that new trees should be watered once a week, @15 gallons on low pressure for @15 minutes, for the next two years. For more info on tree-tending tips, call 443-LEAF. The arboreal payoff will be immense, and beautiful!



♣️ **No-Longer-Neighbor Dept.:** We are saddened to report that Hervey Lazenby, justly famed as the oldest living alum of the UT marching band and a resident of Hyde Park since well before who-knows-when, has recently relocated from his long-time home at 42nd and Ave. C to the Barton Hills Assisted Living Center. We doubt we are alone in missing Hervey, and encourage neighbors who are so inclined to send him their fond regards c/o the Center at 1606 Nash Ave. 78704, 441-6000.

♣️ **Sidewalks Dept.:** HPNA Sidewalk Committee Chair Rob Clinchard reports that his committee is in the process of putting together a layout for the first phase of sidewalk construction in the neighborhood. Please contact Rob <robsold@texas.net> if you are interested in having a sidewalk constructed along your property. Every interested property owner must be willing to share in the cost (approximately 30%), with the remainder of the cost to be picked up by the city and the HPNA.

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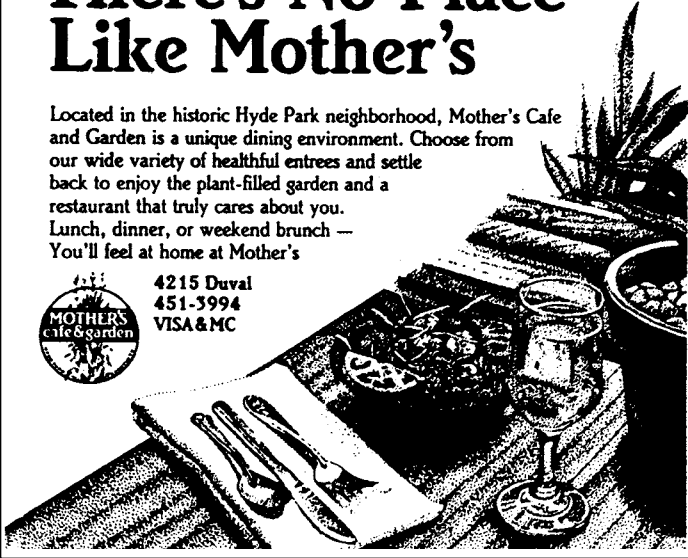
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Letters Dept.

TreeFolks Growing Roots

Dear Neighbors,

Hello, just wanted to update everyone on the status of new trees. The folks at TreeFolks of Austin estimate Hyde Park has received 916 new trees (416 small trees and 500 large trees). All of them have been delivered. This year they didn't have yaupon holly trees, so if someone chose yaupon holly they received a mountain laurel with an explanation. In April of 2007 the treefolks will contact by card all of those who didn't respond for a free tree so that they may have a second chance. Folks with questions can call 443-LEAF; and those with new trees should be reminded to water them once a week 15 to 20 gallons (low pressure on hose for 15 minutes) for the next two years.

The treefolks at TreeFolks were really impressed with how many neighbors responded to their program!

Have a great New Year,

— Lindsay Nakashima,
HPNA Beautification
Committee

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One Christmas

We gathered, not at Mom's house, her residence
a small room with attendant caregivers
and other safety features,
We gathered in my sister's living room,
with Dad's table and books, Mom's piano
and other treasures, pulled back to Texas
by promises of one more Christmas with Mom.

We drank and sang, joked, shared gifts
and, as if divinely inspired, Mom said:
I want to play a song.

We thought she'd forgotten how, her last
effort one of blank frustration,
her body bent, fingers curved
not in the elegant piano-lesson curl
but knotted joints, her mind in
an elderly state of disconnect.
Still no one would deny her.

Mom, in her red blouse and rhinestone,
wreath pin, sat on the long bench,
opened the carols book and played.
Silent Night, Holy Night.

Weeping, we sang along to that angelic
gift of her music, my nephew at my side:
It's a miracle.
No one would deny.

— Nancy Taylor Day
November 4, 2006



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Homogeneity

CRINGE—

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chained together
by brand-name sameness,
some claim rendered
by Network TV, accents,
hair cuts, hip-hugging denims,
even our cities stamped
out, sized for coffee shops
and super, mega, discount,
one-stop marts.

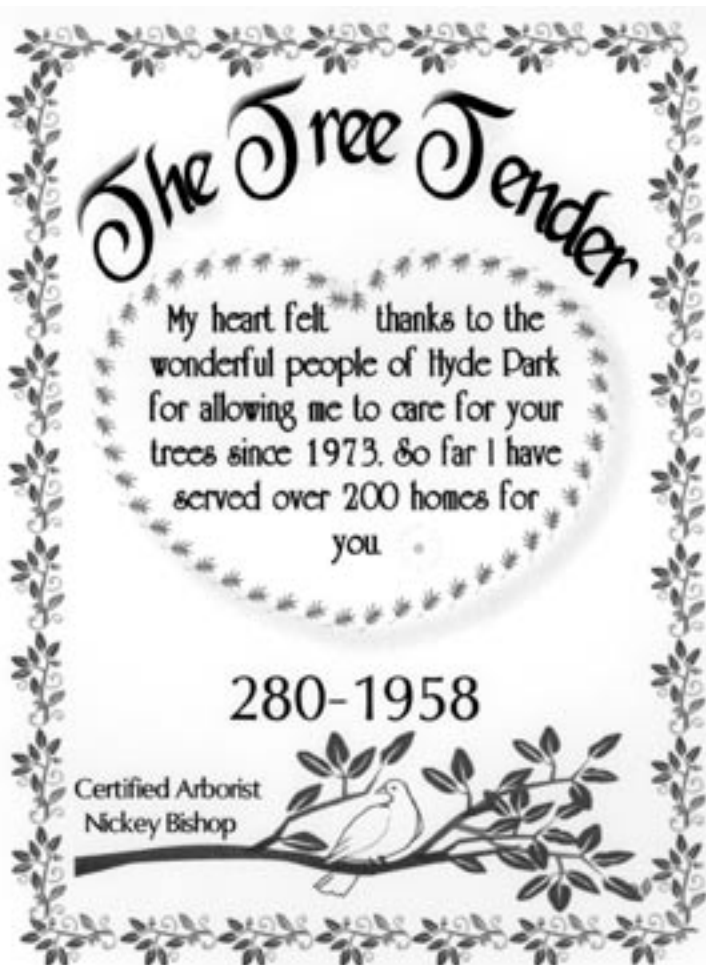
LISTEN—

Beneath the Big-Box sprawl &
cookie-cutter strip malls
history murmurs.
It will not expire.
Streets whisper:
Lamar, Red River, MoPac,
Monroe and Calvert,
DuPont or Drexel,
Sutter, Judah, Figueroa.
Schools memorialize:
Lee and Lincoln,
Muir and Marshall,
Madison and Washington.

READ—

Those squiggles on the city map,
our regional DNA,
fingerprints no branding or chaining
can eradicate.
Fredricksburg, Freemont, Franklin,
Utah, Dakota, Seattle.
Say the names. They tell you
where you are and who was
here before me and you and
the Big-Box, super, mega,
discount, one-stop,
looking-all-alike marts.

— Nancy Taylor Day
November 1, 2006



The Tree Tender

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Around & About the Avenues

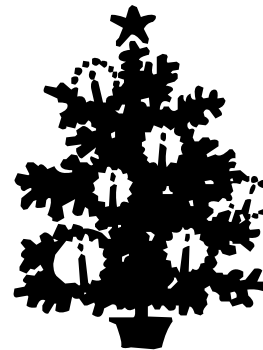
♦♦ New Neighbor Dept.: Let's hear it for one Atticus Powell Gibbs, otherwise known as "Pickle" -- who, according to *Pecan Press* natal correspondent Ann Graham, made his planetary debut on September 26th, weighing in at 10lbs 11 oz. Congrats to parents Rodney Gibbs and Nancy Mims and sister Clara of 3812 Duval, and Welcome to Earth, Pickle!



♦♦ In and Outings: In the 12/06-1/07 issue of their *Austin Sierran* newsletter, our friends at the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club offered a broad and exciting menu of outings in December, including a San Antonio Missions Trail Hike on 12/9; their Regional Club Holiday Party on 12/10 (more info via Sandra Grimes, <sgrimes@grandecom.net>, 472-3774); a Holiday Lights Hike on 12/13; and Xmas Caroling in Longhorn Caverns on 12/16. For more info on these and other (ad)ventures, you can contact Becky Patterson at 913-5990, <rpatterson16@austin.rr.com>.



♦♦ Happy Holidays Dept.: Finally, Peace.



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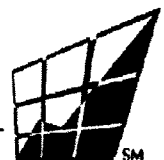
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Hyde Park Poets —

Gaia's Sister

She imprinted the first foot shape
beside the river, in clay
delicate toes and arch.
Sun-baked and hardened
her form set in a permanent bowl
collecting rain water.
She knelt to drink,
night stars glowed from the bowl.
Startled, she rocked back,
stars above, stars below,
surrounded. She wept at the glory of her life

She scooped up a handful of clay,
folded, rolled, flattened,
curved it to mirror her hands
as if she were holding
the face of her child.
Laying it beside the fire, she slept.
Rock hard, the image of her hands
reached skyward,
shimmering with morning dew.
She raised her bowl, and sunlight
sparkled from it, excited by her breath.

She built a kiln, gathered long-burning wood,
and mixed her porcelain clay.
She formed a bowl,
its inside glazed indigo from a night sky
known long before her birth.
When she held the bowl, adorned with beads,
she saw the visions from a million quests,
glory and enlightenment, she heard the whisper
of a million potters' hands smoothing,
rolling, folding, impressing clay
with feet and hands and hearts.

— Nancy Taylor Day
September 2003

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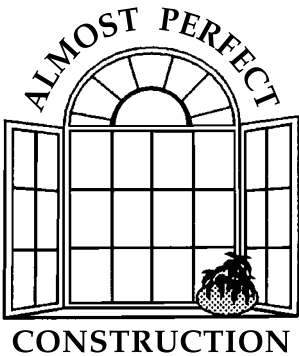
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A country church in the city center.

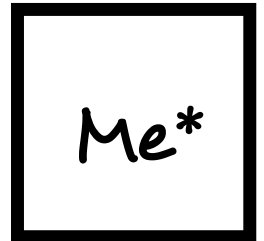
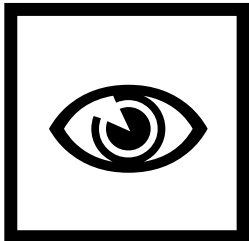


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Hyde Park Poets —

Christmas Day, Middle of My Life

Back in my room at my mother's writing, no job, no money, one of my many retreats from the world to get my head back, try to decide where I was going with my life. I couldn't buy presents but everyone got me something and tried to draw me into the celebration, not really knowing what I was doing there anymore than I did. My sister and her family across the yard had me over for Christmas dinner and there were presents for me under the tree and that's the way it was: Albert's just Albert, he writes, maybe that's why he can't hold it together. But that's how it is: Albert's just Albert. And Albert wishing that he could tell them more than but he didn't know himself, this middleaged misfit that went out into the world came back defeated, hid in his room and wrote until he got the courage to venture out again, invariably in the wrong direction. What can anyone do? They tried to be kind and not ask too many questions, give too much advice, especially on this day, this day when a baby was born, soon to be king of the misfits, the champion of everyone sick and lost and lonely and not knowing what to do but at this time just a baby, warm against his mother's breast. I envied him. I envied those around me who knew what to do and had the money to buy presents and knew how to say the right things. And retreated as soon as possible to my room, that fortress, to lie on my bed staring up at the ceiling, thinking about that baby and what he would grow up to while carols floated into my room and around my head from the TV in the livingroom, thinking that there ought to be a special place for people like me to go where they wouldn't see any of the pageantry or hear any of the carols and where there would be nothing to remind them of what a mess their lives were and no one that they had to talk to or try to explain how they got be where they were, a place where they could just sit and not think about any of it, just sit there in the silence and be warm.

— Albert Huffstickler
December 24, 1997



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Address: **3916 Avenue H**

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Listed For: **\$1,130,000**

Magnificent estate on 100' X 124' lot in the heart of Hyde Park. Outstanding Arts and Crafts detailing on this recent construction of over 4,000 SF. The highest standards of craftsmanship, in-ground pool, and a separate guest house.



Address: **1520 West 29th**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$535,000**

Gracious Bryker Woods Home. 75 X 93 Corner lot. Stylishly remodeled, with private gardens, and a fully fenced yard. Hardwood flooring, period detailing, and a four bedroom configuration. An amazing family home.



Address: **3214 Lafayette Ave.**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$349,000**

Tastefully restored 3/1.5 with separate home office/studio & additional 290 sq. ft. screened living area. Original charm with modern accents. Open floorplan, custom lighting & hardware. Hardwoods. Designer's colors. Fabulous yard.



Address: **4212 Avenue D**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$369,000**

Classic Arts and Crafts house on one of the best blocks in Hyde Park. 3Bed/2Bath with additional living/study off master bedroom. Large traditional front porch, 2 Car Garage, fabulous long leaf pine floors, period detailing and accents. Great family floorplan.



Address: **5305 Avenue H**

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Price: **\$299,000**

Fabulous fully restored bungalow on Avenue H. Charming 3Bed/2Bath with a great designer color scheme, hardwoods, and fully updated kitchen and baths. Family home with a large yard and professional landscaping.



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2BR, 1BA, classic 1935 Hyde Park bungalow, pine floors, large screened porch.
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4511 Avenue F

3BR, 3BA, 3Liv, 1Din. To-be-built by Emrobrai Homes. ±2709 sq. ft. per builder plans.
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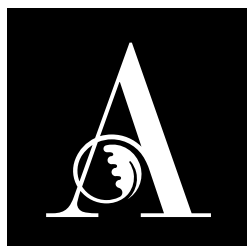
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