

# February Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, February 2, 2009

**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 February 2<sup>nd</sup>

- ❖ Texas Gas will speak about rebate programs and how to winterize our homes.

## Toward a Blower-free Hyde Park

Hyde Park is fast becoming a blower-free neighborhood as more residents, businesses, apartment complexes, and churches become aware of the noise disturbance and air pollution caused by blower use. We are assembling a list of companies and individuals who will provide blower-free lawn care service (see below), and are asking for additional names to be added to this list for future publication.

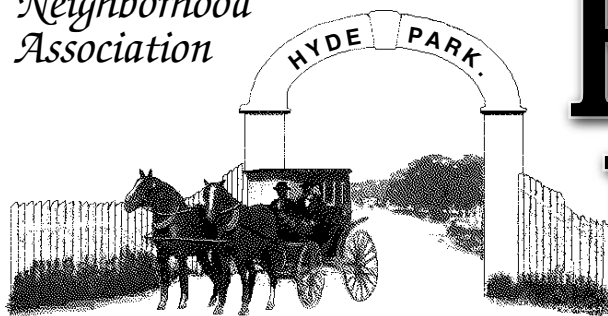
### From conversations with various lawn care experts, we learn that:

1. Leaf blowers are frequently not necessary for removing leaves from lawns because most mowers used by lawn service companies can either mulch the leaves, leaving them behind to benefit the soil, or can suction and bag the leaves as the grass is being mowed.

2. The vast majority of blower use is for mere cosmetic purposes. Many people have come to see the unnaturally pristine appearance of walkways, driveways, and curbs as undesirable. In any event, the cosmetic affect is very short-lived, usually lasting a matter of

**Continued on page 2**

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

February, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 2

## Calling All Volunteers: It's My Park! Day Saturday, March 7th, 1-5 p.m.

As part of Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park! Day, Hyde Park neighbors, friends, and volunteers from around the city will participate in a clean-up and landscaping day at Shipe Park located at 44th and Avenue F. Last year, about 100 volunteers from ages 3 to 86 joined in the fun to improve our park.

On Saturday, March 7th, from 1-5 p.m. the Hyde Park corps of volunteers will continue to improve the park by spreading mulch, cleaning out weeds and trash from the creek, spiffing up the playscape, and generally making Shipe Park a better place.

### HOW TO VOLUNTEER

You can help build upon last year's successful efforts by registering to volunteer. You may do it online on the Austin Parks Foundation Web site at: <[www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html](http://www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html)> or contact this year's It's My Park! Day Project Leader, Mark L Fishman at: <[mlfishman@gmail.com](mailto:mlfishman@gmail.com)> or 512-656-5505. He will be happy to sign you up.

### FREE T-SHIRTS

All volunteers who are pre-registered will get a free T-shirt, so be sure to register early and indicate your size.



Blast from the Past: Volunteers in 2002, when Shipe Park Arch Made its Debut

### CREW LEADERS NEEDED

In addition to general worker bees, organizers are looking for people willing to serve as crew leaders for activities including: sign-in & refreshments table, creek clean-up, plant maintenance/removal, spreading mulch, etc. Send Mark an e-mail if you are interested in serving as the leader of one of these activities on the day of the event.

— Mark L Fishman  
Shipe Park Committee Chair  
<[mlfishman@gmail.com](mailto:mlfishman@gmail.com)>

# From the President's Desk:

Hello, I hope everyone had a good holiday and will have a good new year!

Activity in neighborhood seems to be busy as usual, both good and not so good. Two owner-initiated residential historic zoning cases are being heard by the Historic Landmark Commission. On the flip side, two owner-initiated residential demolition permits in North Hyde Park are being reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission. Preservation Central, our Local Historic District project consultant, is busy surveying the area south of 45th.

It also seems the tire-slasher is back at work and has brought

along a car-window smasher. So, to the criminals out there, if you happen to be a reader of this newsletter, the HPNA Steering Committee will be looking at both short-term and long-term solutions, so beware. Also, the Austin Police Department has been contacted to increase its patrol schedule. In addition, it has been noted about campfires being started in Shipe Park due to the cold weather. This is not allowed according to park regulations, so if you see someone starting a camp fire in or near the park, call 311.

So, looking forward, 2009 for Hyde Park will be another active and vibrant year! See you at the next Hyde Park Neighborhood Association meeting.

— David Conner  
HPNA President  
<daypaycon@yahoo.com>

## Blower-free ... ...cont'd from page 1

hours. The leaves, dust, and blades of grass that naturally appear on outdoor surfaces will naturally blow back into place with the next breeze or with the normal pace of traffic.

3. Where leaf-mulching mowers will not be used to remove lawn leaves, rakes and brooms, although slightly more labor-intensive, have stood the test of time and can be as time-efficient as blowers. (Check out the favorable rake-and-broom study at <www.zapla.org/present/dwptest.html>.)

Here are some possibilities for contacting lawn care service providers who will provide blower-free service:

1. Many companies will provide the typical lawn care service, but will, if requested, refrain from providing the "blown-off" look to sidewalks, driveways, porches, etc. This should result in a price reduction, because paved and porch surfaces are left "as is."

2. Many service providers will provide raking (and sweeping, if requested), for an additional charge and/or on an hourly basis.

3. Some companies, if they do not provide raking service, will coordinate with the customer, allowing the customer to rake out flower beds and similar small areas, and deposit the leaves on the lawn. The company will then mow-and-mulch the lawn with blower-free equipment.

Following is a list of service providers I've contacted or have heard about who have indicated a willingness to provide blower-free service, who understand the concerns of Hyde Park residents on this issue, and/or who expressed an openness to customer concerns about blower use. If you are currently using a lawn care company, you may wish to start with them, asking what options are available, such as those above.

Continued on page 4

## Pecan Press

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding publication.

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..... 371-7246  
South of 45th/East of Speedway • Martha Campbell ..... 452-2815

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## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhypark.org>

### — HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

**President**  
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**Vice President**  
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I Jay Aarons • jjaarons@aol.com • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765  
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Stan Kozinsky • John Moore • Cynthia Lyons • Wanda Penn • Elaine  
Meenehan • Mark Fishman

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**AISD** • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H. .... 458-8096  
**Alley Coordinator** • Carol Burton, skywash@austin.rr.com .....  
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**Beautification** ..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
**Children's Programs** ..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
**Church/Neighborhood Liaison** • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349  
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**Triangle Development** • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C ..... 206-0729  
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### 2008-09 Membership

### HPNA Membership Info

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Dues (per person)

Standard - \$5/year     Senior Citizen- \$1/year

New Member     Renewing Member

Payment:  Check     Cash    Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:

**HPNA Membership**  
P.O. Box 49427  
Austin, Texas 78765

Make checks payable to HPNA.

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**  
**4106 Avenue F**  
**Austin, TX 78751**  
**<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>**

\*Send your poems to:

**Nancy Taylor Day**  
**4001 Duval**  
**Austin 78751**  
**<nancy@creativitymoms.com>**

*Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your materials.*

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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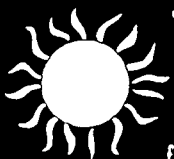
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## Blower-free Hyde Park...

...cont'd from page 2

Please note that the companies and individuals listed below are listed solely on the basis of their willingness to provide blower-free service, and they have not been researched as to insurances, licenses, BBB membership, or any other compliances or customer service aspects, so please inquire. And now, to the list:

- Blower-Free Lawn Care Service Providers
- Affordable Lawn Service, 345-9899 (Mike Kuhn)
- ABC Services, 837-9500 (see yellow pages ad)
- A Perfect Service, 480-9771 (Charles) or 699-9574 (Melissa)
- Eugene Esquivel, 844-9790
- Mr. Green Glove, 903-6959, <kevin@mrgreenglove.com>
- Reyes Lawn Care - 669-9782
- Debi Rivier-Harris and Edward Harris, <diwimama@gmail.com>

Note: If you are a service provider, or know of a service provider, who can provide blower-free service, please contact Mary Lou Serafine (<sonata0516@yahoo.com> or 220-5452) or John Kerr (<JFK@grandecom.net> or 451-3931) to be included in future editions of this list.

— Mary Lou Serafine

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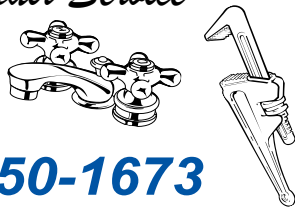
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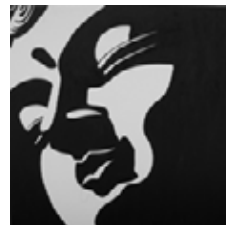


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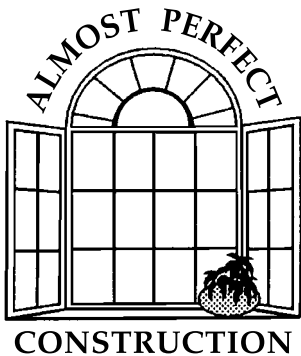
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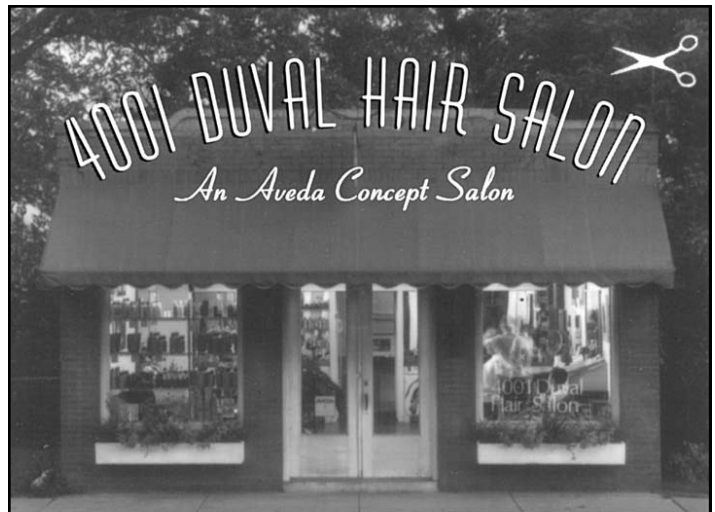
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# Minutes of HPNA General Meeting January 5, 2009

**It's My Park! Day™**: First on the agenda, Mark Fishman announced the Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park! Day event at **Shipe Park, March 9, 2009**. He'd like to have a co-chair for the event. Please contact him if you'd like to help with this annual park improvement initiative. (see related article beginning on page 1)

**2009 HPNA Budget**: Co-treasurer IJ Aarons presented the proposed 2009 budget for HPNA. The budget was prepared and approved by the Finance Committee (Alan Marburger, Nick Van Bavel, David Conner, and IJ Aarons with input from the Steering Committee. Members in attendance unanimously passed a motion to approve the 2009 budget as presented with a friendly amendment from the floor to revisit the line item relating to the Holiday Party in October in case funds are available to increase it to an amount closer to the funding for the last several years.

**4312 Ave. G Historic Zoning**: The status of this item was on the officially announced agenda, but it was removed from the agenda pending a mediation requested and managed by City Councilmember Randi Shade between property owners and HPNA-designated representatives. The tentative mediation sessions are scheduled in councilmember Shade's office on January 7 and January 14, 2009.


**Tire Slashing**: Because of the recent tire slashings and car window smashing in several areas of the neighborhood, some neighbors requested that HPNA request additional patrols from the Austin Police Department (APD). Some other ideas mentioned were security cameras, signs, and neighborhood patrols. Lisa Harris, HPNA's Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) Representative, said that ANC is organizing a Central Sector group of neighborhoods to work together to share information about various things including crime and safety. David Conner agreed to contact the HPNA APD representative for an update on efforts to curb these crimes. (Note: As we went to press, it appears that the APD had apprehended an individual who they strongly suspect is responsible for the recent rash of tire slashings.)

Meeting adjourned!

– Denise Girard, HPNA Co-Secretary,  
<dmgirard@grandecom.net>

(Editor's note: Our thanks to Denise for stepping up and volunteering to join John Williams as HPNA's Co-Secretary this year. Once again, the can-do/will-do spirit in Hyde Park is strong!)

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## Hyde Park Poets —

(Note: This was sent to us by neighbor Jack Nokes, who has forgiven us for not publishing it in the January issue, and has agreed with us that late beats never. A Happy and Resolute New Year to All!)

### Head of the Year

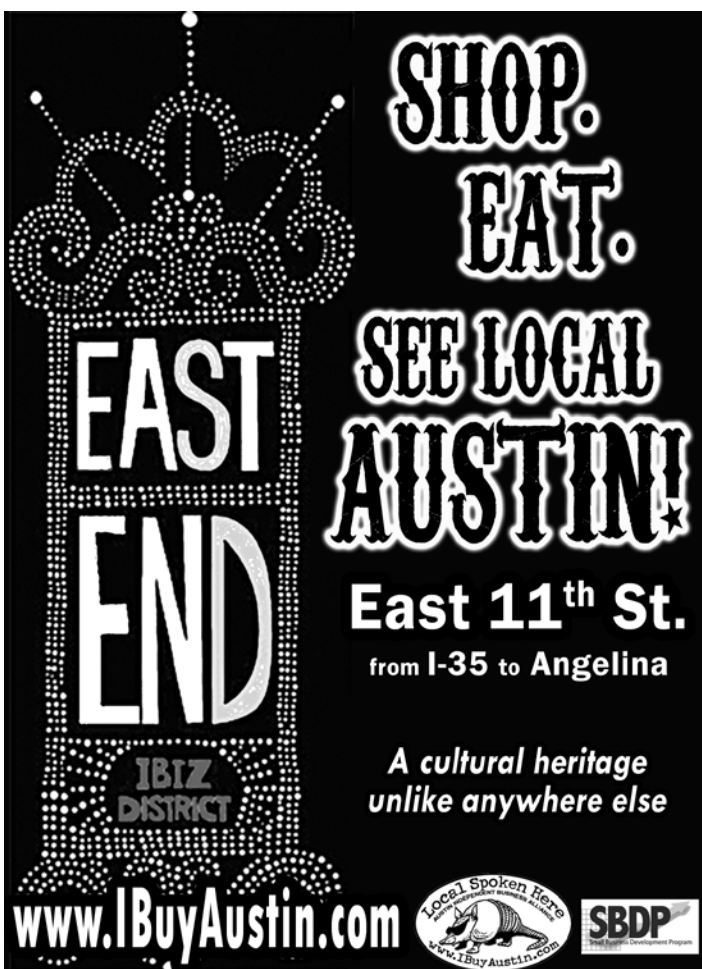
The moon is dark tonight, a new moon for a new year. It is hollow and hungers to be full. It is the black zero of beginning.

Now you must void yourself of injuries, insults, incursions. Go with empty hands to those you have hurt and make amends.

It is not too late. It is early and about to grow. Now is the time to do what you know you must and have feared to begin. Your face is dark too as you turn inward to face yourself, the hidden twin of all you must grow to be.

Forgive the dead year. Forgive yourself. What will be wants to push through your fingers. The light you seek hides in your belly. The light you crave longs to stream from your eyes. You are the moon that will wax in new goodness.

— Marge Piercy



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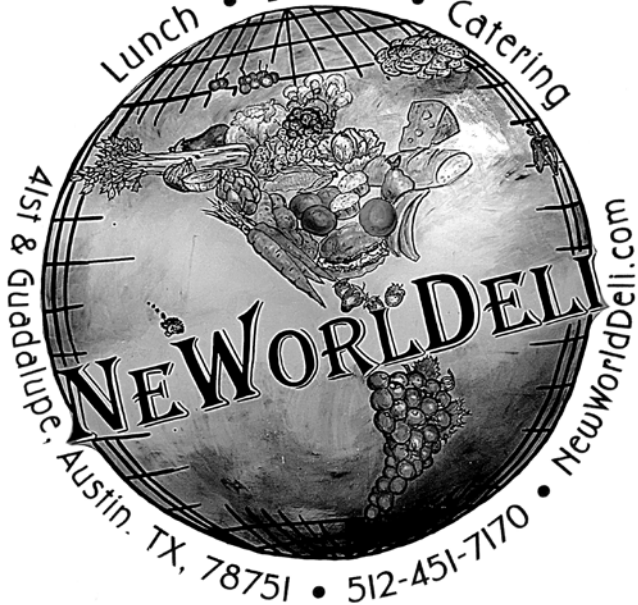
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## ASH Invites Neighbors' Involvement and Support

Austin State Hospital has many opportunities for citizen involvement, from individual volunteering to group projects. Currently the Austin State Hospital **Volunteer Services Council**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to enriching the lives of patients, is accepting applications for **board positions**. Board meetings occur every second Wednesday of each month. Board members are asked to share their expertise and/or social network with the hospital through fundraising, public education, and providing oversight to our various volunteer efforts supporting the hospital mission. There is not a huge time commitment, and you will be able to expand your own networking opportunities as well through participation on the Board.

The ASH VSC is also interested in bringing in more **community involvement** through the formation of sub-committees for events and programs. In 2009, the ASH VSC will sponsor **two major fundraising events**. The first is **BASH: Benefitting Austin State Hospital**, formerly the Insights Art Show. The art show highlights both patient and professional art in a silent auction. Fixed-price pieces will also be available for purchase. This year the BASH will take place on **April 23, 2009** at 816 Congress Avenue. Tickets for the VIP event from 5:30-6:30pm are \$50 and tickets for the main event are \$20. Ephraim Owens is scheduled to play the main event with the VIP entertainment to be announced. Sponsorships are also available for the event. More information can be found on the event website ([www.ashbash.org](http://www.ashbash.org) <[www.ashbash.org](http://www.ashbash.org)> ) or by calling Community Relations, 419-2330. The next event, the **eRacing Stigma Criterium**, will be held **Labor Day weekend** (exact date to be determined) and is organized by Andrew Willis of Holland Racing. After last year's successful criterium, the ASH VSC decided to replace the ASH Dash with a bicycle race. The event is fun for the entire family and spans the entire day. We will also be offering tours of the historic administration building. No tickets are required, though we encourage you to join in the fun as a volunteer, a participant or a spectator. Last year's event brought amateur and professional cyclists of all ages to campus. We hope to see you here! Sponsorships are also available for this event. For details, contact Barbara Kelly in the Community Relations Department, 419-2333.

Join us by volunteering to be a board member or serve on the organizing committees for these events. We are always looking for new ways to reach out to the community and build our base of support. Austin State Hospital values the time and talent Hyde Park residents and businesses share with us each year, and we treasure the ongoing relationship we have with your special neighborhood.

– *Barbara Kelly, MSSW Director,  
 Community Relations, Austin State Hospital*



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## Letters Dept.

### Eco-friendly shopping and delivery service launches in Austin

Dear Neighbors,

If you find it difficult to get out and about to do your weekly shopping for whatever reason, I'd like to point you to a new service based here in Austin called Greentrips. They will do your shopping for you and deliver straight to your home. And here's the kicker: they do all of their deliveries using hybrid Toyota Priuses. You can fill out your list online at [www.greentripsdelivery.com](http://www.greentripsdelivery.com) or just give them a ring at 789-0316. I hope this helps.

— Eric Ford,  
<[eaf0422@yahoo.com](mailto:eaf0422@yahoo.com)>

### Large Corner Gardens are Potentially Hazardous

Dear Neighbors,

Planting gardens at intersection corners in Hyde Park does indeed add to the beauty of our neighborhood. However, too many of them have grown much too large, resulting in obstructing the view of traffic. For the safety of vehicular and bicycle traffic, neighbors whose corner gardens have grown too large will do all of us a favor by trimming the plants back so drivers can see approaching side traffic. Winter is a good time to get out the clippers.

Respectfully,  
Merle G. Franke

(Pastor Franke is a former HPNA President)

### Austin Car Share Expands Local Services

Dear Neighbors,

Austin Car Share is excited to announce that we're expanding in your area!!

After more than a year of serving Hyde Park, Austin CarShare is pleased to announce that we're providing a new vehicle at the Triangle, on the Guadalupe side (between the bus stop and the Park & Ride entrance).

Hyde Park has been our strongest area and we look forward to serving more of you and your neighbors. A new contract with the City of Austin may necessitate our shuffling our vehicles around, and perhaps moving the pickup truck to the FreshPlus location. Tell us what you think at [info@austincarshare.org](mailto:info@austincarshare.org) <<mailto:info@austincarshare.org>>. Meanwhile, please spread the word! You can request a presentation about multi-modal or "car-lite" living for any group that is interested.

Let's help keep Austin healthy and moving!

— Aaron Goetz,  
<[alg9cc@gmail.com](mailto:alg9cc@gmail.com)>

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## The Local Historic District Corner

Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidich@mail2sevenseas.com> or 300-2228.

Fieldwork for the Hyde Park local historic district is proceeding. As of January 21, Preservation Central had finished documenting the Avenues from Duval to Speedway. Documenting the remainder of the Avenues and the numbered streets (which have far fewer houses) will require about two weeks to finish.

Once the fieldwork has been completed, Preservation Central has one task and we have another. Preservation Central will begin using the information collected during fieldwork to prepare the application. Our task is to enter that information into a database.

The database will be useful not only for preparing the inventory of houses for the local historic application but also in the future, any time we need to research something about the architecture in Hyde Park. Suppose, for example, we want to hold a Homes Tour consisting entirely of 1920s houses; we can search the database for houses built between 1920 and 1929.

This is an easy task; all you need to know is how to type. If you can donate a few hours or only an hour, get in touch with me. All time contributions, however small, add up to a large task completed.

— Lorre Weidlich

HPNA Local Historic District Chair

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Note: The poem below was sent to us by Robert Elzy Cogswell <poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu>, who writes, "The Feb. 26 Fourth Thursday Open Mic at NeWorldeli will feature volunteers working on the Austin International Poetry Festival, which will happen April 23 through 26. One person who volunteers for AIPF every year and often reads for us is Barbara Youngblood Carr, whose work is featured below. It is excerpted from a seven volume series by Barbara, partially funded by the City of Austin."

## Secret to Growing Old Gracefully

Harriet, the giant Galapagos Tortoise at the zoo in Queensland, Australia, is over 170 years old, they say. That makes her the oldest known living animal in the world. She was one of three giant tortoises Charles Darwin took from the Galapagos Islands in 1836. If only that turtle could talk! She could have lots of those TV interviews on Oprah and such and tell us how many eggs she has laid, how many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren she has had, and if there ever was a Harry Tortoise lurking somewhere, dead or alive. Then again, if she had no mate at all or children and grandchildren to wear her out and take up all the time and energy, then maybe that's why she has lived so long!

— Barbara Youngblood Carr,



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# Hyde Park Poets —

## For Mr. Obama

before dawn out on the street  
imagining how you must feel  
you who will lead us, on whose  
shoulders we have dumped  
unceremoniously our angst  
and disgust, to whom we  
have expressed our hopes  
and most painful needs,  
and in your elegance you said  
yes, we must,  
that rings true, we must  
we must  
you stand there and listen,  
keep listening, sign your  
name to law for the betterment  
but today, lay your hand on the  
book and promise the simple  
defense of our constitution  
let the moment be simple  
there can and will be no  
simplicity for you soon  
the sun rose, shooing what  
remained of the moon  
traffic filled what had been  
silent, just as human press  
and anger and hope and  
advice and homework  
will fill your next days, years  
we have invited you by ballot  
to lead our country, we have  
called you, echoed your words,  
and as the day gathers its  
complications, we are smiling  
like young children who  
believe, still we must,  
so call on us, ask us, keep  
talking and listening,  
let the day wash over you the  
way we intended it to when  
we sent you the invitation,  
we must, we must  
there is a cheer rising, let it  
wash over you  
tomorrow and tomorrow and  
tomorrow

— Nancy Taylor Day  
01/20/09



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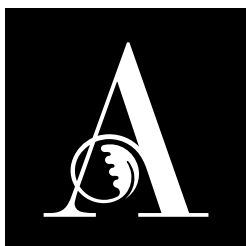


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