

February Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 1, 2010

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 1st

- ◆ **Councilmember Chris Riley** speaks on the redevelopment of Airport Blvd.
- ◆ **Constable Bruce Elfant**, Co-Chair of Austin/Travis County Complete Count Committee, speaks on the 2010 Census.
- ◆ **Beth Sustala** of Health Yes! speaks about heart disease and stroke prevention. (rescheduled from January).
- ◆ **Introduction** of Michelle Lee, the new Chair of HPNA's Sidewalks Committee
- ◆ **Announcements-** Heritage Tree Ordinance, It's My Park! Day.

See You There!



Elsewhere In This Issue:

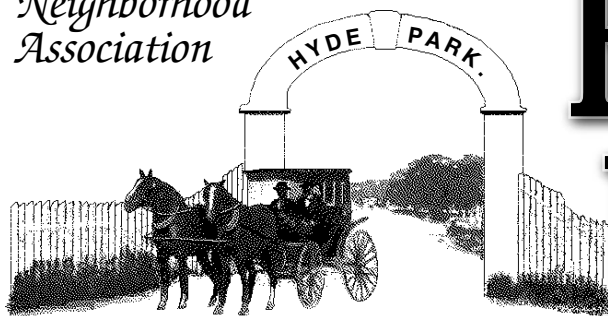
Elizabet Ney and the Empowerment of Women: page 16

Crime Report: page 6

January Meeting Minutes: page 8

Local Historic District Corner: page 19

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

February, 2010 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 36, No. 2

A Last Best Chance To Save Our Trees

**"I am the Lorax! I speak for the trees,
Which you seem to be chopping as fast as you please"**

— *Dr. Seuss*

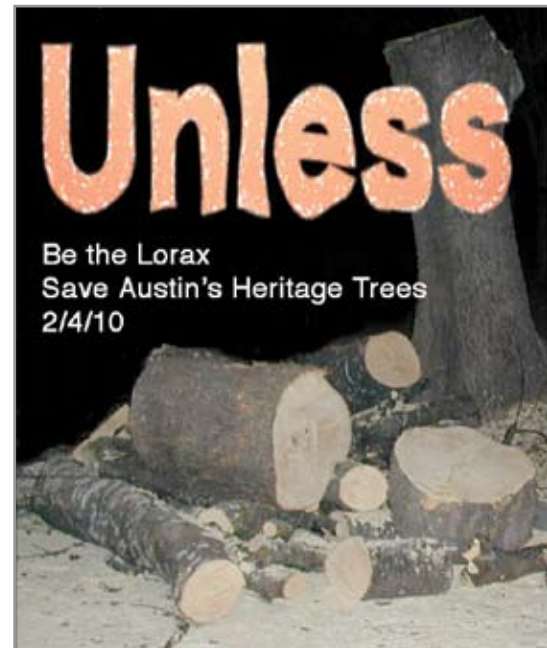
Neighbors, I hope you will mark your calendars to attend the Austin City Council meeting on February 4, 2010. I hope as many Hyde Park residents as possible will join other neighborhoods and concerned citizens to support a meaningful, effective Heritage Tree ordinance due before the council on that evening.

Be the Lorax

AD 2009 was a very bad year for the trees of our neighborhood and our city. And, without the active involvement of more neighbors, 2010 will be even worse.

Scientists tell us that the recent horrific drought is only a sample of the hotter and drier climate in our future. The drought caused literally hundreds if not thousands of trees -- too many of these legacy trees -- to wither and die in our neighborhoods and parks; 50 trees were lost this summer in Zilker Park alone. And, it has seemed, if the drought didn't get them, some developer or the City of Austin did.

A coalition including representatives of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Hancock Neighborhood



Association, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Austin Sierra Club, Save Our Springs Alliance and other concerned citizens has struggled over the past year and a half to show Austin policymakers that, in light of undeniable changes

Continued on page 3

From the President's Desk:

Thanks to Neighbors, So Long to Beau

Hello Neighbors, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the people who volunteer their time on behalf of the neighborhood. This includes the Membership Committee to the Social Committee.

I also want to express thanks, on behalf of the Neighborhood Association, to all the people who make sure the *Pecan Press* is printed and delivered so that neighborhood news, advertisements, and interesting information is distributed. Currently, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee is looking at the distribution process. More to come on this! As I have mentioned,

I am developing a historical perspective from and about the past HPNA Presidents, and hope to have this project completed soon. Hopefully, this will be in conjunction with the Hyde Park Local Historic District application being heard by the Historic Landmark Commission. So, on behalf of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association which voted to approve this project, I would like to thank all the property owners who have signed on in support. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact

Lorre Weidlich or any member of the Steering Committee.

With Hyde Park being such an animal-friendly neighborhood, I would also like to mention that my dog Shelby, who is approaching

twelve years old this year, lost her best friend Beau Gifford on January 17, 2010. Beau was a mixed-German Shepherd dog who was adopted as an adult dog about five years

ago by very good friends of mine. We did not know Beau's exact age, but he was a puppy at heart and loved everyone he met. He was a big burly dog. Shelby and Beau had a wonderful relationship and had a good time when they were together. In mid January, Beau suddenly became sick and had an emergency operation to remove a tumor in his abdomen. After two days in the hospital, Beau came home and was doing very well. He was up to his old tricks and was expected to have a quick recovery. We all thought everything was ok, but on Sunday January 17th, Beau went into convulsions and suddenly passed away. I just want to encourage neighbors to kiss your pet today and consider adopting an adult dog or cat, as these animals are usually passed up for the younger ones.

We will dearly miss you Beau!

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



Beau and Friend, photo by David Conner

Pecan Press

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The Last Best Chance To Save Our Trees...

...cont'd from page 1

in our local climate, today's mature trees can literally never be replaced.

Recent pictures and articles in the *Pecan Press* showing arbitrary, unnecessary tree destruction brought a number of Hyde Park neighbors to the Austin Planning Commission Tuesday, December 18. As one said, "I love our trees and the *Pecan Press* article made me crazy." These neighbors signed in, made their wishes known, or donated time for other speakers supporting the Heritage Tree ordinance, and crucial changes that need to be made in a draft ordinance prepared by city staff.

We are seeking greater protection for heritage trees, defined for now as those with a diameter of greater than 24 inches. We want better notice and appeal rights before permits for the removal of these trees are granted. We want more vigorous enforcement and costlier fines for midnight or Saturday tree destruction, public hearings and the rights to appeal city decisions affecting our most important trees. And we want to protect as many healthy native trees as possible, to put developers on notice that these trees are a public resource and must be preserved, as they cannot be replaced.

Support Real Protection of our Trees

The staff's draft ordinance has been reviewed by the citizen members of the Urban Forestry Board, Environmental Board and, now the Planning Commission. At each step along the way, these citizen boards have recognized the environmental

contributions of these trees and made strong recommendations for specific ways to better protect them. The Urban Forestry Board recommended that penalties for removal of these trees be set nearer their assessed real value. The Environmental Board acknowledged "The tree cover of Austin is irreplaceable" and that "it is vital that significant attention be given to protecting the urban forest both now and far into the future."

The Planning Commission explicitly endorsed a number of these proposals from the other two commissions and sent the enforcement and mitigation provisions to its Codes and Ordinances subcommittee to develop stronger, more protective enforcement language for the ordinance. These stronger protections are predictably being opposed by the development community that is well served by business as usual. Today, an ordinary citizen has no standing and no rights to oppose the destruction of healthy mature trees. With each new protective recommendation, opposition to the proposal has grown among the business-as-usual community, both among developers and some city staff, all looking for a fatal loophole that will let them continue chopping as fast as they please. The board and commission members, heeding the wishes of their neighbors, have spotted each such loophole and marked them for removal from the proposal; but without a strong showing by citizens, the business-as-usual forces will prevail in the end.

Continued on page 18

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2009-10 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Dues (per person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member</p> <p>Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____</p> <p><i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i></p>	<p>Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:</p> <p>HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765</p> <p>Make checks payable to HPNA.</p>	<p>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>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.</p>

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
<poemmom@gmail.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.

OPEN HOUSE December 9th, 5:30-7:30 (also January 30th, 9-12)



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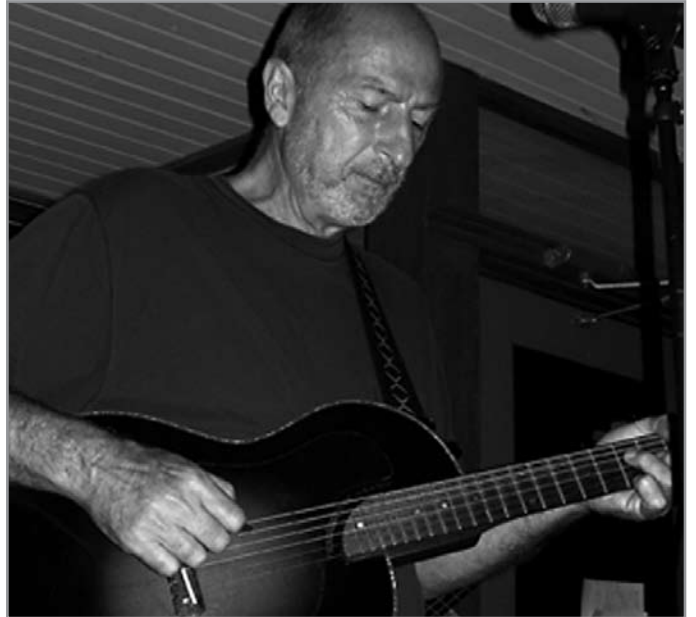
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Fredy Argir Trio Performs at New World Deli

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Fredy Argir

For over a year now, the New World Deli at 41st and Guadalupe has presented top Austin musicians every Friday and Saturday night. A case in point is the Fredy Argir Trio, which performs at the New World Deli on Saturday, February 6, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Fredy Argir is an accomplished singer, songwriter, performer and recording artist. Based in Austin, and a mainstay in the local music scene, he has toured nationally and beyond during his career, headlining shows, festivals and concerts throughout the U. S., as well as in Canada and Europe. His recordings have received extensive national and international airplay and his CD's are marketed and distributed worldwide. Fredy's latest CD, "Last Time Around," was released last spring on Lake 505 Records.

His performance on February 6 offers a rare opportunity for Hyde Park music fans to experience, close to home, the remarkably original popular music of an internationally recognized artist in the intimate setting of the New World Deli.

— Doug Shea



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Letters Dept.

Another View on the Proposed Local Historic District

Dear Neighbors,

I've read the proposed plan for making Hyde Park a historic district, and I don't think most of us are aware of what this new regulation would really mean for the neighborhood. If passed, it would strictly limit the kinds of improvements we homeowners can make to our homes. According to the plan, any changes you want to make to your home that affect its outside appearance will require you to have your plan judged by the Historic Preservation Office who will determine if you will be granted a "Certificate of Appropriateness."

The plan gives some examples as to what styles and designs they like to see, but the decision is essentially entirely left up to the discretion of the Historic Preservation Office and Landmark Commission. The plan does clearly say that "the front façade should remain intact," apparently meaning that any changes you want to make to the front of your home that are visible from the street are likely to be denied.

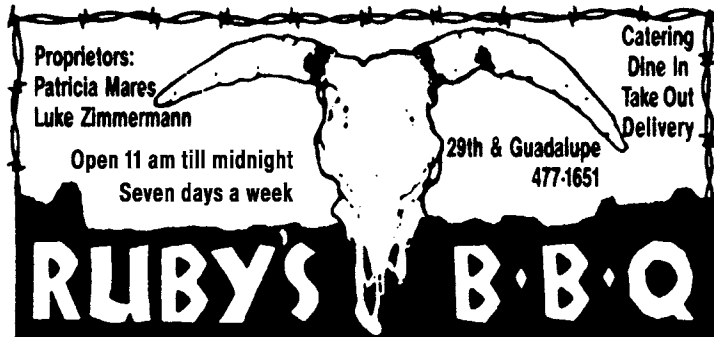
Hyde Park has many beautiful historic homes that we all want to see preserved. The good news is these homes have survived for so long without requiring new strict design laws because their owners appreciate the beauty and value they have. At the same time, it's great to also see that improvements have been made to surrounding homes over time with new inspired designs and ideas that keep the neighborhood alive and vibrant.

Our neighborhood is now made up of a diverse range of styles including charming historic homes as well as many updated designs by some of Austin's most talented local architects. This unique combination of various styles of homes is important to the character and charm of the neighborhood as it continues to improve over time. But if this Historic District restriction passed in Hyde Park, updated new design aesthetics would no longer be allowed in our neighborhood. Hyde Park would be left to stagnate, locked into one particular rigid design aesthetic that has been deemed historic.

We all want to continue to preserve the best aspects of Hyde Park, but I believe placing strict design restrictions on all of our homes is not the way to do it. If you share similar concerns about the current proposed plan, please contact me at my email address below. It isn't yet clear what options there are for people who oppose the plan to voice their opinions, but hopefully there will be a way for us to do so before it's too late and we are all subjected to these significant new restrictions.

— David Orr, 4509 Avenue F
<orrd101@gmail.com>

(Editor's note: Mr. Orr lives in North Hyde Park, which is not covered by the current LHD proposal.)



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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Happy New Year, Neighbors! I wanted to let you know that there will be an APD Commander's Forum held at McCallum High School on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 6:30 pm. The featured topic will focus on transients. Officer Kelly LaHood has informed me that a City Council member will be present to hear your stories about how the transient population has affected our parks, neighborhoods and city streets. I hope that you will plan to attend to let your voice be heard.

I think that we are seeing a change in the amount of crime in our neighborhood as a result of becoming more vigilant and vocal when suspicious activity does take place. Looking out for ourselves and others and informing the police, when crime occurs, are some of the best ways to take back our neighborhood.

According to reports on the listserv, there is still the problem of tire slashings. Please keep your eyes and ears open to any sounds in the streets that could be related to this very costly (and inane) criminal act. As always, if you are interested in becoming a block captain for the Neighborhood Watch program or if you have had an experience with a crime-related act, please contact me at <cjwelder@msn.com>. We can use your help.

— Carol Welder
459-6205
<cjwelder@msn.com>



Clarification Dept.:

Neighbor and frequent contributor Mary Lou Serafine has demanded that we publish the following clarification with regard to a piece by Lorre Weidlich in our January issue:

"The Pecan Press would like to clarify that Ms. Weidlich's article on page 8, titled 'Local Historic District Corner,' was not intended to imply that Ms. Serafine, in her writings that argue against the Local Historic District, is motivated by malice, nor are her writings characterized by factual falsehood. People can have differences of opinion in good faith. We apologize for any confusion and did not mean to impugn Ms. Serafine's motives and honesty."



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HPNA Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2010

President David Conner opened the first HPNA meeting of 2010 with some announcements: Hyde Park will participate in this year's Austin Park Foundation's **It's My Park Day March 6, 2010**. Neighbor Mark Fishman is asking for volunteers to help perform various tasks in Shipe Park on the big day. To volunteer, or hear more about what types of volunteers are needed, contact Mark at <mlfishman@gmail.com>.

A candidate for **Austin Community College (ACC) Board of Trustees**, Guadalupe Sosa, then talked for a few minutes about her candidacy and views. To find out about her candidacy go to <www.sosaforacctrustee.com>. Neighbor and Red River resident Doris Coward gave an update on possible **traffic calming activities for Red River St.** north of 45th and the possibility of the 10 Bus Route being permanently re-routed off of Red River north of 45th. This route is currently being rerouted (as is the RR UT shuttle bus) off Red River due to the Reclaimed Water Transmission line project proceeding south from 50th street to campus. Sometime in the near future the city may have directed police enforcement along Red River from 45th to 50th in the form of unannounced speed checking, due to the number of vehicles that travel that stretch at excessive rates of speed.

Tim Mahoney, ACC Trustee and former Hyde Park resident, was the next speaker. He introduced the Comprehensive Planning Program that utilizes the newly created **ACC Board-appointed Campus Advisory Committees** for each of its active campuses. As of November, 2009, each ACC Campus has a Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) appointed by the Board of Trustees that is comprised of neighbors; community, school, and business leaders; and ACC students, faculty, and staff. Each CAC will complete the plan for their campus by December 2010. A larger advisory group will then use the information from the individual campus master plans to identify priorities. To find out more about the CACs or to submit suggestions or ask questions, go to <www.austincc.edu/cac>. Tim then introduced Bill Mullane, Executive Director, Facilities & Construction, who gave attendees more information on planning and recent and planned facilities expansions and improvements at ACC. He also talked about ACC's Master Plan that aligns ACC's vision and mission with its resources. The plan is reviewed and adopted every year. It strives to do the following:

1. Meet enrollment targets for specific groups of students (minorities, first-in-family to attend college, economically disadvantaged, and Closing the Gaps targets <www.theccb.state.tx.us/ClosingtheGaps>;
2. Expand capacity of instructional space, faculty &

Continued on page 10

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Who Says it's Too Cold!?

On January 7th in below-freezing temperatures made even colder by a raw wind, the intrepid UT Ladies Hiking Club was led on a tour of historic Hyde Park by neighbors Alan Marburger and Ann Graham.



The engaging tour imparted the history of Hyde Park, views of myriad historic homes, a personal tour of the Elisabet Ney Museum by curator Mary Collins Blackmon, followed by lunch at Mother's Cafe. Great fun was had by all!

– Ann Graham

January Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 8

support staff, technology and instructional delivery; 3. Enhance student success; and 4. Expand fiscal capacity to support the first three goals. To see the full ACC Master Plan, go to <www.austincc.edu/masterplan/>.

Tim Mahoney took the floor again to conclude that he feels that Community Colleges will be the spearhead that saves education in Texas, and that ACC will play a vitally important role in establishing a sustainable local economy.

HPNA President Conner then adjourned the meeting.

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

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Blower-free Lawn Care

In previous editions of the Pecan Press we have published a list of service providers



we've contacted or have heard about who have indicated a willingness to provide blower-free lawn service and who understand the concerns of Hyde Park residents on this issue. The

following is a list of only the most recent service providers to join the list.

If you are currently using a lawn care company, you may wish to start with them, asking what options are available. Also, 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, prices, or any other compliances or customer service aspects. So, no specific endorsements or recommendations are implied.

Blower-Free Lawn Care Service Providers

Texas Lawn Services, 810-9488

Jacet's Lawn Service, 902-7268 <eenglove.com>

Byrd's Bicycle Landscaping, 636-1472
<robyn@byrdsgardencare.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> phone 220-5452 or John Kerr <JFK@grandecom.net> phone 451-3931 to be included in future editions of this list.



The Tree Tender

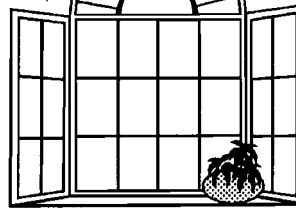
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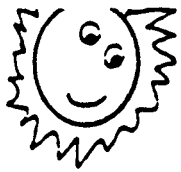
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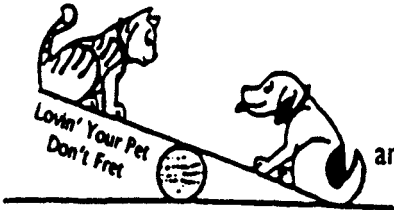
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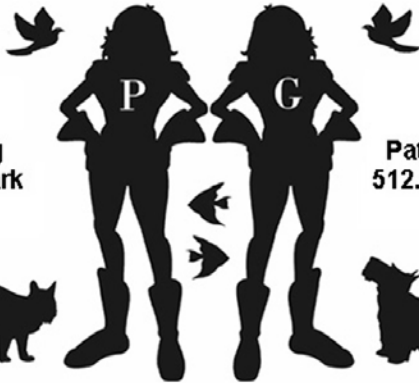
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Hyde Park Poets —

Two Farms

They fell one before the other,
institutions overtaking property
as wagons before had dug
ruts moving from one lost hope
to another, west as was the
cry of newspaper man, the
pull of reconstruction and hope.
Government and The Bank got
the land, left family with memories,
stories often told, a young man
bitten by his rabid pony, a rattlesnake
swept from under a bed, flowing
spring, flooding river, first electricity,
and a war that wanted airplanes, the
sounds of engines where cattle had
chewed their cuds and moored.
Families moved into town, into
houses where grandchildren would
sleep on pallets, feast on biscuits
and cornbread and all sorts of chicken,
but would never walk a fence line
or ride on the unsaddled back of a horse,
or awake to proud rooster, and in the closet,
used for pallets, flour sack and homespun
quilts, bits of memories stitched but
never told, passed along in silence.

— Nancy Taylor Day
January 12, 2010

After the Freeze

A dead octopus washed
up on the patio last night,
its green, spongy tentacles
oozing life, a stream of
goo, around the one gone,
offspring of the ages, folding
over what was once their
great mother, holding fast
to the habitual unknown,
at their feet, a giant Aloe
that can never heal itself

— Nancy Taylor Day
January 17, 2010



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Elisabet Ney and the Empowerment of Women

The determination of the “period of significance” of a person, place or event to be commemorated is a critical consideration when formulating a plan under the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The options include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction. *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* illustrate how to apply these four treatments to cultural landscapes in a way that meets these standards. The many options are reasonable, rational and flexible. The internet makes this information readily available.

In the case of “Formosa”, Elisabet Ney’s residence and studio, the decision-makers determined that Ney’s significance ended with her death in 1907. How tragic. As an artist, Elisabet Ney was an exemplar of the classical style in the German tradition. As the daughter of a stonecarver, she typified women-who-succeeded as artists throughout history who were almost always daughters or sisters of men who were artists.

In terms of progress in all fields of human endeavor, those who have forged bravely ahead, who were ahead of their time, who paved the way for those who followed, are the ones to be revered. Elisabet Ney was certainly an inspiration in that she did not hide behind a veil of anonymity as other women artists often did. [That many works of art since antiquity attributed to “anonymous” were , in fact, by women has spawned the phrase “anonymous was a woman.”] In so doing, she was a role model for the empowerment of women for women in her lifetime, and continuing for several generations after her death. Progressive-minded women who ventured to make a contribution in the world beyond hearth and home, as did Elisabet Ney, were often involved in the arts as well as education and through club work. A pioneer historian of American women, Anne Firor Scott, in her book, *The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics* (1970, University of Chicago Press) documents women’s determination to find meaning in work and to develop a collective female consciousness. [“ American Artists ’76 : A Celebration” was the principal Bicentennial exhibition of the McNay Art Institute in San Antonio. It acknowledged the achievements of women of the late 20th century and offered encouragement to artists who will follow. As the evaluator for the grantor, the National Endowment for the Humanities, I found Scott’s book a valuable resource.]

In 1911, eleven women who wanted to establish a shrine to Ney met at “Formosa” and organized the Texas Fine Arts Association. In 1908, one of



Formosa, the future Elisabet Ney Museum, by Edouard Henri Léon, circa 1928 (courtesy Mary Carolyn George)

the founders, Ella Peyton Dancy Dibrell, had purchased the studio and its contents to assure their preservation. Other women whose accomplishments were inspired by Ney have been documented by John Paul and Catherine Moore with input by others. [Space limits in the *Pecan Press* dictate the focus on women. The Moores are also currently compiling information about the men who contributed their expertise to the evolving development of the Ney grounds, including Jacobus Gubbels and Ney’s friend, Frank T. Ramsey.]

Jane Yelvington McCallum (1877-1957), Ney’s protégé, who served as Texas Secretary of State from 1927 to 1933, the only person to hold the position under two governors and for more than two terms. She was also a noted suffragist and, after suffrage was won, concentrated on political reform.

Clara Driscoll (1881-1945) was the founder and first president of the Violet Crown Garden Club. The members erected the low rock wall along the 44th street boundary of Formosa as their homage to Elisabet Ney and in celebration of the Texas (1936) and Austin (1939) Centennials. The Texas Gardens Club, Inc., the statewide federation of women's garden clubs, joined the effort by choosing the beautification of the Ney grounds as their first statewide beautification project in the mid 1930s, several decades after the artist's death. In 1943, Clara Driscoll, owner of the estate on the Colorado River known as Laguna Gloria, deeded the property to the Texas Fine Arts Association to be used as a museum. It must be noted that Clara Driscoll's preservation efforts started early. In the early years of the 20th century, she won national fame as the "Savior of the Alamo." Learning that the plaza and barracks adjoining Mission San Antonio de Valero might soon be converted into a hotel, she personally paid most of the purchase price and saved the Cradle of Texas Liberty.

Now two more women are added to the list: Margaret Lynn Batts Tobin (1900-1989), and Mary Bonner (1887-1935).

When I first interviewed Margaret Tobin in 1979, she related one of her formative childhood experiences waiting in front of her family residence to watch Elisabet Ney go by in her small buggy

drawn by a large horse. Lampasas Street and the Batts house at 2400 have long since been swallowed in the eastward expansion of the University of Texas campus, but Mag Tobin's memory did suggest that Ney's travels were wide ranging. That young girl would later become the third woman to serve on the university's Board of Regents (1947-1949 and 1955). She was also a member of the the Metropolitan Opera's board in New York and president of the McNay Art Institute in San Antonio.

When Mary Bonner determined to make a serious commitment to the arts in 1922, she chose to study in France. She searched among Parisian printmakers for a master from whom to learn her craft and found the much-acclaimed artist, Edouard Henri Léon. In 1927-28, Léon and his wife journeyed to the United States, accompanied by their hostess and guide, Mary Bonner. Léon's etching of "Formosa" documents their pilgrimage to the residence and studio of the artist.

As an artist, Elisabet Ney was very much of her time. As a woman, Elisabet Ney kept her professional name, though married, forged ahead and was an inspiration to creative spirits who came after.

Note: For those who are interested in more information about the subjects briefly mentioned in this article, see *The New Handbook of Texas*, published in 1996 and now available online.

- Mary Carolyn George

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The Last Best Chance...

...cont'd from page 3

What You Can Do

1. If you, like too many of your neighbors, have known the helpless feeling of watching mature, healthy trees cut down without being able to stop or even pause this destruction, please come sign up, speak your piece directly to the City Council, or donate your time to one of the many other advocates who will be there February 4.

2. Watch the neighborhood email list for the specific time when the ordinance is likely to be considered.

3. Email the City Council directly and ask for support for a real Heritage Tree ordinance. Be polite and civil, but make clear that you will not settle for a mere "feel good" ordinance, that you want real new protections for these trees. You can easily email the whole City Council at <<http://tinyurl.com/councilemail>>.

"Unless"

In four years of working to save as many of our trees as I can, I have seen the anger and grief in the eyes of too many of my neighbors, too many times, over the loss of too many trees. Unless we act this will continue. The last word from the Lorax, "Unless."

We share our trees in human time as well as space. "See that tree behind Daddy in the picture? Daddy planted that tree, watered it every summer and pruned it every fall. When we got older, he made us rake the leaves. Daddy would be so happy if he could see that tree today." Or, much too often, "I'm glad Daddy wasn't here to see that tree bulldozed."

These are the trees our fathers planted. These are the survivors, the best of their species. We should never let a single one of them go without a big fight. We must send this signal as a community. The developers will deal with it. They will end up making more money for the tree-shaded homes where they save them. And in commercial development, we will get a better product, more Austin, less cookie-cutter.

Help us support all of the recommendations of the Urban Forestry Board, Environmental Board and the Planning Commission for the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Adoption of these recommendations by the Austin City Council is our last, best chance to preserve these trees and Austin as we know it.

– John Paul Moore
HPNA Tree Preservation Chair



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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.

An interested person (outside the area of the proposed district) emailed me with a concern: "I'm concerned that this sort of thing (LHD) could limit the kinds of architecture that can be built or modified in our neighborhood in the future. The most attractive homes in the neighborhood currently are both some older historic homes and beautiful modern homes with contemporary designs from our local architects. The unique combination of both types of homes is important to the character and charm of the neighborhood as it continues to change and improve over time."

In other words, will this stifle our creativity? This is a valid concern and certainly one that the developers of the Preservation Plan took into account. The standards that were drafted state "Local Historic District designation does not prevent change, but instead provides parameters for change that works with the special character of the district. Hyde Park recognizes that any new residential structure should reflect its time; consequently, contemporary design for new residential construction is appropriate, as long as it fits the architectural patterns of the neighborhood and its immediately surrounding structures."

What we are all concerned about are not artistic creations like Naranjal (44th St); we are concerned about suburban tract development like David Weekley houses. Naranjal, as innovative as it is, does not overwhelm its surrounding structures (and it draws on elements of the Elisabet Ney Museum); David Weekley houses look like they are on steroids and stand out jarringly. Nobody is going to object to an innovative house if it fits neighborhood patterns of scale, massing, etc. And, by the way, the builders of Naranjal were the first signers in support of the Local Historic District.

Contributing structures are a different matter. Cer-

tainly, they aren't all masterpieces, but they provide the neighborhood with a certain look and feel. If they are replaced or drastically "renovated," that look and feel will disappear. How are our older historic homes going to look if they're surrounded with gigantic box-like contemporary "renovations"? Vintage houses can be less than masterpieces, but "renovations" can be much worse.

Recognition Due

As the LHD project works toward its goal of 51% support, I want to recognize a few people:

Sharon Majors, with help from Catherine Moore, has brought in more individual signers than any other LHD worker.

Karen McGraw won the support of the Church of Christ.

At the beginning of January, a team of envelope stuffers - Hannah Wiseman, Sally Robey, and Paula Rhodes - send out a direct mailing to several hundred owners of property in Hyde Park. Results are still coming in.

Great work, everyone!

- Lorre Weidlich, Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic District

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Survivability

Long dog tongue dangling,
ecstatic about just plain everything,
my neighbor's golden retriever
prances the length of my sidewalk
just before the concrete hardens.

Her owner and I, more civilized,
leave footprints less enduring.

— *Elzy Cogswell*

The Sun

In the Summer,
we shun it
In the Winter,
we seek it

— *Cindy Gardener*
Avenue B

New Season

Thunder, but that didn't awaken me—the
dark that followed did. On the edge
of my bookcase, glow stars showed me
the way. This, where I'm sitting, is the
edge of winter—heavy skies, squabbling
energy—tomorrow I'll sit with hot
tea and woolen underwear.

— *Nancy Taylor Day*
January 13, 2007

I'm Glad Birds Aren't That Heavy

I'll bet that they are too.
If they weighed for one example
as much as a hippopotamus,
the danger to my house
would certainly change my life
Maybe I'd go underground,
or add bracing to the roof.
A hippo has no fear of owl dummies
or probably anything else.
Maybe a big papier-mâché hippo,
one that looks really mean.

— *Elzy Cogswell*

Vintage Properties Available



508 Texas Ave - Coming soon - not yet in MLS two bedroom, one bath, 1433sf charming brick storybook Tudor style brick house at the corner of Texas and Liberty Streets. Four blocks to Lee Elementary **\$429,000**



801 East 32nd Street This 1959 ranch-style house on Waller Creek has been translated into a tropical garden with pool, spa and greenhouses. It has two bedrooms, three baths, two living rooms, a formal dining room, breakfast area, utility room, huge rear sunroom, 2496 sf of living space on the main level and a full basement. **REDUCED to \$499,000!**



826 Harris Avenue - SOLD - Charm, character and convenience - all in this updated, energy efficient 1939 traditional home with formal living and dining, large kitchen & breakfast room, 1 bedrm & bath downstairs; 3 beds, playroom and bath up; 2-car gar. 8 blocks to UT, 1 to Lee Elementary **\$591,862**




3103 Harris Park Ave This 1930 Cottage, 5 blocks from UT, has four bedrooms and two baths in 1568sf of living space, plus a newly refurbished two-car garage with a 511sf upstairs apartment for a total of 2079sf. Freshly painted with decorator colors, inside and out. The lot is town-house-size, but Eastwoods Park is only a short block away. **Under Contract \$439,000.**



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Using History as a Specious Argument for Landscape Decisions

The following excerpt was suggested by a friend of Hyde Park, relative to the installation of prairie grasses on the grounds of the Elisabet Ney and the proposed clear-cutting of most of the trees in order to provide the full sun necessary to their viability:

"History became an image to be dusted off and applied to any current proposal as a means of validation. In a glance over the shoulder of history, the tiny urban park was planted with prairie grass to show what vegetation had once thrived there. Like the caged animal in the zoo, however, an urban prairie is hardly a prairie at all it is an urban garden planted with unmown grass and little else. At best, it has been reduced to a sign for what has been. Since the frame for reading that is to say, its context had been so drastically altered, the subject of view is not easily understood by contemporary citizens as a reference to the past. The grass that so magnificently sheathed the prairie has been reduced...to a museological feature... Still, most passersby wonder quietly to themselves:

'When are they going to cut that lawn? I'm sure there are rats and Lord knows what else living in it.'"

From an article, "Must Landscape Mean?" by Marc Treib published in *Landscape Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 1995

(Thanks to Mary Carolyn George for passing this on to us.)

Hyde Park Poets — The Neighborhood Is

I keep thinking I want to write something or say something about this neighborhood that I have lived in nearly twenty years but when I really get down to it, the only thing that comes is: The Neighborhood is. That's it. Whether you're sitting in front of the bakery drinking coffee or walking the evening or standing on your front porch watching the night come in, you're surrounded by this deep sense of place, of being in a neighborhood, of being spoken to, recognized when you walk down the street, of meeting faces that lack that closed city look that is part of so many areas as crime and distrust grow. People still recognize and greet each other here and give each other the benefit of the doubt because we're all part of the neighborhood. You can't put a price on that, not in these times. So maybe I don't have to write anything big and inspiring about the neighborhood. Everyone knows it anyway. Maybe it's just enough to look around me and think, "Yes, that's it. The neighborhood is."

— *Albert Huffstickler,*
March 13, 1994

(Reprinted by popular demand/request. Our warmest regards to our former, beloved long-time Poetry Editor, who is no doubt well-ensconced in his neighborhood Upstairs...)



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Address: **113 West 33rd Street**

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SOLD

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Address: **4701 Evans Avenue**

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PENDING

www.4701Evans.com

Great house on a great lot. Outstanding location- just a few blocks from all the Hyde Park shops and restaurants. Enormous 75'X135' / 10,125sf corner lot. Bright open floor plan with huge windows and hardwood flooring. Large hip kitchen, versatile utility room, formal dining room, and a study with french doors overlooking the huge private back yard.



Address: **4812 Caswell Avenue**

Listed For: **\$269,900**

FOR SALE

Perfect owner occupy - let side B be pay for ± 100K of your mortgage. Expansion possibilities - adding bedrooms at \$500-\$600/month per bedroom could make this a huge money maker. These units are super tasteful, rock solid and in an amazing location.



Jeff Baker 619-7421

ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

Stanberry & Associates

REALTORS®

HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



3910 Avenue H

Arts & Crafts bungalow plus guest house in historic district
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$699,000



1206 West 22½ Street

Quality renovation with period detailing and stained glass
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$925,000



4001 Avenue C

City Historic Landmark
1907 Victorian home on double corner lot
Listed at \$650,000



804 East 45½ Street

New luxury Craftsman bungalow with outdoor kitchen
4BR, 4BA, 3Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$779,990



5108 Martin Avenue

Beautiful 3BR, 2.5BA home with 1BR garage apartment
Listed at \$479,000

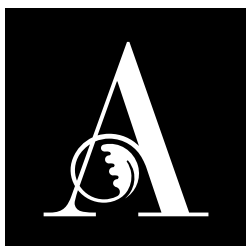


4404 Avenue F

Rare opportunity - vacant residential lot across from Shipe Park & Pool
Listed at \$299,000

Your Hyde Park Real Estate Expert

Call Suzanne today for a free market analysis on your home or investment property. Suzanne has over 17 years' experience marketing and selling Hyde Park.



**AvenueOne
Properties**



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