

March Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 5, 2007

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 March 5th

- ❖ Waterline Construction Project - City of Austin
- ❖ Floodlines Theater Project - Ann Graham

See you there!

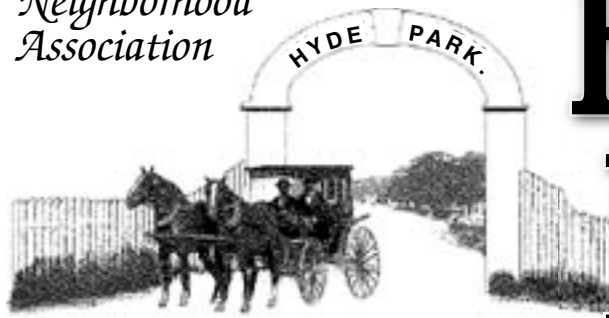


Local Congressman Lloyd Doggett meets with Hyde Park resident (and Pecan Press Crime Reporter!) Carol Welder during her recent trip to the Nation's Capitol. During the visit, they discussed the importance of parks and recreation facilities in our community.



Bike Month in Austin just a few weeks away, May 2007. Details: <www.austincycling.org>.

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

March, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 3

Triangle "Park" is the Pits



A promised open-space park at the corner of 45th Street and Guadalupe was a major concession made by urban developer Tom Terkel of Cencor Reality in order to get neighbor buy-in for the Triangle project. The "New Urbanist" landscape neighbors agreed to included a park with wetland ponds similar to the Central Market, and a bike/pedestrian path, which connected the neighborhood with the Triangle Commons and businesses.

The Triangle development went up apartment-by-apartment, but the park failed to appear. Neighbors assumed that the drainage pit, which now occupies the majority of this corner, was a temporary measure needed to get the project underway, and that soon our pond, trees, grass, flowers and trail would materialize. But we've now been told that the developers' plan for the corner consists of lit-

tle more than the drainage ditch. What happened to Tom Terkel's promised park?

Our "park" is a drainage pit, surrounded by a chain-link fence. To outraged neighbors, the pit is more than a broken promise, more than an eyesore; it's become a neighborhood problem: a trash pit, a hangout, a homeless shelter, and a frequent target for graffiti. The

Continued on page 10

From the President's Desk: floodlines in Hyde Park

Last spring, I was driving home, turned into Hyde Park and saw a gathering of brides dressed in white running down the street. Did anyone else witness what I did? It turns out that it was a dress rehearsal for *floodlines*.

floodlines is a public art/theater performance conceived, created and directed by Austin artist Jaclyn Pryor, a student at UT in the Performance as Public Practice PhD program. (For those of you who experienced First Night Austin, Jaclyn conceived of and produced *Bread* in 2005 and *Pink* in 2006.)

The idea for the project came from the sense of loss Jaclyn felt after September 11th and expanded into a theme of loss and memory.

It's based on various experiences of her life such as dreams, memories of her Jewish grandmother, and of course, imagination. Participants become part of a funereal procession exploring loss, memories and a sense of nostalgia as the performance winds its way through the streets of NUNA and Hyde Park -- neighborhoods chosen for their historical context. The first performance of *floodlines* was held in the Spring of 2004. This year's performance, set for Sunday, April 22nd at 2 pm, will mark the fourth in a seven year cycle.

Ann Graham, former Co-President of Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and Co-Founder of First Night Austin, describes *floodlines* as one of the most affecting pieces of theater she has ever experienced. Ann was so moved by experiencing last year's performance that this year she is joining with Jaclyn to produce the event and extend its impact further throughout the neighborhood. In an effort to spread the word, engage the broader community (and raise some necessary funds to match a City of Austin Cultural Contracts grant), Ann will also oversee a neighborhood social event set for earlier in April. Because only 40 seats can actually sold for the event, Jaclyn is creating a set of vignettes in which neighbors will be invited to participate directly -- playing a literal role in the production. If you want to learn more about *floodlines*, how you can help, play a role, or contribute, you can email Ann at

<anngraham@austin.rr.com>, watch for updates on the listserve or look for brides running down the street and beg to follow.

This is a difficult event to write about because I don't want to give too much away, but I can tell you that those who see it are deeply moved by the performance. It is something that neighbors will be talking about and you will want to be a part of whether it's by car, bike, foot, lawn chair or other mode(s) of participation. It is part funeral procession, part wedding, part transformation and part magic.

— Elaine Meenehan
HPNA President
<elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>

Pecan Press

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February 2007 General Meeting Minutes

President Elaine Meenehan called the February 5 Hyde Park Neighborhood Association general meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was discussion regarding the property at **4513 Avenue B**. Development Review Committee Chairman Stan Kozinsky explained that there is a home and two rental units on this property. The City of Austin is in the process of bringing enforcement action on this property because the three living units are considered to be triplex use, and this violates the zoning in Hyde Park. The owner of the property requested that HPNA help him retain the triplex use. He explained that he had purchased the property with the understanding that it was legal to have three living units on the property. Others pointed out that an illegal use is just that, and there is no variance or other action the City can take to allow the use.

After a lengthy discussion, members voted on a motion to refer the matter back to the Development Review Committee. This motion failed. After additional discussion, a motion was made to give verbal support in this instance for this neighbor to retain illegal triplex use of the property. This motion failed on a vote of 29 in favor and 30 against.

Next, Elaine Meenehan discussed the plans to create a **Local Historic District** in Hyde Park. Sharon Majors, Chair of the Local Historic District Committee, was unable to attend. Elaine asked for a show of hands in support of working toward this goal. The response was overwhelming in support. The committee will continue working on the plans and bring them back to the general members at a later date.

Last, but certainly not least, was the discussion and vote on the request by Thad Avery and **Vino Vino** for HPNA to support the application for a Conditional Use Permit for off-site parking to allow a restaurant at the Vino Vino building on Guadalupe. The Conditional Use Permit would allow Vino Vino to satisfy the parking requirements by using the parking lot at Midas Muffler Shop on Guadalupe. Midas Muffler closes at 6:00 PM, and the Vino Vino restaurant would open at 6:00 PM. Zoning allows off-site parking, but the HPNA NCCD requires a request of this type to go before the Planning Commission.

Stan Kozinsky reported that the Development Review Committee had voted 5 to 1 to support the request with certain conditions. This recommendation was forwarded to the Steering Committee. Elaine Meenehan reported that the Steering Committee voted that it didn't have enough information to make a recommendation to the HPNA General Members and asked the interested parties to work toward a solution for the parking issues in this section of Guadalupe. Therefore, the Steering Committee voted to ask the interested parties to return in 30 days.

A lengthy debate moderated by Elaine Meenehan and Nick van Bavel, serving as Parliamentarian, ensued. Many expressed unqualified support for Vino Vino's request. Others stated concern about parking adversely affecting the neighbors on Avenue A and other businesses on Guadalupe.

Continued on page 5

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2006-07 Membership
Name _____	Phone _____	
Address _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.		
Email _____		
Membership Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
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.



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Local Historic District Update

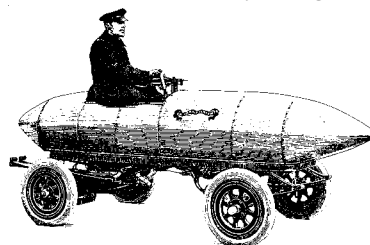
HPNA has hired Terri Myers of Preservation Central to do the survey part of the application for a local historic district. 51% of the houses in the designated area will need to be contributing structures. Terri and her assistants feel that most of Hyde Park will qualify for that. Terri is in the process of finalizing the application for the Harthan Street district which will be Austin's first local historic district. This and her familiarity with Hyde Park will give her a head start in working on this.

Another requirement is that 60% of the property owners need to sign on. This may be a challenge, especially in areas that have many absentee owners. We will need the help of neighbors.

Because historic districts are new to Austin, there is still much we do not know. I am hopeful that we will have some input into crafting requirements for our district. Hyde Park is not only one of our city's most historic areas but a leader among Austin's neighborhoods.

We also may need to think up ideas for fund-raisers. Please feel free to contact me with your suggestions.

– Sharon S Majors
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January Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 3


Thad Avery offered a motion to support Vino Vino's offsite parking plan as presented. The motion was seconded. Karen McGraw made a substitute motion that HPNA support the Conditional Use Permit only if the parking lot at 42nd Street and Guadalupe be deed-restricted for only parking use and that the lot be made a legal parking lot. The substitute motion was seconded. After a motion to call the question on the substitute motion, it failed. A motion to call the question on the original motion was made. The motion passed on a vote of 55 in favor and 15 against.

Dorothy Richter noted the large attendance at this meeting and invited the new members to return to other meetings and get involved in HPNA.

After a long general meeting, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and the President called the meeting to an end.

— Pam Whittington HPNA Co-Secretary
<pamw46@yahoo.com>
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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

There are several updates that I wanted to pass on to you from "our" Officer Vargas. He says that auto thefts are on the rise. A theft ring is targeting Honda Civics and Acura Integras. Several stolen autos were recovered in San Antonio in a Chop-Shop. He reported that APD is working closely with the San Antonio P.D. to shut them down.

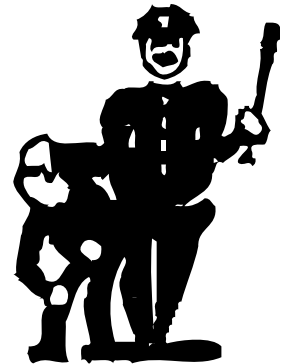
The annual Warrant Round-Up begins on March 3rd. If someone has an outstanding warrant, Class C or above, it is possible that APD will be knocking on their door at home or at work. It will continue through the end of that week.

Operation Homestead has yielded quite a few arrests which in turn reduced the number of residential burglaries. It has also had an effect on vehicle burglaries, but Officer Vargas reported that vehicle burglary in the Hyde Park Gym area continues to be a problem, especially in the early morning hours. He recommended removing valuable items from the auto or putting them out of sight.

Several neighbors have reported missing items from their yards and porches, so continue to be vigilant and, if possible, bring things inside your home or garage. Remember to report any crime by calling 311, if the crime has already happened or 911, if the crime is in progress.

As a friendly reminder, be courteous to your neighbors by parking your vehicles in front of your own home and not your neighbor's. I have heard from neighbors who say that cars are parked in front of their homes for days at a time. Unfortunately, there is no law against parking a vehicle on a public street, but it boils down to respecting your neighbor's space.

If you have a question or concern, you can call Officer Rick Vargas, our area APD representative, at 974-5801.



— Carol Welder
HPNA Crime and Safety Chair
459-6205, <cjwelder@msn.com>

Oak Leaf Roller

Many people are asking already if oak leaf rollers will grace us with their presence again this year. While I'm hoping that the ice storm we had in January wiped out some of the eggs, I'm sure that there will be a few lingering caterpillars. Only time will tell if there will be a large population again this year.

Oak leaf rollers are yellowish-green caterpillars with a dark brown head capsule that dangle from silken thread on oak trees. These caterpillars usually show up when the oak trees leaf out in the spring.



Some nurseries recommend releasing *Trichogramma* wasps.

If you choose to release *Trichogramma*, remember that they parasitize only the egg stage, so they should be released before you see caterpillars. Horticultural oils may also be used on the egg stage. If you have mature oaks that are tall, it is best to hire a professional with the proper equipment to reach all parts of the trees.

Once caterpillars emerge, *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *kurstaki* may be used. Bt targets only caterpillars, though it does not differentiate between pest caterpillars and those that people enjoy having, such as ones that become butterflies. When using Bt, good coverage is key because the caterpillars need to consume a lethal amount of the toxin. Other possible control methods would be active ingredients such as spinosad (spinosyns) or carbaryl.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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Letters Dept.

Host Families Sought for Foreign Exchange Students

Dear Neighbors,

I am a resident of Hyde Park and am the International Coordinator in Austin for the Aspect Foundation, a non-profit organization that makes connections between foreign exchange students and American host families <www.aspectfoundation.org>.

We're looking for a few good homes interested in hosting a foreign exchange student for the school year of 2007-2008!! Being a host family is the closest that you can come to actually experiencing a different culture without traveling. Besides enabling an amazing experience for the student, you are truly contributing to increasing understanding and tolerance on an international level.

We currently have student applicants from Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, Moldova, Norway, Thailand, Ukraine and Vietnam. Some of these students have specifically requested placement in the southern United States - and how lucky are the students placed in the great city of Austin!

You must be able to provide room and board for the students, but all other costs are covered by their families (including a monthly stipend to cover any incidentals). You can find more information on the organization facilitating this and on the process of becoming a host family at: <www.aspectfoundation.org/ex_training/pdffiles/10_Steps.pdf>.

I am the International Coordinator (IC) for the Austin area - if you know of a family who would be interested in this opportunity or if you are, please contact me at <luemoonbay90@hotmail.com> or (512) 466-0535.

Thanks very much!

— Dara Shifrer

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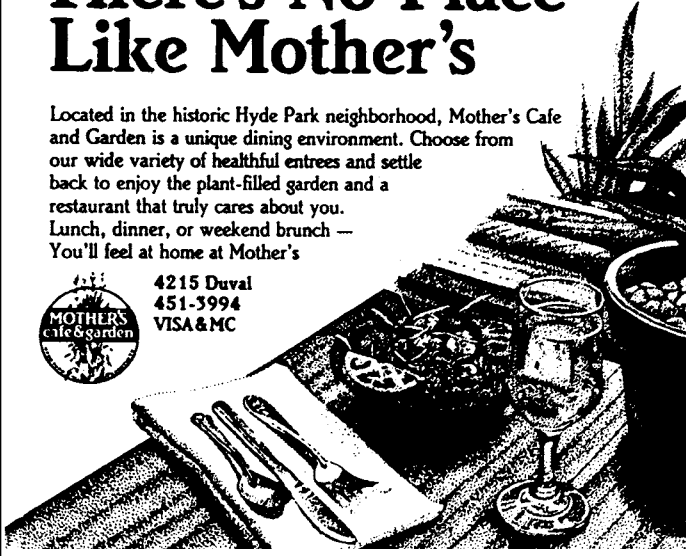


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4215 Duval
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VISA & MC



Triangle "Park" is the Pits

...cont'd from page 1

bike/pedestrian path includes flights of steep stairs making it impassable to bikes, strollers, and wheelchairs. The path is unattractive, poorly lit, hidden from view and unsafe — judging by the flood debris high up on the stairs.

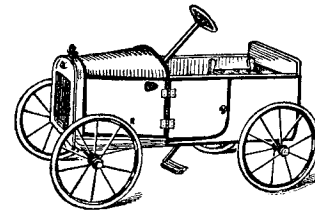
As a result of neighbors' negative reactions, the developers and the General Land Office (GLO) have displayed some willingness to work with the neighborhood to develop a more acceptable plan, though we don't yet know to what extent they are willing to address our concerns. As a first step, we will meet on the site with representatives of the developer and GLO (2/22).

If, after this meeting, the developers seem willing to work with us to develop a more appropriate plan for the site, we will need people who are willing to work on, and follow, the process.

If, after the meeting, it appears that the developers are unwilling to create a park that comes closer to what was promised to us, then we will need to mount a protest effort.

To get on the Triangle Park email list, or to join with others involved in correcting this problem, please contact Larry Freilich at lmf@earthlink.net or Cathy Echols at echols@psy.utexas.edu. For additional information, including site plans, go to www.austinhdepark.org.

— J.D. Oznot



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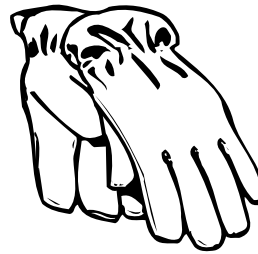
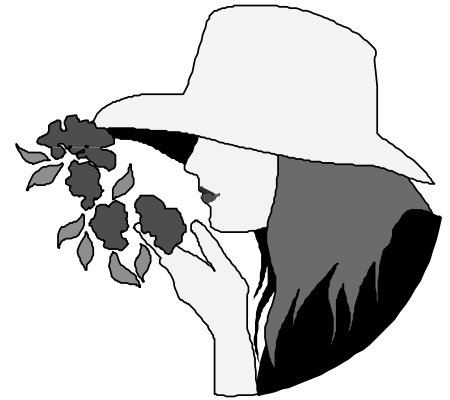
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Trowel & Error at Mayfield Park!

On Saturday, April 7, from 10 AM to 1 PM, Mayfield Park will once again host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from far and wide to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, *Trowel & Error* will feature Sue Nazar, landscape designer, describing the pleasures of Texas-style cottage gardening, followed by Scott Thurmon, garden designer, who will demonstrate how container planting will raise your garden to new heights.



Rounding out the day, Colleen Dieter, horticulturist and plant care specialist, will help you solve your puzzling plant problems.

For those who arrive early enough, Mayfield's hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials may be purchased for your April garden. Also featured will be the legendary raffle of garden goodies.

No one leaves *Trowel & Error* without a smile, many with an armful of heirloom plants. It's a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning, learning how to add color into your Spring landscape while relaxing in Central and West Austin's own beautiful back yard among gregarious peacocks, towering palms, flowering trees and ponds filled with lilies. And for only a \$5.00 donation!

For more information contact Karen at 453-7074 or <neenok@aol.com>.

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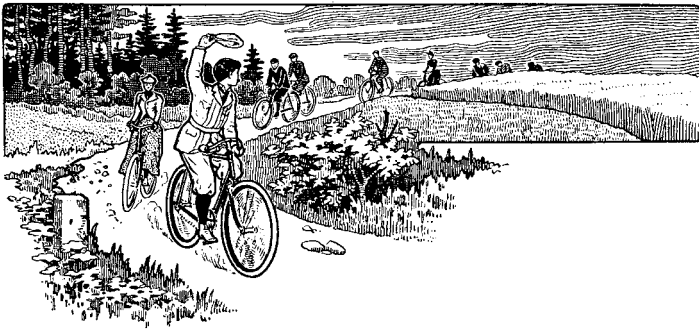
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Letters Dept.

Get Hip @ North Loop Strip!

Dear Hyde Park Neighbors!

Get hip to the strip on Sunday, April 1. It's a block party like no other on the North Loop Strip. Bring the whole family and celebrate 'Sunday on the Strip' with music, food, sales, specials, entertainment and more! Join the festivities as businesses raffle off incredible prizes to help Project Transition, an agency providing hospice and housing for people with HIV and Aids in Central Texas. Check out all the North Loop Strip businesses at <www.ibuyaustin.com/ibiz-northloop>. See you on the strip!

— Cindy Reed
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Its majesty taken in a few short hours
Cut limb by limb and mighty trunk
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An expedited return to Earth
No time to die naturally, bit by bit
A decaying home to wildlife
Nourishing the soil
Peaceful

— Nancy Hohengarten
4114 Ave. H
Feb. 4, 2007

The Adams House is for Sale



You may have stayed at the Adams House for bed and breakfast, but now you can make it your home, because it is available for sale. Built in 1911, the Adams House received a Heritage Society award for its complete renovation in 1997. Original details combine with up to date kitchen and 5.5 baths. It has five bedrooms, including master suites upstairs and down, three living rooms, and a guest cottage. Located at 4300 Avenue G in the Hyde Park National Register District, a pleasant walkable neighborhood in Central Austin. Offered for \$999,000. Call 512-472-1930 or email lteam@austin.rr.com for a private showing. Virtual Tour at www.TheKinneycompany.com.



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Architectural Notes: KRDB is A-OK!

Do these look like low-cost homes? So ran the headline for the lead story of the House and Homes section of the *Financial Times* weekend edition for February 3-4, 2007. Trend-setting, affordable houses, small in scale, big on aesthetics, in London, Amsterdam and Antwerp were described.

Then came praise for KRDB in Austin, Texas. More amazing. The firm currently offices at 5210 Avenue F in one end of the Bike Doctor. (Alas, their move downtown is imminent). Principals Chris Krager and Christopher Robertson met while graduate students in the UT-Austin School of Architecture. Krager had previously earned a degree in business and had managed a mortgage brokerage firm. Their design-build approach combines the roles of architect and contractor plus that of developer. And they make the numbers work by building under the SMART Housing/Small Builder programs, both initiatives of the Austin Housing Finance Corporation. Early on, two low-cost houses on Cedar Avenue in East Austin by KRDB were featured in the *Austin American-Statesman* (July 13, 2002) and in *Dwell* magazine (March/April 2003). Closer at hand, Satsuma 53 is a commercial venture on 53rd Street between Duval and Evans and a studio behind 5104 Avenue F. Send up a cheer for a young business with idealistic ambitions on the northern edge of Hyde Park, one that has merited praise in an international publication.



— Mary Carolyn George



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Qualified customers within the Austin and Sunset Valley city limits can receive this incentive for both new installations and replacements in either new or existing homes.



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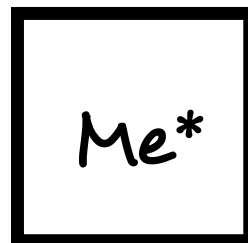
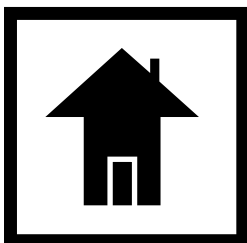
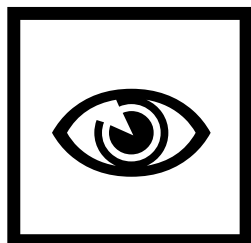
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Transition

Gray hair,
 drooping flesh,
 yet I feel far from finished
 in this life, where
 no longer I disguise needing
 as sorrow or tranquility,
 but plagued am I by
 work yet incomplete.
 Incomplete, in need
 with gray hair, drooping flesh,
 far from finished in this life.
 I will transition.

— *Joyce Lyle*
 603 E. 46th Street
 January 16, 2007

Things

Pivot. There in every corner remains of
 my days and theirs. Photos, crafts from
 Africa and South America, Europe and
 Asia. My grandmothers nestle in the
 frame of a French poster, a Zulu love
 letter and miniature beaded mask perch
 side by side. Myrtle wood, bamboo, and
 origami birds fly up one wall. Ceramic
 fish swim across another. Clay, wood,
 and leather masks stare at me over my
 shoulder, whispering in their native tongues,
 clicks and rolls, lilting words foreign to me,
 but with rhythms too pure to misunderstand.
 I think of simplifying, of de-cluttering,
 but my walls, too, cling to these memories,
 flourish with these stories. So I let odd
 treasures remain, for I cannot bear weeping walls.

— *Nancy Taylor Day*
 February 8, 2007



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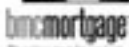


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Address: **605 East 43rd Street**

SOLD

Price: **\$339,000**

Charming Bungalow remodel in the heart of Hyde Park. Fully updated kitchen and bath, new roof, siding & exterior paint, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with a recently added large family room. A classic look with a sophisticated interior.



Address: **3916 Avenue H**

SOLD

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**

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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.**

S

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

Tastefully restored 3/1.5 with separate home office/studio & ad ft. screened living area. Original charm with modern accents. O custom lighting & hardware. Hardwoods. Designer's colors. Fabu

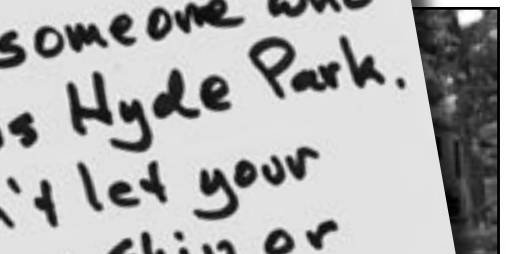
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house.*

Address: **5305 Avenue H**

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Price: **\$299,000**

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702 Landon Lane

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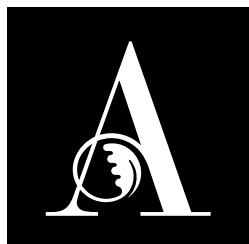


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