

January Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 4, 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 January 4th

- ❖ **Health Yes! Presentation:** Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
- ❖ **Austin Community College:** Comprehensive Planning Program

Letters Dept.

Inspirational Alley Maintenance

For the Hyde Park Association:

I would love to see/read in the Pecan Press a big Thank You and appreciation for the efforts of Nancy and Lloyd of 4702 Ave. H for making their part of the Hyde Park alleys a place of beauty and neatness — no weeds, trash or a place to dump excess junk. They inspired me to clean up my part of said alley — I can only hope others will be inspired to do their part. Hopefully, a cleanup and some extra lighting will discourage graffiti and crime. Alleys are, after all, our property and responsibility.

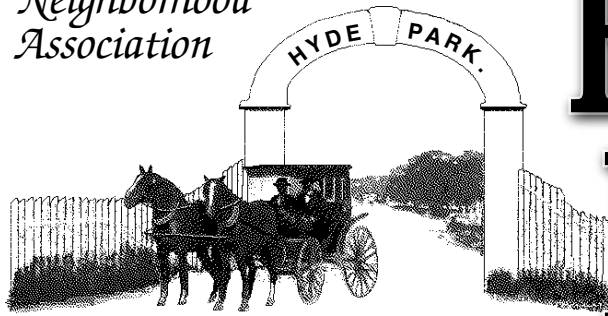
Sincerely,

— M. Wood,
4703 Ave. G

Special Thanks

To Rich MacKinnon and John Rebok for once again hosting the HPNA's Holiday party; to Social Chair Deaton Bednar for coordinating the affair; to NeWorlDeli for catering; and to all the neighbors who helped to make it such a success!

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

January, 2010 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 36, No. 1

Holiday Traditions in Hyde Park

“Separate leaves slightly with your thumbs,” the recipe stated, coyly. “Then pull out purple leaves from center and enough yellow ones to expose fuzzy choke. Scoop out choke with a melon-ball cutter or small spoon, then squeeze some juice from other lemon half into cavity.” And then the coup de grace: “Repeat with remaining artichokes.”



‘Twas the Season! 4609 Caswell, (Holiday party photos included throughout this issue plus a collection of neighborhood display photos on page 11, all by Patty Mora)

I brought the preceding feat of culinary surgery upon myself last year, when, among other abstruse but tasty Italian dishes, I served artichokes stuffed with soppressata and provolone for Christmas dinner. I didn't realize that no one in recorded history who's followed the directions to “cut the spiky leaf tips” of an artichoke has emerged from that battle without bloody fingertips. My sister and I had decided, soon after she and her family moved to Austin, that we would never eat the red Jell-O mold stuffed with canned fruit and celery pieces that

had always been served to us at Christmas. We decided to choose a different cuisine every year to spotlight at Christmas dinner, and last year, we chose Italian food and Italian stuffed artichokes, whose preparation made me yearn for the ease of red Jell-O studded with celery bits.

Creating your own holiday traditions can get tricky, even though there's delight in not following the holiday script that's been handed down since you were born. And old, discarded traditions can seem quaint. Thad and Sarah

Continued on page 3

From the President's Desk:

A New Decade Begins

Hello Neighbors! It is 2010 and the beginning of a new and exciting decade for Hyde Park!

The Hyde Park neighborhood must learn from its history and move forward into this new decade. Most important, we must complete the Hyde Park Local Historic District application. Second, we must address how the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and the Hyde Park Baptist Church will address the agreement made twenty years ago that will expire this year. Third, we must address the crime that seems

to appear when we least expect it. Fourth, we must address our aging tree population. Then, there are sidewalks, or the lack of them, and parking concerns.

These are just a few of the items we'll need and want to address, and I am sure there are others. Yes, they all appear to be daunting tasks, but if any neighborhood can address and work these things out, it is Hyde Park!

I hope to be able to address these important issues along with anything else that comes our way. Both the Steering Committee and

other volunteers sit on committees and cover such things as the local historic district work, crime and safety, finance, sidewalks, development and review, parks, membership, social, and the trees.

I appreciate all the energy and time commitments these volunteers give each week. So that being said, I hope to see you at the next meeting!

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



Pecan Press

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Lisa Harris, ljharrisus@yahoo.com

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

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment

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 Austin, Texas 78765

Make checks payable to HPNA.

All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

Holiday Traditions in Hyde Park...

...cont'd from page 1

Sitton's book *Austin's Hyde Park: The First Fifty Years: 1891-1941* mentions that during the holidays, some Hyde Park residents used to head over to 31st Street & Lamar to watch a display in which people would "fire an anvil." "Preparation for this spectacular bit of pyrotechnics involved placing gunpowder between two anvils, one resting on top of the other," the Sittons write. "After the gunpowder ignited there was a huge explosion and the top anvil flew up into the air." The Sittons' research also uncovered the fact that most stockings opened on Christmas day in Hyde Park only contained an apple and an orange, expensive items at the time. Many Hyde Parkers apparently used to wait until Christmas Eve to set up their Christmas tree; they could drive out into the country, find a suitable tree, and chop it down.



Hyde Park Holiday Party Animals: Fearless Leaders: HPNA Prez David Conner; "Mayor" Dorothy Richter, U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett

Hyde Park had its own Christmas cake mogul, Mary Moffat. Mrs. Moffat had to sell her popular cakes after her husband's health started to fail and she needed to earn income for her family. She steadily grew her business until one year "she shipped 500 pounds of her Christmas nut cakes, sending them all over the world." The Sittons also mention that in 1911, the *Austin Statesman* reported that Austinites spent the then-grandiose sum of \$4,000-5,000 on eggnog alone. The temperance movement began to hold

sway in the 1910's, however, and the Sittons quote a former Hyde Park resident named Mabel Carleston McGuire, who told them that "I would visit Mrs.

Luckey (4204 Avenue C) and some of her friends to have eggnog, which we spiked with whiskey. Anna would go around and pull all the blinds down so the neighbors couldn't see us drinking eggnog."

The reporting for this article did not uncover any contemporary traditions of anvil firings or clandestine

eggnog drinking, even though there are a variety of holiday celebrations taking place in the neighborhood:

- 2009 Hyde Park Homes Tour chair Barbara Gibson, who lives on Avenue G, grew up going to church in Wichita Falls, but her family now celebrates both Christmas and Hannukah. "Our tradition always



Party Animals Cont'd.: Barbara Gibson and Margot Thomas

is to light the menorah each night of Hanukkah

Continued on page 4



We Welcome Your Submissions to *Pecan Press*

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<poemmom@gmail.com>

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

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Holiday Traditions...

...cont'd from page 3

and say the prayers," Gibson says. "We have gelt (chocolate coins in gold foil) for the kids and make latkes one night. The boys would receive gifts each night when they were little but they tended to be more educational and/or need-based such as clothes, as Hanukkah is a really small holiday in Judaism and we worked to make it not compete with Christmas. The boys were raised Jewish, but although I took conversion classes, I did not take the pledge. Their Christmas experience was that the house was decorated for Christmas for me and Hanukkah decorations were up during Hanukkah. Typically, we spent Christmas with my family which would often involve attending a Christmas Eve service at the church I grew up in in Wichita Falls, Texas. Christmas day to them was opening stockings and presents from Santa and family. One year Hannukah began Christmas Eve and the minister from the church came and joined us for the pizza dinner we generally had and the lighting of the menorah."



Party Animals Cont'd.: Peter Maxson and Jack Taylor

• Peter Maxson and Jack Taylor, who live on Avenue F, follow one of Jack's mother's traditions – for most of her life, she lived in the West Ghent Historic District in Norfolk, Virginia. "Virtually every house in that neighborhood has electric candles in their windows, so we have followed that tradition," Maxson says. It takes them fifteen minutes to install the candles, and five minutes to remove them. "Though we have 22 candles going 24/7," Maxson says, "they equal an 88-watt bulb." For approximately the past 20 years, Maxson and Taylor have invited the neighbors on their block over to their home the Sunday after New Year's Day. "It's the one time we all have a chance to visit, and firmly believe it fosters neighborhood camaraderie," Maxson says.

Continued on following page

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Party Animals Cont'd.: John and Susan Kerr

• “There are so many colors in the carpet of Christmas,” Susan Kerr says, “that it’s not just one tradition.” Susan and her husband John, the former HPNA president, weren’t in Hyde Park for Christmas in 2009 for the first time in 34 years. Susan’s grandparents were born in Sweden; the Kerrs, who live on Avenue F, have been making Otto Leonardson’s Famous Fruit Soup during the holidays for some time. “A lot of times people have a Christmas script, but Christmas is about joy,” Susan points out.

• Because of gifts and volunteer help from AMD, the Texas State Bar Association, and individual donors, all 298 patients who were scheduled to be at the Austin State Hospital (ASH) on Christmas day received 3-4 gifts each, according to ASH’s director of community relations, Cindy Reed. In the days before Christmas, volunteers could be found wrapping presents for the patients and putting them into bags given individually to each patient. ASH’s nursing staff uses large laundry baskets to gather all the bags of gifts together and hands out the presents to the patients on Christmas morning. “When most patients come in, the only clothes they have are the clothes they’re wearing” Reed says. One donor showed up at the hospital with 22 pairs of shoes for the patients. “It’s kind of weird that I’m giving these shoes,” he said until Reed explained to him how necessary shoes and all kinds of clothing are to the patients. “The patients feel loved,” Reed says.

So whatever your traditions, whether handed-down or invented, here’s hoping they felt genuine and helped you kick off a wonderful 2010.

— Clay Smith

Parents’ Night Out at Trinity United Methodist Church

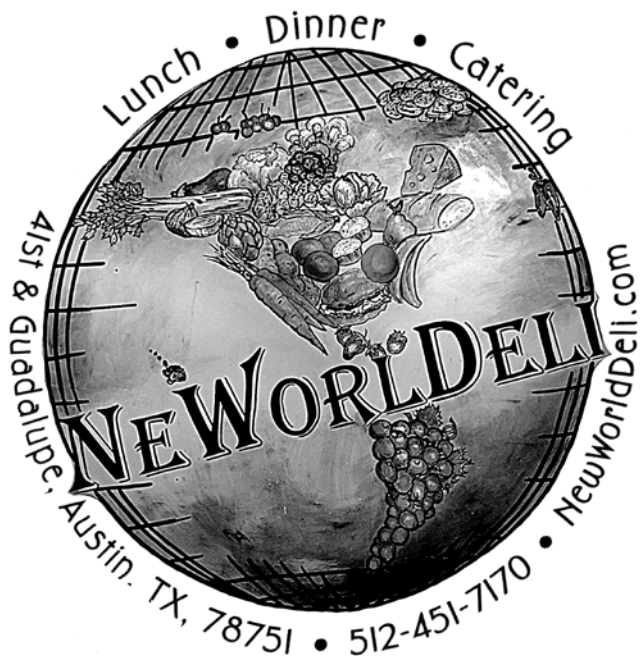
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A Neighbor's Question: What are the Drawbacks to HD Zoning?


Turning Hyde Park into a Historic Area Combining District (which will label it "HD" on the zoning maps) has serious drawbacks. It imposes unprecedented red-tape, delay, and expense on virtually every homeowner — not just for additions and second stories, which we have enjoyed so far, but even in order to "change...an exterior architectural or site feature" on the majority of homes (in the words of the Design Standards, paragraph one). This means even doors, windows, porches, and exterior lighting will have to obtain the "Certificate of Appropriateness" from the Landmark Commission, even before obtaining a building permit.

The historic landmarks in the neighborhood have willingly accepted this extra burden in exchange for the tax abatements they receive. The same restrictions should not be forced on the rest of us — or on our heirs or on buyers to whom we might want to sell — without similar abatements. Equalizing the tax abatements in the future could result in the landmarks' abatements being removed or reduced.

Meanwhile, the HD zone will give little if any additional "protection" against tear-downs and McMansions beyond what the current ordinances and restrictions provide. And there are other drawbacks:

1. Taxes and fees will go up (cost of regulating nearly all homes, not just landmarks as currently).
2. Construction costs will increase (to implement Design Standards and contractor red-tape time).
3. Insurance premiums will increase (from increased construction costs).
4. Higher costs for fire and hail damage victims, when construction under Design Standards isn't all covered by insurance.
5. Fixed-income residents will be excessively burdened by expenses or forced out.
6. Property values will not necessarily go up, long term.
7. Suburban HOA-type control will be forced on the unwilling half of Hyde Park (the owners of 49%) who don't want it.
8. Increased confusion — no one can tell how to apply the Design Standards.
9. Enforcement relies on neighbor-against-neighbor reporting.
10. Design Standards imposed on small owners, but not commercial, most apartment, or City property.
11. Neighborhood deterioration and safety risk from red-tape encouraging "boot-legged" (illegal) construction and contractors.
12. More litigation risk to City, at taxpayer expense.
13. Loss of Hyde Park's 100-year tradition of voluntary preservation, "house tinkering" and quirky individualism.

Continued on following page



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14. Criminal penalties possible for homeowner-violators.
15. More power to un-elected City officials and a largely self-appointed neighborhood committee.
16. No benefit against bad buildings that already exist (doesn't apply to 1961 to 2009 construction).
17. No increased prestige over current National Register District designation.
18. Encourages urban sprawl.

The advantages of HD zoning, meanwhile, are meagre: The "Certificate of Appropriateness" procedure might stop some "inappropriate" porch enclosures, porch screenings, awnings, light fixtures, roof materials, paint colors, backyard buildings, additions, and second stories. There would be increased income for contractors, builders, architects, and lawyers, and more job opportunities (with retirement benefits) for the new City employees, inspectors, and hearing officers who will be required. And there will be, in time, a more uniform, consistent "look" for Hyde Park.

The process for zoning "HD" begins when the owners of only 51% of the land in the district sign the petition. HPNA has collected nearly all the signatures it needs to push re-zoning forward with the City, and the ordinance that will apply has already passed. There should be more public awareness and debate within Hyde Park about this change, and the HPNA should host a series of well-advertised public meetings where the pros and cons can be openly aired and debated. This should occur before anything further is done to push this forward at the City level. I remain available to help anyone who would like to withdraw their signature from the petition, and will provide a document for that purpose. (My email is <sonata0516@yahoo.com>) I will also provide a link to the actual ordinance, if contacted by email.

— Mary Lou Serafine
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Party Animals Cont'd.: Kid Stuff: Miles, Katy and Max

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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: <lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com> or 300-2228.

In the immortal words of Mark Twain, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." We've all seen plenty of examples of this during our lives, from relatively innocent rumors and gossip to malicious lies deliberately spread in an attempt to discredit someone. Perhaps the most unfortunate thing is that, once spread, it's almost impossible to totally discredit falsehood. It's always there, in the back of people's minds. It's easier to believe a falsehood than to take the time to track down the truth.

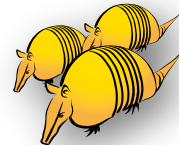
What does this have to do with the Local Historic District? There is a vast amount of misinformation being spread about the Local Historic District, whether from malice, paranoia, or just plain ignorance.

If you have questions, don't turn to your neighborhood naysayer; turn to the sources that actually know the facts:

- ... Contact Susan Villarreal in the Historic Preservation Office (974-3524)
- ... Talk to any of the members of the Historic Landmark Commission (Laurie Limbacher, Chair; John Rosato, Vice-Chair; Patti Hansens; Meghan Kleon; Joe Arriaga; Terri Myers; Dan Leary)
- ... Read the ordinances (020131-20, 041202-16, 20090806-068)
- ... Read the Design Standards <austinhydepark.org>
- ... Call me (300-2228)

I wish all Hyde Parkers a Happy 2010 and look forward to celebrating together the foundation of the Hyde Park Local Historic District.

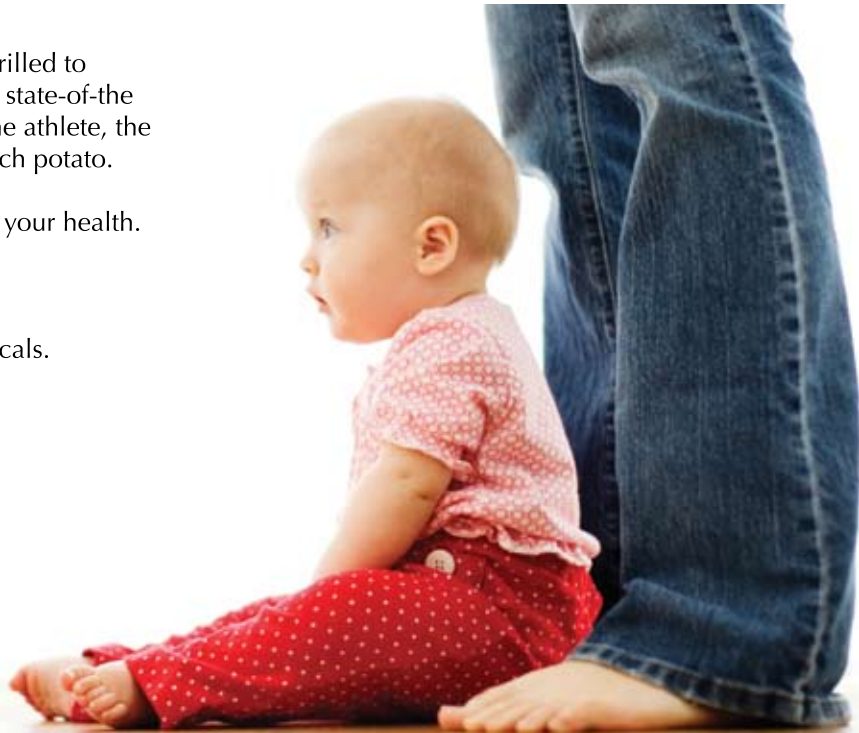
— Lorre Weidlich
Hyde Park Local Historic District Chair



Hyde Park resident and mom is thrilled to announce the opening of her new state-of-the-art clinic. Optimized health for the athlete, the soccer mom, the kids and the couch potato.

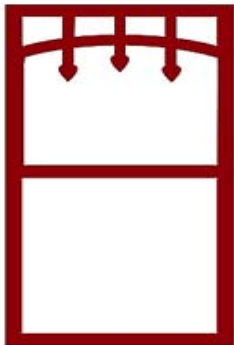
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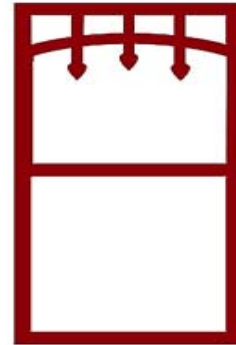
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Party Animals Cont'd.: Linda and Cecil Pennington, Jack Taylor




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Contact Team Meeting

The Hyde Park Contact Team (aka Planning Team) will meet on January 25, 7:00-8:30 PM at the Conference Room at the AGE building at W. 38th and Cedar St.. (Location is on the south side of W. 38th between Guadalupe and Speedway).

The new bylaws will be considered for adoption as well as election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Membership is open to Hyde Park residents, property owners, business owners and neighborhood associations. This group fosters the implementation of the adopted Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan and makes recommendations regarding any proposed changes to the plan.

To view a copy of the draft by-laws please go to:
 <www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/hyde_park1.htm>

For more information contact:

Margaret Valenti,
 Neighborhood Planner III
 Contact Team and Education Coordinator
 (512) 974-2648
 City of Austin
 Planning & Development Review Department
 505 Barton Springs Road, Austin Texas 78704
 or
 Karen McGraw AIA
 Chairman, Hyde Park Planning Team
 <mcgrawka@earthlink.net>

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Party Animals Cont'd.: (fairly) new neighbors Patrick and Alex Dosdy

Hyde Park Poets —

A New Year's Revolution

The poet Mary Oliver at a very early age
decided to look at the sea every day.
Starting with less time than she had,
I resolve to be a person who sees
what I look at every day.

— Elzy Cogswell



Party Animals Cont'd.: Alan Marburger grabs a plateful of good tidings courtesy of NeWorlDeli.

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Letters Dept.

Defending Leaf Blower Elimination

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to respond to last month's commentary about my criticism of leaf blower use. Let me say first that I have never said leaf blowers should be banned. A ban is unnecessary, I believe, because in high-density residential areas, leaf blower use already violates noise, nuisance, and/or air pollution law at the local, state,



or federal level. While the writers in last month's Pecan Press are technically correct that there is no City ordinance against blowers themselves (no machines, that I know of, are banned by ordinance), that does not mean that leaf blower use in a residential area is lawful. It is unlawful, even if usually unenforced.

The fact remains that leaf blowers create noise and air pollution over a wide area. With the nearness of Hyde Park homes to each other, this results in substantial disturbance. Often, a person indoors, simply enjoying an open window (not to mention a porch or yard), will be disturbed in their peace, concentration, conversation, or sleep by a leaf blower several blocks away. Even a block away, a person indoors with windows and doors completely shut will be disturbed. Add weed whackers and edgers to the mix and you are talking about a closed-door, windows-shut, hermetically sealed and air-conditioned lifestyle that is made necessary in order to read, converse, concentrate, or nap.

And the air pollution and lung disease risk from leaf blowers is great, particularly for children, asthmatics, the elderly, and animal life. This is not merely from unfiltered emissions from gas-powered blowers, but largely from re-entrainment (re-circulating into the air) of pollution that is already on the ground and pavement—including heavy metals like lead and mercury, plus pesticides, feces, herbicides, gasoline, oil, antifreeze and small-micron particulate matter that is beyond the capacity of normal respiratory defenses to process. All this becomes airborne right in the breathing zone, between the ground and a few feet up. Electric and gas blowers equally re-entrain pollution, using a stream of air up to 200 miles per hour or more.

The writers in last month's Pecan Press say that a blower ban would be bad because elderly people need them and couldn't otherwise clear their yards. At its best, this is not an argument that favors allowing blower use. It is an argument that favors allowing a few people—those that really need blowers, say—to violate noise, nuisance, and pollution law, while the rest of us refrain. At least this would result in greater peace and quiet. But in fact most blower users are not people who need them in any physical sense. And even so, a weaker or older person will find it easier to use a two-pound, two-fisted rake than a ten-pound, one-handed blower (or a twenty-pound back-pack blower on the spine) that accelerates hearing loss and impairs breathing—two health concerns of the elderly.

The presumed labor-saving advantages of leaf blowers are a fiction. Blowers appear to save labor because they appear to move leaves over a great distance more quickly than do rakes. But for normal

Continued on page 16

The Tree Tender

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Hyde Park Poets —

Lumberjack

Thick and warm red plaid wool,
a manly shirt converts
my character as a book might.
Hoping to seem a worthier woodsman,
I squint down from the edge of my eye
to see how square I can make
my childhood chest when wearing
a thick warm shirt of red plaid wool.

— Elzy Cogswell

Letters Dept. cont'd — from page 14

yard work, leaves and debris do not need to be moved the long distances that blowers encourage. They need to be moved only short distances, just enough to gather them into a pile and collect them into a bag. In the old fashioned way, you made little piles around your yard, and then gathered them up one by one. You walked from pile to pile. You didn't move all the piles around the yard. With blowers, you move all of the leaves—every one—the entire distance across the yard, or driveway, or sidewalk, etc. Then you move them all again, into a pile, or scatter them into the street or nearby. Yes—if you insist on moving every leaf a total distance of 20 or 30 feet or more, of course a blower seems efficient. But that is unnecessary work, in exchange for which one squanders gasoline, pollution risk, noise impact, and the bearing of physical weight that vastly exceeds a rake or broom.

I have watched in awe, repeatedly, while two or even three simultaneous blowers will be used to move a pound or two of leaves some 50 or 60 feet across a church parking lot, then used to move exactly the same leaves another 20 feet or so to a corner pile, and from there into the street, likely then to be raked up. Often, seeing a leaf or two that somehow escaped notice, a blower-user will then go back to the beginning, literally chasing one or two leaves across a lot or down the street, to join its brethren. This is labor that is wasteful because it is expensive and unnecessary. Not until the rise of leaf blowers did anyone think to move leaves and debris around this much. Rakes and brooms, without more effort, would get the job done.

— Mary Lou Serafine




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December Sixteen

Christmas poems often cluster
like so many sparrows or finches
at the feeder, fluttering, energetic
full of themselves,

now, more like summer clouds,
sitting just beyond the horizon,
filled with a promise, but exactly
what promise we don't know.

The season of dark sky and bright
lights wedges itself between this
year and the next, gatherings,
hearts edging around expectation
and memories, fireworks now
and then.

There are tugs in the chest, and
pretense, and following a tradition
which often unfolds with creases
no iron can flatten.

But love remembers to greet
and delight recalls four a.m. under
the tree, caressing forbidden gifts.
We make it what it is, even now.
We mix humility with pride, spread
welcome with hope that all will be
peaceful.

On the horizon, next year pretties
up, and this year stands aside,
re-folding the traditions, sending
some to recycle.

We warm ourselves, knowing the
dark days are waning, even as
our sugar highs ebb.

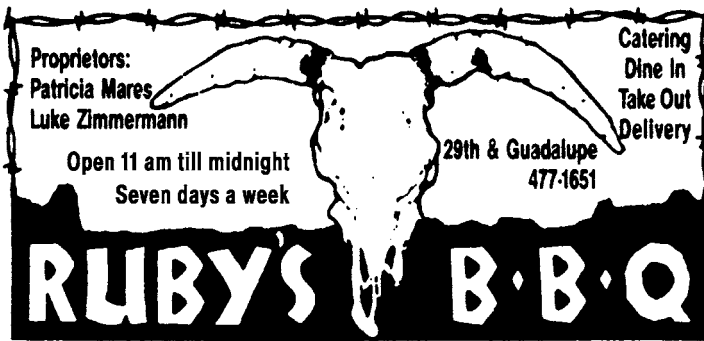
Merry Christmas

— Nancy Taylor Day

Tongue Fruit

Like W. C. Fields,
I love to say kumquat.
For me the fruit appeals
little more than somewhat.

— Elzy Cogswell



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HPNA Meeting Minutes December 4, 2009

The first item of discussion at the December meeting was the adoption of the **proposed 2010 budget** prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Steering Committee. I. J. Aarons, HPNA Co-Treasurer, moved that the HPNA general assembly approve the 2010 Budget and 2010 Approval levels. His motion was seconded by Doris Coward. During discussion, Dorothy Richter noted that the proposed budget for the parties was \$1750 and ultimately moved that the parties budget for 2010 be changed to \$500. Debbie Volker seconded. John Paul Moore proposed a friendly amendment that the Parties budgets remain \$1750 but that the Steering Committee meet with the Hospitality Chair to reexamine the budget later in the year. Mrs. Richter did not accept Mr. Moore's friendly amendment. After a little more discussion and vote, the parties budget remained at \$1750. The entire budget was approved by attendees with one member voting against its approval.

The next discussion and vote concerned proposed **HPNA bylaws amendments**. Catherine Moore presented an overview of the proposed changes to bylaws sections X. Officers and XI. Steering Committee. The proposed amendments were published in the December Pecan Press. John Paul Moore moved adoption of the amendments, Wanda Penn seconded. The amendments were adopted unanimously by voting members present.

Robin Camp, Project Manager for the **renovation project at the Elisabet Ney Museum**, spoke next. She presented slides to illustrate her presentation about the current state of construction. Excavation for waterproofing on the west side is a feature that has begun. The intent is to keep water off the foundation and to create a French drain system to take it away from the foundation. In addition, the ADA ramp that was added in the 1980s has been removed and will be relocated. Window wells will have new drainage wells with limestone caps. These items and additional tasks in this phase are expected to be complete in mid-January 2010. While Hyde Park residents have supported the necessary repairs and restoration for the museum building, many have objected

Continued on page 22

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December Meeting Minutes

...cont'd from page 20

to proposed removal of historic features on the museum grounds and feel that these objections were disregarded during formulation of a master landscape plan. Replanting of the grounds will require the site to be fenced off, preventing access to the grounds for 3 years.

Farhad Madani, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation, took the floor to discuss the process and the plans for meetings with stakeholders. Working with neighbors, Madani agreed and gained approval from the city and Texas Historical Commission, which now holds an easement on the entire Ney site, to preserve several important landscape features that the master plan proposed to remove. These include a healthy live oak tree west of the studio building and cedar trees near the Weigl iron-works front gate of the museum that are believed to have been planted by Ney. Still in question is the fate of crepe myrtles donated by Hyde Park pioneer nurseryman and Ney's friend, Frank T. Ramsey. These historic plantings complement the 1939 Austin Centennial rock wall erected in the name of the Violet Crown Garden Club with the support of garden clubs across Texas. Although his plans have been "lost," remaining records support the belief that the wall was designed by Jac Gubbels (landscape architect for restoration of the San Jacinto battlefield, Sam Houston's home and the Texas State Cemetery). Residents pointed out that the Vermont-based consultants paid to research the grounds history for this master plan had failed to recognize Gubbels' significance.

Although the city has agreed to retain these historic grounds features for the moment, their long-term preservation will necessitate a revision of the master plan, which was not presented to the Austin City Council for approval. An HPNA member in attendance said she had been told by a member of the city Parks Board that the plan was only the subject of one briefing to the board and asked why the plan was not brought back to the Parks Board for final approval. Another resident inquired about the city's ability to accurately reconstruct a proposed chicken wire fence along the eastern edge of the property and, as envisioned in the master plan, slated to replace the Centennial wall and Weigl gate entirely in subsequent phases of the museum restoration. Madani said the city is required to maintain the site in its restored condition after the completion of this phase of the restoration project, supported jointly by federal and city bond funds, and that future actions on the site are required to meet state and federal standards. More discussion followed, with a resident expressing her support for the work being done and Mary Collins Blackmon saying that she would be glad to bring the plan back before the Parks Board but had been unaware they were expecting a return presentation.

The meeting concluded with announcements about upcoming items of interest at Planning Commission meetings, reminders of the HPNA Holiday Party and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

— Denise Girard, HPNA Co-Secretary



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