

# November Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 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 November 5<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ Meet Hyde Park's new APD Representative – Officer Armando Rodriguez!
- ❖ Michael Embesi, City Arborist, and O.B. McKown from Watershed Protection and Development Review, will speak to us about the wastewater project as it pertains to our trees.

## Minutes of the October 2007 HPNA General Meeting

President Elaine Meenehan called the Monday, October 1, 2007 meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to order. Catherine Moore, representing the **Nominating Committee**, presented the slate of officers. The nominations were as follows:

*President* - Elaine Meenehan

*Vice President* - Jennifer Berbas

*Co-Secretaries* - Pam Whittington & Celeste Cromack

*Co-Treasurers* - I. Jay Aarons & Lorre Weidlich

### Steering Committee Members

*Wanda Penn* - (Two-year term beginning this year.)

*Rob Clinchard* - (Two-year term beginning this year.)

*Dorothy Richter* - (Two-year term beginning this year.)

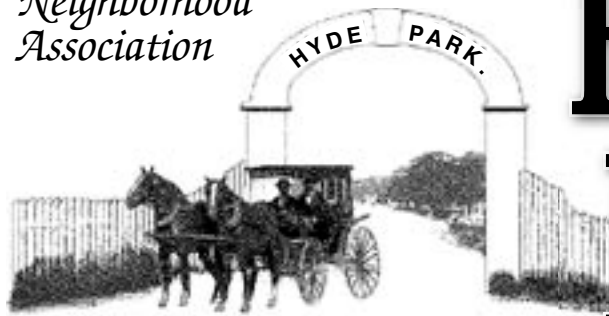
*Alan Marburger* (Filling the second year for Karen McGraw.)

*Stan Kozinsky* - (Continuing second year of term - no vote needed.)

*William Cook* - (Continuing second year of term - no vote needed.)

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*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

November, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 11

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fire Station Festival a Surefire Hit!

The siren blew, the motorcycle engines roared and the largest Fire Station Festival in HPNA history was underway. A procession several blocks long made its way from Shipe Park down Avenue G, up Avenue F, and over to Fire Station #9 at 43d and Speedway.

There were wizards and witches, fairies and butterflies, spacemen and supermen, pirates and construction workers. There were puppies large and small. Even dogs and owners dressed alike. Balloons waved in the afternoon breeze. And so the fun began.

When the parade participants reached the Fire Station, they were greeted by a cheering crowd. Then they dispersed and some rushed to enjoy the treats provided by Amy's Ice Cream, Hyde Park Bar and Grill, Quacks, Which Witch Sandwiches, Ruby's BBQ, Pronto Food Mart, FreshPlus, and NeWorldeli.

Others made their way to the Children's Activity Tent, where the children made trick or treat bags and fuzzy creatures for upcoming Halloween activities.

Major underwriters Grande Communications and University Federal Credit Union provided general festival funding, tents, volunteers, and activities for those



Ready, Set...Festival Parade Gets Underway

attending the event.

Jeff and Kate Baker produced a "Keep Hyde Park Weird" banner for the parade, and the Hyde Park United Methodist Church loaned tables and chairs.

Before the parade arrived at the Fire Station, singer-songwriter Steve Martinec provided music for the attendees. Steve is a long-time Hyde Park resident and recently released a CD. Closing out the day's festivities were the Hydemen, a band of teenage musicians living in Hyde Park.

Continued on page 3

# From the President's Desk:

## Traffic-Calming: Will the Circles be Unbroken?

This month, there has been some significant discussion surrounding the stewardship of traffic-calming circles. The circles were installed and planted by the City nine years ago to slow traffic on neighborhood streets. While many of them may look overgrown, this is not due to neglect; it is by design. The circles were engineered to be seen from a distance of 500 feet. They work best when full and lush so that cars are forced to slow down when maneuvering the circle. These "street parks" also remind drivers who have just suffered their commute on IH 35 that they have entered a neighborhood.

Recently, some people have complained that the foliage is sight-limiting; and as a result, the Parks and Recreation Department has responded by removing the vegetation almost down to ground level. It seems there is a disagreement between city planning guidelines in plantings and the Parks Department's rules in

maintaining them. There are no rules on the books that dictate the allowed height of plants within the circle. As a result, many times the Parks Department has followed the closest rule they have, which limits plantings' height to two and one-half feet. If you live on a corner lot and your plants are too high, you would receive a notice to trim your plants. Since no one resides at the circles, the Parks Dept. simply cuts all vegetation to the ground. This has recently occurred at the circle at 42nd and Speedway, where all that remains are the trees and some sticks that used to be bushes; at 42nd and G, where mature flower bushes were cut back in drastic fashion; and at 43rd and Ave B, where roses were so emphatically "trimmed" that they are unlikely to come back.

We have now had the experience of living with these circles for nine years, and they appear to have been quite successful at reducing cut-through traffic, reducing speed, and beautifying the neighborhood. However, the circles could have been better designed. And, although there have been no pedestrian or vehicular accidents that we know of, there is frequently a lack of sidewalks, or safety zones, which forces pedestrians into the road where views of oncoming cars are limited.

Currently, a group of residents is diligently working with the city to try to resolve this situation and come up with a solution that both protects our pedestrian residents and provides the benefits we have enjoyed for many years. We hope to be able to report progress on this issue to the neighborhood soon.

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



## Pecan Press

The Pecan Press is published monthly  
by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas.

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## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhypark.org>

### — HPNA Steering Committee —

#### President

• Elaine Meenehan • elaine.meenehan@gmail.com ..... 323-9772

#### Vice President

• Jennifer Berbas • Jennifer\_berbas@yahoo.com.....

Co-Secretaries • Pam Whittington • pam46@yahoo.com.... 452-9776

• Wendy Taddia • wtaddia@cencorealty.com

Co-Treasurers • Denise Girard, • girard.d@att.net..... 454-6584

• Catherine Moore • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Additional Steering Committee Members: • Wanda Penn • William Cook • Stan Kozinsky • John Moore • Karen McGraw • Doris Coward

#### HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AllySD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H.....458-8096

Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, skywash@austin.rr.com.....

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

Beautification • Larry Freilich, lmf@earthlink.net.....

Children's Programs • ..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349

Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, robin@wcook.org ....452-1783

Crime and Safety Chairman • Carol J. Weider, 4101 Ave F.....459-6205

Development Review • Stan Kozinsky, 4604 Ave. G.....451-4455

Finance • Nick Van Bavel, nvb123@yahoo.com.....

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Homes Tour • Lorre Weidlich, lweidlich@mail2sevensesas.com..300-2228

Membership • Doris Coward, dcoward@mail.utexas.edu .....453-2476

Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C .....459-2261

Local Historic District • Sharon Majors, sharonmajors@grandecom.net..

Shipe Park • ..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Sidewalks • Rob Clinchard, robsold@texas.net.....

Social • Deaton Bednar, deatonbednar@grandecom.net.....

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Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C.....206-0729

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

## Fire Station Fest: Surefire Hit! ... ...cont'd from page 1

Elliot Naishtat, State Representative for the Hyde Park area, was on hand to visit with the neighborhood folks. Representative Naishtat spoke briefly to the crowd and emphasized the importance of supporting our first responders.

One tradition of the Fire Station Festival is to show appreciation to those who have worked to support and keep the neighborhood strong. See the related article in this issue to learn about the work that honorees David Connor, Stan Kozinsky, Grant Thomas, Lorre Weidlich, Doris Coward, and Denise Girard have done for Hyde Park.

One highlight of this year's festival was the costume judging. The creativity and ingenuity that sparked these outfits clearly demonstrates the spirit of Hyde Park. Winning children received autographed copies of Karin Cates' "A Far Fetched Story" and gift certificates from Toy Joy. All children received a small prize. Vino Vino, Julio's, The Parlor, and Texadelphia provided gift certificates for students, adults, and group participants, while Camp 4 Paws, Petco, and Patty Mora Photography donated prizes for the four-legged winners. While we lack space to list all of the winners, we encourage you to spend some time enjoying the pictures of the event in this issue of the *Pecan Press*. Then you can share the fun and pick your favorites.

The following are some of the participants who stood out in the crowd: Miles Siberling-Cook, Ryan Bookout, Lubbock Nash, Anna McGuire, Nadia Freeman, and Lilly Meyer.

Highlights of the dog costume contest included the Hot Dog, the Devil Dog, and the look-alike team

in poodle skirts. Unfortunately, many of the canine participants were too modest to provide their names, but they did tell us that they enjoyed being part of the Fire Station Festival and they are looking forward to next year and some more of those yummy treats that were in the doggie bags.

Festival Chair Carolyn Grimes, who had the vision for this year's Fire Station Festival, and her committee deserve many treats for all the planning, coordination, and hard work they put into this very successful event. Thank you also to all those who participated in the event. Your participation made the 2007 Fire Station Festival a day to remember!

— Celeste Cromack

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Paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash                      Date _____	
<i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i>	
Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:  HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765  Make checks payable to HPNA.	

HPNA Membership Info
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
❖
Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries.
❖
New members, and members who lapse in dues for over six months, are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.



## We Welcome Your Submissions to *Pecan Press*

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

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

\*Send your poems to:

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

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

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

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## November Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 1

Catherine asked for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were offered, so Catherine moved that the recommendation of the Nominating Committee be accepted. The vote was 19 to zero in favor of the motion.

The **Development Review Committee** gave a brief update regarding the Parks and Wildlife land on 51st Street. This land is under contract for purchase and a San Antonio development company is planning to build a residential development. The developer will take public input regarding this project on October 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. See page 10 of the October issue of the *Pecan Press* for more information.

City of Austin Staff presented information regarding the new software for the City of Austin's Development Process. Lynne Lightsey, Jessica King, Jan Adler, and Joi Harden reviewed the online system to research and track building and construction permits. You can find the system on the City's website - <[www.cityofaustin.org](http://www.cityofaustin.org)> - by clicking on "Development" or "Permits." You can research for plan reviews, permits and inspections and the status of those cases and permits. They emphasized that you do not need to be a registered user to access this information. The "Registered User Access is for development business with the City." The Web Help Manual page provides assistance for using the system. The Appendix contains a list of Abbreviations that is useful in decoding the information regarding the permits and inspections. HPNA members engaged in a lively discussion about this process.

Carolyn Grimes updated members on the **Fire Station Festival** to be held on Sunday, October 21. Caroline thanked University Federal Credit Union and Grande Communications for their donations to this event. Jenna Stephens reminded neighbors about the Safe Streets Crime Prevention Party to be held on Monday, October 15 at The Parlor.

Elaine reported on the Steering Committee's recommendation that HPNA annual **membership dues** be changed from \$1 to \$5 per member, except that seniors would continue to pay \$1. She noted that dues in other neighborhood associations range from \$5 to \$20 per year. Karen McGraw moved that dues be revised as explained by Elaine. John Paul Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried 16 to zero.

Wanda Penn discussed the renovation of the home at **311 West 41st Street**. When this home was threatened with demolition, several neighbors joined forces to purchase and restore this home. They plan to ask for historic zoning from the Landmark Commission. Members supported their request.

Continued on following page

John Paul and Elaine reported that the City of Austin is assuming responsibility for alley trimming and maintenance. This has been a significant issue in the past, as neighbors were required to maintain the alleys. See page 8 of the October issue of the *Pecan Press* for more information.

Elaine adjourned the meeting.

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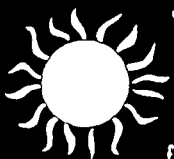
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# Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Our Neighborhood Watch program is raising awareness. Neighbors are reporting suspicious behavior, which appears to be affecting the arrest rate. We continue to have some disturbing happenings, such as the purse snatching in the HEB parking lot, peeping toms and stolen items, but some of these acts are being recorded and, hopefully, will lead to more arrests. As always, keep your guard up and don't give criminals an opportunity.

Hyde Park has a new District Representative. His name is Officer Armando (AJ) Rodriguez. He will be attending the November association meeting, so plan to come out and meet him. His email address is armando.rodriguez@ci.austin.tx.us and his phone number is 974-4527. I would like to thank Officer Rick Vargas for his years of service to our neighborhood and wish him well in his future assignments.

I want to thank Jenna Stephens for arranging the Safe Streets party held on October 15th at The Parlor. Jenna is a Block Captain and will serve as the Neighborhood Watch Events Coordinator making sure that safety issues are included in Hyde Park events. Another Block Captain, Jason Earle, has agreed to serve as our Neighborhood Watch liaison. He will collaborate with nearby neighborhood associations on crime and safety issues. If we all work together, we will have a safer community.

At the September association meeting, it was reported that some old sofas and chairs were lining the alley at 44th St. & Ave A. I reported it to 311 and was told that there had been other reports and that the city was investigating it. I drove by today and saw that the alley had been cleaned up. Let's all do our part by making sure that our homes and cars are secure and that we don't give criminals a target. Please try to keep your alleyways, yards, and streets clean and valuables kept out of sight.

— Carol Welder  
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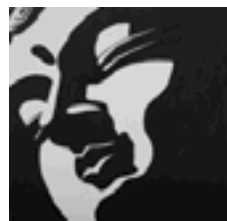
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# Parks Foundation to Hyde Park: You're Number One (of Three)!

Did you know that our Spring 2007 Shipe Park Clean-up was selected as one of the best in the city? Out of 42 projects, our effort was selected by the Austin Parks Foundation as one of the top three. In recognition of this accomplishment, neighbors were invited to come by the Hyde Park Fire Station Festival on Sunday, October 21, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for a cup of Amy's ice cream (while supplies last). Thanks to Amy's for providing ice cream to celebrate our clean-up effort.

— Betsy Clubine

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# Austin Chronicle to Hyde Park: You're Number One!

Don't get a fat head, neighbors, but in this year's *Austin Chronicle* Readers' Poll, good ol' Hyde Park once again copped top honors in the "Best Neighborhood" category. And we quote:

"You can count the years of this old Austin neighborhood in the rings of so many shady trees that line the streets. You might not even mind being stuck at a light or stop sign, awaiting the flow of bike traffic or the ducklike waddling of a local nursery schooler headed for Shipe Park. The original Austin planned community, Hyde Park is respite in the form of neighborhood, a template that so many of these new infills only wish they could emulate but miss by a long shot. And great news: The council is finally looking to fix the sidewalks."

That's news to us about the sidewalks...But regardless, Thanks, *Chronicle*, and Congrats, Neighbors!

## Things Seen in Hyde Park Yield to flowers



Turk's cap is a popular shrub that grows all over our neighborhood and is known to attract hummingbirds. Somehow one started growing in the perforated steel column holding up a Yield sign on the northwest corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Avenue G. It flourished there for several weeks. According to a master gardener with the Texas Cooperative Extension, the plant should grow to 4 or 5 feet. But the top of the yield sign was at least 8 feet above ground.

As this picture was being taken on September 28, an Austin Energy truck arrived to add a street sign on top of the yield sign. Minutes later the flower was destroyed. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*



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## Kudos Dept.: Awards for Jobs Well Done

One of the highlights of the 2007 Fire Station Festival was the recognition of HPNA members who have served and supported the neighborhood in a variety of ways.

This year, long-time Hyde Parker Stan Kozinsky was the recipient of the Walter & Dorothy Richter Good Citizen Award. For many years, Stan has given abundantly of his time and used his extensive knowledge of planning and city ordinances for the preservation of our neighborhood. In particular, we are grateful for the indispensable role Stan has played in chairing HPNA's Development Review Committee, as well as saving the wood from the Petrified Forest Motel and incorporating it into the wall at Shipe Park. Stan is a model of the concerned, knowledgeable and involved neighborhood activist.

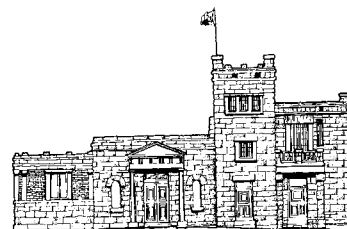
Relative newcomer David Connor received the "Moved In and Got Right to Work" Award. He joined the Development Review Committee and has shown energy and passion helping to research houses, learning city code, and working with neighbors.

The "Great Communicator Award" went to Grant Thomas, editor of the *Pecan Press* for the past twenty-eight years! His award noted, "By combining professional editorial skills with a keen sense of humor, you have given the residents of Hyde Park a wonderful and unique publication and given all of us an additional benefit to living in Hyde Park."

Recipient of the "Excellence in Hospitality" Award, Membership Chair Doris Coward was the first welcoming face many neighbors encountered. She used her organizational skills to get the HPNA membership list in order. While serving on the Steering Committee Doris continually gave voice to important and valid points of view.

Denise Gerard received the "White Knight" Award. Denise has continuously offered her services to benefit the neighborhood. She has give of her time in numerous roles in the organization over the years, including Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Steering Committee member. Denise has helped to make Hyde Park a wonderful place to live.

— Celeste Cromack



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Kid Stuff: Exhibit A



Kid Stuff: Exhibit B



Good Ol' Number 9



# Fire Station Festival



Kid Stuff: Exhibit C



Bikes and Balloons



Kid Stuff: Exhibit D

Kid Stuff: Exhibit E



Festival Chair Carolyn Grimes Waves Her Wondrous Wand



Libby Malone Does Grande Job



Kid Stuff: Exhibit F

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## Special Thanks from Our Fire Station Festival Chair

It takes so many people to create and produce an event like the Fire Station Festival, so I want to thank all of my neighbors and friends who were willing to help in countless ways. They include:

Lieutenant Lee Kendrick & the firemen of Engine # 9, Jeff & Kate Baker, Sharon Landcaster, Sandra Vilalaz, Karin Cates, Deaton Bednar, Pam Morris, Rusty Jackson, Lorre Weidlich, Barbara Gibson & IJ Aarons, Fred & Patricia Florence, Joe Bedell, Linda & Cecil Pennington, Donald & Diane York, John Kerr, Charles & Betty Hafer, Jane Anderson, Cynthia Lyon, Greg Jackson, Steve Martinec, The Hydmen, Susan Moffat, Nick Barbaro, Walter & Valerie Kuhl, Alejandra McGuire, Gary Freeman, Lee Walker, Jennifer Vickers, John Paul Moore, Peter Maxson, Betsy Clubine, Celeste Cromack, Elaine Meenehan, Grant Thomas, Judy Pape, Carla Somers, Jenna Stephens, Jim Geneviro, Sharon Majors, Robin Silberling, Becky Hesson, and John, Parker, & Keegan Beall.

Please take time to remember all of the Festival Sponsors who are listed in multiple places in this issue. We especially want to recognize and give a heartfelt thanks to our Underwriters Grande Communications and University Federal Credit Union. Our Underwriters and Sponsors contributed greatly to the event, so thank them when you visit them next. The Festival wouldn't have been the same without them.

Finally, I want to give a special "shout out" to my fabulous planning team:

- Cindy Beall, goddess of festival creativity
- Carol Jackson, unflappable food fundraising extraordinaire
- Catherine Judd, Trina Flores, and Eric Van Os – amazing marketing and design triumvirate
- Joan Yamini and Kathy Finley – magicians of children's programming

We hope you enjoyed this year's Fire Station Festival and will join in again next year to help "Keep Hyde Park Weird."

Sincerely,  
 Carolyn E. Grimes  
 Chair, 2007 Hyde Park Fire Station  
 Festival



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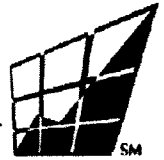
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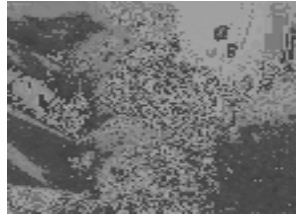
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# Hyde Park Poets —

## Alarm Clock

The street sweeper vacuumed  
up the quiet, carted it away for  
who knows how long.

Everywhere motors: our  
heaters, the chaos on the overpass,  
even computer fans.

Would he, if I asked, would the  
street sweeper suck up noise  
next time, just for a day? And  
if he did, would I recognize silence?

— Nancy Taylor Day  
1.25.2007



# It's all right here.

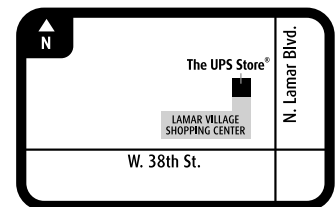
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# Hyde Park Poets —

## These Corners

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— Joyce Lyle  
E. 46th St.



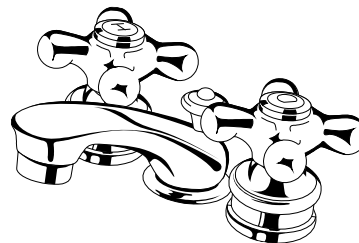
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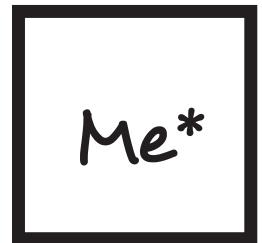
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## Coffee House Poets

They like to write  
where people are.  
They like a little noise  
with their silence.  
They want to look up  
and see something.  
They want to be surprised.  
They like the flow  
of bodies around them.  
Or perhaps it's just loneliness —  
yes, that too.  
But more than that:  
they like the atmosphere  
a little smoke laden.  
They like aromas —  
coffee, tobacco, meat frying.  
They like the sudden revelation  
as eyes look off  
or blur with tears  
looking across a table.  
Where others court eternity,  
they're in love with the moment  
in all its tawdriness and glory,  
that instant when truth appears  
out of nowhere — a truth  
as simple and as natural  
as people sitting together  
in a room over coffee  
in all their vulnerability  
and their humanness.

— Albert Huffstickler



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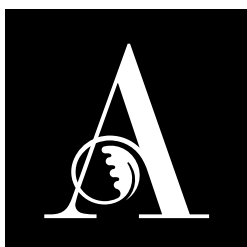


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