

October Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 3, 2005

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 October 3rd

- ◆ Reports on sidewalk developments
- ◆ Possible (limited) debate on wine bar
- ◆ Report on Paseo developments
- ◆ Final details on annual Fire Station Festival

See you there!

Slate of Officers

The HPNA Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of HPNA officers for 2005-2006:

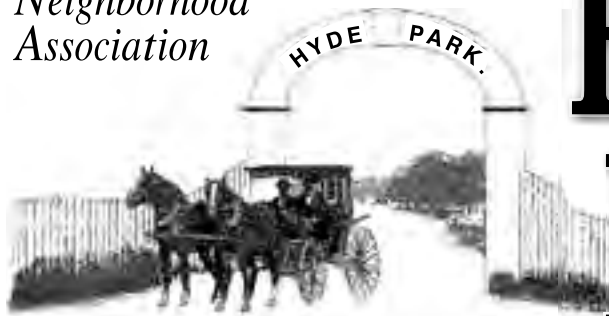
- **President:** John Kerr
- **Vice Presidents:** Elaine Meenahan & Denise Girard
- **Secretary:** Sam Waring
- **Treasurer:** Carmin Way



Mark Your Calendars!

The 31st Annual Hyde Park Fire Station Festival will be Sunday October 16th at 1:30 pm. Childrens' parade, food, drink, music, and entertainment for the young at heart.

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

October, 2005 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 31, No. 10

Echoes from the Past : Unseen Hyde Park

The idea of building a house on the terrace above Waller Creek at the corner of 44th Street and Avenue G first began to take shape more than twenty years ago.

At that time, the property had been an overgrown vacant lot for a decade. Designated on tax rolls as 4316 Avenue G, V.T. Littleton built a house there about 1932. The place was owned by the Bloomquist family from 1952 until 1970 when it was demolished.

As an architect, I dreamed of building my own house without the compromises that clients impose. But there were two equally compelling motivations.

As a member of the University of Texas at Austin faculty in both architecture and architectural engineering, I wanted the students to have experience with the real world of building construction. Each of the students received a wage and worked flexible hours to accommodate their academic schedule. *The Chronicle* once named the enterprise "the best ongoing project in Austin." Speed was never a priority.

In order to develop basic skills, construction began with the masonry wall surrounding the property. This required excava-



Revealed by archeology, the stones of a hearth and fireplace were all that remained of a log cabin that once overlooked Waller Creek.

tion for footings and foundations. That both men and women students could do anything they set out to do, no matter how difficult, was soon apparent. The project would also provide an opportunity for archeological investigation, my avocation and passion. Every site has the potential for archeological yield — evidence of land use over a period of time — and Hyde Park is exceptionally rich in this regard. Because the springs that feed Waller Creek continue to flow even during periods of drought,

Continued on page 10

Bar None?

The neighborhood is wrestling with an interesting issue. Should we have a wine bar at 4119 Guadalupe? There are two main issues involved, parking and the advent of a new kind of zoning for Hyde Park, one which would allow a full bar or liquor store.

At our most recent steering committee meeting, the point was made that Monroe Shipe, the original developer of Hyde Park, was dead set against selling alcohol in his development. That argument lost some of its steam when it was pointed out that Shipe was also dead set against Negroes moving into his development.

I think Hyde Park will survive rather nicely whatever decision

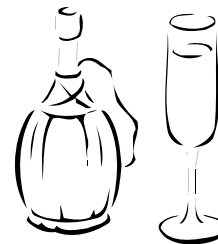


we finally reach. But I would like to offer a couple of thoughts for your consideration.

One is that since September 1, a bar is a very different place in Austin. Before, you hesitated to set foot in one lest you emerged smell-

ing like a fully smoked ham. A smoke-free bar is a different story altogether.

But mainly, I think, a small, smoke-free neighborhood bar offers the possibility of filling a gaping niche in our neighborhood social structure. I'm speaking of the occasional need



for a closer contact with an acquaintance, but with limits. That is, you meet someone who is interesting and may turn out to be PLU (people like us). You want a closer look, a more extended conversation, in a relaxed, convivial setting. In many parts of the United States,

this is the time you say, "Hey, let's get together for a drink." Hyde Park could use more public spaces that promote conversation.

As to the pleasures to be had in a bar, although I have some thoughts on that subject,

I know that I could never express them as lyrically as my father did in a poem appearing elsewhere in this issue, "The Old Familiar Bar."

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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

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Pecan Press Seeks Crime Reporter

Interested?

Then contact the editor at <hgthomas@youthlaunch.org> for more information. Basically, the purpose of the crime report is to summarize crime-related information and trends in and around the neighborhood, and to encourage and educate neighbors about effective crime prevention strategies. It's an important responsibility, so here's hoping a volunteer will emerge with the inclination and ability to handle the responsibility effectively. In the meantime, our thanks to retiring crime reporter Hermelinda Zamarripa for her stellar efforts in the post over the past couple of years!

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.hydepark-na.org>

— HPNA Officers —

- President • John Kerr • jfkerr@yahoo.com 451-3931
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- Co-Secretary • Denise Girard • girard.d@att.net 454-6584
- Treasurer • Mike Capochiano, 4904 Avenue H 467-9198
- Treasurer Emerita • Josephine Casey

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

- AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H 458-8096
- Alley Coordinator • J.P. Young, jpyoung@io.com 450-0707
- Beautification • Margot Thomas, 4106 Ave. F 454-7284
- Merle Franke, 4102 Ave. D 452-0414
- Children's Programs • Volunteer needed
- Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349
- Communications/Web • George Wyche, 4314 Ave. F 458-9709
- Crime and Safety Chairman • Hermelinda Zamarripa 974-9097
- Development Review • Stan Kozinsky, 4604 Ave. G 451-4455
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- Sidewalks • Jamie Caras jcaras@sciencetechnologies.com 323-6565
- Sidewalks • Rob Clinchard Volunteer needed
- 38th Street Taskforce Volunteer needed
- Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729
- Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117
- Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. Volunteer needed

Some background: Before the war (the Big One), my father was a meteorologist with Pan American Airways, responsible for setting up weather stations all around the Caribbean. When the war started he was loaned to the Army Air Force and based in Cuba. He loved Cuba, and the joie de vivre and sense of honor of Cuban men.



During the long months alone, when my mother had to return to San Antonio to deliver and raise babies, he would often meet with a Cuban friend, Alberto McGregor, at Prado 86, a small bar on Havana's main drag. Later, he was transferred to Bogotá, Colombia, high in the Andes. He hated it, and dearly missed Cuba and his Cuban friends. It was then, in 1946, that he wrote his poem.

— John Kerr
451-3931
<jfkerr@yahoo.com>



Fire Station Festival
October 16, 1:30 pm
Shipe Park

The Old Familiar Bar

To sit with a friend at work-day's end
In an old familiar Bar,
When softened lights enhance the delights
Of the mirrored liquor bazaar—

And together to wait, and anticipate,
While the drinks are blended with care
By a knowing hand from a knowing land
With instinct, with pride, and a flair.

And then with full measure of common pleasure
To sip of the perfect blend,
That can warmth impart to the heaviest heart
And to sadness a respite lend.

And with this good fellow to quietly grow mellow
While dim grow the cares of the day
And to smile as one as the drink is done
And another is on the way.

Then, with more of the same to kindle the flame
And bask in its after-play,
'Til with hearts aflow and minds aglow
You talk the night away.....

When thoughts regress, in loneliness,
To friends you've left behind,
The wonderment of hours thus spent
Will often come to mind.

And you'll long once more (as oft' before)
To sit in some cozy Bar
With a warming drink, with its cheering clink'
A friend and a good cigar.

And your thoughts will extend to some distant friend
Who shared with reverence
The lonely theme of a cherished dream—
Some treasured confidence.

For dreams which subsist in the phantom mist
Of the flowing wassail-bowl,
Can free the dart from a wounded heart—
Bring peace to a troubled soul.

And of all the best in the treasure chest
Of the golden hours that are,
There are few that transcend those shared with a friend
In an old familiar Bar.

— Wallace McGrath Kerr
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Please make checks payable to HPNA and mail with this form to:
Doris Coward, Membership Committee, 4810 Red River, Austin, Texas 78751.

2005-06 Membership

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4106 Avenue F
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<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>

*Send your poems to:

Nancy Taylor Day
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<Nancy@ciphersbyritter.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.



Hyde Park Poets — ✂


my friend

she sees her body
 from a great great distance
 atmospheres between them
 in space it is quiet
 in space she can float
 burdens are weightless
 the stars burn close
 but she won't catch fire
 she is shielded by the cold
 stranded in this safety zone
 light years out of orbit

— Constance Campbell
 E. 45th St.



Bring YOUR friend to the
 Hyde Park Fire Station Fest,
 October 16, 1:30 pm at
 Shipe Park.




“Where Families
 Grow Together”

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship


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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2005

John Kerr, HPNA President, called the meeting to order.

Officer Rick Vargas, Hyde Park's neighborhood policeman and his partner made a presentation on crime and safety around our neighborhood. Officer Vargas had many important tips and helpful information regarding **burglary of vehicles, home safety, graffiti, and nuisances** such as loud noise, barking dogs, and vehicles parked in yards. Something he stressed throughout the presentation is that if you see something that you think is suspicious, call 311 and ask that they dispatch an officer. If you see a crime being committed, call 911. Do NOT try to apprehend a criminal in the act yourself.

According to Officer Vargas, Hyde Park is the area with the second-highest incidence of **Burglary of Vehicles (BOV)** in Austin -- a surprise to most neighbors present. Officer Vargas stressed that there are things you can do to lessen the opportunity for your vehicle to be burglarized: The most important are to lock the vehicle and do not leave valuables (even small amounts of change or a music CD) in sight. In the case of graffiti, the biggest problem APD faces is catching the people doing graffiti. If you see someone in the act, get a good description of the person committing the act (so that you can identify that person in a line-up) and call 911 to report. Also, Officer Vargas said that it would be a help to them if neighbors report new graffiti to him as it occurs. So, if you notice a stop sign, fence, pole, telecom box etc. that has graffiti that you haven't noticed before, please email Officer Vargas with the date that you noticed it, and location. If you can include a digital photograph, that's even better. Officer Vargas can be reached at 974-5801 or <ricardo.vargas@ci.austin.tx.us>. Neighbors also learned that the City of Austin has an official **Graffiti Abatement Program**. As part of this program, the City will send staff to clean up graffiti on commercial property. In order to participate in this program, property owners must sign an Owner's Release and get it to the Graffiti Abatement program office. These release forms can be faxed to 854-4115. When you notice graffiti on public property such as stop signs, call 311 to report the location and request a cleanup.

In the case of **Home Safety**, the most important things are to always lock your doors even if there are a number of people in the house, all doors should be locked while you're in the house, or when you leave the house. You should try to put secondary locks on

Continued on page 8

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September Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 6

all windows, and be sure that all garage doors are locked before you go to bed. The key is to make it difficult for someone to get in and to provide as few opportunities for easy access as possible. If you have a monitored alarm system, USE IT!

In the case of **nuisances** such as dogs barking, yard parking and loud music, Officer Vargas provided some guidelines and information. The section of the city code that covers noise and amplified sound is Chapter 9-2. Basically, a person may not use sound equipment that produces sound audible beyond the property line of a residence in a residential area between 10 pm and 10 am, and amplified sound may not be in excess of 75 decibels. The city has only 1 decibel meter, so the best way to file a complaint is to go to Municipal Court and fill out a complaint affidavit.

John Kerr then made some announcements. The Steering Committee has recommended that the by-laws be changed so that the Treasurer is authorized to sign a check up to \$200 without approval from the general membership (the current limit is \$50). On the subject of **HPNA Officers**, he also announced that Deaton Bednar has volunteered to be Social Chairman for HPNA. She'll plan the upcoming Fire Station festival in October and other events through the year. Carmen Way has agreed to be the Treasurer for HPNA next year. John Kerr has agreed to be President again next year. Elaine Meenehan and Denise Girard will be co-Vice Presidents, with the plan that Elaine will be President next year. Doris Coward will remain as Membership chairman. Sam Waring will be Secretary. The official election of officers (for President, Vice President Treasurer, and Secretary) will be held at the October general meeting.

Thad Avery, owner of property at **4119 Guadalupe**, came to the meeting to update a report that he and Jeff Courrington made at the August HPNA meeting regarding a planned new retail wine establishment, **Vino Vino** that would like to open at 4119 Guadalupe in the near future. He reported that the building does not have legal parking for an operation such as Vino Vino. He stated that there is no way that the building can meet 2005 compliance regulations for parking and asked members present to support his request for a variance so that 4119 Guadalupe can use parking in the area used for parking by Hyde Park Gym (Mr. Avery also owns the Hyde Park Gym property and adjacent lot used for parking). He said that City of Austin staff said to come to HPNA to elicit support, and the City will be in favor. He spoke with Carl McClendan. A lively discussion ensued. Af-

Continued on following page

ter about 10 minutes of discussion, Dorothy Richter moved that HPNA not take a position on the variance since it will go to the Board of Adjustment. The vote was 10 in favor of not taking a position, and 7 opposed to not taking a position.

Mr. Avery then made a motion that HPNA support a zoning change for 4119 Guadalupe to CS1 zoning, (that designation includes retail alcohol sales more than 51%) in anticipation that the tasting and food sales portion may eventually require that zoning in the future as the business develops. Another lively and sometimes heated discussion took place. The vote was counted several times because Mrs. Richter reminded people present at the meeting that they must have been paid members of HPNA for more than 30 days to be able to vote on motions at HPNA meetings. The final vote was 9 in favor and 6 opposed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

– Denise Girard
Co-Secretary

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Echos of the Past...

...cont'd from page 4

the land along its banks has been occupied back into prehistory. On high ground above the flood plain, our terrace has never been scoured by the erosive force of moving water.

The students needed little convincing that archeology is a fascinating way to go about digging holes. A grid was laid out over the site plan and the squares were assigned numbers. The contents of each hole were carefully shifted and the retrieved artifacts were placed in sacks labeled with the grid coordinates. From the prehistoric period, abundant evidence of occupation by various indigenous peoples was unearthed. In *Austin's Hyde Park: The First Fifty Years*, Sarah and Thad Sitton write that "Indians moved out of the Hyde Park area for good soon after the State Lunatic Asylum opened in March 1861." Pieces of worked flint - i.e. arrowheads and other utilitarian stone products - as well as fragments of earthenware were found, along with unused flint shaped for a flintlock rifle, which indicates a pre-Civil War date in this part of the country. [Contesting European powers often made alliances with Native Americans using guns and powder for flintlock rifles as "gifts".]

The stones of a hearth and fireplace that gave comfort to the occupants of a log structure at the terrace edge were among the most exciting evidence from the historic period. Famed metalsmith F. Lee Weigl, who lived at 4107 Avenue H, arrived at the construction site one day with a remnant of the log house that had been moved to the center of the property and incorporated into the Littletons' 1932 house. When the house was demolished, Mr. Weigl transported the salvaged logs to his farm. A pattern now emerges of log cabins above the flood plain along Waller Creek. Peter Maxson noted that portions of an 1870s log structure had been integrated within Inshallah which was built at 602 East 43rd Street about 1905. ("Other Hyde Park Historic Landmarks" in *Hyde Park Centennial Homes Tour Booklet, 1891-1991*. According to the late Dr. Terry Jordan, log construction declined in Texas after about 1880.] In association with the cabin hearth, interesting finds included a copper penny dating from the 1850s, which might have belonged to the occupant, and an 1874 Austro-Hungarian coin found near the metal frame of a leather purse that had rotted away. Did a European traveler misplace it while passing through the area? That the coin was relatively unworn indicates that its loss predated Elisabet Ney's Hyde Park years which was the connection that first came to mind.

Other historic artifacts were scattered over the property, such as large spikes used in securing track

Continued on following page

ties for the streetcar that ran down Avenue G, cartridge casings of various calibers, glass bottles and ceramics. There was also evidence of an extensive blacksmithing operation attested to by the unique type of coal used to fuel the forge.

There was also an abundance of recyclable scrap metal, including worn horseshoe nails and parts of a Model T Ford from before World War I. There were also unused horseshoe nails, suggesting that the blacksmith shod horses and mules as part of his work. Certainly the information revealed suggests the potential for archeological research elsewhere in Hyde Park. The pending landscape restoration at the Elisabet Ney Museum offers such an opportunity.

NOTES : (1) The Austro-Hungarian coin, the gun-flint and other artifacts have been deposited in the collection of the Elisabet Ney. (2) Concerning the log cabin in Shipe Park, the shelter and the two pools were built by the Civil Works Administration [CWA] in 1934. Until the early 1980s, the pools were filled daily during the summer months with fresh spring water and emptied into Waller Creek every evening. No chlorine.

Another chapter in the housebuilding saga will be forthcoming.

Submitted by W. Eugene George, 4314 Avenue G



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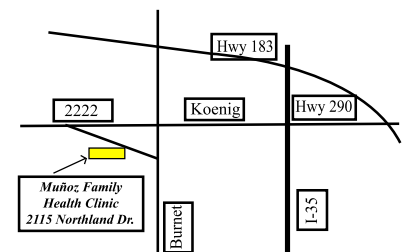
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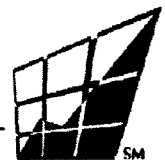
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Letters Dept.

Kealing, Post-Katrina

Dear Neighbors,

I doubt I'm alone as a Kealing parent from the Hyde Park area, so here's a quick update on our new Kealing evacuee families. I'm happy to report that all our incoming Louisiana kids have received backpacks with pre-packed school supplies and have started classes. Kealing counselors will continue to work with our new families and keep us posted about any items or services that may be needed.

For a more detailed report on the last few days, please read on....

Late Wednesday afternoon, Kealing administrators learned that 64 evacuee students, plus an unknown number of parents, were scheduled to arrive at Kealing the following morning (Thursday) for orientation and enrollment. As you may recall, Thursday was also the first day at work for our new interim principal, Ariel Cloud. You've heard of trial by fire, but this would be trial by flood!

Under a tight deadline, our hardworking administrative team put together a comprehensive orientation program for these new families literally overnight. Kealing cheerleaders, PALs and Young Ambassadors welcomed the new arrivals with cheers as the buses rolled into the parking lot at 9:30 Thursday morning. Staff had arranged cookies, coffee and bottled water in the theater foyer for incoming families, who were then seated in the theater for the orientation program. After an overview of the Kealing's academic programs and policies, new students and parents were escorted on group tours of the school and ate a complimentary lunch in the Kealing cafeteria.

At 1pm, students and parents boarded buses to return to the Convention Center. But there was no rest for Kealing staff who immediately began scrambling to prepare for Day 2 of orientation. Nurse's evaluations, course scheduling and counseling would have to be provided for each of our 64 new students the next day, all while maintaining a smooth-functioning middle school for our existing 1150+ students.

While things had gone well Thursday, I think everyone ended the day a bit daunted by the sheer number of kids, many of whom had come from educationally deprived backgrounds and all of whom had arrived here as the result of traumatic circumstances. Luckily, we'd had great response to our call for parent volunteers so at least we knew we'd start Friday with more sets of helping hands and an increased adult presence (many thanks to the moms and dads who turned out for this job!).

By Friday morning, AISD's central administration had apparently reconsidered the wisdom of placing such a large group of evacuees in a single school. When the buses arrived, we learned that Kealing was now slated for only 31 new students - roughly ten per grade - clearly a much more manageable number.

As families entered the theater, kids were divided into grade level groups, each with its own counselors, staff and parent volunteers. New students spent the morning getting to know each other, playing group games, filling out course schedules and meeting individually with the school nurse to obtain health clearances.

Continues on following page



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Nickey Bishop

Parents were able to meet one-on-one with administrators, parent support specialists and other staff members to have their own questions answered.

For our own parent volunteers, Friday provided an up-close view of just how good our school really is. It was truly impressive to see our administrators, counselors and staff in action, working together under extreme pressure, handling the most difficult situations with grace, compassion, intelligence and sensitivity. We have an incredible team here at Kealing and we are very lucky to be part of this school community. As the kids boarded the bus to return to the Convention Center Friday afternoon, there were hugs, smiles and calls of "See you Monday!"

I will close with one final story:

On Friday morning, a 7th grade girl got off the bus from the Convention Center. She had been part of the Thursday orientation group and had already fallen in love with Kealing after her warm welcome the day before. But when she arrived Friday, she was told that her name was not on the new pared-down list and that she would be attending another middle school instead. On hearing this, the girl burst into tears.

Her mother, who was with her, also has an autistic high-schooler whom she was scheduled to take to McCallum for orientation later that day. The mom had no choice but to leave her tearful daughter behind at Kealing for the morning as she went on to McCallum with her son.

As the mother was leaving the school, one of our Kealing staff members (who will go unnamed because I have not asked her permission to share this story) took her aside, looked her in the eyes and said: "Please don't worry. I will see to it that somehow your daughter can stay at Kealing." Then our anonymous heroine picked up the wall phone in the theater foyer and put in a call to her church in the Kealing neighborhood. I saw her speaking quietly into the receiver. By the time she hung up, she had arranged for a home for this mother and her family, in a house three blocks from school, with six months of free rent. As a neighborhood resident, the girl will stay at Kealing.

Just typing this story brings tears to my eyes again. No place is perfect, but we have some wonderful human beings in our school, people who do their best for all our kids every single day, no matter the circumstances. I hope you will continue to get involved and stay involved in our whole school community. I want each of you to see the Kealing I saw on Friday.

— Susan Moffat
Kealing PTA



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Sunday, 16 October 1:30 pm, Shipe Park

Question:
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Letters Dept.

Crime Prevention 101: Close Your Doors at Night!

Dear Neighbors,

This is a notice to the neighborhood that I had a theft on the evening of September 16th, in the 4100 block of Avenue F. I was awakened about 11:50 pm to some noise that I thought was coming from the alley. It sounded like someone was rustling through or moving a trash can. I got up and looked out my window and saw a man on the outside of my fence, walking south down the alley and then turning east on 41st St. He looked to be about 6ft. tall, white, dark hair and heavyset. He was wearing a dark shirt and dark pants and was carrying something in his arms. I then noticed that my gate to the backyard was open. When I opened my back door, I realized that I had left my garage door open and that someone had come in. Two storage cabinets were left open and a Coleman air mattress and pump were missing. That is all that I have noticed missing at this time. The theft has been reported to the police.

Meanwhile, the morals to this story include closing and locking your doors at night, and being aware that criminals can and do use our alleys as conveniently dark thruways for plying their dishonest trade.

— Carol J. Welder
4100 Block Avenue F

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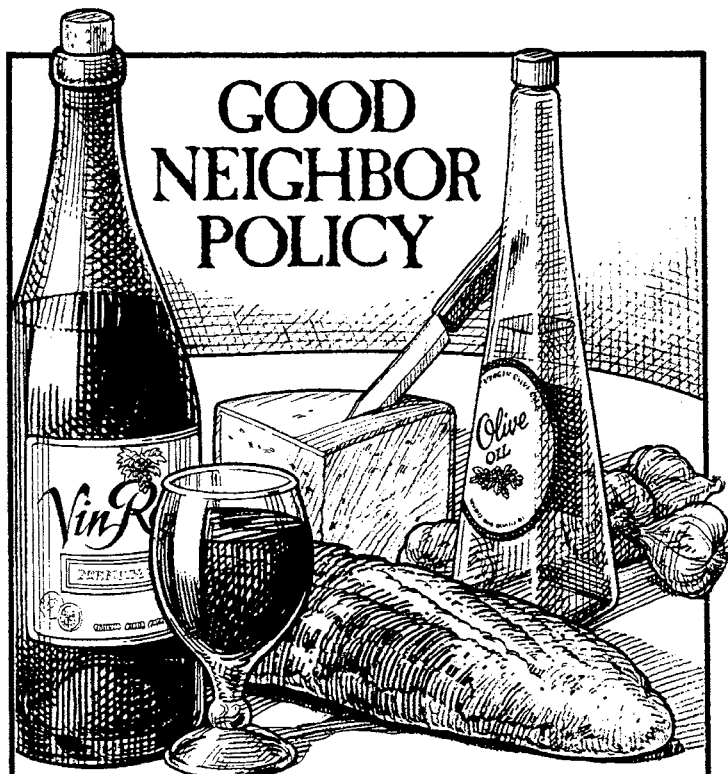
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Hyde Park Poets —

1960

The trouble with a dreamer
fixed in her own story:
what today feels playful,
a script, a social plan, evolves
into heart unexpressed.
The trouble becomes a fault,
a person insensitive,
a dreamer fused to survival,
see, not insanity, but one
might wonder how a
gentle soul never notices the
weary and sweat soaked black man.
Safe in her script,
would never have known,
but for a question:
do you notice who's walking
in the sun?
See, not sunny, pretty, happy,
but blistering steam heat pumped
from the Big River just over there.
The dream tattered, shreds dissolved.
Shade became the color of guilt,
she wanted to invite him to walk
with her,
she would share her drinking fountain
with him,
she would become black herself.
Still, part of her wanted her dream strands
woven back together,
see, unkindness bred from ignorance
dropped acid into her belly,
such loss, such pain, such truth.
Shame and compassion overcame her.
Cooler than the black man,
she, nonetheless, felt faint.

— Nancy Taylor Day
8.4.05

HYDE PARK

This Rain

This is a different rain.
I know there have been rains before
but this first autumn rain
after a summer that laid waste to the soul
is different: gentle, compassionate,
the very essence of what a rain should be.
It is the tears of a beautiful woman
whose sorrow for the world runs over.
It is the touch of a child's hands
gently exploring, solacing.
It is the essence of what's good in
this world surfaced for a moment
to remind us to be kind.
This rain. . . this different, gentle rain,
this mother of tides and rivers
whose delicate fingers touch us
deeper than we remember.
This rain with its fine, fine drops
like liquid stars.
This quiet comforter.
This rain. . . .

— Albert Huffstickler
9.21.2000

Could Be the Worst of Times

What if everyone wakes up today
in a good mood?
What if nothing pisses off anyone
else,
no hormonal rages, no jealousy,
no unmet expectations,
no weapons, no destruction.
For one day.
What if?
Could we stand the joy,
the bliss, the sound as if
life's motor were well tuned,
ideally maintained?
Could we?
Would we dare?
And if we did, would the next day
be the day everyone awoke
in a bad mood?
Or maybe we already have.

— Nancy Taylor Day
6.24.05

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Hyde Park Poets —

On Finding an Emerald Without Inclusion

If the avocado is perfect,
if it is the four-leaf flood
of bright white lime you seek
upon opening
if the pit comes away clean,
if the fat brown seed glistens
like polished oak with a fresh coat
of oil,
acknowledge at once
the wealth in your hands
and ask
for no more
than this.

— Constance Campbell
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