



NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



### Letter from the VP, Steve Tomlinson

Dear NUNA,

Not long ago people were talking about “the death of distance.” Some thought that the internet was making location irrelevant — you can work from anywhere, shop from anywhere, maintain relationships without being face to face — all that. Turns out, the death of distance was greatly exaggerated. The more we work and shop and connect virtually, the more we value connection in the real world, as a complement (and an antidote) to life online.

Not long ago I heard people saying they had little in common with their neighbors, much more in common with far-flung friends who shared their professional and cultural interests. Their neighbors, they’d say, were simply “proximate” — as if, by random chance, we just shared space. Well, it turns out that sharing space is about the most intimate thing people do in the modern world. The people you live next door to, down the street from, can have an extraordinary impact on your quality of life. We are remarkably susceptible to our natural environment, and the care our neighbors show for our shared space sends signals to which our immune systems (and mental health) respond favorably. Smiles and friendly greetings add up to a generalized sense of security and well-being. Seeing someone help a child or pick up trash unconsciously affirms the possibility that existence is essentially generous. All that.

When you walk through Adams-Hemphill Park these days, you’ll see colorful metal stakes protecting more than sixty saplings. If you were one of the dozens of neighbors (or volunteers from TreeFolks, Own Local, UT or Explore Austin) who showed up to put these tender green promises in the soggy dirt on November 14, you know what it’s like to be in the middle of this generosity. It feels earthy and slightly out of control, bigger and closer than usual. And people have surprisingly strong opinions about how to plant a tree and can argue passionately about how deep to put it and how much mulch and whether to berm (and all that) as if through trees we could work out all the stuff we can’t talk about.

Even if you couldn’t join this rowdy happening, you will see its traces on your pre-dawn dog walk or your afternoon run. Even just walking from your parking spot on Hemphill towards destinations to the south, you absorb signs of a superior intelligence that is actually our community spirit. You can’t see these trees and not imagine what’s coming. You can’t deny that someone cares about the future of this place — and you can’t consider that possibility and just go on about your day as if proximity doesn’t matter.

I try to avoid making too much of things, but our new trees, twisting little possibilities, the work of dozens of dirty neighbors (with gloves and shovels, none of us really knowing what we were doing, except arguing and laughing and digging deeper than people do with neighbors these days) remind me of lines from the poem “Let Us Speak Now of Yoga,” the poet’s response to coming upon a green sprig in what people said was a barren place:



*Laurel Lane Neighbors Steve McAdams, Ben Johnson, Scott, Carlisle, and Harry Sloan, Ava Marchant and Clayton Maxwell get their hands dirty together*

# NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*First English Lutheran Church*

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

6:30 – 8:00 pm

## AGENDA

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of minutes of October 2015 General Membership Meeting

### III. Guests

### IV. Reports:

ANC	Mary Ingle
CANPAC	
Historic District	Rick Iverson & Roger Binkley
DRC	Steven Tomlinson
Newsletter	Clayton Maxwell
Parks	Bill Bednar
Treasurer	Jan Moyle
Nominating	Michael Riley
Quadrant Leaders Reports	

### V. Items for Action:

Steck House Filing Fee

Letter to Howard Lazarus

Newsletter \$\$\$

### VI. Old Business:

Sparky Park Renovations

Street Lights

codeNext

Playground equipment

### VII. New Business

### VIII. Adjourn

You believed them when they said the earth was poisoned.  
(You have perfected the pose that bears such weight.)  
So when you came upon a green sprig, a trembling prayer,  
You could not bow to meet it.

Don't turn to see what holds you.  
Just press into its warm hands.  
Don't try to believe you can make a difference.  
Just doubt that you're the only one who cares.

Warmly,  
Steven Tomlinson

## UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Call to Order by President Laurence Miller, Minutes Approved

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Sigma Chi Fight Night Fundraiser: Fraternity officer Mike Opolski reported and distributed a letter. There will be a road closure at 2701 Nueces on November 6th, Lou motioned to approve plan, it was seconded and approved
2. Hemphill Park Tree Planting on Nov. 14th. Donations will be made by TreeFolks and City of Austin. Come out and plant a tree!
3. NUNA newsletter editor—should we go only on line to cut down on printing expense? No, people still prefer paper copy. Still looking for new editor!!
4. Progress on Local Historic District application for Aldridge Place. Rick Iverson said they've had a very positive response from neighbors and generous contributors. Support from Preservation Austin. Most "intact historical" area in the city. Will give the neighborhood blanket protection from Speedway to Guadalupe.

### OLD BUSINESS

Welcome to NUNA letter—it is in your last two newsletters and on NUNA website. Use it to welcome new neighbors!

### DISCUSSION

Mr. Brad Urrutia introduced himself cordially as candidate for 450th district court

### REPORTS

Treasurer: Jan Moyle out of town, but Mary Ingle says on her behalf: "We are not broke."

### Quadrant Leaders:

Rick Iverson—Suspicious dumpster

Mary Ingle- reports of suspicious car. Mary advocated fro a sidewalk on 34th  
-Speedway, connecting bus stops

Laurie Marchant—car burglaries and thefts. Lock your cars!

**PRESENTATION: NANCY MIMS SPOKE OF LEE  
ELEMENTARY NAME CHANGE**

**Austin Creative Reuse Opens to the Public**

*By Carole LeClair*

Everyone's heard the mantra Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Now Austin has a place where all those worthy ideas come together in one beautiful space.

Austin Creative Reuse is a local non-profit whose mission is to promote conservation and reuse though creativity, education and community building. Since forming seven years ago, we have been actively engaging the community through outreach, workshops, educator drives and garage sales.

**We recently opened our permanent home, Austin's first Creative Reuse Center in the Linc Shopping Center, to bring our mission to the community.**

Our Creative Reuse Center offers a huge selection of fabric, yarn, notions, arts and crafts, jewelry making and office supplies at very low prices. Some of our merchandise is new, some slightly used and some truly vintage. Several local companies have donated excess materials, which normally would have headed to the landfill.

We also accept donations from individuals of sewing/needle work, craft, office supplies and otherwise very useful items for upcycling, project making, and education. Folks who are moving, downsizing or just changing their

**In this Issue**

- A greeting from our VP with a good poem
- Exciting news on the opening of Austin Creative Reuse Center
- The Scoop on the Mobile Bookstore
- Centennial Celebration Report
- Don't Miss the Adventurous Tales of Pancho Villa by Leoda Anderson!
- Tree Planting News
- Fresh Neighborhood Food Scoop from The Dish
- And our new parking coordinator, Sara Pietsch, reports that you do not need new permits this January as the City wants an August to August system. News forthcoming....check the website and listserv

**2015 NUNA OFFICERS**

**President** Laurence Miller - NunaAustin@gmail.com

**Vice President** Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

**Secretary** Lou Datillo

**Treasurer** Jan Moyle - moylejan@gmail.com

**NW Quadrant Representative**

Rick Iverson - Iver506@sbcglobal.net

**SW Quadrant Representative**

Laurie Marchant -

Laurie@alexandermarchant.com

**NE Quadrant Representative**

Mary Ingle - casamia22@att.net

**SE Quadrant Representative**

Dick Holland - rh02@txstate.edu

**Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative**

Tanya Quinn

**CANPAC Representatives**

Mary Ingle, Bill Bednar

(Laurence Miller as alternate)

**Development Review Committee (DRC)**

Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

**Parks Committee**

Bill Bednar, Julie Willis

**Internet Server Host**

Pallasart Web Design

**Parking Permits**

Sarah Pietsch - sarapietsch52@gmail.com

**Newsletter Design**

The Mod Studio - www.themodstudio.com

**Newsletter Distribution**

Trish Tang, Debi Rivier-Harris, Don Carnes and Pat Campbell, Rick Iverson and Joe Sosa, Diane West, Paul Kens, Carole LeClair, Vicki Ford, Alegria Hibbits, Homer Parsegian, Michael Riley, Clayton Maxwell (with Jim and Jan Moyle as permanent subs)

**Newsletter Ads**

Suzanne Pringle - suzpringle@aol.com

**Newsletter Editorial**

Clayton Maxwell - nunanews@gmail.com



*Austin Creative Reuse*

creative direction have brought us a dizzying array of tools and materials, most of which is high quality if just slightly used.

We also have a large “by the bucket” section filled with all kinds of cool stuff just waiting to be given a new life (things like wood, tile, carpet and fabric samples, electronic and metal scraps, media cases, foam core, mat board, shipping supplies, bubble mailers, small toys, paper, party supplies, gift wrapping supplies, and containers of all kinds.) The Art and Science teachers of Austin have found this section to be a treasure trove of materials for their classrooms.

And that’s just the retail portion of the Center. We also have a large workshop area where we offer a wide variety of activities like “fix-it” clinics, skill building and maker classes, and fun reuse training for teachers.

We are located just down the road from Blue Genie Art Bazaar in the Linc shopping center. We hope you’ll stop in to see us for some of your holiday shopping needs.

Here’s a great reuse idea for the holidays: Instead of using disposable gift wrapping paper, consider infinitely reusable gift wrapping fabric. We have tons of fabric samples to choose from and will be wrapping gifts every Saturday in December at the Center.

## PAW PAUSE

Full Service Pet Staycations



**Dolly Ensey**  
Certified Treat Dispenser

Tail Wag Ratings Available

### Join the Discussion!

Listserves are a great way to become more connected with your community. **The North University Yahoo Group** is a hands-on, public communications resource, helping neighbors inform, communicate, and build a stronger community. The list is inclusive, open to anyone who lives in the North University Neighborhood and to people who have a material interest here, such as operators of a business, non-profit, or civic process. One can subscribe by sending E-mail to:

**YAHOO!**  
Groups  
Join Now!



**nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

or by visiting the Yahoo! Groups site at:

**groups.yahoo.com/group/nuna-residents**



**@crimeatx** is a crime watch Twitter feed that promotes crime prevention and public safety awareness in our area. It was established by the Central Austin CDC in January 2012 to help inform and prepare the returning student community in the immediate aftermath of the NYE attacks and murder of Esme Barrera. To sign up or learn more, visit **twitter.com/crimeatx** and tweet with the hashtag **#NORTHUNIVERSITY**.

## AUSTIN CANINE CENTRAL



- Grooming
- Shopping
- Training
- Dog daycare
- Food & treats
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Now at our exciting, new location

**5402 Middle Fiskville Road**

Off Airport Blvd., behind Lammes Candies

**512.458.8800**

**austincaninecentral.com**

### JOIN NUNA NOW

Fill in your information below and mail it to Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St, Austin, Texas, 78705. Dues are a bargain at \$15 per person, \$25 per couple and \$10 per student. Make your check payable to NUNA.

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

**Open Hours:** Thursday's noon - 8pm | Saturday's 10am to 2pm

**Location:** The Linc | 6406 N IH 35, Suite 1801 (our space faces Middle Fiskville Road) Look for the giant "ACR" sign out front.

Check our web site and Facebook page for most current news and store hours.  
www.austincreativeuse.org

### **A Celebration for a Century- Happy Birthday, Leoda!**

*By Mary Ingle*

Strawberry. Chocolate. Vanilla. Colorful frostings with dancers and vines adorning the sides of a 3 layer-cake, and yummy favored fillings between the layers of delicate crumb. Poached salmon, fresh mozzarella speared with cherry tomatoes, roasted baby potatoes dressed in the finest olive oil, mushrooms stuffed with a tasty olive tapenade, vegetable crudities and delicious tea sandwiches. Food for a Queen; food for a birthday party! (I have always wanted to write a food article so bear with me!) So what am I talking about? I had the pleasure along with many other neighbors to attend a birthday party for a centenarian. It was a rare occasion for me (and others, I am sure) and the birthday honoree, Leoda Anderson- a NUNA resident and neighbor- because neither of us had ever been to someone's 100th birthday party before!

Leoda Anderson was celebrating her 100th birthday on November 7 (the true date for her birthday is November 6). She is a neighbor in our 'hood, North University. Her accomplishments are varied, and she has touched many people's lives, particularly as line-dance instructor for 15 years from which she retired at the young age of 95! She worked at the University of Texas for



*Leoda Anderson and her Birthday Cake*

many years in the Classics Department, and most importantly, she raised 4 daughters alone- all of whom are very accomplished.

She writes poems and bawdy limericks. She also contributes regularly articles to the NUNA Newsletter that are entertaining reflections of some of her personal adventures. I heard many people say, "I hope I will be as accomplished as Leoda, if I live to be 100 years old."

To all those birthday revelers, Leoda wanted to express her gratitude for the many heart-warming cards and the abundance of flowers. To quote Leoda on her birthday, "you don't get to be 100 years old by yourself- it is due in part to my wonderful neighbors!" So, with that, I will take a tip from Leoda to say that we are fortunate to live in this eclectic neighborhood with its collection of interesting characters of all ages. Get to know your neighbors and start writing poems- it is worth it!

### **Books on the Move**

*By Douglas Plummer*

This year, while attending the Texas Book Festival after-party, I had the pleasure of meeting Sukyi and Patrick McMahon, who are the charming and delightful husband and wife owners of Fifth Dimension Books. The story of their bookstore filled me with a lot of joy since their "bricks and mortar" building is actually "steel and wheels" - it used to be an old library bookmobile! This book store/book mobile is conveniently located near NUNA on 43rd Street next to Quack's Bakery.

Sukyi told me the history of the store which started with the McMahon's petitioning City Council and the Committee on Codes and Ordinances for a resolution to create a new type of license for mobile retail vendors. Ultimately, through a lot of determination, they won the very first mobile



*Leoda and her Four Daughters*

retail license. The store continually rotates books on the mobile book store shelves from their 100,000 book collection and one of their areas of specialty is in science fiction and fantasy.

While I won't be able to use my 5th grade mobile library card to read books from Fifth Dimension, the prices for non-collectible used books are very affordable (50% off the cover price) and there is a 20% credit buy-back policy (if the McMahons want to resell that book).

While the book store is typically located next to Quacks, there are a few days per month where the book store travels elsewhere. To see the schedule, please check out [www.5dbooks.com/find-us](http://www.5dbooks.com/find-us). There are additional activities for kids including a regular story time reading on Monday mornings, puppet shows at various events and other activities. If you get a chance, do walk on over to their book store and tell them that Doug sent you!

### The Dish

*by Beth Goulart Monson*

The first thing I thought on walking into **El Patio** for the first time recently was, "Who are all of these people, and why don't I know them?" I was so close to home at Guadalupe and 30th that it seemed these folks were practically my own guests.

I had tried to grab lunch at the new food trailer in the **Spider House** parking lot, **Jerusalem Cafe**, but found it isn't open for lunch. (I'll try again. Stay tuned.) So I headed up Guadalupe to check out the other place on my list, El Patio. I parked right outside the door and walked in to be welcomed like family. It was noon on a Wednesday, and the place was full of diners of all ages. Chips and a dish of flavorful salsa awaited at my table in time-tested tex-mex style.

Now, I'd heard that crackers were this restaurant's trademark nod to old-school tex-mex, so I was surprised to see those chips. When I asked my waiter about this, he reached into a giant box marked SALTINES and handed me a few packets. Tradition isn't gone; you just have to ask for it sometimes.

I ordered the Salad Plate, billed as "crispy beef taco, guacamole salad and chile con queso" (\$8.60), and an iced tea (\$1.90). The food arrived so fast it startled me. The beef was well-seasoned and crumbly. The fried tortilla it came on was, as advertised, quite crispy - and flat. I wasn't sure how to eat it, since it crumbled when I tried to fold it like a taco. The queso, too, was ladled over a fried tortilla. It tasted of warm butter with a cheesy tang. It turned out that breaking both tortillas, mixing bites of beef and queso, and eating them with a fork worked just fine for me. There was plenty of shredded lettuce to mop up stray bits of filling. I love fresh-shredded iceberg, that mainstay of tex-mex cuisine.

The ambience at **El Patio** exudes tradition, too - not because a decorator picked nostalgic wall-hangings, but because it would seem nothing has changed here in decades. The walls are wood-paneled, and the light fixtures are old blown glass. The entryway is hung with signed photographs gushing with gratitude from everyone from an astronaut I didn't recognize (but my son keyed in on immediately) to Ladybird Johnson.

I grabbed a perfectly valid house-made praline (\$0.40) at the register when I paid my bill and decided to return with the family the next evening for dinner.

This 61-year-old, original-family-owned restaurant polarizes folks. Some Austinites have been loyal for generations, while others have been once and don't plan to return, finding the food sub-par and the frozen-only margaritas not their style. Now, you're my neighbor, so I'll be honest: The food here is hit-and-miss, but I really like this place anyway. My family will definitely return. It's not always good food we're after when we go out; we can cook that at home. It's nice sometimes to have someone else cook the food and bring me a drink, even if it's a frozen margarita. (I'm a rocks girl, but this one wasn't too sweet, so it worked for me.) I like showing the kids photos of what this stretch of Guadalupe we drive everyday looked like 60 years ago. It's good for them to see how things change. And while the food isn't going to put this place on any food magazine best-of lists, it left us feeling satisfied - if a little thirsty, just like we are whenever we've been around baskets of chips.

When we returned for dinner, we invited some friends who live in Tarrytown to join us. The waiter thoughtfully rushed packets of saltines to the hungry, antsy children. On a friend's recommendation, my husband ordered the **El Patio #1** - guacamole salad, chili con queso, crispy beef taco, two cheese enchiladas, beans and rice (\$10.65). On our waiter's recommendation, I had the guacamole cheese enchiladas (2 for \$6.80; add rice and beans for \$1.80). George, our three-year-old who's going to be an astronaut when he grows up, opted for a grilled cheese sandwich (\$5.25), and Henry, the almost-six-year-old, used his manners to order queso with rice and beans (\$5.25) all by himself.

The food came in a timely manner, and it was fine. The guacamole tasted better than it had at lunch - which speaks to its freshness, in that its quality relies entirely on the precise ripeness of every avocado. We had no trouble eating any of it, and the kids loved the pineapple sherbet (\$0.60) for dessert. We caught up with our friends, whom we hadn't seen in too long, as is so often the way. I'm not sure the food even mattered. Those wood paneled walls were so reassuring. They have seen children less well-behaved than ours, politics at least as distressing, and (I hope) parents even less prepared than we are for the holiday season bearing down. We were comfortable. Our children were fed. We were well.

Bon appétit, y'all.



NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



## Welcome to North University!

You've joined one of Austin's most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. North University is home to faculty and students, young professionals, young and established families and people of all stripes. Many of your neighbors have lived here for decades. We're all proud of the special character of North University, its historic homes and public spaces. It's an inclusive and inspiring place — and we're glad you're here.

**On behalf of the North University Neighborhood Association, welcome to NUNA.** This note answers some frequently-asked questions and provides some practical information helpful for new neighbors. You can also check out our website: [nunaaustin.org](http://nunaaustin.org).



### NOISE

People in NUNA love a good party and great music. As a NUNA neighbor, you also have a right to a good night's sleep! The City of Austin Noise ordinance requires that your neighbors not be playing loud music after 10:30pm or before 7am. If a neighbor loses track of time, a friendly knock on their door will usually do the trick. If for some reason, they don't respond to your request, you can call 9-1-1 to report a violation. **Please ask for a case number as that may come in handy later.**

Here's an excerpt from the City Noise Ordinance in case you need it, and here is a link to the whole thing: [www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TTT9PRAC\\_CH9-2NOAMSO](http://www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT9PRAC_CH9-2NOAMSO)

### Austin City Code, Title 9. Prohibited Activities, Chapter 9-2 - Noise And Amplified Sound

#### § 9-2-3 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.

A person may not:

- (1) Make or use sound equipment in public between 10:30 p.m. and 7:00a.m;
- (5) Operate sound equipment in a vehicle audible or causing a vibration 30 feet from the equipment.

#### § 9-2-5 - RESTRICTION ON USE OF SOUND EQUIPMENT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA.

- (A) This section applies to property zoned as residential under Section 25-2-32 (B) (Zoning Districts and Map Codes).
- (B) A person may not use sound equipment that produces sound audible beyond the property line of a residence in a residential area between 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

#### § 9-2-31-OFFENSES.

- (A) A person commits an offense if the person makes or uses sound equipment in violation of a provision of this chapter.
- (B) An offense under this chapter is a Class C misdemeanor.



### DOGS!

NUNA loves dogs, and walking your dog in the 'hood and the parks is a great way to meet your neighbors (and their pets). To keep our streets and parks clean (and to avoid fines), we're all picking up after our pets. If you forget to bring a plastic bag with you on a dog walk, you can find them in the dispensers at either end of Hemphill Park and in Sparky Park. Don't be surprised if a neighbor offers you one!

Here's the ordinance, just in case:

#### § 3-3-7 DEFECACTION BY DOGS OR CATS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat being handled by that person on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat.



### PARKING AND SAFETY

The police are pretty vigilant about enforcing parking in NUNA. To avoid a ticket, you'll want to be careful about parking in the direction of traffic.

Also, we have Residential Permit Parking on most of NUNA's streets. Be sure to warn your friends that they can be ticketed for parking in the residential zone without a pass. You can get a parking sticker for yourself and day passes for your friends by contacting one of NUNA's volunteer parking coordinators — Sara Pietsch, sarapietsch52@gmail.com; Cynthia Bryant, cynthiabryant@utexas.edu; or Patsy Tankerslay, ptankers@gmail.com.

The City of Austin does not permit front-yard parking in NUNA. Park in the driveway or on the street to avoid fines. More information here: [www.austintexas.gov/department/front-yard-parking](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/front-yard-parking)



### TRASH AND RECYCLING

Friday is trash and recycling collection day in NUNA.

Trash and yard trimmings are collected every week. Recycling is collected every other week.

You can find the current schedule of recycling collection and rules for recycling here:

[www.austintexas.gov/department/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule)

Please put the recyclable items in the blue bins, not the trash cans. By keeping non-recyclable items out of the blue bins, you make Austin's recycling cost effective.

Your garbage bin, recycling bin and yard trimmings must be placed at the curb or in your alley by 6:30am on Friday. **All carts must be removed from the curb by 10pm on Friday.** If neighbors are leaving their carts out over the weekend and they're getting in the way of your street parking, a friendly reminder will usually do the trick. If a problem persists, you can call 3-1-1. Any of us who leaves carts out past Friday can get cited and fined.

The sanitation trucks can collect only what's in the bins. So your neighbors implore you not to leave plastic garbage bags on the curb. (Since the sanitation workers can't take them, they turn into

party favors for raccoons and opossums.) If you find you're generating more trash than fits in your bins, please contact the City (using the link above) and they'll get you a bigger bin.

The City schedules bulky item and brush (tree and bush trimmings) collection from time to time. You'll get a postcard letting you know when one of these collections is coming up. Your neighbors will really appreciate it if you do not leave bulky items on the curb except during the designated collection period.

**NUNA's police representative is Officer Gary Griffin.** You can reach him at (512) 974-8392.

Many neighbors volunteer with party planning, park improvements and other committees that contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood. Your neighbors are great folks, and you'll enjoy meeting them. To stay informed, join our Yahoo Group at: [Nuna-residents@yahoo.com](mailto:Nuna-residents@yahoo.com)

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you in person. In the meantime, enjoy your new home and reach out with any questions to your neighborhood officers.

Yours,

*Laurence Miller,*

NUNA President | [nunaaustin@gmail.com](mailto:nunaaustin@gmail.com)

*Steven Tomlinson*

NUNA Vice President | [steven@abporter.org](mailto:steven@abporter.org)



### JOIN NUNA!

North University Neighborhood Association (NUNA) has a meet up every other month at the First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. You should be receiving a newsletter with information about upcoming meetings and events.

If you're not receiving the newsletter, please contact [nunanews@gmail.com](mailto:nunanews@gmail.com).



## Our New Trees

By Scott Sloan of the NUNA Park Committee

When I was reflecting on the phenomenal day we had on Saturday November 14, 2015, helping plant more than 60 trees in Adam's and Hemphill Park, I thought about a poem that Clayton's grandmother appreciated (and made us sing out loud) by Joyce Kilmer. It began, "I think that I shall never see, A poem lovely as a tree...Poems are made by fools like me, But only God can make a tree."



*Treefolks show volunteers how to plant a tree*

Now, I am not a poet or a strong believer, but this experience changed the park and me in positive ways.

- We now have 60 well-guarded seedlings (oaks, lacey bark elms, Mexican sycamores and more) lining Hemphill Park from 32nd street all the way to Adams park and from the fire station to Trudy's and Spider House. All trees will be watered by the City of Austin (i.e. Urban Forestry) using reclaimed water. Trucks will come by 2 times per month in winter and once a week in summer for the next 3 years.
- This experience gave me a fresh perspective on volunteerism and showed positive progress can be achieved when individuals from various organizations really gather to do something 'positive' for all. In this case, it was a seamless collaboration between the North University Neighborhood Association, the City of Austin Urban Forestry team, TreeFolks and numerous other local volunteer teams! The results speak for themselves, but how we got there felt smooth, easy and fun.
- It gave my wife, my children, many others and me a much better understanding of the best way to successfully plant a tree. I had never tickled a root ball before.
- It was a simple statement of human goodness that served as a 'grounding' contrast to, even salve for, the tragic events in Paris that had occurred the evening prior to the planting.

- It changed the lives of neighborhood D-o-g s as well. Jake, Doggy Lama, Georgia, (add others) wow, so many new things to smell, etc.

It is experiences like this that make one believe as my neighbor Steve suggested 'civilization is improving, but slowly.' Trees take time too. Thanks to all who made this happen.

## Pancho Ville, EI Hombre

By Leoda Anderson

My friend Nora, her daughter Sherry and I traveled many miles in Mexico in Nora's old station wagon — the kind with wooden panels on the body, remember those? It chugged up and crept down many a steep hill in Durango and Chihuahua. At one time our spare tire was stolen while parked at our hotel in Guadalajara, easily accessible as it was, mounted at the rear of the vehicle. We had a flat, so had to buy a new tire. Our efficient mechanic posed for a photo "in the round," his head framed by the tire.

At the end of that trip we were crossing the border at Piedras Negras. Station wagons were suspect in the matter of drug trafficking. Watching the inspectors spend hours taking apart that vehicle, then, finding nothing, putting it back together again, made for a long slow, rainy night in Piedras Negras until we were free to drive into Eagle Pass, Texas.

We were in Chihuahua, the largest and probably still the richest of Mexico's 31 states (31 plus its Distrito Federal, D.F., parallel to our D.C.). Rich in minerals, oil, agricultural products. It once had a silver mine that yielded virgin silver so nearly pure that it needed almost no processing. A colonial miner, Don Angel de Bustamante, made a fortune from it, and later, it was said, an American engineer named Shepherd exploited it to some \$22 million. It was closed because of lethal gases in the tunnels.

In Chihuahua City Nora, Sherry and I headed for La Quinta Luz, the house of Francisco Villa, now occupied by his widow, Luz Corral de Villa. It had been converted into a private museum.

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*After Leoda's spare tire was stolen, parked by Gran Hotel, Guadalajara, she had to buy a new tire and rim. 1972*

When approaching the house, I paused at what seemed to be an exhibit of some kind. A workman rushed up ahead of me, picked up a photo of Villa and held it up for my scrutiny, obviously expecting a comment. For the life of me I couldn't think of anything dignified to say, so blurted out, "Muy guapo!" He beamed his approval, responded with a hearty "Sí!" and placed the photo back on its stand. Whew. I felt I had passed a pop quiz. What I had said was, "Very handsome!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Pancho Villa was born to a sharecropper family in Durango on June 5, 1878, the eldest of five children. His name then was Doroteo Arango. His father died early, so he became head of the household when still a child. It was said that he weighed 12 pounds at birth. Believable, because he grew up to be a big man, 6 feet tall, and a husky barrel-chested 200 pounds, i.e., un hombrón. No schooling for him. He worked long and hard in the fields.

Sometimes, for rest and peace the boy-farmer would wander off into the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains, which separate Durango and Chihuahua. His familiarity with the complex mountain trails served him well later as a soldier in the Revolutionary Army.

For details about his appearance and life, I dug out my favorite history book (when I could still see to read), *Heroic Mexico* by William Weber Johnson. I am aware of a biography of Pancho Villa by a Martín Luis Guzmán, but I have not seen or read it. (Nowadays, with the aid of my magical magnifying machine, the Aladdin, I read mostly only the words I need to read and the checks I need to write.)

Even as a youngster Pancho was a rebel. Life was hard for the gente común (common people) under the corrupt iron dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, who ruled Mexico for a total of 30 years.

When grown Villa joined a gang of bandits. Admittedly he was a bandit and an outlaw. But "bandit" and "thief" were differently defined. A thief stole from the rich and the poor and kept the booty for himself.

A bandit stole only from the rich and shared his gain with the poor. Mexican Robin Hoods.

Cattle-rustling was among the activities of the bandits but, then and there in Mexico, was semi-legitimate. No fences on the ranchos and no branding, so cattle wandered off and were easy prey for the bandits. For a time when he lived in a three-room whitewashed adobe house in Chihuahua City, Villa operated a butcher shop, where he cut and sold beef of dubious origin.

It was when he joined the bandits that he changed his name from Doroteo Arango to Francisco Villa. Pancho is a nickname for Francisco. He said he had adopted the surname of his grandmother, which was Vela. Close, but no. Actually, he adopted the name of a former gang member who had died.

He also, for a time, worked for a mule-team outfit that brought produce to market and returned with items ordered by the residents. Although Villa had learned to read, he could not write beyond writing his own name. So he could not take notes of the items ordered, but kept them all in his head, thereby developing a remarkable memory.

His speech, for one so rough, was free of profanity or blasphemy. He had tousled reddish-brown hair and a thick mustache. Strong teeth, stained by the iron oxide in Durango's water. The feature most commented on was his eyes. Light brown, friendly, but when angry they would narrow and change color to "a blazing topaz." A skilled horseman, he was a graceful rider. On the ground he had the shambling gait of a cowboy.

The citizens of Mexico grew ever more restive under the yoke of Porfirio Díaz, and Revolution leaders began to crop up, like Madero. Villa, a rebel from boyhood on, met Abraham González, a soft-spoken intellectual. He was impressed. Villa respected and admired good sincere educated men, so different in background and nature from himself. The Revolution needed men who could fight, who could ride a horse and who knew the area. Villa filled the bill: he could shoot accurately with either hand, was at home on a horse, and knew the towns, villages and the mountains.

He dropped his banditry and became a military man, a very successful leader. He chose his troops carefully, men flocked to his command, and he rose through the ranks to colonel — and was somewhat embarrassed to be promoted to Brigadier General. He made some mistakes, but learned quickly and did not make the same mistake twice.

All leaders of the Revolution were assassinated. Villa received many death threats, and several attempts were made on his life.

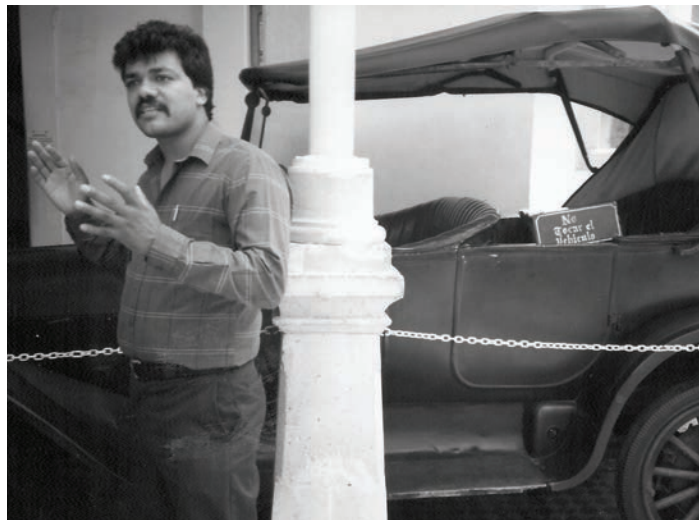
Even the benign Emperor Maximilian was executed. During a peculiar hiccup in history, Mexico came under the influence of France and Napoleon III, who appointed Archduke of Austria Maximilian and his wife Carlota Emperor and Empress of Mexico. Maximilian loved Mexico, loved Mexican customs, Mexican food, and sometimes wore the charro costume. But when Napoleon withdrew his support, Maximilian was doomed. Before he was shot by a firing squad at Querétaro, his last words were spoken with affection and hope for the future of Mexico.

Carlota was in Europe at the time and so far gone into insanity that she didn't understand what had happened. "Carlota's mirrors" from Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City are a part of the furnishings of our Driskill Hotel downtown. I viewed them there years ago.

Things quieted down after the Revolution, and though there was still a bounty on his head, Villa settled down somewhat into civilian life. His town Canutillo and all the towns around began to prosper, as did Villa. He bought the Hotel Hidalgo in Parral and arranged for a bank at which small farmers could take out loans at low interest rates.

Villa had his dark side: his temper fits, his weakness for women, his attendance at cock-fights, his violence when provoked. He demonstrated his humbler side when he donated books to schools and visited those schools like an unofficial superintendent.

He still was accompanied by a heavily-armed guard when he went about, but in the summer of 1923 he began to loosen his guard. He received a letter from an old friend in a village, Rio Florido, not far away. A former comrade in the Revolutionary Army, he asked Villa to be the godfather of his baby son and to come for the christening. Villa was delighted and proposed to come on horseback with a retinue of men on horses behind him, to make of the occasion a fiesta. But the friend demurred, saying that he was not rich enough to feed



*A guide in front of Pancho Villa's 1922 Dodge in which he and his compadres were assassinated in 1923 near Parral in Chihabua. Bullet holes visible.*

so many men and to pasture so many horses. Villa saw his point, agreed, and arranged to come in his Dodge touring car, accompanied by only by only six men. The christening was a joyous affair.

Villa and his men departed and stopped in Parral, where Villa paid an overnight visit to a lady friend. They were ready to leave the next morning, July 20, 1923, at 7:20 a.m. Villa, in high spirits, laughing and joking, took the wheel himself. Miguel Trillo seated himself next to Villa. At their feet was a satchel containing 20,000 pesos for Canutillo payrolls. Rosalío Rosales, usually the chauffeur, rode on the running board. The other four riding in the car were: Daniel Tamayo, Claro Hurtado, Rafael Medrano, and Ramón Contreras.

Friends had warned him that the town was buzzing with rumors about a planned attack, but Villa laughed it off. Two previous attempts had been made in Parral and failed. Villa was quoted as saying, "The man has not been born who can lay a hand on Pancho Villa."

There was a vendor at the Plaza Juárez with trays of candies, gum, and trinkets to tempt the schoolchildren soon due to appear. As Villa and his party drove by the vendor, he raised his hand in salute and shouted "Viva Villa!" Villa waved in return and drove on. As they turned the corner, the vendor took a bandana from his pocket and wiped his face. That was the signal. There was a house with windows on each side of the door. As the Dodge approached, the door and windows were flung open and four rifle barrels appeared at each window.

The rifles roared their charges, hit their target, and the car went out of control. Villa, in his few seconds between life and death, managed to grasp his pistol and shoot dead one of the assassins. The killers ran into the street, now shooting with pistols. In all 33 shots were fired. Of Villa's men, Ramón Contreras, with a shattered arm and a gaping hole in his abdomen, managed to escape into the Parral River bottom, went to a hospital to have his stomach sewed up, and, mistrusting Parral, started back to Canutillo on foot. Whether he made it or not, or how long he survived, I wish I knew.

The assassins surveyed the carnage, then calmly rode off on horseback, confident that no one would accost them. Each man was paid 300 pesos. But by whom?

Jesús Salas Barraza, a politician, businessman, "well connected" with influential people in Durango, Chihuahua, and Mexico City, was generally thought to be the one. He was related to the men in the assassination party. He publicly hated Villa and claimed to be the "intellectual author" of the assassination. He was investigated, spent some time in jail chatting cheerfully there with newspaper reporters, then freed, investigated again, placed in the state penitentiary, and pardoned in less than a year.

Though newspapers questioned and prodded, the matter was dealt with haphazardly in the courts. Barraza maintained his claim of master-minding the murders until his death in 1951. It was later found that the bullets used in killing Villa and his men were the same kind of bullets used by the Federal Army.

\*\*\*\*\*

Back to our visit with Señora Luz in Chihuahua City: after greeting us her first words were, "I am the only true wife of Pancho Villa."

The reason for this stout assertion was that Villa, characteristically indifferent to law or standards of conduct, married several ladies. Perhaps, in his picaresque turn of mind, he regarded his actions as gallant.

We saw Villa's clothing, boots, guns, and, outside, the 1922 Dodge touring car in which Villa and his men were murdered. Riddled with bullet-holes, plainly visible.

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*LIN TEAM, OLD AUSTIN REALTOR<sup>®</sup>*



My tag “Old Austin REALTOR<sup>®</sup>” expresses the commitment to historic preservation that led me into real estate in 1997 to work with others who want to preserve the history and culture of Austin’s older neighborhoods.

In 2000 I led in developing a class on “Marketing and Selling Historic Properties,” an eight-hour MCE class sponsored by the Austin Board of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and Preservation Austin. Fifteen times over the years I have gathered a team of experts to present useful information and every time it is done I learn more. The class will be offered again in February (For info see [PreservationAustin.org](http://PreservationAustin.org))

Real estate companies change and evolve, and after fifteen good years with the Kinney Company I am happy to announce that I will soon be joining Elizabeth Brooks and her colleagues at Landmark Properties. Elizabeth has had a respected presence as a Broker south of the Colorado River in Travis Heights and other neighborhoods for more than twenty years.

Searching for a home in Old Austin can be difficult and frustrating—especially without the help of a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> who knows and appreciates central neighborhoods and old houses. I encourage anyone who wants to buy or sell an old house to work with a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> who lives and works here. We may not all be “old,” but we have a proven commitment and knowledge that can be extremely helpful to a buyer or seller who wants to help save “old Austin.”

As I join Landmark Properties, I will continue to work from my home, accessible to people who want to contact me by phone, cell phone or internet.

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