



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Note from the President

Dear NUNA,

So many people to thank! NUNA is NUNA because of its volunteers. They are essential to improving, preserving and protecting our neighborhood. Email me at nunaaustin@gmail.com if you would like to help your neighborhood. We need someone to research getting playground equipment for Adams Park, especially for all the new kids in the neighborhood. We need someone to research all the potential advertisers for the newsletter. Many other such opportunities exist! We need you.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! The tireless Mary Ingle organized and managed this year's nominating committee to a stellar and successful conclusion. Please come to the next meeting for nominations to the NUNA Executive Committee.

Clayton Maxwell, like Mary, defines what it means to be an exceptional volunteer. As our newsletter editor for the last 4 years, she has gone "above and beyond" the requirements of a great job. Thank you, Clayton. She now turns the reins over Michael Gaudini, who wants to hear from you with suggestions and story ideas for the newsletter. Read his bio in this issue of the newsletter, as well as updates on the Steck House project, Sparky Park, It's My Park Day, local gardening scoop in the Dish, a farewell and totem pole reflections from Clayton, and other stories. Read on.

Warmly,
Laurence Miller

No Stick in the Mud- Reflections on Jack Keever's NUNA Scrapbooks and a Farewell

By Clayton Maxwell

I'd totally forgotten about the totem pole, the one down in Hemphill Park, until I flipped through Jack Keever's NUNA scrapbook the

other night. When I lived on Laurel Lane in the early nineties, I'd admired the totem pole's funky fierce faces and wondered who had put them there; surely someone with a spirit creative and bold enough to transform a public flood warning pole into their own artistic vision—and quite well, I might add. The totem pole had captured my imagination.

It's My Park Day is March 5th!

Come on out to Adams/Hemphill Parks to help clean up, weed the creek bed, mulch and dillo dirt all of our new trees!

Bring shovels.

8:30am-2pm

There will be tacos and other goodies as usual!



Photo of the Month: Hemphill Totem Pole with Agave

NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

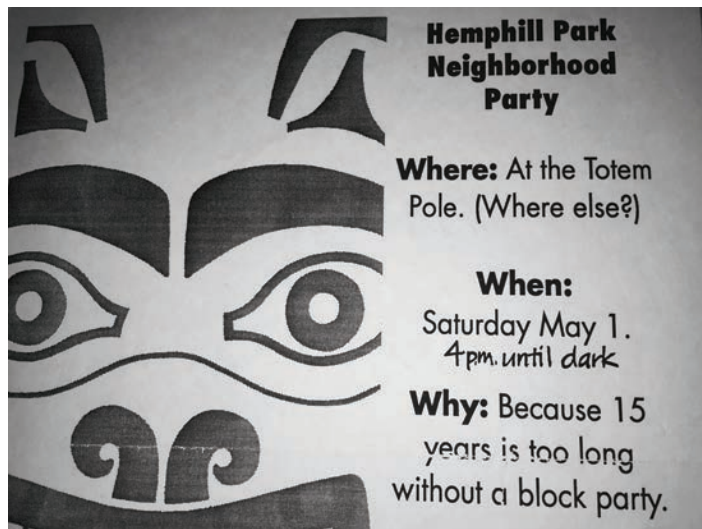
6:30 – 8:00 pm

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes of January 12, 2016 General Membership Meeting
- III. Guests
- IV. Reports:

ANC	Mary Ingle
CANPAC	
Historic District	Rick Iverson & Roger Binkley
DRC	Steven Tomlinson
Newsletter	Clayton Maxwell & Bill Bednar
Parks	Bill Bednar
Treasurer	Jan Moyle
Nominating	Mary Ingle
Quadrant Leaders Reports	
- V. Items for Action:
- VI. Old Business:

Steck House
Sparky Park Renovations
Street Lights
codeNext
Playground equipment
Letter to Howard Lazarus
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Adjourn



But when I moved back to Laurel Lane again about 17 years later, I just didn't notice it. Perhaps I was too busy with a baby to think about such whimsical offerings. But then, while paging through one of Keever's big blue scrapbooks last week--NUNA archive treasure troves that Judy Willcott handed to me when I became newsletter editor about 4 years ago--I found myself face to face with those familiar masked visages gazing out from the post in the park. An eagle beak, a fish, a monkey-like face with its tongue sticking out.

Jack Keever had cut out and archived a 1993 Statesman article about neighbor responses to this new rogue public art titled "It's No Stick in the Mud--'Creative Vandalism' adds color to flood gauge post." It was good to read about how a "band of mystery painters" had taken on the project and that then-NUNA president Seth Searcy wouldn't say who did it, wanting to maintain the artists' anonymity. Searcy is quoted as saying, "They didn't wear masks or robes or anything like that. They did it in broad daylight. ... Some young people in the neighborhood thought the pole itself was hideous and needed some sprucing up."

And on the next page of Keever's scrapbook, I found one of the totem pole faces emblazoned upon a black and white invitation to the Hemphill Park Neighborhood Party, from 4pm until dark on May 1, 1993; location, of course, The Totem Pole. Just bring your self, the kids, lawn chair, food and drink and it was a party at the Pole (brought to you by the anonymous totem artists).

This was a fun discovery. Twenty-four years ago, the totem pole had been a gathering spot for casual neighborhood parties. How simple. And it also raised questions: Why didn't the totem gatherings continue? And where are the anonymous totem artists who organized them now? And could we start doing them again?

This was only one little path through NUNA's interesting history that Jack Keever's scrapbooks opened up for me. He had

meticulously saved every Statesman article about the development of the Triangle in 1998, a struggle I only vaguely engaged with since I was living on the East Side at the time. There were Statesman clippings from 1986 about NUNA's revitalization plan that listed our still very active NUNA leader Rick Iverson as the co-chair of that 1986 planning committee. There were home 'For Sale' flyers from throughout the 80s and 90s, most of them with the familiar face of the still-active-in-the-hood Suzanne Pringle.

Thanks to Keever's scrapbooks, I learned many neighborhood stories I'd never heard—like about the kerfuffle that arose when some park neighbors wanted to close certain streets that run through Hemphill Park, or about the young man who was swept away and drowned in our creek after directing traffic away from high water during a flood in May 1992. I lived on Laurel Lane then, but knew nothing about this tragedy. I saw the flyer for the first ever Fourth of July Parade in 2003, hosted by the Cool Mommas of Aldridge Place. I also read a 1999 article that referenced the 37th Street Christmas Potato Lady, a woman who wrapped potatoes in brightly colored saran wrap and stealthily delivered them to each house on the Christmas Light street, her identity a mystery. What ever happened to her? And why potatoes? These stories make my appreciation for my neighborhood run even deeper.

It is endearing to see the care that went in to the making of these scrapbooks—the pasting and taping, dates written in where they were missing, articles that were too big were carefully cut or folded so that they fit on the page. Jack Keever, a man I believe I may have once met but he passed away before I moved back to the neighborhood in 2009, clearly cared greatly about NUNA, enough to thoughtfully document its battles, its parties, its mysteries, its losses. And I am grateful for it. He has given me an enlarged perspective on where I live, so when I am out walking our streets as I do every day, I don't just stay lost in my own narrow world, but know more about where I am and the stories that shaped this neighborhood. I'm grateful to better understand some of the struggles, kindnesses, and celebrations that my NUNA predecessors were part of.

And I certainly won't forget to notice the totem pole. I bet those

In this Issue

- An Introduction to the New Editor!
- Neighborhood Gardening News from the Dish
- Update on Sparky Park
- Leoda Anderson on Talent
- Notes on Senior Citizen Resources AGE and Capital Village
- Parking Permit and Steck House Scoop

2016 NUNA OFFICERS

President Laurence Miller - NunaAustin@gmail.com

Vice President Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

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Treasurer Jan Moyle - moylejan@gmail.com

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Rick Iverson - Iver506@sbcglobal.net

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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



were some sweet late Spring parties there by those funny, fearsome faces.

I read a poem by Ellen Bass recently that I'm publishing in this issue—it's about taking an old dog outside before bedtime. It made me think about all of the cool old dogs in our neighborhood, and even more so, of all the cool owners who love them. My heartfelt condolences to my Laurel Lane neighbors Rob and Bob, whose dog Gilbert passed away last week. Furry black Gilbert was a special dog and a Laurel Lane presence we shall miss very much.

Now that I'm leaving my post as the NUNA newsletter editor, I'm appreciating how lucky I've been to have so much liberty with this project: publishing poems like the one neighbor Jack Brannon wrote about his dog, getting to interview interesting characters like Nelson Breed, who has since retired from Breed and Company, emailing with Doug Plummer about progress on Sparky Park, chatting with Leoda about her next piece. Thanks for the deep privilege of being the NUNA editor.

Now it's time to move on. It's genuinely been a pleasure to be a part of this humble little newsletter, working with amazing writers like Beth Goulart Monson, Mary Ingle, Steven Tomlinson, and of course, Leoda Anderson, one of the most inspiring journalists I know. We do live in a talented neighborhood! Please welcome new editor Michael Gaudini to the helm of this project. See his bio in this newsletter.

Warmly,
Clayton Maxwell
claytonmaxwellsloan@gmail.com

Important News About Residential Parking Permits

Please be aware that you will not be renewing your parking permits

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:



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**.

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in December-January this year. The City has advised that we are switching to an August-August parking permit renewal schedule. This new time frame applies to all RPPs near U-T. Additionally, the price of the permit will be going up to \$15.00 from the current cost of \$10.00. According to the City, "Other cities that are about the same size as Austin have residential parking permit prices anywhere from \$30 to well over \$100 per permit cost annually."

However, if you need new stickers/tags for new cars, we will be selling them according to the directions found on the website.

You can direct any questions to me as well: sarapietsch52@gmail.com.

Introducing Your New Editor

Hello! I would like to introduce myself – I'm Michael Gaudini and I'll be the next editor for the North University Neighborhood Association newsletter. I'm happy to succeed the capable Clayton Maxwell at the helm of the newsletter as she steps down from the position for a well-deserved break.

I have lived in the North University Neighborhood for a little over a year, after I initially moved to Austin about four years ago to attend the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and earn my Master of Public Affairs degree. Before moving to Texas, I lived in Philadelphia, where I was born, grew up, and attended college at Temple University (go Owls!). I presently work for the City of Austin.

My favorite walk in the neighborhood is down Hemphill Park, about a block from where I live (I especially enjoy using the new sidewalk that popped up along there a few months ago). Also, as a Philadelphia expat, I am constantly on the lookout for the best hoagie place in Austin – so if you have a favorite sandwich spot, let me know!

Contact me at nunanews@gmail.com

NUNA General Meeting

January 12, 2016

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Parking Timeline Changes

Since we always do parking along with membership dues, now when we will connect membership dues? Collect back dues when we send out parking info? Charge January to August one time- getting some dues now, Jan Moyle the treasurer reports. Not a big deal when people submit their parking \$

We need a more prominent notice about parking on the

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website. Ask Brandon and Sarah Seidel.

New Faces in Attendance:

Mark Hutchison

Steve Brackin

Minutes approved. Rick seconded

Rick Iverson- gave an update on the historic district; last report about different architectural styles

VOTES: Donation to the church \$250 donation

Steven moves that we make our contribution to First English Lutheran Church of \$250 for 2015 and 2016. Dick Seconded

Defense Fund

We agreed as neighborhood association to allocate some money (\$715.42) to challenge the Steck House- they had raised the rates to over \$800- we just need to codify that we actually had to spend. \$896

Steven moves that we move an additional amount of \$ to file a board of adjustment case on the Steck house. Rick seconded.

Mary Ingle is stepping in to assemble a nominating committee.

They are installing 700 more parking meters on west campus; Cynthia is not going to be there.

The publications sub committee is working on a break down in how we collect payment for our ads--it's pretty Rococo as to who does what. Taking steps to do that.

Playground in Adams Park? No one is opposed and if anyone wants to pursue it with PARD that is great.

Hemphill tree planting-- what was the general feedback? Positive!

NEXT NUNA GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9th

(Second Tuesday of the Month)

First English Lutheran Church

6:30

Street Lights- John Davis.

We need something written by the city point – we can make this happen. Steven says I will find out how to get this done, but if we take over the control of the pillars it becomes a liability issue for us. We need lights.

We will need a neighborhood authorization for changing anything on the columns- there will be grief counseling around the new reality- particularly for those who want it to work the way it used to. John has a solar option and we can make them look close to the way they originally looked—but the challenge is the city letting us take control of these without taking responsibility for the right of way- we have put in a request to have them as historic support the city financially- this is the outcome we want- we've spent two years getting every flavor of how can we do this without incurring liability for the right of way structure. The operable ones will stay-if they fail they won't repair them. They've been very good at providing light when the old streetlights went out- they are trying to work within our vernacular- been cooperative up to this point. We haven't had any shortage of cooperation with the city- john has a great design. Should we produce a unit so that it's not abstract? Steven commits to launch this before we meet again.

Jan Moyle Parking - are they only changing the dates for a few neighborhood around campus? Ask Sara to ask they could slide the transition date back to September- Jan travels in August. We can bill in advance and send out a note in June – my question is: should we take another look at keeping things January to January?

Adjourn

I Appreciate it When my Neighbors....

I asked as many of you as I could to fill in the blank here: "I appreciate it when my neighbors...." Thanks for your replies! It seems that there is a lot of appreciation here for many things, but most of them fit into two categories: gratitude for a sense of community and gratitude for the efforts people make to help the neighborhood thrive. Kind gestures and community efforts--big and small--matter. Thanks everyone! -Clayton

- ... go out of their way to help when I need them. Lost my cat today and have been handing out flyers. Overwhelmed by the compassion and concern.
- ... let me borrow sugar.
- ... mow my grass when they borrow my mower.
- ... volunteer on behalf of the rest of us.
- ... when neighbors who have been here a long time share old stories about the history of our neighborhood.
- ... invite me and my family to fun holiday theatrical events - Wassail!
- ... support my children's fund raising efforts for Jump Rope for Health.
- ... show how much they love living in this terrific neighborhood through their volunteer efforts planting trees and doing cleanups at the park!
- ... when my neighbors visit.
- ... when my neighbors plant Texas native pollinator friendly plants.
- ... take the time to get to know all of their neighbors (seems obvious, but that is what is special in NUNA!)
- ... turn out for our community events like Fourth of July, tree planting and neighborhood meetings.
- ... help me catch my overly exuberant yellow lab puppy who just bolted out the front door or dug out from under the fence.
- ... when neighbors who have been here a long time share old stories about the history of our neighborhood.
- ... stop by for a glass of wine.
- ... my neighbors keep their dogs on leash in all areas of NUNA, as there are NO areas in the neighborhood were dogs are allowed to be off leash.
- ... my neighbors say hello.
- ... when my neighbors peep over my fence and take time to talk about our vegetable gardens.
- ... are friendly and considerate.
- ... take a moment to stop, say hello and connect. Life is busy for us all, so when someone gives me some of their valuable time, it feels good!
- ... when they give me advice on my trees and other yard care tips.
- ... offer me oranges from their beautiful orange tree.
- ... stop by our front yard to say hello.

Sparky Park Update

From an email from Kevin Johnson at the City of Austin

Construction is progressing nicely, though we did run into one of the more significant scheduling hurdles prior to the holiday. The reason for this delay is the wall containing the large opening in the brick for the sliding doors and windows is actually leaning slightly forward (as could be expected in an old masonry building). The problem is not a significant one in terms of stability of the building, but it did require an extra steel lintel to be designed, fabricated and installed across the top of the transom window opening. This

happened just two weeks before the Christmas holiday so it pushed the work of several subs that was scheduled to be complete before the new year to after the new year.

All that said, all structural steel work is complete, the masonry has been infilled around this opening, the interior floor has been refloated and prepared for tile install, the interior has been painted and the electrical and mechanical subs are now beginning their building systems work. Mechanical units were installed at the site yesterday and conduit runs and lighting system supports should be taking place through next week. Also, roofing and flashing work on top of the canopy has been completed.

Next week's exciting visual milestones are twofold: the doors will be delivered and installed, and the window restoration/ painting should be complete. So, by the end of next week we should have a sense of the light quality within the space, and I will share a photo with you all once plywood comes off the window openings. At that point, the building will be officially "dried in", which means the more delicate finish materials (drywall, countertops, cabinetry, etc.) can begin to be placed.

Due to the delay before the holidays, the contractor is now projecting completion at the end of February.

The Dish

By Beth Monson

It's springtime in Texas. That makes it time to plan for some of the best neighborhood food of the year: homegrown summer vegetables. On Saturday, March 5, Sunshine Community Garden will host its annual plant sale, and there's no better place to shop for plants.

In case you're uninitiated: Sunshine Community Garden is located northwest of 45th and Lamar, behind the Texas School for the Blind. It started in 1979, and many NUNA neighbors have garden plots there. On the first Saturday of every March, the organization holds its only fundraiser, this plant sale, which features organic plants and a wide range of varieties - plus the gardening expertise of the Sunshine gardeners who staff the sale.

When we moved to the neighborhood in 2010, our neighbor and Sunshine gardener Randy clued us in. We dropped by the sale and got inspired - and we've done so nearly every year since.

But still, I haven't quite figured out gardening in Texas. I get my plants in the ground. I lay soaker hose and I mulch. I weed. I've even harvested a few tomatoes. Every year, though, the heat and the mosquitoes eventually chase me indoors - and my garden dies away.

This year, I decided to consult with a couple of neighbors who garden.

Doug and Marianne are next-door neighbors and gardening allies who live on 35th Street. They graciously invited my sons and me, on our way home from Lee Elementary one winter's afternoon, to visit their yards. I felt like I lived in Mister Rogers's neighborhood - that's how very neighborly it all was.

Doug's and Marianne's winter gardens were in full swing, then. At Doug's, butter crunch lettuce leaves crowded each other alongside two varieties of kale, pert heads of cabbage, robust red mustard leaves, spiky shallot greens, flowery fronds of fennel and asparagus, and enough parsley to freshen an army's breath. Marianne helped us explore her own sturdy stalks of Brussels sprouts, fountaining artichokes, trellised peas, leafy bok choy, and a big, beautiful head of broccoli.



"Doug's Bounty: butter crunch lettuce, red speckle lettuce, kale, cabbage, beets, broccoli, mustard greens"

Each yard contained enough produce to feed a family. They sent us home with lettuce, mustard greens, bay leaves, kumquats, and a pepper so hot Marianne thought it best if the children not even hold it. And they made it sound so easy. They plant the plants. They water when needed - that's typically never in the winter, but at least every three days in the summer, by hand or with a sprinkler

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on watering day. Their plants were planted close together, so there was little space for weeds to intrude. I started to wonder if I might be over-thinking this.

This year, Randy tells me, there will be as many as 150 varieties of tomatoes at the Sunshine sale, as well as more than 80 varieties of peppers, eggplants, tomatilloes, and herbs. There's no entrance fee at the sale, and entertainment beyond shopping - live music, of course, and more. (Click on "spring plant sale" at <http://sunshinecommunitygarden.org> for more information.)

As Guy Clark tells us, there are only two things that money can't buy - true love and homegrown tomatoes. I think I'll try again this year.

Bon Appetit, y'all.

Are You Talented?

By Leoda Anderson

Mary Ingle used the word "accomplished" in her article in the December-January issue of the newsletter—which got me to thinking about people and their talents. Just about everyone has a specialty, something they like to do and do well. When someone sighs, "Oh, I don't have any talent at all," they are either modest or lazy. Lazy because they haven't dug into their inner selves to discover their specialty and to develop it, hone it, polish it, use it!

Take Mary herself: She can sew! No just so-so, but with professional precision. The perfection of a tailored shirt of anything else is awesome. And Patrice Creswell, next door. Pat's gorgeous original designs and techniques in quilt-making have won numerous prizes, including national, the top tier! Anyone who has struggled with fabric knows that fabric has a mind of its own, and to master it is an admirable feat. And there's Steve Sively, across the street: Steve can identify just about every plant, flower, or tree that grows in this area, from a tiny weed in your backyard to a cherry laurel tree—which he can spot a block away. He can tell you, too, why it's called "cherry laurel."

It would be interesting to turn loose a Talent Scout in our neighborhood, an investigative reporter to discern talents. Look, I came up with three without even scratching my head!

Not all smart or educated people (they're not synonymous) are self-sufficient. They need the talents of electricians, plumbers and carpenters to keep their households working.

Someone who had attended Princeton told me a story about Einstein when Einstein was in residence there. A student who came to Einstein's house regularly for study with the great one grew tired of and impatient with the squeaking of Einstein's front gate. So he brought with him an oil can, and with Einstein watching, oiled the hinges of the gate, and lo, it opened and closed silently! Einstein was astounded, and wide-eyes, exclaimed "Wunderbar!" (Wonderful!)

Taking My Old Dog Out To Pee Before Bed

by Ellen Bass

Dew is already deep in the overgrown grass,
 the air damp with a salty tang.
 Zeke's hips are too ground down
 to lift a leg, so he just stands there. We both



*Good bye to Gilbert, a beloved dog of Laurel Lane, who passed away in January.
 Gilbert- you shall be missed! Our condolences to Rob and Bob.*

just stand, looking into the darkness.
Sometimes a moon silvers his thinning fur.
Sometimes it's clear enough for stars.
Orion strides across the heavens, his dog
trotting at his heel. A great live oak reaches over
from the neighbor's yard, dense black limbs
silhouetted against a paler sky, single voluptuous
remnant of forests. Can a tree be lonely?
Zeke tips up his muzzle, scent streaming
through a hundred million olfactory cells
as he reads the illuminated manuscript of night —
raccoons prowling down the street, who's in heat
or just out for a stroll. Handsome still,
he reminds me of an aging movie star with his striking
white eyebrows and square jaw. He always
had an urbane elegance, a gentleman
who could carry off satin lapels and a silver-tipped cane.
Tonight an ambulance wails. Someone not so far away
is frightened, in pain, trying to live or trying to die.
And then it's quiet again. No birds. No wind.
We don't speak. We just wait, alive together,
until one of us turns back to the door
and the other follows.

ELLEN BASS has published poems in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, and American Poetry Review. Her most recent poetry collection is Like a Beggar. She lives in Santa Cruz, California, and teaches in the writing program at Pacific University. ellenbass.com

This poem was first published in *The Sun Magazine*.

Capital City Village

Mission Statement

To create a community of members, volunteers and services to provide participating seniors the help and information they need to successfully age in place.

About Us: Capital City Village

Capital City Village is an Austin-based nonprofit launched in 2011 dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible, a concept called aging in place and community. We achieve this mission through volunteers, providers and programs.

Member Services

The benefits of membership to Capital City Village include volunteers, programs and providers. CCV Volunteers are ready to help with transportation, household maintenance, errands and companionship plus many other day-to-day essential services; over 100 CCV Providers are ready to help with professional projects and services like roofing, plumbing and home healthcare—all licensed

professionals who often offer discounts to CCV Members; and CCV Programs and Events which are free or low-cost and designed to combat isolation and keep members connected to all Austin has to offer, from education to culture to healthy outings and parties and events. From interest groups created by members to events developed by CCV committees and staff, we offer 20-40 separate events each month. For each member, the needs are different. Some have joined to help others, and to ensure that this village will be here when they need it like an insurance policy. Others have joined because of an immediate need for services or healthy activities. Many have joined for the social interaction that comes with coffees, cultural activities and educational programs. Our members range in age from 60 to 96 (average age is 73). We have more than 60 volunteers who completed more than 250 service requests (500 hours) last year - mostly transportation but also grocery shopping, technology assistance, yard/garden work, friendly phone calls, even help hanging holiday lights.

Happy to answer questions if you or a NU neighbor is curious...
(512) 524-2709

www.capitalcityvillage.org

NUNA's Age of Central Texas Celebrates its 30th Year!

AGE of Central Texas – the regional non-profit serving senior adults and family caregivers – celebrates its 30th year in 2016. To mark this landmark anniversary, the community organization will debut a new “Caregiver Lecture Series,” recognize philanthropic leaders with the 22nd annual AGE Awards, and launch the Bert Kruger Smith and Willie Kocurek Legacy Fund in honor of the organization's co-founders.

Founded 30 years ago as “Austin Groups for the Elderly,” AGE of Central Texas has grown extensively to serve older adults and their caregivers throughout Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, and Hays counties. Census numbers indicate the population of adults 60 and older in Central Texas will grow by 67% by the Year 2020, so the need for services for older adults and family caregivers will climb rapidly during the next few years.

Today, an estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease or similar dementia, and the number of individuals diagnosed each year is growing steadily as the population ages. Today's treatments only temporarily ease some dementia symptoms, so the need for AGE's programs and resources – including therapeutic adult day health care in Austin and Round Rock, caregiver education and resources, and early memory loss support – remains at an all-time high and growing.

To provide additional education and support to family caregivers, the new “Caregiver Lecture Series” will debut on April 2nd through 30th. Held on three Saturdays, the free seminar series

will cover legal, financial, and healthcare issues that caregivers encounter when caring for an older loved ones. Registration will open on February 1, 2016, via the AGE website at www.AGEofCentralTX.org.

Also in April, AGE will honor select Central Texas community leaders at the 22nd Annual AGE Awards. Slated for Thursday, April 7th, at the LBJ Presidential Library on the University of Texas campus, the annual AGE Awards recognize outstanding achievements by individuals and local organizations whose leadership and contributions have made a significant impact on the quality of life for aging adults and their caregivers in Central Texas.

To further celebrate the 30th anniversary year, AGE of Central Texas is honoring the organization's co-founders – and their personal mission to touch people's lives – by proudly establishing the Bert Kruger Smith and Willie Kocurek Legacy Fund. The founding group of community investors will be creating a cornerstone of support launch AGE of Central Texas into the next successful 30+ years of serving the Central Texas community. Legacy Fund founding members will also be invited to a party at the Governor's Mansion – hosted by Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott – along with other opportunities throughout the year. For more information on the Legacy Fund or the AGE Awards, call Lauren McPhail at (512) 600-9283.

AGE of Central Texas also operates the only licensed Adult Day Health Centers in Central Texas – with locations in Austin and Round Rock – in addition to free caregiver education and resources, no-cost durable health equipment lending, “Memory Connections” early memory loss support programs, peer-based computer classes for seniors at the AGE Computer Lab, and free caregiver classes across four counties through CaregiverU. For more information on the programs and resources provided by AGE of Central Texas, visit www.AGEofCentralTX.org or call (512) 451-4611.

Steck House Update-from The Austin Monitor

by Elizabeth Pagano | Steck House at center of project, now BoA case

The city's Board of Adjustment is taking a little more time to consider whether a North University site plan was approved in error.

Appellant Leon Barish has asked the board to weigh in on how staff applied the compatibility setback for a project surrounding the historic Steck House during the site-plan approval process. Barish told the board that his case was about enforcing the North University NCCD (Neighborhood Conservation Combining District) agreement “in the face of what we believe is an improper and erroneous staff interpretation.”

However, board members were unable to come up with the seven votes necessary to reverse staff's decision, or uphold it. Instead, they opted to postpone the decision until their February meeting.

At the heart of the issue is the development proposed to surround the Steck House at 305 E. 34th St., which was zoned historic in 2004. Currently, developers plan to rehabilitate the main house and add three multifamily buildings to the property. Barish explained that the multifamily buildings are slated to be built within the 25-foot compatibility setback of a neighboring house at 309 E. 34th St., which has multifamily zoning but is, in fact, a single-family home. Staff maintains that building within the 25-foot setback is allowed because of the Steck House's historic zoning. Under city code, historic properties are exempt from compatibility setbacks. Barish argued that the NCCD supersedes the Land Development Code when the two are in conflict. Although he may be correct, his argument rests on a portion of the NCCD that isn't explicitly laid out. While the neighborhood document specifically dismisses the rear compatibility standards on the property, it does not address the front compatibility standards. Barish believes the implication is that those front standards do still apply under the NCCD. To bolster his case, Barish furnished the opinion of former Historic Landmark Commission Chair Laurie Limbacher. She explained, in an affidavit, that the purpose of the exemption from compatibility was not intended to make it easier to add nonhistoric additions or structures to a historic property but rather to make it easier to restore historic properties that may not comply with setbacks.

Barish also made the point that it was not the property of the Steck House that was historic, just the house itself, and the exemption from the compatibility standards should not apply to the new multifamily buildings.

Lynda Courtney, who supervised the site-plan review process for the city, told the board that all of the issues being raised in the interpretation had already been considered. She pointed out that the property was zoned historic in June 2004 and that the NCCD was put in place in August 2004. She said that, without an explicit statement in the NCCD saying otherwise, compatibility wasn't required on the property.

Developer Cater Joseph has been working on the Steck House Apartments for the past two years, in accordance with his understanding of the neighborhood regulations. He said he had already invested a great deal of time and money in the plans and had gone through them with the understanding that the interpretation provided by city legal would stick. Joseph explained that the same debate had surfaced during the site-plan review process and that “a considerable amount of time was spent stewing on it,” leading ultimately to the interpretation being questioned that night. He said it was clear that, under city code, compatibility standards did not

apply to the property. He said that if the neighborhood wished it to be otherwise, it should have been specifically addressed through the NCCD, as is the case in the Castle Hill Local Historic District preservation plan.

“I do not understand why me following the rules they set in place is not acceptable to them,” said Joseph.

Though there was a clear division on the dais, Chair William Burkhardt, for one, expressed strong opposition to staff’s interpretation.

“It’s clear what the intent is, and at least a flag should have been raised before a decision was issued. The NCCD was very clear and very specific. ... The intent is very obvious to me, and it should never have been granted,” said Burkhardt.

Board Member Don Leighton-Burwell noted that the project could not be carried out if the property was not zoned historic and was, instead, a new development.

“This is just one of those cases where the letter of the law and the intent have gotten disconnected in some sort of ‘News of the Weird’ sort of way that would allow something that was clearly not the intention of the code,” said Leighton-Burwell. Board Member Melissa Neslund agreed with that concept, but it led her to a different conclusion.

“We have such a complex code, with so many layers. I feel for the staff every day, trying to make these determinations and interpretations,” said Neslund. “I personally have to uphold staff’s position.”

Initially, Barish was also asking for an interpretation about the parking for the project. He claimed that the required parking was calculated incorrectly, because some of the rooms that were not identified as bedrooms were, in fact, bedrooms. However, Joseph had revised his plans since those calculations had been made, so Barish withdrew that request for interpretation.

Prior to the board’s decision to postpone the case, a vote to uphold staff’s interpretation failed in a vote of 5-4, with Burkhardt and Board members Leighton-Burwell, Melissa Hawthorne and Brooke Bailey voting in opposition.

About the Austin Monitor: “Five days a week, we bring you the news from Austin City Hall, Travis County Commissioners Court, and multiple other civic entities that make key decisions for central Texas. We stick to the facts. We aim to be fair. When we err, we correct it fast.”

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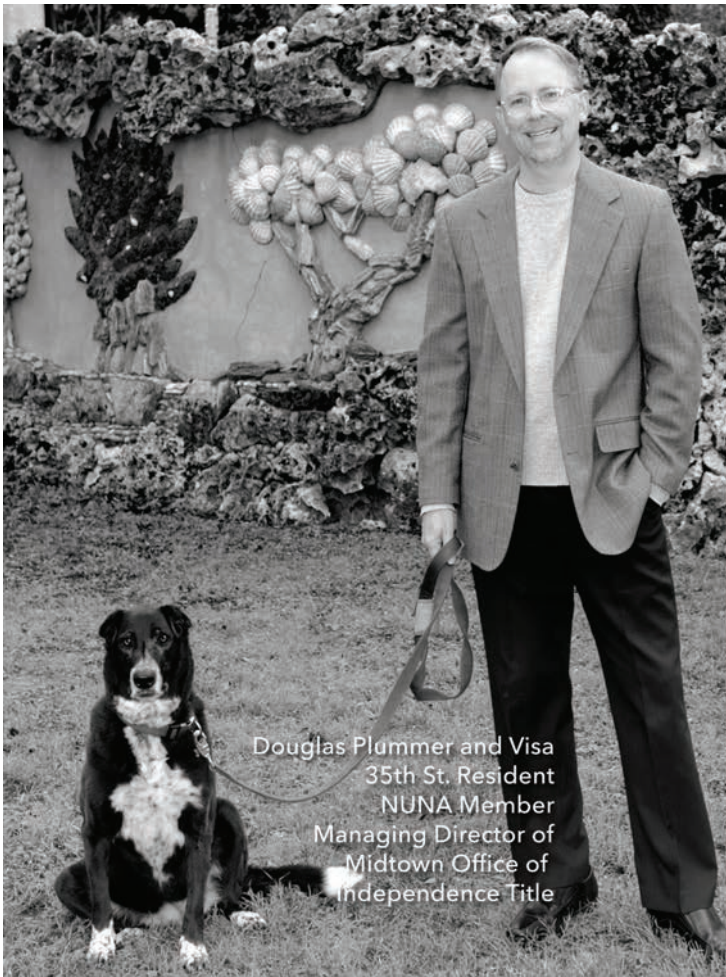
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My tag "Old Austin REALTOR®" expresses the commitment to historic preservation that led me into real estate in 1997 to work with others who want to preserve the history and culture of Austin's older neighborhoods.

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® 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)

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® 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® 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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Nicely updated home in the heart of the neighborhood! Well-executed floor plan, great for entertaining. High ceilings and wood floors in main living areas. Open kitchen with Bosch appliances, stone counters, pantry, and recessed lighting. Bonus detached studio with HVAC.



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3 BED | 2 BATH | .145 ACRES | +/- 1372 SQ FT

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Listed at \$599,000



3303 LIBERTY STREET

New construction Craftsman-style home in Hancock neighborhood. Over 2,500 SF with 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 LIV, 2 DIN, 2-car garage with alley access. High-end finishes.

Listed at \$989,000



308 WEST 37TH STREET

Charming home built in 1920 with high ceilings, spacious rooms, beautiful hardwood floors. Almost 2,000 SF with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 LIV, updated kitchen and baths.

Listed at \$599,000



110 WEST 32ND STREET

Picturesque 1926 Tudor Revival home in historic Aldridge Place. 3,249 SF with 4-5 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 LIV, 2 DIN plus detached office. Wonderful screened-in back porch.

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806 WEST 29TH STREET

Zoned LO-MU allowing residential and/or light office. Ideal for professionals seeking to live/work at home. 3 BR, 2 BA, 3 LIV or 6-7 offices spaces plus detached studio.

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