

## *A Letter from the President* by Andrea Lapsley

It is that time of year when we dust off the old and greet Spring. Plants are blooming, but unfortunately pollen is in the air (and all over our cars and homes). But, that doesn't stop our neighbors from being outside, enjoying the park, walking dogs and jogging through the neighborhood.

Three events are coming up in the next 6 weeks and we hope to see you there. First, our "New Neighbor Coffee" is scheduled for April 7th 9:00-11:30am at GG Hsieh's home at 2322 Maroneal. GG and Krista Heidersbach are hosting. All neighbors are invited to come and meet our new residents. More information is in the newsletter.

Next, our **April membership meeting is set for Wednesday, April 18.** It is hosted by Linda Joekel. Her lovely home is located at 2420 Bellefontaine. The social time begins at 7:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:20pm. I look forward to seeing each of you where we will share neighborhood updates and have time to socialize.

Finally, the Social Committee is planning a spectacular OBPOA Party in the Park from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Sunday, May 6. You won't want to miss this one because the Houston Zoo will be there with some of their animals for us to enjoy and learn about.

### *Meet our Newest Neighbors on April 7*

A coffee honoring neighbors new to Old Braeswood and welcoming all neighbors who want to meet them will be hosted by GG Hsieh and Krista Heidersbach at GG's house on Saturday, April 7th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The address is 2322 Maroneal. Children are included. There will be coffee, juice and breakfast snacks to enjoy. This is what Old Braeswood is good at: getting together and having fun!

### *"Party in the Park" set for May 6*

Mark your calendars for May 6th. There will be a Party in the Park from 4 pm to 6 pm. In addition to beverages and snacks, this time we'll have a visit from the Houston ZooMobile with ambassador animals for the children (young and old) to meet. Go to: <https://www.houstonzoo.org/education/zoomobile/>. This is something we can all enjoy.

### *Greenbriar Reconstruction Update*

Greenbriar reconstruction is advancing through the first phase from Holcombe to Wordsworth. Weather has been mostly dry and crews are slightly ahead of schedule. Only 13 more months to go before the beautiful new section of roadway from Holcombe to Rice Blvd. is completed



#### ***In this issue***

Your House Has a History	2
Floodplain Ord. Changes.	3
Book Club News	3
Neighborly reminders	4
OB sons & space send-off	5
Tree Reminders	5
Trash reminders	5
Welcome New Neighbors	5
Wedding House/Garden Club	6

How old is the oldest resident of Old Braeswood? Would you believe 308 years? This magnificent resident, more beautiful with each passing year, is the live oak at 2345 Glen Haven Blvd.

Like most trees, this live oak won't actually admit to its age, but the rule of thumb for estimating a live oak's age is:

- 1) Measure the circumference of the trunk (146" for our tree);
- 2) Calculate the diameter by dividing the circumference by pi or 3.14;
- 3) The first 10 inches in diameter indicate an age of 76 years. Each inch after that adds six-and-a-half years up to age 154. After that, each inch adds six years.
- 4) Do the math. [Then add 7 years, because the above measurements were taken in 2011.]

The first owner was Cleves M. Brown and his wife Nina. Their daughter Jane Nina and son Cleves M. II lived with them. Cleves owned Real Estate and Business Properties, a company with offices at 501 Binz Building.

The next owners, Gregory Matthew Lockhart and his wife, Dr. Sharon K. Lockhart, moved into the house in 1985 and stayed 14 years. Sharon was an oncologist, and Gregory was an oil and gas investor. The Lockharts were followed by JoAnn Matthiesen and Rocky Rawls, both attorneys. They are partners in Baker, Williams and Matthiesen – a majority woman-owned law firm. JoAnn is the managing partner in the firm.

Since 2016 the house has been home to Dr. Sania Rahim-Gilani, a radiologist, and Mr. Aziz Gilani, a managing partner of Mercury Fund, a venture capital firm.

### *2345 Glen Haven Blvd.*



The Texas Forest Service in cooperation with Harris County creates a Harris County Tree Registry. Our live oak appeared in the

Fifth Edition of the Harris County Tree Registry, at page 27, published in 2011. It was described as: circumference 146", height 71', spread 116', index # 246. Trees appearing in a registry are kept on record but are not included in subsequent registries.

The tree was already a stately presence when the house at 2345 Glen Haven first appeared in the Houston City Directory in 1940. That the house first appeared in the 1940 Directory is itself something of a mystery, given that the Harris County Appraisal District credits the house with having been built in 1929.

This article is in honor of the tree at 2345 Glen Haven, and so it closes with a quote attributed to Scottish poet Alexander Smith: "Trees are your best antiques." I would add, "and our best souvenirs of Old Braeswood history."

*[This is the 51st article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]*

## Flood Map Proposal Bayou Report

Houston City Council is considering changes to the City's building code ordinances relating to flooding. Currently, Houston's floodplain ordinance (Chapter 19) regulates only homes within the 100-year floodplain, requiring that they be built 1 foot above the 100-year measurement. The Public Works Department now recommends that the ordinance be changed to include homes in the 500-year floodplain and that those homes to be built 2 feet above the 500-year measurement.

A 100-year storm is defined as a storm with a 1 % chance of occurring in any given year and with rainfall of 12 to 14 inches in a 24-hour period. A 500-year storm, however, has a 0.2 percent chance of happening in a given year, with similar or greater rainfall. However, Houston has withstood three 500-year storms in the last 3 years, leading some experts to conclude that the current floodplain maps are seriously outdated.

The 100-year floodplain map currently used by the City was created in 1981. However, in light of recent floods, the Harris County Flood Control District in partnership with FEMA has proposed new floodplain maps, which are posted at <http://www.harriscountyfemt.org>. If you zoom in on the map and look at Old Braeswood, you'll see that almost half of the neighborhood would now be in the 100-year floodplain. The area just west of Kirby is 100% in the new 100-year floodplain.

The City reports that 38% of homes built in the current 100-year floodplain flooded in Harvey. In addition, the City's study shows that 84% of structures in the current 100 and 500-year floodplains would not have flooded if the proposed changes were in place prior to Harvey.

The City proposes elevating new construction by 2 feet for homes in the 500 year flood plain and for those in the 100 year flood plain. The proposed new standard would add to the cost of construction, but FEMA maintains that the new elevation standards would save about 30% on flood insurance premiums. Houston City Council is expected to vote on the change to Ch. 19 in early April.

Enforcement of the new standards, like enforcement of the current standards, would occur at the City level. New construction requires city permits, which are given only to structures in compliance with city codes. The City has the legal power to stop construction that violates the codes.

*(Len Teich serves as Old Braeswood's official Representative to Brays Bayou Association and attends meetings related to the bayou and flood control throughout the year.)*

### Sign up for Old Braeswood eBlasts & Crime Alerts

Would you like to receive up to the minute news and crime alerts electronically?  
To subscribe, send your email address to [info@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:info@OldBraeswood.com) or

## Book Club Corner

Sabina Lee hosted a Valentine's Day meeting of the Old Braeswood Book Club. Besides celebrating the day, members discussed *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather. Annette Brown was the designated discussion leader.



Future reads will be:

April – *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann

May – *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman

June – *Crossing to Safety*, by Wallace Stegner

July – *Just Mercy, A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson

Join the discussion, every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the evening. For details, contact Annette Brown, [netteyduple-chain@yahoo.com](mailto:netteyduple-chain@yahoo.com)

## Neighborly Reminders

**Eliminate sidewalk hazards** for yourself and your neighbors by asking yard crews to remove mud from sidewalks and the wheel chair ramps at intersections. With our recent wet weathers, many sidewalks are practically impassable and are hazardous for pedestrians.

**Keep storm sewers free of leaves and debris.** Our live oaks trees recently lost their leaves and sprouted new ones, and gutter and storm drains are full of leaves and pollen. Please ask crews to collect the leaves and compost them or haul them away. Several yard crews have been seen blowing leaves into the storm drains. Not only is this act illegal, it contributes to neighborhood flooding and creates ideal conditions for disease carrying mosquitoes. If you catch a yard crew in the act, please take a picture of the crew's license plate and company name/number if present on their vehicle. You are welcome to forward info to the OBPOA office, or make a report to HPD and 311.

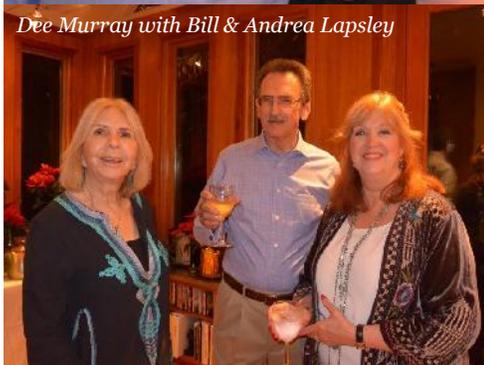
**Policing needed for Dog Waste Station at the Park!** Please help police the pet waste station by reminding park users that the dog waste station is for animal waste only. Recently our volunteers who service the box have encountered baby diapers and coffee cups. These items take up a lot of space and make collection more difficult and unpleasant. *Please! Dog waste only at the Waste Station!*

## Honoring Marilyn Archer for 12 years of service

In February the POA Board honored Marilyn Archer at a party sponsored by Susan and Len Teich in their home. After 12 years of volunteer service leading the Architectural Review Committee, and several more as a committee member, Marilyn has “retired” and her expertise on the committee will be very much missed. Fortunately, Marilyn and her husband Jack Eby will remain in Old Braeswood as valued neighbors.



Jack Eby & Marilyn Archer



Dee Murray with Bill & Andrea Lapsley



Samoa Khalil & Julie Cohn



Vicki Birenbaum & John Eldridge

## OB sons participate in space send off ceremony at the Czech Museum

Sally Eisen Miller, Old Braeswood neighbor and board member of the Czech Center Museum Houston (CMCH), had the pleasure of organizing an exhibit and ceremony commemorating *Vedem*, an underground magazine consisting of 83 issues which were created by teenage boys in the Czech ghetto of Terezin during the Holocaust, under the leadership of *Vedem* founder Petr Ginz, who was deported from Terezin and perished in Auschwitz at age 16.

The ceremony to kick off the exhibit was held on Oct. 6, 2017. At the ceremony, four sons from three Old Braeswood families presented astronaut Andrew Fuestel with Ginz’s “Moonscape” drawing and an issue of *Vedem* that sported a spaceship on the cover. The boys who made this presentation special are Ayaan and Zain Kundi, Josh Danziger and Hopson Stimming.

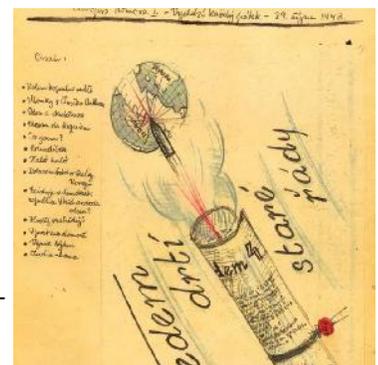
*Vedem* means “to lead” in Czech, a positive choice under difficult circumstances. After the presentation, the boys from Old Braeswood were introduced to two Houston child survivors of the Terezin Ghetto, Chaja Verveer and Benjamin Wasserman. The boys asked Commander Fuestel to take the drawing into space in memory of *Vedem* founder Petr and in honor of Ilian Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut who died in the space shuttle disaster in 2003, having taken a copy of the same Moonscape drawing.

The 83 issues of *Vedem* which survived the Holocaust hidden underground, were uncovered after the War by one of the magazine’s authors and have been on display at the museum. Commander Andrew Feustel took the Moonscape drawing up in space at press time. Sally and the Museum send their thanks to OBPOA manager Evalyn Krudy and OBPOA for helping



find the young men for the ceremony. This was a momentous experience for all four Old Braeswood boys.

*Pictured left to right: Ayaan Kundi (age 13), Zain Kundi (age 11), (holding moon to earth picture), Benjamin Wasserman, Dr. Sally Miller, Board member, Czech Museum; Chaja Verveer, Jim Getola, (Chaja’s husband); Josh Danziger (12) holding magazine cover; Indira Feustel, wife of astronaut; Sandra Samolik, Czech Museum curator; Commander Andrew Feustel; Hopson Stimming (age 13).*



# Tree Reminders and Planting Program Appreciation

TREES FOR OLD BRAESWOOD is a project to perfect the allees and groves of trees which line our streets. Here are a few reminders to help your young street trees get through the long, hot growing season.

- 1) trim small suckers growing low on the trunk with pruning shears, taking special care not to damage the trunk
- 2) Water your young trees several times a week. In extreme heat, daily watering may be needed. Young trees usually only need 2-3 gallons of water every couple of days during summer. Water should be applied inside the mulch ring.
- 3) If you have a tree that has been in the ground two years or more, it's time for the support stakes to be removed. Our Partner, Trees for Houston will remove the stakes this spring. However, if yours are missed, please contact us at 713-807-1787 or info@OldBraeswood.com.
- 4) Don't pile more than 2 inches of mulch per year at the base of your trees. More than that can kill a tree. If mulching, leave a few inches of space between the trunk and ring of mulch.



Thanks very much to our most recent Tree Program donors at the Tree Hugger level (\$150 & up):

*Michael Kelly & Krista Heidersbach*

*Lisa Blume*

## Welcome New Neighbors

**Jessica & Brent Hwang**

2522 Blue Bonnet Blvd.

## Trash & Recycling Schedule

<b>Recycling</b>	Every other Tuesday (B)	
<b>Dates</b>	April 3 & 17      May 1, 15 & 29 June 12 & 26      July 10 & 24	
<b>Household Trash</b>	Tuesdays (in city provided bins)	
<b>Yard Waste</b>	Tuesdays (in biodegradable bags)	
<b>Junk &amp; Tree Limbs</b>	3rd Monday of each month Junk waste & tree limbs in Even months Tree waste only in Odd months	

Place your household garbage in the city provided automated bin or recycling containers, and set them on the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening preceding pick up and no later than 7 a.m. the day of pick up, and remove it no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Bins left on the street beyond these times are subject to city fines. Bins must be accessible to the automated collection truck (not blocked by vehicles, trees, etc).

Yard waste must be bagged in city approved biodegradable bags, weighing no more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb at least 3' away from automated bins. Yard waste mixed with paper, plastic or any other type of waste will not be collected. Small branches may be put in bundles (no more than 4 ft. x 18 inches in diameter).

## 2018 OBPOA Officers & Chairpersons

President	Andrea Lapsley
Vice Pres.	Julie Cohn
Vice Pres.	Joe Manca
Vice Pres.	Buddy Steves
At-Large	John Eldridge
At-Large	Kellie Nwokedi
Treasurer	Bill Marchbank
Secretary	Samia Khalil
Past President	Susan Teich
.....	
Advisory	Dee Murray
Block Captains	Christine Manca
Directory	Sally Miller
Enforcement	John Eldridge
Flood Control	Len Teich
Garden Club	GG Hsieh
Newsletter	Susan Teich Evalyn Krudy
Park	Annette Eldridge
Preservation	Joe Manca
Patrol /Security	Dee Murray
Rice U Liaison	Andrea Lapsley
Social Events	Krista Heidersbach
Trees	Carroll Shaddock Paul Sanders
University Place	Andrea Lapsley
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy



**PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 541346  
Houston, TX 77254-1346  
Phone: 713-807-1787  
Email: [info@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:info@OldBraeswood.com)  
[www.OdBraeswood.com](http://www.OdBraeswood.com)

APRIL—MAY 2018

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

## *Garden Club*

The February meeting of Old Braeswood Garden Club was hosted by Susan and Len Teich at their home with Susan, the Old Braeswood Historian, giving a slide presentation on the history of the neighborhood. It was an evening meeting and included spouses.

In March the Club made a field trip to the Asia Society for a tour of its building on Southmore, designed by architect Yoshio Taniguchi, and for lunch at its cafe, now catered by Pondicheri.

Don't miss April's annual flower show and dinner or the luncheon in May hosted by Maribel Reuter.

To join the Garden Club, or for details about events, contact:



**GG Hsieh**  
**(713) 660-9520**  
[gghsieh@gmail.com](mailto:gghsieh@gmail.com)

**Annette Brown**  
**(713) 545-3126**  
[netteyduplechain@yahoo.com](mailto:netteyduplechain@yahoo.com)

**Nancy Eisenmenger**  
**(412) 427-4644**  
[nancyeisenmenger@gmail.com](mailto:nancyeisenmenger@gmail.com)

## *Wedding House is on the Market*

A previous newsletter article reported that the house at 2527 Glen Haven was designed for weddings, with an extra large living room and high ceiling. Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Temple in Texas, built the house in 1958 for its Rabbi, Hyman Schachtel, and his wife Barbara. Over the years the Schachtels hosted perhaps 50 weddings in it. When Rabbi Schachtel died in 1990, Congregation Beth Israel made a gift of the house to Barbara. She continued to live there until her death recently. The Wedding House now is on the market, a piece of midcentury architecture that combines romance with Houston history. Perhaps a couple married in the house will return to buy it?

