



### President's Message by Julie Cohn

What are the pillars of Old Braeswood? **Brains:** longtime residents as well as eager newcomers, committee chairs and members, board members, and our coordinator provide the institutional memory and the innovative ideas that enable the neighborhood to sustain its residential character while evolving as a 21<sup>st</sup> century community. **Brawn:** willing volunteers plant and water trees, pick up trash, maintain the doggy bag station, prune, play gear at the park, set up tents and tables for parties, serve pizza, walk blocks, review building plans, organize the directory, recruit meeting hosts, bring tasty treats, plan home tours, welcome new homeowners, and do much more so that all of us can enjoy our neighborhood. **Bucks:** residents who pay their dues and fees ensure that we have enough money to provide the services expected from a homeowners association. Here's how you can be an active supporter of Old Braeswood:

**With Bucks - Pay Your Dues!** Send your check to: OBPOA, PO Box 541346, Houston, Texas 77254. Or pay online: <http://OldBraeswood.com/wp/join/>.

**With Brawn – Fill out your membership form – and Pick a Committee!** Forms can be downloaded from the website.

**With Brains – Tell us about your expertise:**

Send a message to [President@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:President@OldBraeswood.com) and let me know about your professional or avocational skills. See you in the 'hood!

### Amendment Campaign Success

Dear neighbors, through your encouragement, your votes, your diligent efforts, and your connection with each other, you have succeeded in casting enough ballots to amend our deed restrictions! A supermajority (75 percent) of property owners has voted yes.

The petition to amend has been filed with Harris County, the governing deed restrictions for Old Braeswood are now formally amended to delete language that restricts residency based on race. As many of you know, this language, which is very common in deeds adopted before the late 1940s, has been unenforceable since 1948, and will continue to appear in the original deed restriction documents filed with the county. But our amendment will appear as well, and now the deed restrictions on our website no longer contain the offensive race-based language. We are a neighborhood that stands by its intention to be welcoming to all.

Details, details – although we have filed the amendment with the county, we will continue to collect and count votes through December 31, 2019, as stated on the petition and ballot. All additional ballots received by that date will be included in a supplemental filing – and this means that every vote counts!

Congratulations to the neighborhood! Thank you to the Ad Hoc Committee Members and Block Captains. What a great team!



Members of Deed Restriction Ad Hoc Committee celebrate ballot count. L-R Marcella Watkins, Samia Khalil, Christine Manca, Kellie Nwokedi, and Julie Cohn.

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### **2401 Maroneal Blvd.**

The house at 2401 Maroneal has a connection to Dominique de Menil. But first, a brief history of its first years.

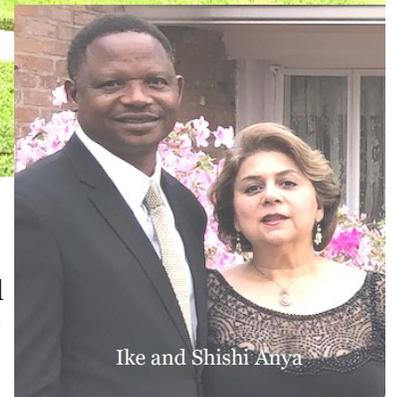
The house began its appearance in the Houston City Directory in 1952 with owners Myrtle and Jake J. Kamm. Jake ran Kamm Furniture Company, located at 719 Capitol Ave. Following the Kamms in 1953 were Bertha M. and Lunn Horton Cockburn. Lunn was an attorney and vice president of Cockburn Oil Corporation, with offices at 1740 Tennessee.

In 1963 the Cockburns sold to Marion S. and Fred A. Rosen. Marion was an attorney who co-founded the firm Rosen and Spears. Fred was president of Drum Services Company Inc., which produced and cleaned industrial steel drums. It had an office at 4000 Blaffer.

Then, in 1969, the house received what would be its most influential resident – Dr. Thompson L. Shannon, who came with his wife Eva. While living there, Dr. Thompson began a 19-year working relationship with Dominique de Menil in a leadership role at Rothko Chapel. In addition, he shaped the future course of the then young Institute of Religion (now, the Institute for Spirituality and Health-Texas Medical Center).

Chronologically, the Institute came first. It was formed in 1955 by a group of clergymen and physicians and has had an evolving mission – training clergy for hospitals, then pioneering the field of medical ethics, and now exploring the connection between spirituality and healing. Dr. Shannon served as president and CEO from 1967 to 1972, only the second person in that office. His early tenure positioned him to choose the Institute's path.

Under his direction the Institute became a full member of the Council of Southwestern Theological Schools. Further, he initiated efforts to establish a degree granting program at the Institute, efforts not fully realized during his tenure but realized now with programs in mind-body healing that lead to MS and PhD degrees in partnership with Saybrook University.



Ike and Shishi Anya

Dr. Shannon introduced medical ethics as an area of focus for the Institute and was instrumental in bringing about one of the world's first major conferences on medical ethics, one that the Institute co-sponsored with Rice University in 1968.

Also during his tenure, the Community Medicine Department at Baylor College of Medicine moved into the Institute's quarters to set up a Learning Resource Center and Baylor's director of the Department of Biochemistry joined the Institute's Board.

Today, the Institute is still affiliated with the Houston Medical Center, and Baylor in particular, and offers an abundance of health related programs to the Houston community. Dr. Shannon's contribution is highlighted in the anniversary publication *United Faith, Medicine and Healthcare, A 60-Year History of The Institute for Spirituality and Health at the Texas Medical Center*, by Cathey Graham Nickell.

Meanwhile, the de Menils envisioned a chapel as the centerpiece of the University of St. Thomas campus. The chapel they envisioned eventually was built as the

*(Continued on Page 3)*

*Your House.....continued from page 2*

Rothko Chapel, but by then the de Menils had broken with St. Thomas, and Rothko Chapel was built on land they privately owned, its current location. When it opened in 1971, it did so as part of Houston's Institute of Religion, which provided the Chapel with 501(c)3 status and with an executive director in the person of Dr. Shannon.



*Standing in front of the Rothko Chapel are, from Left: Dominique de Menil, Rosalynn Carter, President Jimmy Carter, and Dr. Thompson L. Shannon.*

Rothko Chapel became an independent corporation in 1972, ending its dependency on the Institute, but Dr. Shannon remained as executive director until 1990. He served alongside Dominique de Menil, Rothko Chapel's first president, serving in that role until 1997.

In 1974, 2401 Maroneal became home to P. J. Bettendorf. He stayed for about 3 years. Those may have been his only years in Houston given that his name does not appear in the City Directory for the years immediately before or after.

Then in 1977, it was purchased by Mohammed and Rouhieh Ahmadi. Mohammed, by then retired, had been a banker for the National Bank of Iran. Rouhieh focused her energy on raising their 5 children and caring for 7 grandchildren.

Eventually the house was inherited by the Ahmadi's children. It is now occupied by daughter ShiShi Ahmadi Anya and her husband Ike Anya, architects who own Resicom, Inc., a commercial contracting company. Resicom has been recognized twice by the City of Houston for providing opportunities to minority subcontractors. It earned the Small Business Construction Firm of the Year Award in 2010. On February 7, 2019, Mayor Sylvester Turner presented Resicom with the

Construction Contractor of the Year Award – Certified Prime. ("Prime" contractors manage subcontractors on government projects.)

In all, the house at 2401 Maroneal has been home to several outstanding Houston citizens.

*[This is the 56th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]*

**Original Street Markers Vanishing**

When the first house in Old Braeswood (then "Braeswood") was sold in 1929, the City of Houston still installed street signs in the form of small concrete pillars with the street name carved into each side. One by one these signs have disappeared, usually because of damage either by car or new construction. A couple of them remain in our neighborhood. Recently, one fell when hit by a car and it lies on the ground at South Main and Maroneal. Another leans precariously against a modern street sign at Morningside and South Main. They are relics of an earlier time.



**Real Estate Report by Dawn Gervais**

Springtime is here and there is lots of activity in Old Braeswood Real Estate market!

The Houston real estate market registered across-the-board gains in March. Single-family home sales, total property sales, and total dollar volume and pricing were all up compared to March 2018. Month-end pending sales of single-family homes totaled 8,740, a 14.6 percent increase over last year. Total active listings, or the total number of available properties, jumped 17.5% to 41,127 properties across Houston. Home sales are benefiting from some of the lowest interest rates in years according to HAR Chair Shannon Cobb Evans.

*Real Estate Stats for Old Braeswood as of May 1, 2019*

Homes for Sale:	8	Lots: 1
Min. List Price	\$569,000	
Max. List Price	\$2,400,000	
Sale pending	3	
Hms sold past 6 mos.	6	Lots sold: 1
Min. Price	\$550,000	
Max. Price	\$1,870,000	\$1,240,000
Avg price per sf.	\$291.27	\$60.78

*(Based on properties listed on MLS & Houston Assoc. of Realtors)*

## POA Meeting on April 2nd

Many thanks go to Dr. Azam and Monira Kundi for hosting the Spring meeting of the POA in their beautiful home on April 2.

Besides high attendance and a large buffet of food, including some Pakistani dishes prepared by Monira, the evening included several presentations.

City Council Member At-Large Amanda Edwards spoke on a variety of challenges facing the City of Houston and answered questions. Rusty Lanin, Harris County Flood Control Manager updated residents on the widening of Brays Bayou and specifically the replacement of the Greenbriar bridge. SEAL's Lt. McFadden provided crime statistics for our area. While there has been little crime in Old Braeswood, the immediately surrounding area has seen a spike in auto burglaries and in parking lot robberies. Supporting our Patrol contract (SEAL), is a worthwhile investment!

Christine Manca and Kellie Nwokedi reported on the progress of the ballot initiative to delete racial language (moot since 1949 but still offensive) from the deed restrictions. [The Block Captains canvassed the entire neighborhood, and support of the needed 75% of owners has been achieved! Congratulations to everyone!]

## Park Party on April 28th

Old Braeswood had another of its popular Park Parties on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 6 pm. This year we had a huge turn out! Besides pizza and bottled water, and lots of socializing among neighbors, the Houston Zoomobile brought a variety of reptiles for children to meet and touch. There was a turtle, an alligator, an armadillo and a snake! Zoo docents provided information about the animals and a variety of related objects for the children to handle.

Thank you to Krista Heidersbach for organizing the event. She had many helpers all deserving of additional thanks:

Welcoming Table, with a bowl of fruit-for-the-taking from GG Hsieh's garden - Julie Cohn and Kelly Nwokedi.

Refreshment Table, with pizza in outsized boxes that the children used in their play to make "tents" - Dee Murray, Sally Miller.

Book Club Table, with a display of books - Krista, Andrea Lapsley, and Christine Manca.

Garden Club Table, with flowers and calendars - Annette Brown, Janet & Paul Sanders, and GG Hsieh.

Cleanup - Many helpers including Joe Manca.







*Congrats to Dee & Bill Murray, Spring Yard of the Season winners!*

### *Ball Moss Invasion*



Ball moss can be seen clinging to the limbs of live oaks and other trees throughout Old Braeswood. This plant (“moss” is a misnomer) attaches to limbs with pseudo-roots that do not absorb water or nutrients from the tree. It is harmful only when it so heavily populates a limb that the leaves cannot get adequate sunlight. Since ball moss prefers low sunlight and intense humidity, it gravitates to the inner branches, where its presence can make the difference in whether or not those branches get the sunlight they need to survive.

You can rid a tree of ball moss by picking it off, pruning off dead inner branches (where ball moss is most prolific), or spraying the tree with something like Kocide 101 (recommended by Texas A&M). A word of caution about spraying. Any spray effective against ball moss will kill new growth on the tree and is recommended only for the winter months. Also, ball moss killed by a spray will still remain on the tree until it is knocked off by wind or rain. And, of course, living ball moss from a neighbor’s tree can blow over and repopulate your tree.

### *Deed Restriction Reminders*

Garage Sales etc. - This is the season for spring cleaning, and many enjoy participating in garage sales. Just as a reminder - the deed restrictions for Old Braeswood prohibit commercial activity, and this includes sales in our houses, driveways, garages, and yards.

Please look for other ways to donate, recycle, or sell your items!

Short Term Rentals - Short term rentals such as VRBO and AirBnB are not permitted. Recently there has been a home that has been rented to large groups and has been a nuisance for nearby neighbors including noise late at night, heavy parking demand on the street limiting driveway access, cars driving over lawns, trash not put out or put out on wrongs days and improperly, so it isn't collected for weeks at a time. We are only aware of a single instance of this activity in the neighborhood, but if you are aware of this happening on your block, please help remind neighbors that it is not permitted and if the activity does not cease, please make a report to [Enforcement@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:Enforcement@OldBraeswood.com).

## Old Braeswood Book Club

The Old Braeswood Book Club met on April 9<sup>th</sup> with author Cris Candor to discuss her novel *Weight of a Piano*. The mini piano pictured here was chosen by the author to be photographed



Want to join? The May discussion will be on the book *On Writing*, by Stephen King. For details, please contact Krista Heidersbach, [krista\\_rust@yahoo.com](mailto:krista_rust@yahoo.com) or (713) 667-5391.

## OBPOA eNews, Crime Alerts, & Delivery Issues

Sign up to receive breaking news, invitations, and crime alerts by subscribing to our listserve.

To register, send your email address to [info@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:info@OldBraeswood.com) or call 713-807-1787.

Recently we have heard that several neighbors with gmail accounts are no longer receiving our blast messages and alerts. If you are subscribed to Old Braeswood alerts and news with a gmail account, be sure to add [info@OldBraeswood.com](mailto:info@OldBraeswood.com) to your address book. This should allow you to receive messages. If you have not received a message from us in over a month, please contact us and we will try to help resolve the problem.

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

<b>Doug Miller &amp; Jackie Traywick</b>	2423 Glen Haven
<b>Ahmed Ansari</b>	2131 Maroneal (Constr. coming soon)
<b>Dileep &amp; Purnima Rao</b>	2427 Maroneal (New constr. complete)

## Trash & Recycling Schedule

<b>Recycling</b>	Every other Tuesday (B)
<b>Dates</b>	May 14 & 28      July 9 & 23 June 11 & 25      Aug. 6 & 20
<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



Recycling or household garbage should be placed at the curb in the city provided automated bins no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening preceding pick up and no later than 7 a.m. the day of pick up. Remove bins no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Bins left on the street beyond these times are subject to city fines. Please ensure bins are accessible and not blocked by vehicles, etc. For more information visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).

Yard waste must be contained in city approved biodegradable bags and placed at the curb at least 3' from bins. Tie small branches into 3 to 4 foot long bundles.

## 2019 OBPOA Officers & Chairpersons

President	Julie Cohn
Vice Pres.	Joe Manca
Vice Pres.	Kellie Nwokedi
Vice Pres.	Paul Sanders
At-Large	John Eldridge
At-Large	Jean Boisaubin
Treasurer	Bill Marchbank
Secretary	Samia Khalil
Past President	Andrea Lapsley
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Arch. Review	Paul Sanders
Advisory	Dee Murray David Leathers
Block Captains	Christine Manca
Directory	Sally Miller
Enforcement	John Eldridge
Flood Control	Len Teich
Garden Club	Alicia vonGreisman
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
Executive Director	Evalyn Krudy



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ASSOCIATION

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MAY / JUNE 2019

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

*Old Braeswood Bears Celebrate Spring!*

Thank you Christi & David Bowden for keeping us entertained with your delightful bear tableaus.

