VOL. 17, ISSUE 4

Fall 2021



ASSOCIATION

AES IJ

~ 8 ≥

Z W Z

ROPERTY

**OBPOA** PO Box 541346 **Houston TX 77254** OldBraeswood.com 713-807-1787

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you and your families are doing well. Recently, the weather is getting cooler and drier. Many of us are enjoying the outdoors. Currently, our financial status is good, mainly due to decreasing SEAL's weekly hours. Unfortunately, about one-third of our neighbors do not pay either the POA dues or the Patrol subscription. Block Captains will soon reach out to those who have not paid this year to remind them about the need for their support.

There is an increase in the crime rate in our neighborhood and adjacent areas. Armed robbers stole wallets and cell phones from working yard crews in the middle of the day and Several bicycles were stolen from garages and items from unlocked cars. Recently a man tried to break into a house on Glen Haven but fled when the alarm sounded. Some of our neighbors prefer to hire a different patrol company that provides a higher level of service than SEAL. The cost will be higher. The coverage needs to be considered carefully and input from a majority of neighbors is needed. Therefore, I have appointed a security sub-committee, chaired by Dee Murray. Committee members are Julie Cohn, George Hittner, Daniel Parker and Tommy O'Neil. They started their work and are planning to conduct a survey to collect input from all neighbors. When you receive the survey by email later this month, please fill it out and be part of the conversation. We value vour input.

We are happy that the City of Houston approved the repair of the 2400 -2500 blocks of Maroneal St. early next year. They are also evaluating Glen Haven Boulevard's condition for similar repairs.

I thank the Garden Club members for being active and conducting several functions. Recently, they arranged an evening gathering with invited speaker Debora Duncan, at Alicia's garden. On Oct. 19th, there will be a flower show arranged by Maribel Reuter and G.G. Hsieh.

In accordance with the recently enacted state law, Paul Sanders, Chair of the ARC no longer serves on the Executive Committee. I would like to thank Paul Sanders for a well done job during his service on the Executive Committee POA officers for next year will be elected at the annual meeting on November 16 from a slate to be drawn up by our Nominating Committee chaired by Jean Boisaubin. Also on the Committee are Paul Sanders, Ann Garnett, George Hittner, and G.G. Hsieh. If you are interested in serving as an officer or on a committee, please send us a note or call us at 713-807-1787. Please watch your mailbox later this month for the An-

nual Meeting notice.

Best regards,

Samía Khalíl MD, President

OBOPA, President

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Your House Has a History	2-3
House Tour, Cat Squad, Farewell from Susan & Len Teich	3
Garden Club News, Ask Elayne - Neighborhood Gardener	4
Halloween Hauntings	5
Membership and Patrol Participation / Happy Birthday to Rose Pu	6
Reminders, Trash Notes, Cat Squad, Welcome New Neighbors	7
Thanks to our sponsor, Daniel Parker	8



Old Braeswood Annual Meeting November 16,2021 @ 7 p.m.

Save the date for the Annual Meeting. Due to health concerns we will hold the meeting virtually via Zoom on November 16 at 7 pm.

> Please check the website for login information.

### Your House Has a History by Susan Froehly Teich, OBPOA Historian



The house at 2330 Underwood began its history with a name known to any resident of Old Braeswood who has ventured outside The Loop into Memorial. Fondren Road is named for Walter W. Fondren, Sr., a co-founder of the Humble Oil Company. His son, Walter W. Fondren, Jr., and wife Mary were the first owners of 2330 Underwood.

According to architectural historian Stephen Fox, the house was built in 1930. The Fondrens don't appear in the Houston City Directory until 1934. Their architect was Eugene Werlin, who designed Mecom Fountain.

Walter Jr., president of Fondren Oil Co., Inc., lived in the house until 1948, when he and Mary moved to 3619 Knollwood Drive in River Oaks. The Shamrock Hotel, a mecca for Old Braeswood residents, occasionally brought the Fondrens back, and Walter tragically died after choking on some food there in 1961.

The Fondrens sold to Joe R. Steele, president of Merchandise Sales Corporation, a commercial refrigeration and air conditioning distributor, and his wife Hattie Steele.

The next owners were Aileen and Harry Bernard Gordon of the Gordon's Jewelers family. Repeatedly the history of Old Braeswood has revealed that multiple houses were home to members of the same family. The Gordons top

the list with four houses. Meyer Morris Gordon, founder of Gordon's Jewelers, lived at 2329 Gramercy. [See *Old Braeswood Newsletter*, November 2009 edition.] His son Aaron Samuel Gordon and wife Anaruth lived at 2339 Underwood. Meyer's daughter Bertha and husband Isadore L. Miller lived at 2343 Glen Haven. And Harry and Aileen in the Underwood house. All of them were in the family business.

Gordon's Jeweler's was the first jewelry store company listed on the New York Stock Exchange and at one time the second largest retail jewelry chain in the world. In 1989 Zales Corporation bought Gordon's. Then in 2014 Signet Corporation bought Zales. The brand "Gordon's Jewelers" has survived and is widely used.

In 1969 the Gordons sold to Dr. Montague Land and his wife Carol. Dr. Land's 1988 *Houston Chronicle* obituary states that he was the first medical oncologist at Baylor College of Medicine and the first at Methodist Hospital. He was Chief of Baylor's Department of Oncology (1969-1992) and Vice Chair of Pharmacology at Baylor (1969-1995). Carol was an art dealer and interior designer.

Next came architect and developer Walter William Scarborough and wife Marion (1974-1975). After training at Rice and UT-Austin, Walter apprenticed under Frank L.

PAGE 2 FALL 2021 OLD BRAESWOOD NEWS

Wright, then returned to Houston. He was a major player in Houston's development, often appearing in the business section of the *Houston Chronicle*, before Houston's economic downturn in the 1980s.

There followed a general manager for Shell Oil, George Holzman and wife Sara (1975-1981). They sold to Nicholas L. Swyka and wife Shannon (1981-1987). Nicholas was a vice president and partner of Simmons & Company International, an investment bank specializing in the energy industry. Nicholas also served as president of the Houston Ballet Foundation.

From 1987 to 1991, the Underwood house was owned by Paula and James W. Ogg. Jim was the brother of a 16-year Texas legislator, Jack Ogg. That made him the uncle of the current Harris County District Attorney, Kim Ogg. Jim was a principal in MGSI, Securities, Inc. and CEO of The

Westcap Corporation, a growth equity firm.

John Neese, the current owner, took possession as of 1991. John manages a family trust and has carefully preserved both the building, through renovation, and its history, through its deed records.

Although 2330 Underwood is one of Old Braeswood's earliest structures, it is now in one respect very much a part of modern times. John has given it a geothermal heating and cooling sy

geothermal heating and cooling system.

[This is the 67th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

John Neese

## Cat Squad Update

The Cat Squad reports that it has TRN'd (Trapped, Neutered, Returned) 96 kitties, and has fostered another 67 kittens/sweet adult cats from the streets

and gotten them adopted into loving homes since the program began. "None of this would be possible without the tremendously generous support of our neighbors, and the time/love that the volunteers from Old Braeswood and surrounding neighborhoods spend each week on these efforts." A big thank you to each of you! And Old Braeswood's big thank you to the Cat Squad!

Funding for TNRs. Males run \$80 and females \$120, if there are no complications. To donate directly to our account at All Cats, call (713) 664-2287 and ask for Jean. Our account is #1135 under the name of Shari Esquenazi.

Len and I are moving out of Old Braeswood, our home for the last 17 years. During most of those years, I have been Old Braeswood Historian, a POA position that was vacant back in 2004. It has been enormously fun to learn the history of our historically significant neighborhood, one house at a time, and to share my findings with you in the newsletter column *Your House Has a History*.

My first column appeared in the October 2007 issue and the house I described was my own, at 2240 Glen Haven Boulevard. Later, I expanded on that first article to successfully apply for Houston Historic Designation, the first in Old Braeswood.

A house qualifies for Houston Historic Designation if it is 1) a significant example of a particular architectural style, or 2) was the site of a historically significant event, or 3) was the home of a historically significant person. Most of the houses I have written about (67 articles by now) would qualify.

My house qualified largely because it was the child-hood home of a flamboyant Texas legislator known in his time as Mad Dog Mengden. Coincidentally, our new home is a Warwick Towers condo owned initially by another Texas legislator, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. The Bentsens lived there from 1983 to 1998 and left behind Lloyd's desk, which still sits in the study.

Leaving does not mean "goodbye." I am grateful that the Old Braeswood Garden Club allows members to stay even after they move out of the neighborhood. I have a few more columns to write. And we will continue to see friends here. The move takes us only a mile or two away!

While we do not leave behind our friends, we do leave behind some empty slots for others to fill. Please consider serving Old Braeswood in one of these ways:

- 1. 1- Old Braeswood Historian
- 2. 2- Newsletter Editor
- 3. 3- Old Braeswood representative to the Brays Bayou Association (Len's job)
- 4. 4- Block Captain for the 2100-2200 block of Glen Haven
- 5. 5- Custodian of the drainage inlet at Glen Haven and Greenbriar (SE corner)

## Annual House Tour Postponed

The next Old Braeswood Neighbor-to-Neighbor House Tour will not take place until November of 2022. In 2020, several neighbors graciously participated, and we held such a tour on the exterior and gardens only. We are eager to return to house tours on the inside, as well, and the lingering situation of the pandemic suggests that 2021 is not yet an ideal time for that. In the meantime, stay safe, and please continue to enjoy our beautiful neighborhood, and details will be forthcoming in advance of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Tour set for November 2022.

### Garden of the Season

A belated Congratulations (!!!) to Pat and Michael Inselmann at 2510 Bellefontaine for being honored by the Old Braeswood Garden Club. Their yard was designated as the Garden of the Season!



## Ask Elayne by Elayne Kozounis, Old Braeswood Gardener

What you accomplish in the garden in October is very important. Your spring garden depends on what you do this month.

Plants prefer a gradual lowering of temperatures as we ease into the winter months. This gives them time to go through acclimation process or hardening, as they transition from a relatively sensitive state to a hardier one. Houston can often experience dramatic shifts in temperature, sometimes within a matter of hours. If a sudden freeze follows balmy temperatures, this will catch a plant off guard, leaving it easy prey to the weather. The lower the temperature, the longer the exposure, and the faster the temperature drops, the greater the damage to the plant. There are certain year-round gardening practices that can help.

- 1. Deep watering—if deep watering has been practiced routinely, there is less to worry about when a freeze strikes. Deep watering encourages deep root growth, and the depth in turn protects the roots from cold (as well as from heat and
- 2. Mulch—maintaining a 2-inch to 3-inch layer of mulch will protect plants from cold (as well as heat and drought).

drought).

3. Know your garden zones—it is important to think through the placement of coldsensitive plants BEFORE you plant them. Things to consider include:

- Elevation—cold air, like water, settles in low areas
- Soil properties—poor draining soil results in shallower, more susceptible roots
- Canopy cover—plants under tree canopy cover usually go dormant slightly earlier in the fall, making them more prepared for cold extremes



- 4. Location—proximity to buildings, walls, and fences can contribute to keeping plants warmer by creating windbreaks, protecting plants from north winds; westerner and southern exposures tend to be the warmer parts of the garden.
- 5. Avoid Fall Pruning and Fertilizing Severe pruning and fertilizing with high nitrogen fertilizer in the fall encourages new growth, which is then very sensitive to cold damage. Delay pruning until early spring.

#### Garden Club News

The Garden Club has added three "girls only" evening meetings to its Club Year 2021-2022 to accommodate members who have day jobs outside the home. The first was Sunday evening October 3 at Club president Alicia

vonGreisman's home. Guest speaker, television personality Deborah Duncan, spoke on life lessons to over 20 members assembled in Alicia's garden. This was the first inperson meeting of the new Club year.





Top:Deborah Duncan with Alicia vonGreisman Bottom: Three of the many members attending: Kathy Lord, Janice Gregory and Maribel Reuter.



## Thank you, 2021 Members and Patrol Subscribers!

Thanks to our 2021 Patrol subscribers and members. We could not do it without you! It's not too late to subscribe and join for the year. If your name is not listed below, please send in your subscription payment to the address on page 8. This list reflects payments received through October 10, 2021. Subscriptions received between October 11 and

December 31 will be listed in the

#### Patron Level (\$300)

Anonymous
Vanessa & Charles Ames
Nancy T. Beren
Jean & Eugene Boisaubin
Janet Bruner
Patricia & Ian Butler
Julie Cohn & John A. Connor
Eileen Brewer &

Joseph Corriere Jr.
Lisa & Charles Cusack, III
Susan & Paul Danziger
Helen & Tony Davenport
Marina & Giulio Draetta
Annette & John Eldridge
Peggy & Marty Fischer
Carla Giannoni & Bill Marchbank
Kathy B. & Lee P. Gunner
Ms. Edens Houston
G.G. Hsieh
Patricia & Michael Inselmann
Alicia Von Greisman &
Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson Linda Joekel Meredith & Ryan Maierson Deborah McCoy & Robert Keenan Michelina Cairo & Adam Miller Tommy O'Neill & Noah Millsap Melissa Marschall &

Michael Orchard\*
Michael Orchard\*
Mollie & Randy Schaffer
Amanda & John Seaberg
Jordan & Dylan Seff
Rollin Simmons & David Segal
Fred Steves
Anna E. Stool & Linda Prinz
Susan & Leonard Teich
Marcella & Dan Watkins
Cynthia & Mark Wood

#### Sustaining Level (\$200)

Anonymous Sandra & Stephen Barnett Sheryl & Steve P. Barrett Vicki & Robert Birenbaum Courtenay & Richard Butler Fran & Tom Callahan Keiko & Pierre Chevrav Carmen & Patrick Dessauer Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby Fran & Dr. Mike Feltovich Rhonda & Seth Freedman Ann & Joseph Garnett Dawn & Richard Gervais Erin & Brian Goldman Erica & George Hittner\* Kenny Kelley & Joel Arechiga Lynne & Steve King Andrea & Robert Lapsley Christine & Joseph Manca Jim & Erin McDade Teryle & Lyle Morrow Dee& William Murray John W. Neese Matthew Nicklos & Kristin Roshelli Maria Isabel Reuter Janet & Paul Sanders

Barbie & Don Schaffer Wei Shen & Weihua Jiang Laura & Michael L. Slavin Jordana Slawin Lara Dolnik & William Slusser Carrie & Austin Stanton Leslie & Ashwin Viswanathan Mrs. Lyn Weycer

Regular Level (\$150) Anonymous Dr. Tina Melicoff-Portillo & Dr. Roberto Adachi Erez Lieberman & Aviva Presser-Aiden Blake Allan & Shannon Sisco Eva & Paul Allison Kim & Demetrios Anaipakos Tom Anderson Sheryl & Joel Androphy Ann Schutt-Aine & Rubin S. Bashir Don Baur Marian Wilfert Beauchamp & Gary V. Beauchamp Richard Beaver\*

V. Beauchamp
Richard Beaver\*
Blake & Joel Watts
Lisa Mann & Brad Bingham
Ann M. Blackwood
Beryl & Kenneth Bolton
Wendy & Mark Bonnen
Annette & Arthur Bracey
Joanne & Donald Brodsky
Lisa Blume & Robert Burke
Shuo Chen & Chunhua Li
Sharon Coan
Lind Butler & Bill Connolly
Farrah Kheradmand &
David Corry

Anna & Jeff Courville Nancy A. & John R. Curry Biman & Bhagvanti Das Kimberly & Mundo de la Fuente Dorothy Dickey &

Katherine Bordeaux JoAnne & Andy Doyle Ivania Patry & Yann Dufour Jean & Tony Edmondson\* Gary Eknoyan Margo & Peter Elgohary Vicky & Anthony Estrera Arthur Feldman &

Arthur Feldman &
Jeri Amundsen
Diane Tanking & Blanten Filak
Nadia Pervez & Matthew Foster
Angela & Nathan Fowler
Margaret & Tanner Franks
Lisa & Bobby Frederick
Ford Frost\*
Jennifer Finch & Henry Fuselier
Dr. Wheels and Mrs. Lois Garcia
Renee & Gerald Gehm
Helen & Harris Ghozali
Aziz Gilani &
Sania Rahim-Gilani\*

Ann & Berk Glass

June Ferbrache &
Leonard Goldberg
Katie Beth & Adam Gottlieb
Janice L. Gregory
Debbie & Ned Hartline
Karen Lawson & J. Ray Hays
Mary S. Hipp
Lindsey & Jesse Hirsch
Gayle & Scott Hoffer
Christine & Jeff Hollinden
Lindsey & Sharam Honari
Vicki & Curtis Huff
Jessica P. & Brent J. Hwang
Paige Foster &

Paige Foster &
Austin Taylor Jones
Anna & Raghu Kalluri
Harriet & Michael Katzeff
Krista Heidersbach &
Michael Kelly
Molly & Samy Khalil
Drs. Samia & Kamal Khalil
Shahid Khan & Anjum Khan\*
Karen & William Kline\*

Costa Kouzounis
Elayne & Demo Kouzounis
Monira Hamid & Azam K. Kundi
Paige & Houston Lane
Nieves Bonmati Lawrence
Gisette & David Leathers
Barbara & Jacob Leon
Beadie Lewis
Christie & John Lincoln
Zack Liu & Nan Wu
Laurie & Todd Lonergan\*
Martha & Brian Long
Deborah MacFarlane
Linda & Patrick Magill
Adriana & Michael H. Mann\*

Marcella B. & Bryant L. Manning Amy & Ross Markwort Shaunna & Chad Mason Dr. Patrick McNamara & Jose Vazquez Lorie & Howard Merrill Sally E. Miller\* Jackie Traywick & Doug Miller Marc Murr/ Mirad Family Ryan & Breana Moffett Dolores M. & Yezid F. Mora

Marcia & Sam Munroe Jr.

Reka & Sri Neela

Amparo & Bruce Nelson Bonnie & Eric Nelson Joanne Swartz & Randall Newman Irwin & Rochelle Novak Catherine & Chris O'Neill Amanda & Daniel Parker Joanna & Allen Pasternak

John & Esther Pasternak John & Esther Pastore Mary & Benjamin Patton\* Jessica & Ethan Phillips Connie & Bud Pollon Rose Pu\*

Dileep P. & Purnima I. Rao David W. & Lynn C. Rizzo

(\* Member Only-no Patrol)

Christine & David Robins Carmen W. Landrau Adorno & Edwin Rodriguez-Reves Rita & Bal Sareen Rita Saylors & Thorpe Butler\* Emily & Josh Schaffer Susan Takiff Schneider & Stanley Schneider Jeffrey Schneider Phaedra Harbaugh & Boris Sepesi Dorry & Carroll Shaddock Simona & Kenneth Shaitelman Suresh & Shakunthala Shetty \* Rowena Young & Buddy Steves Erin Furr & Chris Stimming Emily & Brent Stoller Laura & Sam Sukkar Leslie Walker & Pheroze Tamboli Carolvn Ben Taub\* Jenn & Sam Tavor Jacob Thomas Michael Thrall Carol S. & James H. Tindall Janet Horn& Don Treat Lisa & Brian Triche Virginia & Bill Tubbs Melissa Butler & Oliver Tuckerman Kathy Sam & Arturo Vasquez Chitra Viswanathan Ellen & Robert Wagnon Suzy & George Wallace Sherri & Garrett Walsh Adam Weigel\* Laura Pang & Bill Wheeler\* Joyce Wilkenfeld Thomas Wille Linda S. Williams Anthanette M. & Chad T. Wilson Ann St. Germain & Tony Wood Angela Wu\* Maureen Glancy & Syed Wamique Yusuf

Anne & Alex Roberts

#### **Patrol Only**

Vasilia & John Wilkes\*

Anonymouse(2) Louise Coretti Eugenia Georges & Robert Etnyre, Jr. Afton & Bradley K. Griffin Tari & Boyd Hoekel Stephen Luna & Flor Maymi Manny & Adrian Melissinos Robin Fredrickson & Jeff Munoz Ginger Cathey & Carlos Ramos Valarie & Jesse Rodriguez Nadia Leibovitz & Kenneth Sapire Mark J. Schnee, MD Lisa & Roy Sheinbaum Sarah & Michael Stauder Pam & John Strasburger Ron & Sheena Stubbers Dee & Ned Thomas Elsa & Carlos Torres-Cabala Jenny Zu & David Wu Bo Yang & Zhuoyi Li Laura Zhang & Chenghang Zong

## Happy Birthday, Rose!

Old Braeswood resident Rose Pu has been giving free Tai Chi lessons every Saturday morning in the carport of her daughter's house at 2322 Maroneal since March 2012.

Tai Chi consists of a series of slow, graceful, weight-bearing movements that form a sequence to be practiced daily. Early forms of Tai Chi were practiced in ancient China and the practice, often described as "meditation in motion," was introduced to this country in 1939.

In September, Rose's Tai Chi class celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday with her. Happy Birthday, Rose!



## Welcome, New Neighbors!

**Kevin Gruber** 2526 Blue Bonnet Blvd.

Hehrdad Fetrat & Sarah Noory 2522Gramercy Blvd.

Mary & Benjamin Patton 2523 Maroneal Blvd.

**David L. Powell** 2342 Maroneal Blvd.

Brian & Lisa Triche 2401 Maroneal Blvd.

## Trash & Recycling Schedule

**Recycling** Every other Tuesday (B)

**Dates** Oct. 12 & 26 Nov. 9 & 23

Dec. 7 & 21 Jan. 11 & 25

Household Trash Tuesdays (in city provided bins)
Yard Waste Tuesdays (in biodegradable bags)

Junk / Tree Limbs 3rd Monday of each month

Junk Waste (+ tree limbs) in Even months

Tree waste only in Odd months

Place household garbage or recycling at the curb in the city-provided automated bins no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening preceding collection and no later than 7 a.m. on the day of pick up. Remove bins from curb no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Bins left on the street beyond these times are subject to city fines. Ensure bins are accessible and not blocked by vehicles. Space bins a minimum of 3 feet apart.

Yard waste must be contained in city-approved biodegradable bags and placed at the curb. Branches must be tied into 3-4 ft bundles.

Visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste for more information.

## 2021 OBPOA Officers & Chairpersons

President Samia Khalil Vice Pres. Ann Garnett Vice Pres. Fred Steves At-Large Jean Boisaubin At-Large John Eldridge Mike Kelly Treasurer Secretary Erica Hittner Past President Julie Cohn \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Arch. Review **Paul Sanders** Advisory Dee Murray David Leathers **Block Captains** Christine Manca Hospitality & Sally Miller Directory Enforcement John Eldridge Flood Control Len Teich Garden Club Alicia vonGreisman Newsletter Susan Teich Evalyn Krudy Annette Eldridge Park Preservation Joe Manca Patrol Dee Murray **Social Events** Krista Heidersbach Trees **Paul Sanders University Place** Andrea Lapsley Welcome Maribel Reuter **Executive Director** Evalyn Krudy

## Sign Up for Old Braeswood eNews & Crime Alerts

& Manager

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

Send your email address to info@OldBraeswood.com



## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 541346 Houston, TX 77254-1346 Phone: 713-807-1787 Email: info@OldBraeswood.com www.0dBraeswood.com

FALL 2021 Volume 17, Issue 4

#### Thanks to our sponsor and your neighbor, Daniel Parker!





## Daniel Parker

Your Neighbor and Old Braeswood Resident

713-443-7265

PARKER@NEWLEAFRE.COM

# A Tailored Approach to Real Estate

Delivering a High Level of Service while saving you money *Give me a call today!* 

"New Leaf Real Estate is one of Houston's fastest growing residential brokerages. I always provide full professional service, expertise, and provide more flexibility to add greater value."

3100 RICHMOND DR, SUITE 500 | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098 www.NewLeafRE.com