

VOL 13, ISSUE 6

Nov. 2017



Old Braeswood's 2017 Annual Meeting

2115 Glen Haven Blvd.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017



Please join us for the annual election, fun and refreshments. Social time and check in will begin at 7 p.m. Tours of the beautifully restored home of the Sarens (former Hobby Mansion) will be held before and after the business meeting, which will be called to order at approximately 7:20 p.m.) The official Meeting Notice, with Proxy and Absentee Ballot, was mailed to all member households in late October. Visit www.OldBraeswood.com for forms and meeting information.

The slate of officers up for election to the Executive Committee of the POA will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. Those elected will serve for the year 2018. Nominations were open to the neighborhood, as was announced. The following slate, in the absence of other nominations, was composed by the Nominating Committee of the POA Board (Susan Teich, chair, John Eldridge, Joe Manca, Dee Murray and Julie Cohn).

The Nominating Committee and the full Board take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank two retiring members of the Executive Committee, David Leathers and Courtney Steves. Both have given many hours of their time and provided valuable input based on their expertise and knowledge of the neighborhood. President Andrea Lapsley has asked them to join the recently formed Advisory Board, whose purpose is to provide focus and non-binding strategic advice to the Board. It is a venue for retaining the counsel of valued former Board members. David will be joining the Advisory Board. Courtney will be focusing on other commitments instead.

The Old Braeswood by-laws limit the size of the Executive Committee (EC) to nine members. Rotating experienced and valuable EC members to the Advisory Board allows the EC to welcome residents who have not served previously and thus to broaden the base of residents actively involved in the life of our neighborhood. We are pleased to present the Executive Committee slate for the 2017-18 term:

<i>President:</i>	Andrea Lapsley
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	Julie Cohn
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	Joe Manca
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	Buddy Steves
<i>At-Large #1:</i>	John Eldridge
<i>At-Large #2:</i>	Kellie Nwokedi
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bill Marchbank
<i>Secretary:</i>	Samia Khalil
<i>Past Pres.</i>	Susan Teich

In this issue

Your House Has a History	2
Home Tour: Nov. 12	3
Night Out Event Recap	4
Real Estate Report	5
Book Club Trip to England	5
Scary Halloween Decor	6
Recycling Resumes Nov.14	7
Leipziger Hosts Needed	8
Congrats Miss TX, Miss America	8

The house at 2329 Blue Bonnet was designed by architect Carl A. Mulvey for Braeswood Corporation and built in 1928. Mulvey designed many other early houses in the neighborhood including 2215 Glen Haven, 2234 Glenn Haven, 2318 Glen Haven, 1922 Braeswood Blvd., and 2309 Blue Bonnet. He is best known for joining architect William Ward Watkin in drawing up plans for restoration of Christ Church Cathedral after its devastating 1938 fire.

Rice University's architectural historian Stephen Fox devoted four pages (p. 15-18) to the 2329 Blue Bonnet house in his book *Braeswood, an Architectural History*, published by the Old Braeswood Civic Club in 1988. Fox notes that houses such as this one, located on the south side of the street, "were more prized and therefore the more expensive, because they allowed the major living rooms and bedrooms of a house to be turned toward the rear, south-facing garden rather than toward the street." Rooms facing south caught the prevailing southeast breezes, critical in a southern city without air conditioning.

The first owners were Leon E. and Ada Delcuze., who first appeared in the City of Houston Directory in the year the house was built and stayed 23 years. The Directory lists Leon as Vice President of Gulf Oil Company's Production Division and Vice President of Gulf Refining Company's Pipe Line Division. A maid, Margaret Smith, lived in the garage apartment.

The next owners were Albert and Gloria Friedman. Albert co-founded Southern Sales Co. in 1946 with its first store at 2001 Capitol near Chartres, selling military surplus and sporting equipment. He expanded to five stores and sold the company in 1962. That owner expanded again and sold the chain of stores in 1973. The new owner, Max Gochman of San Antonio, gave the company a new name, one we all know - "Academy Sports and Outdoors." Albert did not retire after the 1962 sale. He is listed later in the City Directory with Insurance Claims Liquidating Company and even later with A&F Trading Company, a general merchandise company. His specific relationship to either company is not given.

In 1975 the house became home to Kathy and Tom Lord, who moved here from Southgate to find more room

for their growing family. The Blue Bonnet house was two-story and had 3 bedrooms plus a sleeping porch, enough space to accommodate five-year-old Stacey and three-year-old twins Clark and Forrester.

Kathy describes the Old Braeswood of that time as "a hidden neighborhood." Within a few years other young families moved in and the number of children playing outside became visibly greater. During her 42 years in Old Braeswood, Kathy served as president of the Civic Club and was a major mover in getting the "Triangle" designated as a City of Houston Park, helping Stephen Fox develop his history of the neighborhood for publication, and advancing the successful effort to convert the Civic Club into a Property Owners Association. Kathy remembers that in the early days "the Civic Club was for men and the Garden Club was for women." Only half of that observation is still true.

Both men and women now turn out for POA events but Garden Club members are women.

Recently Kathy retired as Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association. Before that she served as Executive Director of Trees for Houston. And before that she owned and operated a catering company, Traveling Skillet, and published its best recipes in a cookbook, *Out of the Frying Pan*. Profits from the cookbook went to M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Tom Lord founded non-profit Houston Housing Development Corporation (now Housing Corporation of Greater Houston) in 1968. During his 45 years at the helm it assisted directly in the construction and rehabilitation of over 8,000 homes for low income Houstonians. Currently, Tom is an adjunct professor in the Rice University School of Architecture.

Both Kathy and Tom are ready to downsize and 2329 Blue Bonnet is currently on the market. It awaits another family looking for more bedrooms and those prevailing southeast breezes.

[This is the 49th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]



Old Braeswood Home Tour: November 12

Save the Date for the Old Braeswood Home Tour sponsored by the Preservation Committee: Sunday, November 12, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Following the success of the Candlelight Tour of Old Braeswood sponsored by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Houston Mod, OBPOA's Preservation Committee is organizing an annual tour of homes in our historic neighborhood.

This November, Preservation Committee members will open their doors for visits by Old Braeswood neighbors and their guests who accompany them. The tours will be free of charge, and will not be advertised outside the neighborhood. The purpose of the tours will be for Old Braeswood residents to get to know each other and to visit different homes in our neighborhood.

Homes opened for the tour will be:

- a) 2311 Blue Bonnet, home of Dawn & Richard Gervais
- b) 2318 Blue Bonnet, home of Christine & Joe Manca
- c) 2430 Glen Haven, home of Andrea & Robert Lapsley
- d) 2240 Glen Haven, home of Susan and Len Teich
- e) 2402 Maroneal, home of Dee and Bill Murray



Night Out Event on October 3 draws a congenial crowd

Old Braeswood celebrated Night Out on Tuesday, October 3 from 6–8 p.m. in Old Braeswood Park. This fun annual gathering was attended by dozens of neighbors who enjoyed ice cream. The evening was organized by Krista Heidersbach & Michael Kelly, and GG Hsieh and Mark Hausknecht. Special thanks also to Sally Miller and Dawn Gervais for helping with the party. Additional thanks to Dawn Gervais with *Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty*, for sponsoring the event.





Old Braeswood Book Club Tour of England, October 2017

Neighborhood Book Club Tours England: October 1-13

What do you get when you have 17 female friends, neighbors and family traveling on a book club tour of England? A busload of fun! The idea was hatched over a year ago at a neighborhood book club meeting in which the main character of the book *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* journeys through England.

Kath Cairns, who lived in Old Braeswood before recently returning to her native England, did most of the logistic work in close conjunction with her good friend **Annette Brown** of Maroneal Blvd. Others on the trip included the four Pollard sisters of whom **Courtney Steves** is an Old Braeswood resident, along with other Old Braeswood residents **Sara Fendia, Pat Inselmann, G.G. Hsieh** and **Rose Pu (GG's mother)**. Annette brought her 2 nieces along with 3 other friends; Pat's daughter Hannah accompanied her; Kath brought another British friend. Highlights of the "Book Babe" tour beginning and ending in Kath's hometown of Newcastle included:

- Alnich Castle of Harry Potter fame along with its "poison garden" of toxic plants
- Berwick, the destination of book character Harold Fry
- Whitby, setting of Dracula tales, and Robin Hoods Bay—both are picturesque seaside towns
- Harrogate, a vacation spa town where Agatha Christie went missing in 1926
- Haworth the town where the Brontes made their family home, now a museum
- Cotswolds --the location of beautiful English gardens
- Stratford-Upon-Avon of Shakespeare fame
- London: 3 days of unstructured time to explore
- Chawton: Jane Austen museum and home
- Winchester Cathedral, Jane Austen's burial place
- The Lake District around Windemere, where Beatrix Potter lived, and
- William Wordsworth's Dove Cottage in the Lake District

Everyone had a fabulous time. The weather even cooperated for the most part. Bus bingo, knitting and reading were offset by evening pub visits by the more adventuresome. Thank you so much, Annette and Kath. Speaking for the other 15 of us, we're ready to do this every year!

G.G. Hsieh

Old Braeswood Real Estate Report

By Dawn Gervais, Realtor® Consultant * Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty

Hurricane Harvey dealt a heavy blow to Houston real estate market and the effects may not be realized for weeks to come. There were a few homes in Old Braeswood that suffered damage from this historic storm but overall we came through undamaged. Pending sales for single-family homes is down compared to last year but total number of active properties increased. Across the board sales for properties priced from \$500,000 to \$749,999.00 decreased 31.9 percent. For homes priced \$750,000 and above decreased 17.2 percent. Homes that made it through Harvey without flooding are in high demand.

Old Braeswood Real Estate Summary: Late October 2017

Total Number of Homes sold from 1/1/17	6
Minimum Sold Price	\$580,000
Maximum Sold Price	\$1,762,500
Homes sold on average at 95% of list price	
Average sold price per Sq.Ft.	\$335.54
Total number of Homes Active on market	8
Minimum List Price	\$799,000
Maximum sales Price	\$1,959,000

* all statistics based on properties listed on MLS and Houston Association of Realtors

** two homes in Devon Estates, one lot value only

Halloween in Old Braeswood gets scary!



Garden Club Calendar

Tuesday, November 28, for a presentation on probiotics and a backyard garden tour at the home of member GG Hsieh.

Sunday, December 10, the annual Holiday Party including dinner. Spouses/partners are included.

To join the fun and for further information contact one of these officers:

GG Hsieh (gghsieh@gmail.com, 713-660-9520)

Nancy Eisenmenger (nancyeisenmenger@gmail.com, 412-427-4644)

Annette Brown (netteyduplechain@yahoo.com, 713-545-3126)

Book Club Calendar

Tuesday, November 14, discussion of *Caine Mutiny* by Herman Wouk

Tuesday, December 12, Holiday Party

To join or learn more, please contact an officer:

Krista Heidersbach
(krista_rust@yahoo.com
713-667-5391)

Annette Brown
(netteyduplechain@yahoo.com,
713-545-3126)



Recycling & Trash Collection Updates

The City of Houston has announced that after a 2-and-a-half-month suspension due to Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) will resume its curbside recycling collection schedule starting Monday, November 13, 2017. Old Braeswood follows the Tuesday B schedule. **The first collection date for OBPOA will be 11/14/17.**

As curbside recycling collection reboots, customers are encouraged to place only the following items in their green recycling carts: paper, cardboard, clean food cartons, plastic containers #1-5 and #7, aluminum cans and bimetal cans. A detailed list of accepted items can be found at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste. Customers are also reminded that glass is not accepted in the curbside containers, but can be recycled at all City recycling drop-off locations. The recycling link previously mentioned lists those locations and has them mapped.

Here are a few other reminders to remember after our recycling hiatus:

- No Hurricane Harvey Debris should be in the recycling cart. While we recognize that many customers used their carts to haul demolition material to the curb immediately after Harvey, material of that type is not recyclable and is considered trash.
- Recycling should be loose and not bagged in the cart. Loose material speeds the processing line and ensures that contamination is kept at a minimum.
- Glass is not accepted at this time and should be taken to a convenient drop-off site.
- Junk Waste and Yard Waste services remain suspended until further notice. Those crews continue to work on Hurricane Harvey debris removal.
- All city drop-off locations continue to work on a 7 day schedule until further notice. These sites include the Neighborhood Depositories, Westpark Recycling Center and the Environmental Service Center. Remember to check with 3-1-1 or the department's webpage for operating hours. The Recycling Collection Schedule is found here: http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/Recycle_Cal.pdf



Nov. 7th Election Info

Voting will be held at the "Residence Garage" at 2347 Underwood" on Tuesday, November 7 from 7 am—7 p..

Sample ballots are online at www.harrisvotes.com.

To vote, you will need to show your approved form of photo identification. **Here is a list of the acceptable forms of photo ID:**

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- TX personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport



PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Congratulations Miss Texas, and 4th place runner up Miss America, Margana Wood!



Did you know that the shining star at the Miss America pageant this year was Old Braeswood's very own Margana Wood? The extremely talented communications major graduated from Lamar HS and from UT Austin. She plans to pursue a masters degree in corporate communications. Margana and her family have lived in Old Braeswood since 2004.

We are so proud of you, Margana!

Host a Leipziger in February 2018

A previous newsletter announced the February 2018 visit to Houston of residents from our Sister City of Leipzig but neglected to include contact information for offering to be a host family! If you are interested in joining this cultural exchange by hosting a Leipzig individual or couple during the week of February 10-18, please contact Susan Teich at [steich1\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:steich1(at)comcast.net) or 713-839-7234.

Host duties consist of providing housing and breakfast.



The Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association provides a daily program for the visitors. Hosts are invited to some of the events planned for the visitors. Attendance by hosts is not required but is very fun! OB is ideal for hosting the visitors because the program of activities for them departs daily from Christ the King Lutheran Church at Greenbriar and Rice Blvd. in the Rice Village.