2016 Spring Home & Garden Tour

This year’s Spring Home & Garden Tour, which will take place on April 2-3, will be a celebration of old and new homes with the theme of Harmony: Blending Past & Present.

- One of the oldest homes in Houston Heights that is an icon of the neighborhood
- A restored Asian bungalow with garden apartment
- Another bungalow sensitively restored and expanded
- Three new construction homes in Craftsman, farmhouse, and modern styles

[See article on page 5 for home photos and information.]

The Tour will be preceded by the Candlelight Dinner & Auction. That’s being planned for Friday, April 1 at Silver Street Studios, 2000 Edwards Street in the Houston Arts District. It will be the perfect opportunity to step out for a fun evening with your friends and neighbors. Please see the accompanying article [page 3] for details about the dinner.

Tickets to the Candlelight Dinner and the Spring Home & Garden Tour are available online at stores.houstonheightsstore.org/events/ and at three Heights-area locations: Buchanan’s Native Plants, 611 E. 11th; Jubilee, 325 W. 19th; Joshua’s Native Plants & Garden Antiques, 502 W. 18th.

On Saturday and Sunday, accommodations will be made for tour-goers who choose to ride their bicycles from house to house. Bicycle racks will be available at each home, and a “bicycle valet” will be on hand to assist with parking and securing bikes while the home is being toured.

...continues on page 2
Enjoy surprise musical performances while you enjoy Italian ices, frozen custard, and cookie treats from Rita’s on White Oak and wine and sodas courtesy of the Houston Heights Association.

Learn about your neighborhood at the HHA welcome table. Everyone is invited!

Coming up on April 11: “Hidden Treasures in the Heights” [See page 4.]
Candlelight Dinner & Auction

The home tour weekend festivities begin on Friday, April 1, with the Candlelight Dinner and Auction. Ticket holders can enjoy an exclusive preview of the six beautiful homes on this year’s Spring Home & Garden Tour from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Home Tour co-chairs Kathleen Williamson and Ashley Day say, “This year’s homes are a mixture of old and new, traditional and modern, reflecting the theme Harmony: Blending Past & Present.” If ticket holders do not complete their tour of the homes on Friday evening, their tickets are also valid on Saturday and Sunday, April 2–3, from noon to 6:00 PM each day.

Next on Friday evening is the Candlelight Dinner & Auction, held again this year in the Silver Street Studios. Co-chairing the dinner portion of the evening are Heather Williams, Laura Parkan, and Stacie Cokinos. “We invite guests to step back into the past, to the days of black and white. However, as it is April 1, there may be some surprises in store!”, Heather reports. Massoud Catering will provide delectable passed hors d’oeuvres, a delicious buffet dinner, and a sweet selection of yummy desserts. Also on the menu are a tantalizing specialty drink with ingredients provided by Heights Liquor on 11th and brew provided by St. Arnold’s Brewing Company. Each guest will also receive a gift provided by Eclectic Home.

Janet Buchheit is chairing the silent auction. [Please see her article at right for details.] To make a donation to the silent auction, call the Houston Heights Association at 713-861-4002 (option 5) or e-mail auction@houstonheights.org.

Chairing the live auction is Bill Baldwin, who has been gathering art and other goodies for the always-exciting live auction. The centerpiece of the event will be a spectacular outdoor sculpture by Houston artist Kelley Devine. This exciting piece is currently on display in the 1200 block of Heights Boulevard as part of “Trail of Art,” the third installment of the public sculpture exhibit project on the esplanade. After December, it becomes part of the lucky high bidder’s personal collection.

Silent Auction News

Members of the Silent Auction Committee have been meeting to discuss new ideas for the Silent Auction part of the Candlelight Dinner & Auction being held on Friday, April 1. Doors to the dinner and auction will open at 7:00 PM, and guests who have purchased a ticket to the Candlelight Dinner are invited to browse and bid on a variety of items that include art, food & entertainment, pet and home & garden packages, sports & wellness packages and spa & beauty packages. The Committee is putting together prestigious packages that include parties and progressive dinners. We may even have a dessert of the month package for you to bid on.

If you have an idea for an auction item or would like to make a donation, don’t hesitate to contact us at 713-861-4002 (option 5) or contact Janet Buchheit at 832-606-9471. We are always looking for volunteers to join our committee. We not only need volunteers to visit businesses to obtain donations, we also will need volunteers to set up for the event.

Spring Home Tour from page 1

Everyone should stop first at the Fire Station to purchase or pick up tickets for the tour. (Tickets will not be available at the individual homes, and single home tickets will not be available.) Those choosing not to ride bikes can pick up the tour shuttle at the Fire Station. The shuttle will stop at each home on the tour and will run continuously throughout the tour hours.

If you’d like to volunteer for the home and garden tour, email volunteer@houstonheights.org.
April Monthly Meeting & Happy Hour

Monday April 11: Hidden Treasures in the Heights

Discover Heights hidden treasures at the monthly Monday Mixer and Meeting at the historic Houston Heights Fire Station. Meet program speakers during the Happy Hour Mixer over refreshments with your neighbors and friends.

The Heights is filled with unique resources to enrich your life in our marvelous neighborhood. Some of them will be joining us in April, including representatives of the Houston Community ToolBank and Historic Houston.

Learn about your Heights Association activities and parks at the welcome table. The meeting is open to all - everyone is invited!

Houston Community ToolBank (houstontoolbank.org)

Equipping helping hands with the tools to make a difference. The Houston Community ToolBank is a nonprofit tool lending program serving other nonprofits by putting high-quality tools in the hands of the volunteers who are painting schools, repairing seniors' roofs, landscaping public spaces, and more – guaranteeing that every volunteer is equipped with the tools they need to get the job done.

For three pennies on the dollar, the Houston Community ToolBank provides fast and easy access to large volumes of high-quality tools to increase the impact of service projects and community revitalization efforts.

Historic Houston (historichouston.org/salvage-warehouse.html)

Meet Lynn Edmundson, Executive Director of Historic Houston, Library, and Salvage Warehouse.

Historic Houston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to conserving and preserving Houston’s historic architecture and architectural resources through scholarly research, education, and advocacy of sustainable design.

Looking for information about your Houston neighborhood? Want to peruse a back issue of Architectural Digest or This Old House Magazine? Need to thumb through books for ideas on remodeling or incorporating salvaged materials into your home? Come visit the Catherine Cage Bruns Resource Library located inside the Historic Houston offices. The Resource Library provides information on local and regional architecture as well as information about Houston’s neighborhoods and various resources on remodeling and renovating older buildings.

All of the material at Historic Houston’s Salvage Warehouse has been reclaimed from historic houses that Historic Houston has deconstructed, as well as individual items that have been brought to the Salvage Warehouse.

Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer for any of the opportunities listed below, please contact volunteer@houstonheights.org.

Volunteers are needed in many positions for the Spring Home & Garden Tour and the Candlelight Dinner & Auction. Volunteers receive a free ticket to the Home Tour and have lots of fun!

- Docents are needed for homes, shuttles, and bicycles. Work a three-hour shift either 12:00–3:00 PM or 3:00–6:00 PM on Saturday, April 2 or Sunday, April 3.
- The Silent Auction Committee needs volunteers now to gather donations and also for set up and take down March 31 - April 2.
- The Candlelight Dinner needs volunteers to check in guests Friday evening, April 1.
- Ticket sellers are needed at the Fire Station on April 2 and 3; 11:30–2:30 PM or 2:30–5:30 PM.
Spring Home & Garden Tour — Home Information

Scheffler Home — 1127 Arlington Street

Having previously lived in a 1920’s bungalow that they loved, Michelle & Aaron Scheffler strived to achieve a “patina” in constructing their new farmhouse-style home. The front elevation showcases divided-light windows, a custom front door, and a standing-seam metal roof. Michelle and Aaron took a hands-on approach throughout the building and design process, choosing mixed metals in the kitchen, bold wallpapering, and a traditional, monochromatic exterior paint color inspired by a couple of their favorite Heights homes.

In keeping with the spirit of an older home, the Schefflers wanted clearly defined spaces, which they achieved while still accommodating the modern lifestyle of their young family. The home is refined and beautiful, filled with interesting art and traditional furnishings which provide warmth and old-world charm. The homeowners take great joy in tending to the gardens surrounding the home, which are filled with Southern staples like gardenias and camellias.

Head Docents: Jan Clark & Amanda Connors  
Florals: Darlene’s Flower and Gift Shop  
Photography: Benjamin Hill

Mehta Home — 726 East 7 1/2 Street

Homeowners Sapna and Anu Mehta wanted to build a home that fit in the Craftsman style of the neighborhood with an interior design that suited their personal modern style. Extensive travel and family roots in India, East Africa, and now Texas truly make this new Craftsman style home reflect the past.

After living in apartments in New York City, they deem it luxurious to have space to enjoy their meaningful art and mementos from travel. Sapna and Anu also maintain a keen sense of responsible sourcing and were as “green” as possible in choosing materials for the construction such as utilizing reclaimed Texas wood, New Living VOC-free paint and stain, and environmentally sustainable Caesarstone countertops.

Head Docent: Mary Wassef  
Florals: Bramble and Bee  
Photography: TK Images
Spring Home & Garden Tour — Home Information continued

Truxillo Home — 1802 Harvard Street

This country Victorian with its dominant tower is the only “spec house” built by the Omaha and South Texas Land Company, the original developers of Houston Heights. The architectural designs came from the then-innovative George Barber House Plans Catalogue and combine the Queen Anne and Stick styles. Surviving Barber houses can be found throughout the country, but this is one of only two in Houston.

In 1974 Bart Truxillo purchased the house and started its restoration. It features its original floor plan, a converted basement living space, library tower, an added green house, pool and deck, garden maze, and koi pond. This Houston Landmark is in the protected Houston Heights East Historic District and is recorded on the National Register of Historic Places and the ASID Significant Interiors Survey.

Head Docents: Laura Thorp & Mary Ellis
Florals: Killion’s Milam Florist
Photography: TK Images

Ryan Home — 2032 Cortlandt Street

Having lived in West Houston for 25 years, Mickey and Nicolle Ryan had no idea how much the Heights had to offer until they purchased this dilapidated bungalow in a foreclosure sale as an investment property. During their initial renovation, they fell in love with the chickens next door and nearby restaurants, parks, and shopping.

Ultimately, they decided to renovate the bungalow for themselves and never looked back. The smart remodel maintains the “Heightsy” bungalow appeal with historical aspects and charm but provides them the modern-day conveniences they desired. The home is truly as charming as its homeowners.

Head Docent: Leann Mueller
Florals: Heights Floral Shop
Photography: TK Images
Alexandre/Clarry Home — 2200 Harvard Street

It’s no surprise that Pierre Alexandre and Sean Clarry fell in love with this amazing house from afar, while living in Amsterdam, as the home is an entertainer’s dream. Pierre, who has 18 years of international experience in musical theater, often hosts events using the home’s natural stage.

The contemporary home features a pink meditation room with a secret entryway to the guest “Winter Bedroom.” Brazilian cherry oak floors, four wood-burning fireplaces, and iridescent lighting will wow. Architecturally, the bold rooftop steeple harmonizes this contemporary masterpiece with many Houston Heights Victorian homes. This stunning home is complemented by its luscious garden. It’s a show-stopper!

Head Docents: Anne Rodgers & Anne Sauber
Florals: Flower Vibes
Photography: TK Images

Smith Home — 1511 Tulane Street

This modest Asian bungalow was built in 1910 and acquired by Zeke and Kate Smith in 2014. These native Houstonians had lived in a historic area of Washington D.C. from 2010 to 2013. When they moved back to Houston, they looked for a similar neighborhood to put down roots. Houston Heights stole their hearts immediately; its sense of history and community, proximity to downtown, access to running/biking trails, and walkability to neighborhood attractions fit their needs precisely.

While the exterior of the home had been recently renovated and landscaped, the interior needed attention. The homeowners renovated the kitchen, updated the guest bath, replaced some rotted subflooring and installed bamboo floors throughout the home to replace a hodgepodge of different flooring. Many of the furnishings and decorations are Balinese-inspired to honor the home’s Asian architecture. They have made this small house into a cozy home for themselves and their infant son.

Head Docents: Hannah White & Bill White
Florals: Jana’s Flowers
Photography: Mark R. Williamson
Spring Home & Garden Tour — Tour Headquarters

Houston Heights Fire Station — 107 West 12th Street

The historic Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station is the Spring Home & Garden Tour headquarters. Enjoy touring the wonderful Heights showplace as you wait to board your shuttle, included with your ticket, on your way to see six beautiful homes. Tour headquarters will open one hour before the tour begins.

This 7,000 square foot building, built in 1914, served as the City of Houston Heights city hall, mayor’s office, tax office, jail, and fire station. After the City of Houston annexed Houston Heights in 1918, the building was operated as a Houston Fire Department station until 1995. Now owned by HHA, this important link to our past is now as much a part of our community as ever.

Shuttle rides are included with the ticket. Parking is limited near and around homes, so please park at or near the Fire Station and ride the shuttle. Shuttle buses are located at tour headquarters, the Fire Station.

Heights Garden Club Updates

We asked a year ago to see this garden, and this spring is the perfect time to see it.

Biel Home Garden Tour — 1707 Rutland St. — March 12, 10:00 AM

As described by the homeowner: “My fifth generation Texas family had a home where I grew up that was one that impressed the importance of a garden view, and even had an attached outside ‘green room’ full of plants. I think that was the start of my love for gardens. It was in my blood. I love the French and English gardens, but it is the strong and hardy native Texas plants, bulbs and succulents that fill my garden and I even mix in a few tropicals. This garden is for sitting and reflecting and will reveal its secrets in small niches and hidden beds. The gate will be open and you are welcome.”

Please join us to tour this wonderful garden.

St. Patrick’s Day Plant and Seed Swap — March 17 at 7:00 pm — Heights Fire Station at 12th and Yale.

It’s the giving of the green — plants that is! You may remember in the past we had our Plant & Seed Swap in August. August being so HOT, we thought March would be perfect. It is so much more conducive to planting, don’t you agree? So please join us! Start dividing your plants now and collecting those seeds.

Since the 17th is St. Patrick’s Day, we thought it would be fun to combine it with our swap. If you have no plants or seeds to bring, you can still join us (and wear a little green!) for refreshments, door prizes, and socializing with fellow gardeners.

For more information on the Heights Garden Club please check out our website: www.heightsgardenclub.com and our Facebook page.
Breaking News: Awards Given February 28

The following awards were presented at the 42nd Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner on February 28. We expect to have more details in our April issue.

- Citizen of the Year — Donna Buchanan
- Corporate Citizen of the Year — Heights Liquor on 11th
- Marcella Perry Award — Carol Welter
- Rising Star Award — Marianne & Kenny Terrell
- President’s Award — Anne Sloan

Community Improvement Awards
- Residential Renovation — 544 Harvard
- Residential New Construction — 917 Columbia
- Commercial Renovation — 350 W. 19th
- Commercial New Construction — 2233 Yale
- Special Recognition for Revitalization — Light Hill Partners

Temporary Power Poles On Lower Heights

Because the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has let a contract to demolish the Yale Street bridge over White Oak Bayou just south of I-10 and build a replacement, CenterPoint Energy must reroute some existing underground electric lines, which are located under the bridge and deliver power in that area. This effort will have three phases.

As a temporary measure, CenterPoint will install overhead power lines on Heights Boulevard south from the I-10 frontage road to Koehler Street and westward on Koehler to Yale, requiring six poles on Heights, seven poles on Koehler and two poles on Yale, and additional overhead power lines on the existing poles on Yale Street from 5th Street to Koehler Street. CenterPoint is installing poles that are taller than standard height to avoid impacting existing trees and vegetation.

Meanwhile, CenterPoint will reconfigure its underground electric distribution system to cross the bayou at another point.

Once the bridge and electric service reconfiguration is complete, all of the temporary overhead lines will be removed, and electric service will return to being provided through underground power lines. CenterPoint anticipates this construction will start this month and take about nine months.

Murals On The Former Post Office

Many of you will have noticed the mural that appeared recently on the Yale side of the former post office on 11th Street. Did you know that there will soon be another on the opposite side?

The new owner of the building, MFT Interests, has invited local art teacher Kati Ozanic-Lemberger and her team of art students from Hogg Middle School to put their talents and paintbrushes to good use. The March 10 project gives Ms. Ozanic-Lemberger and her art students a chance to beautify the building by painting a sizeable mural on the east side of the structure, viewable from Heights Boulevard. The building is expected to be demolished later this year when the site is redeveloped.

MFT Interests has a long-standing commitment to letting the community shape development, as opposed to development shaping the community. MFT President, Lisa Simon, says “Bringing the Heights together for the common good is our first priority. What a unique and fun way for a teacher and group of students at Hogg Middle School to offer their talents!”
Donations

Our thanks to these donors for their generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association.
Jacquelyn Barish – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
Mike Ball & Gary Rodriguez – Donovan Playground, Flower Gardens
Carlos Bechara & Marwa Shammas – Donovan Playground
Matt Bedingfield – Boulevard
Amanda Bullard – Flower Gardens
Robert Burress & Tom Seymour – Boulevard
John Caffey & Teran Smith – Donovan Playground
Lynn Duncan
Dana Camp-Farber & Harold Farber – Parks
ExxonMobil Foundation Matching Gift Program – Boulevard for volunteer Jim Bennett
Matthew Faucher & Thomas Thomma – Fire Station Restoration
Patricia & Jack Fu – Flower Gardens
Jen & Richard Garfield – Donovan Playground
Marybeth & Matt Gebauer – Donovan Playground, Flower Gardens, Boulevard
Judd & Beth Harrison – Boulevard, Flower Gardens
Heights Tai Chi Association – Parks, Boulevard
Cheryl Hensley – Boulevard
Maurice & Cynthia Jett – Boulevard
Georgina Lavallee
Joseph & Rebecca Leahy – Flower Gardens
Bill Lehnert & Walter Stowell – Fire Station Restoration in Memory of Doug Grissom
Mike Lothringer & Shannon Morrison – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
Sameera & Ashish Mahendru – Donovan Playground, Flower Gardens
Gary & Holly Martinez – Parks & Boulevard
Patty & Adrian McGrail – Flower Gardens
Dennis & Ashley McQueen – Boulevard
E. Drew Mehlhaff – Parks
Michael & Sheryl McKinnon – Donovan Playground
Suzy Morton & Dell Toelkes – Parks, Boulevard Flower Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
David & Alice Pita – Parks
Linda Poyser & Mike Maler – Flower Gardens
David & Lynn Rizzo
Shane & Susan Schlemeyer – Boulevard
Charlie & Anne Smith – Flower Gardens
Rives Taylor & Lori Coonan – Fire Station Restoration

New Members

Please welcome these members to the Houston Heights Association.
Kenneth Anderson & Andreanne Vachon
Anne & William Baumgardner
JoAnna & Andrew Bruce
Angela & Tom Byargeon
Megan & Ray Foltz
Thomas Grasso & Michelle Wenz
Green Swallow Creations, Kevin Chenevert
Judd & Beth Harrison
Beth & Randy Jones
My Hanh & Rex Kesler
Robert & Younghee Knight
Natalie Kurz
Michael & Sheryl McKinnon
Jan & Sian Mikkelsen
Claire Sabatier & Thomas Scoullos
Shubhra Endley, LCSW
Signature Care Emergency Center, Michelle DeVoglaer
Katie Spinks
Kathy Tarazoff
Gary Trichter
West End Day Care Center, Patricia Lewis
Loan & Matthias Wiederholz

Donations continued

Texas State Optical, Dr. Rivera – Boulevard
Heather & Patrick Wall – Parks
Amy & Kyle Ward – Donovan Playground
Larry & Marie Wise – Donovan Playground
Calendar (continued from back cover)

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Spring Home &amp; Garden Tour Noon–6:00 PM</td>
<td>4 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station</td>
<td>5 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 - garbage and recycling</td>
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<td>11 HHA General “Hidden Treasures” 7:00 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>18 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>20 - heavy trash (junk waste in even months)</td>
<td>21 - garbage and recycling</td>
<td>22 Earth Day</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28 - garbage</td>
<td>29 Arbor Day</td>
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Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations

Every Saturday, 8:00 AM, Heights Running Club will meet on the Heights Boulevard jogging trail at 7th Street. To be added to the weekly distribution list, contact Meghan.olds@gmail.com.

First and third Thursdays, 7:30 PM, English Country Dancing in the Heights. For more information, email jnjbloom@gmail.com or visit http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd

April 2, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in the Heights will host a Spring Bazaar at 1819 Heights Boulevard. For more information, visit www.saecheights.org.

April 8–16, Opera in the Heights presents Gluck’s Orfeo ed Euridice at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Boulevard. For more information, visit operaintheheights.org or call 713-861-5303.

April 26, 5:30–7:30 PM, City of Houston Planning & Development Department meeting to develop Design Guidelines for the Houston Heights Historic Districts (East, West, and South) at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd.

Future History

Beyond the calendar grid...

June 4, Fun Run
October 2, Bicycle Rally
December 2–3, Holiday Home Tour
December 13-14, Holiday Food Baskets [tentative dates]
February 26, 2017, Awards Dinner
April 7–9, 2017, Spring Home & Garden Tour weekend [tentative dates]

Heavy Trash Notes

The heavy trash pickup date is the third Wednesday for most of the HHA coverage area. Service schedules, including collection dates and information, tree waste and junk waste collection, and the Neighborhood Service Maps page can be viewed at http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html

Business Directory Errata

Feldman Insurance Agency
5225 Katy Fwy, S-203, 713-766-3303
laura.feldman@goosehead.com

Home Turf Texas Landscape & Design LLC
832-303-0833
www.hometurf texas.com
### Calendar of Events for March 2016

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<td>1 - PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street</td>
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<td>4 - Deadline for next newsletter</td>
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<td>10 - garbage and recycling</td>
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<td>12 Heights Garden Club 10:00 AM 1707 Rutland</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>16 - heavy trash (tree waste in odd months)</td>
<td>17 - garbage St. Patrick’s Day Plant and Seed Swap, 7:00 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>31 - garbage</td>
<td>April 1 Candlelight Dinner &amp; Auctions 6:30 PM</td>
<td>2 - Spring Home &amp; Garden Tour Noon–6:00 PM continued within</td>
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HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets.  
HHA web site: <http://www.houstonheights.org>