



# The Conference Reporter

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Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

January 2009



*The Conference in Action:*

## Hyde Park Used Book Sale 2008 a Great Success!

*by Jane Ciacci and Jane Comiskey, Co-chairs*

When autumn leaves start to fall in a golden rain on the Hyde Park Shopping Center plaza, you know it's time for the Hyde Park Used Book Sale. In 2007, HPKCC took over the management of the sale, formerly operated by the Co-op and a crew of volunteers. Profits from the sale support the programs of the HPKCC. Last year's profits allowed us, among other things, to establish a new, handicapped-accessible office for the Conference in the Hyde Park Bank Building, and to purchase needed computer equipment.

This year's sale was made possible by the sponsorship and support of Treasure Island Foods. Treasure Island supplied a sorting room rent-free, a huge number of banana and fruit boxes, and a forklift and driver for the labor-intensive task of moving books from the basement to the plaza. Store manager Babe Magnus, his assistant Miguel, and all the staff were unfailingly helpful and positive. The Conference is deeply grateful for Treasure Island's generous support of one of Hyde Park's defining community events.

Before sorting began, we made some changes to the subject categories, and learned over the course of sorting and the sale of further changes and additions to be made. We can tell you that Hyde Parkers' favorite leisure-time reading is mysteries, in incredible volume and variety!

We adopted a logo for the sale, designed by volunteer Vanessa Georg, who designed a t-shirt for volunteers and crew. Volunteer John Loftus produced attention-getting signs for use in Treasure Island and to advertise the sale at curbside on sale days.

The book acceptance and sorting process

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## Green Thoughts on Snowy Nights: Garden Fair Lectures Tuesday Nights in February

*by Trish Morse*

If the Spring Garden Fair on May 15 and 16 seems much too far away, there's a solution! Come to the Garden Fair Lecture Series Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in February in the Augustana Lutheran Church hall and start your garden dreams. The lectures are free and all are welcome. You don't even need to have a garden—just a joy in looking at glorious flowers in the dead of winter.

On Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. we'll find out that "Daylilies Ain't What They Used to Be." Greg Bartoshuk is a daylily hybridizer who is a winner of both the Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year and the Sustained Excellence Award from the University of Illinois. He has brought his enthusiasm for daylilies to appearances on radio and TV and is past president of the Daylily Society of the Chicago Botanic Garden. He'll let us all know that we can reach out to a bright bold world of startling colors

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### HPKCC MISSION

The purpose of the Conference is to attend to the civic needs of the community; work toward an attractive, secure, diverse, and caring community; and to promote participation of residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations in programs and activities that advance the interests and concerns of the community. It serves the community as a watchdog, independent voice, and clearing house in the community's ongoing conversation and decisions about those matters which affect and define community life.

## From the President's Desk...

What a momentous year 2009 has been and will be. Now that we can officially call our favorite son "Mr. President," we can start thinking about what comes next.

You know retail and development will top the awareness agenda for this year. With Harper Court, the theater building, Village Foods, and other areas facing major re-development, we need to stay informed about how decisions are made and what impact they will have long-term on our neighborhood.

HPKCC's year got off to a great start when we had a visitor at our first board meeting. Ann Marie Lipinski, Vice President for Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago, met with the board for over an hour, and engaged in an open exchange of ideas and concerns about relations between the University and the surrounding communities. I can only express my sincerest hope that Ms. Lipinski (and her staff) will continue to converse openly with groups like the Conference, which makes everyone more knowledgeable about the changes being sought by the University.

Antheus and MAC Properties continue to play a major role in Hyde Park's re-development. The HPKCC Development Committee will meet with Eli Ungar in late January, and we appreciate his willingness to interact with us on an on-going basis.

Don't forget the Chicago Olympic Bid will be released in early February. Many of us look forward to seeing what it *really* says.

And talk about momentous occasions! The Hyde Park Garden Fair turns 50 this year. Its free lecture series will be held on Tuesday evenings in February, at Augustana Lutheran Church. If you like gardening at all, don't miss the chance to meet the renowned Craig Bergmann, guest lecturer on February 17. The Fair itself will be held May 15 and 16 (the weekend after Mother's Day). We plan to feature the history of the Garden Fair in the next *Reporter*.

And . . . the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference turns 60 this year. We are working on a series of events to commemorate its history, while exploring its role in the future of Hyde Park-Kenwood. Stay tuned.

George W. Rumsey  
January 21, 2009

## Used Book Sale a Great Success

(continued from page 1)

took two months. We were able to sort everything that was received, with the help of volunteers who ensured that sorting took place daily.

Our group of about 50 volunteers included

Board members, friends of Board members, people who had volunteered in previous years, and a group of girls from the Mercy Home fulfilling a community service assignment. Board members accepted assignment to particular days or evenings to ensure that someone would be present to receive books and guide volunteers. Some people sorted books, other people packed them; still others worked at the sale tallying purchases, taking the cash, or "on the floor," keeping the books in order. We want to specially recognize our fantastic volunteer packing expert, Hedy Lehayan, who personally packed hundreds of boxes!

John Loftus and co-chair Jane Comiskey made many trips to pick up donations; we were offered more than we could pick up. For the sale itself, the volunteers were ably supported by a paid crew of 6 men. We are grateful to all our volunteers and crew for their contributions and enthusiasm. Everyone had a good time doing a lot of hard work, which was an important goal for the Book Sale Committee.



Volunteer tallyers at the check-out table

There were many very interesting donations, including entire libraries from people who were moving or downsizing (or both). For our "special books," we were fortunate to have the advice and assistance of Doug Wilson of O'Gara and Wilson Books, and his assistant, Alan Lefkowitz.

Mike McNamee and the Resource Center took away 60 bags of unsaleable material before the sale even began, and 90 boxes of leftovers at the end. These are items that we couldn't get people to take away for free, so now they have been responsibly recycled. We estimated that there were over 30,000 books on the sales floor at the start of the sale.

Thanks to our generous donors, and to all our enthusiastic shoppers! We look forward to our third year managing the sale in 2009. If you would like to be involved, please contact one of us and we'll put you on our list for next spring, when we start to organize. Happy reading!

[Photos courtesy of James Withrow, [http://alwaysintransit.typepad.com/hyde\\_park\\_urbanist/](http://alwaysintransit.typepad.com/hyde_park_urbanist/)]



2008 Used Book Sale drew huge crowds, with gorgeous weather



## *Conference Adopts Two New Committees*

In two of its last meetings, the HPKCC Board of Directors voted to adopt two new committees as parts of the Conference.

In November, at the request of Brenda Sawyer, chair of the Friends of Blackstone Library, the Conference Board made the Friends an official committee of the Conference. Brenda was then elected to the Board to fill a vacancy created when a director recently moved from Chicago.

At its January meeting, the Board voted to serve as the fiscal agent for a new entity to be called the Southside Preservation Action Fund. Funded by a generous grant from The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the purpose of this committee is to provide small grants to neighborhood groups around the Southside who are interested in historical preservation.

The committee will be chaired by Jack Spicer, and committee members will include representatives from the Conference board, the Hyde Park Historical Society, North Kenwood, Woodlawn, and Washington Park neighborhoods.

The fund will make small financial contributions to cover expenses and/or professional services for a variety of preservation project needs, such as:

- historic research
- photographic documentation
- public lectures & tours
- historic structure reports
- seminars & study groups
- emergency stabilization & board-up
- engineering studies
- recorded interviews & oral histories
- archival collection and storage
- surveys & mapping
- mediation
- architectural studies
- wooden window preservation
- copying, duplication, and printing.

The intent is to quickly provide small amounts of money, when and where it will really help. For more information, contact the Conference at (773) 288-8343 or email [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com).

## Condos/Coops Forum Explores Finances and Foreclosures

*by Jay N. Ammerman, Chair*

On Monday, December 8, 2008, the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference held the latest informational forum for condominium and cooperative owners and associations. The forum was co-sponsored by Alderman Toni Preckwinkle (4th) and featured Attorney John Bickley from the Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit law firm.

Bickley highlighted how the era of mortgage foreclosures has been impacting owners and associations in a number of unique ways. The financing landscape has changed in a dramatic fashion. Five years ago only five percent (5%) of the loans obtained by owners were FHA loans. Due to the current credit squeeze, the FHA loan percentage has increased to ninety percent (90%).

As a result of that change, prospective buyers and sellers are encountering many more issues beyond price, financing, and other customary sales terms and conditions. Many condominium bylaws do not comply with FHA and Fannie Mae requirements. Bylaws containing a "Right of First Refusal" are not consistent with FHA rules and regulations. And Fannie Mae requirements stipulate strict guidelines for association reserves, insurance policy coverage, and assessment delinquencies.

Bickley also provided updated guidance for owners and associations who are confronting a growing number of mortgage foreclosures. He advises associations to act promptly as soon as any owner becomes delinquent in paying monthly assessments.

The HPKCC forums are not a substitute for detailed legal advice tailored to address specific circumstances. Nevertheless, many of the approximately forty-five attendees had an opportunity to ask general questions and to obtain some of the valuable booklets produced by Bickley's firm.

Historically, The Conference seeks to hold one or two of these informational forums each year. However, one attendee has asked if The Conference and Mr. Bickley would consider conducting a four session course designed to address a more rigorous treatment of the legal issues impacting condominium and cooperative owners and associations. The Conference needs to know if there is sufficient interest among members to support such a program. Please contact us at (773) 288-8343 or email [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com) if you would be interested in participating.

## *HPKCC Celebrates 60 Years*

On **February 18**, the Conference will host the first in a series of community discussions, "Where should Hyde Park be in 10 years, and how do we get there?" The public meeting will be held at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club at 7:00 pm, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Stay tuned for additional events to be held in 2009.

## The Year 2008 in Review:

# Big Stories in Hyde Park-Kenwood, Chicago

by Gary Ossewaarde

[Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference.]

**1 Obama-mania.** Hyde Parker and Senator Barack Obama is elected President of the United States of America, and Hyde Park goes under the national microscope. Sections near Obama's home turf remain sealed off. The question now is whether there will be an Obama effect of increased development and decreased affordability, and whether we will get the Olympics, improved transportation/access, schools, etc. Locals, while enthusiastic (many traveled to campaign), held their breath and exulted after the election. Valois Cafeteria gave free breakfasts the morning after and for days hucksters sold goods and lines stretched around the block to buy newspapers. Walgreens cleaned up as "Obama headquarters."

**2 In other politics.** Will Burns prevailed in four-way race in the 26th House District, new 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell over Rep. Ken Dunkin in the 3rd Ward Committeeman race, and calls for a state constitutional convention failed.

**3 Development planning, real estate volatility.** While Hyde Park suffered only modestly from burst of the housing bubble and the economy, retail and mixed development was at least stalled by the same.

This was the year the University took the lead role in pushing and planning such development as well as major campus expansion. Some wondered whether the University was capable of thoughtful planning, in partnership with the community, and asked why we do not do more neighborhood-wide planning. The University's purchase of (and takeover of the RFP process for) Harper Court was the decisive move. Some neighbors were distressed to see the plans to rehab the Theater buildings go down the drain, plus new plans to clear buildings or land (including Harper Court) well before any development. Surveys, planning charettes, and meetings/forums by a coalition of organizations including HPKCC, neighborhood entities, and Ald. Preckwinkle helped forge a set of principles for development of Harper Court and beyond. There was concern about public input into actual developer proposals, effective transparency, and a result that will serve the needs of broad and diverse sets of residents and business owners,

including small locally-based and independent business, and still be a "destination."

The University badly stumbled in efforts to convince neighbors at public and private meetings; to modify the proposals for Doctors Hospital on Stony Island; or ultimately to prevent neighbors from voting the precinct dry, apparently killing the development. The University also stirred up controversy by acquiring considerable property to the west of Washington Park in the path of the Olympics. Much of that controversy was over communications.

Antheus Capital continued to purchase and rehab many mostly rental buildings, some very large (with some ability of local affordability groups to negotiate concessions), advanced plans for the large, green "Solstice on the Park" at 56th and Cornell, and proposed a major mixed development to replace the current Village Center at Lake Park and Hyde Park Blvd. (Indeed, increasing attention to remaking the Lake Park corridor was a marker of 2008.) The other large mixed development proposal, changed from condo to rental, was that of L3 for 53rd and Cornell. L3's other site, 53rd and Kenwood, remained dormant.

Increasing attention was given to larger community planning, starting with 53rd Street. The keystone was a set of Vision exercises and walk-throughs with large participation. Meanwhile, the 53rd Street TIF increased its support actions by supporting these, continuing streetscape, funding CleanSlate and small business improvement projects, and upgrades at Canter Middle School. New TIFs and Special Assessment districts got off the ground on Cottage Grove. Residential spot zoning and build-out pressures became worrisome.

**4 Olympics.** Several meetings and task forces were convened on possible Olympics impacts, which several experts said would be minimal here. Popular focus was on whether affordable housing and ability to stay in one's home would be affected and on improvements in being able to get around, such as the Metra "Gold Line" proposal that could help businesses also. The largest meeting in Hyde Park on the matter was that of the Coalition for Equitable Community Development. Several were also held on campus on general development and affordability as well as on Olympics. A 5th Ward Task Force tackled a large range of issues from business licensing and preparation to effects

on parks, transit and getting around, security, improvements, and historic recognition.

Chicago won the U.S. bid and now competes with three cities abroad. Feeling was that Chicago will win. There was considerable frustration that the 2016 Committee was slow to do the real, intense study and planning, and really consult with communities, think tanks, elected officials, and the city. As time to submit the final bid approached, proposals were modified in Jackson Park in response to concerns, a major aquatics center (one component to be a permanent legacy) was added in Washington Park, and 31st St. harbor was abandoned for events. Caution was given by experts that effects can often be negative, especially for low income people and neighborhoods. Many sought transit upgrades. Several task forces were formed, but no large ones in Hyde Park. Washington Park support groups looked for improvements and facilities in the park and neighborhood, including job training and affordable housing (a ballot initiative passed in 20 precincts). The Communities for an Equitable Olympics (CEO) and one of its constituents Southsiders Organizing for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) shed light on possible negative effects (such as displacement), including those identified by think tanks.

**5 Retail expands.** Despite progressive emptying of Harper Court, continued vacancy of the Theater buildings and clearing of 53rd and Cornell (and earlier McDonalds), vacancies gradually filled in 2008 to the point where, as businesses moved from Harper Theater and Court, it became hard to find spaces for remaining to-be-moved tenants.

University-owned Hyde Park Shopping Center at 55th and Lake Park became completely filled for the first time in several years and its courtyard remained lively with special events and foot traffic. New occupants include *DJ's Bike Repair*, *Home Made Pizza*, *U.S. Post Office* (from the basement), and *What the Traveler Saw*.

The largest vacancies that opened up were *video stores* on 53rd. The largest ongoing true vacancy, on the edge of the neighborhood, is the former second Co-op store at 47th and Lake Park (1300).

The largest turnover was the replacement of Co-Op Markets with *Treasure Island Foods*, 1526 E. 55th St. after a bitter battle mostly in 2007. (*Hyde Park Cooperative Society* was

entering final bankruptcy in late 2008.) Treasure Island undertook in late 2008 a complete remodeling of the store as a model for its other six. It has expanded specialty and organic inventory but kept many of the former vendors and its delivery service. *Hyde Park Produce* in Kimbark Plaza (actually opened in 2007 and continuing to be highly popular), *Zaleski and Horvath* (1126 E. 47th Street), *Open Produce* (1635 E. 55th St.), 61st and Bronzeville farmers' markets, and others added to variety and competition in the area. There was concern about the impact of loss of *Village Foods* should a new Village Center at Lake Park and Hyde Park Blvd. go forward.

*Zaleski and Horvath* is probably the most specialized and engaged in stressing both energy-intensive rare, high-quality world specialty foods and the new trend toward localized and organic/green. Emphasized are organic artisan cheeses, meats and breads, refined produce, and highest-quality, hard to find ingredients plus salads, deli sandwiches and specialty beverages (with special one-cup machines to brew)—exhibiting another trend, to combine food, coffeehouse, and take out staples and prepared foods in a personalized small one-stop. 61st Market, part of the innovative Experimental Station, seeks to grow the local and Midwest "natural" suppliers, fill a food desert, and bring communities together.

*Open Produce* store at 1635 E. 55th, owned by a Hyde Park University graduate trio, went further in the direction of total transparency, local area natural, with providing specialty foods for Chinese, Mexican, and Jewish residents. it also stays open later than most businesses in its area.

The restaurant scene continued to be lively.

*Park 52*, 5201 S. Harper, was the most spectacular new entry, being a key desire of the University to bring in a destination signature high-end restaurant that would "hold" the Harper Court area during redevelopment. It would join *La Petite Folie* but be larger, club-like, and trendier/homier. It is hoped it will do well—it has hired a new chef and adjusted its menu.

*Shinju Sushi* at 1357 E. 53rd St. has both to-go and sit-down for authentic Japanese specialties, boxes, and teas.

*The Sit Down*, 1312 E. 53rd St., serves fine sushi and other Japanese specialties, pasta and pizza, and specialty sandwiches in a modern airy atmosphere and may add music.

*Chant*, 1509 E. 53rd is fusion Asian and a popular bar, with frequent live jazz and other music.

Also new: *Fifth/Third Bank* (1420 E. 53rd St.) was the latest of many bank additions

and fills an anchor vacancy (former OSCO) in Dorchester Commons. The Detroit-based construction company worked with the Urban League and Kellogg School for jobs and training. Questions were raised about the survival of the Washington Mutual branch in the 1300 block of E. 53rd St. after the parent company crashed and was acquired by Chase, which has a branch nearby.

*Smith and Smith Smile Studio*. Two unrelated dentists with the same name bought out the practice of Dr. Marilyn Palm-Dorsey at 1457 E. Hyde Park Blvd.

*Moved or closed*: Art's Cycle was evicted, but one of the employees took over and ran a shop temporarily from the location at 1652 E. 53rd St. until it opened as *DJ's Bike Doctor* in the part of the Cohn and Stern space at 1500 E. 55th Hyde Park Shopping Center next to Toys Et Cetera (2007, from Harper Court) .

*Hyde Park Produce* moved into much larger space in Kimbark Plaza (all filled). HPP has sponsored benefits at and for Hyde Park Neighborhood Club.

*Kilimanjaro* arts and apparel shop moved from University-emptied Harper Theater shops to 1305 E. 53rd. Other shops moved within the neighborhood—*US Computech Noodles Etc.* (became Chant, plus maintained venue at 57th and Kenwood), *Hyde Park Hair Salon*, *What the Traveller Saw*, and more. Two stores there relocated outside Hyde Park.

Leaving or about to leave Harper Court are *Baby Ph.D.*, *Maravillas' Mexican Restaurant*, *Dr. Wax* (across the street) ... the remaining stores were to be gone by 2009 or have their leases bought out—*Calypso*, *Dixie Kitchen*, *Dr. Wake Veterinary*, *Sen. Raoul*, *Harper Court Arts Council* (to the Bank Bldg.), *Chamber of Commerce* (to 5502 S. Everett), *Plants Alive*, *C'est Si Bon...*

*Jimmy John's* came in but three Quiznos closed. Yet *Starbucks* left alone all local outlets despite having to close nationally 70% of all stores opened in the past three years (that were siphoning off a quarter of business from existing outlets).

*Blockbusters* closed.

*Valois Cafeteria* and *Hyde Park Hair Salon* got world attention from the national campaign and election of Barack Obama.

At the *Children's Book Fair*, Rebecca Janowitz passed the torch to Angela Sherrill. The Hyde Park Used Book Sale did very well under Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, and the Garden Fair sales did extremely well.

**6 Schools and Education.** Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, was chosen for Education Secretary

by President-Elect Barack Obama. Duncan is a life-long Hyde Parker, active in both public and private education. The response was enthusiastic, although with reservations about the policies of CPS toward support or closings of schools, especially in low-income neighborhoods and hostility toward Local School Councils and other forms of local input or control.

Concern was expressed about local schools lagging in repairs and upkeep. The 53rd Street TIF joined with CPS in funding major repairs to *Canter Middle School*, although the needed expansion is still not in sight. *Kenwood Academy* received a very extensive Disabilities upgrade. Award-winning *Ray School* remained uncertain as to when repairs will be made. CPS is sending teams around to all the schools.

*UC Laboratory Schools* launched major planning and fundraising for the schools and their expansion, nursery to high.

*Kenwood Academy* lunch privileges now depend on performance, about 350 of 1,700 can go off campus. Kenwood appears to be turning around.

*Akiba-Schechter* dedicated a new playground sponsored by Bill Coleman and Carol Groover and by Jewish Funders.

Gregory Mason succeeded Michael Keno as principal at *Murray Language Academy*.

An ongoing concern for schools and their supporters is the continued devolution of responsibilities upon them by CPS to raise funds for everything from supplies, to after school programs, to training, to repairs.

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference Schools Committee put on line a comprehensive listing of after school and related activity providers. The Committee also held banquets with speakers for outgoing and incoming local school councils and their principals. Among information furnished was that on grant writing and finding funds and donations and how to improve further as LSCs.

**7 Services and other institutions.** The pulse got weaker?

*Hyde Park Neighborhood Club* underwent substantial reorganization under interim director Jennifer Bosch. Much was cut back, including seniors programs. Programs are being restored or added, especially for teens and pre- and school-age kids, partly under new grants, with intergenerational focus. Physical activity is combined with tutoring and a wide range of cultural activities and skill-building. But the financial viability remains iffy. An intriguing way out for the Club and many other service and program providers is possible sharing of the facility.

## 2008 in Review: Big Stories in HP-K

(continued from page 5)

*The Blue Gargoyle* strengthened its organization and fundraising/marketing. Gargoyle seeks to give people a tool kit to get what they want out of life and jobs, and create (in several neighborhoods and citywide) readers, thinkers, and leaders, according to new Director Pamela Bozeman-Evans. It serves 1,300 a year. Assistance is needed.

To many the inability of the *Hyde Park Cooperative Society* to retain its store, or find other things it could do or fund, was a major loss.

*Harper Court Arts Council*, which received \$6 million from the University of Chicago from sale of Harper Court did at least partially expand its board, broadened its mission, and start to give significant grants to arts and development groups.

Needing a new fiscal agent is the *Community Art Fair* (first weekend in June at 57th and Kenwood, adjacent to 57th Street Art Fair). Presently under Harper Court Art Council, possible sponsors for next year are being sought.

Continuing to grow although challenged was *Centers for New Horizons*. CNH raised about \$35,000 at a December 19 concert at Union Church featuring Willie Pickens, Branford Marsalis and Dee Alexander. The Experimental Station, Hyde Park Art Center, and Little Black Pearl continued to expand their enterprises and outreach and the later two their role in the schools, although need for schools to extensively fundraise to have these and other programs is a worry.

Several organizations moved to new homes in faith institutions or elsewhere.

A major addition was the *Coalition for Equitable Community Development*, which held forums and negotiated affordable housing components in several developments, and publicized and negotiated on the Metra Gold Line proposal and Olympic impacts and affordable housing components. CECD came out of the work of several organizations, including HPKCC. The *Older Women's League (OWL)* continued to research, disseminate information on, and collaborate on issues of importance to our aging and other populations.

**8 Parks.** Parks continued to serve despite drastic budget cuts, challenges to advisory councils through updated guidelines, competing demands by user groups, and calls for new activities or diversion for “non traditional” (or even non-parks) uses—including the proposed Olympics. The

guideline proposals were softened but some issues remain unclear or troublesome to councils. Also troublesome was a proposal at the end of the year to eliminate from the Park District bylaws all reference to or means of ensuring equitable distribution of resources and facilities.

*Kenwood Park.* A controversy over an expansion of a baseball field for older youth, thought unsafe by many and executed without consultation of the council and any but one constituency led to an uproar including alleged political interference and perhaps decertification of the council (this was never clear). In order to get things back on track, Alderman Preckwinkle convened an open Kenwood Park Usage Committee, chaired by George Rumsey, President of HPKCC. After several months of study, research, and discussion, a unanimously signed compromise set of recommendations on the original and other park issues and needs was reached. This was submitted after the Kenwood Council was reconvened and reorganized and an all-parties slate of officers elected. Troubling questions about outside interference and convening community committees remained to be pondered. It remains to be seen if all parties will work together and if the Park District will make the needed physical changes and repairs.

*Jackson Park.* Athletes Committed to Education proposed a sports training facility “bubble” for a tennis court area. While it has much support (though not yet Park District approval), members of the advisory council worry about its sustainability, status as a private entity and partially sequestered use, with its own program and staff not under the park district, and aesthetics and other effects on a historic Olmsted park. The Museum of Science and Industry has proposed reorganization and “green solutions” for the southwest lot and property. The council gave MSI a letter supporting the objectives. At the end of the year, the Olympics bid committee moved the hockey venue from the soccer-lagoons area, about which the council had expressed concern, to an as-yet-incompletely defined locale near Hyde Park Academy. A boulder and plaque honoring the role of Frederick Douglass at the Columbian Exposition was approved and funded for installation in 2009 at the site of the Haitian pavilion. The council is adjusting to and considering new bylaws as a result of new council guidelines.

*Washington Park.* The advisory council and neighborhood continued to ponder Olympic impacts as the bid committee added a large new aquatics center to the stadium proposal. Each would leave a reduced year-round legacy facility—a warm-up pool and an arena for some combination of sports and cultural

events. Washington Park received a new playground. A new conservancy has joined the council in addressing conditions of facilities and grounds.

For *Promontory Point*, this year's concern remained allowance to swim.

**9 Public Safety.** The University continued to ratchet up its safety and policing program. Many forums off and on campus were held (some of these pointed out continued problems with police such as evidence of profiling). Storefront smashings, burglaries, and robberies continued, although violent crimes continue to drop to historic levels despite a few spikes. Crimes by women appeared to be on the increase.

**10 The University of Chicago.** In 2008, the University decisively expanded its role in communities, from 53rd–Harper Court to surveying students and faculty on what they wanted on many fronts including retail, to the hotel proposal on Stony Island, inclination to be more involved in Woodlawn (including helping seminaries to move there), buying property in Washington Park, and overall expansion of its facilities inside and outside its planned development footprint. Ann Marie Lipinski became Vice President for Civic Engagement. Looming were demographic changes in neighborhoods from construction of new, closer dormitories and changes in student aid. In the process, the University received unprecedented gifts, developed strategic plans, and pondered effects of the economic meltdown. There were labor disputes and controversies from takeover and naming of a seminary for an economics institute to divestment from Darfur. The University stepped up its programs in sustainability (including neighborhood outreach) and ADA upgrades. Buildings that were under construction or planning included for biomedics and hospitals, library expansion, Searle Chemistry, Laboratory Schools, Friedman economics institute, several buildings in South Campus (including for the Law School), parking, dorms, a chiller plant, and planning for the arts center and Harris School. Planning is starting on a new physics and computation center. The Quadrangle Club is under renovation and reorganization and a new garden has gone in on the Midway. Several projects will affect traffic and parking. The University redoubled its programs in local schools, for South Side healthcare (while closing or reducing access to its local clinics), and public safety. A major question is how much the University intends to proceed basically on its own, with or without local support.

*For more details, visit [www.hydepark.org](http://www.hydepark.org).*

# Schools Committee Holds Networking Dinner

by Nancy Baum, Chair

On September 23, the HPKCC Schools Committee hosted a Networking Dinner for nearly forty neighborhood school principals and chairpersons of Local School Councils in the Canter Middle School gymnasium. This important occasion was emceed by Annika Frazier-Muhammad. Neighborhood schools heard from consultant Sheila Wesonga about ways to look for and apply for grants to augment school programs and also how to craft the proposal to give it maximum weight.

According to Ms. Wesonga, there are six steps to successful grant writing: planning, researching, organizing, writing, submitting, and follow-up. In a proposal, writers must explain who will benefit from a grant and how a project's success will be measured. Grant writers should contact grant makers before and after writing proposals, asking for feedback at the end of the process, Ms. Wesonga said. Follow-up is often forgotten and can be crucial to the success of future grant writing events.

Wesonga coined the phrase "Unity amongst the community!" In order to successfully educate a child, says Ms. Wesonga, the school, parent and community *must* work together. "We must unite and use all of our uniquely special skills to have a positive impact on the child." She advised would-be grant writers to Google "Grants" and numerous opportunities would appear on the screen.

Following Sheila Wesonga's talk, Joe McCord of the Chicago Public Schools Office of LSC Relations addressed the group about training for LSC members provided by the Chicago Public Schools and announced that Local School Council members attending this dinner would receive two hours of credit toward their accreditation as LSC members. Incoming LSC members must complete an 18-hour Board-run training program within six months of taking office. He passed out the "Ten Characteristics of Effective Local School Councils."

The Schools Committee's mission is to provide community support for the schools and a place where Local School Council members can meet to share information. The committee supports Local School Councils, encourages community involvement in schools, provides forums and events on education issues, and provides resources for schools and families on our web site ([www.hydepark.org/schools](http://www.hydepark.org/schools)). We encourage principals to link to our web site so

that parents can quickly access us. We have, for example, a list of after-school and other activities that children can participate in, with phone numbers and descriptions.

We want the community to know when the schools are having LSC meetings, so we are providing the following list (which should be confirmed by reading the Herald or calling the school):

Ariel School: 3rd Mon. 8:00 AM. 1110 E. 46th, 535-1996. Lynette Coleman, Principal. Virginia Homes, LSC Chair.

Canter Middle School: 1st Tuesday 6:00 PM in the gym. 4959 S. Blackstone. 535-1410. Colleen Conlan, Principal. Tina Hawkins, LSC Chair.

Dyett High School: 2nd Tues, 6:00 PM, Rm. 139. 555 E. 51 St. 535-1161. Jacquelyn Lemon, Principal.

Harte School: 2nd Wed, 6PM, Gym. 1556 E. 56. 535-1825 Shenethe Parks, Principal. Diane Billingsley, LSC Chair.

Hyde Park Career Academy. Unknown. 6220 S. Stony Island. 585-0880. Thomas Trotter, Principal. Unknown LSC Chair.

Jackie Robinson School, 2nd Tues, 6 PM. 4225 S. Lake Park. 535-1777. Jacqueline Thomas, Principal. LSC Chair unknown.

Kenwood Academy LSC, 2nd Tues, 6:30 PM, Library Media Center. 535-1350. Cynthia Liberty, LSC Chair.

Kenwood Academy PAC, 4th Tues, 6:30 PM, Library Media Center. 535-1350. Elizabeth Kirby, Principal.

Kozminski School: 4th Wed, 6:30 PM. 936 E. 54th St. 535-0980. Lionel Bordelon, Principal. Cynthia Brown, LSC Chair.

Murray Language Academy, 3rd Wed. 6 PM, except Wed. April 3, 8 AM and Wed. June 2nd 4:30 PM. 5335 S. Kenwood. 535 0585. Greg Mason, Principal. Rhonda Hawkins Lyke, LSC Chair.

North Kenwood-Oakland Charter Board: 3rd Tues. 6:00 PM, Rm. 204. 1119 E. 46th St. (60653) 536-2399. Tanika Island Smith, Principal

Ray School, Oct. 15, Dec. 8, Feb. 9, Apr. 13, and June 8 at 8:00 AM. Nov. 10, Jan. 12, Mar. 9, and May 11 at 6:30 PM. 5631 S. Kimbark. Bernadette Butler, Principal. Ray Lodato, LSC Chair.

Reavis: 1st Tues, 7:30 AM. 834 E. 50th, 535-1060. Michael T. Johnson, Principal. Demetrius Davis, LSC Chair

Shoesmith School: 1st Wed, 5:30, except April 2009, 1st Thurs. Library. 1330 E. 50th. 535-1764. Patricia Watson, Principal. Sherri Donald and Theodore Moran, LSC Co-chairs.

We hope community members will want to choose a school and attend some of these meetings to show community support. The LSCs have many good-hearted people whose hard work deserves to be recognized by all of us. Or join the schools committee.

## Why Not Join or Renew Your Membership TODAY?

### Membership Form

#### Level:

- Family ..... \$30
- Individual ..... \$20
- Senior ..... \$15
- Friend ..... \$100
- Supporter ..... \$200
- Sponsor ..... \$500
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following programs:

- CAGL (Academic Games)
- Condos/Coops
- Development/Preservation
- Disabilities Task Force
- Environmental Sustainability
- Friends of Blackstone Library
- Hyde Park Garden Fair
- Hyde Park Used Book Sale
- Nichols Park Advisory Council
- Parks Committee
- Schools Committee
- Transit Task Force
- Website and Reporter
- WhistleStop/Safety

A community issue that concerns me is:

#### Member Information:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

HPKCC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Please send this form along with your check, made out to Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference to:

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference  
1525 E. 53rd Street, Suite 907  
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Telephone: (773) 288-8343  
E-mail: [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com)  
<http://www.hydepark.org>

# Garden Fair Lectures

(continued from page 1)

among these hardy plants and just what it takes to make them thrive.

We'll dream of rare butterflies in our yards (not to mention Prairie Smoke and Queen of the Prairie) on February 10 at 7:00 p.m. when native plant enthusiast Aaron Turkevitz will tell us "How I Went Native in Hyde Park." His passion for transforming urban landscapes started at 8 when he created a flower bed where a concrete slab had been in his home in the Bronx. He transformed his standard patch of Hyde Park yard into a showcase of Midwest native plants after he moved here in 1993 to teach at the University of Chicago. He has worked on the prairie restoration in Midlothian and other nearby prairies. But his triumph was when he had 60 species of native grasses and flowers growing in his front yard at one time. He'll show us how it's done.

Craig Bergman, renowned landscape ar-

chitect, member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and designer of spaces as diverse as roof top gardens, cloister gardens at the 4th Presbyterian Church, and rural estates, will launch us on a journey through the process of garden design, plant selection, and style. This rare opportunity will open our eyes to "Making Art in the Garden" on February 17. You can see his work on the Quadrangle in the beds by the Administration building, or be inspired by his website at [www.craigbergmann.com](http://www.craigbergmann.com).

In "Glorious Shade Gardening" on February 24, Carolyn Ulrich, editor of *Chicagoland Gardening* and a captain of the Garden Fair Committee, will help all of us Hyde Park gardeners who bemoan our shady yards to realize how grand our yards can be. She'll show us plants she has grown in her own glorious shade garden on Dorchester Avenue and plants she has seen tested. She'll also show us what local gardeners have done with their shade, including one shade garden that received the top prize in the city's annual garden contest.

Watch for more about the Garden Fair in a special spring edition of the *Reporter*, "50 Years of Making Hyde Park More Beautiful."

The Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference would like to thank the Hyde Park Bank and Aegis Properties for use of their conference room for Board meetings, OnShore Communications for web hosting, and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club for use of their meeting rooms.



**Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference**  
1525 East 53rd Street, Suite 907  
Chicago, Illinois 60615



**HPKCC**

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#### PROGRAMS

Chicago Academic Games League  
Condos/Co-ops+  
Development, Preservation, and Zoning  
Disabilities Task Force  
Friends of Blackstone Library  
Hyde Park Garden Fair  
Hyde Park Used Book Sale  
Nichols Park Advisory Council  
Parks Committee  
Schools Committee  
Southside Preservation Action Fund  
Transit Task Force  
WhistleStop/Safety

#### CONFERENCE OFFICE

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