



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



A Letter from our NUNA President

By Laurence Miller with notes from Kimberly Renner and Andrew Moore

An emergency meeting of the general membership of NUNA was held on January 18, 2012 at the First English Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m. to meet with Austin Chief of Police Art Acevedo about the recent crimes in our neighborhood. Accompanying Chief Acevedo were Assistant Police Chief Raul Munguia, and Commanders Troy Gay, John Romoser, Patrol Lt. Keith Walker, Rosana Ortega-hart from APD Victim Services and our District Rep., Josh Metteauer. The meeting was very well attended with over 125 seats and standing room in the back. There was no new information revealed at the meeting about the crimes, but this last week as I am sure your have read in the news a couple of the crimes have been solved with DNA evidence and they hope to link this same perpetrator to the homicide.

The main topic was safety. Chief Acevedo stated that crime is always possible. The Austin Police Department operates with 2 officers per 1000 residents while the national average is 2.4 and 2.7 in cities with population exceeding 500,000. Public safety which we take for granted is not a popular issue, especially in an economic downturn. The APD works as a very lean organization and at the same time is in the top 5 cities in preventing violent crime. The APD credits this low violent crime to the fact that people in Austin are good neighbors and watch out for each other.

Many people expressed concern over the escalation of crime in our neighborhood. With the leanness of their current staff, the Police Department is always moving resources around trying to get as much coverage as possible. Police

coverage in our neighborhood has increased significantly with the event of these recent crimes. He notes that when the students leave in the summer, crime goes down and when they return crime goes up. Also when police visibility goes up, crime goes down. The average APD response time to a call is 7 minutes and the overall city has a 9% reduction in property crime and a 7% reduction in violent crime this year.

Chief Acevedo urged us to be visibly nosey neighbors, to be suspicious of any unusual behavior. He asked everyone to call 911 when anything unusual occurs. Watchful eyes can deter crime. A robber checking out a neighborhood will notice nosey neighbors and will decide that this would not be a good place for a break-in. Always call and make a report. These reports are useful to the APD. Also Acevedo encouraged the group to sign up for Citizenobserver.com. This web site has general crime information and lists Austin's most wanted criminals. Some neighborhoods have taken further action. Barton Hills has instigated a Citizens-on-Patrol program which has actually won an award.

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday

February 8, 2012
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

NEXT NUNA MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

February 8, 2012 | 5:30 - 7:00pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Guests

A Discussion Panel concerning affects of noise/music pollution on NUNA and other neighborhoods:

Guests include APD Commanders Romoser and Gay, APD District Representative Officer Josh Metteauer, COA Music Department Czars- Don Pitts and David Murray, COA Neighborhood Advisor, Carol Gibbs.

III. Reports:

CANPAC- Mary Ingle

Development Review- Steven Tomlinson

Membership- Kimberly Renner

Newsletter- Judy Willcott

Parks- Mark Feist & Doug Plummer

Parking- Eugene Sepulveda

Treasurer- Laurence Miller for Jan Moyle

Quadrant Leader's Reports- Dick Holland, Mike Riley, Kimberly Renner, and Rick Iverson

IV. Items Recommended for Action

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

Over and over those attending the meeting expressed shock at the homicide on New Year's Eve and questioned "How safe is our neighborhood?" Chief Acevedo suggested that there are neighborhoods which would not be shocked by a homicide and that we in NUNA are pretty safe certainly by comparison to other neighborhoods in the city.

Safety Tips

Protecting your house:

1. Reinforce your front door with a good deadbolt. Standard front doors can be kicked in relatively easily.
2. It is wise to have a "safe" room from which you can call 911 in the event of an intruder.

3. If there is no "safe room" available and there is an intruder in your house, leave your house and run away.

4. Good outdoor lights, motion detectors and barking dogs are all good crime deterrents.

5. Never open your door to someone you are not expecting. Some of the door-to-door sales people are harmless, but others might be checking out your house as a target for a future robbery.

6. If you are leaving town for several weeks call 311 and ask for "directed patrol." They will put your address on a list and the regional officers will patrol it more often.

7. Neighbors can watch out for each other. Know your neighbors. Join the neighborhood list-serve and keep up with what is going on in the neighborhood. (To join the list-serve, go to nuna-residents@yahoo.com.)

Protecting yourself:

1. Don't walk or run alone at night especially with headphones. You need all your senses to see and hear what's going on around you. Being alert is a key to being safe.

2. Stay on established paths, don't take short cuts down dark alleys.

3. Never hesitate to call 911. Call 311 for ongoing non-emergency matters where no immediate action is required, but if you see a suspicious person or unusual circumstances, call 911.

4. Teach your children about the dangers of talking to strangers.

5. Being drunk in public makes you an easy target.

6. Take a self defense course. RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) is a 12 hour basic defense class offered by the University of Texas Police Department (www.utexas.edu/police/rad). The class is offered at no cost to UT students, faculty and staff.

7. Have a plan. With a rehearsed plan of action in the event of an attack, you are much less likely to panic and will appear more formidable in the face of danger. Fight. Criminals want an easy target. If you are too much trouble, they might run away. Don't let yourself be moved to another location. Your chances of survival are greatly reduced if an assailant moves you to another location.

Chief Acevedo and the other officers stayed on after the meeting to answer questions.

Our newsletter carriers on very short notice distributed 1500 flyers in our neighborhood announcing the meeting. Thanks to Kathryn Kotrla and Robert Morris and their great team!

Thanks also to Kimberly Renner and Andrew Moore for sharing their notes from the meeting.

Neighborhood Notes

From Bill Bednar about Austin Neighborhoods Council

Since Bill Bednar's appointment as CANPAC representative, we have been without a NUNA representative to the Austin Neighborhoods Council. It involves two meetings a month, the ANC general membership on the 4th Wednesday and a Central Sector breakfast get together on the first Tuesday. This is a good opportunity to learn how neighborhoods have organized together to work with city staff, commissions, and the city council to address neighborhood concerns. The job of the ANC rep is to carry forward NUNA concerns, report items of interest back to NUNA, and vote on measures that come before ANC that affect NUNA. Here is a link to the ANC website for further information: <http://www.ancweb.org/>. If you are interested, contact Laurence Miller, nunaaustin@gmail.com, or Bill Bednar, wbednar@bednarlaw.com.

From Bob Kaler about the Grooms Addition Conservancy

The group of neighbors supporting the effort to secure historic designation for the Grooms Addition has decided to end that process and have become the Grooms Addition Conservancy. All the materials collected during that long and interesting effort have been transferred to the Austin History Center for preservation and continued use. The collection is available to the public for research. Neighbors are encouraged to visit the AHC and view the maps and other materials of the Grooms Addition and add any information you may have on your home. This allows this important historical record of our neighborhood to have a permanent home and grow over time.

2011-2012 NUNA OFFICERS

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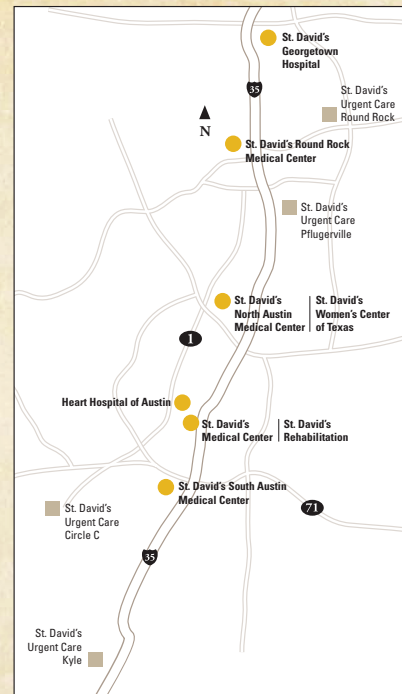
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From Mark Feist on Hemphill Park Trees

We are waiting for the City Forestry Department to identify which trees are the most stressed so that those trees can be included in the planting plan for irrigation. Unfortunately, this identification cannot be done until the trees leaf out in the spring. The planting plan to replace the lost trees will need to be approved by the neighborhood before an irrigation plan can be developed. As soon as the Forestry Department presents a plan we can agree on, we will call a meeting about implementing tree replacement and irrigation. Until then, let's all pray for rain !

Commander's Forum Meeting

Our Austin Police Department District Representatives will host a Commander's Forum from 6:30pm – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 to share information and talk about community concerns with residents and business owners. The forum will take place at the Austin Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli St., Austin, 78723. Topics will include crime statistics, Graffiti/Gang Unit presentation, crime information as well as a question and answer session with the District Representatives and Command Staff.

Minutes

**The General Membership Meeting of the
North University Neighborhood Association**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Bill Bednar, sitting in for Laurence Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Residential Parking Permit Program

Chris Dial reported that the current permit parking rates will remain the same at \$20.00 a package.

Central Austin Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee

CANPAC states that the economy is picking up, focusing on West Campus at this time. The heights in the NUNA neighborhood may be increasing. Bill Bednar was confirmed as the NUNA CANPAC second representative.

HONK TX 2012

Jason Fialkoff from Honk TX attended the meeting to say that the Festival last March was so successful that they are

requesting neighborhood approval to repeat the event on March 24, 2012. A motion made by Kimberly Renner to give neighborhood approval for this event was seconded by Joan Burnham and approved. The event will again be at Adams Park and will shut down at 8:00 pm.

The Austin Marathon

Ari Witkin, Director of Community Affairs for the Austin Marathon, which is sponsored by the Livestrong Foundation made a presentation about the marathon which will be held on Sunday, February 19. The course runs through our neighborhood from 51st Street south to San Jacinto, miles 23 – 25 of the race. Ari said he will talk with the police contact about letting traffic through on 38th St and Duval. Residents are asked to call 311 for more information.

Kirby Hall School Garden

Susanna Arnschott from Kirby Hall School addressed the meeting about building a garden at the corner of West 30th Street at the end of the school's property. There is a possibility that the plan would also include an extension to the existing parking lot. The motion to approve the plan passed and neighbors are encouraged to contribute plants to the garden project.

A project at 310 West 35th Street was referred to the DRC for further consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Myers

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NUNA Residential Parking Program

by Chris Dial

The Residential Parking Program was established in 1997 with only a few streets. Included were Moore Boulevard, Laurel Lane, West 32nd and West 33rd Streets between Speedway and Hemphill Park. Today, 16 years later, the program has expanded to include Wheeler Street, Hemphill Park (except between West 32nd and 33rd), all of West 32nd & 33rd Streets from Speedway to Guadalupe, West 35th Street, and various blocks on the East side of Speedway: Tom Green, East 32nd, Helms, East 33rd, and Cedar. The program has grown from approximately 90 residences to over 170. The NUNA neighborhood is an excellent model for this program.

I am happy to report NUNA has a new RPP Volunteer Administrator. Thank you for stepping up Eugene Sepulveda.

An excellent parking committee has signed on for the take over and some new procedures will come on line MARCH 1, 2012.

Eugene Sepulveda: RRP Administrator
E-mail: eugene@abporter.org
Cell #: 512-970-9400

Patsy Tankerslay: Committee Member for West side renewal
E-mail: ptankers@gmail.com

Lorelei Calvert: Committee Member for day and construction passes:
E-mail: lcalvert@andrewharper.com

Cynthia Bryant: Committee for East side renewal
E-mail: cbryant@law.utexas.edu

Richard Holland: Committee Member for East side renewal
E-mail: rh02@txstate.edu

Chris Dial: Advisor
E-mail: chrisdial202@gmail.com

**Day passes are available to participating residents that are having a function at their home during RPP, hours-8-5, Monday - Friday.

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New RPP Procedures
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Area 1 residents on the WEST side of Speedway contact Eugene/Patsy for renewal. (West 32, 33, 35, Laurel Lane, Wheeler & Hemphill Park)

Area 1 residents on the EAST side of Speedway contact Cynthia & Richard for renewal. (East 32, 33, Cedar, Helms, Tom Green, & Moore Blvd.)

All Area 1 residents contact Lorelei (24hrs. in advance) for DAY PASSES OR CONSTRUCTION PASSES.

If These Walls Could Talk...

Tea with Alegria at the Robertson/Trice House

by Clayton Maxwell

The charms of the Robertson-Trice house on 33rd Street are many, and among its greatest are the stories of the people who've lived within its well-preserved walls. The house, with its reflecting pool and Italian Renaissance architecture, has long drawn poets, musicians, and art lovers to its ivied walls. Lois Trice, the much-loved UT English professor who lived in the home from 1957 until she died in 1987, deepened the home's cultural regard, hosting parties here for famed classical musicians like Rudolph Serkin and poets such as Marianne Moore. And today, Trice's dear friend, the pianist Alegria Arce, who inherited the home from Trice, maintains the musical legacy of the home.

With my first sip of almond green tea with Alegria (sitting on Lois's couch, still in its original spot) I can tell that I am in for a treat-- Alegria brims with good stories. In what follows, Alegria speaks about the house and the lives of the people close to it-- lives intertwined with a love for poetry, classical music, and the friendships that grew out of them.

Clayton Maxwell: Tell me, how did you come to be friends with Lois Trice?

Alegria Arce:

In 1963, I was very fortunate to be accepted as a freshman UT piano student by Dalies Frantz, an incredibly fabulous and well-known teacher and pianist. He had been a WWII pilot, a movie star and had had a concert career. He was considered by many critics to be the finest American born pianist of the 20th Century, and that was while he was still very young. Needless to say, burning the candle at both ends with Hollywood, the War and concerts destroyed his health. He was stricken with tuberculosis.



Ellen Peters Estate

4007 Speedway

This Hyde Park Bungalow is filled with echos of the love and care given by Miss Ellen Peters over the 70+ years it was her home. Miss Peters, who was one of nine sisters, never married, nor did four of her sisters. As they aged, she brought them into her home and managed their care. She lived to be 95, and her nieces describe her as the most generous and joyful person they have ever known. When asked if she ever tired of caring for her elderly sisters, she answered "Oh no, never! It is my privilege and my joy to be able to have them here."

Now that Miss Ellen is gone, her nieces are selling her house. It needs updating from the ground up, but it has good bones and spacious rooms. The original character is largely intact. There are three bedrooms and one bath, a generous living room with a fireplace and built-in bookshelves, a formal dining room and a breakfast room with build-in table and china cabinet. It is pre-inspected so buyers can see what it needs to bring it into tip-top shape again.

According to the tax records, the house has 1256 sf of living space. The 50 x 130 foot lot has convenient alley access.

The price is \$289,000. For an appointment to see the house call Lin Team.



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Lois Trice, owner of this wonderful house, was his long time friend. They shared a love of music, poetry, art, literature, and mutual friends. She was a professor in the English Department and taught in Plan II. Neither of them had children, nor did they have much family, so I suppose their students sometimes took the place of family. Being older, and perhaps more prudent about the need to take care of one's health, she looked after him.

I think he was happy with my playing. I made an A plus my first semester here, and won a competition in San Antonio. What pleased Mr. Frantz, pleased Lois. She and I met, and we became fast friends. I can't imagine what she found of interest in me, but she was a fountain of knowledge, knew how to tell a story, and she captivated me from our first meeting. My first year here, Lois gave an after concert party here at her house. I think it was for the pianist Rudolf Firkusny. She asked me and another of Mr. Frantz's students to help with the party. All the important music lovers and musicians were here. I don't remember any conversation, which I'm sure was full of wit and musical gems, but I remember her beautiful Wedgwood plates and the curry chicken she served. (Note: Happily, Alegria also inherited these dishes and we are now drinking tea from them.)

Then, on December 1, 1965, Mr. Frantz died, and I felt my world collapsing. I was devastated; I felt orphaned. My father had died when I was twelve, and Mr. Frantz was this beautiful person who took a personal interest in me, my musical career, and was willing to guide me.

CM: How did losing Mr. Frantz affect your friendship with Lois?

AA: Lois had no family other than a distant cousin she never saw. I had no relatives in Austin, so we became each other's family. At first, our mutual grief over the death of Mr. Frantz united us, and with time it was love. My father was born in 1887, my mother in 1908, and my grandmother lived with us in Ecuador, where I was born. Really, I was very comfortable with older people. At the time, I had a little VW bug, and we would go to Winn's to buy goldfish for the pond in front, and mums for everywhere. We would return to the house with mums filling the back seat, and Lois holding her precious fish in a plastic bag. She was fascinating; she knew everything. Art, music, architecture, literature, and luminaries in these fields were more than

familiar to her.

(At this point, we go into the entrance hall to see a photo of Lois. The photo was taken after a concert by Rudolf Serkin. He is hugging her, smiling widely.)

CM: What a charmer she must have been. You can tell he is genuinely thrilled to see her.

AA: Well, yes. Lois and Dr. Parlin, who also lived on 33rd Street, founded a local chapter of Community Concerts Association. She brought world famous artists here to play at Hogg Auditorium. She heard the young Rudolf Serkin on the radio, and brought him here for a concert while he was still young, not famous, and affordable. She did this with other artists. They were seduced by her charm, knowledge, and love of music, and they returned after they were well known at still affordable fees for UT. Jose Iturbi, Artur Schnabel, Bidu Sayao, a leading soprano with the Met, Yehudi Menuhin, and Guiomar Novaes were among dozens of important artists who played in Austin, and I can't help but think that at least some of them practiced in this house and were treated to Lois' gifts for entertaining. Who knows how many artists enjoyed meals served on the lovely Wedgwood plates!

I have some of the programs from these performances, and in my husband's office we have two big boards filled with pictures of some of these artists.

CM: What an amazing artifact.

AA: It's history. This house is intimately intertwined with the musical life in Austin. And to think that one woman did so much...a woman who couldn't drive a car, and didn't have a husband.

CM: Perhaps you can get a lot done without a husband and children.

AA: Ha, well, yes, but in those days....only a woman with great vision, intelligence, strength and determination could do that. Plus, she was born with the gifts of good taste, charm, and seduction, so people felt privileged to agree with her.

CM: Speaking of good taste, you inherited this beautiful house.

AA: Yes. I'm blessed, and very grateful. I've loved and enjoyed this house since I was in my teens. My children

played, fed the goldfish, and made children's noises which I think Lois enjoyed. Jonathan, who was born in 1977, remembers her fondly. She adored him. When my daughter was born, I named her Julia Trice, and I think Lois was pleased.

CM: Where is Miss Trice buried?

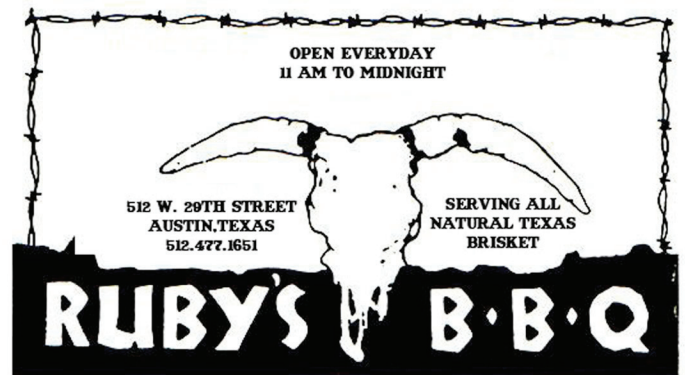
AA: Another long time and wonderful friend of Lois' was Tom Cranfill. They were friends from childhood. He had received his Master's and PhD degrees from Harvard, and joined the faculty at UT in 1945. He specialized in Shakespeare and the literature of the Renaissance. He was a very sweet and gentle person who also benefitted from Lois' good judgment and strength. A lot more learning would have done me good when I listened to Lois, Tom and Mr. Frantz's conversations. To answer your question, Tom had her ashes in a box. I didn't know this until our good friend, James Powell, who knew this trio of friends, told me. I got the box with the ashes, bought a place for her just a couple of feet away from where Mr. Frantz is buried at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery. Charles Hibbetts, my husband, Jonathan, Julia and I stood under a white tent sharing our memories of Lois and reciting some of her favorite poems.

CM: You obviously loved her and love this house.

AA: Absolutely! This is a marvelous two -story house designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style. The mantel, a bookcase and a shelf were made by Peter Mansbendel, and the iron work outside by F. Weigl. The research I did on the history of the house did not uncover the name of the architect, but I suspect Cass Gilbert had a hand in it. He was campus architect at UT from 1909 to 1922, and I see hints of the buildings he did for UT in this house. Austin was not a big city at the time, and people of intellect knew one another. The house was built by John Benjamin Robertson who married Julia McGehee Young in May 1914. The house became the Robertson's home in 1915, and part-time home to Julia's brother, Stark Young, a famous painter and playwright. John Robertson was an attorney and a state representative, and, in keeping with this house's musical roots, Julia Young Robertson was an accomplished pianist who studied under Leopold Godowsky, who taught at the Piano School of the Imperial Academy of Music in Vienna.

CM: What a history this house has with music and literature.

AA: Yes, this house has hosted many inspired artists. The past was grand, but we continue to make music here. My two grand Steinways are not silent. The hip set might recognize Nakia who gave a concert here and was most happy choosing one of the Steinways for his performance. Recently, opera singers from the Butler School of Music performed here for a fundraiser for the Women's Symphony League, and not too long ago, we hosted the Tokyo String Quartet. I regret that I didn't take a picture of the four Stradivariuses resting under the Steinways.



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At this time, I am given a tour of the house—Alegria has managed to find, via local antique dealer James Powell, a Stark Young painting as well as some of the furniture pieces which Julia Robertson and Lois Trice used in the house.

Alegria's afternoon piano student arrives. As I am leaving, Alegria mentions that she will be going to Houston the next day for a check-up at MD Anderson. At the time that she was restoring the house, in 2003, she was diagnosed with stage three cancer, and with the help of the best doctors, has fought it off. Saying goodbye in the doorway, she tells me matter-of-factly, "It was the house that saved me. I had to keep this house from deteriorating. I restored two old gals at the same time." Lois Trice, I am sure, would be pleased to know it.

Understanding Exceptionality

by Kathryn Kotrla

Balance. When my husband said, "You should write an article about Vicki....She just ran the New York Marathon and sounded excited about it", I never thought the article would be about balance and generativity. We knew Vicki Ford as a lovely and quiet neighbor, frequently walking her adorable dog Izzie. We saw her jogging around the park occasionally, and driving off with a bike on her car. And when I heard the New York Marathon, I expected someone driven, focused on solitary individual activities. So when she and I sat down together, hearing of her remarkable team achievements and giving philosophy was inspiring.

Turns out that the New York Marathon, which according to Vicki was a near perfect day and a personal high, was not the most remarkable feat in Vicki's year. Our conversation started with Vicki saying, "I trained for the marathon off of the Race Across America (RAAM)."

For those of us not familiar with RAAM, it is a major cycling event. As in bike riding from Oceanside California to Baltimore, Maryland, 3,000 miles. Vicki was one of an all female team, 4 of only 30 women on the grueling course. Each woman rode 6 hours a day, so one of them was on the road continually. Her team, Team Ride Red, travelled coast to coast in 7 days, 6 hours, beating their team goal and the race average time of 9 days. To achieve this incredible feat, Vicki and the three women who rode with her were sponsored by many local businesses, but the key support came from the Heart Hospital of Austin.

Out of this, Vicki emerged as a huge proponent of women's health, specifically to educate women about the dangers of heart disease, how to recognize signs of heart disease, and to obtain state of the art treatment, like that available to us at the Heart Hospital of Austin. To this end, Team Ride Red (www.ridered.org) gave in person interviews, TV interviews, newspaper articles, magazine stories----all to get the word out about women's heart disease. Vicki knows her stuff, too. She explains that 1 of 3 women will die of heart disease in this country, deaths that are largely preventable due to lifestyle choices.

Vicki exemplifies the lifestyle that promotes physical and mental health. Sure, she amazingly balances work and her athletic life. Yes, she consumes a healthy, well-balanced diet. But even more impressive is how Vicki transcends the major physical challenges of the New York Marathon and RAAM, and views these as opportunities to form and nurture a healthy community. Vicki stresses the support of her fellow riders and their 16 person crew during RAAM. She talks about whole communities who came out to support Team Ride Red along the way.....doing their laundry, providing food, giving much needed support to the women cycling hour after hour, day and night. Clearly, the warmth generated by a shared effort, and the appreciation of others who gave

along the way, provided a glow, a nurturance that continues even now.

In pressing her about the New York Marathon, and asking if running wasn't a more solitary challenge, Vicki emphasized that she also coached a run group, so less experienced runners were learning from her even as Vicki was preparing herself for New York. "Training is a collaborative effort", she notes. And, to sound the balance theme again, it's not difficult to paraphrase her remark to "Life is a collaborative effort" where we choose health and make it happen.

After the New York Marathon and RAAM, what could possibly top this year? Vicki is considering climbing a mountain. Specifically Mt. Kilimanjaro.

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Schedule of NUNA Meetings

February - June 2012

Development Review Committee

First English Lutheran Church

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

February 1

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6

Executive Committee

502 West 33rd Street

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

March 21

May 9

General Membership Meeting

First English Lutheran Church

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

February 8

April 11

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