

SWISS AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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PO Box 140998, Dallas, TX 75214
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Voicemail: 214/826-1967
May 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE

- President's Message
- Welcome
- Entertainment
- Homes/Gardens on Tour
- Tickets Reminder
- May Calendar
- Restoration News
- Public Notice
- Volunteers Needed
- Advertising Rates

Next SAHD Meeting
Tuesday, May 16
the Aldredge House
7:00pm

SAHDA Officers for 2005-2006

President:
Tom Bonifield

Vice-President:
Ken Martin

Secretary:
Morgan Kerridge

Treasurer:
Laura Freeland

Alliance Against Crime:
Jeff Bryan

Website:
Gaye Martin
www.sahd.org

Occasional:
Bobby Chitwood
bbq@playsjazz.com

ENP Officers Phone #
214-502-3200

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

Greetings from the President

The Swiss Avenue Historic District 33rd Annual Mother's Day Tour of Homes has arrived! The annual Mother's Day home tour is our celebration of the beauty and historic significance of the extraordinary homes in SAHD. It is our pleasure to open our doors and share our neighborhood each year. This is the 101st year as a neighborhood and 33rd year as a historic district.

Over 3,000 visitors are expected to the home tour. I hope everyone gets to join our visitors and take a relaxing stroll down our streets, see all the homes and gardens on tour, and enjoy the food and entertainment in Savage Park. Several musical groups from our neighborhood and our neighborhood schools will be entertaining us throughout the tour. *Restaurant 1924* which opened recently in Lakewood shopping center will be offering delicious food in the park. Together with the natural coolness under the Live Oak trees, I find the park to be my favorite place to be during the home tour.

We all owe *John and Martha Hulse*, our Home Tour chairs, a huge thank you. Together with the strong steering committee they have assembled

and the home owners and sponsors, they have created a wonderful Home Tour with a very festive atmosphere. Be sure to thank them in person or by note. It means a lot to know how valuable all their hard work is both to our fund raising and to our famous SAHD neighborhood spirit.

Our home tour also gives visitors a good taste of the character of Old East Dallas including our neighboring historic districts of *Munger Place* and *Peak's Addition* to our south and southeast and the newly approved *Junius Heights Historic District* to our east. The Old East Dallas community is a thriving urban neighborhood at the center of the movement of urban renewal in Dallas. We do many things that create urban renewal in Dallas, but our home tour stands out – it is practically an annual festival for all old East Dallas.

I wish you all a most enjoyable tour and hope you get a chance to visit with each other and with our many visitors during the tour. Celebrate our Historic District!

Tom Bonifield
President

Swiss Avenue Historic District Association



WELCOME

The Swiss Avenue Historic District is one of the finest early 20th century neighborhoods in the Southwest. The district boasts excellent examples of the eclectic styles of the early 20th century, including the Prairie, Craftsman, Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Tudor, and Colonial Revival styles.

The Swiss Avenue Historic District represents the fulfillment of the turn-of-the-century dream for developer R.S. Munger, who envisioned creating the finest residential area in the Southwest. The district forms part of the original 300-acre *Munger Place Development*, created by R.S and Collette Munger in 1905. The area's proximity to downtown Dallas was part of Munger's vision to create a neighborhood whose residents would become involved with the diverse facets of urban life. The District's original homeowners were city leaders, lawyers, doctors, oilmen, bankers, and clergymen who were committed to growth and the highest quality of life in Dallas.

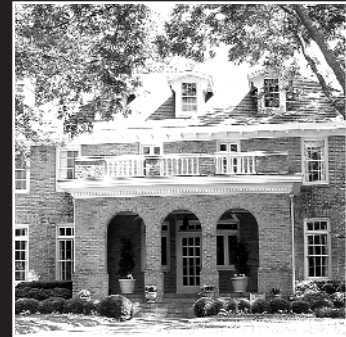
ENTERTAINMENT

Fine dining presented by *Kitchen 1924*, a parade featuring the *Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders*, and good music round out your day at the *Swiss Avenue Mother's Day Home and Garden Tour*. The Parade begins at 10am in the 4900 block of Swiss and runs up the street to the 5900 block. Music in **Savage Park** on Saturday is provided by *Clay Hosterman* (10am), the *Woodrow Wilson String Ensemble* (12:30), *Woodrow Wilson Variations Show Choir* (2pm) and *Restoration Blues Almost Unplugged* (4-6). On Sunday the music begins at noon with *Jon Dahlander*, the *Booker T. Washington Jazz Trio* (2pm) and *Restoration Blues Plugged* at 4:30

Homes on Tour



6114 Bryan Parkway



5916 Swiss



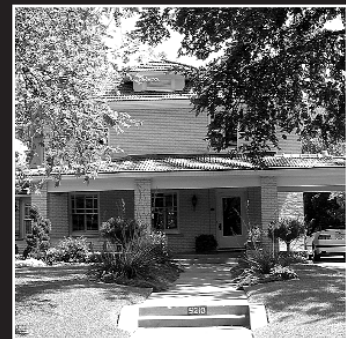
5500 Swiss



5400 Swiss



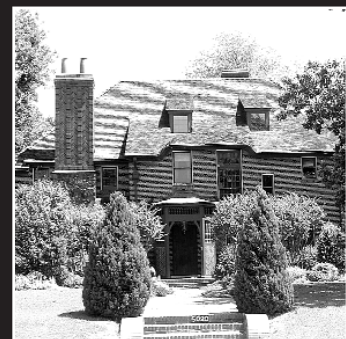
5417 Swiss



5210 Swiss



4811 Swiss



5020 Swiss

Gardens on Tour

5215 Swiss • 5320 Live Oak • 5316 Live Oak

HOME TOUR TICKET REMINDER

As a reminder, the tour is this weekend! If you haven't already purchased your tickets please help our neighborhood by doing so. As of this date only 67 of 209 households (32%) have contributed. If you choose not to participate, please return the tickets for redistribution. Special thanks go out to the following homeowners who have contributed up to \$100.00 and in some cases more to this year's tour!

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Jeff Bryan and Elizabeth Polanco | Suzanne and Rene Ramirez | Heidi and Jon Dahlander |
| Willetta Stallmacher and James Dennis | Linda Soloman | Dick Wiles |
| Larry Johnson | Shelly Mathis and Doug Calhoun | Melanie and Craig McDougal |
| Elizabeth Mast and Bob Charlap | Harryette and John Ehrhardt | Gaye and Ken Martin |
| Marilyn and Larry Waisanan | Laura and Michael Duty | Jean and David Dean |
| Morgan and Ron Kerridge | Cathy and Brice Hill | Paula Lopez and Michael Dillard |
| Mary Ann and Tim Howells | Vanessa and Gary Hoffman | Rhonda and Nick McCune |
| Kelly and Joshua Killian | Deborah Dvoracek and Rick Rogers | Art Rousseau |
| Myra and Darwin Smith | Debra and Paul Tagg | Marynelle and Jim Walley |
| Martha and John Hulse | Cassandra and Myles Mendenhall | Bob Bracken |
| Sue Miller | Sue Hilton and Bobby Chitwood | Gaye and Dave Price |
| Chris Vesey | Linda and Dan Farrell | Christy and Craig Scheef |
| Kristin and Jeffrey Baker | Beth and Tim Mack | Susan and Drew Hamilton |
| Ann Willis-Brown and David Brown | Sandra and Colin Fite | Ann Todd in behalf of the Aldredge House |
| Sandra and Steven Seidenfeld | Diane Russell | Dana and Jeffrey Kremer |
| Virginia McAlester | Nancy and David Pinson | Katy and Steve Trent |
| Marisa and Stuart Reilly | Leslie and Bill Noble | Doris Adkisson |
| Virginia and Tom Bonifield | Anita and Greg Childress | Suzanne Miller and John Oberpriller |
| June and James Leftwich | Maureen and Robert Eason | Debbie and Paul Petruzzelli |
| Feargal McKinney and Ellen Keenan | Helen and Craig Rekerdres | Lucille Didomenico and Larry Spencer |
| Lori and Kevin Flynn | Kate and Adam Stauffer | Anita and Charles Bryant |
| Brenda and Dan Nale | Cassandra and Arch McColl | Valerie and Jordon Kaiser |

If you haven't already sent in your check for \$100, you may do so at any time. Please either mail or drop your check by the home of Kathy Hill, 4926 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX 75214. Please make checks out to the SAHDA and note that it is for the Home Tour Tickets. If you have decided not to purchase your tickets, please return them to the same address before the Home Tour so that they may be redistributed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 2006						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					GARDEN ALLEY PARTY	HOME TOUR
HOME TOUR Mother's Day 14	15	SAHD Meeting Aldredge House 7pm 16	17	18	19	20
	BULKY TRASH PICK-UP					Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
		Memorial Day				

RESTORATION NEWS



1960's



1909

Home, Again



2006

4811 Swiss

Avenue was built in 1909 by noted architect and structural engineer *Otto Lang* as his private residence. At that time very few homes had been built in the *Munger Place* addition as envisioned by *Robert and Collette Munger*. Photos from the era show a street practically devoid of trees or houses, where only the light poles, electric lines and the gates of *Swiss Avenue* are evident. As the street began to fill up with houses, Mr. Lang and his company, *Lang and Witchell*, would eventually build *5002 Swiss*, *5020 Swiss* and *5112 Swiss*. But the growing architectural firm was far better known for its commercial enterprises, including the *Music Hall at Fair Park*, *Dallas Power & Light* building, *Sears Building* (now *Southside*), the old *Dallas High School* and a host of county courthouses and other prominent and attractive sites.

There at 4811, Mr. Lang raised a family, passing away in 1946. The house began to undergo severe modifications, becoming a duplex at some time during it's history (see photo upper left). In the late 90's *Randy and Vicki Campbell* began restoring and stabilizing the old home and in December, 2004 they sold it to *JW Brasher and Clark Mitchell*.

Many of us have been watching with fascination as two beautiful new homes have appeared on lower *Swiss*... *4834* and *4517*, (which is still under construction). Looking for all the world like a pair of well kept 100 year old homes, these new houses are the brainchild of *JW Brasher and Clark Mitchell*. While searching for a home in the neighborhood, *Clark and JW* thought they'd found a fixer upper in the *M Streets*, until their contractor, *Wayne Guthrie*, took a look at it and exclaimed, "I could build you a new house for the cost of rebuilding this thing." And, with that, a vision was formed as the two men, together with *Brenda Guthrie*, began canvassing *Munger Place*, *Swiss Avenue* and *Junius Heights*, looking for a property to build on and deciding on the style their new home would take.



Otto Lang in his front yard, with new construction behind him. Look carefully behind the horse and carriage to see the *Swiss Avenue Gates* (then the *Munger Place Gates*)

RESTORATION NEWS CONTINUED

After looking online for some 6 months, the two decided on a four square floor plan, a rather simple plan that allows a builder to add on to rather easily, thus creating the *look* of an old home with an addition on the back. Taking their plans to the *Landmark Commission*, they were relieved when one of the board members noted that it looked like an old house with an addition, gaining a *Certificate of Appropriateness* and the OK to start building. When the house at **4834 Swiss** (See photo at right) was completed the pair began enjoying evenings on the front porch while watching the progress on the Lang house across the street and discussing what they would do with it if it were theirs.



The First home Brasher and Mitchell built, at 4834 Swiss

Then, it *was* theirs. When the Campbells decided to sell, JW and Clark jumped at the opportunity to purchase this important landmark. Hoping to discover its original facade, the restorers contacted Otto Lang's grand-daughter, who kindly loaned them a family photo album containing many pictures of the house. Using the old photos as a guide, the porch was restored to its original configuration. Incredibly, nearly all the original windows were found in the garage and were lovingly restored and placed back where they had begun service almost 100 years ago. The interior of the house was basically a shell with heart of pine floors and wood and lathe walls, one of which hid a surprise; a corner fireplace (left), once completely plastered over, is now a proud showpiece with a elaborate mantle from a century old *State Thomas* home.

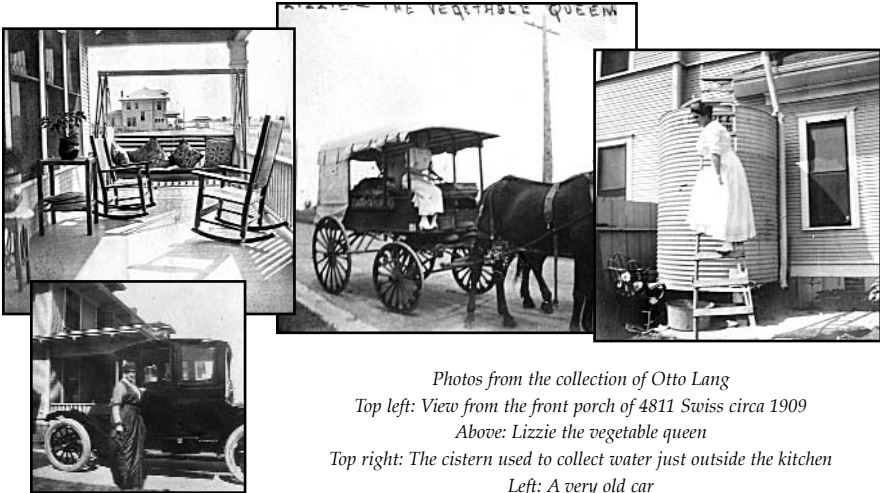


So, take a trip down the block and meet JW and Clark, get them to show you photos of the restoration and then get to know them... when one considers all the baby castles going up nearby, neighbors like JW Brasher and Clark Mitchell and the sensibilities they bring

to new home construction are a valuable commodity in our community. And, as JW, President of the *Peak's Addition Historic District*, says, "What happens in *Peak's Addition* affects *Munger Place*, *Swiss Avenue* and *Junius Heights Historic Districts* as well." We all impact each other, and folks like Clark and JW are working to make this a better, safer, cleaner area, one house at a time.

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Photos from the collection of Otto Lang
 Top left: View from the front porch of 4811 Swiss circa 1909
 Above: Lizzie the vegetable queen
 Top right: The cistern used to collect water just outside the kitchen
 Left: A very old car

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Swiss Avenue Mother's Day Home Tour

Saturday, May 13 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, May 14 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Home at 4811 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5020 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5210 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5400 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5417 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5500 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 5916 Swiss Avenue
 Home at 6114 Bryan Parkway
 Garden at 5215 Swiss Avenue
 Garden at 5316 Live Oak Street
 Garden at 5320 Live Oak Street

Ticket Prices:

Advance Purchase: \$12 • Day of Tour: \$15
 Children 12 and Under are Free

Additional Parking at Wells Fargo Bank, Gaston @ Abrams

Friday, May 12 • Private Kick-Off Party, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 On Sycamore between Munger and Dumas

Saturday, May 13 Parade 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 On Swiss Avenue between Fitzhugh and LaVista

For more information:
 214-823-2076
www.sahd.org www.sahd.org


An application has been filed for a special event.
 Office of Special Events, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas, TX 75205, 214-939-2701

ADVERTISING RATES

If you would like to advertise in the *Swiss Avenue Historic District Occasional*, please contact *Gaye Martin* at 214/826-1967 or www.sahd.org, or *Bobby Chitwood* at 214/821-3050 or bbq@playsjazz.com.

Rates are	3 mo.	6 mo.	12 mo.
Small (3.5"x2")	150.00	175.00	325.00
Medium (3.5"x4")	300.00	350.00	650.00
Large (8.5"x11")	450.00	500.00	950.00

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighbors,
Kitchen 1924 will be serving food both days of the home tour, but need help to serve.

Ken Martin is scheduling 2 hour shifts at the park and need volunteers to work either the *ticket gazebo*, or help serving. If you or you know anyone that can help, please forward this on or contact Ken at

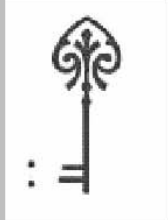
ken.martin@sourceselection.com

Thanks in advance and see you Mother's Day



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