

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau

January – February 2018

New beginnings, cast aside, can little the pathways of the mind. Or plunging in with resolve, can lead down a road to making life more meaningful. Like a trip well planned, an itinerary, guide books, and road maps are essential.

In planning another year of life, the safety of our homes is always paramount. Our SAAF officer, Vincent Cano, gave some advice. "Most of the bad guys want to steal out of the garage. In general, they are not entering the home, though we do have some invasions in Monticello Park." He advise making it cumbersome for the intruders to get into homes. "Lights, a barking dog, and signs deter. If it looks difficult, they simply will move on to another home." He said, "Create doubt as to whether you are home or not. A radio left on near a door or lighting on timers is often enough." He also said that security systems and cameras are okay, but stressed that taking away the opportunity for a would-be invader is the best security.

Lieutenant Brian Palmer of the Fire Department also gave advice for residents. "One of the main issues we run into is with seniors holding onto physical things. We have trouble getting into homes because of all the clutter." He stressed having working smoke detectors in every room where people are sleeping. He also recommended having at least two working fire extinguishers in the house. One should be place in the kitchen and one upstairs if that applies or in another area of the house.

"Fire extinguishers should be checked yearly as well as all smoke detectors. Of course, each family or individual should have an escape plan for exiting the house should a fire occur. These plans should be practiced at regular intervals. He said that it is important that there is a designated meeting place outside. "If there are fireplaces in the home, they should be inspected and cleaned each year." Because of the many synthetic materials in buildings and in furniture, escape time

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Please attend the
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting

MONDAY

January 29, 2018

7PM
950 Donaldson
Grace Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

President's Message

Happy New Year to Monticello Park!

I hope all of you had a tremendous Holiday Season and are welcoming the New Year and a new start.

Your MPNA Officers and Board are certainly off to a new start, after the elections held at the November General Assembly Meeting. New officers and directors are:

President	Gary Hudman
Secretary	Drea Garza
Treasurer	Tom Simmons
Board Members	Scott Gustafson
	Ben Hirt
	Ron Hubbert
	Jaime Jasso
	Tony Sanchez
	Cathy Teague

We are creating a number of committees to further our goal of making Monticello Park the best neighborhood in San Antonio. These board members will be calling on many of you to help us out. Please give a few hours of your time to help.

We also have three board members who are attending the City of San Antonio Neighborhood Leadership Academy. This is a new program by the city and over the next five months we hope to learn about city services and opportunities to create a better community.

I was very happy to see so many neighbors attend the MPNA Holiday Party on December 16th. Wayne Ehrisman was a superb host and the neighborhood is extremely grateful for your generosity in opening up your home for this social event. We all had a great time. Thank you, Wayne!

Each year, we give awards to several homeowners who have completed projects to beautify and restore their homes, furthering MPNA's goal of being the best neighborhood in the city. Please see the application in this newsletter if you would like to apply for an award. All applications are due January 31, 2018 for work completed during the calendar year 2017. Please note that you must be a dues-paying member of MPNA to qualify for these awards.

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President: Gary Hudman (Mary Louise)
286-9212
Secretary: Drea Garza (Furr)
643-4760
Treasurer: Tom Simmons (Club)
701-4300

Board Members

Scott Gustafson
Ben Hirt
Ron Hubbert
Jaime Jasso
Tony Sanchez
Cathy Teague

MonticelloParkNA.com
or check us out on Facebook
[facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/)

Newsletter Committee

Editors: Ferne Burney article and event submission please call 734-2445 or email ferneburney@hotmail.com

For ad pricing info call 734-2445 or visit monticelloparkna.com

MPNA P.O. Box 5851
San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office	207-7044
SAWS	724-7097
CPS	353-2222
Officer Vincent Cano	207-0803
394-1398 (cell)	
vincent.cano@sanantonio.gov	
SAPD, West Substation	207-7420
SAPD Emergency	911
SAPD Non-emergency	207-7273
SAISD Police	271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office	223-2360
VIA Transit	362-2020
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
Office of Historic Preservation	215-9274
Historic Building Enforcement Officer	
report@sapreservation.com	

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February 12th, MPNA is co-hosting a Candidates' Forum, where we will hear from candidates for District Attorney, County Commissioner, and State Representative. Details are in this newsletter, and I hope to see you there.

Finally, please join us at our next General Assembly meeting on January 29th. The best way to build a better community is to join together and help us achieve our goals. Hope to see you there!

Gary Hudman
President
MPNA

The History Corner

This 1928 Spanish Revival house by Atlee and Robert Ayers, still stands majestically at 222 Mary Louise Drive, originally called the Million Dollar Street.

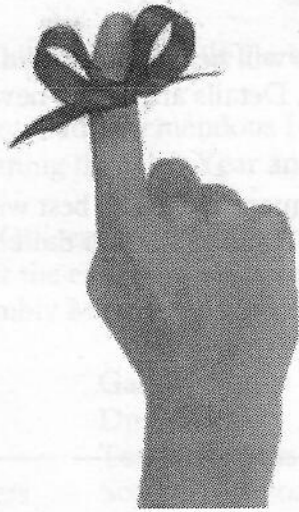
April 20, 1928, *San Antonio Light*

MODEL OF ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY

Architects, members of the A. I. A., in conjunction with American Building Co., and C. M. Furr Co., are planning and building 30 homes on Mary Louise Drive to

represent highest type of architectural beauty. The first model, planned by Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, is shown. Other homes will be announced soon.

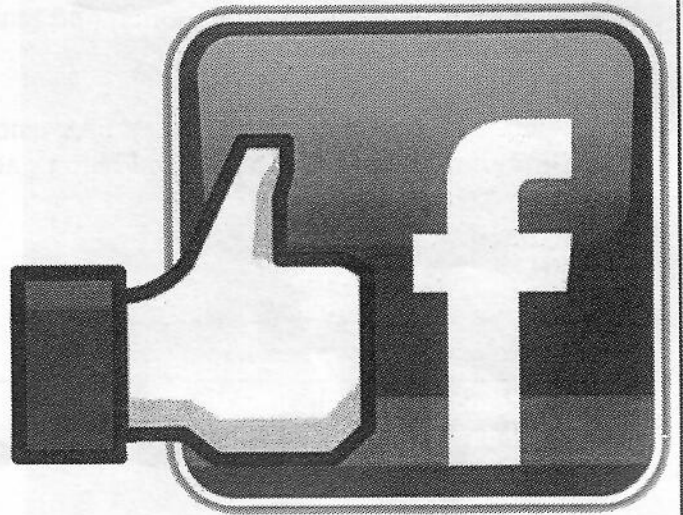




SAVE THE DATE

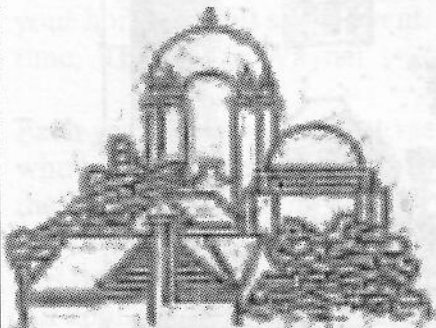
DECEMBER 2,
2018

MPNA
HOME TOUR



Follow us on Facebook
Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association

Get your newsletter in living color
there, and keep up on
neighborhood happenings.



Pay dues
and join us
at the next
meeting!

CANDIDATES' FORUM

Moderated by the League of Women Voters

**Featuring Candidates for
Bexar County District Attorney
Bexar County Commissioner Precinct 2
Texas State Representative District 116**

February 12, 2018

7 PM, 758 Donaldson

Jefferson United Methodist Church Community Room

Hosted by

**Jefferson Neighborhood Association
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association
Woodlawn Lake Community Association**



**Note: JNA, MPNA, and WLCA are presenting this forum as a service to our communities,
and do not endorse any candidate for office**

Monticello Park Home Tour Set for December 2nd

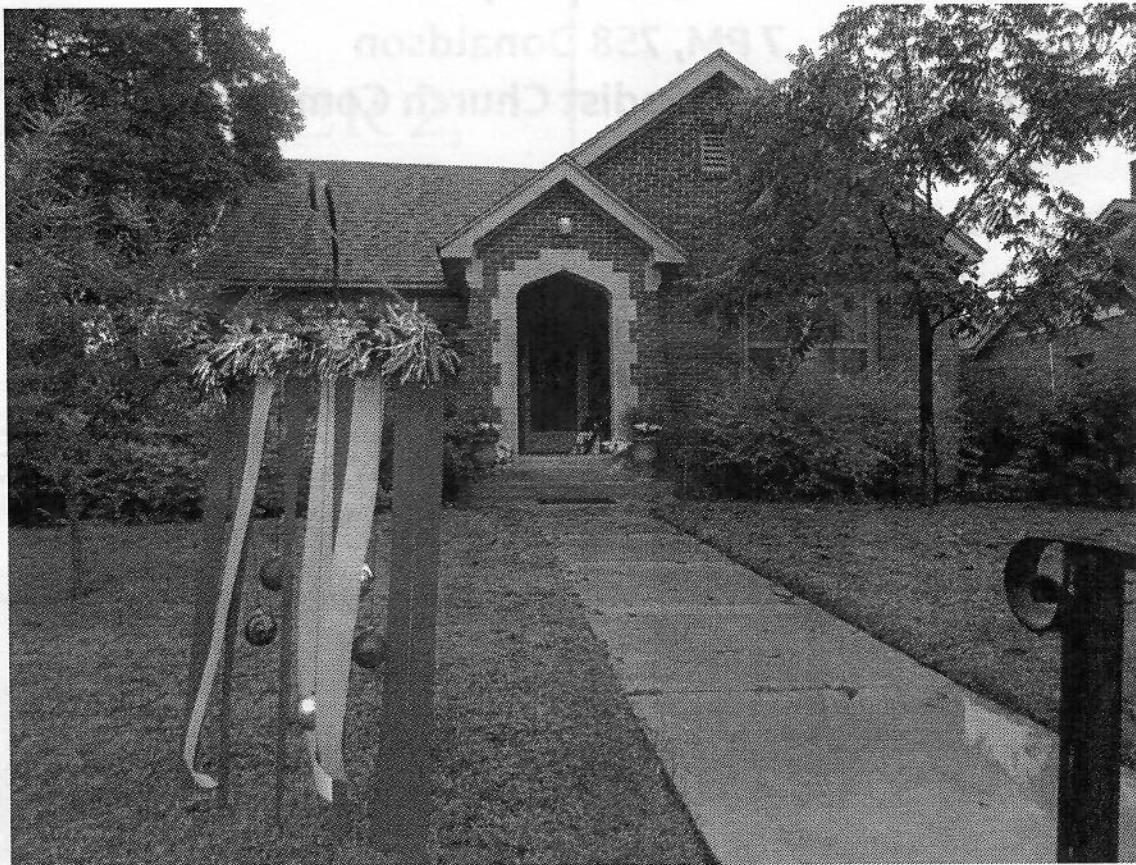
by Gary Hudman

Mark your calendars! The 16th Biennial Holiday Home Tour is set for Sunday, December 2, 2018. Traditionally held every two years, the home tour is Monticello Park Neighborhood Association's largest fundraiser, and allows us to support neighborhood beautification projects and college scholarships for area high school students.

The 2016 Home Tour definitely set the bar for an even better tour in 2018. We had the largest tour ever, featuring eight gorgeous homes, the sanctuary of Jefferson United Methodist Church, and the amazing Thomas Jefferson High School. We raised a record \$7000, despite the rainy weather, and we added a Christmas Market, which sold gifts from twenty local vendors.

The Home Tour Committee will begin meeting in February, and we need volunteers to help us continue to build the best home tour possible. We are also looking for several neighbors to open their wonderful homes to be on the tour and help us achieve our neighborhood goals.

Please contact Gary Hudman (210-286-9212 or gary.hudman@gmail.com) if you can help us out. We need the support of our neighbors to continue this tradition and allow us to fund projects to beautify the neighborhood.



Charming Tudor Home of Laura Reid and John Hernandez during the 2016 Home Tour

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

2018 Beautification & Restoration Award Application

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), with a donation from the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, is proud to announce \$4000 for the 2018 MPNA Beautification and Restoration Award. Please complete the application below.

Projects eligible for Beautification and Restoration award must be visible from the street. Some examples: wood window restoration, wood door restoration, roof, exterior masonry repairs, wood screen restoration, painting and new landscaping. New construction projects will not be considered.

Application is due by Sunday, January 31, 2018 and can be turned in to any MPNA board member or mailed. Projects must be completed between 1/1/2017 and 1/31/2017

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please provide a description of the scope of the project. If you need more lines, feel free to answer this on another sheet of paper and attach it to the application. Please write or print legibly.

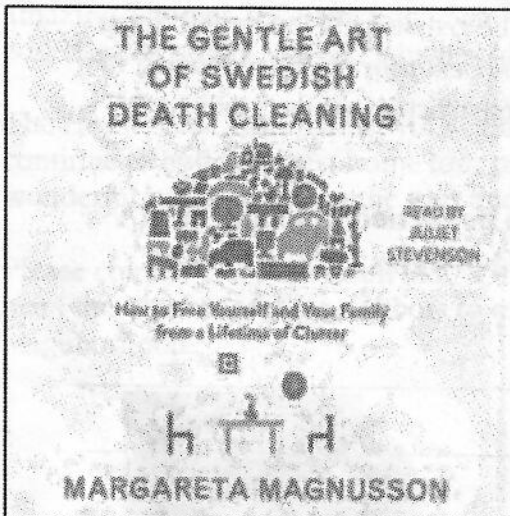
All Applications MUST include the following documentation:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Itemized list of all expenditures associated with project for award consideration.
3. Copies of receipts that show proof of payment with detail of the scope of project and materials.
4. Photos of "before" and "after" the project.

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is much shorter. The old standard was around fifteen to seventeen minutes for exiting the house. The time has been shortened to about three minutes because of the gases that synthetic materials create. "You die from hydrogen cyanide released from burning synthetic materials. You cannot escape the deadly gases by crawling on the floor. They are everywhere."

So clutter, cherished objects, and saved pieces of paper seem to be culprits in the organization of our lives. Gail Collins, an avid reader, offered some helpful books for organization of personal things. In the book, *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, the author, Margareta Magnusson states, "Sometimes

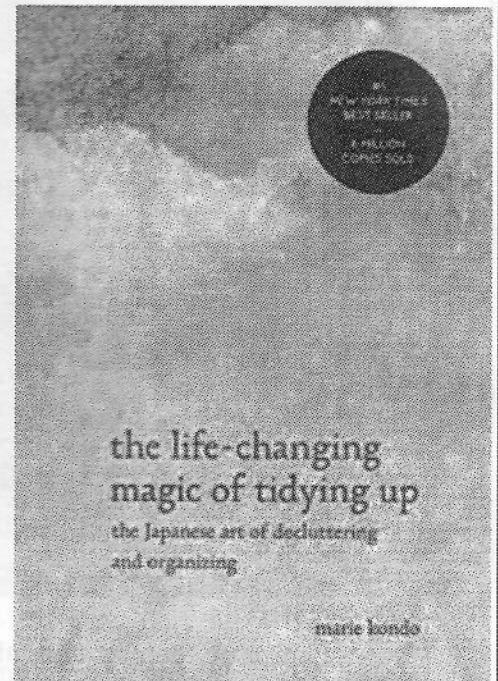


I think it must have been much easier to live and die in the time of our ancestors, the Vikings. When they buried their relatives, they also buried many objects together with the body. This was to be sure that the dead would not miss anything in their new environment. With all the *skrap* (Swedish for *junk*), people have now, they would have to be buried in Olympic-sized swimming pools so that their stuff could go with them! As for hobbies such as gardening, she recommends that when you move to a smaller space such as an apartment, you share in a community gardening project. Tools can be given to those who take over your old home and a sunny window sill can become your own little garden. Monticello Park certainly has a community garden in urgent need of volunteer gardeners. There are many other suggestions as to how to give away collections--museums with special interest in those collections

was one idea.

Another book recommended is the *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing, by Marie Kondo. This book has been reviewed on television as well in newspapers and magazines. The key idea as stated in the book cover is determining which items in your house "spark joy" and which don't. This will help you clear your clutter and enjoy the unique magic of a tidy home--and the calm, motivated mindset it can inspire.

This is an amazing little book that verges on spiritual in its approach to tidying up. Kondo has a dramatic approach to tidying up. With clothing, she instructs the reader to make a pile on the floor of all the clothing in one's closets and all the other places where clothing is stored. Sorting out what to keep or what to let go occurs after all clothing is in plain view. So her instruction is to sort by category and not by location of the item. Once all clothing items are piled, hold each item and ask, "Does this bring joy if I keep it as a part of my life?" In bold she writes, "Make sure you gather every piece of clothing in the house and be sure to handle each one." If the piece of clothing gives you joy, then you keep it. If not, you put it into the discard pile, being sure to express your appreciation for the service that piece of clothing has given. She gives tips on folding so that the items can all be seen rather than in stacks where only the top piece of clothing is visible. In short, there is a wealth of information in this book from someone who has been obsessed with organization from the age of five.



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The final book recommended is *Downsizing the Family Home*, written by Mami Jameson and endorsed by AARP. The book deals with topics such as "Facing the Full-Loaded House; Getting the Right Mind-Set; Endowment—Why we get so attached to things; Plan E for the Estate Sale; Beyond the Estate Sale; The Really Tough Stuff—Photos and Memorabilia; Archival Storage—How to keep stuff for almost ever; Handle with Care—Shipping the Heirloom China and other Breakables; Fixing to Sell—Old House New Look.

Ferne Burney, our newsletter editor, offered a few thoughts on being organized. "I live and breathe by my calendar." It is digitized and available on all her devices. "I even write down the dates I pay my credit card bills. If I write it down, it will get done." And she does a lot of things from The Woman's Club of San Antonio, TriDelta Alumnae, Tour Guide Association, and Panhellenic Association of San Antonio, and cooking each week for her church choir. She and her pastor, Patrick Gahan, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, put together a guide based on a *Forbes* article, "25 Documents You Should Have Before Dying." The document is titled "Book of Knowledge" and is about thirty pages. The guidebook helps organize your information concerning your life so that those dealing with your incapacitation or death can locate all of the information they need to be effective. Ferne's own completed book contains passwords and where the water main and breaker boxes are located. A few of the topics covered include the will, marriage and divorce certificates, birth certificates, summaries of investment accounts, real estate holdings, automobile titles and loans, and a Living Will. There are many other topics addressed as well. Imagine how decluttered your own life would be if you have all of your information in one place for your heirs to see!

Ferne has conducted several seminars in San Antonio entitled "Are You Ready to Go?" since the information in the guidebook ensures that you will indeed be ready to depart the earth with all of your necessary documents in place. If interested in obtaining a copy of the workbook, contact ferneburney@hotmail.com and she will email you a .pdf copy and you can print a copy of it for yourself.

This is just the tip of the iceberg on getting organized. But it is a start, and just think of the freedom you will have when all your ducks are in a row!



Viewsheds

Public Input Meeting

Monday, January 29

6:00 - 8:00 pm

AIA San Antonio, 1344 S Flores

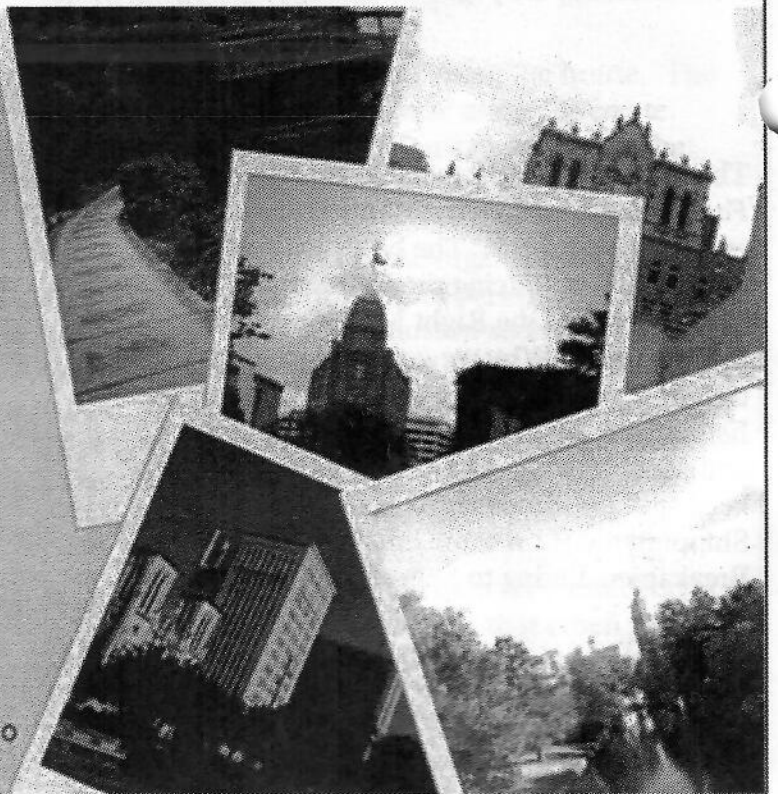
#ThisViewMatters



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



AIA
San Antonio



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE ---- JANUARY 29, 6:00 PM

District 7 Councilwoman Ana E. Sandoval and District 2 Councilman William "Cruz" Shaw recently submitted a Council Consideration Request to initiate the process to consider additional San Antonio landmarks for viewshed protection and to enable the establish of potential Viewshed Protection Districts. The CCR also directs the Office of Historic Preservation staff to study additional views and vistas of historic places, landmarks, and cultural resources for consideration for viewshed protection.

The City of San Antonio has five Viewshed Protection Districts that are currently in place:

- The Alamo Viewshed
- Mission Protection Overlay Districts

The creation of a new Viewshed Protection District is a two-step process requiring both UDC Amendments and the implementation of a new zoning overlay district. As potential new districts are proposed, affected property owners will be notified and engaged in the adoption process.

During the month of January, you can help us prepare by sharing photos of some your favorite San Antonio views. Submissions can be provided for public input three ways:

Share your photo on social media using #ThisViewMatters and tagging @SAPreservation

Email your photo to info@sapreservation.com

Print your photo and bring it with you to the January 29 public input meeting. Printed photos should be 8X10 or letter-sized format. OHP will create a gallery of images for public input at the January 29 meeting.

Following the meeting, the gallery will remain on display at the AIA offices for an extended period of time to allow for additional public comment. At the public meeting, we will create a gallery of scenic San Antonio to assist with gathering input. Please take time to participate in this important discussion!

San Antonio City Council District 7 Town Hall

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 6-8 PM

Thomas Jefferson High School, 723 Donaldson Avenue

Join Councilwoman Ana Sandoval to discuss making
District 7 strong and prosperous

Bring your questions and meet with
representatives from:

CPS

- SAWS
- Neighborhood Services
- Parks & Recreation
- Solid Waste
- Transportation & Capital Improvements



Hi! I am your neighbor, Camille Rodriguez Brigant, over on Gramercy. I am also a **realtor specializing in our unique neighborhoods**. If you have been considering selling your home, I would love to introduce you to my new boutique brokerage, *Motif*.

I decided to start Motif to expand on the **truly customized, personal touch** I have developed with my clients over the years. I have seen so many clients frustrated by the one-size-fits-all approach used by big conglomerate agencies. I look at each of my clients with fresh eyes, and create an innovative, specialized strategy that serves YOU.

Real estate is in my blood. **Born and raised in San Antonio**, my first job was working in my mother's real estate company. After graduating from Princeton University, I worked in both residential and commercial real estate on the West Coast and Louisiana before returning home to focus on our community. I am a supporter of many local art, conservation, and historic preservation groups. I am also both a Senior Real Estate Specialist and a Historic Homes Specialist.

But most importantly, I know and understand our neighborhoods.

As your neighbor, I am right around the corner when you need me for a showing or open house, or just to answer your questions. I am here to help price your home correctly, advertise it online, market it to my extensive network of friends, family, alumni, and social organizations, and represent your best interests throughout the entire process.

Historic homes have such character - but they possess their own set of challenges. I can accurately price your home, even when no other comparable listings are available, and appeal to the specialized buyer, using the marketing strategy I have developed to target buyers who appreciate the vintage charm of older homes. This helps make getting an offer the easy part!

After that, you will need a Realtor with specific knowledge and expertise to navigate the contract, inspections, appraisal, and lender requirements our unique homes require. Repairs are common, and Motif has a network of affordable, reliable contractors on hand to make this process go smoothly and complete the transaction.

If you are interested in a local expert with personalized services, I look forward to hearing from you.



Camille Rodriguez Brigant, *Realtor*[®]

☎ 210.802.9797

✉ HomesByCamille@gmail.com

