

# Alta Vista

## Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Alta Vista is bounded by Hildebrand on the North, San Pedro on the East, the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the west, and Myrtle on the South  
 PO Box 15033 • San Antonio TX • 78212

### May Meeting Agenda

By Erin Zayko

The Association's last meeting before Summer break will start in the spirit of giving: recognizing the recipient of our \$500 Patricia Lee Clayworth Scholarship, Delano Valdez Covarrubia. Mr. Covarrubia is a former Mark Twain student and recent graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School with plans to attend UT Austin. Please join us to wish him every success!

In addition to important updates by the District One office, we'll also review an unapproved idea by San Antonio College to build a pedestrian bridge across San Pedro Ave., from their campus near the McAllister Fine Arts Center to San Pedro Springs Park. Crossing San Pedro on foot is a dicey affair, no doubt, but is a pedestrian bridge the best solution? We'll share what we know about this project for discussion.

Finally, we'll provide an overview of the outcomes of the Conservation Society's survey of Alta Vista and we'll hear from a representative from VIA about the major project planned (think pocket park) for one of their busiest passenger nodes, the Five Points bus stop at Fredericksburg and N. Flores just south of San Pedro Park.



### AVNA Logo Contest!

By Erin Zayko & Peggy Howe

Many years ago, the neighborhood adopted a logo drawn by G.J. "Boomer" Laven. The logo, a hand-drawn depiction of vintage houses in Alta Vista, morphed overtime into the banner shown below. This banner adorned the newsletter until its latest redesign in 2013.

Unfortunately, due to the loss of the original artwork and the resolution of the present copy, we are no longer able to incorporate the banner as our logo.

That's why we're having a Logo Design Contest!

The winning artist or artists will receive recognition and an award TBD from a grateful neighborhood. Submis-

sions are due August 31. Please make sure files are at least 300 dpi, preferably vector (.eps, .pdf, .ai, etc.). Physical designs will also be accepted. To receive an entry form with contest rules, email [avna@ymail.com](mailto:avna@ymail.com).

We look forward to presenting the submissions at the September general meeting!



### A Brief History of San Pedro Park

by Mario Ruis

Summer is around the corner. Soon the laughter of kids, the smell of barbeque and the sound of water splashing will fill the space of the place we all know and love; San Pedro Springs Park, Alta Vista's home away from home.

Did you know Mastodons and saber-toothed tigers drank from the springs? Or that in 1860, Governor Sam Houston gave an electrifying speech at the park when he was fighting against secession? This land, filled with rich history, is San Antonio's oldest designated park.

King Phillip of Spain granted the park as public land in 1729, making it the second oldest municipal park in the United States (behind Boston Common). Early settlers chose the land because of the large amount of water. The San Pedro Acequia (irrigation ditch) was built by the Canary Island settlers, with the purpose to bring water from the springs to their settlement at what is now Main Plaza. Any evidence of this first acequia is long



San Pedro Park as featured on a postcard from 1907

gone, though the remains of a subsequent one are present today.

The Confederate Army used the park as a prisoner of war camp during the Civil War. The entrance to an old bear pit was located under the inverted heart-shaped stone found by the bandstand. Bears and Longhorns were placed in the pit to fight it out.

Although there are twenty-seven libraries located in town, the city's first library branch is located in the park. Two historical markers in front of the building lo-

cated on the sidewalk recognize the springs and an event of the Civil War. One could reputedly find huge caves in the area created by a rapidly flowing underground river; as the story goes, the caves were supposedly last entered in the 1890's but the entrance then lost to the ages.

San Pedro Park is filled with hidden gems of the past. I encourage you to get up and make your way to the park. Walk, look and discover all the history that surrounds you!



#### NEXT MEETING

May 27th, 6:30 PM  
 Mark Twain Middle School Library  
 2411 San Pedro (parking off Breeden)

#### TOPICS:

See article at right  
 Last meeting before Summer Break!

#### 2015 Meeting Schedule:

- September 30
- October - National Night Out
- November 18
- December - AVNA Holiday Party & Theatre Night Fund-raiser

#### CONTACT US

- [avna@ymail.com](mailto:avna@ymail.com)
- [altavistasa.com](http://altavistasa.com)
- [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)
- District 1 Field Office 210.207.0900

#### 2015 AVNA Board

**President**  
 Erin Zayko

**Vice President**  
 Elizabeth Allen

**Treasurer**  
 Alma Noriega-Sotirhos

**Secretary**  
 Jennifer Khoshbin

**Members at Large**  
 Peggy Howe  
 Maricel de Leon Stephen  
 Claudia Guerra

#### SA Tomorrow

SA Tomorrow is a planning effort to guide San Antonio towards smart sustainable growth through a Comprehensive Plan, a Sustainability Plan, and a Multimodal Transportation Plan.

Help shape these plans at [satomorrow.mindmixer.com](http://satomorrow.mindmixer.com), a virtual townhall to allow for continual dialogue among community members and government officials to ensure the future we map for San Antonio works for all San Antonians. Signing up is absolutely free!

# ALTA VISTA

## -A Neighborhood Conservation District- We Make Good Neighbors!

### Familiar Faces - Our Neighbors in Profile

by Peggy Howe

What beauties," I said to myself as the Sunigas' two daughters, Umi and Socorro, entered the living room of their cozy Magnolia Street bungalow.

Not a bit shy, Umi proudly offered the origins of her and her little sister's interesting names.

Umi, I was told, means *servant of god* in an ancient African language and *ocean* in Japanese. Socorro, a name with Spanish beginnings, means *help, relief or succour*.

Wise choices, I thought. What are the chances that your daughters will throw food at the dinner table with names like *servant of god* and *succour*?

I'm curious to know what names Marcos and Desiree will choose this next time around. The Sunigas it seemed had just been informed that

they were expecting - yep - TWINS! (Maybe they will come across some cute baby names whose translations are *no muss and no fuss*)

The four of them were taking the good news in stride. Socorro, intent on perfecting her spinning moves, looked worry free. Umi seemed unfazed by the imminent arrival of the two, very small competitors. Desiree was looking ahead to a Vancouver business trip on behalf of her employer, Luxottica, an Italian eyewear manufacturer. And Marcos was hurriedly planning logistics. He would soon be juggling two full time positions - his present occupation, Security Manager for The Witte Museum and his newest role as Super Dad in Charge of Four.

"Don't worry. You'll be fine," I said to Marcos. I noticed only the tiniest amount of trepidation as he smiled and nodded his head in acknowledgment of the good times to come.



**Have a great summer!  
We will see you in September!**

#### AVNA 2015 Membership Form

Individual - \$10/year  
Business - \$20/year (includes one business card sized ad in newsletter for one month)

Name(s):

Address:

Phone(s):

Email(s):

**Pay online at [altavistasasa.com](http://altavistasasa.com)**

or fill out and return with a check to:

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 15033  
San Antonio, TX 78212

**Thank You to our advertisers  
and business members!**

**JC's**  
**Refinishing**  
**Wood Floor Installations**  
**210-639-7426**

**Karavan**  
The Art & Science  
of Belly Dance



**Karavan Studio**

331 West Mulberry #3  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
210.232.3035

**Karen Barbee Adkisson**  
Founder and Owner

Enjoy expert belly dance instruction through our online video lessons, at our San Antonio studio, and at workshops around the world

Interested in becoming a Karavan Online subscriber? Simply click on the QR code above or go to [karavansa.com/purchase-online-classes](http://karavansa.com/purchase-online-classes)

Miguel Angel Garza  
guitarist

Spanish-Latin-Jazz-  
Classical

solo, duo, group  
(210) 535-2687

restaurants, private parties,  
weddings, birthdays, BBQs,  
conventions & more

[www.miguelAG.com](http://www.miguelAG.com)



**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR WITH 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

Take the 1st Step & Call Me Today!  
I Specialize in Selling Older Homes in Alta Vista  
Sellers FREE Home Warranty When You List with Me  
Buyers FREE Survey When I Represent You



**Linda Puente Talbott, Associate Broker**  
[www.ltalbott.kwrealty.com](http://www.ltalbott.kwrealty.com)  
[linda.talbott06@gmail.com](mailto:linda.talbott06@gmail.com)  
Cell: 210-415-4632  
Habla Espanol



607 W RUSSELL PL  
San Antonio TX  
78212  
Color Specialist  
(210) 737-9363  
HAIRSTYLIST  
[kiki\\_carr77@yahoo.com](mailto:kiki_carr77@yahoo.com)  
**HENRY W. CARRERA**