



Southwest Texas Council Hostelletter

Hostelling International Newsletter

The Hostelletter

February 2008

In This Issue

[Annual Party Invitation](#)

[Meet some folks of HI - Austin](#)

[Thanks John Growler](#)

[SWT goes to D.C.](#)

[Facility Makeover](#)

[Program Updates](#)

Quick Links

[HI-Austin Website](#)
[Membership](#)
[Donations](#)
[Hostel's Myspace](#)

Dear friends,

I'm proud to say that we have had a wonderful year! Through this Newsletter, we hope to shine light on who what we've been up to this past year. Our educational programs continue to grow as we are; teaching monthly classes at REI, broadening our programs with the Girls Scouts, and initiating a travel club at UT. Our hostel overnights have increased, bringing TrekAmerica and other International groups to stay with us. Through grants and donations, we've been able to make some substantial updates including repainting all our dorm rooms, installing a security system and purchasing new linens for all 42 beds. Our council, the Southwest Texas Council, along with our hostel staff, continue working together to keep the positive movement going forward. We thank the City of Austin, HI-members and of course our community of friends for your support.

Come by and see us anytime!

Sincerely,
 Vanessa Vaughan
 Executive Director
 Hostelling International-Austin

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY AT THE AUSTIN HOSTEL

Your Invited to our Annual Party! Feb. 23, 1-3pm

For over 20 years the Southwest Texas Council of Hostelling International has provided an environmentally and economically conscious home for travelers visiting Austin.

This year, HI-Austin has teamed up with several environmentally conscious, local organizations such as Ecology-Action, TreeFolks, Ten Thousand Villages and The Natural Epicurean Academy, among others; to provide a casual party in celebration of sustainable

living in Austin.

Join us for an afternoon of organic food, homegrown music and exhibits with other local "green" minded organizations.

Who: HI - Austin, Southwest Texas Council

What: A celebration of sustainable living

Where: HI - Austin Hostel

When: Saturday, February 23, 2008

11:00 - 12:30 Annual Council Meeting
(HI Members encouraged to attend!)

1:00 - 3:00 Annual Party
(Everyone welcome!)

Visit our website for Directions www.hiaustin.org

MEET SOME PEOPLE OF HI -AUSTIN!

Meet A Hosteller:

Meet Enzo. He's a linguistics teacher from Sao Paulo, Brazil. He's just arrived in Austin 5 days ago and will be staying here for 6 months on a teaching exchange with the University of Texas; once finished he will be headed home to Brazil. This is his first visit to the US and he's very impressed with how organized Austin is, especially the bus system.

-Written by Kat Pratt



Meet A Staff Member:

My name is Kat Pratt and I work the front desk at HI Austin. I was born in Cape Canaveral, Florida. My dad was in the Air Force so my sister and I got used to moving quite a bit. When I was 3 years old my dad was transferred to Germany. Initially we were going to live on the military base but when my mom went to scope out our potential living situation she saw our elementary school would be across the street from a tank testing ground. That settled it. She determined that if we were going to live overseas we would experience the culture not stay cooped up on a base. So we moved to a tiny village in Bavaria and she enrolled my sister and me in local schools.

-Written by Kat Pratt

Meet a Board Member:

One of the board members for HI-Austin began his adventures in hostelling long before many of our current members and guests were born. David Miller first tried hostelling in the mid 1960s during the time when books such as "[Europe on Five Dollars a Day](#)" were popular guides for travelers abroad.

David took a hiatus from hostelling for 20 years but returned to it in the late 1980s. He began to

travel and bike in different parts of Europe each summer. In the past 25 plus years David has been to all of western Europe and parts of eastern Europe and Russia. He has also found his way to Australia, New Zealand, parts of Central America, and, of course, much of the United States.

-Written by Eleanor Langsdof



We would like to recognize and thank John Growler for his contributions to the hostel. He's been a friend of Hostelling International for a long time, and has been donating to the Austin hostel for over 3 years! He's an avid International traveler and loves visiting new hostels.

John birding along the Rio Grande River!

SWTexas Council represents in D.C.



The Southwest Texas Board of Directors sent 4 representatives to Washington DC this year for our Annual National Council Meeting. Ron Anderson, Trevor Evenson, Dave Miller and Vanessa Vaughan met on Capitol Hill for a HI Congressional Outreach Day to our council representatives, asking for support of our 75th year of serving in the US.

In results of last year's National Council Meeting in D.C., Russell Hedge presented USPS ED, petitions with over 10,000 people in support of a hostelling postage stamp. We will know soon whether a U.S. hostelling postage stamp will be a reality in 2009

You, too, can help make a change

There have been some changes made at the Hostel in the last year. Some of these changes come from donations, and some from grants, and some by purchases made for improvement. All have changed the hostel in some way for the better. This year we purchased lockers for the hostlers, a new fridge for the kitchen, and a new DVD for watching movies. The grant money that was awarded from HI National helped purchase one hundred sheets for the bunk beds. HI National grant money was used for paint to helped re-decorate the Common room. Video cameras for security were made possible from a donation made by the Lower Colorado River Authority. Supporters for hostelling made tax deductible financial donations as well. Every grant won, every donation given helps the hostel continue to serve the community and travelers. Of course the hostel has a very big wish list which would help change and improve the hostel even more. The list includes replacing the roof on the building, replacing the worn out



water heater for the showers, remodeling the showers, and finding more energy efficient ways to improve the facility. Donations of furniture and computers are need as well. If you would like to donate to our wish list contact Vanessa. Donations are tax deductible and would be appreciated by everyone!

-Written by Shaya Zucker

There's more to the Hostel than a night of sleep!

During the last year the hostel had many travelers and visitors. Not everyone who came to the hostel spent the night. The hostel has hosted a variety of groups who have used the facilities for gatherings.

E-Ray the Hostels live-in staff person is a former Peace Corp volunteer who lived and worked in Ecuador. E-Ray suggested that the Austin chapter of former Peace Corps volunteers hold their pot luck dinner at the hostel. There was a large gathering with a variety of food, stories traded, and a raffle. Some of the raffle gifts were very imaginative and fun.

Trek America, the traveling touring company, now has the Austin Hostel on its GPS. This year the traveling group stopped to look around Austin and stayed overnight at the Hostel. Vanessa, Director of the Hostel, formerly traveled with Trek America as one of their guides. Trek America travelers stop by the Hostel and enjoy the comforts we offer. Their stop at the Austin Hostel adds to their overall of traveling experience.

SIETAR, the Society of International Education and Training Research have also planned to have their meetings at the Hostel. Meeting at the hostel is a natural for International organization, and the Hostel welcomes their group.

The Hostel also hosted the construction of one of the "Guitars around Texas." The progression of the building of the glitzy mirrored and golden guitar was seen by hostlers and visitors. Every week the guitar changed until the final product sparkled in the common room. Unfortunately it was purchased for a fundraiser. While it resided in the hostel everyone enjoyed watching it evolve.

Finally, sometimes during the holiday season there are travelers who are staying at the hostel. This past Thanksgiving there were ten hostlers staying on Thanksgiving Day. They were not left out of the American celebration. The staff managed to do a little shopping, and a mini Thanksgiving feast was prepared for those lodging for the night. One of the Board members dropped off a huge pecan pie so that the feast would be complete. This was a great way for a visitor to experience an American tradition.

Next year the Hostel will expand and reach more groups and organization. If you have any contacts that you think would enjoy using the Hostel for meetings or programs, please contact Vanessa and keep the Hostel in mind.

-Written by Shaya Zucker

Help support Hostelling International - Austin! Memberships and Donations

Your HI membership card provides discounted rates at over 4,000 hostels worldwide, complimentary travel insurance and other great savings! Membership fees and donations from individuals and organizations help support our educational programs and hostel. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3, organization and all donations are tax-deductible. We welcome your gifts!

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT H.I. AUSTIN AND ITS PROGRAMS WITH A DONATION OF \$ _____

Please complete information below.

Payment can be made by check, money order, credit card, or with Paypal online (www.hiaustin.org).

Memberships → **Adult** - \$31 (\$28 + \$3 shipping) **Senior** - \$21 (\$18 + \$3 shipping) **Youth** - Free
(Ages 18 - 54 years) (Ages over 54 years) (Under 18 years)

First Name: _____ M.I. ____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____ Signature: _____

*(Please fill out and send to hostel@hiaustin.org or mail this form to:
HI-Austin, 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd., Austin, TX 78741)*

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to director@hiaustin.org, by director@hiaustin.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Hostelling International | 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd. | Austin | TX | 78741