

UHDA NEWSLETTER



**UPPER HILL
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION**

UHDA Newsletter

MAY- AUGUST | ISSUE 12

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Welcome Note

There is a very important community in Upper Hill that barely sees light in recognition. We know of the growing business community but do we know of the religious community in Upper Hill. We have uncovered the interdenominational part of Upper Hill. Read more about this in our part one series of The Interdenominational Side Of Upper Hill.

Welcome to our 12th edition.

In this edition, we also take a look at what it's like to live in Upper Hill as we talk to residents who have lived in Upper Hill for decades.

Mark Ojal, an urban designer, gives his expert opinion on Upper Hill's placemaking following the Making Upper Hill Together meeting which he made a presentation.

We have now done three successful clean ups and the last one for this year is scheduled for October. Thank you for your continued support throughout and we can't wait to close the October clean up with a bang. We are making strides towards a cleaner Upper Hill and the clean ups are one of the ways of creating awareness. Our Adopt A Road Initiative is a sustainable plan to make sure Upper Hill becomes a litter free zone and we believe we can achieve this. Visit our website or email us for more details on this initiative and our upcoming October clean up.

We would like to welcome Hass Petroleum, KCB, Fortis Suites and Kenyatta National Hospital as our newest members.



**UPPER HILL
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION**

We want to hear from you.

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UPPER HILL LIVING



Nestled at the lower parts of

Upper Hill seats quiet residential neighbourhoods that are a contrast of Upper Hill's foregrounds. Here, life is a still song of whistling trees and airy compounds. Both old and new architecture with an over abundance of verdure create the perfect setting of a laid back Upper Hill.

Masaba, Kiambere, Matumbato, and Mawenzi make up the greater residential part of Upper Hill. It is here we take a journey through time when

we speak to residents who have lived in Upper Hill for most of their lives. Other parts like Menengai, 3rd, 4th and 5th Ngong Avenue have a co-existence of commercial and residential properties.

"Most people have lived here for over three decades," says Suleiman Hussein, a resident of Kiambere. "Currently it's the third and fourth generation who have been left to take care of some of these houses". For Suleiman, Upper Hill is home and will always be. "This is where I grew up, my childhood is full of fond memories of this place," he says.

Most residents like Suleiman who have lived in Upper Hill for almost of their lives, have no plans to leave in spite of the growing commercial developments. "The thing is, living in Upper Hill has proved a boon. Not only do we have the best security but the proximity makes it very ideal," says a Matumbato resident, who preferred to be anonymous. "We are centrally placed and so it's easy to get to Hurlingham, Mombasa road, CBD, Wilson & JKIA airports, Westlands or Karen with much convenience".



(Continued on page 8)



THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL SIDE OF UPPER HILL

PART ONE

In addition to Upper Hill being cosmopolitan, unknown to many, it is also interdenominational. Upper Hill is home to the Roman Catholic Marian Shrine (popularly known as Don Bosco Church), the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Baha'i Faith. In this edition, we begin the first part of the interdenominational series.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also known as the LDS Church is a Christian church that was restored in the year 1830 by prophet Joseph Smith. It is a restoration of the original church founded by Jesus Christ. The church is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has established congregations and built temples worldwide. It has a membership of over 15 million in 156 countries with a strong force of over 70,000 missionaries.

In Kenya, the church started in 1967 with a temporary group consisting primarily of foreign nationals who were American USAID employees and families serving in Kenya. They held meetings in their homes. In the subsequent years, early baptisms for Kenyans were done and the first couple missionaries called to serve in Kenya. In 1981, two branches (small congregations) were created in Nairobi and Kiboko. The Church received official recognition in 1991, and at the same year missionary headquarters were established in Nairobi. In 1992, the Upper Hill meetinghouse was built which also became the headquarters for the Church in Kenya.



Over time the Church in Kenya has experienced major growth pushing the number of congregations to 46 and over 13,000 members currently.

Upper Hill area has been a great neighborhood for the church headquarters since. The calm and quite environment makes it conducive to hold church meetings every Sunday, providing a great spiritual experience. It also provides a safe environment for members to drive or walk to the Church.



What Most People don't know about the LDS Church

- Latter-Day Saints believe in the Bible as well as other books of scriptures, including the Book of Mormon. They believe in modern prophets and apostles and the restoration of the Priesthood authority.
- In addition to many chapels around the world, the Church builds temples. Latter-day Saints consider each temple to be a house of the Lord in which they can receive, make covenants, and draw closer to the Lord.
- Anyone is welcome to attend Sunday service in any of over 30,000 congregations throughout the world.
- The Church has no paid clergy. Local volunteer members lead, teach and serve in the Church, providing programs for men, women, singles, teens and children.
- Latter-day Saints adhere to a code of health, known as the Word of Wisdom, that prohibits the use of alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea and harmful drugs and encourages healthy eating.
- Latter-day Saints worldwide set aside Monday evenings for Family home evening- a time for families to be together enjoying educational and spiritual activities, giving service and having fun.



- Church leaders frequently emphasize the need for men and women to gain as much education as possible. Lifelong learning is a strong held value among Latter-Day Saints.



Baha'i Faith

Baha'i Faith is the religion of God brought by His messenger for today. It is the same religion that was brought by Moses, Jesus and other Prophets, but its message is aimed at the needs and problems of mankind in this day.

The word Baha'i comes from the name of the founder of the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah, which means the Glory of God. A Baha'i is simply a follower of Baha'u'llah, the great world teacher and messenger of all past religions.

Baha'i Faith began in Persia in 1844 when a young man known as Bab proclaimed himself to be a mes-



senger of God. In 1863, Baha'u'llah declared himself to be the one foretold by the Bab and all the previous prophets. In 1945, the first Baha'i settled in Sotik, Kenya and later on was established in Upper Hill, Nairobi in the 1950s. Baha'i Faith was later registered on 28th September 1951 under Society Ordinances of Kenya. Today, the community has more than 180 local Baha'i administrative councils as Local Spiritual

Assemblies.

The Baha'i community in Kenya is known for its work in promoting social and economic development activities such as building skills in weaving and health care.

The head quarters for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i's of Kenya has been in Upper Hill since the 50s mostly because Upper Hill has always been a very peaceful neighbourhood where different cultures, people and inter denominations have co-existed. The area is quiet, decongested and accessible for our members.



We have managed to maintain the flora creating an even more serene environment for the Baha'i's and anyone else visiting.

Most people don't know that:

- Baha'i Faith believes in God. All great religions tell us about God and so does the Baha'i Faith . Where



there is a plan, there must be a planner. This planner is God, the creator of the universe and only through divine prophets (messengers), He reflects His attributes and will. These messengers are like different chapters in God's book, each one telling us more about the same truth that there is only one God.

- The affairs of Baha'i Faith are administered by elected bodies called Spiritual Assemblies composed of nine members each. These Assemblies are elected by all Baha'i's residents within each local community every year. At the national level the affairs of the Faith are looked after by a National Spiritual Assembly which is elected by delegates at an annual convection. The administrative body which administers the affairs of the Baha'i Faith at the international level is called the Universal House of Justice (in Persia). These institutions were all established through the pen of Baha'u'llah Himself.
- On 21st and 22nd October 2017, the Baha'i community of Kenya will be celebrating 200 years since the birth of the founder of the Baha'i Faith. In light of this, the Baha'i community of Kenya invites its Upper Hill neighbours and friends to this marvelous bicentenary celebration. For confirmations on attendance, kindly get in touch with **Clayton Luvayo** on **0700249128** or email him on **luvayoclayton@gmail.com**.

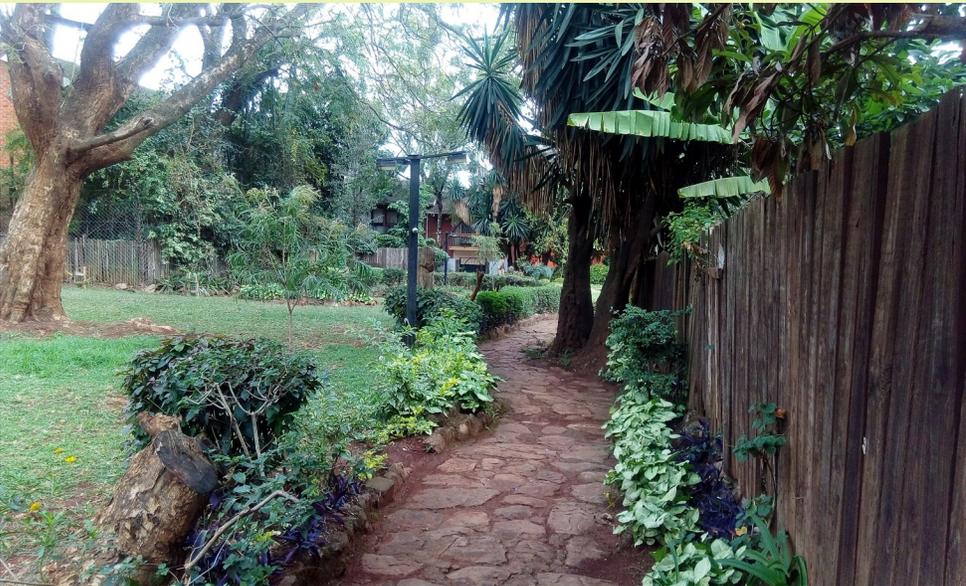
*“Baha'i Faith
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UPPER HILL LIVING

In addition to the proximity, a little known fact is that Upper Hill is cosmopolitan. The many multinationals, diplomatic missions, medical, legal and financial sectors have seen a growing number of many nationalities making Upper Hill their home for easy commute. As a result, there is a demand for residential properties.

A lot of time is wasted on commute and therefore there is need for quality houses,” says Diana Sifuna, Lordship Africa’s marketing head. “Wasted time means low productivity which affects overall company performance. Lordship Africa recognizes this need and that is why we have 88”. 88 is a premium condominium that will be situated on 4th Ngong Avenue consisting of fully furnished 1 and 2 bedroom



apartments not to mention 4 bedroom VIP duplexes and penthouses.

Just like Lordship Africa, other developers have taken the direction to offer a modern living through high rise apartments. Although some of the old residents are reserved on these developments, Henry Odhiambo, a resident from Mawenzi is optimistic on the co-existence of old and new developments. “My old

bungalow offers a sanctuary for me to escape Nairobi’s bustle. On the other hand these high-rise apartments have a 360 degree view of Nairobi which I don’t have. Now does that mean I also put up a tall building, no. It means I have something my neighbour doesn’t have and vice versa, which is a good blend”.

In order for Upper Hill’s economy to be transformed, the residential area needs to be strengthened as well as safeguarded . Luckily, we are well on our way to a bright future as the phase 2 of Upper Hill roads expansion progresses rapidly. Soon the properties in Matumbato, Masaba, Kiambere and Mawenzi will enjoy great property enhancement. Hopefully, this will encourage people to make Upper Hill their permanent residence. 🌿

SPLENDOUR OR SQUALOR: WHICH FOR UPPER HILL?

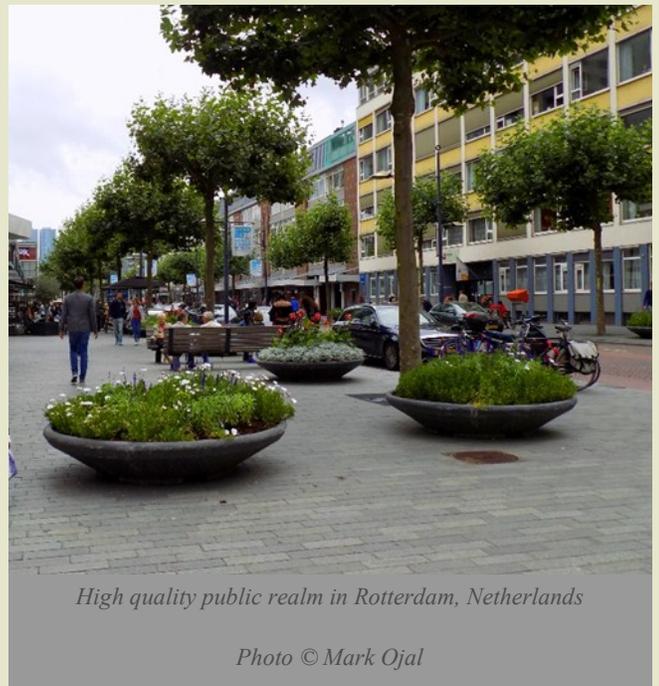
Mark Ojal, a graduate urban designer gives his perspective on Upper Hill

Upper Hill represents a successful business district, a financial hub and an emerging destination

for international corporations and well-doing corporate giants. It is the alternative CBD and an exemplar of a dynamic cityscape. The dynamism of its cityscape is both an opportunity and a threat. The absence of an overarching urban design strategy has turned it into a conglomeration of architectural edifices. Insofar as placemaking and urban design is concerned, this is a tragedy, and if not managed well, the district may soon be on a negative development path. To be a truly successful, great and timeless, Upper Hill it needs to have a mixture of flexibility, spontaneity, diversity, expression and engaged community. This is what James Rosenwax, market sector director for cities at AECOM calls “the special sauce” for any development.

As high quality living and working environment becomes a key determinant in the choice of where to live and work among young people, Upper Hill is in an urgent need of a spatial strategy that emphasizes good urban design and placemaking, and reinforces shared goals and values.

Good urban design has lots of lots benefits and ripple effects which can be felt in all aspects of life – from health, economic, social to environment. With lifestyle diseases such as obesity and diabetes on the rise, good urban design can help create healthy and engaged community in upper hill by providing inviting and walkable streets with high quality amenities. Mixed uses and diverse opportunities for recreation, leisure, living and working on the other hand would transform upper hill into a vibrant destination and a 24 hour economy. 🌱



High quality public realm in Rotterdam, Netherlands

Photo © Mark Ojal

MAY– AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

- UN Habitat's -Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC)
- Making Upper Hill Together Meeting
- Lobbying for public open spaces bill



Panelists of the Making Upper Hill Together Meeting

JUNE

- KARA's 2 roundtable forum with Nairobi City County Governor
- Launch of Upper Hill's phase 2 roads by Deputy President
- German Embassy's waste management workshop



Deputy President, H.E. William Ruto, launching phase 2 of Upper Hill roads

JULY

- 3rd Upper Hill clean up
- Loreto Convent Valley Road fund raising walk



Kibera MP, Hon. Okoth & UHDA Chairman, Mr. Kamau

- Kibera MP , Hon. Kenneth Okoth, courtesy call to UHDA Chairman

AUGUST

- UHDA's Adopt A Road Initiative meeting



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