

Basura Bash: Many Hands Make Light Work

This year's city-wide Basura Bash, the annual San Antonio River Clean-up, held on Saturday, March 7, was a big success. Each year, several thousand volunteers scour the Mission Trails area, fifteen miles down both sides of the river, and pick up tons of trash and items to recycle. Recently, other sections such as San Pedro Creek and Alazan Creek, and Olmos Park have been added to the project.

This was our 15th consecutive year of participating, and we had the largest turnout ever. Joining in the fun were students from various Brackenridge High School service clubs such as the InterAct club and their Mission Trail Rotary Club sponsors, Environmental Club, and National Honor Society members. King William residents also joined in. Since the San Antonio River Authority has taken up the routine riverbank cleaning task from the City of San Antonio Solid Waste Department, the trash burden was much lighter. Even so, we gathered 12 bags of trash and 10 bags of recyclables.

The work in our section, Zone One, from the Alamo Street Bridge to the Palm Park at the intersection of Crofton and Constance, was finished in only about an hour and a half, so we took up the task of cleaning up the next section, all the way down to the large tunnel outlet at Lone Star Boulevard. Also, after we painted out the usual graffiti on our side, we expanded the paint-out across the river to a 10' tall painting on the wall below the Blue Star Art Space. Remarkably, all work was completed in only two and one-half hours. As usual we benefited from paint, rollers and poles, and trash bags provided through the City of San Antonio Neighborhood Resources Tool Shed. We were rewarded with breakfast tacos and drinks from the Rotary folks, BB t-shirts, and pride in a job well done. One of the best rewards was seeing the return of so many water birds: the great heron, the egret, the mallards, the whistling duck, and the cormorant.

All of us believe strongly in being good stewards of our stretch of the river.

*Robin Raquet
Zone One Captain*

The Newsletter

OF THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION

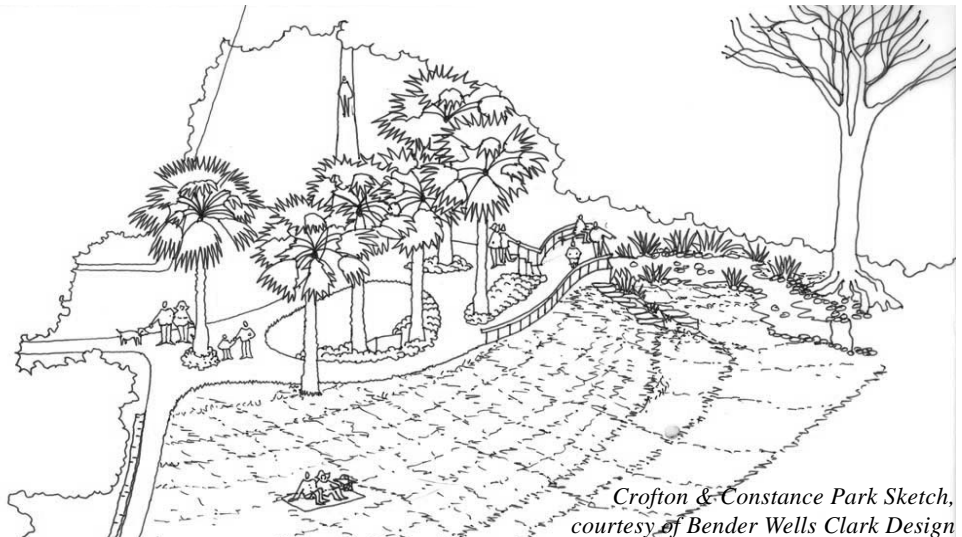
KWA Newsletter

Volume 5, #5

June 2009

kingwilliamassociation.org

Crofton & Constance Pocket Park to Begin Construction



*Crofton & Constance Park Sketch,
courtesy of Bender Wells Clark Design*

The Crofton & Constance Park project consists of the creation of a street-end pocket park and small plaza. This requires re-aligning the street edge between Constance Street and Crofton Street to minimize the amount of asphalt paving along the river bank, and re-locating an existing drainage structure. Additionally, the existing overlook would be raised to provide better surveillance of the overlook area from the street, and to provide an ADA-compliant access path from the plaza area to the overlook with handrails. Lighting, native plants and trees, irrigation, new benches, and trash receptacles will also be provided.

The project was designed by Larry Clark of Bender Wells Clark Design. The construction work was competitively bid and the award went to TCL Construction Enterprises, Inc. Construction should start by mid-June and has a 6-month planned duration. The project will be managed by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and is being jointly funded by the City of San Antonio, the San Antonio River Foundation, the King William Association, and Bexar County.

Please join us for a groundbreaking ceremony on **Sat., June 20, at 10 a.m.**

*Russell A. Persyn
San Antonio River Authority*

Nominating Committee Members and Board of Directors Needed

Help shape the future of our historic neighborhood!

Nominating Committee members are needed to help identify neighbors who are interested in serving on the KWA Board of Directors.

Board of Directors candidates are placed on the ballot to be elected for a one-year term (September '09 – August '10) and are eligible to serve for three consecutive terms.

Contact the KWA office at 227-8786 or king.william@sbcglobal.net for more information and to get involved!

FAIR*VIEW: Thank You One and All

by Rose Kanusky



This year's Fair was smaller in size and income but huge on quality and professionalism. We may not raise as much money as other Fiesta events, but we manage to produce an excellent event that does more for its guests than any other Fiesta event. We have food, drink, entertainment, art and craft, a special area for children, and a parade — all against the beautiful background of the state's oldest historic district.

It takes many hands and open hearts to produce this labor of love. The entire Association no doubt joins me in thanking those key volunteers who sacrificed long hours, addressed complaints, and worked hard on Fair day. This is by no means a complete list of everyone involved, however we appreciate the efforts of Jeff Beall, Fernando Berrios Jr., Paula Cantrell, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn, Richard Contreras, Ruben Cuero, Ed Day, Nancy Diehl, Sue Duffy, Michael



Girdley, Lori Hall, Rudolf Harst, John Hartman, Sherry Hess, Jack Kent Jr., Nate Manfred, Joe & Mary Helen Mansbach, Angela Martinez, Ken & Rinda Miller, Nancy Nobles Price, Kate Ruckman, Dan Rutherford, and David Vidaurri. Their generosity of spirit is a model for us all.

Several hundred volunteers contributed to our success, many from organizations much smaller than our own, including Alamo City Rollergirls and UTSA's American Institute of Architecture Students. Special thanks go to our corporate volunteers from AT&T, Frost Bank, IBC, H-E-B, USAA, and Valero Energy Corporation.

Thanks to Syeira Budd, Zet Baer, Raul Baeza, Elizabeth Flynn, Courtney Pryor, Angela Martinez, the Brackenridge High School football team, and Promotional Management Group, all of whom provided excellent and cheerful service.



Our generous sponsors include the Aetna Foundation, Frost Bank, GLI Distributing, H-E-B, HALO Distributing, and Valero Energy Corporation. Gifts in kind were provided by BBVA Compass, Mickey Conrad, City of San Antonio, Greenstar, Half Price Books, H-E-B, Meier Brothers Granite & Marble Works, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mission Restaurant Supply, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pulquerios, San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio River Authority, SegCity, Raul X. Villarreal, and other individual property owners. Indeed, everyone who lives in the Fair Zone contributes.

On a personal note, thanks to my husband and many "kids" who have tolerated years of sacrifice for the Fair. Remember, it's not over until the fat lady sings....

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Property Appraisal Update

With property appraisal values released for the King William District, it is time again to consider valuations and your decision to protest. The King William Association wants to keep you updated on relevant information. This spring, neighbor and State Representative Mike Villarreal put together a workshop on appraisals and the protest process. Ad valorem tax agents offered a lot of information. Also in attendance, Bexar Appraisal District (BAD) Chief Appraiser Michael Amezcua reaffirmed his commitment to fairness in appraisals, and extended an open invitation to contact him directly at 242-2411 if a taxpayer has specific problems.

The recession is on everyone's mind, but here in San Antonio, things haven't been as bad. Before the recession, home prices had been rising, but not at the same degree of hyperinflation seen in other states. With the recession, home sales are down 25% from 2008. And there has been no net change—increase or decrease—in sales price. Finally, predictions by the San Antonio Board of Realtors suggest significant downtown growth in the next 5 years for both condominiums and apartments (including St. Benedict's, Judson Candy, Steel House, Pearl Brewery, and Lone Star).

King William remains a desirable place to live. This popularity has caused prices to increase, and gentrification to progress. With the recession, there has been some lessening of these pressures. In 2007-2008, there were 21 home sales in our district. Five homes sold for amounts less than the listed BAD value, and 16 sold for amounts at or above the listed BAD value. (Average amount above appraised value \$41,000, with one home selling for \$210,000 above BAD list, a 25%

increase.) This is in sharp contrast to 2005-2006, when 55 homes sold and the majority at well above BAD values (some selling for more than 200% of BAD values). This is important because sales price must be compared to appraised value by county and state agencies in performing a Ratio Test. These two values must be within 5% to pass the test, with failure of the test impacting local school district funding.

In review of 2008 appraisal activities, 433 properties were valued, and 134 had their appraisals lowered, averaging \$6800 per property and a net tax saving of \$180 per homeowner. With 2009 appraisals released, 194 properties have values down, and 207 have increased. Land values stayed mostly unchanged. For properties decreased in value in 2009, the average decrease is \$13,193 with a range of decreases from \$10 to \$56,910. For properties increased in value, the average increase is \$21,088, with a range of increases from \$10 to \$312,280. In KW north of South Alamo, 59 of 109 properties have an increase in valuation, (median increase of 3.4% compared to 11.4% increase 2 years ago) and 50 homes have a decrease in valuation. South of South Alamo, 148 homes have an increase in valuation, (median increase of 4% compared to 40% increase 2 years ago) with 144 having a decrease in valuation.

With this information in mind, along with your knowledge of your property, you have until May 31, 2009 to file a protest. As a responsible neighborhood, we must continue to pay close attention to our individual appraisals, and protest valuations as you see fit. Unless we stay interested, we have no reason to complain.

John Doski

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Farewell & Good Luck



The Hancock DeRose family enjoying last month's Concert in the Park.

The Hancock DeRose family is leaving the King William neighborhood and moving to Boulder, Colorado. Kathleen, John, Min, and Willa will be missed in our neighborhood. We wish them luck in their new adventures.



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What's Happening: Community Events

Do you have an upcoming community event to share with the neighborhood? Please email the details using the "what, when, where, more info" format to king.william@sbcglobal.net for consideration. **The deadline for inclusion in the July newsletter is June 10.**



Friends of Bonham Fundraiser on June 6

WHAT: Friends of Bonham invites you to join them for a fundraising event featuring a wonderful beer tasting at Blue Star Brewing Co. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance at www.friendsofbonham.org or at the door.

Friends of Bonham is a newly formed foundation to support Bonham Academy, an innovative inner city charter school specializing in dual language, fine arts, and outdoor science. The foundation, working in partnership with parents, educators, and local businesses, will raise money to support the school's educational programs and make it a model for all of San Antonio.

WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 6 - 8 p.m.

WHERE: Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 S. Alamo

RESERVATIONS & MORE INFO: Visit www.friendsofbonham.org.

Texas Folklife Festival on June 12-14

WHAT: Experience the mouthwatering cuisine, traditional dances, fine-crafted keepsakes, storytelling, and music of more than 40 ethnic groups at the biggest three-day cultural celebration in Texas.

WHEN: Fri, June 12 - Sun., June 14

WHERE: Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA HemisFair Park Campus, 801 S. Bowie

TICKETS & MORE INFO: Visit www.TexasFolklifeFestival.org or call 458-2390.

Crofton & Constance Park Groundbreaking on June 20

WHAT: Please join the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio River Foundation, and the KWA for the Crofton & Constance Park Groundbreaking Ceremony. This project consists of the creation of a street-end pocket park and small plaza at Constance and Crofton Streets.

WHEN: Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Crofton & Constance Pocket Park

MORE INFO: See page 1

KW Concert in the Park on June 14

WHAT: Join your neighbors and friends at the FREE King William Concerts in the Park! Terry and Catie return this month to present German folk music arranged for violin and accordion. Their performance last year was great fun with plenty of audience participation. Catie's expert, dramatic violin playing is not to be missed. See you there!

WHEN: Sunday, June 14, 6 p.m.

WHERE: King William Park (King William @ Turner Streets)

MORE INFO: Visit www.kingwilliamassociation.org for a printable concert series flyer. Upcoming performances are Dixieland Jazz on July 12 at 7 p.m.; Conjunto Band on August 9 at 7 p.m.; String Quartet on September 13 at 6:30 p.m.; and Tango on October 11 at 6:30 p.m.



Folklore with Ruth Murphy on June 28

WHAT: Stories Galore, a free story-swap hosted by Elder Stone for experienced and beginning storytellers and listeners, features Ruth Murphy, a former San Antonio librarian with a unique collection of American and foreign folklore.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this fine-tuned teller!

WHEN: Sunday, June 28, 5 - 7 p.m.

WHERE: Commander's House, 645 S. Main.

MORE INFO: Call Elder Stone at 673-4467.

SAY Sí Events in June

WHAT & WHEN: All events are free and open to the public.

Invisible Threads on Friday, June 5, 6 - 9 p.m. – 15th Anniversary Alumni Exhibit featuring the work Gabriel Garcia, David Cordero, and distinguished alumni from our media and visual art programs.

Invisible Threads Film Series on Friday, June 19, 7 - 9 p.m. – 15th Anniversary showcase of digital films featuring the work of Pablo Veliz, alumni student and Sundance Film Festival participant.

Zorro de San Antonio on Friday & Saturday, June 26 & 27, 7 p.m. – Based on the novella *The Curse of Capistrano* by Johnston McCulley. Adapted by SAY Sí Teatro ALAS. This Summer, Zorro will ride into San Antonio de Bexar to avenge the helpless, punish cruel politicians, and aid the oppressed. Come join Teatro ALAS as we take you back to Spanish Colonial San Antonio where courage wears a black mask and brandishes a blade. There will be action, there will be adventure, there will be romance, and there will be justice!

WHERE: SAY Sí, 1518 S. Alamo

MORE INFO: Visit www.saysi.org or call 212-8666.

Free Outdoor Film Screenings Downtown

WHAT, WHEN, & WHERE:

Movies by Moonlight on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. at HemisFair Park.

CineMundo India on Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20, at 9 p.m. at Main Plaza.

MORE INFO: Bring your own chairs or blankets for both venues. Visit www.slabcinema.com or call 212-9373.

Out in the Garden

with Alan Cash



The calendar shows it is still spring, but the weather seems to say summer has arrived early. It has been warmer than normal and drier.

Rainfall is still below normal, and Stage 1 Drought Restrictions are in effect. That means watering with a sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed only ONE DAY A WEEK, before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. The watering day begins and ends at midnight so overnight watering is not allowed. Your assigned watering day is based on the last digit of your street address as follows:

- 0 or 1 Monday
- 2 or 3 Tuesday
- 4 or 5 Wednesday
- 6 or 7 Thursday
- 8 or 9 Friday

Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed anytime. Watering in the morning is best to prevent plant disease. Watch the SAWS newsletter that comes in your monthly water bill for further developments or go to www.saws.org.

Here's another environmental comment. The April CPS Energy newsletter offered up to an \$80 rebate until July 31 when gas-guzzling lawn equipment is turned in. This includes lawnmowers, edgers, blowers, and trimmers. Turn the old items in at 10758 Nacogdoches Rd. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The rebate is to help pay for replacement electric equipment. If you do not have gas powered equipment to turn in, you can still get a \$40 rebate when you purchase qualified electric equipment. A trade rebate form is available at www.cpsenergy.com, as is a list of qualifying equipment. For information you may also call the CPS Energy conservation number at 210-353-2302.

If the weather stays the way it is, there isn't much opportunity for real gardening until cooler and hopefully wetter weather arrives. That may not be until fall. Spring has been short because reduced rainfall shortened the bloom time of many trees and plants. Check your garden for plants that appear to be drought stressed most of the time and think about replacing them in the fall with more adaptive plants. A list of good plants is free in the bulletin board on the porch of the KWA office at 1032 S. Alamo. A list of crepe myrtles is also there. Even with less rain, weeds always seem to flourish, so pulling them is a chore still to be endured.

So hope for rain. Water responsibly to keep your garden alive, and try to stay in a shady spot with a cool drink.

Garden Note: Words not found in a gardener's vocabulary: hack, whack, and stack.

Julia's Rose

The phone rang one spring evening about twenty years ago. Julia Cauthorn's deep, rich voice directed, "Marita, please send your helper over to my house. I want him to dig up my Cecile Brunner." Rose growers know that the Cecile Brunner, also called the "sweetheart rose," is a fragrant, light pink rose that begins with perfect buds and opens to fluffy blossoms. It should be carried wrapped in lace by an ingénue at a Victorian tea party. Its beauty is intensified by the fact that it usually blooms only in the early spring.



Photo by Michael Nye

"Why would you dig up that beautiful rose from your backyard, Julia?" She didn't answer. She just indicated that she wanted me to have it. Julia often spoke in code. I thought I might understand her purpose if given some time, so I delayed accommodating her request.

Julia's strong personality was wrapped in soft, old-fashioned manners. She was the realtor extraordinaire who presided over King William property sales in the 1970s and 1980s. She saw her role as a matchmaker for homes and families. A tall, majestic woman given to wearing turbans and hosting operatic salons on Sunday afternoons, Julia lived and worked at 217 King William Street. I could not imagine why she would want her antique rose excavated and transplanted to my yard. In typical fashion, Julia would not say.

Some weeks later I came home from work and found an enormous old rose bush in my driveway. I phoned. "Julia, is this your Cecile Brunner? Why don't you keep it?"

"I want you to take care of my rose. You are the only one who will take care of my Cecile Brunner."

I still did not understand but I assured her that I would take care of her rose. Some months later I heard that Julia had sold her house and was moving to a smaller place. Only then did I understand why she was intent on finding a new home for her Cecile Brunner.

Julia's Cecile Brunner is happy in my side yard. It's a huge bush that you can see growing on the fence next to Stieren Street. It will need trimming in mid-May or so. If anyone wants a cutting of Julia's rose, I will have a few available. It's a legacy of our neighborhood meant to be shared.

Marita Emmett

Eagleland Reach Flora & Fauna Update



It is a good time to get out and see some of our native plants showing their unbelievable ability to thrive even in the harshest conditions. Many native wildflowers have been bright and showy lately in some parts of the Eagleland Reach of the San Antonio River between South Alamo Street and Lone Star Boulevard. The Eagleland Reach has been planted with native grasses and wildflowers, and the small amounts of rain we received during April-May caused lots of blooms to appear, including Mexican hat, Indian blanket, horsemint, Drummond phlox, plains coreopsis, pink evening primrose and a few scattered bluebonnets. Some of the native grasses can be easily identified by their seed heads at this time too, including Eastern gamagrass, green sprangletop, sideoats grama, and buffalograss.

It is also a good time to see some interesting wildlife in this area, including numerous birds such as the yellow-crowned night heron, little blue heron, green heron, snowy egret, great egret, belted kingfisher and red-shouldered hawk. Many of these birds are often fishing side by side in the shallow waters of the river. Take a little time to visit the Eagleland Reach and enjoy our amazing flora and fauna.

For more detailed information on the native plants listed above, please visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Information Network at www.wildflower.org/explore/. For more detailed information about the birds listed above, please visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds website at www.allabout-birds.org.

Lee Marlowe
San Antonio River Authority

Donations

KWA General Fund donation from **Dr. David Gude, MD.**

KWA Scholarship Fund donation from **Bill and Roselyn Cogburn**
in memory of **Edna Case, mother of Johnny Heidelberg.**



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Crime Prevention with SAFFE Officer Doyle

Please exercise a heightened sense of awareness and precaution and report all crimes and suspicious persons and activities to the SAPD. The more reports the SAPD receives, the more SAPD patrols our neighborhoods will receive. Please also contact the KWA office with your reports so we can spread the word about recent crimes and suspicious activities via our Weekly Update emails and monthly newsletter.



Here's how YOU can help make our neighborhoods safer:

- Keep your eyes and ears open!
- Report any and all crimes, suspicious behaviors, ongoing problems, ordinance violations (such as panhandling, etc.) to the SAPD and to the KWA office.
- Keep your doors and windows locked, keep your car locked, and make sure you have sufficient lighting.
- Participate in the Cellular on Patrol (COP) program. Contact the KWA office to sign up for the next COP class.
- Contact our SAFFE officers to schedule your FREE Home or Business Security Survey.

Contact Numbers:

Consider entering these numbers into your speed dial or cell phone contacts. Officer Erik Doyle is the King William area SAFFE officer and is on duty Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Officer Ron Strothman is the Lavaca area SAFFE officer and is on duty Monday-Friday, 12 - 8 p.m. Both officers can be reached through the Central SAFFE office at 207-7413 or through their direct lines listed below, and will respond to King William and Lavaca area calls during business hours.

- Emergency: 911
- Non-Emergency: 207-SAPD (7273)
- SAFFE Officer Doyle: 207-5177 (cell phone) or erik.doyle@sanantonio.gov
- SAFFE Officer Strothman: 207-5176 or rstrothman@sanantonio.gov
- Central SAFFE Onit: 207-7413 (M-F, 7am-8pm)
- Code Violations & City Services: 311
- Report tour bus violations to SAPD: 207-7482
- KWA Office: 227-8786 or king.william@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Advertising

Promote your business directly to your King William neighbors by placing an advertisement in our newsletter! Contact Syeira Budd at (210) 227-8786 or king.william@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Volunteers Needed for July Newsletter Mail Prep

Please help us prepare our July newsletter for mailing. Stop by the KWA office, located at 1032 S. Alamo, on **Monday, June 22, from 6 - 7 p.m.** to stick mailing labels on newsletters and visit with neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated!

KWA Membership 2008-2009

*(if 08-09 appears on your mailing label,
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*KWA is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization.
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Thank you for supporting the KWA!

2009 Newsletter Deadlines

Please email any newsletter articles, photos, or advertisements to king.william@sbcglobal.net no later than the following deadlines:

- July 15 (August issue)
- August 12 (September issue)
- September 16 (October issue)
- October 14 (November issue)
- November 11 (Dec/Jan. issue)

Editorial Guidelines Available Online at www.KingWilliamAssociation.org



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Flora & Fauna Update on pg 7

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Please deliver by May 30, 2009.



The King William Newsletter

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The King William Association

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www.kingwilliamassociation.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the King William Association.

KWA June General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 S. Alamo

Featuring:

- Awarding of the Alamo Colleges scholarships.
- Election of 3 members for the nominating committee from the general membership.
 - Voting on the new bylaws.

Please join us as we celebrate the scholarship recipients and vote on important changes to the bylaws!

KWA Summer Social

Wednesday, July 1, 6:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Celebrate summer with good food and great company!

Please bring a main course, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Beverages, plates, cutlery, tables, and chairs will be provided by the KWA.

We'd love to have your help planning, setting up, serving beverages, and/or cleaning up after the social. Please contact Hope Garza-Cortes at 274-4636 to help.

The KWA office will be closed from June 15 – July 3.