

# KING WILLIAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, No. 5

www.kingwilliamassociation.com

July, 2012

## Josefina Maria Niggli

*"When I was a young kid starting out as a writer, I had a shining goal: I was going to present Mexico and the Mexicans as they had never before been presented. Well, I did. I made the big time. I even made MGM and Book of the Month. You see, I reached my goal and passed it."*

*-Josefina Niggli*

King William has long been a home for writers and artists. Even so, it may surprise some of you to know that Josefina Niggli once lived in our neighborhood. For those who are not familiar with that name, she was an author, playwright, actor, teacher and photographer who was popular in the mid-1900's. Fewer still may know that she lived on King William Street. Her parents, Fredrick Ferdinand "Fritz" and Goldie Morgan Niggli owned 221 King William where Josefina lived off and on for about thirty years, from the mid 1920's to the mid 1950's.

Josefina's mother was a concert violinist of Irish, French and German descent. Her father's Swiss-Alsatian forebears immigrated to Texas in 1836. In 1893 after her parents married, they moved to Mexico where Fritz managed a cement plant in Hidalgo near Monterrey.

Josefina was born in Monterrey, Mexico in 1910. When she was three, her parents moved the family to San Antonio to escape the violence of the Mexican revolution. Her father continued to manage the cement plant and



11. Ricardo Montalbán, film director Norman Foster, and Josefina on the set in Mexico for the filming of *Sombrero*, based on her book *Mexican Village*. Montalbán played Pepe Gonzáles.

traveled back and forth between Hidalgo and San Antonio. Her mother gave private violin lessons from her King William home.

Josefina completed her high school education at Main Avenue High School, now Fox Tech, and at age fifteen entered Incarnate Word College and that's where she began to consider becoming a writer. After completing her undergraduate studies in 1931, she went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina with a master's degree in drama. Over the next decade she continued to gain popularity as more of her works were published.

Local historian, Bill Fisher, says that toward the end of WWII, Josefina's parents rented the one-story house next door, the Sartor House at 217 King William, for her to live and work. That's where she finished writing *Mexican Village*, a volume of lively folk tales which would become her most famous and influential work.

When *Mexican Village* was picked up by Hollywood to be made into a movie in 1953, it became the MGM musical, *Sombrero* starring Ricardo Montalban, Pier Angeli, Cyd Charisse, Vittorio Gassman and Yvonne De Carlo. It was about that time that Josefina moved to Hollywood to become a film writer working anonymously on such films as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Mark of Zorro*.

In the mid-1950's, Josefina left Hollywood to teach English and drama at Western Carolina University in

*continued on page 10*

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Michael Shearin Guarino

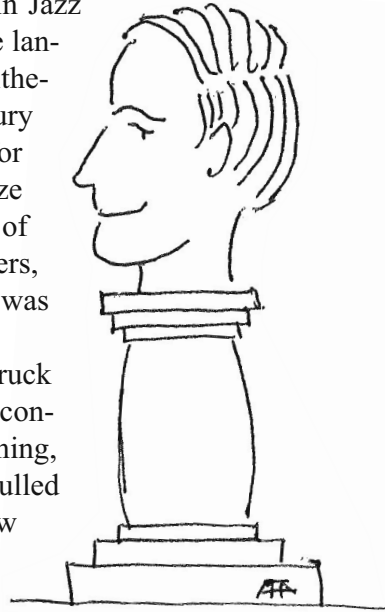
Another month, another concert on the River. This time it was Henry Brun's Latin Jazz Orchestra performing in front of the languorous bend that forms our perfect shaded amphitheater. Some of the fainthearted assumed the mercury hitting 100 degrees would mean incineration for the audience. They were very wrong: the breeze picked up just before the concert, and with the aid of whatever was in everyone's ice buckets and coolers, the atmosphere was refreshing and the occasion was congenial.

I hope this will always remain so. I was struck by the number of people who happened on the concert while doing more active things (biking, running, marching with maps and guidebooks) and were pulled in by the magic gravity of the music. I wonder how King William will fare as the centerpiece for a rapidly re-developing near south side?

Today's paper (I'm writing this on Tuesday the 12th of June) carries with it the announcement of more change in the very near future. An article on the Business page outlined the anticipated start of construction of a very substantial (and long delayed) project on the Big Tex site, adjacent to the Blue Star. This may happen as early as the first quarter of next year. The seven and a half acre development will feature 320 residential units, shops, bars, restaurants and a new home for the Blue Star Contemporary Arts Center, twice the size of our present neighbor. This represents at least \$42 million in new investment just across the river from our Historic District boundary.

Our area will continue to be the focus for more concentrated development because we have (and have helped create) amenities that make urban life livable and desirable. King William's investment in parks and performances, among many other things, enhances the lives of more people than live within the confines of our neighborhood boundary line. With the movement of ex-suburbanites to the city core, meaning, of course, to our area, will come rising land values (and taxes) and increased demand for restaurants, recreation and places to live. Our charter compels us to enhance the residential nature of King William, but by that very nature there will also be demand for support services and commercial activity that already have a home on South Alamo and South St. Mary's. We need to begin thinking about the future as well as the past in King William, and we need to plan for it.

One of the hallmarks of the very near future should be the development of a neighborhood plan for King William, a flexible but comprehensive document that maps out our hoped-for future. This should be a work of much broader scope than regulations of color and materials. It should be a visionary guide to a whole, sustainable and satisfying urban life. It should be a means to as much self-determination as we can achieve together. In the vacuum left by our own lack of planning, others will be more than happy to fill the void with their own visions.



**COORDINATORS** Susan Athené, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

**LAYOUT** Angela Martinez

*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 KWA.*

Editorial guidelines are available online at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org).

## **KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION**

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Zet Baer, Susan Rothman

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# Basura Bash 2012 Report

The annual all-city riverbank cleanup, the Basura Bash, has come and gone already! This year our team worked in a new spot, a very interesting one at the headwaters of the San Antonio River. The location is in the heart of the University of the Incarnate Word, near the entrance to Brackenridge Park. The headwaters have a unique history from early San Antonio up through the twentieth century. The Headwaters Coalition, a non-profit, sponsored ministry of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, is dedicated to preserving the Headwaters Sanctuary and spreading an ecological ethic.

Olmos Creek flows through the Headwaters Sanctuary. Within this urban wild space is San Antonio Spring, also known as the Blue Hole. The Blue Hole and Olmos Creek create the San Antonio River; they are the headwaters for which the Coalition and the Headwaters Sanctuary are named ([www.headwaterscoalition.org](http://www.headwaterscoalition.org)).

Our team of 12 bashed trash as usual for about four hours. Stalwarts from the King William neighborhood who showed up to join me were Janet Williams and Willa McDonald.



(This is the smallest number of “river rats” from King William we have ever had; I guess we need to do more advance publicity next year.) Our team had six student leaders from Brackenridge High School: Vishal Bhakta, Juan Luna, Lucia Ordonez, Diana Luna, Miguel Velazco and Michael Rafael Ramos. We were joined by members of the Mission Trail Rotary Club, our partner organization, including Richard Warren, Kyle Contreras, Larry Clark and Don Morley.

The remarkable stats from just this one day of cleanup:

**2,065 volunteers collected 24 TONS of trash, including 5.6. TONS of metal and 120 tires!**

What began 15 years ago with a planning group of just ten of us environmental advocates has grown into something beautiful to behold: what can be accomplished by ordinary people with a common vision, plenty of energy and commitment to the cause, and crazy enough to think it possible.

We hope you will join us next year!

*- Robin Raquet*



Downriver, volunteer Rae Culbert hauls a mattress from the waters near Espada Dam.



Boy Scout Pack 765 volunteers waded through the river to collect debris.

# CITY VETERINARY HOSPITAL



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# SpaySA and SNAP Team Up for Cats!

SpaySA and the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) have joined forces to assist residents in selected areas with getting their outdoor cats spayed/neutered for free under the Best Friends grant. Now residents and volunteers trapping outdoor cats in the selected 14 ZIP codes, to have them sterilized and then return them to their original location, have two resources. The eligible ZIP codes include 78210.

Residents caring for outdoor cats in the eligible ZIP code areas are encouraged to take cats in for free spay/neuter surgery to SpaySA or SNAP for the feral package, which includes spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccine, FVRCP (distemper) vaccine, pain medication and ear-tip.

If you have attended one of SAFCC's free training classes you can borrow traps (helpline: 210-877-9067 or [info@sanantonioferalcats.org](mailto:info@sanantonioferalcats.org)). To attend a class, go to the website and check the schedule: [www.sanantonioferalcats.org/TNRworkshops\\_SA.pdf](http://www.sanantonioferalcats.org/TNRworkshops_SA.pdf).

Residents in the eligible ZIP code areas can borrow traps directly from Animal Care Services (ACS).

Residents who borrow from ACS will be shown how to operate the trap and will receive a flyer explaining the process when they pick it up. Contact Bethany Heins, Community Cat Program Coordinator, at 210-306-6126 or at [bethanyh@bestfriends.org](mailto:bethanyh@bestfriends.org). A refundable deposit is required to borrow traps.

You do not need to make an appointment as long as you deliver the cats IN TRAPS (one cat per trap). Cover the trap with a light sheet to

reduce the stress for the cat.

**SpaySA** (5357 W. Commerce St., 78237, 210-351-7729) - Surgery days are Tues.-Sat. Intake time is 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Call ahead to make sure they are open. You can download the Feral Cat Intake Form ahead of time at [www.spaysa.org/downloads/english/intake-stray-cat.pdf](http://www.spaysa.org/downloads/english/intake-stray-cat.pdf) or complete it on arrival. Write "BEST FRIENDS" after your own name to indicate that you are requesting free

services, and specify

which ZIP code the cats come from. **SNAP** (6758 Ingram Rd., 78238, 210-673-7722) - Surgery days are Tues., Thur., Fri. and Sat. Intake time is 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Call ahead to make sure they are open.

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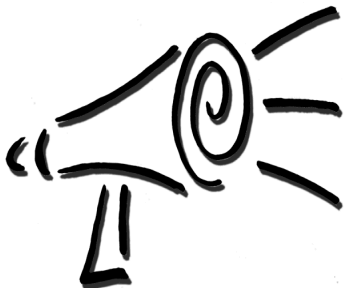
Southeast



Animal Hospital

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3608 S. Gevers @ Fair Ave. 78210  
[southeastanimalhospital.com](http://southeastanimalhospital.com)



## Newsletter Submissions Wanted

Do you have a story to tell? A neighbor to praise? News to share? A general interest column to launch? Submissions and contributions to the KWA Newsletter are welcome! Please send to [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net).

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Damien patrolling the Johnson St. bridge.

# OUT IN THE GARDEN

## with Alan Cash

No one has to tell us it is summer in South Texas. Temperatures are steadily rising and the aquifer is steadily going down. This is the time of year to just sit back under a shade tree with a glass of iced tea and watch the garden grow until cooler weather. We can now see which plants are not well adapted for our area and take them off the list to plant again.



If you haven't mulched lately this is a good time to add some to flower beds and around shrubs. The level in flower beds should be about 3 to 4 inches deep and around shrubs, 5 to 6 inches. Mulch keeps weeds from sprouting and more importantly keeps the soil cool and prevents soil moisture from evaporating too quickly.

### Garden Note:

*There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.*

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# Diego Bernal, City Council District 1

I hope this letter finds you well. First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent you over the past year. June 11 marked my one year anniversary as councilman, and although there is still so much to do, I've enjoyed all of it, even the hard parts.



There's a lot going on and I want to get you as much information as possible in the space I have available, so here are some quick updates on a few items of interest:

## HemisFair Park/Convention Center

The City is ramping up the redevelopment of HemisFair Park, aggressively moving forward with a redesign and expansion of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. This will act as a catalyst for the sooner-than-expected implementation of the crown jewel of the park - a majestic 12 acre greenspace that occupies in large part the area where the current western wing of the Center now sits. It's very exciting and you should start to see movement there very soon.

## City Budget

The City is now developing the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Although there were opportunities for community input toward the end of the process last year, this year we provided opportunities for residents to contribute both before AND after the City Manager presents the proposed budget. Please contact my office for more information.

## Redistricting

The City is required to redraw council district lines after every census, and we are at that point again. As the current proposed map stands, our district will grow above 410 and include a significant portion of what is now the inside-410 portion of District 9 (we will host a D1 Redistricting Forum; stay tuned). Although some new boundaries may eventually readjust during the process, one major change that should make it into the final map is that the entire King William neighborhood, including the portion that abuts Eagleland Dr. that is currently in D5, will be a part of District 1. I believe it is important to keep the neighborhood intact so I am pushing to make it happen.

Thanks for reading, and please stay in touch with us.

- Diego

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Fax: 207-0908

### City Hall

100 Military Plaza, P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966  
207-7279 Fax: 207-7027  
district1@sanantonio.gov

## Movies by Moonlight, Tuesdays in HemisFair Park

Movies by Moonlight returns for a fifth season of free outdoor movies in HemisFair Park, but has moved to Tuesdays as part of the City's Downtown Tuesday initiative. The 2012 schedule is:

### July

- 3 - Zookeeper
- 10 - Happy Feet 2,
- 17 - Kung Fu Panda 2
- 24 - Lion King
- 31 - Over the Hedge

### August

- 7 - Tangled
- 14 - Alice in Wonderland
- 21 - Tale of Despereaux
- 28 - Adventures of Tin Tin

Showtime is dusk. Pre-show entertainment starts at 7:30. Guest are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Parking is free at City-operated parking garages, parking lots and parking meters every Tuesday evening from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.



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**State Representative  
Mike Villarreal  
House District 123**

**Neighborhood  
Associations and  
Constituent Services**

My team and I make a concerted effort to attend as many neighborhood association meetings as possible, both to share news from our office and to hear what is going on in the community. This year my district (HD123) grew due to redistricting and we now have 42 neighborhood associations within our boundaries. We appreciate the warm welcome we receive at these meetings and look forward to meeting new neighbors and seeing old friends. If you are not yet active in your neighborhood association, I encourage you to attend a meeting and see how you can participate in the care and growth of your community.



During our visits we try to get the word out about how our office can assist you and your friends and neighbors. Here is a list of some of the services with which our office can help:

- Children's Services
- Consumer Protection
- Crime Victims Programs
- Dealing with Problem Bars
- Driver's License and Identification
- Elderly and Aging Services
- Environmental Issues
- Food Stamps, Medicaid
- Professional Licensing
- State Health and Mental Health Services
- State Licensed Nursing Homes
- State Prison System
- Transportation Issues
- Unemployment Insurance
- Workers Compensation

We can also help with commemorative state resolutions and information and assistance for trips to the Capitol. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance or to receive a Constituent Services Guide.

Please know that even during the dog days of summer we're here to serve the community. We're gearing up for the legislative session next January and I invite you to email me to share your views on the issues that matter most to you. You can also find me on Facebook to stay in regular contact.

- Mike

**House District 123**

1114 S. St. Mary's, Ste. 110 San Antonio, TX 78210  
734-8937 www.mikevillarreal.com

**SAISD School Board  
Vice President  
Rubén D. Cuero, District 1  
Bond Initiative Update**

A couple of the major construction projects authorized under SAISD's 2010 Bond Initiative are taking place at Bonham Academy and Brackenridge High School. Both projects are currently meeting their milestones, but the one at Bonham Academy faces several challenges due to the limited space available for campus expansion.



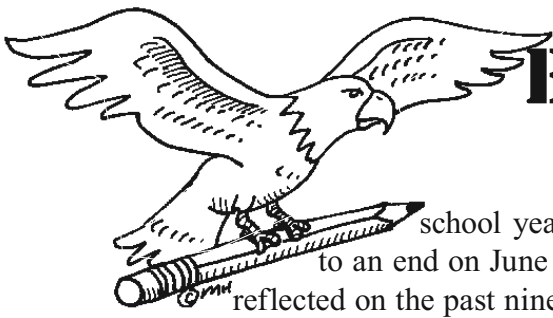
Bonham currently has a student population that reaches 500, but is expected to grow to over 600 under the district's Long Range Restructuring Plan. Land acquisition for the expansion was originally planned along S. St. Mary's Street shortly after the bond election passed, but the district could not reach an agreement concerning the purchase of the property. After getting input from neighbors and business owners surrounding the house located at 114 Cedar Street, the school district reached an agreement with the owner in early 2012 and purchased it.

The idea behind the purchase of that property is to provide a proper recreation space for the students, so the district is proposing to remove the house. A demolition permit has been submitted, but it has a provision that calls for the option to auction the house so that it can be relocated.

Some stakeholders have expressed concerns about SAISD's encroachment on the historical district. Several people would like to see the house be incorporated into the educational facility for the Academy as a black box theatre or library. The district will have to consider the additional costs associated with any repairs and enhancements that would need to be made to the structure in order to bring it up to the standards required for an educational setting.

SAISD is expected to conduct additional community meetings in the coming months in order to provide more details about the design of the new building and the status of house on Cedar Street.

- Rubén



# BACK AT BRACK BY LUPITA BARRIENTOS

The 2011-2012 school year officially came to an end on June 6th. As students reflected on the past nine months of highs and lows, there are a few points that stand out to most Eagles.

In this year, Brackenridge gained and lost almost a dozen members of the faculty. As teachers retired or took permanent maternity and paternity leave, Eagles had tearful goodbyes with those beloved people who have given much more than just an outstanding education, but inspiration and a genuine desire to help. Meanwhile, new teachers filled their places with eager faces, ready to be the next stepping stones in the educational careers of young students.

The new STAAR exams for freshmen, AP tests, ACTs and SATs were definitely some of the biggest hurdles to overcome this year. With slight curriculum and rule changes that amped up the difficulty of these tests, students were more hard-pressed than ever to conquer the tests. The results are due by the middle of July, and soon we will know if the scores were worth a year's worth of hard work.

A disappointing low point was the cancellation of this year's Senior Bash. After a dip in attendance and test scores, it was decided that the seniors were not deserving of the traditional day off due to their unfortunate case of senioritis. Fortunately, by graduation day, the seemingly endless list of universities, branches of the military, and careers the graduates would be attending, enlisting in, and choosing showed that their senioritis was late in striking and their hard work has resulted in bright futures ahead.

As for the underclassmen and the new seniors, many are taking summer school to get ahead and make room for more classes, volunteering regularly, participating in internships with CPS (junior Georgina Cortinas), summer camps at Princeton University (yours truly, junior Lupita Barrientos) and West Point (junior Ralph Ramos).

With jam-packed schedules, the next couple of months are sure to fly by as Brackenridge glides into the 2012-2013 school year.

*The newsletter staff says, "Congratulations, Lupita! You go, girl, have a fabulous time, and come back and tell us all about it!"*

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# World's Biggest Pop-up Film Festival Screens in Southtown

Slab Cinema Outdoor Movies and Alamo Street Eat Bar are teaming up to bring the Future Shorts Film Festival to South Texas on Tuesday, July 10.

Since 2011, festival screenings have taken place in over 144 cities and 55 countries and now San Antonio joins the list. The program includes:

## **A MORNING STROLL, UK (7 mins)**

The story of an encounter between a New Yorker and a chicken. Told over three acts spanning over 100 years, this animated short has already won a BAFTA and a Jury Award at Sundance and was nominated for a Short Animated Film Oscar.

## **STREET VENDOR CINEMA,**

### **Brazil (15 mins)**

A short film producer sells film-making on demand in the busiest shopping street of Brazil. The outcome is an extraordinary mix of genres, from a samurai epic to a family melodrama, all born out of popular fantasy shaped amid the market's chaos.

## **GUEST, South Korea**

**(20 mins)**

A teenager angry at her father's affair barges into his mistress' house to find her two little kids. Winner of the 2012 International Grand Prix at Clermont.

## **NOTES ON BIOLOGY, US (6 mins)**

A stop motion animation follows a student's imagination during a Biology class., Winner of Best Short at SXSW.

## **WE'LL BECOME OIL, Romania**

**(6 mins)**

A winner at Tampere Film Festival, this experimental documentary inspired by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill describes the effect of conflict in geographical spaces.

## **FIREWORKS, US (11 mins)**

Growing up in Los Angeles, the fourth of July was always about fireworks. Against the holiday backdrop in South L.A., Fireworks is a coming-of-age story of two adolescent boys on a quest to impress a group of girls.



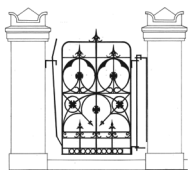
## **TUMULT, UK (13 mins)**

A tribe of Norse warriors traipses across a barren land after battle. Their dying chief is about to hand over power to his son when an army of a completely different kind descends upon them.

Showtime is 8:45 p.m at 609 S. Alamo Street. Feel free to bring lawn chairs, but no outside food or beverages, please. Delicious food selections will be available from gourmet food trucks on site.

The program will also feature selections from "Rivard Report presents San Antonio In Motion" and a screening of local film maker Erik Bosse's short film "The Cucuy Club."

For more info, visit [SlabCinema.com](http://SlabCinema.com) or [futureshorts.com](http://futureshorts.com).



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Cindy Joiner  
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Adams Street*



## If the River Could Talk

For 12,000 years, people have used the San Antonio River as a source of life: for drinking its clean water, for hunting along its lush riparian habitat, for fishing from its plentiful waters, for camping along its banks and for bathing in its clear water. Colonial settlers later built sophisticated acequia irrigation systems, dams and other waterworks to harness the river's potential for agricultural fields, ranching and industry in the rapidly expanding frontier.

Today, the San Antonio River flows through the seventh largest city in the United States and serves as one of the city's largest economic generators. On June 16, *If the River Could Talk: 12,000 Years of Life on the San Antonio River* opened at the Witte Museum to commemorate our river and all those who have called it home. This exhibit was funded by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) as part of SARA's 75th anniversary activities, and features artifacts recovered by the Center for Archeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) during the construction of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. The exhibit also includes primary source artwork from the Witte Museum's collection and other archeological finds from sites near the river.

Many of the exhibit's pieces are on public display for the first time, including a 122 year-old message in a bottle, and rare artifacts, fossils and tools dating back over 12,000 years. Special thanks to the Witte Museum, San Antonio River Foundation, UTSA, the National Park Service and the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs for supporting this exhibit. For more information please visit the Witte museum's website at [www.wittemuseum.org](http://www.wittemuseum.org).

## Josefina Maria Niggli

continued from page 1

Cullowhee, North Carolina, where she worked for the next twenty years. The University now houses an extensive collection of her various works and a theatre bearing her name. In 2009, the University sponsored a year-long, campus-wide theme in her honor: "Josefina Niggli: A Celebration of Culture, Art and Life."



Josefina died at her home in Cullowhee in 1983 at age seventy-three, and is buried in San Antonio at Mission Burial Park along side of her parents and other family members.

-Bill Cogburn

Information source: Elizabeth Coonrod Martinez, *Josefina Niggli-Mexican American Writer*, Central Library Texana archives, historian Bill Fisher.

## Americans for the Arts Conference

The Texas Commission on the Arts held a post-conference meeting in San Antonio on June 11 at SAY Si for state arts agencies directors concerning community development for the arts. States represented in the meeting included Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C.

Molly Shafer, Chairman of the King William Public Art/Cultural District Committee, was invited to be on a panel looking at trends, pros and cons about cultural arts districts. She and Jim Bob McMillan, Texas Commission on the Arts Deputy Director, discussed the process for receiving a Cultural Arts District Designation. Attendees were furnished with copies of the presentation to use with their state agencies.



Artists living within the boundaries of the King William Historic District ([tinyurl.com/kwdistrict](http://tinyurl.com/kwdistrict)) are invited to apply to exhibit their work at the KWA office. Exhibits run for two months. Email [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net) or drop by the office for an application.

# friends of bonham



**KW Neighbors at FOB  
Cocktails! Fundraiser at  
King William Manor on  
June 2nd, 2012**



Jeanne Russell and Michael Taylor



Shandelle and Michael Girdley



Jody Newman and Curtis Bowers



Zet Baer and Rudi Harst



Andrew and Sara Sherwood

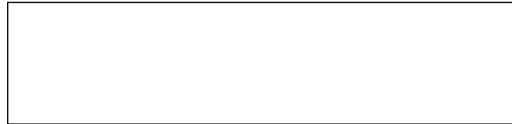


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## July Calendar

- 4 Fourth of July Regatta on the River
- 6 Hemisview Farmers' Market -  
3:00-6:00 p.m. - E. C. Chavez at Labor St.
- 8 River Concert - José Linares & Dancers -  
6:30-7:30 p.m. - SARA
- 11 Deadline for August newsletter  
submissions
- 11 Summer Social - 6:30 p.m. - SAY Sí
- 18 KWA Board Mtg - 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Newsletter mailing prep -  
6:00 p.m. - KWA office



## *KWA Summer Social*

Join your friends and neighbors on  
**Wednesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

**at SAY Sí, 1518 South Alamo St.**

Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

Fried chicken and drinks will be provided.

We will have a children's art and play station.

We will be setting up and icing drinks at 4:00 p.m.

Your help is welcome and much appreciated!

Please call Debra Walker at 222-0347

or Deb Mueller at 222-0803.

*See you there!*