

stay in the loop

KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 9, No. 2

March 2013

Remembering Mary Trevino

A dear friend of King William has died. Mary Trevino passed away February 13 at age 102. As a tribute to this remarkable lady, we are repeating excerpts from an interview with her ten years ago when she was only 92:

Mary Trevino's bright smile has greeted guests at El Mirador for more than 35 years. At 92 years of age, she still works the register, cooks the soup and sauces and fills in wherever she is needed around the restaurant.

Mary's son Julian and his wife Diana moved to King William in the late 1960's, and that's when Mary and her husband Julian, Sr. began visiting the neighborhood. "When our first granddaughter, Jessica, was born," Mary said, "we couldn't stay away."

There was a small restaurant in the building next door to the present El Mirador, a pleasant place where the Trevinos ate occasionally. It had three booths, one table and a few stools at the counter. Julian happened to notice one day that the little restaurant was for rent. Mary got on the telephone right away to her sister-in-law and a friend and said, "You want to go into the restaurant business with us?"

The first thing they both said was, "Who's going to do the cooking? You can't cook! I can't cook! None of us

knows how to cook!"

"We don't need to know," Mary told them. "The restaurant already has a cook." So they pooled their resources and were soon in business, but the cook proved to be temperamental. "About a month after we opened, the cook suddenly took off," Mary said. "I had no choice. I had to learn to cook in a hurry, taste and make changes until I got it right." She evidently 'got it right' because the business soon began to prosper.

Mary, her sister-in-law and the friend cooked, waited tables and cleaned while Julian, Sr. did the purchasing as well as cooking his specialty dishes. Things went along fine for several months until the building owner decided he wanted the space back. The Trevinos and their partners were forced to find a new location. They wanted to

stay in the neighborhood and were lucky to find a place on the corner of Presa and Martinez streets. The rent was higher, "but HemisFair was in full swing and business was good," Mary said. After a while, seeing how they were prospering, the owner of that building decided to raise the



continued on page 3

MY PERSPECTIVE

by Deb Mueller, President

When You're Not in Kansas Anymore

I feel slightly entitled to use the subtitle above as I have actually lived in Kansas. Of course I don't remember much about it since I was a toddler at the time. We moved to Topeka, Kansas for just 11 months in 1968 prior to an overseas assignment for my dad to Germany. I'm sure at that point, with a 2, 4 and 5 year old, moving around the world was an incredible, yet probably difficult, change for my family

Change continues to occur in the King William Association, which is nothing new, but as mentioned in my last column I want to keep you informed about what goes on behind the scenes. While everyone may know our organization is a nonprofit, not everyone may understand all that the designation implies. Besides using our revenue to further our purposes as stated in the KWA charter, there are other operational and organizational requirements for nonprofits. Starting with our immediate Past President Michael Guarino, and thanks to increased revenue from the Fair, we have begun the process of ensuring the KWA meets all the requirements necessary to maintain our nonprofit status while continuing our everyday work. These efforts include the following:

1. Board education for the last two years by nonprofit consultants at the beginning of Board members' terms.
2. Hiring an Executive Director to work with the President and Board to manage the KWA and ensure continuity from year to year.
3. Hiring a new accounting firm with nonprofit expertise to work with staff on bookkeeping and taxes and provide advice on deficiencies or potential for improvement in our accounting practices.
4. Reviewing and revising the By-Laws.
5. Evaluating our current programs in reference to their support of the Charter before embarking on a more long-term strategic planning process.
6. Pursuing bids for an audit of the organization.

While many of these endeavors may not be exciting, they are necessary for the continued success of our organization. The KWA has doubled its revenue over the last ten years from the Fair, allowing us to do a multitude of good things for our area, but we must not forget the regular required maintenance as we change. Installing a beautiful new vintage chandelier is always more exciting than paying the electricity bill, but both are necessary.

Advertising: Promote your business directly to your King William neighbors by advertising in this newsletter! Rates, sizes and details are in the newsletter section of our website at kingwilliamassociation.org, or call 227-8786, or email king.william@sbcglobal.net.



COORDINATORS Susan Athené, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez
Masthead design by Roland Rodriguez
Masthead concept by Cherise Bell

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.

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Remembering Mary Trevino *(continued from page 1)*

rent -- more than double. The Trevino's offered to buy the building but the owner named an exorbitant price, so again, they had to search for another location.

The place on St. Mary's, the current El Mirador building, was being offered for sale and after much debate, they decided to buy it. The owners proved to be difficult to negotiate with, raising the price, then wanting only cash, then renegeing and eventually backing out altogether. The Trevino's persisted and finally came to an agreement, but by this time, Mary wasn't sure she wanted it after all. It had been a nightclub -- painted black on the inside with red spotlights and ugly carpet. "It was an awful mess." Mary remembers. "We had a lot of work to do to get it ready for business."

After all of the aggravation of buying the new place and getting it ready for business, the Trevino's needed some time away so they made a trip to Mexico. "One evening, we were having dinner in a nice restaurant," Mary said. "Julian and I both ordered the soup which we liked very much. When we got home, I was still thinking about that soup. It was very good but it lacked something -- it needed vegetables to make it a meal."

"You should make the soup the way you like it," Julian told her. "Make your own version."

"I tried this and I tried that until I finally had it just the way I wanted it but then nobody was ordering it," Mary said. "Finally, Julian said, 'Stop with the soup! Nobody's buying it and it's just going to waste.'" But Mary, who admits to having a stubborn streak, was not ready to give up so she started giving away samples with all the lunches. It wasn't long before people were asking for "a bowl of that wonderful soup." Mary's Sopa Azteca soon became famous as the "Saturday Soup." Even on a hot summer Saturday, locals and tourist alike lined up to get a bowl of "the soup that wouldn't sell."

Many well-known San Antonians have been regulars over the years at El Mirador. "O'Neil Ford ate here every day for years," Mary said. "One morning he came in to

speaking to Julian. 'I'm going to be bringing some important people for lunch today. These folks are from Europe so I want everything to be really special.'"

A big table was set up and ready for Ford and his guests. The food was good and the service attentive. When presented with the bill, Ford pulled out his checkbook with a flourish and wrote out a check for the meal adding a generous gratuity. Julian took the check, leaned close to Ford's ear and whispered loud enough for everyone at the table to hear, "Mr. Ford, do you want me to hold this for two weeks like last time?"

Mary had a good laugh remembering. "My husband was always joking," she said. "People would come in just to share a laugh with him. They loved him. When he was in the hospital, Robert Shivers cancelled all his appointments and went every day to sit with him. Then he and Dan Naranjo would come back here and bus tables and cashier while we were at the hospital."

"After Julian died, I never wanted to go back to our old house," Mary said. "Then one day, my daughter-in-law, Diana, was doing her usual walk down King William Street when she noticed a "For Sale" sign on the little house just across the street from hers. She came to get me to look at the house. The next

thing I knew, it was mine. Pat Frost from Frost Bank personally helped us get the house. Dr. Ralph Wells was very pleased because he knows how stubborn I can be. He said he could keep a closer eye on me living right here in the neighborhood. It just worked out perfectly. But you know, I really do believe in miracles."

"It's a wonderful house," she says. "Diana took charge of the restoration. She made it so it would have plenty of light and lots of open space for a small house. The kitchen is tiny, but who needs a kitchen? I'm just three blocks from the restaurant so if I want to cook, I go there."

"My life in King William is a little piece of heaven," Mary says. "I'm surrounded by loving family and friends -- any one of whom I could call day or night if I needed them. What more could I possibly want?"

- Bill Cogburn



King William Fair 2013

Change in Wristband Policy

This year, only King William Association members (those who have paid their membership dues for 2013) and those living in the Fair Zone will receive two complimentary admission wristbands for the upcoming King William Fair. Members may also purchase discounted admission wristbands for \$6.00 each from the KWA office.

We encourage you to join the King William Association to receive this benefit. There are several levels of membership, starting as low as \$10, and with membership you receive two complimentary admission wristbands to the 2013 King William Fair.

All guests attending the Fair will need admission wristbands to enter. If you are having a party, please remind your friends and family that they will need to purchase a wristband in advance (available at the Fiesta Store, 2611 Broadway) or at the gate on Fair day.

KWA Members please note: A separate letter will be mailed with your wristbands on March 29. They will not arrive in your newsletter as they have in past years.

Special Thanks To Our Fair Volunteers!

The individuals listed here are the heart and soul of the King William Fair. Please shout out a big thank you to them for sharing their time, talent and treasures. The Fair would not be possible without their enthusiasm and dedication. If you would like to help out and volunteer, please contact the Fair office at 271-3247 or kwfair@sbcglobal.net. We'd love to have you as part of our team!

2013 Fair Chair: Michael Girdley

Admissions: Ruben Cuero, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

Art & Craft: Max Martinez

Beverages: George Reihner

Compliance: Joe & Mary Helen Mansbach

Entertainment: Rudi Harst

Environmental: Jack Kent, Jeremy Nelson

Food: Annice Hill, Ginger Ardid

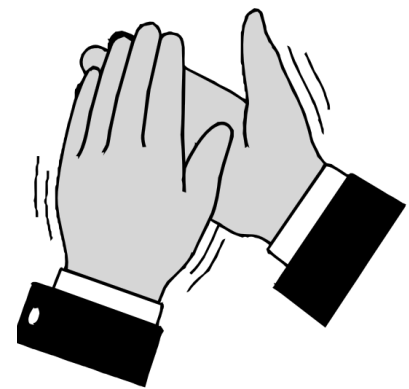
Ilse's Attic: Nancy Diehl

Kids Kingdom: Richard Warren, Richard Contreras

Marking: John Hartman

Parade: Sue Duffy, John Doski, Ryan Orsinger

Signage: Ed Day, Mike Schroeder



Many thanks to all our corporate and organization volunteers who serve thousands of hours on Fair day! Thanks to Alamo City Roller Girls, AT&T, Bank of America, Frost Bank, H-E-B, UPS, USAA, UTSA Historical Preservation Association and Valero for being such great partners.



KWA Membership 2012-2013

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KWA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Membership at any level is tax deductible.



Art exhibit opening: Artist Andrea Almond (second from right) is joined by (from left) Susan Athene', Karen Almond and Sherry Hess at the opening reception on February 7 for her exhibit, Urban Landscapes, at the KWA office. Ms. Almond's paintings will be on view through March.

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- Laticia & Joel Janssen
- Mary Grace & Jeff Ketner
- Christina & Steve Lecholo
- Jennie Brown
 & Scott Martin
- Jeanne Russell
- Joseph Shinnars
- Kevin Peckham
- Suzie & Armando Pina
- Nancy B.Price
- Jeff Sibley
- Margaret Sledge
- Paula & Charles Stallcup
- Adalsinda Vargas
- Mike Villarreal
- Lyle Wilson

CALLING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD ARTISTS!

Artists living in the Southtown area are invited to apply to exhibit their work at the KWA office. Exhibits run for two months. Email king.william@sbcglobal.net or drop by the office for an application.



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Contemporary Art Month 2013

This month is San Antonio's 28th annual Contemporary Art Month. Started in 1986, CAM seeks to promote and raise the national profile of San Antonio

contemporary art and artists by organizing and facilitating a month-long celebration of contemporary art, providing marketing support, and by organizing and facilitating public education programs. In 2010, CAM officially moved from July to March. This year's events include the CAM Perennial Exhibition, which will be curated by Bill Arning, Executive Director of the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, and the introduction of CAMx, the CAM Exchange, an exhibition exchange between San Antonio artists and artists from other cities.

For more information: contemporaryartmonth.com

Luminaria 2013

Luminaria, San Antonio's annual night celebration of art and artists, will take place downtown on Saturday, March 9. It is free, and showcases all art forms, including visual, music, theater, performance, literary, media and dance.



Luminaria spotlights artists from San Antonio and all over the country, and is made possible through the generosity of artists, arts organizations, volunteers, and public and private donations. Over the last five years, Luminaria artists and performers have offered quality new and experimental works to the public, bringing art to hundreds of thousands of people in innovative and surprising ways.

For more information: luminariasaa.org

March is Women's History Month

The theme for 2013, selected by the National Women's History Project, is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics."



Texas Natives: A Great, Snowy Confusion

The magnificent diversity of birds in the San Antonio River Watershed is one of our greatest resources, and it brings people to South Texas from all over the world. The Great Egret and the Snowy Egret are among the most commonly seen birds wading in the waters of the San Antonio River. These majestic white birds are large and distinctive. While the birds are related and have many similarities, they are separate species and have some unique identifying characteristics.

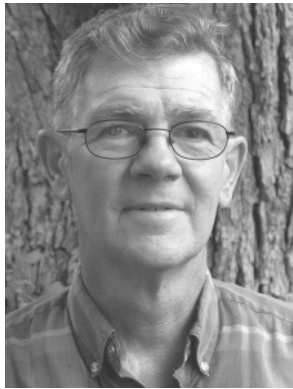
The Great Egret is a large wading bird with a long, yellow bill. Much smaller in size, the Snowy Egret has a slender, black bill. The birds are often seen next to each other along the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River, and it can be easy to spot the differences in their feet. Having tall, black legs and feet, the Great Egret often stands in shallow water. The Snowy Egret, however, has bright yellow feet and black legs. The larger Great Egret has a long, curved neck. It is easy to confuse these two white wading birds, but with these distinctions in mind they can be identified. Both birds wade and eat fish along the San Antonio River. They can be seen in the shallow water along the Mission Reach's riffle structures hunting for their next meal. Male birds in each species gain wispy, delicate white plumes along their back and neck during breeding season called aigrettes.

For more information about the Mission Reach, visit: www.sanantonioriver.org.

- Josef Kaul

OUT IN THE GARDEN

with Alan Cash



Texas weather can be very unpredictable. However the first weekend of March is typically the last chance for freezing temperatures and annual plants can be planted after that.

At the time of this writing we have not had a killing freeze in King William although officially the City has had a couple of below freezing nights. As I said in last month's newsletter, plants that would normally freeze back to ground level should be cut back to about 6 inches high. This may be

hard to do especially if some still have blooms. If not cut back they can become too large for their space and can become unsightly as stems near the ground become bare with new growth only at the top.

Carolina jessamine vines are now blooming with their bright yellow trumpet shaped flowers. It is a trouble free, drought tolerant, evergreen, spring blooming vine that can grow to a length of 10 feet or more. They are not a "clinging" vine and have to be trained on the fence or trellis on which they are planted. This is now the time to find them in local nurseries. Because it a spring bloomer, Carolina jessamine can be planted in areas that may become shady as trees begin to leaf out later in the season.

Neighbors' gardens can be a source of ideas for your garden. If your space is limited, consider creating a container garden. Different sizes, shapes, and colors can brighten any space. You can see an example of a container garden in the front of 607 E. Guenther.

A cottage garden is a mixture of diverse plants that blend together well. The plants can be evergreen, perennials and annuals. The plant varieties can even include an area for seasonal vegetables. At first sight it may seem disorganized but that is the nature of a cottage garden. An example can be seen at 609 E. Guenther.

Garden Note: It is a serious question to think about: whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.
- Roland A. Browne



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Photo: Brian Rountree

Awesome SA

Paws Ranch Rescue and Animal Sanctuary will be outfitting a mobile adoption vehicle thanks to a \$1,000 grant from Awesome SA. Grant applicants, trustees and supporters gathered on Tuesday, January 22 at Alamo Street Eat Bar for the monthly party at which the finalists pitch their ideas to the crowd and the trustees announce that month's winner.

Awesome SA is a chapter of the Awesome Foundation, whose mission is "forwarding the interest of awesome in the universe, \$1,000 at a time." The Awesome Foundation was founded in Boston in 2009, and since then chapters have formed in cities throughout the world. Together, the Awesome Foundation chapters have funded a wide range of projects including arts, science and social causes. Grants are funded by the trustees, who each contribute \$100 monthly. The application process is nimble and lightweight - the winner is announced only one week after the application deadline. Projects must "make San Antonio awesome," and have an immediate impact.

Pictured in the above photo are Ashlea Denton of Paws Ranch (center) and (from left) trustees Brooke Harris, Hugh Donagher, Scott Gustafson (dean), Claudia Loya (dean), Zac Harris, Rachel Holland, and Kelly Bevers. Trustees not pictured are Melissa Burnett, Francesca Caballero, Peter French, Michael Girdley, Omar Gonzalez, Vid Luther, Jeff Mulholland and Robert Rivard.

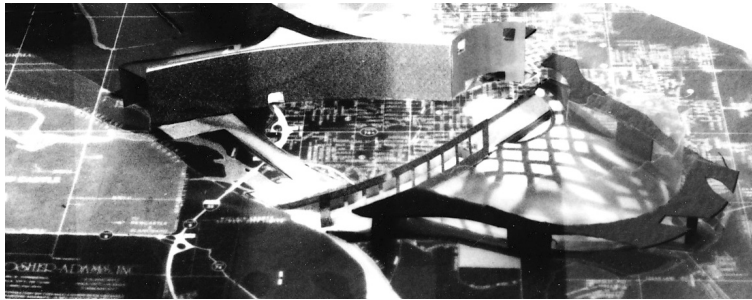
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- Hugh Donager

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Focus on Neighborhood Security

Several neighbors have been victims of one crime or another recently, ranging from thefts of porch furniture to home burglaries. Many of these crimes happened on or near King William street. In response, several King William street residents have organized a neighborhood watch group. The group's purpose is to keep watchful eyes on the homes and street, noting and sharing awareness of unusual activity. We've created an email and phone list which will allow us to keep each other informed. Four neighbors have volunteered to act as the block captain for the blocks they live on. The block capture each resident is informed of important information.

The first event held by the group was a safety seminar presented by the SAFFE Officers assigned to our area. On February 5th, Officers Strothman, Santos and McCall gave a group of King William street residents an hour long presentation dealing with personal and home security. Below is a recap of the points made by the Police Officers. If anyone is interested in starting a similar group for his or her street, feel free to contact Ray Becerril at (210) 507-3157, Jim Johnson at (410) 991-5605 or Officer Ron Strothman directly. His number is (210) 207-5176 or email: rstrothman@sanantonio.gov.

Personal Safety Information

- When driving, avoid close situations while stopping at intersections. Leave room to maneuver away from a threat.
- Consider some form of personal protection or signaling device, e.g. pepper spray, personal alarm/beacon.
- If threatened make noise and try to escape. Avoid getting into a vehicle with an attacker.

Home Safety Information

- Install quality doors, metal or solid wood.
- Put three inch screws into strike plate.
- Install minimum 1 inch dead bolt.
- Install window locks or use double headed screws on wood frame windows.
- Light exterior brightly.
- Put interior lights on a timer if you're away. Give the appearance someone is home.
- If you intend to keep a weapon, learn how to use it.
- Ensure house numbers are visible from the street. Consider having your house number stenciled on the curb. This makes it easier for emergency vehicles to respond to your call.



Neighborhood Information

- Keep an eye on your surrounding area. Know who your neighbors are and if possible, who their service providers are.
- Let your neighbors know if you'll be away and how you can be reached.
- Use the email and telephone contact list to pass along information we all need to be made aware of.
- Note who is in the area: unfamiliar vehicles, people. Who is doing what?
- If you're suspicious, call the police at (210) 207-7273. If a crime is in progress or some other emergency, call 911. When time and situation allow, inform your block captain and neighbors.
- Report all criminal activity. Ask for a police officer to come take the report. This provides for another opportunity for police presence in the neighborhood, which discourages criminal activity. This also provides statistical data to justify more police patrols and gives other neighbors the opportunity to be on the lookout to prevent further criminal activity.
- If ten or more people are interested in starting a Cellular on Patrol (COP) program, the SAFFE officers will come to our location to provide the training. Otherwise, individuals can sign up for the training for a future class.

- Jim Johnson, Jr.

Opening the “Year of the Window”

Home builders of the 19th and early 20th centuries recognized windows as critical components of environmental control that offered natural daylight and ventilation before the advent of electric lighting and mechanical air conditioning. The functional importance of windows was celebrated by making these elements a critical part of exterior design – in simple houses like Craftsman bungalows, windows might be the primary design element. Yet one of the most common mistakes made in rehabilitating historic homes (and one of the most common issues homeowners face in passing the City’s mandatory historic review) is to replace original, usually wood, windows with new “energy saving”, mass-produced products. Tempting as they are, these new products are often far less durable than the historic windows they replace, and lack the detail that contributed to the original character of the house. Worse, some homeowners are tempted to alter the size and proportions of original openings to accommodate stock sizes of contemporary windows, forever altering the original design of the house.

Fortunately, a growing number of San Antonio builders recognize that historic windows can often be repaired rather than replaced at competitive cost. Damaged wood can be reconstructed, and drafts can be stopped with sealants and storm windows that have minimal visual impact on the original design. The Architectural Advisory Committee of the King William Association has declared 2013 the “Year of the Window,” and in future issues of this newsletter we will introduce you to neighbors and local contractors who have demonstrated best practices for restoration, repair and maintenance of historic windows.

On November 8, 2012, City Council adopted new, comprehensive City of San Antonio Historic Design Guidelines to provide detailed guidance for property owners, architects, and contractors – and also to define the standards that the City Office of Historic Preservation now uses to review plans for building repair, rehabilitation, additions, and new construction in King William and other historic districts. You can access the guidelines at www.sanantonio.gov/historic/HistoricDistrictGuidelines.aspx or read them in the reference sections of the Central Library and several branch libraries. In the words of the Guidelines:

“The proportion, shape, pattern, and size of historic doors, windows, and screens help convey the style and period of a building and contribute to its overall architectural character. In addition, the quality of construction of historic windows is generally much better than that of replacement windows and can be preserved through regular maintenance. Properly maintained and sealed historic windows are efficient and sustainable.” -- CoSA Historic Design Guidelines 2: Guidelines for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations.

- Jack Kent, Jr.

Did You Know?

The King William Association Charter was submitted to the State of Texas on July 28, 1967.

The purpose of a Charter is to proclaim an organization’s purpose and intent. Seven purposes are listed in the King William Charter. This article is about the second purpose:

2. In pursuance of this basic purpose, the corporation proposes to restore historic buildings and to move to or construct in the King William Area of the City of San Antonio, Texas, other buildings around which to preserve the history of the City of San Antonio, Texas, in general and the King William Area in particular, which such structures not only preserved but made functionally useful in carrying out the purpose of the corporation.

Our May 1991 Newsletter stated: “The King William Association just purchased a building at 1032 S. Alamo for use as our headquarters. As you may remember we have a 15-year-old financial gift designated for a permanent headquarters.” KWA member and architect Charles Schubert offered his services for the building’s renovation to the association without charge. Donations were received and the duplex was converted to the office and meeting space we have today. The KWA Fair, which is our main fund-raiser, has expanded, yielding more financial success and staff to handle work previously executed by volunteers. Our membership is larger than our meeting spaces. Some members have wondered if it is time for KWA to find a larger building to restore as our office/meeting space.

KWA Board members will be reviewing the Charter in conjunction with our programs. We are seeking your input. If you have any programs or ideas you think match the second purpose of the Charter, let us know by emailing king.william@sbc-global.net or calling me at the KWA office at 227-8786.

- Cherise Bell

Bonham PTA's ArtSmart Program

Recognizing the value of a high quality arts education and concerned with the diminishing role of art in public schools, the parents of Bonham Academy created ArtSmart to insure that art remain a part of the yearly curriculum. Since its inception in 1999 and with the financial support of organizations like the King William Association and Friends of Bonham, the Bonham PTA's ArtSmart program has grown from offering students art workshops twice a semester to providing them with nearly three hours of art learning per week. Beyond funding the visual arts, ArtSmart also contributes to dance, theatre arts and cultural appreciation.

This year, as in years past, Lenora McQueen and Laurel Bodinus, artists from the Southwest School of Art, are teaching weekly visual arts classes to our kindergarten through 5th grade students. During the fall semester, Ms. Bodinus offered our kindergarten through 2nd grade students a wide range of art-based learning opportunities, such as making puppets; creating skeleton drawings and sugar skulls; creating Native American corn door hangers using card stock, oil pastels, watercolors and cornhusks; and teaching children how to apply the wax resist technique using crayons and watercolors. Like Ms. Bodinus, Ms. McQueen provides our 3rd through 5th grade students with a wide range of art-based learning opportunities. For instance, during the fall, the students explored shape versus form, specific drawing techniques, and the concept of value. In addition, students created scribble line gesture drawings and worked on blind contour line drawings. The children's artwork will be showcased in the July 2013-June 2014 school year calendar, which will be available during our April 12 Spring Art Festival at Bonham, and can also be purchased by contacting Sara Sherwood at sara.sherwood@sbcglobal.net. Calendars cost \$15 and all proceeds help to fund the ArtSmart program.

With dance instruction, Mr. Ricardo Muñoz, our Folklorico instructor, holds weekly dance classes with all of our kindergarten through 6th grade students. The danc-

es that students learn represent rich cultural traditions from across Mexico, such as dances originating in Michoacan, Chiapas, Veracruz and Jalisco. The children have already participated in four performances including the school's Dieciséis de Septiembre Assembly and Día de los Muertos Festival, the SAISD Holiday Dance Extravaganza and an event at Macy's La Cantera.

Through school district funding, our 3rd through 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in the theatre arts with the school's theater arts teacher, Holly Clifford. Children receive theatre arts instruction during school hours and may participate after school in the Drama Club. This fall when the school presented *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* the PTA's ArtSmart program was able to contribute money for production of the main set.

Because of the support of the King William Association, Bonham students receive an arts education that many public school children do not. For instance, while only three percent of public elementary students in the United States receive dance instruction (Parsad & Spiegelman, 2012), Bonham students receive nearly an hour of dance instruction per week. Beyond providing children with the opportunity to learn about art, dance and theatre arts, the ArtSmart program encourages children to develop as artists, dancers and actors. We appreciate the King William Association's support and look forward to partnering with them in the years to come.

- Sara Sherwood, 2012-2013 ArtSmart Chair



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.



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World Day of Theater for Children

The International Association of Theater for Children and Young People has deemed March 20th a day on which the WORLD should celebrate children's theater –exposing each and every child to the glorious feeling of creating. How wonderful! Take a look at children expressing what they think theatrical art is at www.assitej-international.org.

Seeing this wide arching mission – to celebrate ALL people dedicated to theatrical arts for children – made me feel privileged to be a part of King William neighborhood and Bonham Academy. We are a community that embraces creating and celebrating art and trickling this celebration down to following generations. We are unique, we are lovely, and we are urban San Antonio. We should be a microcosm of the greater educational community and hope our model can “trickle” upward.

I have become infatuated by the skills of Miss Holly Clifford, Bonham's theatrical wunderkind. I have seen children blossom when given the opportunity to be involved in the creative process. They did it last year at *A Christmas Carol*, and again this year with *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Thank you, Ms. Clifford, for choosing to tackle complicated works of literature and make them accessible to our children, pushing their creative skills to new levels.

And how can we not be amazed with those middle school students who become serious thespians, blowing the University Interscholastic League (UIL) away with two-time award-winning performances! I am truly beginning to think that Bonham needs its own walk of fame – stars and all.

Bonham is also one of the few public schools receiving visual art classes for kindergarten through 5th grade. These are high-level community artists training our little ones to express themselves. In this time of over testing, teaching to the test, or “STEM-ing” our youth, the KWA and Bonham communities have taken a stand and insisted on well-rounded education, including ART. After all, who might come to mind when you are asked to name a true scholar? I think of Leonardo da Vinci described as a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, inventor,

anatomist and more. Sure, we cannot all be da Vinci, but maybe your neighbor's child is one of those true scholars. “Cheers!” KWA and Bonham for not settling on bare educational minima.



While celebrating our community, I also express sadness over the apparent rift dividing our collaborative efforts – namely 114 Cedar Street. I live on Cedar and see the center of this debate daily. I attended a SAISD bond meeting in the fall and I learned a lot. Importantly, I learned that there is a feeling in the community that Bonham Academy and the King William community do not collaborate on issues as simple as sharing Bonham facilities for non-school activities. I am

not sure of the limiting issues, but there must be some simple solution.

I believe that plans to renovate 114 Cedar and attach the black box theater to it for community use, or the plan to re-arrange the plans to allow for green space, are viable to the SAISD Board. And here we sit – possibly losing space for the theater – and with no concrete plans for moving forward. And worse yet, the rift in our community seems to have stagnated a collaborative response.

One possible solution: Let us teach our children that community can come together and make a miracle by raising funds to:

1. preserve and use 114 Cedar for something (e.g., a visual arts facility, a Bonham-Community interface for mentoring, etc.) and
2. make the most of the grounds by looking to other urban areas for ideas about maximizing space (e.g., rooftop gardens, innovative play equipment).

We have ALL of the ingredients to engage our collective, creative energy and develop an amazing model for the rest of the country, infused with King William flavor and San Antonio spice. Let's set a goal that by March 20, 2014, we will join the World Day of Theater for Children by celebrating what we have come together to do and not let anything impede our progress.

- Amy Ramage

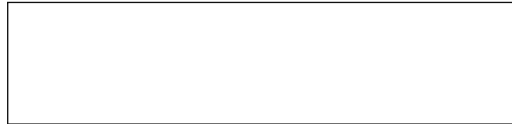


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Spring Social

Wednesday, April 3 - 6:30 p.m.

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Leland Stone

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Special performance by

Youth Orchestra San Antonio

String Quartet

Please bring a dish to share!

March Calendar

- 6 KWA General Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Blue Star Brewery
- 20 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.