



King William Association

Volume 11, No. 2

March 2015

# Remarkable Women of King William

*In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 as Women's History week. Years later, Congress passed a bill declaring March as Women's History Month. Every year the National Women's History Project chooses a theme for this month, and 2015's theme is "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." This presents the opportunity to weave women's stories – individually and collectively – into the essential fabric of our nation's history.*

While it's fitting that we should honor all women in King William who strive to make the neighborhood a better place to live, this article pays special tribute to those remarkable women who have gone before us.

Written evidence tells us that women played an important part in our neighborhood's development from the very beginning. Over a hundred years ago, women were major developers, home builders and land owners -- Maria Ygnacia Delgado, Adalina Dane, Lady Bailey and Emma Altgelt to name a few.

Half a century later, but still early in the neighborhood's renaissance, women joined together in times of crisis. News that the city was planning to build an expressway through the neighborhood in 1953 radicalized the social-minded King William Area Conservation Association (forerunner of the current day King William Association). This earlier neighborhood association, formed in 1947 exclusively of women, included activists such as Margaret Gething, Martha Isbell, Nellie Pancoast, Dorothy Schuchard,



Margaret Gething

Mary Schug, Ilse Griffith and Caroline Elmendorf.

To counter this threat to the neighborhood, the organization petitioned the City Planning Commission for zoning laws to protect homes from encroaching business development. They organized an "Old World Tour of Homes," and invited the City Planning Commission, State Highway Department officials, the City Board of Adjustment, the Parks Board and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to see what the planned expressway would be destroying. Their fighting spirit is said to have saved the neighborhood.

**Margaret Gething** lived in her house at 409 East Guenther from 1944 until she died in 1975 at about age 90. (I say

"about" as she was very guarded about her true age). She was a gracious Southern lady, the great-granddaughter of an English lord, a debutante, an early Fiesta duchess, Broadway actress (once sharing the stage with Clark Gable in a starring role) and one of San Antonio's foremost conservationists. She was a principal in the founding of the King William Area

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# President's Report

by Harry Shafer

Usually New Year's resolutions are made with good intentions and then forgotten, but that is not the case with KWA. One of our resolutions was to find a new home for the office, and this resolution has come to pass. We are now settled in at 122 Madison, the former home of the Villa Finale visitor center. The offices are up and running, and the remainder of the space will be outfitted for meetings and activities. Our March social will be at our new office and parking lot. We have 12 parking spaces, so staff and visitor parking is no longer a problem! The flexibility this new space offers for meetings and workshops is a real positive for the KWA. So drop in for a visit and see our new offices. The next step in the relocation process is the former office building. The Ad Hoc Building Committee has been charged with the duty of outlining the process of repair and how to best allocate the space for rental.

Another resolution is to work on solutions for the parking and transportation issues in our neighborhood. The Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Rose Kanusky consists of both business and homeowners from Lavaca and King William, and is actively engaged in gathering information so we can propose some solutions. This is a process and will take time; there are no quick fixes. I think it is important that both neighborhoods work together on this issue because events impact us both in an equal manner. Working together rather than independently will more likely make an impact with the city. Cherise and I met with our new city councilman Robert Treviño and brought this and other issues to his attention.

Construction is scheduled to start soon on the 12,000 sq. ft. grocery store and gas station at S. Flores and Cesar Chavez. Some of the infrastructure amenities that were presented last year to the KWA are being installed. The new striping on Arsenal Street has posed some concerns. HEB is reviewing the spacing of the striping and obvious issues with the narrow lanes and side-street parking after feedback from the neighborhood. This is especially critical now that HEB has closed S. Main Avenue to the public as of February 14.

## Brackenridge Band Rummage Sale

Vendors and Crafters Welcomed!

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2015  
Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Brackenridge High School Parking Lot,  
400 Eagleland

Cost: \$15, Bring your own table

Contact: Pat Gomez, 210-290-2651  
Rita Sanchez 210-454-1785



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Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez  
MASTHEAD DESIGN  
Roland Rodriguez  
MASTHEAD CONCEPT 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 on-line at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org).

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# Remarkable Women of King William

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Conservation Association in 1947 and served as its first president.

The giant cypress trees along our portion of the San Antonio River are still there largely due to Gething's efforts. In 1965, she led the successful fight to prevent the Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio River Authority from removing those magnificent trees located in the river channel adjoining King William, including the ones behind Margaret's house across from Blue Star. It's said that her personal friendship with Lady Bird Johnson was instrumental in stopping the bulldozers.

Though not a King William Fair event, Miss Margaret's House Museum, an amazing collection of Victoriana, is open during Fiesta and on King William Fair day. Ilse Griffith, her close friend, said that Margaret - a flinty, no nonsense lady - would turn over in her grave if she knew that she was being remembered as "Miss Margaret."



Julia Cauthorn (photo: *San Antonio Business Journal*)

**Julia Cauthorn** was one of the neighborhood's more colorful characters. She had a somewhat haughty, imperialistic air about her which earned her the name "The Duchess of King William." Julia, whom writer Mimi Swartz said looked a little like Gloria Swanson crossed with a pioneer woman, is said to have sold old jewelry and gold coins to buy her house in 1973. It's the gothic revival, Alfred Giles designed cottage known as the Sartor House at 217 King William.

Julia was a passionate supporter of the local performance arts, and on many Sunday afternoons

would host musicales in her home to showcase an up and coming singer, performance group, musician or dancer that had recently caught her fancy. She would set up chairs in her parlor and invite the neighbors in for the performance and serve cake and punch afterwards on her verandah.

Although she was an ardent preservationist and worked tirelessly to restore and preserve homes in King William, she was often at odds with Walter Mathis. Julia's approach to restoration was somewhat pragmatic and open-minded, whereas Walter was a stickler for authenticity. "If you carry Walter's philosophy to its logical conclusion," Julia said, "we ought to all be living in Indian tepees." Julia died in 2000 at age 82.

**Mary Schug** and her husband Phil moved to 222 King William from the Mahncke Park area in 1963. Mary was familiar with the neighborhood since her daughters had been attending the Girl Scout day camp just down the street at the Groos house at 335 King William. In a 2002 interview, Mary said she remembered the neighborhood as being a pretty slummy place back then. "The Joske house was a half-way house and the Sartor house across the street from us was a Family Welfare Association office with clients lined up for half a block on distribution days. But by the late 1960s, people were beginning to realize that this neighborhood had a future," said Mary. "People with families were starting to buy these old houses and fix them up. They were mostly younger folks, many who didn't have a lot of money, but they had vision and a lot of energy."

Mary served as president of the King William Area Conservation Association in 1964. That same year, the city was proposing a flood control project which would have essentially turned our part of the river into a cemented channel with no walkways, landscaping or trees. The group drafted a letter to Congressman Henry B. Gonzales protesting the action. "I signed it and sent it off," said Mary. "I don't know how much good it did but Henry B. wrote us a nice letter and enclosed a copy of his letter to the city supporting our protest. Soon after that, they backed off that plan."

In 1968, Mary chaired the first King William Fair. In 1970, she served as president of the board of the King William Association, formed just three years earlier in 1967. Mary died in 2011 at age 93.

**Ilse Griffith** lived at 422 East Guenther from 1973 until she died in 1999 at age 99. During those years, she took her turn as KWA board president

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# Preparing for the Future at Bonham

**C**harter Applications for children who will enter kindergarten in 2014-15 to attend Bonham Academy's Dual-Language Program have been received, and parents will be notified in early March. Students are considered on a tiered basis, with the children who live in our neighborhood attendance zone and have a sibling already in the program considered first.



Tier 2 is for neighborhood children with no siblings in the program. Tier 3 is for siblings of transfer students. Tier 4 is for children of Bonham faculty members. Tier 5 is for children of SAISD employees and intra-district transfers. Finally, at Tier 6, any student in Bexar County can apply for consideration. Unfortunately, most of our availability is gone by Tier 5, and we must select applicants from Tier 5 and Tier 6 by lottery. This year we have 96 applications for 60 available positions. Native English and native Spanish speakers are very well balanced this year, in great part due to the efforts of Ms. Gebhart in recruiting students for all areas.

The Middle School addition is ready for the final touches and power was turned on in the building on February 12. Students and staff are very happy to have their gym back and a newly renovated cafeteria. The murals were preserved in both buildings. We are already working with local artists to consider a mural for the entry of the theater and Middle School. We want to incorporate the various aspects of Bonham Academy in visual form.

It was only in October, a few months ago, when the second floor began to take shape. Fortunately, the new building was mostly dried in before the winter rains began, so we are still very much on schedule. The greatest obstacle has been getting to and from the new building with all the mud!

The addition is scheduled for completion by May, and may be ready for occupancy before the school year ends. When this happens, construction will be focused on the office area. We will relocate the school offices to the new building when construction begins in the old building.

Thank you to parents and our community for the support you provide to our neighborhood school. Bonham Academy is a unique school with much to offer everyone.

Together we can.

- Principal William Webber

# SARA Receives Riverprize Nomination

**T**he San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was represented at the International Riversymposium hosted by the International RiverFoundation this past September in Canberra, Australia. This annual conference brings together global leaders of river management and restoration. The highlight of the symposium is the presentation of the prestigious Thies International Riverprize, an award that is given to those who have developed and implemented outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river management. SARA was at the symposium to represent the San Antonio River, one of four finalists for this year's award, along with the River Rhine (Europe), Glenelg River (Australia), and Petitcodiac River (Canada).

The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine ultimately received the 2014 award for bringing Europe's River Rhine back to life following a devastating chemical accident in 1986, which wiped out nearly all biological life. Although the San Antonio River did not win, being recognized as an International Riverprize finalist is high praise not only for SARA, but for all our governmental partners and community stakeholders. The Riverprize was first awarded in 1999, and has grown to become one of the world's most prestigious environmental awards.

John Berry, United States Ambassador to Australia, provided a congratulatory letter to SARA stating, "Congratulations to the entire team at the San Antonio River Authority for representing the United States as a finalist in the 2014 International Riverprize Competition. This is certainly a well-deserved recognition of the San Antonio River Authority's outstanding leadership in watershed conservation and sustainability."

I wish to echo Ambassador Berry's sentiment by congratulating SARA and all our governmental and community partners for helping to make the San Antonio River internationally recognized for outstanding, visionary and sustainable river management.

- Thomas G. Weaver, SARA Board Member, Bexar County District 4

# City Lights

The calendar seems to have lost its moorings and drifted into spring at mid-winter. The paperwhites peeking out between the pickets of the front fence appear to be looking for an all-clear signal to lead the revival of the cold-induced brown landscape.

The breeze is stirring the faded fall leaves that are still captive to the lashings of the jasmine beds, but their jade color is deepening in to a richer shade. It will be a month of tangled hair and flipped lapels but the feel of it is wonderful, like a caress.

Walking seems the natural outcome of this liberation. No more huddling indoors on brooding days. Everything seems unrecognizably new.

As I was walking toward the river, I noticed something I'd never paid attention to before. The well-made concrete sidewalks that were put down more than a hundred years ago are thin slabs that aren't more than two inches thick. Winter rain had eroded a little cavity under my neighbor's sidewalk and revealed that its image of reliable solidity was really an illusion. It might as well have been Wall Street during the banking crisis that cascaded into the recession.

On closer inspection the slabs are all a little cupped, they tend to collect water in their centers to the delight of sparrows and mockingbirds. By the arrival of summer the winged wildlife will have to look elsewhere for drinking vessels.

It's a shame that the makers of sidewalks don't cast their names in them as they once did, signing an urban canvas that unrolls by the yards and miles. In my block they are a testament to 19<sup>th</sup> century immigration and social change. The makers were a partnership, an Irish and an Italian surname hyphenated as a company, if not a marriage.

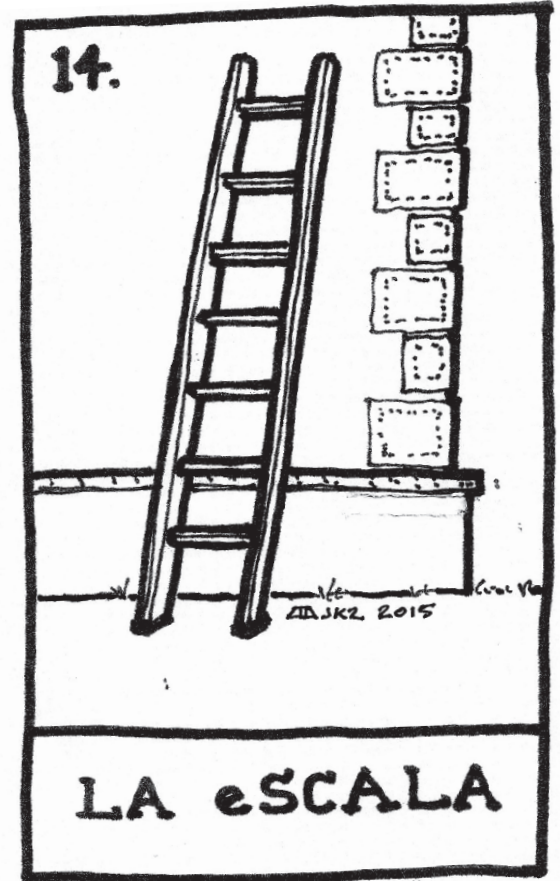
I like looking at these impressions in the sidewalk since I'm the product of an Irish and Italian partnership. The very first day I went for a walk after moving in I noticed the names and felt strangely at peace, as if this block was always intended to be my home. Sometimes the smallest anchors are the strongest tethers for one's heart.

I'd made my way down King William Street and was listening to the music of feathery green wind-blown leaves. As I was passing a large house, newly sold to unseen neighbors, I heard a well-trained voice singing songs from Zarzuelas, the romantic Spanish operettas of the 1800s. The singer, a young house

painter precariously perched on a second floor ladder, was partly shielded from view by the elaborate scrollwork he was painting. He wasn't competing with the wind so much as overwhelming it. I couldn't move for some time – that tenor could sell tickets. When he finished, I applauded – *bravo il divo!*

He peeked around the scrollwork with a red-faced grin, caught in the act of being happily human on a beautiful afternoon. Then he took off his cap and bowed.

- Michael Guarino



## COP Ride Along

Saturday, March 21

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Come meet our SAFFE Officers to discuss concerns, ride your bike along with Police Explorers through the neighborhood to address crime, graffiti and signage issues. Lunch provided at the KWA office afterwards. More details to come – check the weekly e-blast.

- Patricia Garcia Duarte





# Transportation Committee Established

Per the KWA Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board in August 2014, one strategic initiative is "Quality of life issues: First Friday, parking, noise, traffic and crime." The metric or goal that corresponds is the "completion of a traffic and parking study." KWA members can see the complete Strategic Plan on the KWA website under "member portal." If you are not a member, come by the KWA office to review the document.

In October 2014, the KWA board authorized the creation of an ad hoc committee to work with the City of San Antonio's Transportation and Capital Improvements Department to study parking and transportation issues within the King William and Lavaca Historic Districts (LNA). The committee is chaired by me, and includes the following members: KWA President Harry Shafer, board member Christine Viña, executive director Cherise Bell, KWA member Tom Hoog, and LNA member Michael Berrier.

We met with city staff several times and passed along concerns raised in social media or with the KWA office. As a result, the intersection of S. Alamo and Probandt was restriped to improve safety, and we anticipate safety improvements at the intersection of Alamo, Pereida and Adams.

There are a number of safety issues shared by King William and Lavaca, and both residents and businesses are jointly concerned about sufficient parking. Before we can address these issues, however, we need to understand current conditions. As part of the process of mapping and charting various data, we learned some interesting things.

Did you know that state law restricts on-street parking:

- in front of a driveway;
- within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
- within 20 feet of an intersection (whether there is a marked crosswalk or not); and
- within 30 feet of a yield sign, stop sign or traffic signal?

Wow! Which one surprises you the most? Which one is the most violated on your block? Share your thoughts and concerns via Nextdoor, Facebook, email or phone call. We will continue to keep you updated with the progress of the Transportation ad hoc committee.

- Rose Kanusky

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*Stephen W. Yndo - Owner/Broker*

# Savoring Southtown

## with Kristin and Patrick

In the November 1944 edition of *The Vegan News* - which coined the term “vegan” itself - animal rights advocate Donald Watson wrote, “we agree that to eliminate all dairy produce creates personal difficulties which vary in magnitude from one individual to another.” Regardless of the personal difficulty you see in giving up meat or dairy products, we highly recommend the vegan fare at Señor Veggie on S. Presa St.

While we try to limit meat in our diet, your reviewers appreciate good Texas barbeque and the occasional cheeseburger. We also appreciate any type of good food, and Señor Veggie does their vegetables and braised wheat gluts proud. Señor Veggie is not just good for a vegan restaurant, but really has become a good, sanely-priced restaurant - something that we desperately need in the greater Southtown area when the fridge runs low on a Wednesday night.

On our most recent trip, we started with the hummus appetizer. The hummus was smooth and flavorful, although the pita was not as warm and seasoned as on a previous visit. This was the only inconsistency we noted, which is something we cannot say for that *other* meat-free restaurant near downtown. The veggie street tacos shine, with jackfruit cleverly filling in for meat, and a generous slaw and cashew crema tying the thing together in a fish-taco-esque kind of way. The barbacoa crispy tacos dish looked like it could pass in a dive taqueria anywhere in San

Antonio. With wheat gluten chunks serving as barba-coa, the tacos don't quite pass as the “real” deal, but that's not what you're there for anyway. They are mighty flavorful and were accompanied

with a knock-out Spanish rice and a standard Tex-Mex lettuce/tomato salad. We finished with a strawberry-chocolate cupcake from the always-tempting dessert case. This could pass as non-vegan, but we wouldn't want it to. Vegan desserts are better.

From previous trips, we also recommend the SV Burger (or really any of the sandwiches), the Azteca Bowl and the Samosa Plate. SV doesn't mess around on portions. We often take home leftovers for lunch the next day, and, though they have disposable to-go containers, we suggest sticking to the environmentally-conscious mission of the place and bringing your own.

The restaurant's space isn't much to remark on, though it's bright, with good artwork and a patio. The ceiling fans running below track lighting created a strobe light effect, which we avoided by switching tables. Occasional live music offerings add to the experience without overwhelming.

It's hard to believe Señor Veggie has been open on S. Presa for just over a year, and we are glad to see them continue to deliver quality food. Vegan or not, no matter your personal thoughts on eating a cheese-less meal, Senor Veggie serves up meals that will satisfy all.

- Kristen Krenz and  
Patrick Steck



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# What is a Cultural Arts District?

As authorized by H.B. 2208 of the 79th Texas Legislature, the Texas Commission on the Arts can designate Cultural Districts in cities across the state. Cultural districts can be found in all sizes of communities from small, rural ones to large urban districts, such as Dallas and Houston that have several Cultural Arts Districts within their boundaries. Currently there are 26.

The impact of Cultural Arts Districts is measurable by attracting residents and visitors who support businesses as well as lodging and dining establishments. Having arts present enhances property values, the profitability of surrounding businesses, and the tax base of the region. The arts can be a key incentive for new and relocating businesses, and contribute to the creativity and innovation of a community.

The King William Cultural Arts District is the only one in San Antonio, and was designated by the Board of Governors of the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) on September 8, 2011 by unanimous decision.

Our application to the TCA had to demonstrate the measurable impact that the Cultural District would bring to the community, and was described in terms of tourism activity, artist advancement, job creation, property value enhancement and/or general community revitalization.

Part of the TCA description of King William says, "This is the only neighborhood association in the state with three historic districts within its boundaries, including the oldest district created by city ordinance and two districts recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. All three districts



share a common theme of historical and cultural importance."

Some other comments from judges were:

- "King William is the perfect place for a cultural district in Texas; this is a unique neighborhood in one of the most unique cities in Texas; there is nothing else like it in Texas."
- "The King William area has an abundance of cultural and artistic assets."
- "The proposed cultural district has a high percentage of artists and creative people that reside in the area; incentives for additional live and work space are in place that will encourage further development of the district."
- "The cultural planning and marketing plans are impressive and fit well into already existing efforts."
- "The proposed cultural district is well conceived, and offers the potential visitor a lot of bang for the buck."

Texans for the Arts, along with the Texas Commission on the Arts, will be proposing to the current legislative session that there be funding for the Cultural Arts Districts in Texas. The King William Cultural Arts District is supportive of this effort as it would greatly benefit our area.

- Molly Shafer

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## SAPD Central SAFFE Unit Contact Info

Main office: 207-7413

### KW SAFFE Officers on patrol:

Officer Robert Esquivel  
Tel: 207-7413

Officer David McCall  
Tel: 207-7413

### Brackenridge High School Mariachi Band

won first place in city  
competition, and fifth  
place at State at the  
annual Mariachi Band  
Competition held  
February 7.

*Way to go, Eagles!*



## An Artistic Fusion: SAY Sí's Small Scale Merges the Visual and Culinary

This month SAY Sí presents an artistic fusion of the visual and culinary for its 18th Annual Small Scale Work for a Larger Cause Silent Auction.

Small Scale, SAY Sí's largest annual fundraiser, will continue its tradition of showcasing the regions most esteemed artistic talents with over 200 unique artworks – all up for auction in support of SAY Sí's tuition-free youth-development programs.

The event begins on Thursday, March 5 at the 4th Annual Youth Arts Education Advocacy Awards and Small Scale preview. The award is presented annually to noted arts advocates who have contributed to the advancement of the arts and arts education in San Antonio.

The exhibit and silent auction culminates on Friday, March 27, when guests can party in style with live music, appetizing cuisine and quenching cocktails from some of our city's premier restaurants, chefs and mixologists. Participating restaurants include: The Frutería, The Monterey, Hot Joy, Aldaco's Mexican Restaurant and Bohanan's Prime Steak and Seafood. Guests can bid on a spectrum of original works that range from abstract sculptures and ceramic art to realistic portraits and photography.

- Stephen Guzman

### Youth Arts Advocacy Awards & Private Preview Event

Thursday, March 5 – 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

### Small Scale Fundraiser and Silent Auction

Friday, March 27 – 7:00 to 10:30 p.m.

\$50 Presale – \$65 at the door  
\$80 for Both Events

FREE Public Exhibition Viewing – March 6-26

For full details, to purchase tickets and to preview artwork, visit [www.saysi.org](http://www.saysi.org).



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<b>Tuesdays - Thursdays</b> 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.	
<b>Fridays - Saturdays</b> 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.	
<b>Happy Hour All Day On Mondays!</b>	

## Newsletter Improvement Plan

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 [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org).

# 2015 – Year of the Volunteer

Joe and Mary Helen Mansbach have volunteered for the KW Fair for over two decades. They have worked Kid's Kingdom, the parade and currently (for the past nine years) co-chaired Compliance. Compliance ensures that booths are set up correctly. On Fair Day, the Mansbachs jump in where needed, quietly and efficiently getting tasks done to help ensure the Fair operates smoothly. Their volunteer efforts don't stop there. Over the years the Mansbachs have labeled newsletters, attended Basura Bash, organized graffiti wipe out events plus hosted many National Night Out events on Mission Street to get neighbors to meet each other. Behind the scenes, they assist with the setup and cleanup for our socials, always willing to pitch in a helping hand.

Mary Helen's efforts in wiping out graffiti in the King William, Lavaca and Roosevelt neighborhoods were recognized by the city with the namesake "Mary Helen Mansbach Golden Roller Award."



Joe and Mary Helen Mansbach

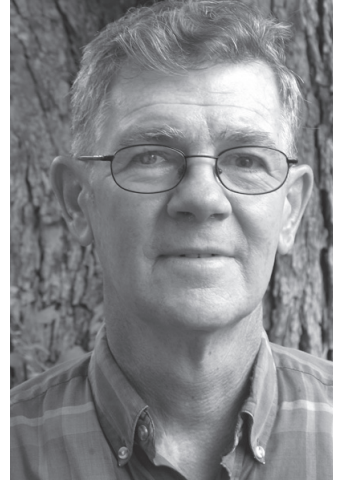
Mary Helen grew up in the neighborhood. While she was volunteering at the USO, she met Joe, who was serving in the Army. They got married, and since it was Joe's last duty station he stayed and they ended up buying their house on Mission Street where they raised their family. Their two sons live in the neighborhood along with one grandchild. Thank you, Joe and Mary Helen, for your years of helping the King William area become a great place to live!

- Cherise Bell



## Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

The second week of March is almost here, and that is the time when frost is usually behind us here in South Texas, based on past years. But there are those who go by other indicators. Some believe frost is possible until Easter is past. This year that is April 5.



Still others say we can have frost until mesquite trees leaf out, whenever that is. Watch and note which is correct and plant tender plants accordingly. Anything is possible, as those who grow vegetables believe veggies should be planted based on the phase of the moon. Fact, fiction, ol' wives tales, whatever – it's all interesting.

You can still feed lawns and flower beds with a good organic fertilizer. Apply it about every three to four months throughout the year. Maintain mulch levels in flower beds at about three inches deep to keep roots cool and maintain soil moisture levels.

Spring will literally be busting out anytime now as the weather becomes consistently warmer. Take walks to enjoy spring flowers. See something you like, ask the person who grew it to find what it is. It's a good way to meet neighbors. Try to see one of the most spectacular sites in King William. It is the Mexican Plum tree at the back gate of the Steves Homestead at 509 King William St. It will be blooming soon, and once it starts it will be covered with hundreds of white flowers for two to three weeks. Mexican Plum is easy to grow and is a good understory tree for small gardens. They can usually be found at one of the locally owned nurseries in the area.

*Garden Note: Spring is Nature's way of saying "let's party!"*



# The Candle Factory

The King William Association's new home at 122 Madison Street is a mid-century modernist gem that has been associated with some of the most important architects and architectural educators of that period. It is also associated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Villa Finale, underwriters of the extensive renovations supervised by King William historic preservation architects Fisher Heck.



In 1963, the building was designed as the showroom and manufactory for Graham Knight's Clare Candles, artisanal hand-made tapers originally produced in Dallas. A past President of the KWA, Knight commissioned O'Neil Ford and Associates to design the structure. It exhibits all the hallmarks of Ford's mature style of regionalist modernism. While it has the form of more aggressively modern buildings (end walls without windows, flat roof, projecting soffits and strip windows placed just below the roofline), it is softened by the use of hand-made materials like Mexican brick, Saltillio tile, and wood framed window openings and doors.

Ford's firm itself occupied the building from 1977 to 1980 as a special projects studio for the design of the Finance Ministry for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. One of the team working there was our neighbor, Joe

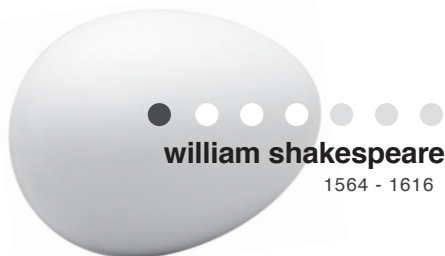
Castorena. The architects affectionately referred to the premises as "the waxworks."

The building's most distinctive features are the light wooden trellises and panels that shade it from the glare of South Texas sunshine (see photo, left). I was able to find the original set of architectural drawings still stored in our archive at Ford, Powell & Carson. While the design was overseen by Ford, the project is largely the work of Alex Caragonne, then a recent graduate of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin.

Caragonne received his diploma in 1960, at the end of the tumultuous tenure of the "Texas Rangers," a rambunctious group of very young professors recruited by Bay Area modernist Harwell Hamilton Harris, who himself had been recruited as post-war dean of the school. The young turks went on from Austin to distinguished careers at Ivy League schools. Caragonne's mentor, Colin Rowe, became one of the most famous architectural theorists of the 20th century. Following teaching at UT, Rowe taught at Cambridge University but spent the balance of his career at Cornell. After a stint with Ford, Caragonne followed Rowe to Cornell, where he received his Masters of Architecture, and began a long teaching career of his own at Columbia University and Yale. The book he wrote about his own educational experiences, *The Texas Rangers, Notes From an Architectural Underground*, is a perennial favorite with architecture students. Caragonne was an influential figure in the founding of UTSA's College of Architecture where he was also a faculty member.

His drawings for the Candle Factory include notes by Ford and another hand we can't identify with the admonition, "Alex, I don't think the cross-panels are necessary-please check." This is a reference to the panels under the sunshades, which are still there. Young Alex won that round.

- Michael Guarino



**We know what we are but not what we may be.**



In the end, creativity is the vehicle for every important transformation



roland@berengena.com



## Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum's MOSAIC Youth Development Program

Since its founding in 2008, Blue Star's MOSAIC program has helped develop high school students from across San Antonio into professional artists. The students commit to a year-round program, with some of them working in the MOSAIC studio after school and during the summers every day for multiple years. Led by renowned mentor Alex Rubio, the artist-students build their studio skills as they build portfolios for college applications, participate in gallery exhibitions, mentor younger students, and network with patrons and art collectors. The low student to teacher ratio ensures an intensive, focused arts education. Thanks to the support of our community partners, MOSAIC remains an entirely free resource for the students.

MOSAIC is unlike any other teen studio program because of the students' involvement with public art. MOSAIC has completed commissions for the NRP Group at the San Juan Square Apartments and for the E. Houston St. H-E-B; you can also see their work Vortex along the Nolan Street underpass. This spring, the students are working on two new major commissions: a painted mural at HemisFair Park's Yanaguana Gardens for Play Escape, and a hand-made ceramic mural at the McAllister Fine Arts Building at San Antonio College. This last project will surpass their H-E-B mural as the largest hand-made ceramic mural in the city – over 1,000 tiles will be hand cut, glazed, fired and installed by MOSAIC students.

Blue Star is proud that 100% of MOSAIC's artist-students have

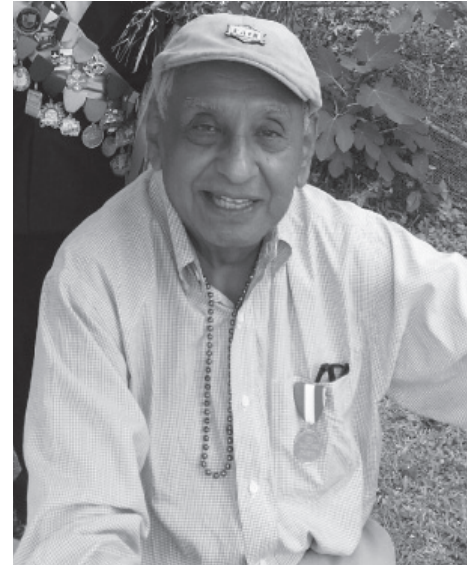
graduated high school, and that many have gone on to pursue art professionally and in college. Many students come to MOSAIC from high schools with lower-than-average graduation rates and without access to quality arts education. MOSAIC alumni attend fine arts programs at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Connecticut College, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and next fall, one of our current seniors will attend Brown University.

A generous grant from the King William Association has allowed Blue Star to renovate former office space into a permanent gallery for MOSAIC. Over the fall and winter, our staff overhauled the space, and is now finishing construction for a March 5 opening, coinciding with Blue Star's opening of Back from Berlin and San Antonio's Contemporary Art Month kickoff celebration. It is our hope that this new permanent gallery increases awareness of MOSAIC and our incredibly talented students, provides them another opportunity for professional development, and offers the community another artistic home. We hope to see you there!

For more information about supporting MOSAIC, please contact me at Blue Star, 227-6960, or at [elaine@bluestarart.org](mailto:elaine@bluestarart.org). If you have a high school student interested in joining MOSAIC, please email Alex Rubio at [rubio@bluestarart.org](mailto:rubio@bluestarart.org).

- Elaine Leahy,  
Development Manager, Blue Star  
Contemporary Art Museum

## Joe Benito 1934-2015



Long time King William neighbor and friend, Joe Benito, died January 12, 2015 at age 80. Joe lived for many years in the 200 block of W. Guenther. Prior to that, he lived nearby on Nathan Street where he and an entire neighborhood were ousted under eminent domain. The main post office was planned for the area now occupied by the Housing Authority, Schnabel Apartments and the park at S. Main Avenue and Sheridan St. Of course, the post office never materialized, but a vibrant, active neighborhood was gone forever.

Joe was a graduate of St. Mary's University and owned "The Record Box." He was a loyal member of the KWA and faithfully attended general meetings and socials, often with his sister Andrea Ayala, who lives just one house away from his home. Joe served on the KWA board in 2007, and was active at the Commander's House as well as Chandler House Seniors and the Methodist Lunch Bunch. We will miss Joe's gentle nature and friendly smile.

- Bill Cogburn



# Eagleland Sidewalks Successfully Installed

During the 2012 budget process, the KWA finance committee recommended budgeting an additional \$25,000 for sidewalks with the intent that the new Executive Director (ED) would work with the City to get new sidewalks on one complete block. The KWA Board approved the sidewalk budget and asked the ED to accomplish this task.

The ED obtained two sidewalk inventories, one from the City Public Works Department and one from the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). The inventories classified sidewalk conditions. KWA Sidewalk Program Chair Fred Pfeiffer, and his wife Maria, personally walked all the sidewalks categorized as “not present, impassable and limited damage,” and prioritized five locations spread throughout the KWA’s boundaries. In the interim, the ED began conversations with Councilman Bernal explaining that KWA wanted to team with the City to get a complete block of sidewalks repaired. Bernal was interested in our concept, and in finding a way to have the City use smaller contractors to reduce City construction cost while boosting employment opportunities for small businesses.

Councilman Bernal and the ED looked at three locations. After their onsite visit, Bernal asked the ED to get three different bids for each location. He was working with City staff to find ways to reduce outsourced construction projects, and having bids from small contractors would help the City understand the variable costs of sidewalk repair projects. After multiple meetings, and follow-up emails, the decision was made to add sidewalks on the northern side of Eagleland from E. Guenther to S. St. Mary’s. KWA signed a contract with the City to donate \$25,000 for this project. Construction was completed around the end of 2014. Two years in the making, but we finally have sidewalks installed where none existed before!

Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner per City Ordinance. Property owners in King William, residential and commercial, do not have to wait for a City project to get their sidewalks replaced. KWA’s Sidewalk Program reimburses approved work at \$25 per linear foot, up to a maximum of \$2,500, more if you have a corner lot. Take advantage of this program! There are often cost benefits when several neighbors do their sidewalks at the same time with the same concrete contractor. Don’t forget to contact Fred Pfeiffer before starting your project.

- Cherise Bell

# Crafty Beards



Andrew Diehl, president,  
Alamo Beard Club

The KWA and Alamo Beard Club have partnered together to bring a contest to the King William Fair! You know the tradition of decorating and wearing outlandish hats during Fiesta. Well, now you can put your skills to use by decorating your beard. Andrew Diehl, president of Alamo Beard Club, says even women with fake beards have been known to participate in their club’s contests. Want some ideas on how to “free-style” your whiskers? Alamo Beard Club’s Annual Beardcon will be held on April 4 at the 502 Bar located at 502 Embassy Oaks from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. More details about how to enter the KW Fair beard contest will be in the April KWA Newsletter.

## Remarkable Women of KW *continued from page 3*

(1974-1976) and served as Fair Chair when she was 75. You might have run into Ilse at Bonham Elementary when you went to vote. She served as our precinct judge for over 20 years until she retired the year before she died. She attended Bonham Elementary and graduated from Brackenridge High School in 1916 with the school’s very first graduating class.

After retiring from Groos Bank, Ilse became an active volunteer with San Antonio Conservation

Society, Institute of Texas Cultures and Texas Folklore Society, to name a few. Her interests were varied and far-flung, but history and politics were her two main passions. She held membership in several historical societies.

There are so many more notable King William women who should be honored by name, but that must wait for another article.

- Bill Cogburn

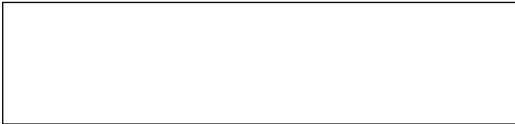
Sources: Gary Cartwright, *Texas Monthly*; Mimi Swartz, *Historic Preservation*; KWA Archives



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## *KWA Spring Social New Office Open House*

**Wednesday, March 4  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
122 Madison at Turner**

Come see our wonderful new offices!  
Piñata and games for children!

Frank Restaurant, new King William eatery,  
will provide sausages (meat and vegan).  
Clear River Ice Cream, King William Fair  
vendor, will provide dessert.

Please bring a dish to share per the first letter  
of your last name: A-I: Appetizers,  
J-R: Side dishes, S-Z: Fruit

## **March Calendar**

- 4 Spring Social - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. -  
KWA Office
- 18 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 21 COP Ride-along - 10:30 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.