

stay in the loop

# KWA newsletter

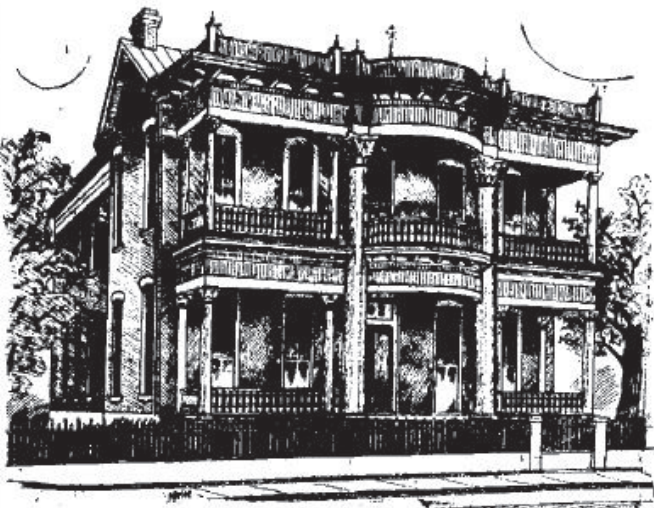
King William Association

Volume 11, No. 4

May 2015

## May is Preservation Month!

### Some Real Estate Investments



The above cut is taken from a photo of a fine residence, corner of King William and Turner Streets which I will offer at a bargain to a buyer wanting a good home. Also have several other nice homes in the city that are new and up-to-date, ranging in prices from \$2500 to \$10,000 each. All nice homes and centrally located. Ten of them are on a street a block and a half from Court House, and as an investment would be an ideal piece of property. Nothing nicer in the city. Will sell a home on monthly payments.

## D. J. Woodward

Preservation comes in different forms. It can be the actual retention of the built environment, such as maintaining buildings, statues and bridges. It can be the recording of oral histories of a specific people or tradition. It can also be the documentation of people, places or methods of construction. The King William Association's 1967 Charter states that one of our purposes is to systematically collect documents, disseminate information and publish materials.

Last year KWA produced a walking tour brochure of the S. Alamo/S. St. Mary's National Register Historic District. There was so much information to report that we decided two brochures were needed to tell the complete story. Students from the University of Texas at San Antonio's Historic Preservation certificate program were interviewed, and Michael Carroll was chosen for the task of researching approximately 40 buildings for the next brochure.

*continued on page 3*

### Celebrate Preservation Month! The #ConSafoSanAntonio Campaign

Con Safo is used to say "treat with respect" or "this is protected" and sometimes even "always and forever." Throughout the month of May, share what places are special to you using #ConSafoSanAntonio. Buildings, places or even people!

Here are a few Preservation Month activities going on in San Antonio:

#### The Amazing Preservation Race

Friday, May 8, 5:30 p.m.

Pre-register online at [register.iaapweb.com/search/event.aspx?id=31476](http://register.iaapweb.com/search/event.aspx?id=31476)

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# President's Report

by Harry Shafer

There has been much concern lately regarding the reported criminal activity in King William and Lavaca. In response to these reports, City Councilman Roberto Treviño, assisted by Anna Alicia Romero, organized a Safety Summit for our neighborhoods, held at the KWA office on March 28. Interim Police Chief Anthony Treviño and some of his officers were in attendance, along with Councilman Treviño, who presided. This forum offered a good opportunity for residents to voice their concerns directly to them.

Among the concerns expressed were: response time; need for more visibility of police; enforcement of parking violations; First Friday permits for vendors; no restroom facilities for First Friday; and open container violations. I feel that the summit was a success and has brought some results.

For example, we specifically asked Chief Treviño if it was possible to have the bike patrol extend their range from Cesar Chavez to Pereida and Eagleland. He said that was an easy fix, and I have noticed bike patrols (and more frequent police) in our neighborhood now almost every day since that meeting. We requested more enforcement for parking violations, and I see more parking tickets on illegally parked vehicles on Madison and Turner, two of the most congested streets.

But to get something in negotiations with the City, as in any political situation, you also have to give something. Results do not come with demanding. The one thing Chief Treviño asked of us is to report crime or suspected criminal activity. The key word is reporting. Posting just on the Nextdoor King William social media site or telling a friend does not get recorded in the Police Department log. Reports to the police help to document trends and frequencies, contribute to data used to assign patrols, and help to determine patterns in criminal activity.

Calling 311 is not recommended; the officers asked us to call the non-emergency number, 207-SAPD (207-7273), to report a crime that has been committed. If you are observing a crime in progress, are a victim of a break-in or robbery, or have an emergency, call 911 immediately. So, please keep these numbers handy.

Poor lighting is a big concern, and we have a committee headed by Dr. John Doski gathering information on lighting throughout the neighborhood. In the meantime, we suggest keeping front and back yard lights on at night. Lighting does not prevent crime, but it does deter it, and may allow witnesses to get a description of the suspicious person or vehicle.

We all want a safe neighborhood, but we all have some responsibility, too. Be vigilant, watch out for your neighbors' property when they are away, and report suspicious activity. I also recommend getting involved with the COP program (Citizens on Patrol) at SAPD. It is an excellent program that informs and educates – informs about criminals and how the police operate, and about what can be done to help keep you and your neighbors safe.



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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).

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# May is Preservation Month!

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Michael is a non-traditional student. With a Bachelors of Business Administration in building management, he owned his own business building custom homes. With the change in the economy, he decided to go back to school and get a Master of Science in Architecture with a certificate in Historic Preservation. For his second career, he intends to teach college-level architectural history classes.

Here are some highlights from the properties Michael has researched so far:

- 511 Cedar used to be known as 108 Henrietta. Mary Loring lived there in 1906. Her son, Porter, opened an undertaking business in 1918, establishing him as the patriarch of Porter Loring Mortuaries, which still operates today.
- The Mary Winslow plat, dated 1915, includes the

area from Barbe Street to Temple Street (Eagleland), and the San Antonio River to Garden Street (S. St. Mary's Street). Local developer W.A. Baity purchased 44 lots from the Winslow plat with the agreement that he would construct macadam streets, concrete curbs and concrete sidewalks in front of each of the houses as they were built. Corner lots were purchased for \$700 apiece and all others for \$525.

- 322 Mission Street was purchased by Mary and Gus Scharfenberg in 1890. Gus earned \$2 per day as a watchman for the U.S. Arsenal.

Michael has done more research, but you will just have to wait for more information when he presents his findings at the June general membership meeting, and when the second brochure is printed and ready for distribution.

If you know of any history or "legends" about your property or this area, please do not hesitate to contact the office so we can add to the documentation of the history of King William!

*- Cherise Bell*



KWA historic preservation intern  
Michael Carroll.



202 King William Street being preserved through an extensive restoration project.

## The #ConSafSanAntonio Campaign

*continued from page 1*

### Power of Preservation Mini Golf-athon Cool Crest

Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.  
3rd-annual fundraising event at Cool Crest Miniature Golf on Fred Road.

### The Amazing Preservation Race for Kids!

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m.  
An architectural scavenger hunt designed for elementary school-aged kids held in King William.

For a list of all activities, registration and details, go to [www.sanantonio.gov/historic](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic).



## Southtown Scramble - 'Tween/Teen Easter Fun Debuts in the 'Hood

Just because our Southtown tweens and teens may have outgrown the traditional Easter egg hunt doesn't mean they can't have an epic Easter hunt. Maybe you saw some of the 30 kids on teams roaming the neighborhood Easter Sunday with colored Rambo-like ties around their heads. Maybe you noticed them having close encounters with our 'hood's public art and favorite landmarks. Maybe they were sitting on a sidewalk busily working out a complicated puzzle.

What you saw was the first ever Southtown Scramble, a very challenging scavenger hunt designed for 10-and-up neighborhood kids. Clues were hidden in piñatas, fortune cookies, clay eggs, locked boxes, and even frozen in cups of ice. Parents pitched in for a handsome cash prize for the winning team, and each team chose its MVP.

Teamwork, problem solving and leadership were essential, and these intrepid kids were up to the challenge, topping our expectations. I suspect they are looking around their 'hood a little more closely these days, maybe with a little more appreciation and knowledge of our unique and wonderful neck of the woods, and determination to claim the prize money next time.

The next Southtown Scramble will take place in September and is open to neighborhood residents ages 10-17. Contact Angela Martinez or Jen Stanford to make sure you're on the list.

- Jen Stanford

## SAY Sí's Graduating Class of 2015 Presents "Wanderlust"

On Friday, May 1, SAY Sí's graduating class of 2015 presents its senior exhibition, "Wanderlust," an introspective show that serves as a platform for seniors to showcase their creative voyage as young artists.

For the annual senior exhibition project, student-artists are challenged to put into practice the skills that they gained through SAY Sí's tuition-free programs. They collaboratively chose an exhibition concept and developed a plan to execute gallery layout design. They tackled event management by promoting the exhibition, fundraising for reception refreshments and running event logistics the night of the opening.

"Wanderlust" addresses the endless journey of self-exploration each artist will experience in discovering and rediscovering their identity. Senior students in the ALAS Youth Theatre Company will also present original theatre performances.

"Through this exhibition we wanted to share with our community the hopes and dreams we have for our quickly approaching future," says senior Media Arts student, Jessica Monsibaiz, "and let them know that this is not the end for us."

For SAY Sí seniors, high school graduation is, indeed, only the beginning. With a 100% high school graduation rate for the past 12 years, seniors attend universities and art colleges nationwide. This year, students have already collectively received over \$200,000 in college scholarships.

Opening Reception: Friday, May 1 – 6-9 p.m.

"Meet the Artists" Reception:

Tuesday, May 5 – 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition on view through May 22.

Visit [www.saysi.org](http://www.saysi.org) for details.

- Stephen Guzman

## King William Area Kids

Neighborhood parents in the King William, Lavaca, Southtown, South Flores and surrounding areas come together to share activities and celebrate the most kid-friendly neighborhood in San Antonio. Parents in the neighborhood are invited to join the conversation via King William Area Kids (KWAKs) on Facebook.

- Barbara and Michael Taylor



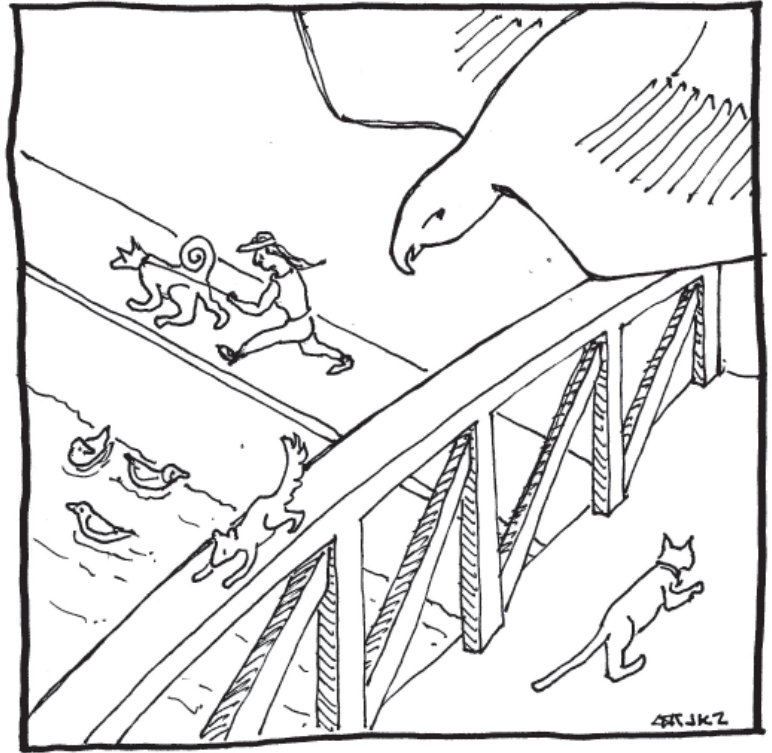
# City Lights

I've seen a pair of new silhouettes in the sky above my pecan trees lately, two hawks who've found a new hunting ground. One is larger than the other, if not a mature and immature male, they could be a mated pair. In the world of hawkdom the females are larger than the males. They are probably red tail hawks, the most common in the U.S., and distributed coast to coast. There are several subspecies but they all have very similar looks. My Tennessee grandmother would have called them by their more familiar name, chicken hawks.

The name doesn't seem to fit well with such majestic birds – besides, they don't primarily prey on chickens, which are too large for them to tackle. Chicks maybe, but not full grown barnyard specimens. Red tails prefer to dine on pigeons, doves, squirrels, lizards and, most unfortunately, ducklings.

As I was walking along the river toward downtown one Saturday, I saw a flash of red and bronze out of the corner of my eye and felt movement of air from rapidly beating wings. The zooming predator was on the upswing from having made a catch in the tree above me and was swooping to a perch across the river, high in a cypress. His prize was wiggling and brown, probably a baby squirrel snatched from its treetop cradle.

I'd hardly gone twenty more paces before another hawk flew in front of me just inches above the ground and over the side of the revetment into the river. The target was a line of ducklings in convoy behind a hen. The hawk clipped the last of the infants, but couldn't grasp it and pulled up in a rapid vertical maneuver to avoid collision with the retaining wall. He settled in the uppermost branches of another cypress looking ruffled and miffed. Another try produced the same result and the return to the



same perch. By now, the hen was quacking a very loud alarm - producing the arrival of reinforcements - five mallard drakes that formed a circle around the brood and their mama. It was an amazing display: they continued swimming in a defensive perimeter drifting downstream until the hawk gave up and went winging off for lunch elsewhere.

I thought it was time to provide for my own repast so I stopped at my favorite riverside café where my habitual table is against a shoulder level flower bed that has been home to a mallard nest for the last two seasons. Sure enough the hen was under her accustomed philodendron canopy, atop a clutch of eggs.

Shortly after the first course arrived a huge clamor ensued in the foliage and two drakes emerged in a flapping, bill-locking scrum, one flipping over on his back and into my calamari. His opponent succeeded in sweeping everything else off the table until they both went thrashing into the river to settle their quarrel.

The hawks and the ducks were here long before we were. The fact that we've built a city in their territory doesn't seem to perturb them in the least. We are not even worthy of their notice while they prosecute their lives alongside ours. It is more than a little hubristic for mere humans not to notice that the urban environment is still where the wild things are.

- Michael Guarino

## 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).

# Bonham Bobcats Report

Community leaders gathered at Bonham Academy on April 10, when Congressman Lloyd Doggett presented the Bonham Safety Patrol with special edition U.S. and Texas flags. Each flag had flown over the corresponding Capitol either in Washington or Austin. A certificate recognizing the school's continuing excellence also was presented. Bonham is growing and we needed a new flag. Soon we will be celebrating the opening of our new building!

The new middle school is scheduled to receive students on May 10, if all goes to plan. As always, when dealing with construction, timelines are flexible. This will give our middle school students almost a month in their new location, and even our eighth graders will have a chance to experience the change. This is only one of the phases in the bond construction. Once the middle school building is occupied, renovation will begin on our circa-1889 building. Upgrades to electronic systems, infrastructure and HVAC will take place.

Spring has been a great time for "a-thons." Bonham has held a Read-a-thon and a Zumbathon. While Congressman Doggett was visiting, our own Sara Sherwood donned a Clifford the Big Red Dog costume and rewarded students who participated in the Read-a-thon. Thank you to all for contributing to and supporting the programs that enrich our children.

We have notified applicants to the elementary charter program of their acceptance, and have a number of students on the waitlist. Middle school students are asked to complete their commitment agreements by May 21 to attend Bonham for their middle school years.

Come join us for the 2nd annual Friends of Bonham Shake It! 5K/1K Run/Walk on May 30! This family-friendly event highlights

a challenging, certified course along the San Antonio River Museum Reach that includes level terrain and hills. It will begin and end at VFW Post 76. There will be a fun run for kids and families. This event

will show unified support of health and wellness in our communities and benefit our neighborhood school.

Bonham has been a cornerstone of our community for 125 years. Let's keep it a place for all of our children for the next 125 years.

- Principal William Webber



Photo: Mark Reyna

Attendees at the flag presentation ceremony included (from left) SAISD District 1 Trustee Steve Lecholop, Vice Principal Blanca Gebhart, State Senator José Menéndez, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Clifford, KWA President Harry Shafer and Principal William Webber.

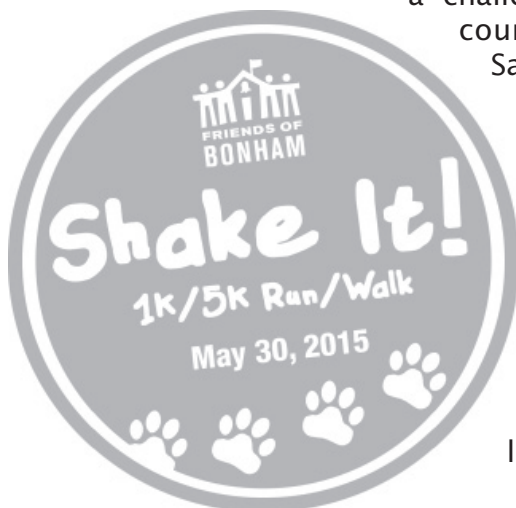
## Colonel Julie Hasdorff Retires

Congratulations to King William neighbor Colonel Julie Hasdorff, who received a Legion of Merit on March 14, 2015 as a retirement award after 30 years of dedicated military service. She has received numerous awards during her years of service, including the Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster) and Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf clusters).

Colonel Hasdorff has been assigned as a Military Judge with the 150th Legal Operations Detachment in Alexandria, VA since May 2004 and as a Senior Military Judge since June 2009. Prior to that, her active duty assignments took her to various posts in the United States as well as Germany.

Julie is currently a partner with her husband John Convery, in Hasdorff & Convery, P.C., a federal and state criminal defense law firm located on S. Alamo Street.

- Bill Cogburn



# KWA Grant Program

Since the inception of the King William Association Grant Program in 2001, KWA has donated over \$500,000 to 50 neighborhood nonprofit organizations for a wide variety of projects. The source of this funding is our annual King William Fair. In the early years of the program, KWA helped Bonham Academy library, Brackenridge HS band, Page Middle School and SAY Si. We continue to help these fine organizations plus others such as ArtSmart, Jump-Start, Magik Theatre and The Cannoli Fund. The outcome of our generosity is making a significant difference in our lives and the lives of our children and our pets.

## Grant Application

The application is a reflection of the Grant Program structure. The applicant completes the form to prove their nonprofit status, identify their Board of Directors, provide their annual budget, and contact information, and, if applicable, provide a letter signed by the school principal agreeing to host their project. The project narrative needs to convince the reader the project will achieve its goal by describing the experience, training, tools and talent available for the project. The narrative also needs to provide evidence of a strong connection between the organization and the KWA Charter; i.e., “preserve and promote.”

The grant application will be published on May 29, and will be available on the KWA website or in person at the KWA office. Applications are due Friday, June 16. For the complete set of instructions please see the application.

## Effectiveness, Feasibility, and Preserve and Promote

The grant evaluation process is based on a widely accepted two-way risk model with three major areas. How effective a project is may be measured by showing the desired outcome has been achieved; e.g., whether a test is passed, participation has increased, or there has been an increase in skill level,

etc. Feasibility may be measured by skill proficiency with the tools/techniques/experience in use on the project. “Preserve and promote” can be captured by how long-lasting or widely-known the project is. Using this type of two-way model improves the odds of selecting those organizations that are most likely to successfully complete their project, thus bringing credit to the KWA as a good steward of our funds.

## Determining Awardees

The awarding of grants is a result of a competitive process. It begins with a team of volunteers who receive training on both the application and the evaluation form. Once trained, each evaluator receives a copy of each application with one evaluation sheet per application. The evaluator carefully reads each one, scores in accordance with the training, and fills out the evaluation sheet. The evaluation closely follows the application format, which results in each section producing a two-way score. The process is repeated until the evaluator has completed all the applications. The evaluators work independently, and they are directed not to include any identifying information on the score sheets.

## Becoming a Volunteer Evaluator

This grant year will begin very soon, and the Grant Program Manager could use your help! The training takes about one hour, and 4-6 hours on your own evaluating the applications. If you are interested in volunteering for the KWA, but don't have time for a year-long commitment, this short-term job may be perfect for you. Please consider volunteering to be an evaluator. If you want to be part of this historical and important KWA community program, please contact me at 857-5084 or at [mrs.bethdavis@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.bethdavis@gmail.com).

- Beth Davis, KWA Grant Program Manager

jonathan swift  
1667 - 1745

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# Membership Has Its Rewards!

On March 24, about a dozen of your neighbors enjoyed a free Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum tour offered to KWA members only. We were greeted enthusiastically by Development Manager Elaine Leahy. After a nice aperitif of wine, beer and other refreshing beverages, Elaine led us through the exhibit Back from Berlin, featuring works from local artists Ricky Armendariz, Cathy Cunningham-Little, Karen Mahaffy and Vincent Valdez. These four are the first to participate in the Blue Star's Berlin Residency Program. Blue Star is the sole U.S. partner of the renowned Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin – and the only American artists participating each year in this prestigious program are Bexar County artists!

During their three-month residencies at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, the artists are given studios and living spaces, as well as access to workshops, exhibition opportunities, and studio visits with international curators. One of the main goals of the program is for the artists to innovate and push the boundaries of their creative expression. We got to see some of their first works since this residency. This show closes on May 10, so if you didn't get to go on the free tour, by all means go by and see the artwork. The entrance fee is only \$3 for KWA members.

Back outside and down the sidewalk to the next entrance, we met renowned muralist and Blue Star's Artist-in-Residence, Alex Rubio. Alex is also mentor to the students in the Blue Star MOSAIC program – Mosaic of Student Artists in Community. This is a free after-school arts program for high school students from all over San Antonio. The students are chosen because of their interest in the arts, and Alex nur-



Elaine Leahy, Blue Star's Development Manager, left, and KWA members on tour.



Mentor and Artist-in-Residency Alex Rubio with MOSAIC students.

tures these interests, giving them first-hand experience with printmaking, drawing, painting and ceramics. Not only are they mentored in the creation of art, they are also guided in the business of art – creating public art projects, organizing exhibitions of their own works, preparing portfolios for gallery proposals and college applications, and volunteering at community events leading hands-on activities.

All of us enjoyed seeing the students' work in their own exhibition. But our tour didn't stop there! We got to go back into the studio to see the students at work and visit with them. Of special note, although MOSAIC's students often come from lower-income districts with lower-than-average graduation rates, 100% of them have graduated high school, and many go on to college and careers in the arts. And

KWA has awarded grant money to this special program, so pat yourself on the back! Here is a link to the MOSAIC video, which sheds light on the work it does and highlights the significant impact Alex Rubio has on the lives of these young artists: [vimeo.com/71227469](https://vimeo.com/71227469).

We are fortunate to have the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum in our 'hood. Here are some dates to save:

- Wednesday, May 20 – Red Dot, Blue Star's annual art sale fundraiser, 6 - 10 p.m.
- Thursday, June 4 – Opening reception for Transmission and Everyday is Ordinary, 6 - 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9 – KWA members free private tour, 6 - 7 p.m.

- Annice Hill, Membership Committee Chair



# Transportation Committee Report

In October 2014, KWA created a joint ad hoc committee with the Lavaca Neighborhood Association and area business owners to address parking and transportation issues in Southtown. We were specifically tasked with obtaining a city study with city-sponsored solutions. We are not advocating for one solution over another with the exception of one priority – safety.

We have been meeting with city staff, elected officials and others as we continue our quest to obtain a parking survey. In each of these forums, the committee continues to stress its number one priority – safety.

There have been many informal complaints about blocked driveways, vehicles parked in “no parking” areas, and other concerns that jeopardize safety. The Parking/Transportation Committee is happy to get this information from social media, emails to me, or calls to the office. But we also need to document these events via photographs and phone calls to the SAPD non-emergency number: 207-SAPD (207-7273).

Illegal parking is not a mere annoyance. Our residents and guests have been injured in recent accidents where illegal parking was a contributing cause.

We are working with the police and various city departments about enforcement of the existing parking rules and regulations. The Committee also developed a card that looks a bit like a parking ticket for residents to distribute when they see vehicles parked illegally. The Committee will be meeting with area businesses to explain the card.

We need help. If you feel comfortable placing the card on the windshields of parking violators, please do so. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter, and you can get additional cards at the KWA office.

If you frequent an area business, perhaps you could mention the card to the owner or manager. The businesses may hear from the Committee, but they need to know that the entire community is concerned and looking for solutions. We want all residents, of both homes and businesses, to work together for what I believe is our mutual priority – safety.

- Rose Kanusky,  
Committee Chair



Patrick Steck and Kristin Krenz at Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica.

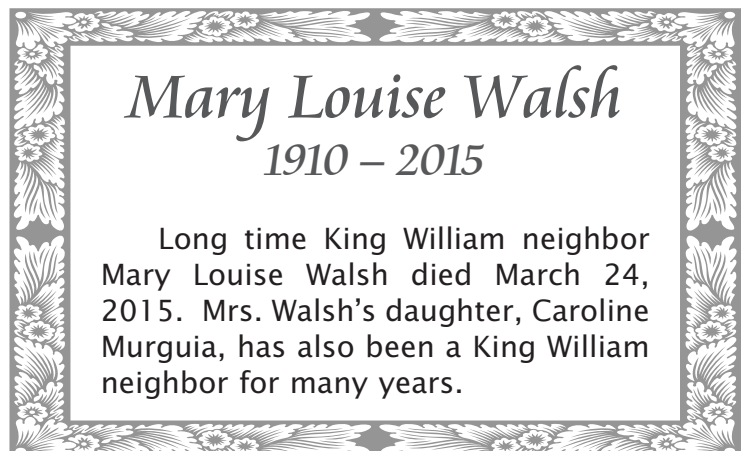
## Savoring Southtown on Hiatus

We regret to report that *Savoring Southtown with Kristin and Patrick* has gone on hiatus. Kristin Krenz and Patrick Steck have begun a two-year Peace Corps assignment in Costa Rica! Their columns on neighborhood restaurants received a great deal of positive response, and we are grateful for the time and effort they gave to the KWA Newsletter.

We wish Kristin and Patrick a fantastic, fulfilling time in Costa Rica, and look forward to hearing all about it!

Any creative millennials in the neighborhood who are willing to follow in their footsteps? No pay, but a chance for our readers' veneration and appreciation for a well-written and enlightening tour of neighborhood eateries, new and established. Who knows? Fame may follow.

- Susan Athené



# Cultural Arts Committee Receives Grant

The Cultural Arts Committee, working through the KWA, has contributed many public art projects, sponsored workshops and produced walking tour brochures that have benefitted both residents of and visitors to King William.

The walking tour brochures have been very successful. The brochure that was developed last year covered the east side of the S. Alamo/S. St. Mary's National Register Historic District. It was partially paid for by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA). KWA Executive Director Cherise Bell and CAC Chair Molly Shafer wrote the successful grant proposal.

Another brochure is currently in the works which will include the remaining portion of the S. Alamo/S. St. Mary's Historic District. Cherise and Molly wrote another successful grant proposal to the TCA that will partially fund this brochure. Michael Carroll, student at UTSA, is researching properties in this area, and is being funded through the CAC budget. After this brochure is completed, there will be one more that will cover the western edge of King William and include the acequias there.

Finally, Cherise will give a presentation on "Buildings Coming of Age," discussing architectural styles located in San Antonio from the 1950s to 1970s. Join us at the KWA office on May 23, at 10 a.m.

- Molly Shafer



# Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

*What we plant in our landscapes determines what can live in our landscapes... By favoring productive species, we can create life, and by using nonnative plants, we can prevent it." Douglas W. Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants*

The following is based on the book (cited above) by Douglas W. Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. It gives us something to consider in selecting garden plants.

Plants are biological miracles in that they create nourishment that is the basis for all life on earth. They also produce oxygen, build the soil and hold it in place, thus preventing erosion and floods. They attract insects that attract birds, thereby creating a healthy life cycle.

Unfortunately, most gardeners value plants for what they look like rather than their ability to support our local ecosystems. As a result, many choose exotic plants from all over the world rather than local native and adapted varieties. Plants have chemical defenses in their tissues that repel insects that have not adapted to "their taste," which can take literally centuries. Sounds great and would seem to make gardening easier. However, fewer insects attracts fewer birds to a garden, and with a lesser food supply, bird populations in North America have declined drastically in the past 40 years.

The list of plants that insects seem to avoid includes ornamental plants such as Bradford pear, Japanese barberries, porcelain berries, golden rain tree, crepe myrtles, privets, bush honeysuckle and other foreign ornamentals.

This all may seem confusing, but growing plants that have always been in our local gardens will attract insects that provide a plentiful food supply for birds.



Garden tips and other comments:

- If you grew wildflowers this spring, wait until the plants begin to turn brown to collect seeds for next year. Plant your harvested seeds in October.
- Coleus can be planted now and are an easy way to have color in the garden, especially in shaded areas. There are many varieties to choose from, and whether planted in pots or in the ground keep watch to be sure they do not dry out.
- Prolong the life of garden tools and prevent the spread of disease among plants by cleaning them of dirt and grime after use, and sanitize them with a solution of one part bleach to ten parts water.

*Garden Note: The seed is hope, the flower joy.*





# San Antonio Area Invasive Plants

An “invasive species” is defined as a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).

An invasive species grows/reproduces and spreads rapidly, establishes over large areas, and persists. Species that become invasive succeed due to favorable environmental conditions and lack of natural predators, competitors and diseases that normally regulate their populations. Not all non-native species are bad, but some plants that look lovely in your garden might be harmful invaders that will make their way into natural areas (texasinvasives.org).

## Terrestrial Invasive Species

One very common invasive plant in the KW neighborhood is the cats claw vine (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*, native to West Indies and Mexico to Argentina), a high-climbing woody vine that can grow up to 50 feet long. It gets its name from the claw-like climbing appendages that are used to grasp onto surfaces. Its yellow flowers are trumpet shaped, 3 inches long and 4 inches across. It is very similar in appearance to the cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*), but the cross-vine has red-orange flowers. Cats claw is particularly nasty as it has many ways to spread and propagate: its fruit capsules are linear and flat, roughly 20 inches long, containing oblong, winged seeds that are wind-dispersed. It develops deep tubers on the root that can be as big as sweet potatoes, and are very difficult to eliminate.

Cats claw vine is long-lived and grows relatively slowly. Due to its rooting abilities, a dense mat of it can cover the ground and smother native vegetation (you can see an extreme example of this at the house at the corner of Washington and Beauregard). River and stream banks are particularly susceptible to cats claw invasion, as can be seen on a couple of the bald cypress trees along the river across from Blue Star.

The Invasive Plant Database has identified these other plants as “particularly worrisome terrestrial invasive species” in the Edwards Plateau and South Texas Plains ecoregions:

- Brazilian peppertree - *Schinus terebinthifolius*
- Buffelgrass - *Pennisetum ciliare*
- Chinaberry tree - *Melia azedarach*
- Chinese tallow tree - *Triadica sebifera*
- Common water hyacinth - *Eichhornia crassipes*
- Elephant ears - *Colocasia esculenta*
- Giant reed - *Arundo donax*
- Glossy privet - *Ligustrum lucidum*
- Golden rain tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
- Guineagrass - *Urochloa maxima*
- Heavenly bamboo - *Nandina domestica*
- Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*
- Japanese honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*

- Johnson grass - *Sorghum halepense*
- King Ranch bluestem - *Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica*
- Paper mulberry - *Broussonetia papyrifera*
- Popinac - *Leucaena leucocephala*
- Salt cedar - *Tamarix ramosissima*
- Tree of heaven - *Ailanthus altissima*
- Water lettuce - *Pistia stratiotes*

Some alternatives to these invasive plants are listed here: [www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/plantguide](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/plantguide). One of my faves is the pipevine (*Aristolochia fimbriata*) – it has the added bonus of being the food source for beautiful pipevine swallowtail butterflies!



Pipevine in bloom

## Adapted Plants

Adapted plants are not native and not invasive, but are able to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions. Some common landscape plants in our area that are adapted (not native) include:

- Crepe myrtle – India, southeast Asia
- Butterfly iris – southern and central Africa
- Bulbine – South Africa
- Boxwood - China, Korea, Japan
- Stevia – Brazil, Paraguay
- Loquat – south central China
- Bradford pear – China, Vietnam
- Plumbago – South Africa

“Native plants are the foundation of the biodiversity that maintains our own life support systems. They nurture important pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Native plants create a distinctive sense of place, preserving the natural character of your region.” (landscapeforlife.org/plants/use-native-and-adapted-plants)

- Susan Athené

**Brackenridge High School  
Mariachi Aguila Performance**

The Brackenridge High School mariachi group will perform at King William Park on Saturday, May 3, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the first of our KWA free concert series.

**San Antonio Food Bank  
SAHA Farmers Market**

2nd & 4th Thursday every month  
818 S. Flores  
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Open March 12 – December 10

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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



# 2015 – Year of the Volunteer

Rose Kanusky and her husband, Joe Sheldon, moved into the King William neighborhood in 1997. Rose is a committed volunteer who currently chairs the Transportation/Parking Committee for the KWA. She served as Chair of the King William Fair in 2009, 2008, 2007, and as Assistant Chair 2006. She has also headed up the Beverage Department, served on the Finance Committee, written articles for the newsletter, and still volunteers for the Fair each year. While Fair Chair, Rose worked year-round with an immense time commitment, in addition to her successful career as an attorney at Norton Rose Fulbright. She has always gone above and beyond the normal responsibilities of her volunteer role, including visits to other festivals and fairs to do research, always with an eye out for how the King William Fair can improve its operations.

Rose prepared the way for her successors to manage a successful and prosperous Fair by creating the first operations manual for the 40-year-old event. She spearheaded the efforts that enabled the KWA to hire and put in place the first year-round staff position, creating a more professional and better-organized Fair.

She has taken responsibility for the many departments that are required for operating an event for 40,000+ people, meeting personally with committees from every level of the operations including the Fiesta Commission and various City departments. Rose takes initiative and often sees things that others don't. She is conscientious in her approach, always trying to find the best way for all involved.

Rose's efforts have helped to increase the Fair profits the past several years. Through her community outreach she has brought in more corporate support, which has added not only to the financial picture but to the volunteer base as well. This increase has also allowed the KWA to increase its community grants. The dollar amount of scholarship and grant awards grew during her tenure, with beneficiaries

ranging from elementary to college students. The increase has also contributed to numerous improvements in community infrastructure, such as tree plantings, new sidewalks, graffiti abatement and upgrading neighborhood parks.

Thank you, Rose, for your years of dedication and commitment to the community where you live!

- Zet Baer

## KWA Staff Certified Superior!



KWA staff at the Social Media and Communications Certification awards ceremony with instructors Dr. Scott Roberts and Dr. David Viquist.

KWA staff Zet Baer, Monika Perez-Moad and Carol Jackson received Social Media and Communications Certifications from the University of Incarnate Word H-E-B School of Business and Administration Department in conjunction with the San Antonio Area Foundation. Congratulations on staying up-to-date in the ever-changing digital communication world!

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# Leno Diaz

## 1919-2015

Many of you will remember our good friend, Leno Diaz, a resident of King William from 1998 until 2008. Leno lived on the 400 block of Adams Street with Elisa, his wife of 65 years. My family and I are so fortunate to have come to know this lovely couple. We were sad when they moved to Los Angeles to be near their daughter, Kathy Diaz, even while we understood the desire to be near family.



Born in Cd. Juarez, Mexico, Leno and his family moved to Los Angeles. He became a naturalized citizen and proudly served in World War II as an airplane mechanic. He attended college in El Paso on the G.I. bill. He became a classroom teacher and education administrator. In retirement, "Tato" Leno pursued his interest in making art. You can read his obituary in the Los Angeles Times following this link: [www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?n=magdaleno-f-daz-leno&pid=174199532](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?n=magdaleno-f-daz-leno&pid=174199532)

Eduardo Diaz, Leno's and Elisa's son, wrote a moving article published in the Huffington Post, in which he highlights Leno's military service with our "Greatest Generation" (link here: [www.huffingtonpost.com/eduardo-diaz/in-the-shadow-of-the-grea\\_b\\_6819002.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eduardo-diaz/in-the-shadow-of-the-grea_b_6819002.html)). This story is well worth reading, so I will not repeat everything here. I hope you will take the time to look it up.

Leno and Elisa participated in many of our KWA events, sharing their happy smiles and gracious presence with everyone. When I became acquainted with Leno, he was participating in a First Friday Art Walk displaying some of his drawings. In 2005, UNAM-San Antonio at Hemisfair Park presented "Nichos," an exhibition of religious icons by Leno. That was an exciting event and many King William friends attended the opening reception.

Moving away from their King William home and friends was hard to do. Happily, Leno and Elisa kept in touch with a number of friends from the neighborhood with notes and phone calls, for which we are very grateful. We miss him even more now.

- Nora Peterson



## Bonham's "Safety Sally"

In 1938, Bonham Elementary was the first school in San Antonio to get a "Safety Sally" sign. The police department placed "Safety Sally" at primary school crosswalks across the city to caution motorists to slow down as they approached school crossings. In the photo above, Bonham principal Mildred Baskin looks on as seven-year-old Bonham students, Dolores Duke and Kenneth Lee Petrie, pose with "Sally."

Miss Baskin began her teaching career in 1879 at age 18. After being a classroom teacher for several years she served as principal at Fannin Elementary, then at Crockett Elementary before becoming Bonham's principal about 1906. She continued to serve as Bonham's principal for the next 35 years until she retired in 1941. She died the next year at age 81.

Bonham, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was one of 10 schools added to the San Antonio School System in the 1880s. In the 1950s a new school on Crestview Drive was named Mildred Baskin Elementary School in honor of the popular and much loved educator.

- Bill Cogburn

Sources: The San Antonio Light; UTSA Libraries Special Collections; SAPL Texana room archives



# The Custodian of the Bonham Community

The definition of custodian is “a person who has responsibility for or looks after something.” When it comes to Mr. Jesse Peña, Head Custodian of Bonham Academy, who has been with the school since 1997, the definition is more personal: he is custodian of our kids and of our school community.

The hundreds of families who have passed through these halls know him not just as the person who takes care of the building, but as the person who greets them the first time they walk in the door, the person who offers support and encouragement to every student. He’s the man who sings and whistles through the halls; who, if he sees that a student may be sad, notifies the counselor so they could intervene if necessary.

Miss Shimi, an arts educator at Bonham for many years, calls custodians like him the “unsung rock stars of a school.” Like most of us at Bonham, she identifies him as part of the fabric of the school itself: “Hardworking, caring, loving and funny.”

Mr. Peña was raised in Laredo in the 60s. After finishing high school in 1968, he did what was common for struggling youths in the 60s and 70s: bummed around the streets, had odd jobs, partook of recreational drugs. At age 29, he learned he was to become a father, and decided that he wanted his child to grow up in a different world. He went to a shoe store and asked for a job, then spent the next 20 years selling shoes at Kinney, Thom McCann, Shoe World and others. This experience in the retail industry, particularly in customer service, instilled in him many values: the importance of productivity and accountability in your work, but also the importance of “serving the customer.”

When he came to SAISD in February 1997, first as a rotating custodian, then in May to Bonham, he embraced the idea of serving the customer. For Mr. Peña, the staff, the parents, and, most importantly, the students were his customers. He said, “I’m here for them.”

That commitment to his “customers” has kept him at Bonham for most of the past 18 years. He says working there has been “enlightening and refreshing; being around young minds keeps you open.” He sees his younger self in some of the kids. Asked which ones, he got a sparkle in his eye, smiled, and said, “The active ones, the ones who get into trouble.” He noted that an 8th grader whom he’s known since kinder, who hasn’t exactly been the model student, is a kindred soul. And there’s Maddie Toland, third grade: “She has a wild spirit, but look



Photo: Cherise Rohr-Allegrini

Jesse Peña with Ms. Hernandez’s third grade class.

into her eyes and you see a gleam that’s special. That makes me happy.”

This year, Mr. Peña will be taking his much-deserved retirement. He’ll spend time with his daughter and son and his five grandchildren. He’ll continue to write poetry. And fret not, he has signed on to be a substitute teacher for SAISD. The teachers at Bonham have already said he’ll be the first person they request. His shoes will be difficult to fill – Bonham won’t be the same without him.

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini

## COP – Citizens On Patrol

COP is working with Police Explorers and plans to offer COP classes with a pro-active approach. The COP Program aims to prepare residents to be the “eyes and ears” of the police and promote closer cooperation between residents and the city agencies that exist to serve them.

Volunteers learn to recognize suspicious activities, such as burglaries, thefts, robberies, gang activity and other crimes. The second part of the class is the ride-along experience familiarizing COP volunteers with patrol procedures and establishing working relationships with the officers who patrol their neighborhood. Participants receive a certificate and a baseball cap with the COP emblem upon class completion.

If you are interested in taking a COP class, contact Patty Garcia Duarte at [mstpatty73@yahoo.com](mailto:mstpatty73@yahoo.com).



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*See page 6 for details!*

## May Calendar

- 3 Brackenridge HS Mariachi Aguila Concert – King William Park – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- 6 General Membership Meeting – KWA Office – 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Deadline for June KWA newsletter
- 20 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 23 “Buildings Coming of Age,” post-war architecture talk – KWA Office – 10-11:30 a.m.
- 25 Memorial Day – KWA Office closed
- 30 2nd Annual Friends of Bonham Shake It! 5K/1K Run/Walk