I had the great pleasure of spending some time with Miles Fermin at SAY Sí. He was kind enough to sit for an interview and show me some of his work.

I asked Miles how he came to be a student at SAY Sí. He responded by saying that his mother heard about SAY Sí and brought him down to see if he would like to attend. His mother “strongly encouraged” Miles to fill out an application and show samples of his work. He began his studies there in the sixth grade. He also attended the Saturday middle school program, and the rest is history.

continued on page 3

What’s for Sale?

You can purchase this year’s Fair pin and medal, as well as additional admission wrist bands, at our Spring Social and at the KWA office. Fair pins are $6 each ($5 for KWA members). Medals are $7 each ($6 for KWA members).

Admission wrist bands will be available to KWA members at the discounted price of $4/adult. On the day of the Fair, admission at the gate will be $5/adult for KWA members and non-members alike. Children 12 and under are free.

Pins, medals, and admission bands (non-discounted) can also be purchased at The Fiesta Store, located at 2611 Broadway. The Fiesta Store hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Be sure to also visit our Fair store, Ilse’s Attic, on Fair Day. Ilse’s Attic is located along Queen’s Alley, between the Masonic Lodge and St. Joe’s on Washington St.
The Eagleland Reach starts just upstream of the Alamo Street Bridge and runs between the King William neighborhood and Blue Star Arts Complex until the Lone Star Boulevard at the flood control tunnel outlet, and is made up of numerous smaller projects with different funding sources and project limitations. In order from north to south these projects and their funding sources are:

- The Pedestrian Link – City and Congressional Appropriation
- Plunge Pool Wall – County
- Eagleland Hike and Bike – City and TxDOT
- Eagleland Environmental Restoration Project – USACE and SARA
- Crofton & Constance Park – King William Association and SARA
- Mission Trails Part IV A – City and TxDOT

In May of 2008, Bexar County voters approved an extension of the Visitor’s Tax that will provide approximately $2.1 million for the design and construction of additional amenities in the Eagleland segment. The budget is based on completing some elements in the Amenities Master Plan prepared in 2006, and enhances previously constructed elements. Generally, this work is to improve pedestrian access at Alamo Street bridge and connect to the existing sidewalk along the east bank (or KW neighborhood-side) of the river; repair or rebuild portions of the existing east bank sidewalk; connect pedestrian trails that are not currently connected; enhance existing landscaping and erosion control; add way-finding and interpretative signs consistent with other reaches of the river project; design the location and describe the scope of public art enhancements that will be further developed by the SARF; and provide additional architectural or decorative lighting possibly in connection with public art projects. To facilitate this work, SARA in coordination with the City, County and King William neighborhood representatives, has selected Rialto Studios Inc., a local landscape architect design firm, to finalize concept, design, and construction documents for Eagleland visitor tax amenities in accordance with the Master Plan and to incorporate all these designs with the current City, USACE, and SARA projects. Look for Rialto to begin work on their part of this project by May.

For more information regarding the project please visit [www.sanantonioriver.org](http://www.sanantonioriver.org)

The King William neighborhood has been active with providing input in this process through the following residents:

- Irby Hightower, Co-Chair, River Oversight Committee
- Ed Day, River Oversight Committee
- Barbara Jackson, KWA River Development Advisory Committee
- Johnny Heidelberg, KWA River Development Advisory Committee
- Janet Williams, KWA River Development Advisory Committee
- Jose Garcia de Lara, KWA River Development Advisory Committee

Carol Earman
Education Specialist
San Antonio River Authority
Volunteers Needed

Your time and talents are needed to make the 2009 King William Fair the best ever! We need neighborhood volunteers to help with a variety of other tasks before, during, and after Fair Day. Please look over this list of some of the areas where we need your help, and let us know where we can plug you in!

**Pre-Fair Opportunities:** marking booth placement, marking Parade entry placement, preparing vendor information packets, helping with office tasks, posting signs and banners, assisting vendor setup, etc.

**Fair Day Opportunities:** selling Fair merchandise, managing a stage, checking in corporate volunteers, removing signs & banners, answering questions at Information Booths, coordinating beverage sales, assisting admission greeters, etc.

**Post-Fair Opportunities:** weighing food & beverage tickets, organizing our storage unit, etc.

Contact the Fair office at kwfair@sbcglobal.net or 271-FAIR for more details and to volunteer. Thank you!

**Fiesta Edition Newsletter**

There will be no May newsletter. Instead, watch your mailbox for our Fiesta Edition newsletter, which will be mailed to you on April 7.

This special edition is dedicated to details about the Fair, particularly the critical parking and traffic flow restrictions. It will also include, when applicable, free admission wrist bands and vehicle and parking passes.

Please DO NOT toss out the Fiesta Edition newsletter without reading it carefully.

Miles is a junior at the Northeast School of the Arts, which is housed at Lee High School. His focus there is cinema. At SAY Sí, he is emphasizing studio art and visual art. His sister is currently enrolled in SAY Sí’s middle school program as well.

Aside from his own studies at SAY Sí, Miles is a mentor in the WAM Program, which stands for “Working Artists as Mentors.” This is an after-school program whereby these mentors go out into the community and schools. Miles said, “I get paid to do something that I love to do.”

Miles also said that he felt it very important that the students be willing to bring something of themselves to the SAY Sí program...rather than simply to take from the program. Miles describes SAY Sí as being “another home” in which he can express his creativity and feelings. He said that Mike Schroeder is “SAY Sí” and was honored when Mr. Schroeder bought one of his works. His teacher, Tommy, next to his parents, is his role model and a great artist whom he appreciates so much.

Miles sees advanced education and work as an artist ahead. I look forward to seeing this young man move into his future. It was a real honor for me to spend time with him.

*Beverly Schwartzman

**Kids Parade Entry**

This year, the KW Kids will be on foot, bikes, and wagons. All neighborhood children are invited to join us. Kids should be dressed in festive attire.

We don’t know our line number yet, but will be near the front by the Doodle Wagon. Meet by 9:15 a.m. on Fair Day. Call 212-9373 for more info.
Laura Gonima, a third grade student at Bonham Academy, daughter of Dr. Camilo and Maureen Gonima and granddaughter of King William residents Judge Olin and Erin Strauss, was awarded First Place Winner in the elementary school category in The National Association for Bilingual Education’s recent 2009 Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students. Her essay was selected from over one thousand essay submissions.

Laura was honored at NABE’s 38th Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, during a luncheon in February. At that time she read her essay in English and in Spanish, and afterwards, she was presented with a cash award for $1000 dollars. In addition to the award, her mother, Maureen Gonima, and her teacher, Mrs. Adriana Guerra-Lawson, were also awarded an all-expense paid trip to the conference and luncheon.

Laura’s other proud grandparents are Consuelo and Alberto Gonima and great-grandmother, Luz Castillo.

Laura’s essay is to the right.

Erin Strauss

---

Donation to Underground Utility Conversion Fund
from Gayle and Lamar Spencer
in memory of
Walter B. Janusz,
father of Sophia Pachecano

---

In Memoriam
Dennis McDonald

Dennis McDonald, former neighbor and all-around good guy, passed away February 25, 2009, at the age of 55. Dennis usually worked as a painter, although he also had other restoration talents. Chances are good that Dennis painted your house sometime in past thirty years.

Marita Emmett

---

Why I am Proud to Be Bilingual

I am proud to be bilingual because my dad is from Colombia and now he wants me to learn Spanish. I am really proud of myself. Before I started to learn Spanish, it was like a firecracker that was not burning, but when I came to Bonham Academy, that firecracker turned into fireworks. I am really happy now that I know a lot of Spanish, and everybody is proud of me, including me!

With my Spanish, I can travel around the world to places like Cuba, Argentina or maybe even Colombia. I can meet the cousins I have never met before and learn more about my culture, and maybe learn more of my family’s history.

And, about that firecracker, whenever it sets off, I feel happy inside. I know that if my ancestors were still around today, they would be so proud of me because I am working so hard to learn their language.

Learning a new language opens many doors for you. I would now like to learn Japanese and Russian. But, to accomplish that, I have to keep practicing Spanish. I am happy and proud to have this opportunity.
Meet the Board: Jack Kent, Jr.
KWA Board Member since 2008

What brought you to live in the King William neighborhood?

Well, what brought my grandparents to KW? I’m not sure, but my dad bought them a vacant lot on Johnson St. after WWII and built our house in ‘52. My parents lived way out in the suburbs (near Basse and West Ave.) when I was little, but moved back here in 1960 after Grandpa died. So I’ve been here awhile.

What’s the biggest issue facing the neighborhood that you want to address as a Board Member?

I keep noticing how important KW’s connections with the rest of the city are -- especially with our immediate neighbors (Lavaca, SoFlo, Blue Star, Southtown) and the River Walk. Development poses both threats and opportunities all around us, and it’s pretty clear to me that we need to cultivate the connections the Board has already established with our neighbors.

What book or movie have you enjoyed recently that you would recommend to others?

I’m crazy about “Slumdog Millionaire” for all sorts of reasons, but especially for its take on how quickly Mumbai (and the world) have changed. When the hero’s brother says, “India is the center of the world, and I’m in the center of the center,” it felt like something my Danish great-grandfather might have said when he set up shop in Chicago 130 years ago.

What’s your favorite place in San Antonio to take friends or family who come from out of town?

Mission Espada. It’s still rural enough around there (with active farms that still use the acequias) that you get a physical sense of just how remote an outpost San Antonio was back then.

What’s your favorite vacation spot outside of San Antonio?

San Francisco: what’s not to like about a place where nasturtiums are the size of dinner plates, geraniums taller than me grow wild on the beach, and a hot summer day is like a fine October day in SA? Not to mention that SF feels to me like KW all over. It’s great to visit a city where you don’t need a car at all.

Do you canoe?

Not since I was a kid. I still have my dad’s canoe... really ought to see if it’s still riverworthy!
# What's Happening: KWA Neighborhood Calendar

## April - May 2009

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## STAY INFORMED WITH KWA’S WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Visit [www.kingwilliamassociation.org](http://www.kingwilliamassociation.org) to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, which features timely information about important community events and announcements.

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**KWA OFFICE CLOSED**

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**King William Association**

1032 S. Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78210
(210) 227-8786      king.william@sbcglobal.net      www.kingwilliamassociation.org

### APRIL 2009

**The KWA office will be closed April 24.**

- 4/1 Spring Social, 6:30pm, 403 Madison
- 4/6 Fiesta Edition Newsletter Mail Prep, 6pm, KWA office
- 4/15 April Board Meeting, 7pm, KWA office
- 4/25 **KING WILLIAM FAIR 2009**, 10am-6pm

### MAY 2009

**The KWA office will be closed May 22 & May 25-27.**

- 5/6 **May General Membership Meeting**, 7pm, Blue Star Brewing Co.
- 5/13 June Newsletter Deadline
- 5/20 **May Board Meeting**, 7pm, KWA office
- 5/26 June Newsletter Mailing Prep, 6pm, KWA office
What's Happening: Community Events

Do you have an upcoming community event to share with the neighborhood? Please email the details using the "what, when, where, more info" format to king.william@sbcglobal.net for consideration. The deadline for inclusion in the June newsletter is May 13.

St. John’s First Friday Concert Series Continues on April 3 and May 1
WHAT: First Friday Concert Series at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. The April 3 concert features King William resident Mary Grace Ketner, Storyteller; Michael Palermo, Trumpet; and Victor Schaper, Organ. The May 1 concert features the Parish Choir of St. John’s; Ken Turner, Director/Tenor Soloist; Victor Schaper, Accompanist; and Alice Keene, Harpist. The concerts are free and will be followed by a delightful, light lunch in Memorial Hall.
WHEN: First Fridays, April 3 and May 1, 12:05 p.m.
WHERE: St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 502 E. Nueva (across from La Villita, limited free parking available)

Barbara Shupp Tells Tales of King William Neighborhood on April 19
WHAT: Stories Galore, a free story-swap hosted by Elder Stone for experienced and beginning storytellers and listeners, features former King William resident Barbara Shupp in April. Barbara will share stories about living in King William during the Great Depression and what the area was like for youngsters during Fiesta in those days. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear stories about the King William neighborhood!
WHEN: Sunday, April 19, 5 - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Commander’s House, 645 S. Main.
MORE INFO: Call Elder Stone at 673-4468.

Mayoral and District 1 City Council Candidate Forum on April 28
WHAT: You are invited to attend a Mayoral and District 1 City Council Candidate Forum hosted by the Monte Vista Historical Association. Each City Council candidate will be asked the same three questions; each will have three minutes to respond. The same format will apply to the Mayoral candidates. There will be no questions from the floor at any point during the Forum. You are welcome to submit issues and/or specific questions for possible inclusion in the final questions for candidates. Please forward your issues and/or specific questions as soon as possible to Mr. Ron Martin, Forum Coordinator, P.O. Box 12386, San Antonio, TX 78212, or mrb234@satx.rr.com.
WHEN: Tuesday, April 28, 6 p.m.
WHERE: The Keystone School, 119 East Craig
NOTE: Watch upcoming KWA weekly e-newsletters for details about District 5 City Council Candidate Forums.

Gemini Ink April & May Events
WHAT & WHEN: What Makes a Column? (3 Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Gemini Ink, $81); First Thursday Reading (Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. at Igo Library, free); Spice Cabinets & Shoeboxes (Saturday, April 4; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Gemini Ink, $90); Open Writing Workshop (Monday, April 27 and May 25, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Gemini Ink, free); Writing Ethnic Fiction (Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Gemini Ink, $81)
WHERE: Events are held at various locations. Please contact Gemini Ink for more details.
MORE INFO: Visit www.geminiink.org or call 734-9673.

Slab Cinema Screenings
WHAT & WHEN: Free outdoor film screenings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Bring your own chairs or blankets.
WHERE: La Tuna, 100 Probandt
MORE INFO: Visit www.slabcinema.com or call 212-9373.

Friends of Bonham Fundraising Event at Luca Ristorante on April 3
WHAT: Friends of Bonham invites you to join them for their first fundraising event featuring a wine tasting at Luca Ristorante. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased in advance at www.friendsofbonham.org or at the door. Friends of Bonham is a newly-formed foundation to support Bonham Academy, an innovative inner city charter school specializing in dual language, fine arts, and outdoor science. The foundation, working in partnership with parents, educators, and local businesses, will raise money to support the school’s educational programs and make it a model for all of San Antonio.
WHEN: Friday, April 3, 6 - 8 p.m.
WHERE: Luca Ristorante, 401 S.Alamo

ALAMO DOG & CAT HOSPITAL
1619 Pleasanton
San Antonio, TX 78221
(210) 922-1231
FAX (210) 921-2653
Mon - Fri 8 am-7 pm Sat 8 am - 12 noon
Each new day is a real gardening challenge. With little rain we may be under mandatory water use restrictions by the time this goes to press. An aquifer level of 660 feet above sea level will require watering in the garden only on specific days and during a limited time period. Watering in the morning is best. It is cooler and water soaks into the soil further and helps prevent lawn diseases from forming. Watch your local news for specifics. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, use it when there is little wind. Many systems have a fine spray that can be blown away from the soil and evaporate in the air. Also check the sprinkler heads frequently to be sure they are operating properly.

Early April is the time to plant periwinkles and caladiums. Periwinkles prefer sunny spots while caladiums like shade. Confederate jasmine is blooming with white flowers that are very fragrant. It is a vine that is usually evergreen down to temperatures in the mid 20s. It likes sun or shade and is carried by most garden centers this time of year. See one along the fence at the corner of S. Alamo and Mission St.

Other good plants for the garden include Mexican orchid tree, angel’s trumpet, and bougainvillea. The Mexican orchid is a small tree that is usually evergreen and has white flowers. It blooms heavy in the spring and a little less throughout the year. One can be seen in the park at E. Guenther and Crofton. The angel’s trumpet is becoming more common and is very unusual. It is a perennial bush that can get large but is easily trimmed. It may freeze back some but will re-sprout. Angel’s trumpet comes in pink, white or yellow. The flowers are large and trumpet-shaped and hang downward. An unusual characteristic of angel’s trumpet is that the flowers have no smell during the day but as evening approaches, give off a very strong fragrance. A yellow angel’s trumpet can be seen at the front left corner of the house at 337 Madison St. Bougainvillea grows easily but may not fit in every garden. They prefer sun, and the larger they are, the prettier so give them lots of room. The blooms last for an extended time. They also have large thorns. Bougainvillea may freeze back in cold weather and their thorns can make trimming a hazardous proposition. A large red bougainvillea is in full bloom in the front garden at 241 King William St.

Garden Note: A neighborhood gardener friend had this to say. “Be optimistic. We are one day closer to the next good rain.”

Trees and More Trees

Who would ever think of planting trees in an asphalt parking lot? The King William/Lavaca tree planting team, that’s who!

If you walk or drive down S. Alamo as it crosses St. Mary’s, you will see the beginning of a dramatic improvement to the streetscape. There’s a mix of nice-sized newly planted, live oaks and cedar elms – five at the edge of Goodyear’s parking lot and five more around the corner on St. Mary’s across from Bonham Academy.

The tree planting team, comprised of Mary Ann Ohlenbusch, Alan Cash, and Oscar Alvarado with help from the City’s Extreme Target Sweep representative, Elizabeth Brown (and her probationers), did what many would have thought impossible.

Oscar (pictured above), using his cement saw and his brother Robert’s jack hammer, literally chopped through concrete and asphalt to create receptacles for the trees. The probationers dug all of the debris out of the holes and Alan and Mary Ann came behind them with new fill dirt and planted the trees. The results are amazing!

Thank you, TEAM TREES!

“The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago; the second best time is now.”

-Anonymous

Bill Cogburn
Rubiola Realty announces the addition of Jody Stern to their team of professional realtors.

Jody is a native of San Antonio, a seasoned home renovator, and an experienced realtor with ten years of experience specializing in the beautiful older, established and historic neighborhoods of San Antonio. If you are in the market to buy or sell a home, contact her today at 210-863-0356 or jody@rubiola.com

Jody Stern - Realtor

Openning in April on South Alamo

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- CARDS
- GIFTS

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Letter to the Editor
re: First Friday

Recent crime problems experienced by the Southtown business district and King William neighborhood due to First Friday are simply a symptom of a much larger persistent problem. The biggest problem with First Friday is that there is no person or organization responsible or held accountable for the event. It is no longer an “Art Walk,” but a roving mob scene of inebriated people with open containers roaming through a flea market atmosphere on S. Alamo Street. The four or five business owners who initiated First Friday, and who have since gone out of business, never anticipated the unmanageable size and huge problems it has wrought.

First Friday is a nightmare for the residents of the King William Historic District. Growing crime, graffiti and gang activity are obvious challenges. The ongoing problem is lack of safety and security due to the invasion of residential streets by hundreds of tightly parked cars. Neighbors get trapped in front of their homes and other people cannot get out of driveways. On my narrow street alone, which averages about 50 cars per event, egress is virtually impossible until very late. People park right up on stop signs and in front of fire hydrants. The most unsavory aspect is people using our front yards as bathrooms and throwing all sorts of unsafe litter.

Police Department statistics do not adequately reflect the scope of the problem. City officials, the police department staff, merchants, a few restaurants and galleries who seek to minimize the effects of First Friday on our neighborhood are simply out of touch. It is a quality of life issue. Does the event have to experience a larger gang fight or a homicide as North St. Mary's strip had in order to be minimized or, much better, cancelled?

Robin Raquet
Crime Prevention with SAFFE Officer Doyle

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

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

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

Contact Numbers:

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

Fiesta Edition and June Newsletter Mail Prep Volunteers Needed

Please help us prepare our Fiesta Edition and June 2009 newsletters for mailing. Stop by the KWA office, located at 1032 S. Alamo, on Monday, April 6, from 6 - 7 p.m. (Fiesta Edition mail prep), and on Tuesday, May 26, from 6 - 7 p.m. (June mail prep), to stick mailing labels on newsletters and visit with neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated!
The King William Newsletter
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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

KWA Spring Social
Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.
The Chabot House Carriage House and Grounds, 403 Madison St.
(Home of Curtis Johnson and Leland Stone)

Celebrate spring with good food and great company at our Spring Social! KW Fair 2009 pins, medals, and admission wrist bands will be available for purchase at the social.

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

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

KWA May General Membership Meeting
Extreme Target Sweep Follow-up Presentation
Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 S. Alamo

Please join us for a special presentation about the ongoing improvements the Lavaca/King William Extreme Target Sweep is bringing to the area!

Complimentary beverages courtesy of KWA.