We are happy to present the artwork for the 2013 King William Fair, created by Aliza Villanueva. It is fitting that Aliza, a 2011 graduate of Brackenridge High School, should design the Fair logo, as she has been one of our Alamo Colleges scholarship students since her graduation. She is now finishing her third semester at San Antonio College. Her artwork was recommended by KWA board member Deb Field, who has been Aliza’s mentor as part of the scholarship program.

Aliza’s design depicts a Fiesta float decorated with graphic representations of some of our neighborhood historical homes, confetti, flowers and cascarones, displaying a heartfelt celebration of the spirit of Fiesta that captures the upbeat feeling of the King William Fair.

Aliza was in graphic arts class for four years while at Brackenridge, and competed in school competitions and poster contests. “Two of my summers were spent working as a print shop assistant for San Antonio Independent School District. I realized that graphic design was something I really enjoyed doing, and decided to pursue an associate's degree in graphic design,” she said. “Being able to work with the King William Association on its 2013 Fair logo has been a great opportunity for an aspiring graphic artist such as myself.”

We’re delighted to feature Aliza Villanueva’s artwork for the 2013 King William Fair. Be sure and come to the December social to see it! There you can also meet Aliza and purchase the new King William Fair medals and pins.

Viva Fiesta!

- Zet Baer
MY PERSPECTIVE
by Deb Mueller, President

There are many things I enjoy about our neighborhood, but one of my favorites is the abundance of nature and wildlife that surround us in this urban environment. "A river runs through it" is not only a famous novella and movie, but a simple fact of life in King William. The river is the habitat necessary to maintain the diversity of birds and wildlife around us, and SARA is doing a fabulous job at ecosystem restoration along the Mission Reach.

While we don’t have the deer population like north San Antonio, we certainly have our share of wildlife. I have encountered a bird, bat and possum inside my home and let’s just say evacuating them was quite exciting. A cormorant veered off the river once and decided to spend several days on the lawnmower handle under our carriage house. After four surgeons with brooms couldn’t figure out how to get him to leave gently, we called in the real professionals from a wildlife rescue team to return it to the river. My children have rescued injured doves and squirrels from the backyard, and we have taken them to the Roger and Phyllis Sherman Animal Care Complex, a property funded by two of our own neighbors for Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (WRR).

Probably the most exciting wildlife encounter we have had occurred when two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks roosted somewhere in a tree high above our pool, and one afternoon descended with their twelve newly-hatched ducklings for a swim. Two spaniels barking wildly, children screaming, and Grandma fretting gave new meaning to the classic children’s book “Make Way for Ducklings,” as my husband guided them across the street to the river.

This holiday season I encourage you to see our naturally decorated tree along the river. The custom of erecting decorated trees can be traced back to Renaissance-era Germany, so how fitting that our German-influenced neighborhood is home to a naturally decorated tree. Around sunset every evening, beautiful and majestic white egrets and cormorants return to roost in a set of trees at the bend in the river across from SARA close to the Alamo Street bridge. I am filled with a sense of wonder every time I see them. I hope you find time to enjoy the natural wonders that surround us this holiday season.
Blue Star Phase 2 – Big Tex Redevelopment

The Homeland Security slogan, “See something – say something,” also works well in King William. In September, alert neighbors saw an opportunity to have “a say” in the compatible redevelopment of the Blue Star – Big Tex property directly across the river from their homes. By organizing neighborhood response, attending Zoning Commission hearings and meeting with the developer, James Lifshutz, they have ensured that the new Blue Star complex will be a good neighbor to King William.

Zoning law requires notification of property owners within 200 feet of the property in question, with the registered neighborhood association also notified. In this case, the 200 foot line fell in the river easement, so only a few households received notice that the developer was seeking C-2 zoning.

Discussion among neighbors and KWA Executive Director Cherise Bell concurred there was reason for concern. C-2 zoning “allowable uses” include auto repair, liquor store, self-storage units, night clubs and loud outdoor music. Cherise suggested the neighbors ask the Zoning Commission for C-1 zoning, which specifically prohibits outdoor amplified noise and has less intensive land uses than C-2.

King William representatives attended the Zoning Commission Hearing and raised their concerns. The developer’s representative asked for and received a postponement to give the developer an opportunity to meet with the neighbors to work out a compromise. After meeting, Mr. Lifshutz and his development team agreed to the C-1 zoning.

The developer’s representative presented this compromise to the Zoning Commission for approval on November 6, and it was forwarded to City Council for final approval. Cherise and the neighbors are now considering design elements of the buildings as required by the River Improvement Overlay, RIO-4, with particular attention to height, mass, lighting and landscaping.

Many thanks for this successful outcome go to the neighbors who recognized the opportunity in this potential problem: Rubina Berry, Joe and Carmen Van Meter, Jerry and Becky Witte, Judith Maxwell, Beverly Schwartzman, Shelly Roff, Luz Day, Sara Flores, Ralph Medina and Deb Field. Thanks also to Cherise Bell for advice and information, to Deb Mueller for KWA support and to James Lifshutz for consideration and cooperation.

- Roselyn Cogburn
KW Resident Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) awarded Dr. Harry Shafer the Lifetime Achievement Award in Texas Archeology at their 2012 annual meeting in Tyler for his contributions in research and teaching archaeology. Harry is only the third recipient of this award. The TAS is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and protect the state’s cultural resources. Harry has been a member of the TAS for 55 years, and is a society Fellow. He has served as the society’s president, bulletin editor and co-editor, on the advisory board and numerous committees, directed two summer archaeological field schools, and teaches three TAS academies.

Harry has over 50 years of professional experience in archaeology, conducting major excavations and research in Texas, New Mexico and Belize. He started the archaeology program in the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University in 1972 where he taught for 30 years, and trained many archaeologists through field schools and laboratory research. Prior to that he was professionally employed for 10 years as an archeologist while completing his graduate work at UT-Austin. His extensive publication lists include the books Ancient Texans: Rock Art and Lifeways along the Lower Pecos; Mimbres Archaeology at the NAN Ranch Ruin, New Mexico; Painters in Prehistory: Archaeology and Rock Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands (in press), and has co-written Field Methods in Archaeology, and Maya Stone Tools. He has authored many journal articles, book chapters, and monographs reporting his research in Texas, the Southwest and Maya archaeology. Previous awards include the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeologist of the Year in 1994; the Society of American Archaeology Award for Excellence in Lithic Studies in 1995; and the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M Distinguished Teaching award in 1992.

After retiring from Texas A&M University in 2002, Harry and his wife Molly moved to King William. Harry continues to be active in archeology with his writing and research. He is president of the consulting firm Abasolo Archaeological Consultants in San Antonio, which specializes in cultural resource management, and serves on the City of San Antonio’s Historic Design and Review Committee with the charge of overseeing the 1,700 recorded archeological sites in the city.

- Cherise Bell
Homes on Wheels

This is not an article about mobile homes, although these have been on wheels at one time in their history. There are many "newcomers" to the neighborhood who may not know its history and how it has evolved through the years. Historic districts, by their nature, are about preserving and maintaining the unique structures within them. The story of nine homes in our neighborhood that are now in locations other than where they were built is one aspect of that history and a testament to the preservation spirit.

Two homes were turned around and moved to the street behind them. Now at 230 and 514 Madison, they were originally on S. Alamo. The lot at 230 Madison had become vacant in the 1980s when the rooming house that was there caught fire; several residents lost their lives. Two others, at 231 Stieren and 1303 S. Main, were relocated from the east side of the last block of S. Main when Pioneer Mill expanded. Two homes were moved from S. St. Mary's St. to enlarge the campus of Bonham Academy. These are now down the street in the Lavaca neighborhood at 218 Devine and 229 Barrera.

Three homes were moved into the King William neighborhood from other parts of town. These are at 334 King William, 320 Washington and 951 S. Alamo. The house at 951 S. Alamo was rescued from a site on the near westside of town where a commercial parking lot was to be enlarged. The first story was brought by truck in two sections and reconnected. The second story came in several pieces. It seems the walls were dismantled in large sections and came stacked on flat bed trucks. They were then hoisted by crane up and over the utility lines and reassembled. It was a very dramatic show which lasted several days.

A building, no matter what style of architecture, is in a way a work of art. Preserving them is one of the best ways to document history. A picture is worth a thousand words.

- Alan Cash

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Neighborhood Receives National Night Out Award

Thank you to all who attended our National Night Out (NNO) in King William Park in October to help make it such a great success. Each year the City has judges who visit and rate each neighborhood's NNO event. Last year we were awarded third place for Council District 1. This year we were awarded FIRST PLACE! A big thanks goes out to Patty Duarte, our NNO Chair. Her energy and efforts to continuously improve our NNO event have really paid off. Also many thanks to Dina Toland, KWA Social Chair, for helping ensure its success.

The 2012 National Night Out Awards Recognition Ceremony will be held Saturday, December 8, at the UTSA Downtown Campus, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

2012 Home Tour Finale

By the time you read this newsletter, the 2012 KWA Home Tour will probably have come and gone. This event supports many aspects of the original 1967 charter of the KWA including:

- the presentation and dissemination of understanding of the early life and cultures of the city of San Antonio
- to disseminate historical and cultural material
- to conduct activities and special events designed to attract people to the King William Area for educational and cultural pursuits

Our visitors got a glimpse inside homes built in the 1880s that today provide an urban oasis in the heart of the city. Our home chairs and docents related the history of the homes, their architects and owners. I can think of no better way to routinely support our mission of preservation of historic structures than to show how suitable these houses have been for families for over 125 years.

The original name of the home tour was the “Old World Charm” tour and the first one occurred in 1952. Sixty years later the tradition continues...everything old is new again!

Home Tour Thanks

First and foremost, I want to thank the homeowners, as our tour could not occur without their agreeing to share their home with the public. Many of this year’s participants were families with young children, and their willingness to evacuate their home for six hours on a Saturday must be applauded. Much gratitude to Dave and Ellen Nelson, John and Deb Doski, Mildred Mueller, Roy and Sophia Pachecano, Steve and Debra Walker and Tim and Lisa Cabrera.

Next, I would like to thank our partners, The National Trust for Historic Preservation at Villa Finale, participating for the second year, and the San Antonio Conservation Society and Steves Homestead, for joining us this year. Both sites honored our tickets for admission and enhanced the value of the tour.

It takes many volunteers to put this event on and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of them. Home Chairs included Deb Field, Erin Straus, Maria Pfeiffer, Heather Palacios, John Doski, Roselyn Cogburn and Beth Davis. These chairs and the KWA office staff slowly but surely found 150 docents to staff the homes. Betsy Schultz stepped up (or maybe was coerced) to organizing refreshments for the tour again, and many neighbors assisted, providing homemade cookies to serve our guests. Tina Garza and her family have made tour day ticket sales a tradition and we can’t thank her enough for supporting the tour year in and year out. Alan Cash and Bill Cogburn also assist yearly in handling the cash and final accounting of ticket sales.

Finally, I’d like to thank my Co-Chair Anne Alexander for her enthusiasm and energy. Anne actually met her late husband, Jack Pancoast, on the home tour years ago. Over the last two years working together I’ve gotten to know a lot about Anne, her work, her travels, and her donning of a squirrel costume regularly to support the San Antonio Parks Foundation’s Friends of the Parks. One of my favorite things about the KWA is the fascinating and diverse people you get to know when you get involved; Anne is surely one of them!

- Deb Mueller

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- Deb Mueller
Did a 1953 Home Tour Save Our Neighborhood?

The following article appeared in the February 4, 1953 San Antonio Express:

**King William Group Invites Officials for ‘Old World’ Tour**

The King William Area Conservation Assn., in an effort to stop any attempt to disfigure the picturesque King William Area by construction of an expressway leg, announced that it is inviting city and state officials and civic leaders to an ‘Old World’ home tour at 4 PM Wednesday to show them five stately old homes in the area. San Antonio’s leading families lived in the area in the latter part of the 19th century. Attorney and amateur historian, Stanley Banks, will explain to the visitors the history of the King William Area. The City Planning Commission, State Highway Department officials working on the expressway, members of the City Board of Adjustment, the Parks Board and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce are among the groups invited.

A February 3, 1953, San Antonio Express article by columnist Bill Reddell quotes R. A. Bossey, the engineer in charge of the proposed expressway project as saying, “The state planners have considered many routes for the superhighway and the most desirable route always comes out through this area.”

Later in the article, Bossey goes on to say, “The expressway would cross the King William Area at about Sheridan Street which would cut right through the heart of the area. What the state is now asking the city council to do is to ‘protect’ the area which means, don’t let anybody build expensive buildings in the proposed path of the highway.”

This early home tour was a bold attempt by the King William Area Conservation Assn. to counter the State Highway Department’s plans of building an expressway through the neighborhood.

What effect the ‘Old World’ Home Tour had in convincing the highway officials to back off the freeway project is not reported, but our neighborhood will be forever indebted to Mrs. George Isbell and her fellow activists for their heroic efforts. The King William Area Conservation Assn. was the forerunner of the current King William Association, organized in 1967.

- Bill Cogburn

OUT IN THE GARDEN
with Alan Cash

Here are a few gardening tips:
Leaves are falling but should not be left on the lawn. A thick layer of leaves can damage the grass. They should be shredded, bagged and added to a compost pile, or spread in flower beds or around trees and shrubs as a mulch. They will decompose over the winter. You can put a light layer of actual mulch over them to hold them in place.

Poinsettias become available as the holidays approach. There are now many colors other than the traditional red. However, the care for them is the same for each. Keep them away from hot air drafts from heaters and place them near a window with bright but not direct sunlight. Water so that the soil is damp but not wet. Poinsettias will continue to look good well into the new year. When the threat of frost is past, usually early March, they can be planted outdoors, preferably against a south-facing wall or fence. My experience has been not to expect a high survival rate but give it a try. If you have several in small containers put more than one in each location.

We are still in Stage 2 water restrictions. Water lawns about every three weeks between 3:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., if using any type of sprinkler. The day to water is based on your house number. Hand watering can be done any day, any time. Call SAWS for changes in requirements at 210-704-7297.

There will not be a newsletter in January, so remember not to trim shrubs, trees, roses or perennials until after Valentine's Day. The main exception is climbing roses which should not be trimmed until after their spring bloom.

Happy Holidays, and I want to thank the many who have told me they enjoy these articles and appreciate the information I pass along.

**Garden Note:** A gardener is someone who has killed enough plants to be able to give good advice.
The Macias sisters, Connie and Mary Lou, have lived in their pretty cottage at 118 Daniel Street for sixty-seven years. They were teenagers in 1945 when their mother, Concepcion Hernandez Macias, widowed just the year before, paid $1,500 down payment on the house.

Concepcion was a teenager herself in 1915 when she arrived in San Antonio with her family, fleeing a pneumonia epidemic in Guatemala. She attended mass at San Fernando Cathedral for the next few years and that’s where she met Liborio Macias. While social conventions of the day kept them from actually “dating,” they took every opportunity to get to know each other during the social hour after mass. Liborio had emigrated to the U.S. from San Luis Potosi, Mexico in 1905 with his mother and brother to escape political unrest at home.

After a brief courtship, nineteen year-old Concepcion and thirty year-old Liborio married and started their family. A carpenter by trade, Liborio built a house for his family at 827 S. Flores next door to the Judson Candy Factory. He and Concepcion eventually had seven children. During WWII, the three oldest sons served in the armed services: Ricky in the Air Force, Mac in the Army and Rafael in the Navy.

“During WWII, the old Katy Railroad ran between S. Flores Street and San Pedro Creek, just behind our house,” says Mary Lou. “The army moved German prisoners of war along that route to and from the detention camps. Often, the train would stop and we would feel sorry for the prisoners who were usually hot and hungry. Connie and I would take pails of water and bits of food and hand it to them through the windows. The guards would not allow most people near the trains but for some reason, they never kept us away.”

In 1944, Liborio passed away and Concepcion made the best of raising the younger children on her own. She received $37 per month for each of her sons in the military. “Mother would lift up the linoleum flooring in the kitchen and hide her allotments there for safe keeping,” remembers Connie.

Their mother’s unconventional ‘savings account’ is what made the down payment on the Daniel Street house. What a huge accomplishment for a single immigrant mother of seven in the 1940’s! Even more remarkable, by 1952, Concepcion paid off her mortgage in full and the house was theirs free and clear.

“When we moved into this house, we were the only Hispanics on the block,” says Mary Lou. “The neighborhood was all German, mostly first generation, who still spoke their native language. At first, we didn’t feel like we fit in, but we soon became friends with the kids and then we felt like we had been accepted. Our mother made extra money doing washing and ironing for a few of the wealthier neighbors.”

“My mother never learned to read or write English and always depended on me to translate the letters from our three brothers in the service,” remembers Connie. “The boys were not taught Spanish in school because the practice at that time for immigrant children was total immersion in English.”

Connie and Mary Lou are very proud of their family. Brother Ricky received a scholarship to Trinity University, which was unusual in 1948 for a Catholic Hispanic to attend a Presbyterian school. Brother Joe, who was a Master Sergeant and bombardier in the Air Force, participated in fifty bombing missions over Germany. Nephew Nathan Macias became a Texas State Representative. “We

continued on next page
Why Join the KWA?

Every address in the King William Association (KWA) neighborhood receives a newsletter regardless of membership, and therefore all residents can know what is happening in the neighborhood. So why join? Probably the most important reason is that as a dues-paying member you are saying that you are concerned with maintaining the residential character of the King William neighborhood and the diversity of its people as stated in the KWA mission. When KWA representatives meet with local officials and decision-makers, they are more likely to be listened to when they represent the views of a substantial number of neighborhood residents.

Two such instances come to mind. The KWA successfully prevented a zoning change that would have allowed a two-story office-type building at the corner of Cedar and Steiron Streets. The requested zoning change was not approved and a home is still on the site. In another instance, it was proposed to install a towering metal power standard on what was then a vacant lot at the corner of City and Sheridan Streets. Due to the efforts of the KWA and area residents, that project was not carried out and a home was later built on the lot.

There is an article also in this issue about a free-way that was proposed to cross King William Street at Sheridan. Please read it. This intersection is the site of Villa Finale, the only National Trust site in Texas. We cannot afford to take what we have for granted. If you have lived in the KWA area for many years or have moved here recently and are not a member, consider joining the KWA to help protect this unique place. You will find a membership form below for your convenience!

- Alan Cash

KWA Membership 2012-2013

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION!

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Compiled by Bill Cogburn from interviews with the Macias sisters, notes from Cherise Bell and Central Library archives.
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NEW LOCATION!

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Long-time King William neighbor, Evelyn Barker, the third of four generations of her family to live in her cottage at 931 South Alamo Street, died on November 12th.

In an interview in 2003, Evelyn said, “In the late 1800’s, my great-grandparents were living in the house which they built at 206 Lavaca. They had the first slaughter pens in San Antonio on Cevallos Street near present day I-10. They sold their products from stands on Alamo Plaza until they opened their butcher shop across from the old fire station on South Alamo Street near Durango.

“My grandmother came to San Antonio from Fredericksburg when she was eighteen years old to work as a domestic for prominent King William families. She particularly enjoyed working for the Groos families because they were nice to her. She was their cook and was responsible for ordering their meat products. My grandfather was the deliveryman from his family’s meat market so that’s how they met. Love soon blossomed and they married in 1899.

“After they married, they lived above the butcher shop until 1908 when they moved to 931 South Alamo. My mother was six years old at the time. My grandfather opened his grocery store on East Commerce Street. He kept it well stocked with kosher products so it was very popular with the Jewish community that once thrived where HemisFair is today.”

Evelyn’s house on South Alamo was built in 1875 of limestone and caliche blocks from an old quarry that was once on Rigsby Street on the Southeast side. It was plastered over years ago by Evelyn’s grandfather but she had the plaster removed and the stones repointed in the early 1990’s. “My grandfather found traces of the old acequia that ran along South Alamo in front of the house,” said Evelyn. “It’s still under there somewhere.”

“There were all sorts of little shops and stores all over the neighborhood back in the 1940’s. The Red & White Grocery was on the corner of Beauregard and South Alamo; the Garden Fruit Store where Rosario’s is now. Going south on St. Mary’s Street, there was a bakery, Piggly Wiggly and Winn’s No. 1. Across the street at the corner of South Alamo and St. Mary’s was a Sommer’s Rexall Drug Store, complete with a soda fountain. Jordan Ford was at the corners of St. Mary’s, Presa and South Alamo where the Goodyear is now. Johnny’s Barbershop was across from Jordan Ford, where my son Michael got his first haircut.”

“The neighborhood schools played a big part in all our lives. My mother, brother and I, my three children and two of my grandchildren all attended Bonham Elementary. My daughter Janice Schwab has been teaching at Bonham for twenty-two years. Of course, all of us attended Brackenridge High School. I graduated in 1950. We are all very proud of our heritage – six generation in the King William neighborhood.”

Evelyn was the last residential hold-out on S. Alamo Street from Perida to downtown. She will be greatly missed.

- Bill Cogburn

Source: excerpts from a 2003 interview
I'm honored that this community has elected me to serve once again as your Representative to the Texas House. I am grateful for your continued support. As I head back into session in January, I'll be fighting to ensure that providing a quality education to Texas schoolchildren is our state's number one priority. Innovating and investing in education is the key to building our economy, growing the middle class, and fulfilling our obligation to the next generation.

The first bill that I've filed this session would expand access to high quality public pre-K programs statewide. I'll be working to restore funding to public schools, and will continue to work to ensure that students have enough financial aid to keep college within reach.

During the legislative session my office sends out weekly updates on issues that matter to your family and our community. I also include occasional video broadcasts with my take on the legislative session. If you're not already receiving this newsletter and would like to stay in touch while I'm in Austin, please drop me a line at district123.villarreal@house.state.tx.us.

If my office can ever be of assistance with state issues, please don't hesitate to contact us at 210-734-8937 or district123.villarreal@house.state.tx.us.
Historic District designation is a “Zoning Overlay” administered by the City of San Antonio. Two additional zoning overlay districts within the boundaries of the King William Association include NCD-1 and RIO-4. Both NCD-1 and RIO-4 are Zoning Overlays. Each property within the boundaries of these districts has its own base zoning which determines the use of the property. For example, a building could be C-1 for commercial use, such as a retail store or a restaurant, or O-1 for an office use. The overlay zoning districts regulate the property’s architectural and site characteristics.

NCD-1 is Neighborhood Conservation District #1. The first conservation district created was the South Presa/South Saint Mary’s Streets Commercial Corridor. According to the City’s UDC (Unified Development Code) the purpose of an NCD is “to protect and strengthen unique physical features and design characteristics to promote economic revitalization while protecting and enhancing harmonious redevelopment.” NCD-1 is administered by the City’s Planning Department.

RIO-4 is River Improvement Overlay area 4. According to the City’s website: “The design objectives for RIO-4 are: to encourage urban quality mixed-use developments; to preserve and enhance the historic character as well as emphasize the street scene; to construct new development that complements the nearby historic King William area but does not mimic its style; and to encourage new development in clustered nodes.” RIO-4 is administered by the City’s Office of Historic Preservation.

- Cherise Bell
December/January Calendar

**December**
1  Home Tour
5  Holiday Social - SAY Si - 7:30 p.m. - Please bring a dish to share!
19  KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
24-28  KWA office closed

**January**
1  Happy New Year!
   KWA office closed

*Note: No General Meeting this month.*

16  KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
16  Deadline for February newsletter submissions
28  Newsletter mailing prep - KWA office - 6:00 p.m.