



King William Association

Volume 8, No. 10

November 2012

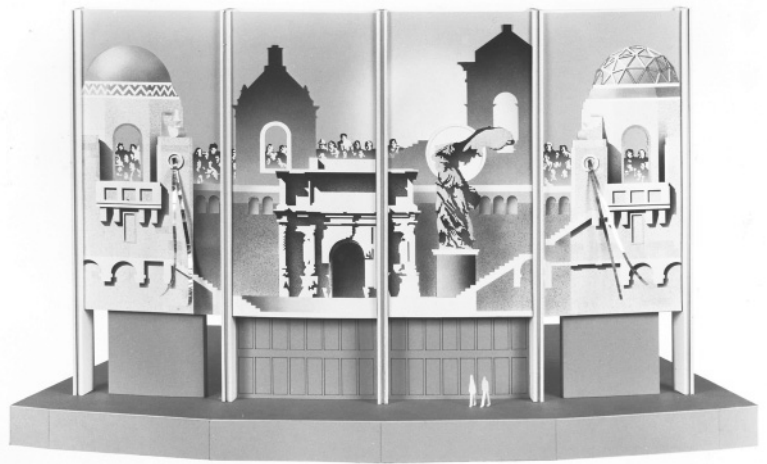
The Art of Urban Geography

How does one properly describe what it is that Roland Rodriguez is and does? One can only use hyphens, because he makes it a point to defy easy categorization. From the beginning Roland has looked at art and design as interconnected disciplines, a position that has landed him numerous professional awards and unusual assignments.

Roland studied urban design and architecture history in Notre Dame's Rome Program. This experience was the inspiration for a landmark series of conceptual architecture drawings based on same-scale examinations of cityscapes. (One of the most notable is a comparison of Alamo Plaza with Rome's Piazza Navona.) This series was awarded a Design Arts grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the drawings were featured at the San Antonio Art Institute's "New Beginnings" exhibition.

The 1980s were a period of intense activity and public recognition in San Antonio. Major projects included the Target Mural on the HemisFair Arena (commissioned through a statewide design competition); the River Corridor Mural (an annotated map showing the city's growth dynamic and cultural inventory); interactive installations for the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Witte Museum; Notes from the Urban Primer, a 38-part series of descriptive urban lessons for the Express-News; and the 1985 official Fiesta Poster. It was at this time that I met Roland and immediately added him to my stable of artists at my legendary (she said modestly) Charlton Art Gallery (1977-1986) above the River Walk.

In the 1990s Roland made a career in art and design living in major West Coast cities (Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and Los Angeles). When he was not



Model for the Target Mural Victory and Triumph by Roland Rodriguez

producing marketing collateral and promotional graphics for architecture firms, he created detailed diagrams and sculptural tableaux to record observed urban phenomena. Thus began the "Prouns" series, 33 constructions that were exhibited variously at Saks 5th Avenue in San Francisco, the Galerie Klinger in Görlitz, the UTSA Satellite Space and at San Antonio's International Center.

In the words of noted cultural critic Mike Greenberg, Roland is a "visual philosopher whose primary interest in art is the phenomenology of place." His multi-layer drawings, collages and intricate constructions are concrete meditations on the ordered fragments of human habitation, from the most immediate and intimate (objects in a room) to organizational patterns on an urban scale.

Among Roland's professed design influences are architects Peter Zumthor, Thom Mayne, Daniel Libeskind, Frank Gehry and industrial designer Dieter Rams. His artist heroes are Robert Rauschenberg, El Lissitzky, Kurt

continued on page 2

MY PERSPECTIVE

by Deb Mueller, President

In my initial column I introduced myself and described why I got involved in the King William Association and encouraged you to join us. In this column, I am asking you to consider doing even more than just joining the KWA. We need active, engaged and energetic members to do the work of this organization. We're looking for you!

There is no doubt we have some very active members, as you will read about throughout the newsletter. Patricia Duarte, devoted mom and super organizer arranged another successful National Night Out event with visits from our local politicians and public safety providers. She even managed to arrange spectacular weather! Roslyn Cogburn and Carmen VanMeter have been hard at work updating memberships in preparation for the KWA Directory that will reappear this fall after a two-year hiatus. There are many more energetic members that I don't have the space to mention here who work on our committees, programs and events year round, but we still need more neighbors to step up to the plate and take their turn at bat.

Why? There is simply a lot to do. We have several standing committees that lack Chairs and members, including the Planning Committee, charged with developing short and long term projects for the KWA to pursue; the Community Concerns Committee, to address issues like traffic, parking, new zoning, and First Friday; the Tourism Management Committee to encourage neighborhood-friendly tourism while discouraging commercial vehicular tourism and minimizing the impact of organized runs; and the Publicity Committee to get the word out on all that the KWA does. In addition, there are Socials to plan, the Garage Sale and Home Tour to coordinate, and the expansive volunteer requirements yearly for the Fair.

Why you? This is your community and you can either watch things happen or make things happen...which will you choose? Call the KWA office today at 227-8786 and let us know how you want to get involved!

Volunteer!



The Art of Urban Geography

Continued from page 1

Schwitters, Maya Lin and design-art generalists Charles and Ray Eames.

Public recognition includes the Community Excellence Award from the American Institute of Architects, a special citation from the Texas Society of Architects, and the Gold Prize in Graphic Design from the San Antonio Art Institute.

For the King William Association offices, Roland has planned a site-specific installation that will reflect on his reconnection with San Antonio after his 10-year-long California sojourn. I hope you will join us at the First Thursday opening on November 1.

- Anne Alexander



COORDINATORS Susan Athené, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

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

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the KWA.

Editorial guidelines are available online at kingwilliamassociation.org.

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION

1032 S. Alamo
San Antonio, TX 78210
210-227-8786

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

king.william@sbcglobal.net
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Zet Baer, Susan Rothman

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"Cedar Haus," acrylic on wood panel, by Jacinto Guevara

114 Cedar – The Solon Stewart House

At the King William Association Board meeting on September 19, after much discussion the majority of the Board voted to support the retention of the house at 114 Cedar Street. Many have wondered, “I drove by the house, it is not much to look at. So why is it historic?”

First, historic districts are a combination of “contributing” and “non-contributing” buildings. A Historic District is a defined geographical area with one or more resources having historical, archeological, and/or architectural significance that contribute to the overall visual setting of or characteristics of the district. Based on the history and development of the historic district each resource can “contribute” or “not contribute” to the overall character of the historic district. The Solon Stewart House at 114 Cedar is considered “contributing” to the historic district because of when it was built; its overall size and massing; its association with a prominent local person (Solon Stewart); and its architect, Alfred Giles. The City’s Office of Historic Preservation verified the Solon Stewart House as a “contributing property” within the King William Historic District on September 21, 2011.

A second consideration is streetscape view. Removal of a house breaks up the pattern of house and lawn. Although this house currently has non-historic siding and is missing its front porch, it still meets the qualifications for historic designation. King William has been a historic district since 1968; however, many buildings have not been restored. Nevertheless, the location of the house on the lot, the height of the building, and the pitch of the roof add to the character of the residential street.

The third factor affecting the decision of the KWA Board was the King William Association Charter. Incorporated in 1967, the Charter has seven intentions. Number two states that “the corporation proposes to restore historic buildings and to move to or construct in the King William Area of the City of San Antonio, Texas, other buildings around which to preserve the history of the City of San Antonio, Texas, in general and the King William Area in particular, which such structures not only preserve but are made functionally useful in carrying out the purpose of the corporation.”

The City’s Historic and Design Review Commission voted on June 19, 2012 to deny San Antonio ISD’s request to remove the house. SAISD is reconsidering all options including possible adaptive reuse of the structure. The KWA will stay involved and keep you informed as the process moves forward.

- Cherise Bell



CALLING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD ARTISTS!

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

Newsletter Submissions Wanted!

Do you have a story to tell? A neighbor to praise? News to share? A general interest column to launch? Submissions and contributions to the KWA Newsletter are welcome! Please send to king.william@sbcglobal.net.

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

KW Holiday Home Tour 2012

Saturday, December 1, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This year's home tour focuses on modern families living in historic houses. Homes to be featured include: 308 Washington, 309 King William, 504 King William, 523 King William, 221 E. Guenther, 236 Madison and Villa Finale at 401 King William.

Home tour attendees will get a glimpse inside homes filled with history yet adapted to modern family living. In addition, the first floor of Villa Finale, final home of leading preservationist Walter Mathis and the first National Trust Historic Site in Texas, will be included on the tour.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. Advance ticket sales will begin at the KWA office on November 1. Day of tour ticket sales and refreshments will be on the grounds of Villa Finale.

This year Villa Finale is also hosting vendors of handmade crafts, and as always Beethoven Mannerchor will be having its traditional German Christmas Outdoor Market, Kristkindlmarkt, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the same day. Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy this fantastic event in your community!

Volunteers Needed for the Holiday Home Tour

Volunteer just two hours of your time as a docent in one of the houses and receive free admission! Contact the KWA office at 227-8786 and give your contact information and preferred shift. Positions fill up fast for this popular event, so call soon if you want to participate.



308 Washington



504 King William



523 King William



309 King William

FAIRVIEW: S. Alamo Street Construction Project and The King William Fair

As we look forward to the improvements on S. Alamo Street we must also be mindful of the disruption that this will cause to the flow of traffic in and through our neighborhood.

The Fair staff and Parade Committee recently met with representatives from the City of San Antonio (Public Works and Traffic), SAPD and Bexar County Sheriffs. There was a tremendous amount of brainpower and expertise in the room, which allowed for a very productive time. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the construction along S. Alamo and how it will affect the William Fair and Parade. All agreed that our primary concern is for the safety and security of residents, participants and Fair visitors.

The project is scheduled to begin November 12 and is expected to last approximately two years. During this time S. Alamo will be closed to through traffic from Probandt to Pereida Streets. Residents and businesses along S. Alamo will have access to their property. VIA will reroute buses to S. Flores.

At this point, we will stay with the parade lineup and route that we used last year. Fair staff will continue to evaluate and monitor the project, communicating with the Project Officer to make sure that the crossings, E. Guenther at S. Alamo and Wickes/Johnson at S. Alamo, will be paved with asphalt in order to maintain a safe thoroughfare. S. Alamo will be open for the flow of pedestrian traffic on Fair day. Work on the entire project will be shut down from April 15 – 28 to allow for Fair and Fiesta preparations.

Again, we know that this interruption to the routes we use to travel to and from the events of our daily lives will present delays and impediments. Please be patient with all involved in the project. In the end, it will all be worthwhile.

- Zet Baer



221 East Guenther



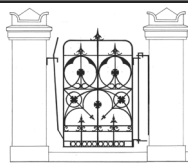
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Villa Finale 401 King William

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City Councilman Diego Bernal District 1

Dear King William Neighbors,



I hope this letter finds you all well. I wanted to take this quick moment to thank you for all of your efforts. King William is known throughout the city for being one of our most active (and vocal) neighborhoods. I find this refreshing; it certainly helps me know what's going on and how you feel about it. Since being in office, I've learned that information about neighborhoods from neighbors is the most valuable. Please keep it coming.

To that end, by now most of you know that S. Alamo St. will be under significant construction for some time. Street improvements are necessary and welcome projects, but there are often some pains involved with the process. There is not a gentle, elegant way to reconstruct a street, improve drainage, create space and add sidewalks. The result is tremendous; getting there leaves a lot to be desired. I understand.

My main concerns are that the nearby small businesses survive and continue to thrive, and that the traffic safety of our local schools is not compromised. I've seen projects in the past that have not dealt with these issues seriously enough, but I believe the City is ready, willing and able to make this process as palatable as it can possibly be. My staff and I want to make sure that we're tuned-in to and abreast of any concerns that come up. Please do not hesitate to contact us - we're here to help.

- Diego

Field Office

1310 Vance Jackson Rd.
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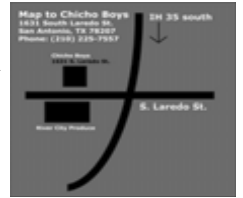
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State Representative Mike Villarreal House District 123

Oh the joys of cooler fall weather and all the great events happening in San Antonio!



One of the most important fall events is the upcoming election. The General Election will be held November 6. Early voting begins on October 22 and runs thru November 2. For voting location and hours call (210) 335-VOTE or visit <http://elections.bexar.org>.

One of the most important items on the local ballot is the PreK 4 SA initiative, which would offer high quality public full-day pre-K to more than 20,000 children, provide high quality training for pre-K teachers at school districts across the city, and require significant involvement from parents. This program will cost the average local household less than 65 cents per month, and is a strategy proven to provide great returns in educational outcomes and our future economic prosperity.

In the 2011 legislative session, \$5.4 billion was cut from public education, and a grant program that helped districts expand pre-K to a full day, increasing instruction time and making pre-K logistically possible for parents who work, was eliminated. I believe that San Antonio has the opportunity, and responsibility, to find alternative solutions on a local level. I encourage you to get the facts on this initiative and vote in favor of providing quality pre-K education for our children. You can get more information at www.sanantonio.gov/portals/0/Files/Summary%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf or follow Pre-K 4 SA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PreK4SA.

No matter where you live in our city, or your party affiliation, I encourage you to be informed, exercise your right to vote and encourage others to do so.

For additional information and a voter guide, visit www.lwvsanantonio.org.

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.

- Mike

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Board Votes on Membership Benefit

At its September 19 meeting, the King William Association Board of Directors unanimously voted to give two Fair wristbands to King William Association members as a benefit of membership, and to “Fair Zone” residents regardless of membership status. In previous years two fair wristbands were issued to every household receiving the “KW Fair” Fiesta edition newsletter.

The first King William Fair was held in 1968. A couple of booths, manned by neighbors while the Home Tour was in progress, was the beginning of what has now become a sanctioned, beloved, annual Fiesta event. By 2005, the decision was made to charge entry into the Fair to help raise funds for the KWA’s charitable giving and to cover rising costs to run the event. The Fair is the KWA’s major fundraiser, and, as the organization continues to grow and strives to increase community giving while developing new programs suitable to our mission, we will continually evaluate the expenses and revenues of this event.

Currently, the KWA attempts to send monthly newsletters to every household within the boundaries of the Association, both renters and property owners, in order

to keep everyone informed of neighborhood news and to educate all about the history of the King William area. Advertisement is sold to keep the production cost of the newsletter low. E-blasts are also available to anyone who signs up and are used to keep subscribers informed of happenings in and around our community weekly. These communication tools are meant to serve our community and are not restricted to KWA members.

We hope more of our neighbors will join the King William Association, and staff is working on increasing the economic benefits of membership. Current benefits include a King William Association Directory (to be published later this fall) and now, two Fair wristbands. Part of the KWA mission is “to intercede on behalf of the neighborhood on issues affecting the community by all civic avenues available including advocating for residential status with the city.” In a situation when the KWA approaches the City, it is important to City representatives to know how many active members we represent. We want and need members to make sure the association stays relevant to our entire community.

- Cherise Bell

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OUT IN THE GARDEN with Alan Cash

It has been a good season for gardening. In the month of September, King William received 8 3/4 inches of rain, a bit more than the City as a whole at just over 7 inches.

Be careful about parking your car under a pecan tree. The picture shows what happened to Nora Peterson and Richard Green's car at 227 Adams St. on Sunday afternoon, September 30. A large pecan tree beside their driveway toppled over, crushing their car and damaging the front porch of their home. The tree appeared to be healthy and why it fell is not known. Losing such a tree is a real tragedy.

What is lost when a tree dies or is needlessly cut down? The first thing that comes to mind is the loss of shade which keeps utility bills down in summer. But more important is the moisture in the atmosphere. Through fine roots, trees draw water from underground, some from depths of over 200 feet. A single large tree may pump over a ton of water into the sky in a day. This amazing bit of information comes from a book titled *Trees* by Gretchen C. Daily, printed local-

ly by Trinity University Press, a recent gift from a good neighbor and friend who shares an interest in gardening.



Garden tips:

Now is the time to plant wildflower seeds. Bluebonnets and larkspurs are the easiest to grow. Seeds will germinate soon but not really show much growth until late winter or early spring. Both will reseed from year to year if you let the plants die out in May so the seeds can mature and fall on the ground. Even if you have a lot of shade you can plant wildflowers if the trees lose their leaves in winter. By the time they leaf out in the spring the flowers will be at the end of their cycle.

Keep bird feeders full of seeds dur-

ing the dormant winter months to provide a food supply for birds. Also some types of hummingbirds stay over the winter so keep their feeders full of sugar water. The recipe is one cup of water to 1/4 cup of sugar.

Do not trim evergreen shrubs, perennials, and shrub roses until Valentine's Day. To do so now may cause new growth which can freeze and weaken the plant. Do not trim climbing roses until after their spring bloom.

New trees and shrubs can be planted now through early January, but the sooner the better so roots can become established before new leaves appear in spring. Be sure to mulch them five to six inches deep and water deeply about every two weeks.

Water lawn grass about every two to three weeks to keep roots healthy and ready for the heavy spring growth.

Garden Note: Taking time to appreciate nature focuses your attention outside yourself, and reduces stress levels and calms you while sharpening your awareness.

Rock'N'Roll Marathon

The Rock'N'Roll Marathon benefitting the Susan Komen Foundation will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2012, with over 20,000 estimated runners and walkers participating.

If you live along the streets impacted by the race route (King William, Turner, Pancoast, Washington, Arsenal, Guenther, City, Main, Sheridan and Johnson Streets) and need to leave your home before 11:45 a.m. on race day, please park outside of the route on Saturday or before 4:45 a.m. Sunday morning.

To volunteer, contact (800) 311-1255 or sanantonio@RNRRracecrew.com

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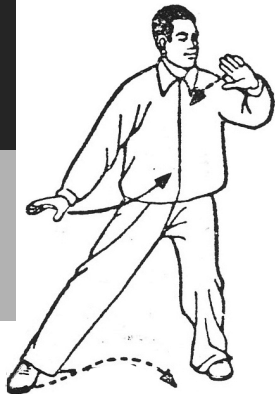
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Leveraging the Past in Real Time

Flood modeling and mapping has been a static process for representing to the public the level of risk for flooding. However, because Bexar County is in the upper reaches of the watershed and requires flood response times of minutes rather than hours or days, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) embarked on a cooperative project with the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM) to develop a real-time flood mapping and response system. To develop this innovative system, SARA is leveraging the \$14 million investment made during the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map modernization Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project, which was managed locally by SARA. The DFIRMs for the San Antonio River Watershed, created locally by SARA, are among the most detailed in the nation.

The new flood mapping and response system uses models developed for the DFIRM project. The system takes real-time radar, rainfall, water level and flow telemetry data, then processes that data through a series of numerical models to produce flood inundation mapping in near-real time. The system is currently configured to produce flood inundation mapping every 15 minutes during heavy rainfall events, which is a considerable improvement to flood forecasting product availability.

The system first came online in the Salado Creek Watershed. SARA is currently working to expand the system to the remaining watersheds in Bexar County. The San Antonio River network will be deployed by spring 2013 and the remaining watersheds (Leon Creek, Medina River and Cibolo Creek) will be done by fall 2013. SARA is also building a web-based interface for the SAOEM personnel to provide them with access to the system so they can use it to determine where they can best deploy their resources during a major flood event.

This particular type of flood mapping and response system is the first and only of its kind in the United States. SARA is determined to be a leader in watershed solutions by investing in cutting edge technology to protect life and property throughout its four-county region.

- Wayne Tschirhart and Russell Persyn



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Bonham Bobcats: Chess Masters

Bonham Academy's Chess Club started three years ago when a few dedicated parents decided they wanted their children to learn to play chess and play with other children to practice their skills.

One of those parents was Analisa Nazareno, current PTA President, who was inspired by her daughter Mia's passion for the game. Other founding parents include Alistair Welchman, Judith Norman, and Ana Lohrestani. Because all clubs at Bonham require a teacher sponsor, Blanca Gebhart and Roxana Reynero-Becerra graciously agreed to serve in that role this year.

Bonham's Chess Club includes about 50 children, mostly first through fifth graders, who meet on "irregular Fridays" after school in the gym. Parent partners teach the beginners the rudiments of the game, and the PTA has funded a professional Chess Coach, George DeLaRosa, to work with advanced students. Last year the Chess Club sent a team to one of the city competitions for the first time, at Irving Middle School. Our Bonham team placed second in the primary division (photo above)! They were organized and coached by Alistair Welchman, Chess Dad.

"Chess is a wonderful, thoughtful game for kids," says Judith Norman, Chess Mom. "It is a great way to build analytic skills and learn spatial reasoning, focus, strategic thinking, and problem-solving. It is also something of an international language—if you know chess, the chances are you can find someone to play with you anywhere in the world!"

What's hard about teaching chess to small children? "Definitely the wobble factor," jokes Norman. Small children have short attention spans and need to move around, two obstacles to learning the game and practicing to get better. To this end, the Club is raising money to purchase a giant chess board with "life-size" chess pieces that kids can manipulate to help them learn. If anyone in the Bonham or King William community is interested in sponsoring a piece for just \$16.50, please contact the school at 228-3300.

The Chess Club welcomes involvement from its King William neighbors! If you play chess and would like to volunteer your time to play with a Bonham Bobcat, please contact Judith Norman at jnorman2@trinity.edu. Or sponsor a king, queen, knight or pawn—what a great contribution to building brains at Bonham!

- Dina Toland



5th Grade Students

Bonham Students Chalk It Up

Three student artist teams represented Bonham Academy at Artpace's Chalk It Up festival on October 12. Theater teacher Holly Clifford led the middle school team in a mural dedicated to film. Art teacher Laurel Bodinus led the 5th grade team for "Oh the Huge Manatees." Parent Celia Mendoza led the 3rd grade team in a free-style mural. In all, more than 30 students turned out to participate.



Middle School Students

WANTED: Books for Bonham

We are building our classroom libraries and have a goal of 1,000 books per classroom. We need help! If you have some gently used books to donate for this or the Bonham Bookshare project, they can be left at the Bonham front office, or call our librarian, Ms. Balderas at 228-3300 to arrange for a parent volunteer to pick them up.



National Night Out in King William

Over 60 residents enjoyed National Night Out at King William Park on October 2, with several new neighbors joining in the festivities and becoming members of the Association. Many representatives of City staff dropped by, including SAPD, Park Police, Code Compliance and the Fire Department (with truck!). Councilman Diego Bernal and Representative Mike Villarreal took time out of their busy schedules to visit. Our kids had plenty of activities to keep them entertained, including arts and crafts and meeting McGruff the Crime Dog and H.E. Buddy. Thanks to the Masons for supplying hot dogs and chips, and to all for bringing desserts. Our official dessert winners were: Shawn Johnson for her “cherry dump” (first place), Jim Johnson, Jr. for his brownies and Mildred Mueller for her almond crisps. Most of all, a HUGE thanks to NNO Chair Patty Duarte and Social Chair Dina Toland for putting it all together!



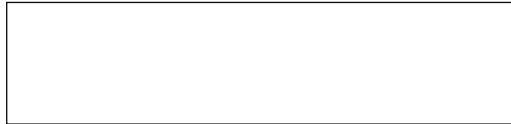


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Collage 17: In der Neuzeit by Roland Rodriguez

November Calendar

- 1 First Thursday Art Exhibit Opening
- Roland Rodriguez - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - KWA Office
- 6 Election Day
- 7 KWA General Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Blue Star Brewery
- 11 Rock 'n Roll Marathon
- 14 Deadline for December newsletter submissions
- 14 KWA Board Mtg - 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Newsletter mailing prep - 6:00 p.m. - KWA office

Save the date!

Holiday Home Tour December 1st

See page 11 for details.