At SAY Sí, success is measured by artistic growth and personal development. It is recognized when a student learns a new technique, applies it in a finished project and shares his or her skills with fellow student-artists. This unique approach to education has placed SAY Sí on the national stage, with recognition as one of the top out-of-school-time organizations in the country by the Wallace Foundation, a national philanthropy that researches and reports on exemplary out-of-school-time organizations.

On November 12, SAY Sí hosted an event that showcased this recognition, shedding light on the importance of the arts and arts education with student testimonials and a market research expert presentation. This event coincided with the national release of *Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs from Urban Youth and Other Experts* from the Wallace Foundation and Next Level SMG.

The report offers insights directly from middle and high school students and their families; teachers and leaders in the arts and youth development; and 10 principles for attracting and retaining an audience often thought of as “hard to engage” – low-income urban students. Students interviewed were clear about what they want in afterschool arts programs, and researchers say their preferences align with what experts said make for great arts programs like SAY Sí.

Founder Mike Schroeder shares this message: “SAY Sí was birthed in many ways by the King William Association. Penny Wiederhold, Charles Schubert, Kristen Casey, Donna Simon and I were on the initial steering committee that began imagining SAY Sí in November, exactly 20 years ago. Then with the help of a $5,000 grant from the KWA, SAY Sí began in February 1994, with eight students from Brackenridge High School in a small space at Blue Star. And where we have gone in the years since is truly amazing. Currently, SAY Sí works with 175 middle and high school students in our four core programs. And over the last ten years, 100% of our senior students have graduated from high school and gone on to higher education. Many

*Continued on page 6*
Wow! What a ride this has been. From wanting to take my turn at helping the Association continue being an exemplary charitable organization to representing the Association’s views in some of the most polarizing issues in recent memory was an unpredictable surprise. Current issues seem to be winding down after a whirlwind of activity. As I write this message the Univision building is being razed, and we hope that the Main Avenue closure has an outcome acceptable to all stakeholders. But don’t start relaxing – it’s not over. Remember the Member Input meeting in which we said we are a residential community.

As KWA representatives meet with city officials, city departments and other organizations we remind them that first and foremost we are a residential community with families and kids that enjoy the downtown setting and value all the different activities in the area. What I heard from our members is that they want our city leaders to include us at the planning table so that we can have a voice in shaping our neighborhood. We want to be at the table to be proactive in advocating for our neighborhood, to reach that middle ground, or, as our Councilman Diego Bernal calls it, the “sweet spot.”

But as we prepare for the discussions to come, let us not forget that this year is almost at an end. We can look back and see that KWA has truly demonstrated its support of our community through its donations to so many community-based organizations, area schools, and of scholarships to students. Who will ever forget the emotional speech made to our general membership by a scholarship recipient back in September? The quality improvement programs, i.e., sidewalks, trees and lectures, also contribute to make a difference in our community. As this year comes to a close and we look back at the year that was, we can all say with great pride, “Good job, KWA!”

This holiday season I hope the spirit engages your heart to enjoy the diversity of activities and cultures that San Antonio has to offer. May the blessings of the season touch you and your families with peace, joy and a bright star in the heavens. So from our family to yours have a safe, joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!
The artwork for the 2014 King William Fair was created by Amada Miller, an artist currently residing in our neighborhood. She is also the owner and operator of Hello Studio, an artist-run gallery space at Blue Star Arts Complex. Amada is a painter, printmaker and graphic designer. Her work has been on display at FLIGHT Gallery, Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, the Kress Building, Hello Studio, Zollie Glass Studio, the Mayor’s office and the City Manager’s office.

Jeremy Nelson, 2014 King William Fair Chair, selected Amada as the 2014 artist and feels that her design looks “fresh” while still having “historic” characteristics. Jeremy said, “In a way, I think that’s pretty interesting since our neighborhood is always struggling to retain its historic identity while trying to grow as one of San Antonio’s most desirable places to be.”

Amada drew her inspiration from the historical homes in the neighborhood. The columns and shingles reflect a true feel for the diversity of the King William properties while the papel picado gives it some traditional Fiesta style. She successfully achieved her goal of tying those two elements together.

We’re delighted to feature Amada Miller’s artwork for the 2014 King William Fair. Join us at the December social to see the artwork and meet Amada.

Viva Fiesta!

-Zet Baer

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Local Seniors Share Their ArtAbility in an Exhibit at Commander’s House

The evening of November 8 saw a celebration of the creativity of seniors on the lawn, verandahs and inside the beautiful rooms of the Commander’s House on S. Main Avenue. Musicians contributed to the atmosphere that the Commander himself would have appreciated. The fun and fellowship was undeterred by the few drops of rain on an otherwise lovely night. Director of the Senior Center, Gloria De La Cruz-Sandoval, and the Bexar Senior Advisory Committee and Entertainment, Special Events Subcommittee, along with a host of hard working volunteers deserve high praise for this event.

Over 100 senior artists submitted their creations in Painting & Drawing, Photography, Jewelry Making and Pottery, Ceramics & Sculptures to this competition and exhibition. Some of the entrants have had their work exhibited in the past, but there were many brave artists showing their work to the public for the first time. Prizes were awarded in each category, and the exhibit was on display to the public the following day.

This past September, I visited the Commander’s House to learn about its programs. I joined it just in time to submit a photograph before the deadline. If you’ve never been there, satisfy your curiosity and check it out. See what the City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation has preserved for the enjoyment of adults and seniors. Next on my agenda is to try the lunch they provide in partnership with HEB three days a week. I can resist anything except a bargain!

-Nora Peterson
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Every semester students in Professor Sinclair Black’s Urban Design Seminar from the School of Architecture at U.T. Austin come to San Antonio for a day long walking tour that they cheerfully refer to as the “forced march.”

For the last few years I’ve been asked to be co-tour guide, and it was on this same tour with the same professor, a mere 30 years ago, when I first saw the house I live in now.

I love being with architecture students, especially this bright and rather unique group. Many were international students, some from China, some from Europe, a sprinkling of Yankees and even a few Texans. I decided the two German students were going to be fun to watch as they had only been in the country since the start of the semester and were about to confront the Teutonic underlayment of King William. They introduced themselves as Phillip Huffschmid, from Munich, and Fabien Goddert, from Munster.

We’d started downtown and came up the river entry at the south side of César Chávez, partly at my urging. I was setting up a revelation as we passed the Pedro Huizar garden and came into full view of the Wulff House, serving today as the SA Conservation Society headquarters. I couldn’t wait for their reaction. It wasn’t long in coming. First slow grins, then the laughter that marks the shock of recognition. When most people look at the Wulff House, they see the Wulff House. When well-read Phillip and Fabien and their tour guides look at the Wulff House, they see Friedrich Schinkel’s Court Gardener’s House at Potsdam, designed and built for the Prussian court in the first decades of the nineteenth century. It is widely regarded as one of the most romantic villas in nineteenth century Europe and ranks among Schinkel’s best work.

As we walked slowly along the streets of King William, Phillip and Fabien peppered us with questions: “How are the houses called...?” “They are named for their original owners, I live in the Otto Schulze House,” I replied. “That one?” Joske, that one, Giesecke, that one Groos, and so on all afternoon. Late in the day we started experiencing meltdown as students began to complain of foot fatigue or the need to beat the traffic back to Austin, so one by one they started to disappear from the column, like a “B” horror movie. But not Fabien and Phillip – they wanted to see more, everything. Beethoven, the Guenther House, Steves Homestead. We walked back downtown just as the lights were beginning to twinkle on the River Walk and in the towers downtown. We stopped for a farewell beer at the Menger Bar. Phillip says he’ll be back at Christmas, with his parents.

- Michael Guarino
Native Vegetation: Eastern Gamagrass

Eastern gamagrass (Tripsacum dactyloides) is a perennial native bunchgrass that is found throughout the San Antonio River Watershed. It can grow in a wide variety of conditions and prefers part shade but persists in full sun, as well. It also prefers moist to wet soils – but can tolerate extreme drought conditions – and is often found in the floodplains of creeks and rivers. This warm season grass can grow in all soil types including sand, clay, loam and calcareous and acid-based soils.

Eastern gamagrass typically grows from three to six feet in height, but it can reach up to nine feet in certain conditions. The leaves form a large mound that can grow to a diameter of four feet, and the leaf edges can be extremely sharp. This plant has separate male and female flowers arranged on the same spike, and the flower spike looks like a large turkey foot.

Also called Wild Corn, this grass is related to corn and the seeds serve as a good food source for wildlife, including deer and various birds. It was regarded as a high quality forage crop by early settlers, but many native stands were destroyed over time to produce grain crops or as a result of overgrazing by livestock. It is an excellent source of forage, particularly during the summer months, but must be managed due to its high palatability to livestock and potential to become easily overgrazed.

Eastern gamagrass has deep, strong roots and is an excellent choice to plant along waterways. The San Antonio River Authority has used this tough plant in a variety of projects for bank stabilization, as well as improved wildlife habitat. Eastern gamagrass attracts butterflies and other pollinators, and is a larval host for the Byssus Skipper (Problema byssus).

For additional information on the plants and animals in the San Antonio River Watershed, check out the Basin Field Guide at www.sara-tx.org.

- Josef Kaul

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ALAS Youth Theatre Company presents Frankie and Elisabeth Get Their Wings

Incorporating live and original rock music accompaniment complete with unforgettable characters, plenty of laughs and more than a few heartwarming moments, this is one holiday show everyone in the entire family is sure to enjoy!

SAY Sí Black Box Theatre
Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 15, 3 p.m.

$10 for adults - $8 for college students & members of the San Antonio Theatre Coalition
FREE for youth under 18

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were the first in their families to have had the opportunity to go to college.

“Thank you all for your support over the past 20 wonderful years, and we look forward to your participation in the continued growth and successes of SAY Sí. Please visit and check out our new expansion space, attend our students’ openings and witness the growth of their amazing talents.”
You may have noticed a white, cotton-like growth on neighborhood nopales the past few months. This is caused by a parasitic scale insect called cochineal (Dactylopius coccus) – but don’t be alarmed! Normally the insects do not harm the nopales. The cochineal lives its life sucking on the pads of prickly pear cacti, producing carminic acid, which, when mixed with aluminum or calcium salts makes carmine dye, also known as cochineal. If you use a small stick to smear the white fluff you can see this intense crimson color bleed on the cactus pad. This deep rich color and its resistance to fading made cochineal one of the Americas’ most important exports.

According to Wikipedia: “Cochineal dye was widely used by the Aztec and Maya peoples of Meso America. Cities conquered by Moctezuma in the 15th century paid a yearly tribute of 2,000 decorated cotton blankets and 40 bags of cochineal dye each. During the colonial period the production of cochineal (grana fina) grew rapidly. Produced almost exclusively in Oaxaca by indigenous producers, cochineal became Mexico’s second most valued export after silver.”

By the time Europeans landed in the Americas, the murex mollusk of the Mediterranean Sea had been harvested to near extinction. This sea snail had been the source for purple and red dye since the Phoenicians. The discovery of cochineal filled the need for a rich, stable dye that made red and purple. When the Spaniards saw the intense crimson textiles in Mexico they were amazed. None of the red dyes used in Europe at that time could yield such a deep, brilliant color. Cochineal textiles and raw dye matter was in immediate demand by the aristocracy and the Church. The robes of Catholic Cardinals were soon dyed with cochineal’s distinctive scarlet.

Spain quickly established an iron grip on the trade of cochineal and enjoyed a monopoly on the commodity, guarding its production for 300 years. Spain reaped huge profits from its exclusive trade in the dye, selling it to allies in Europe and in ports as far away as India. The monopoly was broken when Mexico gained independence from Spain, and nopales with cochineal began to be cultivated in Guatemala, South America and the Canary Islands.

Development of analine dyes all but wiped out cochineal production by the 1870s. More recently cochineal pigment began to appear in commercial products of the United States primarily as a food dye (in sausage, pies, dried fish and shrimp, candies, pills, jams, lipstick and maraschino cherries). Eventually cochineal was replaced by red dye numbers 2 and 40, which are now believed to be carcinogenic. Cochineal is now being reconsidered as a safe food dye.

- Sarida Steed-Bradley
The San Antonio River valley was the home of Native American populations long before the Spanish mission settlement, before the Spanish acequia and mission fields (labores de los Indios), and before the German and Hispanic settlement of King William neighborhood. These indigenous people first established campsites in the valley about 11,500 years ago; the richness of the region with its springs and diverse plant and animal communities attracted people through the ages. The natives never practiced agriculture until the Spanish arrived, never had horses until the Spanish introduced them, and only hunted bison at certain times in prehistory when great bison herds migrated up and down from the Great Plains.

Their material legacy is hardly recognizable; clusters of fire-cracked rock, flint chips, snail shells, bone scraps, mussel shells that are out of place, and broken artifacts are the telltale signs that archaeologists recognize. It is through the analysis and reading of this meager record that the human prehistory of the region is known.

Campsites of these ancient groups occur all along the San Antonio River. If you live on the high bank of the river chances are that evidence of these ancient campsites exist beneath your house and yard. Known locations or diagnostic artifacts have been observed at Brackenridge Park, Allison Park, Brackenridge Golf Course, on 9th Street, along Washington street, Roosevelt Park, and numerous places along the Mission Reach.

We do not know which named nations were present throughout prehistory, but only of those that were recorded by the Spanish in mission records beginning in 1718. The late Dr. Thomas N. Campbell in his article “Indians of the San Antonio Missions” (UTSA-Center for Archaeological Research Special Report 16) compiled a partial list of 68 named groups, mostly refugee groups that entered the missions at one time or another (but that is another story). No one was present 3,000 years ago or 6,000 years ago to record the names of the local natives, so we do not know to what linguistic or social group they belonged. Most of the groups attracted to the missions were non-local, and some came from as far south as Mexico, so the mission records are of little help in identifying the local indigenous groups. Among the possible local groups Campbell lists were Payaya, Mesquite, Sulujam, and Pampopa, groups we know very little about. Some historians identify those that were here at the time of Spanish contact as “Coahuiltecan,” which is a misnomer because Coahuiltecan is a linguistic group (like Endo-European) and not a social or political group. People often think of Apaches or Comanches as being among resident native groups, but they were late arrivals to the region after the Spanish.

This much we do know about the hunter-gatherers: theirs was a hard life. They moved solely by foot, carried their burdens and worldly possessions on their backs, wore little clothing made of deerskins, rabbit fur, or plant fibers, and died young (by modern standards). They always camped near water, hunted deer, opossums, squirrels or any other critter they happened to encounter, fished, and trapped small game, gathered land snails and river mussels. Their hunting, foraging and trapping territories extended across the landscape as indicated by the scatter of broken or abandoned stone tools. Their huts, if they had any at all, were pole and brush shelters that may have been insulated with clay in the winter. They lived in small family-size groups that coalesced into larger gatherings in the fall when food such as prickly pear, persimmon, mesquite, and pecans was most plentiful.

The main weapon prior to the introduction of the bow and arrow was the spear thrower (atlatl) and spear. These spears were tipped with stone points often mislabeled “arrowheads.” The bow and arrow was introduced about A.D. 800, late in prehistory in Texas. True arrow points (or “bird points” as they are often mislabeled) are small and delicately made. Point

Continued on page 14
As there will not be a January newsletter, here is an early reminder that it is best not to trim perennials and shrubs until after Valentine’s Day. Trimming any earlier can cause new tender growth that will freeze even on evergreen shrubs and delay new spring growth. The first weekend of December is our typical first frost, and annuals can be discarded as they freeze.

Old home gardens often have bulbs that have been multiplying for years. If you have an abundance of any kind of bulbs and would like to share them, call Mary Ann Ohlenbusch at (210) 271-9422 or me at (210) 533-9005. The bulbs will be planted in neighborhood parks and flowerbeds for all to enjoy.

The new landscaping of the KWA front garden is complete except for the installation of a birdbath. Some space has been set aside for seasonal color. Snapdragons and pansies are presently in bloom. The rest of the plantings are perennials and shrubs selected so that the garden will look much the same throughout the year. The predominant plant is Asian Jasmine, an evergreen used as a ground cover. Boxwood hedges have been planted across the front of the porch with bi-color iris in front of them. The iris will bloom in the spring and be green the remainder of the year. In each of the side beds are three Dynamite red crepe myrtles that will act as a screen. On each side of the front gate are two square aparterres of boxwood with plumbagos planted inside. An aparterre is a centuries-old formal garden design from France that can have many shapes that may appear as mazes when viewed from above. Larger ones can be seen in the front garden of the Steves Homestead on King William St.

The new landscaping is the work of a committee of neighbors including Curtis Johnson, Charles Schubert and me. Curtis and Charles were the driving force in the improvements made by the City in King William Park a couple of years ago.

Garden Note: Where flowers bloom, so does hope.
It’s my senior year at Brackenridge High School and I’m wondering where time has gone. Testing, college applications, scholarships, deadlines, homework, pep rallies, games, and not to mention my art program/internship and, just as important, I can’t forget about volunteer and community service. Trying to keep grades up and with studying being a never-ending thing, getting enough sleep is on my top ten wish list. Well, you get the idea and it’s only October. Just two months into the year and my calendar is filled to the gills, but I’m excited! This year is going to be very hectic, but with hard work comes great success. With new students coming in as freshman experiencing high school for the first time, one can only assume that with entering into a new environment that is much bigger than your average middle school and seeing so many other students and upper classmen can be a bit intimidating.

As a 12th grader now looking back, I have just a few worries, some of which I know I share with just about every senior. For example, to which college or university should I apply? Will I be accepted? I want to go out of state: New York, Rhode Island, Oregon, Illinois - these are some of the locations of the better-known art schools. How do I get from here to there? Am I just a big dreamer? I’m also anxious and nervous about leaving home for the first time and moving far away when everyone in my immediate family still lives within a mile radius of each another. It’s a bit of a change if you think about it. But change has never been a fear of mine, and with having so much ambition and will to fulfill my dreams, letting something like fear keep me from doing so is not an option.

I suppose that once I begin my journey into college, I will feel those same emotions I did as an incoming freshmen in high school, only now on a different level.
San Antonio Mennonite Church has had a home in the King William neighborhood for nearly three decades, although its building (at 1443 S. St. Mary’s) has been around for much longer. The red tile roof, white stucco walls and intricate windows make it a fine piece of Mediterranean architecture. Mennonites, having Anabaptist roots similar to the Amish, do not ordinarily worship in such fancy church buildings. Simple living is part of the faith tradition; but in the mid-1980s, a group of Mennonites began worshipping in the fellowship hall of the church, which at the time was Westminster Presbyterian. A few years later, the Presbyterian church decided to sell the building to the Mennonites. Today the congregation is very active. While some members bike to church, others come from as far as Boerne and Seguin. I have been attending SAMC for the past ten years, and currently serve as Congregational Chair. Two years ago, I learned quite a bit about our property while researching a grant for the San Antonio Conservation Society. Cornerstones list the dates of 1899 for a structure that no longer stands, and 1928 for one wing of the current building, and 1948 for the other. The property is designated a San Antonio Historic Landmark. Our Conservation Society grant application was approved and we were able to rebuild one stained glass window, repair others, and rebuild a set of wooden doors with funding paid to a master carpenter specializing in historic preservation.

Keeping up with the physical needs of our church building is a daunting task for a congregation with only one paid staff member, our pastor, Rachel Epp Miller. Several years ago, we hired an architectural firm to do a complete evaluation of our property and suggest renovations. The price tag for our wish list was twenty times our annual budget. We scaled back our plans significantly, but have made major repairs in the past five years: a new tile roof, renovation of our Fellowship Hall, new ceilings and more. We are currently fundraising for additional repairs.

Upkeep of the building is important considering how well it is used. During the week of October 6, the peaceCenter held two meetings; the preschool co-op met two mornings; P.E.A.C.E Initiative held two events; several support groups had sessions; the Center for Formative Action and Reflection held three events (including a free yoga class on Wednesday night); and an author came to speak to a women’s book club. Our building is also used for the DOOR program, which facilitates urban mission trips for young people visiting San Antonio, typically during the summer. On Saturday mornings the garden crew tends the plants inside the picket fence. Of course, Sunday mornings are the busiest.

San Antonio Mennonite Church welcomes all. If you are curious about Mennonites, there is much to be learned on the web, and we meet every Sunday morning at 10:45.

- Mitzi Moore
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www.VillaFinale.org

Are You A Member?

The KWA newsletter is sent to every address in the neighborhood area to keep everyone informed. It has been noted that some residents think that because they receive the newsletter, they are members of the Association. That is not the case. If you live in the King William area it is important that you consider joining, so that when Association representatives meet with elected officials your interests and concerns are included. Join for as low as $10 for the year.

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What Lies Beneath
King William
continued from page 8

Ensor type point dates ca. 200 BC to AD 400. A point of this type was found on Washington Street.

size is not an indicator of the prey as small arrow points have been found lodged in bison, deer and humans.

Point styles changed through time, and archaeologist are able to establish date ranges for many of these types by radiocarbon dating the organic materials such as charcoal or bone found in association. Stone points cannot be dated directly by the radiocarbon method that requires the material to be of organic origin. Since date ranges for certain point styles are known, projectile points are used as index fossils in estimating the ages of sites or layers in which they are found. It is in this manner that we know the antiquity of archaeological sites and prehistory along the San Antonio River and its tributaries.

- Harry J. Shafer, PhD

Congratulations to Dr. Shafer on the publication of his new book, Painters in Prehistory: Archaeology and Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands (Trinity University Press). Painters in Prehistory depicts the canyonlands of the Rio Grande River and the Balcones Escarpment and the life of its prehistoric people through the observations of 14 scholars, three artists and several photographers.
In Memory of Rick Hunter, long-time Southtown resident. 1960-2013

National Night Out 2013 - King William Wins 1st Place, Council District 1!

Reception for Henry Stein – The KWA Public Art Committee hosted a reception for artist Henry Stein on the evening of November 7. Henry, second from left, is joined by Donna Simon, Anne Alexander and Brian St. John.

Thank you to all who took part in this event! Special thanks to the sponsors who donated awards and door prizes: Pig Liquors, Rosario’s, S.A. Deli Provisions, King William Association and HEB Plus McCreless Market.

The NNO Awards Recognition Ceremony is Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at UTSA Downtown, Buena Vista Building theater. Please come and help me cheer for our neighborhood! Chief McManus and SAPD NNO Coordinator Juan Ayala will be there, plus many other dignitaries and mascots!

- Patricia Garcia Duarte, NNO Chair

Cast members from Bonham Academy’s production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, performed on stage at Brackenridge High School in November.

NNO Illuminated Wheels contest awards were announced at the November General Meeting. Winners with Patty Duarte are (left to right) Christopher Barron, Tomas Lira and Xochitl Barron (not pictured: Kate Hartman).
December Calendar

4  Holiday Social - SAY Si - 7:00 p.m.
   Please bring a dish to share with friends and neighbors!
13-15 "Frankie & Elizabeth Get Their Wings" - SAY Si
18  KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Note: There will be no KWA General Meeting or newsletter in January.