

# **Urban Landscapes by Andrea Almond** Oil paintings featured for February and March

The artist who will exhibit work in the King William Association office during February and March is Andrea Almond, a relative newcomer to our neighborhood, living on Madison St. The opening will be on the First Thursday of February, the 7th, from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. Please join your neighbors for beautiful art and good company!

Ms. Almond's artist's statement follows:

I have been interested in art my whole life. At an early age I was influenced by my father's interest in painting. My dad, Wes Almond, studied painting with portrait artist Dirk Van Driest, who resided in Taos, New Mexico. Over the years, Van Driest became a family friend and a source of inspiration for me and my siblings. My brother, Chase Almond, is a painter, and my sister, Karen Almond, is a portrait photographer. A native Texan, I pursued a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the University of North Texas. Recently, I have studied painting at the Scottsdale Artist's School.

Traveling is a great source of inspiration for me. I am drawn to urban landscape, especially older cities like New Orleans, Venice, New York and now San Antonio. Interior scenes of restaurants and bars also provide interesting subject matter. The quality of light, both natural and artificial, is the most exciting aspect of painting for me. I love to take what I see and make it my own. Working to keep the information in my subject direct, yet beautiful, I want the viewer to have his own journey of interpretation. I strive to give each painting a life of its own and always try to be true to my artistic vision.



Chef, Andrea Almond

After a career with Knoll Textiles in Dallas, I recently relocated to San Antonio with my husband, Jeff Sibley. We moved to the King William neighborhood in June 2011. We were both drawn to the beautiful old houses and love being so close to downtown and the river.

## **MY PERSPECTIVE** by Deb Mueller, President

2013 is here! I've always been mystified by the notion of an unlucky "13." Even Wikipedia doesn't have a solid answer as to its origins. But indeed it's pervasive in our culture, and even the hospital where I perform surgery has over 20 operating rooms but none labeled 13. Interestingly, in other countries like Italy and China, 13 is considered a lucky number. Numerous successful sports figures have worn the number 13 and had good seasons while doing so. In the end, I'm not a big believer in luck anyway, but rather in the concept of making your own luck through hard work and effort.

In this first edition of the 2013 newsletter, I'd like to share a list of some of the things the King William Association Board of Directors and staff have been addressing. I chose 7 to highlight just because it's lucky!

- 1. First Friday We have engaged the City on ensuring vendors are following city ordinances and have permits; we are working to ensure temporary "no parking" signs are placed to enhance safe passage for emergency vehicles; we have contracted for trash and graffiti clean up on the first Saturday and will seek City reimbursement for this service.
- 2. Charity runs We have reached an agreement with the City to limit the number of runs through our neighborhood.
- 3. 114 Cedar We have opposed relocation or demolition of the structure and have pledged financial support to preserve it.
- 4. Expansion at Blue Star We succeeded in negotiating C1 zoning for this new development which will preclude outdoor amplified music.
- 5. By-Laws the KWA By-Laws are in the process of being evaluated for revision under the leadership of Andrew Sherwood.
- 6. 1032 S. Alamo Landscaping of the front yard will be completed to improve visibility of the KWA office .
- 7. Planning Max Martinez led a group to analyze our current programs and how they fit within the scope of our charter and mission, and identify gaps the organization has in fulfilling its charter.

I plan to keep you informed this year of what goes on behind the scenes. I'll leave it up to you to judge 2013 as "lucky" or "unlucky." This article was written the 13th day of January (although it wasn't a Friday)!





**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.

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# New King William Art Bench

The King William Public Art Committee (PAC) is proud to announce its first art installation! Since its inception, the PAC's mission has been to further the beauty of the King William area, promote area artists and demonstrate the highest level of excellence in public art using a variety of media. As you may remember, in September, 2011, the King William neighborhood was named a Cultural Arts District by the Texas Commission on the Arts. The goals of the Commission marry well with the King William Charter: Strengthen cultural life, promote arts and crafts and produce events that attract people to the area for cultural pursuits.



Anne Alexander would like to direct your attention to the beautiful new bench at O'Neil Ford Park.

tory and architecture of San Antonio's Eastside. He designed and coordinated the sculpture garden for the San Antonio Art League, and created the Buffalo Soldiers sculpture and Tree of Life sculpture in Dignowity Park. His work is also shown on the grounds of La Posada in Santa Fe, New Mexico. James recently completed a commission creating several historical benches for the expansion of the San Antonio Military Medical Center-North.

The King William art bench was installed in the O'Neal Ford Park at the corner of Cesar Chavez and Pancoast in December. This bench creates a sense of place in the community of King William with its depiction of the Johnson Street Bridge, overarching trees, herons on the river and a historic home. The bench seat and round, steel brace are salvaged from the historic Hays Street Bridge, elements that unite two deeply significant San Antonio neighborhoods. A dedication will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 30. Please join the King William Board, members of the Cultural Arts District and neighbors for this joyous party!

- Sherry Hess

For our first public art project we chose something everyone could use and appreciate. The new King William Art Bench was designed and crafted by James Hendricks, a native of San Antonio with a studio and gallery downtown. He has a wide range of artistic achievements, including five sculptural benches for the city of Goodyear, Arizona and six sculptural benches representing the his-



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.

## 2013 KW Fair Chair Michael Girdley



Michael is an entrepreneur, investor and writer living in San Antonio. His family has lived in King William for six years, and he spent three of those years as a KWA Board Member. He enjoys and teaches crossfit, loves high technology and one day dreams of fitting into a small Italian sports car (unlikely). Michael is stoked to get out there and make this the best Fair ever with the best team ever!

## KW Fair Free Admission Boundaries

*Reminder:* the KWA Board has determined that only paid members of the Association and those homes located inside the Fair zone will receive complimentary wristbands for the King William Fair. This newsletter is mailed to all neighborhood residents regardless of membership. If you are uncertain about your membership status, contact Monika at king.william@sbcglobal.net or 227-8786.



At the December KWA Holiday Social held at SAY Si, KWA President Deb Mueller (center) and Executive Director Cherise Bell presented Aliza Villanueva with an award check for her successful design chosen for the 2013 King William Fair.

## South Alamo Street Drainage Project

According to the City Department of Public Works, the S. Alamo Street drainage project may periodically experience a full street closure to insure safety of vehicular traffic during construction. Here is the work schedule for the first quarter of 2013:

- COSA Public Works will install storm sewer, curb inlets and manholes from the east bank of the San Antonio River to Guenther Street.
- SAWS will install a 36" sewer line from east bank of the San Antonio River to Guenther St. and a 10" sewer line from Guenther to Pereida. SAWS will also begin water line utility adjustments for storm sewer from Guenther to Johnson St.
- CPS Energy will install a gas line from Johnson to Pereida.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of this project, please contact David Hook, Capital Projects Officer, at 207-8036 or david. hook@sanantonio.gov.

#### KWA Banners and Plaques

If you are interested in a KWA "100 Year Banner" please contact Nadine Johnson at 410-991-4694 or nadine.johnson@yahoo.com. The custom banner, produced by Dixie Flags, designates houses in the neighborhood that are 100 years old or older. The cost of the banner is \$50.00.

If you are interested in a KWA wooden house plaque, they can be ordered from the King William Assn. office. The plaques are \$50.00 each, payable at the time ordered. The flag and plaque design can both be observed at 112 King William.

## **Voulez-vous parler?**

Young visiting Frenchman offering French tutoring in exchange for English tutoring.

Call Anne or Patrick at (210) 225-7066.

San Antonio 29th Annual National Night Out Awards Competition "America's Night Out Against Crime"



Patricia Duarte, center, is joined by SAPD Chief William McManus and NNO Coordinator Juan Ayala, Community Services Supervisor, Volunteers In Policing.

Patricia Garcia Duarte, King William National Night Out (NNO) Chair, attended the City of San Antonio NNO 2012 Awards Recognition Ceremony at the UTSA Downtown Campus, on December 8, 2012. NNO is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and is designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen community-police partnerships and foster neighborhood spirit. San Antonio was awarded second place at the National Level under Category 1 (300,000+ population). The City of San Antonio NNO 2012 Award for Category 1-Neighborhoods Council District 1- first place went to King William Historic District!

Patricia accepted KW's award from San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, which included a First Place NNO 2012 street sign, a NNO Certificate of Appreciation for King William Historic District and a NNO 2012 commemorative coin. An additional certificate was given to the Texas Masonic Lodge for their support of KW's event.

Interested in looking at our event photos, submitting ideas, or volunteering for National Night Out 2013? Please message Patricia Garcia Duarte at our fan page: facebook. com/kingwilliam.NNO.

Thanks for participating and supporting NNO in our community! Let's keep raising the bar, and for this year's 30th Annual NNO, let's go for Category City-Wide Top Overall!

- Patricia Ann Garcia Duarte

# Basura Bash 2013

his year Basura Bash comes early, on February 23. Since SARA has taken over the maintenance of our neighborhood's stretch of the river, our team once again will be heading north to the Headwaters of the San Antonio River, which starts next to the University of the Incarnate Word. You could say that it is the most important stretch of the BB effort, since it feeds all the rest of the city. Why not join us? It only takes a couple of hours. As usual we will meet at the Blue Star parking lot around 8:30 a.m., or you can meet us there. Sturdy shoes and gloves mandatory. For more info, please give me a call at 224-4541.

- Robin Raquet



**February is Black History Month** At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington

The year 2013 marks two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States. On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. A century later, on August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans marched to the Lincoln Memorial in the continuing pursuit of equality of citizenship and self-determination. It was here at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech.

Source: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, established in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Founders of Black History Month. www.asalh.org.

## **OUT IN THE GARDEN** with Alan Cash

e are about to start a new growing season. Hopefully we will have "typical" weather. That means no late frost and good rains at the right time. We can only hope.

If it has been more than three months since you fertilized your lawn and flower beds now is the time to do it. Select an organic fertilizer and not a chemical-based one. A good nur-



rery can suggest one of many good brands now available. Remember you do not have to water in an organic fertilizer immediately after spreading it if time does not allow. It will not burn like chemical products.

Valentine's Day is the time to start trimming plants such as lantana, thryallis, plumbago, firebush, esparanza and shrimp, even if they did not freeze back. Cut them to a height of about 6 inches. Do not worry - they will quickly resprout with warm weather.

This is also a good time to trim evergreen shrubs to a height that fits the space where they are growing. An exception is mountain laurel, which should not be trimmed until after they bloom because they bloom on the prior year's growth.

Cut shrub roses back by 1/3 to 1/2. Climbing roses should not be trimmed until after their spring bloom because they, like mountain laurel, bloom on the prior year's growth.

Nurseries will start selling annuals soon but do not plant them until mid-March after the threat of frost is past. Bulbs such as caladiums should not be planted until early April when the soil is warm. They may rot if planted sooner.

Put out birdbaths and feeders to attract birds to the garden. They will control many insects that otherwise would feed on plants. Sunflower seeds attract a wide variety of birds. This does not have to be an expensive task. A bucket can be use as a birdbath and a pan set out on a stool can be used as a feeder.

We are still in Stage 2 of water restrictions. The use of any type of sprinkler system is limited to once a week based on your house number between the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. If it does not rain, watering once every 3 weeks is sufficient. Watering with hand held hoses is alright any day, anytime.

Garden Note: President Thomas Jefferson is reported to have said at age 70, "Although I am an old man, I am a young gardener."

## A Nostalgic Concert in the Park

n a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, Mike Wilkens, a long-ago resident of the neighborhood, fulfilled his wish to play

his accordion in the King William Park bandstand as a tribute to his father. Werner Wilkens, Jr. Mike, his parents and sisters lived with his grandmother and great uncle and aunt many years ago in the house built by his great-grandfather, Gustav Groos, at 231 Washington He devel-Street. oped a love of the accordion through his father's playing, occasionally and



would come next door to our house at 213 Washington to play a few tunes with my father, Bill Watson. Mike's sister, Margy Wilkens, who lives on Mission Street, invited friends and aficionados from the Beethoven Maennerchor and Damenchor to join other relatives and neighbors for this old-fashioned afternoon. Mike shared his father's vintage accordion and family photos and treated us to a wonderful concert. We all hummed and sang along as he shared memories and took us on a musical journey that included classical pieces, works by Stephen Foster, Broadway show tunes and German songs. We lingered over wine and cheese and all agreed that the bandstand (known to most

today as the gazebo) needs to have more events like this! With spring coming soon, why not think of your own special event to host in the park?

> - Maria Watson Pfeiffer



## Hot Tin Roof, Part 1

"What's to do with all of this dazzling, but overwhelming sunlight?" was the question we first asked ourselves upon the return to the family home.



We had been away from Texas for seven years to the cooler climes of the West Coast and abroad. In that time the planet had grown incrementally hotter. The 110 degree summer threw a shocking homecoming. The aquifer was low, electricity for AC prohibitively expensive, and an uninsulated house whose brick walls wouldn't cool down once they warmed up under the southern sun all made us look for an answer.

It was then we started looking into solar panels. Running the AC just didn't make sense in the long run. We know that when coal is burned, which releases CO2, it creates a hotter

climate by not allowing heat to escape. We knew that ultimately the best way to cool our house, not just now, but also in the future, was to burn less electricity, burn less coal.

There were the calculations to consider. How much electricity do we normally consume? How much southern facing roof space do we have where the sun shines hottest and longest? Are batteries to store extra electricity necessary? Is grid-tie a better option where we can sell any excess electricity back to the utility?

We don't consume much electricity, we found out. We have no TV. We leave lights off in empty rooms. We open windows to cool and dress in sweaters to warm. One vendor who looked at our heating and cooling bills surmised that CPS hates to send us a bill because they lose money doing so. We also discovered that we had little southern exposure unless we were to cut down the 100 plus year old cypress and pecan trees in our yard. We reasoned, however, that if we cut those trees to increase the sunlight on the house we would also be increasing the heat absorbed by the walls and roof. Not to mention that reducing trees means reducing nature's ability to absorb some carbon from the atmosphere. So we calculated that we had just enough roof space to cover our consummation of 3800 watts, and then some. Since CPS only pays back 1/10 of what they charge us for electricity, we determined that we only need enough solar panels to break even and wouldn't benefit from expensive batteries.

The next installment of this story: who can we find to install panels on our deliriously high roof?

- Patrick McMillan

## Shirley M. Peterson June 27, 1920 -December 20, 2012

hirley Peterson passed away December 20 at age ninety-two. She and her husband, Frank, moved from Chicago to their home at 431

Adams Street in 2002 to be near their daughter Nora Peterson and son-in-law Richard Green, also on Adams Street. Frank died in 2004 and Shirley stayed in her house until 2009 when she



moved to Chandlers Nursing Home where she spent the remaining years of her life.

Shirley, whose parents were of Swedish descent, was born in Chicago. "She was a tomboy growing up," says Nora. "She loved to play baseball with her brothers. My father had a good job as an industrial engineer that allowed Mom to stay home with the kids when we were young. After we were all in school, Mom went to work for Underwriters Laboratories. You've all seen those 'UL Approved' labels on light plugs and such. She loved to cook – mostly baking. She was famous for her peanut brittle.

"My mom was a remarkable lady, never complaining," Nora says. "She was totally blind the last two years of her life. Even so, she would still smile and look you straight in the eye. Since her eyes were still clear and bright, most people never dreamed that she couldn't see a thing. She remained very social up until the very end. She had a strong faith that allowed her to meet every adversity with hope and optimism. I will miss Mom very much but will always be grateful for those last ten years that I had with her when I really got to know her."

Memorial services will be at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, January 29 at 10:00 a.m.

- Bill Cogburn



On a damp and gray New Year's **ST | DT | SA** morning, about 70 Southtown friends and New Year's Day 5K neighbors gathered at the home of Hugh Donagher and Brian Rountree in Lavaca to start the new year off with some exercise. At 10:00 a.m. the group stepped off from the corner of S. Presa and Vance Streets and proceeded to the Alamo, where we paused for a group photo, then continued down Houston to Flores, to Nueva and then home via St. Mary's. The vast majority of the group

walked, but we had two runners, a couple of cyclists and several skateboarders, not to mention more than a few dogs! Nothing like jump-starting those New Year's Resolutions with a crew of friends and neighbors beside you!

- Hugh Donagher



Photo by Jason Meredith

## **Message from Officer Ron Strothman**

Officer Santos and I are aware of several burglaries, including cars and residences, that have occurred in the King William

area recently, and we are actively investigating these incidents. We know that our residents are concerned.

The car burglaries seem to be creeping south from the downtown area. We can protect ourselves from this crime by securing our vehicles, parking in well-lit areas, and not leaving items inside our vehicles.

To reduce burglaries we must report suspicious activity as it is occurring, keep our doors locked, and have adequate lighting for our homes.

In an effort to reduce these crimes we are offering home inspections and Good Neighborhood safety programs. Please contact Office Ron Strothman at 207-5176 or Officer Gilberto Santos at 207-7413 if you have any questions or concerns.



# **Did You Know?**

he William King Association Charter, asserting the organization's purpose and intent, was submitted to the State of Texas on July 28, 1967. Seven purposes are listed in the KWA Charter; this article concerns the first:

1. The corporation is organized and shall be operated for educational, recreational, and cultural purposes, especially the presentation and dissemination of understanding of the early life and cultures of the city of San Antonio, TX, and the Southwest as reflected in home life, government, religion, education, industry (work), and the arts and crafts.

Through the years, KWA Board members have volunteered their time to develop programs to accomplish the seven purposes of the Charter. This is not always an easy task. Terms such as "cultural" and "education" and "early life" are left open to interpretation. Then there is the task of determining how a program will physically function and how many volunteers are needed to manage the program. Often Board decisions are not unanimous, but the majority vote defines the action to be taken. If you have not read the Charter, refer to your Membership Directory or the KWA website.

The Board will be reviewing the Charter to build consensus on definitions, then determining which current programs meet the Charter and if any new programs are needed to better fulfill the intent and purposes established by the King William Association founders. If you have any programs or ideas you think match the seven purposes of the Charter, please let us know by emailing king.william@sbcglobal.net or calling 227-8786.

- Officer Ron



## **Mission Reach Update**

The San Antonio River Improvements Project continues to press forward. This past November, the first Mission Reach Paddling Trail was opened from just south of Mission Road to Padre Park, providing new paddling access to 1.6 miles of the San Antonio River. Along with the new paddling trail, nearly one mile of additional hike and bike trail also opened.

By the end of April, approximately two more miles of the Mission Reach hike and bike trail and paddling trail will be opened all the way down to Mission Road (formerly known as Ashley Road) near Mission San Juan. The remaining portion of the project will be completed and opened by Labor Day weekend. Plans are already underway for the Grand Opening celebration which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 31, 2013.

The San Antonio River Authority is coordinating with the project partners to develop and implement new policies and procedures for use of the area, which will impact both the Museum Reach and the Mission Reach. The most significant change will be a limit placed on the dates and times that the area will be available for use by large scale events (e.g., organized 5K runs or bicycle rallies). The Mission Reach/Eagleland will be limited to the morning hours of the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, and the Museum Reach will be limited to the third Saturday. A new fee and deposit system will also be implemented, which will impact the large scale events and other activities such as pavilion rentals and wedding ceremonies. The intent of these new policies and procedures is to provide fair access to the area for individuals and for those requesting access for specific uses.

Stay tuned – we'll provide more details as the plans are confirmed for the April and Labor Day Weekend openings and the new use policies and procedures. You can also visit the San Antonio River Improvements Project website for updates at www.sanantonioriver.org. Valentine's Day



Enjoy an evening of Latin music, Beer & Wine tastings, specialty sweets, ending with the romantic movie "When Harry Met Sally" under the stars.

Free event Feb 14, 2013 - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Film starts at dusk)

Arneson River Theatre in Historic La Villita (located at Nueva and Alamo Street)

> For more details call 210-207-8614 or visit www.lavillita.com



Sponsored by the Department for Culture and Creative Development

## State Representative Mike Villarreal House District 123

It's a new year and a new legislative session. On January 8th, the 83rd session



of the Texas Legislature began and I was sworn in for another term with my family by my side. I'm energized for the months ahead, ready to address the serious challenges and opportunities that face our state.

The state's Comptroller reported in January that we have the revenue to undo the historic cuts to education and other vital services that I fought to block in 2011. Her report also revealed that it was unnecessary for the Legislature to have enacted those severe cuts, which pushed schools to crowd more children into classrooms, and made college more

expensive for Texans. Sadly, the first draft of the state budget continues those unnecessary cuts to education. I will continue to fight to for our state to make the investments that we need for a stronger economy in the future.

I've been encouraged to hear from so many of you already this session about my efforts. Your support means a great deal to me. 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. I look forward to hearing from you about the issues that matter most to you.

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.

House District 123 1114 S. St. Mary's, Ste. 110 San Antonio, TX 78210 734-8937 www.mikevillarreal.com

#### February 2013

I am entitled to \$15 of FREE cleaning in February 2013. I will use this coupon for one order only. May not be used for multiple visits, and no change given for orders less than \$15. Not transferable. Not valid any other time period. When the month is over, so is the coupon. One coupon per household

Cannot combine with other offers. I'm feeling green and clean!

Eco-Responsible, Non-Toxic Alternative to Old Fashioned dry cleaning.

# s-. he ers.

## **City Councilman Diego Bernal,** District 1

Dear King William Neighbors,

During several of my recent community gatherings, *Coffee with the Councilman*, I offered an update on the progress of a downtown grocery store. I'll do the same for you here:

You should know that progress is

certain, but slow. Although King William and the surrounding area seem like prime candidates for the store, we won't know until a final deal is done. Several ideas have been floated around by residents, grocers



and City staff that range anywhere from a large store with high-end specialty items to a small deli-like building with basic offerings. An 8,000-square-foot grocery store is being proposed near the Pearl, but it wouldn't diminish the need to serve the central core of San Antonio.

Within the next couple of months, the City will be issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit concepts from grocers and interested parties to continue this conversation with more specificity. I will keep you up-to-date. You are welcome to call my office, email me, or attend the next Coffee with the Councilman for the latest information.

Secondly, as the street and drainage project along S. Alamo continues, feel free to call my office if you are experiencing any problems. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2014, but the improvements should be well worth it. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely, Diego

**City Hall** 

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# December - A Magical Time to be a Student at Bonham Academy

Every December, Bonham Academy comes alive with celebrations, performances and cultural traditions. This year was no exception. From the annual Santa Trial to La Posada, December is a magical time to be a student at Bonham Academy. Here are a few highlights:

#### Santa Trial

This year's Santa Trial kicked off on December 12, after Santa was "arrested" on the campus for making a visit to a public school in violation of the separation of Church and State. Santa's court date was set the next day at the John H. Wood, Jr. U.S. Courthouse. Honorable Federal District Judge Edward Prado presided at the trial where students, teachers and administrators served as witnesses, lawyers and jury. Judge Prado explained to the students about the Lemon v. Kurtzman case and the test used to determine whether the government has violated the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution. In the end, the twelve Bonham fourth graders found Santa not guilty and the holidays were ready to begin. The annual Santa Trial is an interactive community service project sponsored by the U.S. District Court Committee and the San Antonio Bar Association, in partnership with Boy Scout Troop 285, Girl Scout Troops 887 and 705 and Bonham.



Honorable United States District Judge Edward C. Prado, Santa Claus and Spencer and Ashton Opoku-Mensah

#### La Posada

Kindergarteners and first graders donned their best robes, halos and animal costumes to make the annual pilgrimage from classroom to classroom looking for food and shelter. They finally found refuge, hot chocolate and cookies in the cafeteria where everyone gathered to sing "Villancicos."



#### The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

After four months of rehearsals and preparation, the drama department, under the direction of Holly Clifford, performed *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in front of a packed house at Jump Start Theater. The students were not only the actors, they also designed the sets and costumes, created the playbill and volunteered as ushers. Ms. Clifford worked with the students from September to December to bring this production to the stage, and it was a delight.

#### Winter Holidays Around the World

Principal Ortiz added a new holiday tradition to the calendar this year. On December 6, the Bonham community shared holiday traditions from their families and other cultures. Families brought food and stories from Europe, Israel, Asia, Africa, Mexico and South America. Students wore their pajamas, snuggled with their stuffed animals and settled in for hot chocolate and their favorite holiday story read to them by their teachers.

#### **5th Grade Healthy Party**

This year the fifth grade teachers set one rule for the class holiday party: the food must be healthy. The kids had a great time with a spread of fruit, vegetables, yogurt and granola. The effort was part of a grant awarded to fifth grade teacher Sheila Vardiman from the SAISD Foundation, called "Don't Worry, Learn Healthy." As part of the grant, students are researching healthy eating tips, facts about childhood obesity and exercise. Mrs. Vardiman has scheduled dietitians, doctors and trainers to speak to the class about healthy eating and exercise.



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#### POSTMASTER

Please deliver by February 1, 2013.





**February Calendar** 

- 6 KWA General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Blue Star Brewery
- First Thursday Art Exhibit Opening Andrea Almond
  6:00 8:00 p.m. KWA office
- 13 Deadline for March newsletter submissions
- 13 KWA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Basura Bash 8:30 a.m. Blue Star parking lot
- 25 Newsletter mailing prep 6:00 p.m. KWA office

A Dog Walker, by Andrea Almond