



# The Riverwalk Was Born in King William

**R**obert Hugman had a dream of turning a winding, lazy river, prone to frequent flooding, into the beautiful River Walk that we see today – and he had that dream while living right here in our neighborhood.

Hugman was born February 8, 1902 to a working class couple. His father, Harold, was a carpenter and his mother, Annie, worked for the Social Services & Legal Aid Bureau. The family lived in a rented house at 507 Westfall Avenue in Denver Heights near the intersection of Hackberry Street and the MKT Railroad.

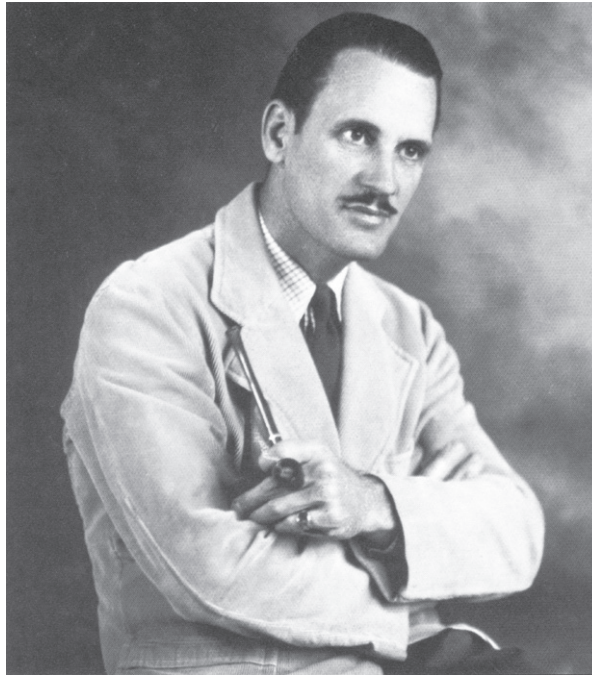
In 1918, Harold, Annie and their three children, 16 year-old Robert, 18 year-old Marguerite and 22 year-old Irene, moved from their house on Westfall to a home of their own in the King William neighborhood.

They purchased the 1909 Queen Anne style cottage at 108 Fir Street for \$3,700.

In February 1920, 18 year-old Robert graduated from Brackenridge High School where he was an art student of Emily Edwards, a co-founder and first president of the Conservation Society. A few months later, he enrolled in the School of Architecture and Design at UT Austin. He graduated in June 1924 and in the same month married Martha Aurora Smith of Austin. Shortly thereafter, Robert and Martha moved to New Orleans to begin their married life.

Three years later, the family, now with two small children, Robert Harvey, age three and Anne Karin, age one, moved back to San Antonio where Hugman started

his architecture practice. They rented the 1920's, two-story craftsman style house at 503 Madison where they lived for the next three years.



Robert Hugman, circa 1938

When Robert's father died in 1932, they moved into the family home at 108 Fir Street. For the next several years, they shared the house with Robert's widowed mother, Annie, and his sister, Marguerite. According to the 1960 city directory, Robert, by then a widower, was still living there.

It was during the years Robert was living in King William that he formed his idea of what the San Antonio River could become – a linear park system of carefully detailed broad walkways, arched bridges, stairways and boat landings made of locally quarried limestone. He envisioned the river as an urban park with restaurants, shops, cafes and places to live.

Hugman began his river beautification campaign shortly after returning to San Antonio from New Orleans. He is said to have been greatly inspired by the restoration of the Vieux Carre District there. He shared his plan with Amanda Taylor, who chaired the San Antonio Conservation Society River Committee. She was impressed by his vision and persuaded city officials to arrange a meeting to see and discuss his proposals. In June 1929, armed with his finished drawings, Hugman made a formal presentation at Chamber of Commerce headquarters to business, civic and political leaders, including Mayor C. M. Chambers and two city commissioners.

# President's Report

by Harry Shafer

**D**aniel Perez's article in the July 17 *San Antonio Express-News*, "Southtown Successes Mean Parking Failures," accurately highlights one of our major neighborhood issues. As I have indicated in previous posts to the Newsletter, the King William-Lavaca neighborhood joint Parking and Transportation Committee chaired by Rose Kanusky is working on gathering information to propose potential solutions to our parking-traffic issues. To offer any hope of solving any of the parking and traffic problems, it is essential that we work with the respective COSA departments. Toward that end, we have now met twice with the City Center Development and Operations staff to work jointly to find some relief to the congestion.

On July 17, we presented the scope of work prepared by Rose's committee to CCDO office staff. Jim Mery, CCDO's representative, and Terry Bellamy of TCI will review our scope of work and submit a request for proposal to hire a consultant to obtain the various kinds of information needed to determine solutions. The scope of work includes the following topics with each outlining a series of tasks and stating deliverables.

1. Identify current traffic and parking patterns and volumes within the neighborhoods, using traffic counts, local anecdotal evidence, historical data, etc.
2. Identify locations of existing parking infrastructure including private, public, and roadway parking spaces.
3. Identify Plan of Action to address congestion and safety concerns.

The discussion among the joint KWA-Lavaca committee and Mr. Mery and Mr. Bellamy was constructive and helpful. This process requires bidding for and hiring a consultant to gather and review the information. Implementation on resolving the issues will take time. Some short-term measures were discussed that might help some locations, but none are immediately actionable. What is actionable was the effort made by Interim Police Chief Trevino to expand the bike patrol to now include the King William-Lavaca-Southtown area. We have already seen the results of this with bike patrol officers being more visible.



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Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez  
MASTHEAD DESIGN  
Roland Rodriguez  
MASTHEAD CONCEPT Cherise Bell

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# KWA Strategic Plan Update

Last year many board members and neighbors attended our Strategic Planning meetings and provided input on what priorities for KWA to work on and goals to accomplish. With the help of a consultant, participants completed a Strategic Plan that the board adopted on August 14, 2014. The Strategic Plan and the KWA Charter help guide each board decision regarding programs and issues impacting our Association.

The plan consists of eight cornerstone areas, details strategic initiatives for each cornerstone, and provides metrics to know when a goal has been achieved.

What have we accomplished so far? A lot! To list a few:

- In October, the Board voted to spend \$6,500 to sponsor a STAR program through the City's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). We have worked with OHP and they are finalizing the date for this fall.
- We have increased efforts to communicate the KWA's positions by placing KWA response letters for Zoning and HDRC cases on the member portal section of the KWA website. Board meeting agendas are also posted on the portal, and we are beginning to add board minutes.
- We wanted to look into a larger office space. On February 2015 we took a two-year lease at 122 Madison and moved in. This space has worked out very well, and we have received positive feedback on having our General Membership meetings there.
- The Board approved an investment policy, and we have a committee working on developing the details for implementation.
- Members wanted to an option to pay dues online. Done!
- We were asked to update Membership levels. This resulted in an increase of \$10 per year for individuals, \$15 increase per year for families and associates, and a \$15 increase in the Friends level.
- We have hired two interns. One conducted a "windshield survey" photographing buildings and determining architectural integrity. We exceeded our metric of documenting 300 buildings with a total 470 buildings located in the S. Alamo/S.

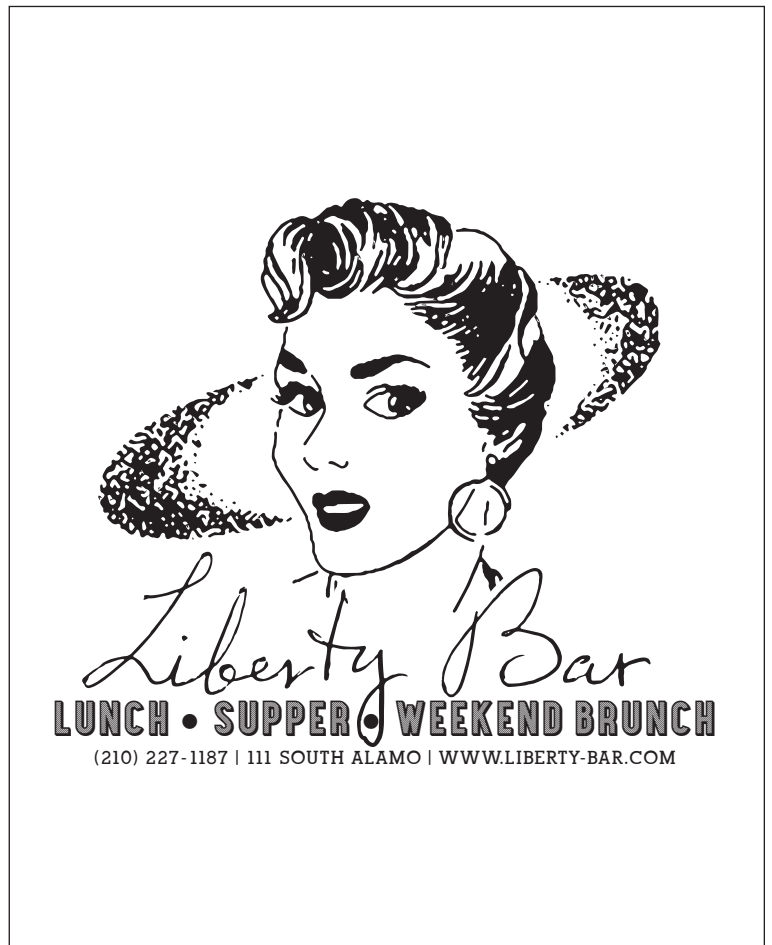
St. Mary's National Register Historic District and 86 buildings located in the Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD-1). The second intern researched about 40 houses, recording in-depth history of buildings for which we did not have information, to be included in our new walking tour brochure. Both of the interns presented at General Membership meetings and wrote articles for the newsletter.

The OHP hired a consultant to study the economics of historic districts in San Antonio, providing KWA with demographics of our historic district and fulfilling another of our metrics. Information from this report was summarized in the June KWA newsletter.

Finally, the Parking/Transportation Committee has been working hard to have the City conduct a traffic and parking study. It looks like we are getting closer to realizing that.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped accomplish these important goals.

- Cherise Bell



# Meet the New KWA Board Nominees – 2015-2016

## Josephine Botello Garcia

Josie is a native San Antonian and third generation resident of the King William neighborhood. Her grandmother purchased the original family home in the early 1940s, and her father, Marco Botello, was a charter member of the King William Association. Josie is the eldest of six and she and four of her siblings reside in the neighborhood, within a block of each other.

Josie has been in banking all her career, spending 18 years at Bank of America and its predecessors, working in the international, professional and executive and treasury departments. In 2001 she joined Sterling Bank, working in the commercial lending area. Currently she is a lending assistant with BB&T (Branch Banking & Trust Co.), the second employee hired in San Antonio by this corporation, new to our market.



Josie enjoys getting together with her family and friends at the drop of a hat – loves to travel, is passionate about traditional Mexican food and culture and is a dedicated supporter of local establishments and events. Josie would love to see the charm of King William to remain constant, and would like to focus on continuing to make this a great place to live and the envy of the rest of our city. Last, but not least, Josie says, “GO SPURS GO!”

## Beth Davis

Beth and her husband Rich moved to King William in 2008. Beth grew up near Lake Erie and Rich in New Mexico, but they consider San Antonio their hometown as they’ve lived here for 39 years. Beth worked all her adult life for the U.S. Air Force in various professional administrative positions, and retired in July after 40 years of service. A life-long runner, Beth’s 3-mile King William route goes up and down the streets of the Acequia Madre side of the neighborhood. She added weight lifting and yoga to her exercise routine about 10 years ago.



Beth served as a KWA Treasurer from 2009-2011, and has also been Chair of Finance, Building & Grounds. She’s been a chair for one of the homes on the KWA Home Tour four times, and 2015 is Beth’s fifth year as the KWA Grant Program manager.

## Charlotte Luongo

Charlotte has resided in the Herman Froebel house on S. Main Avenue since December, 2012. She currently works in educational publishing, but has a background in archaeology. This penchant for digging things up has led to two of her hobbies: gardening and hunting down



old archaeological survey reports that detail the history of the King William area. Charlotte and her partner, James Rodriguez, can regularly be seen strolling around King William with their German shepherd, Sirius. Sirius also has a penchant for digging things up. Charlotte’s goal as a board member is to improve the livability of

the neighborhood while protecting its culture and history.

## Phil Parsons

Phil has resided in King William since 2014 when he and his wife, Suzan, bought a house on Stieren Street. Phil hails from Manchester, UK and arrived in the U.S. in 2005 via Spain, where he met Suzan, who is from Midland, Texas. Phil works as an engineer for a San Antonio-based employee-owned company, providing consulting services to companies globally on how to manage catastrophic risk in industry. The Parsons initially resided in the Keystone historic



neighborhood district, where he and Suzan were actively involved in the neighborhood association. They were drawn to King William for its vibrant neighborhood, shady streets and abundance of activities along the Mission Reach. He is looking forward to serving on the KWA board, identifying and resolving issues in the neighborhood in an effort to ensure the neighborhood is safe and enjoyable.

Phil is a big advocate of the KW Fair and has served as Beverage Chair for the last two years. And - Phil and Suzan are proud to announce a new addition to the neighborhood: their baby girl, Stella!

# City Lights

The best place in my house to escape the Amazonian heat of August is a dimly lit little study just off the entry hall. The blinds are down and the light is low to protect a collection of Japanese prints from the late 18th and early 19th century. They are from a series called "The Road to Edo", the ancient name for Tokyo. My father brought them home from Japan in 1946; he'd bought them in the ruins of the Imperial capital. After homecoming embraces, my mother dashed to Chicago's Marshall Fields department store and spent two months of his salary having them framed. He was a graphic designer and printmaker who admired the technical virtuosity of Japanese print makers and the art of Japan. How he acquired them is a complex tale of trans-national ironies that underscore the 70th anniversary of the end of his World War, on August 14, 1945.

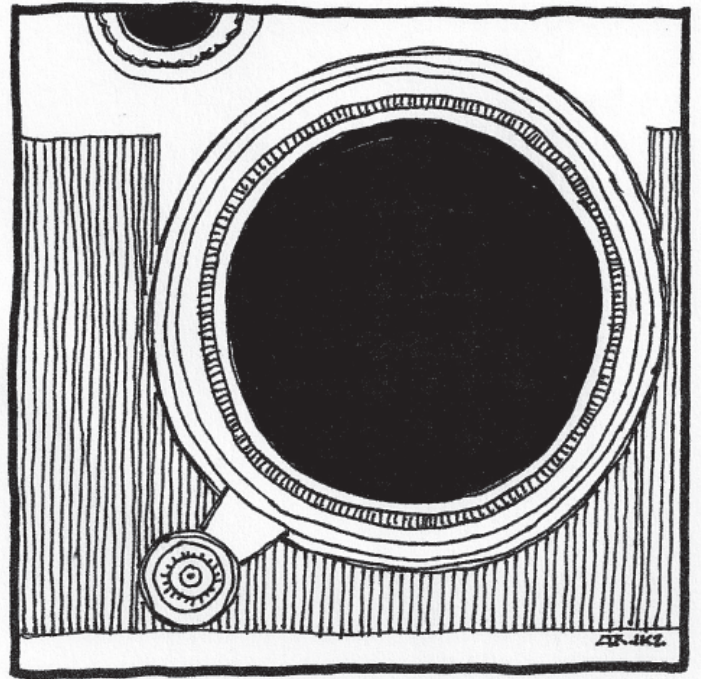
Before the war he was prospering as a master printer and production designer for publishing houses, and could indulge his hobby of photography. He owned two German cameras, a Leica, and Voightlander. He was far better than a mere hobbyist, and I have many of his moody, noir-ish prints shot in the streets of Chicago.

When the war broke out, he said goodbye to my mother and older siblings and found himself in a Naval Intelligence unit on board the Mount Olympus, an amphibious command ship with the ultimate mission of guiding the invasion of Japan.

His group consisted of artists, draftsmen, cartographers and two Navajo "code talkers." Among other things, they drew charts of the Pacific for the fleet's use, and were part of the fleet's communications command, relaying messages in the better-than-encryption Navajo language, and sending aerial photos by radio with a primitive kind of fax machine. With his German cameras around his neck, he climbed into seaplanes for aerial reconnaissance duty. He also photographed the horrors of the aftermath of every landing.

He was an old man of 31 when they left San Francisco, by far the oldest in his ten-man unit. He survived the Battle of Leyte, all the subsequent landings, typhoons, and an attack by what was documented to be the last Japanese fighter with any fuel in the Imperial retreat from the Philippines.

He was in the Pacific because he was Italian. The axis passport in his mother's desk, like those of the parents of so many first generation Americans, rendered him suspect for assignments in Italy. His moth-



er's Italian family ancestry was Sephardic. There was no possibility of a pre-war return to Italy for her, even if she'd wanted to.

Japanese Americans who were not interned in camps were sent to fight in Italy.

On September 2, 1945, my father and his German cameras were on the deck of the Battleship Missouri, photographing the formal surrender ceremony. On September 3 he was on his way to Nagasaki, for the worst job anyone could have, photographing the aftermath of the second atomic bomb. The bomb that is credited with ending World War II was dropped on August 9. He arrived at the scene a little over three weeks later. When he came home in 1946 he put the cameras in a drawer and never used them again.

In the fall I will be team teaching a design studio with an architect my own age, he is a native of Tokyo.

- Michael Guarino

## SAPD Central SAFFE Unit Contact Info

Main office: 207-7413

### KW SAFFE Officers on patrol:

Officer Robert Esquivel    Officer David McCall  
Tel: 207-7413                      Tel: 207-7413

## The Riverwalk - cont. from page 1

Even though he got an enthusiastic response, it was just the beginning of Hugman's journey. For the next several years, he took every opportunity to speak to every civic group imaginable. He was like a salesman going door to door talking to businesses, restaurateurs – anyone who would listen to his dream of what he knew the river could become.

Jack White, a local entrepreneur and later mayor of San Antonio finally endorsed Hugman's original plans and provided the leadership necessary to promote the development of the River Walk. White was able to obtain \$75,000 through a bond issue in 1938, which cleared the way for a federal grant of \$450,000 through the Works Progress Administration. In December 1938, Hugman was finally hired as architect of the San Antonio River Beautification Project.

In March 1940, Hugman was ignominiously fired from the project that he had conceived and nurtured. Various reasons for his dismissal appeared in the press. It was 30 years before Hugman gave his side of the story. He said that the WPA bookkeeper found evidence of malpractice; materials ordered for the WPA river project were being illegally diverted to Mayor Maverick's La Villita restoration project that was under construction at the same time. When Hugman blew the whistle, Jack White called a board meeting where Hugman was unanimously fired without a hearing.

In March 1941, the Works Progress Administration signed over the completed River Walk to the City of San Antonio. The San Antonio River Beautification Project was finished. Although Hugman no longer had an official connection with the River Walk development after his dismissal, he remained dedicated to its beautification throughout his lifetime. He continued his private practice of architecture until he was employed by Randolph Air Force Base to design facilities for flight simulators where he worked from 1957 to 1972.

On November 1, 1978, a long overdue ceremony was held in the Arneson River Theatre to honor Robert Hugman for his contribution to the River Walk. In June of this year, a bronze bust of Hugman was installed at river level just outside his old office in the Clifford Building near the Commerce Street Bridge. Hugman died July 22, 1980 at age 78.

Over the years, the River Walk has gone through many changes and improvements – none of which would have happened if Robert Hugman had not had his dream.

- Bill Cogburn

Sources: Michael Carroll, UTSA intern; Vernon Zunker, A Dream Comes True; Lewis F. Fisher, River Walk, the Epic Story of San Antonio's River; Lewis F. Fisher, Saving San Antonio; SAPL Texana Room; photo courtesy of Anne Hugman Robinson

## Parking/Transportation Committee Report

On June 24, the KWA and the Lavaca Neighborhood Association (LNA) hosted a meeting to update our community on the work of the joint parking/transportation committee. The PowerPoint presentation was posted on Nextdoor and Facebook. The survey results can also be found on the KWA website.

Included here are a few highlights from the electronic survey (151 responses). Hard copy results (28) were consistent, as were the LNA responses (74). Thanks to all who responded!

- Rose Kanusky, Committee Chair

### Q2: Do you have difficulty with parking in King William?

Yes: 31.1%  
No: 29.8%  
Sometimes: 39.1%  
Total Respondents: 151

### Q3: When do you experience the most difficulty with parking in King William?

Every day: 26.15 %  
Weekends: 30.77%  
Special Events: 71.54%  
Total Respondents: 130

### Q6: Would you support increased parking enforcement?

Yes: 71.8%  
No: 8.7%  
Maybe: 19.5%  
Total Respondents: 149

### Q8: Would you vote to have parking allowed only on one side of YOUR street to ensure there is space for emergency vehicles to pass?

Yes: 51.72%  
No: 48.28%  
Total Respondents: 145

### Q9: Would you vote to have permit-enforced resident parking on one side of YOUR street, and public parking on the other side of the street?

Yes: 48.63%  
No: 51.37%  
Total Respondents: 146

# Fourth of July Regatta Round-Up

The King William Yacht Club hosted its annual July 4 regatta just for fun. Stars-and-stripes enthusiasm powered the canoe race and the kayak competition.

Bryce Milligan and his nephew, Alex Salazar, continued Bryce's domination of the canoe event, while David Murphy cruised to re-claim the kayak trophy. Shimi and Oscar Alvarado, paddling in vintage patriotic garb, danced away with the Style Award. Neighbor Mike Casey distinguished himself (even more than usual) by being the only original yacht club member to paddle in the event this year. Yea, Mike!

Thanks to all regatta participants! Please mark your calendars for July 4, 2016.

- Commodore Marita Emmitt



David Murphy claimed the kayak trophy and the Grill Master Award.



The Poet wins again! Bryce Milligan (from right), Mary Milligan and Alex Suarez.



Thanks to Laura Powell for organizing the fantastic children's activities, including the piñata bash.



S.T. Shimi and Oscar Alvarado paddled in their usual inimitable style.



The Men's Style Award (Land Category) went to the perennially cool Mike Casey, Michael Guarino and Jim Poteet.

# Time to Renew Your Dues

**K**WA memberships expire on August 31, so, no matter when you joined, you will need to renew your membership soon. The good news is you can now renew or join as a new member online at the KWA website!

On June 15 the KWA Board voted to increase membership dues effective immediately, as follows: Individual - \$20; Family - \$25; Associate - \$25; Friend - \$40

You still have the option of joining as a Patron at \$50, Benefactor at \$100 or Sustaining Member at \$250.

Your membership is important because it engages you in issues that affect our neighborhood, and more members equal more representation to local government entities. Also, more members mean more volunteers for committee and program work. Your membership supports local art, education and community programs, and furthers our mission to preserve and maintain our historic and diverse neighborhood.

And the cost of membership is still a bargain! See what you get:

- Every member gets 2 free wristbands to the King William Fair (a \$20 value)
- Discounted wristbands, medals and pins for the King William Fair
- Discounts from restaurants and other businesses in our neighborhood with your membership card
- Lots of opportunities to contribute your talents to a great organization and to your 'hood!

So whether you go online, stop by the KWA office or print and mail your membership application, **JOIN NOW!** (And if you'd like to be on the Membership Committee or volunteer for the Food Committee for the KW Fair, contact me!)

- Annice Hill, Membership Committee Chair  
KW Fair Food Committee Chair  
KWA Board Vice President

## Current KWA Business Sponsors

A Dreamweaver Florist	20%
Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum	\$3 entrance fee
DermaLily Skincare & Waxing Studio	15%
Designs by John Romo	20%
Gunther House River Mill Store	20%
Halcyon Coffee-Bar-Lounge	10%
King William District CrossFit	10%
La Frite Belgian Bistro	10%
Madhatters Tea House & Café	10%
PurrWaggles Pet Sitting Service	10%
Sexology Institute and Boutique	10%
Stella Public House	10%
The Friendly Spot Ice House	10% on Tuesdays
The Monterey	10%
Tito's Mexican Restaurant	10%



**carl jung**  
1875 - 1961

**In all chaos there is a cosmos, in all disorder a secret order.**

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

September 2015 – August 2016

The King William Association invites you to renew your membership today! Your membership helps to support local art, education and community programs and further our mission to preserve and maintain our historic and diverse neighborhood. Membership includes two wristbands to the King William Fair, a \$20 value.

Annual renewal dues for the 2015-2016 membership year must be paid ***before September 1 to vote at the Annual Meeting for the Board of Directors*** and by October 1 in order to be listed in the annual KWA Directory. Contact the office at (210) 227-8786 or [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org) with questions about membership.

A business or organization eligible for “active membership” (owns property within the KW Historic District) must inform the Secretary of the KWA in writing of the name and address of its representative, who shall be entitled to cast one vote at general membership meetings.

***New Membership***

***Renewal Membership***

***I/We would like to activate/renew my/our King William Association membership at the level indicated below:***

- Individual (\$20)       Family (\$25)       Friend (\$40)       Associate – *not a KW resident or property owner* (\$25)
- Patron (\$50)       Benefactor (\$100)       Sustaining (\$250)       Business Sponsor (\$25)
- Business - ALL CAPS directory listing (\$50)

***I/We would like to be listed in the KWA Membership Directory as:***

Business Name (for Business level): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children’s Directory (under 18, list name): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

home   cell   work   (please circle one)

***Additional information for KWA database, KWA E-blast and/or Business listings only:***

Additional Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Website Address (for Business level): \_\_\_\_\_

***Let us know if you are interested in our KWA volunteer and committee opportunities:***

- Architectural Advisory       Board Member       Cultural Arts       Finance
- Graffiti Abatement       Home Tour       King William Fair       National Night Out
- Newsletter       Socials

*Please mail or drop off this completed form with a check made payable to:  
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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ BCAD/CC/MT \_\_\_\_\_ Directory \_\_\_\_\_

# 2015 – Year of the Volunteer

In the US, 62 million volunteers contribute about 8 billion hours of service each year, the equivalent of \$173 billion. The nonprofit sector would probably collapse without all our awesome volunteer. (Nonprofit with Balls blog, 7-13-15)

Charles Schubert moved to San Antonio in 1966, because his employer, architect O'Neil Ford had his office in the King William neighborhood.

Charles's first Fair experience was by accident. He woke up one Saturday morning on the second floor of his apartment to see people with card tables along the curb. On the various tables were sodas and crafts for sale. He went to check it out and from then on became a regular Fair volunteer.

Charles said, "I remember one year I was in charge of cleaning the streets after the Fair. I missed the Fair because I was in the hospital, but the next day when I got home, I started at the corner of Madison and S. St. Mary's with my trash bag picking up litter. By the time I got to Beauregard Street some neighbors came and joined me in cleaning up the mess."

In September 1993 Charles was elected KWA board president. During his term on the board the big

controversy was tour buses. Buses would be stacked all five blocks of King William Street while their passengers looked at the houses. "Like airplanes lined up on a runway waiting to take off. Smoke billowing from their exhaust," Charles said. KWA hired attorney Frank Burney to conduct meetings with city officials and neighbors. "I would get tacos from



Charles Schubert, ex-wife Anne and their dog Spot on their front porch.

El Mirador and everyone would discuss the tour bus situation," said Charles. This resulted in the City passing an ordinance regarding tour buses that is still in effect today.

Charles also volunteered on the City's Historic and Design Review Commission for 12 years, serving two years as chairman. He also volunteered on the KWA Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC). His background as a Registered Architect and past HDRC member was invaluable to establishing the AAC. He has volunteered as a docent on the KW home tours plus opened his own house up for tour.

Thank you, Charles, for your time and energy.

- Cherise Bell

## New SAPD Unit Targets Street Crimes, Boosts Patrol Numbers

The San Antonio Police Department is creating a new Street Crimes Unit (SCU). The SCU will replace the current POP and Gang Units and the result will be a streamlining of what had been overlapping responsibilities of those two units.

The main benefit to taxpayers will be that several of the uniformed officers formerly from the POP/Gang Units will be re-deployed to the six patrol substations to provide better geographic coverage and help to further improve response times city-wide. The redistribution will allow for an expansion of the Downtown Bike Patrol Unit, increasing the coverage into areas like King William/Southtown and VIA's new Downtown Transit Center.

The remainder of the officers in the SCU will continue to target gang and drug incidents, and respond to calls city-wide as needs or situations arise. These may include violent crime incidents, targeted enforcement in "hot spots," large special events and support to various investigative units.

If you have questions regarding the new Street Crimes Unit, please contact Sgt. Javier Salazar at (210) 207-7579.

# Women's Equality Day

August 26 is Women's Equality Day, designated in 1971 to observe and commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

In addition to voting, women were seeking equality in all facets of life. State laws control how married couples owned property. In general, the United States followed "coverture," where the woman's property became the property of her husband, including income, interests and rents. New York's Married Women's Property Act of 1848 set precedence for married women to own and control their own property including real estate. By 1900 married women were legally able to buy/sale/trade real estate independently from their husbands.

However, in Texas, Spanish law regulated property and contractual rights giving specific limited rights to married women. Single women could not vote, but had the right to own and control property, enter contracts and sue or be sued. Research by Mary Burkholder in her two King William books indicates that many women - married, widowed or single - were purchasing land, getting bank loans and entering contracts to construct houses in the King William area.

One example of a married woman who owned real estate in the King William area is Emma Merck Altgelt (1833-1922). Born in Prussia, Emma was raised as an

only child as her father and sibling died before she was five. Emma's maternal grandmother and aunt raised her. Enchanted by stories of Texas, she arrived in Galveston in 1854, and, within a year, she married German immigrant Ernst Altgelt and moved to Comfort. After the Civil War, the Altgelt family moved to San Antonio. Ernst acquired land on today's King William Street, and is credited with naming the street after Kaiser Wilhelm I. They lived at 236 King William, then 226 King William. Ernst died in 1878 leaving Emma a widow with six children.



Emma Merck Altgelt

Between 1878 and 1922, eleven records were identified in the Bexar County records where Emma was the Grantor selling property. In one transaction the wording states, "Emma Altgelt widow of Ernst Altgelt, dec'd." Another reads, "That I, Emma Altgelt, for myself and as sole heir and legatee of Ernest Atgelt, deceased and as heir at law of A Murck, deceased." In a 1913 warranty deed, the language changes to "Emma Altgelt, a feme sole," with the paperwork typed instead of handwritten.

- Cherise Bell

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ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

**Newsletter**

**Improvement Plan**

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  
[info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org).

# Bus Shelter at Pedro Huizar Park

VIA is installing new bus shelters throughout the City. The KWA requested that bus stops within King William Historic District be of a style more compatible with our historic buildings.

The transit ridership is very high at the Pedro Huizar Park bus stop, and was at the top of VIA's list for improvements. As Committee Chair for the beautification for the park, we have worked with VIA to recycle a "pagoda style" bus shelter from downtown. This request needed approval from both the KWA Board, VIA and the City's Park and Recreation Department. In addition to the approval to relocate the bus shelter, the site needs to be upgraded to improve handicap access.

Once all the above entities were on board with the concept, we worked with VIA and the City regarding funding and improvements to the park. VIA has taken the plans and received approval from the City's Historic and Design Review Commission on May 3, 2015. VIA is now working with the City to get an easement to place the new brick paver foundation and relocate the bus shelter on City parkland. This will need to go to City Council for approval. Due to



Conceptual drawing by Rialto Studios

budget constraints, remaining park improvements will be implemented in two phases by the Park and Recreation Department.

When working with two government entities, projects take time and coordination. We are glad that VIA and the City have taken time to partner with KWA on this important gateway to our neighborhood. The final project will result in a more compatible bus shelter and improved park.

- Curtis Johnson

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## Historic Markers Go High Tech

**H**ave you ever found yourself in the embarrassing situation of not knowing that there are 10 historical markers in the King William district? Yes, I know. Maybe you do know the location of one or two markers, but can you remember what they say? Can you accurately describe to a visitor the shortest route to the Altgelt-Isbell House Historical Marker? Fear no more my fellow King Williamites! There are plenty of options to satisfy your historical marker hunger. Here are your options:

First, the basics. If you are using a computer, type "San Antonio Historical Markers" in the Google search page. This will produce a list with a link to Google Maps. For some algorithmic reason I cannot get the same result by typing the same query from within the Google Maps website.

Now, you can also use your smartphone. All apps do more or less the same things: they can give you a list of nearby markers, as long as you have your geo-location option activated, and they display the text of the marker. In the Google App Store I found four apps with very creative and distinctive names: Texas Historical Markers, TX Historical Markers, Historical Markers of Texas and Texas Markers.

The one that loaded the fastest was Texas Historical Markers. This one has a thumbs up or down feature to rate the marker. The TX Historical Markers has no rating feature, but it compensates with a read-aloud mode. It was probably the slowest app to load up, though. I guess the read-aloud feature would come in handy whenever you are driving around town and do not want to step out of the car into 100 degree weather. The TX Markers app has a beautiful picture of bluebonnets as the splash screen, it loads up fast and has a nice mapping feature and reads aloud. Finally, Historical Markers of Texas had the annoying feature of first displaying a regular map. You have to tap on the search lens and then choose "in vicinity" to display the markers near you. No read-aloud option, but you can ask for directions.

There is at least one more app in the Apple Store called Texas Historical Landmarks. They claim that the app will work with your new Apple Watch; unfortunately, I have a particular contempt for Apple products so my unbiased review ends here.

So next time you find a tourist in need of information or need to impress your in-laws you can use the aloud feature in one of these apps with a very discrete earphone (too bad Google Glasses flopped). They will be impressed.

- Fidel Santamaria

## Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

**W**ith the abundant spring rains, SAWS customers are now under Stage One watering requirements. Watering by hand-held hose or bucket is allowed any day, any time. Drip irrigation or soaker hoses can also be used any day, any time. Use of a sprinkler or irrigation system is permitted any day before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. Even with these relaxed requirements, we still need to conserve our water usage.



The White Elephant Coffee Company is a new coffee shop in the area at the corner of Carolina and S. Presa Streets. Used coffee grounds are good to add to compost piles, worm beds and into flower beds. The shop owners want to recycle the grounds from the shop by giving them to interested gardeners on a first-come basis. Stop in Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Grounds for a good cause!

### Garden Tips:

- Kill fire ants with a mixture of 3 to 4 ounces of Orange Oil to one gallon of water and then drench the mound.
- Kill weeds by mixing 2 ounces of Orange Oil to one gallon of 9% vinegar and a squirt of liquid dish soap. Spray using a hand-held sprayer such as an empty Windex bottle.
- August is a good time to trim shrubs and roses that are getting too large. Cut them back about one-fourth. Plants such as bridal wreath, flowering quince, mountain laurel, climbing roses and others that bloom on "old wood" should not be trimmed until after they bloom next spring.

An observation: A neighbor says she does not garden but enjoys seeing well-tended gardens on walks through the neighborhood. She refers to herself as a "Garden Appreciator." So to those of you who are gardeners, keep up the good work.

*Garden Note: Dignity comes from a life of collaboration with nature. (From In Search of Lost Roses, by Thomas Christopher.)*



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## August Calendar

- 5 General Membership Meeting - KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Deadline for September KWA newsletter
- 19 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 24 First Day of School!
- 25 Women's Equality Day

King William kids enjoyed the  
July 4 social at Upper Mill Park.