

King William Association
Volume 11, No. 10
November 2015

## Homes Revived With STAR

0n the morning of Saturday, October 3, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and over 30 volunteers from the University of Texas at San Antonio's College of Architecture and San Antonio College descended on the King William Historic District armed with paint brushes, power tools, smiles and a mission: to help make five homes shine a little brighter and to bring joy (and a few tears of happiness) to home owners. This project kicked off the OHP's semi-annual Students Together Achieving Revitalization (S.T.A.R.) program.

Since 2010, the S.T.A.R. program has taken place once every semester and across one or two weekends, impacting anywhere from five to 10 houses per weekend. Through the continued partnership with the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Architecture and San Antonio College, S.T.A.R. focuses on providing needed repairs to older homes through hands-on training and service learning opportunities for college-level students and others who are interested. This unique and innovative approach to historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization has impacted San Antonio communities in numerous ways. Over 90 houses in five historic districts


STAR volunteers work on Crofton St. house.
and two historic neighborhoods have received assistance; over 950 students have participated in the program, many of them returning as house leaders; and multiple accolades have been awarded to the program for its success.

The focus of this weekend was on five houses located at different corners of the King William neighborhood, all distinctive in their own way: 635 Mission St., 1027 S. St. Mary's St., 204 Wickes St., 126 Crofton and 430 E. Guenther. Many of these homes have been passed down through generations and hold great sentimental value to the current owners.

Each house was assigned a student leader and between five and seven student volunteers, depending on the previously determined scope of work. Once assignments were handed out, it was off to the races. Much of the prep work was completed on Saturday and final touches were done on Sunday.

Norma Gomez, the proud owner of 635 Mission, said in a brief video interview, "It's part of the house I've never seen even though I have lived here for so many years. It's wonderful... to see it, treat it like a structure rather than just a house I come to every

## President's Report by Harry Shafer

October was archaeology month in Texas and we sponsored several events to promote awareness of our long cultural history in San Antonio. The first event was an art opening of the many paintings of our San Antonio missions owned by William Mealy of Lavaca. This is a spectacular exhibit, and if you have not had the opportunity to see it, there is still time. The show closes at the end of November.

The other event was by City Archaeologist Kay Hindes, who enlightened us on some very exciting new discoveries pertaining to the very first Spanish occupation of San Antonio and the first locations of San Antonio de Valero or the Alamo. Most people do not realize that, despite the presence of the Spanish Missions, San Antonio is one of the longest occupied cities in the state and nation. El Paso is earlier, first settled about 1680, followed by Nacogdoches in 1690, and San Antonio in 1718.

The KWA Cultural Art Committee (CAC) has produced another great brochure for walking tours. Entitled "Along the Acequia Concepción," and written by Cherise Bell, Roland Rodriquez, Molly Shafer and Michael Carroll, it features 33 buildings bordered by S. Alamo and S. St Mary's Streets. This is the second brochure the CAC has produced and there are plans for a third brochure highlighting the area west of the San Antonio River.

If you came into the office at the time of this writing (October 14) you would have found a mess with all of the contributions we received for our yard sale, the first we have sponsored as an organization. We have promoted neighborhood-wide yard sales in the past but this was the first time we have had the room to sponsor such an event. Next month I will let you know how successful we were.

It is always sad to loose good employees, but there have been some changes in the KWA office. Bookkeeper Dennis Snell and Fair Coordinator Carol Jackson have left our staff. We regret to see them go but certainly wish them well.


COORDINATORS Susan Athené, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez
MASTHEAD DESIGN
Roland Rodriguez
MASTHEAD CONCEPT 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
122 Madison St.
San Antonio, TX 78204
210-227-8786
info@ourkwa.org
OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ourkwa.org
kwfair.org
kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Cherise Bell
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## A Former Neighbor Remembers King William in the 1920 s

A1993 letter from Arthur Goldschmidt to the King William Association gives us a glimpse of life in our neighborhood in the 1920s. Arthur was born in 1910 at 315 Adams Street, known today as the
LaCroix/Goldschmidt House. His parents, Herman and Gretchen Goldschmidt, purchased the house in 1904 for $\$ 5,150$. Born to German parents in Monterrey, Mexico in 1868, Herman owned and operated Goldschmidt \& Co., a San Antonio merchandise broker. His wife Gretchen was a teacher in the San Antonio public schools and an active member of the King William Area

Conservation Society, forerunner of the King William Association. The Adams street house was home to the Goldschmidt family for 60 years.

January 2, 1993
King William Association:
I am very grateful for your response to my request for a walking tour brochure and for enclosing a map of the King William Area. It follows closely a major portion of my Saturday Evening Post route each Thursday 70 to 75 years ago. It also lists the houses of many of my friends, especially 335 King William where Carl Jockusch stayed with his Groos relatives while completing his high schooling at Brackenridge a year ahead of me. Also the home of his cousin, my sister's close friend, Elsa Buss, who taught me to play tennis and dance the fox trot and the tango. Laura James from up


315 Adams Street, known today as the LaCroix/Goldschmidt House.
the street (1) might have also been there, though the girls would have preferred her older brother Ted who finessed the girls of his age to rob the cradle by marrying the
es with the blessed fall of Porfirio Dias, we rented the house out and lived in Fredericksburg from 1913 to 1918. Back then, the house had a wide front porch, level with the bottom of the French windows, with heavy balustrades. Their vaseshaped balusters were impossible to scrape and paint. One of the best features of the place for us kids was the huge barn complex that in richer days had not only housed horses and carriages, but their tenders as well.

There have been great changes in the area since I left in 1927 after graduating from Brackenridge High

Guenther girl. (2) She gave lovely parties at her house by the flour mill at the end of King William. (If that is now the restaurant shown on the map, they have either moved the river or the map is wrong!) (3) We swam in old Mrs. Steves' pool occasionally on our best behavior but I never knew it was the first indoor pool in town. (4)

Did you know that a misguided patriotic fervor changed the name of King William Street to Pershing Avenue during World War I? Many of the big houses had door mats that emblazoned the old street name along with the house number. These were prudently kept and brought out as soon as the Armistice was signed, or at least before the street signs were returned.

My parents bought the 315 Adams Street house from the Guenther Street Wagners (5) when they got married in 1904. When my father suffered heavy financial loss-

School; Durango Street crossing the river is new and South St. Mary's was called Garden Street when I went to Bonham School. They were changing the school system, so Thomas Nelson Page Junior High School that I attended was temporarily housed in the German-English School (6) that my mother and her King William Street crowd had attended.

My mother, Gretchen Rochs, came to San Antonio about 1885 with her parents as a small girl and lived there all her life. Her father, Dr. Arthur Rochs, had been brought in by its publisher to edit the Freie Presse fur Texas, which l'm told, flourished long before there was an English language newspaper in town. Its offices were on Commerce Street across from Joske's. My grandfather, who had a PhD in philology, was always held up to me by our family's friends as a great man. My younger brother said

## SAY Sí's 9th Annual Muertitos Fest Celebrates Día de los Muertos through Creative Storytelling \& Ritual

On November 5-7, SAY Sí will present its 9th annual Muertitos Fest, a 3-day family-focused Día de los Muertos festival celebrating the tradition that ties our city to Mexico and the rich culture of San Antonio.

Muertitos Fest, one of San Antonio's most comprehensive Día de los Muertos celebrations, provides an educational context to this important holiday, with three days of unique cultural happenings, including an exhibition of student folk art and new work by local artists Kathy Sosa and Veronica Prida. Also: folk art exhibit including trees of life, altars to honor the departed, family art workshops, food booths, artisan stalls and live cultural performances.

With the theme "Tree of Life - Storytelling \& Rituals," all artwork, installations and performances will focus on the art of ritual as a means of sharing family history and tradition.

## "Noche en Oaxaca" Opening Night Fundraiser Thursday, November 5-7:00-10:30 p.m.

An intimate and high-spirited celebration focused on the culturally rich Mexican state of Oaxaca. Feast on re-interpreted delicacies traditional to the state by San Antonio's ¡Viva Vegeria! Enjoy libations including a specialty cocktail made with Mezcal, and live music and poetry as you preview the student artwork and altars. Be the first to purchase our specialty folk art and artisan vendors' traditional crafts. Only 200 tickets available! $\$ 35$ presale, $\$ 40$ at the door.

## Muertitos Fest First Friday - November 6

 6:00-10:00 p.m. - Free \& open to the publicThe Muertitos Fest festivities continue with a Día de los Muertos First Friday celebration. Enjoy the exhibits, altars, festive food and artisan booths. Participate in hands-on art activities and be entertained with live musical and dance performances on two stages throughout the evening.

Muertitos Fest Family Day - Saturday, November 7 12:00-4:00 p.m. - Free \& open to the public
A special Muertitos Fest day just for families! Get hands-on experience with various family folk art workshops, get your face painted and shop for treasures from one-of-a-kind artist vendors. Enjoy a special family program of music and performances in the SAY Sí black box theatre.

For additional information visit www.saysi.org or call 212-8666

- Stephen Guzman, SAY Sí Communications Manager

E. Guenther St. house.


## Homes Revived

cont. from page 1
day. It's always been home. I'm beginning to love my house, in a different way." A "before" picture illustrates vines encroaching on the front façade of the house, peeling paint and damaged siding. In a matter of 48 hours the house is transformed: the vines were removed, a new coat of paint was applied and siding replaced.

The houses at 126 Crofton and 430 E. Guenther received a special treat when Master Craftsman Victor Salas, owner of ARTchitectural Interiors, came to the rescue on Sunday with his knowledge of wood window repair methods. Working with the students, they successfully repaired three windows at the Crofton house and one window at the E. Guenther house.

Tina Garza and her husband have lived at 1027 S. St. Mary's for several years and were thrilled to be part of S.T.A.R. The students worked diligently to repair and paint several screens and replace rotted wood on the front portch of this charmingly pink Folk Victorian house.

The house at 204 Wickes, smaller than some of the other houses, received a new coat of paint on the window and door trim and new paint on the screen doors.

While the scope of work varied at each house, one thing is for certain: with the help of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of the King William Association, a huge impact was made, not only for the homeowners but also for the neighborhood.

For more information about S.T.A.R. and how you can get involved, please visit us at www.sanantonio. gov/historic or send us an e-mail at: OHP@sanantonio. gov.

\author{

- Katie Totman, Historic Planner/HDRC COSA Office of Historic Preservation
}


# Out in the Garden <br> with Alan Cash 

cont. from page 3

To me, roses are in a special class to themselves, and that is why they were not included in the list of preferred plants in last month's article. There are three old roses that are especially good for the home garden. Once established, they grow with little care and repeat blooms from spring through fall. They can be planted now and, like all roses, they need plenty of sun.

MUTABALIS has single blooms and is referred to as the "butterfly rose" because from a distance the blooms make the bush appear to be covered with butterflies. The flowers start out a peach color, change to light pink, and then light red. MRS. DUDLEY CROSS has a large double flower that opens as a light yellow and then gets a light pink at the end of the petals. Both can grow to about 6 feet high and wide.

Another old rose for the garden is NACOGDOCHES, sometimes called "grandma's yellow rose." It has an upright form and can grow 6 feet tall. The flowers are large, double yellow and are spectacular, especially in early spring. One bush on Cedar St. had over 40 flowers at one time last spring. Nacogdoches is also a repeat bloomer.

There are many easy to grow native plants for the garden that literally can thrive on neglect once established. The list is too long to include here, but a free list is available at the King William office. We plan to provide a holder for the list outside the office door so the list will be available $24 / 7$. The list also includes adapted plants that are easy to grow in South Texas. Plants on the list are
not usually found at the big box stores, so call around to local privatelyo wned nurseries.

Now is the
 time to divide iris and daylilies. Plant them about 12 to 18 inches apart. The top of the iris rhizome should be planted even with the soil surface. Plant daylily bulbs 3 to 4 inches deep.

We are still in Stage 2 water use restrictions. Use of sprinklers is limited to 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., weekdays only, day based on your house number. For more information call SAWS at 7047297, or refer to the last page in the Sports Section of the daily paper.

More of The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations: "It is not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races."

Garden Note: Gardening is cheaper than therapy...and you get tomatoes.

even the chickens we kept in the back yard cackled, "Doctor Rochs, Doctor Rochs!"

I tried to work my passage to Germany in 1927, taking a year off before going to the University of Texas as my mother and my siblings did but I got stuck in New York and ended up going to Columbia University and never got to meet any of my German grandparents. Why did this popular Rochs couple go back to Germany, get caught by the war and never return? l'd be interested in any clues.

So my gratitude is simply (as I was taught at my mother's knee) a lively sense of more favors to come!

Sincerely, Arthur Goldschmidt
After "getting stuck in New York," Arthur Goldschmidt went on to graduate from Columbia University, marry Elizabeth Wickenden and raise a family. He became an ambassador to the United Nations in 1967. Prior to that, he had government posts in Washington and was chief of the Interior Department's power division. Arthur died in 2000 at age 90 at his home at Haverford, PA.

- Bill Cogburn

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# Yanaguana Garden Opens at Hemisfair 

2015 - Year of the Volunteer



Yanaguana Garden sculpture by Southtown resident artist Oscar Alvarado.
$\begin{array}{cr}\text { " et's play!" } & \\ \text { With } & \text { those } \\ \text { _words, } & \text { Mayor }\end{array}$ Ivy Taylor called hundreds of children to burst through a banner of papel picado and into Yanaguana Garden. The first of three parks to come in the Hemisfair redevelopment, Yanaguana Garden boasts climbing structures, shaded walkways, games of all types, a sand digging area, a splash pad and more.

The grand opening weekend included a family-friendly First Friday on October 2, the official ribbon-cutting on October 3, and a day of art and wellness on October 4. About 21,000 visitors came through the park over that weekend to enjoy music, bi-lingual storytelling, kite making and food and beverages from future tenants of Hemisfair, including Revolucion Coffee + Juice, the OK Brewery, Con Safos and Paletaria San Antonio.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with community members citing the quality, programming and sensibilities of the park, all of which cater to delighting locals first. Visitors also enjoyed free parking all weekend long at lots located along E. Cesar Chavez Blvd. These lots provide 650 free parking spaces and will be available every weekday after 6:00 p.m. and all day on weekends. You heard right: there are now 650 FREE parking spaces that should ease some of the parking tensions felt in the surrounding neighborhoods. This is a huge win for our neighborhood!

Yanaguana Garden is free and open to the public everyday from 7:00 a.m. until midnight. During operating hours, the park is patrolled by Park Police and at night by armed private security. There's lots to do and see, including forthcoming programming and activities that should fill the park with laughter and fun for all ages and abilities.

Welcome back to Hemisfair!

> - Drew Hicks, Communications Manager Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation


Anne Alexander moved to King William in 2003 but has volunteered for the King William Associ a tion since the 1980s. She actually met her husband, Jack Pancoast, when both of them volunteered for the Home Tour at the same time. Anne has served as the King William Home Tour Chair too many times to count.

A long-time volunteer, Anne started as a teenager joining her mother. Her funniest volunteer experience was hand painting roman soldiers gold for the Opera "Aida." "We had to paint their legs, up to the skirt line, their ears and toes, any exposed skin," Anne said.

A favorite volunteer memory is when former Mayor Lila Cockrell asked Anne to have a squirrel mascot created then wear it. Cockrell wanted someone short so children would feel comfortable to have their pictures taken with the mascot. Anne was the first mascot ever for the San Antonio Parks Foundation and wore the uniform proudly for three years.

Anne currently serves on the KWA Board, the Architectural Advisory Committee and the Cultural Arts Committee, and was the chair for the 2015 Yard Sale. She also is currently volunteering at the San Antonio Conservation Society. A big thank you to Anne for all she does for our community!

## City Lights

came home Saturday evening, just at dusk, after having walked downtown to run errands. I ambled up the driveway to the back door fumbling for keys with one hand; the other holding the afternoon's spoils from my consumer expedition. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed something odd, a dark shadow between the leaves of the doors of my tool shed. The shadow was a gap, the doors were open and the compartment inside was empty. No more bicycle, bicycle pump, or helmet.

Someone with a very good grip or a crowbar had pried the lock and hasp off the face frame of the door and made off with my 30-year-old Uni Vega touring bike and all its accoutrements. It was a broad daylight crime committed by someone who is familiar enough with my habits to know that I'm away from the house most Saturday afternoons. More alarmingly, the thief knew which of the four pairs of doors harbored the bike. Someone had seen me take it out or put it away and knew exactly where to return for the prize.

Being male, my reaction wasn't a feeling of invasion or even fear, I was angry. If I was in possession of a crow bar and the nape of the miscreant's neck there'd have been some damage done.

But that won't happen. This kind of petty crime is rarely solved and bicycles are easily disposed of, or dismantled for parts. I'd hate to think its sleek steel frame ended up in the river while the wheels were sold at a flea market.

It is slightly ridiculous to still be riding a bicycle that is older than most of my students. Over the years l've spent what it originally cost to replace parts and keep it maintained. The bike mechanics who tinkered with it looked at the all steel frame and

leather wrapped handlebars as if it was ready for its place in the Smithsonian.

The absence of this treasured object has thrown a cloud over my days. It's foolish to be so attached to an inanimate object, but the Uni Vega was tangible proof that I was young once, and free, at least in the hours when I was on the road with it.

I rode it all over Italy, the East Coast, and first explored my adopted home of San Antonio leaning into its handlebars. The quiet whirr of the wheels was the music for beautiful days in beautiful places. Black and silver and minimal, just touching it made me feel like a twentysomething again. There's a little crispness in the dawn air today, summer is over and autumn is upon me.

- Michael Guarino



## National Night Out 2015



Nora Peterson (from left), Officer David McCall and an unidentified neighbor were among the NNO crowd that enjoyed meatballs with pasta and ice cream from The Brain Freezer food truck, Thomas Lee Guajardo, owner (top).

Thanks to all of you who came out to National Night Out. This was a great night to speak with our local police and elected officials about our community concerns.

Our special guests were Downtown Bike Patrol, SAFFE Officers, Police Explorers and McGruff the Crime Dog, SAPD representatives, SA Fire Station \#7, Senator José Menéndez, representatives for Congressman Lloyd Dogget, City Councilman Roberto Treviño, and our favorite grocery bag HEBUDDY. Special thanks to the staff of Commander's House for sponsoring games and prizes! NNO Co-Chairs



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KW SAFFE Officers on patrol:
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"SAVING THE TEETH OF SAN ANTONIO ONE MOLAR AT A TIME!"

# Garden St. School News 

## Fall Highlights

On October 7 students participated in the firstever Bonham Open Mic Night. In addition to listening to middle school students recite poetry by Shel Silverstein, Nikki Grimes, Robert Frost and others, they also heard their friends recite original poetry. Not to be outdone by the poets, several students also played instruments and sang a cappella.

Thanks to the support of Gemini Ink, SAPL and current and former PTA parents, we enjoyed a fun evening. Look for the next Open Mic Night the week before the Thanksgiving holiday. Contact nbusse@ saisd.net if you are interested in participating, sponsoring or collaborating. Adults and children over 11 are encouraged to recite, play music or otherwise share their passion for writing!

With construction at the school nearly over, Bonham Academy was once again able to hold its annual Fall Festival on October 30. The event was a great success, with over 200 Bonham students, family members and staff taking part in the festivities. Money collected from the sale of food and drinks will be used to support the PTA's efforts to provide field trips, extracurricular activities and other schoolbased art opportunities in dance, theatre and cultural arts.

In keeping with our school's commitment to celebrating the cultural heritage of our community, this year's Festival incorporated themes from El Día de


Bonham Academy students read over 28,000 minutes and raised over $\$ 5,000$ over 14 days in the fall Read-a-thon. Way to go, Bobcats! (photo: Diana Estrada)


Bonham Folclórico dancers performed at the opening ceremony of the Yanaguana Playground on Hemisfair Plaza on October 3. (photo: Emily Mueller)
los Muertos. Attendees participated in art activities including making clay calaveras and scarecrows from recycled materials. They watched performances by Bonham's Folclórico dancers, played games, took part in a Zumba lesson, and were frightened in the Haunted House: Shipwreck that was planned and staffed by members of Bonham's drama club and band.

## Food Drive

The Junior International Thespians group is hosting a food drive called "Trick or Treat So Tots can Eat" through November 5. We welcome your donations of canned and packaged (non-perishable) food for this great cause!

Thank you for your support of Bonham Academy. Go Bobcats!

- Principal William Webber


##  <br> Bonham Pounce Looking for Sponsor <br> Are you interested in journalism or newspaper design? The Bonham Pounce needs you! Our neighborhood K-8 Academy is creating budding journalists with its first-ever newspaper club. Many kids, 4th-8th graders, are eager to get started but need a community sponsor. If you can contribute one afternoon per week after school and want to help, please contact Cherise Allegrini at fobonham@gmail.com or Jason Siptak at jsiptak@saisd.net

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POSTMASTER
Please deliver by November 1, 2015.

## November Calendar

4 General membership meeting - KWA office 7:00 p.m.
8 Golden Persimmon Quartet classical music concert - KWA office - 5:30-6:30 p.m.
11 Veteran's Day (KWA office open)
16 December/January Newsletter deadline
18 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
21 Electronics recycling - Girls Inc 1209 S. St. Mary's - 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday (KWA office closed)


[^0]:    (1) The James House at 303 King William Street.
    (2) 29-year-old Ted James married 21 -yearold Marie Louise Guenther in 1934.
    (3) For flood control purposes, the river was re-routed to run in front of the mill house in 1968.
    (4) Now called "The River House," a meeting room for San Antonio Conservation Society. (5) Adolph and Amanda Guenther Wagner lived at 219 E. Guenther.
    (6) Currently Marriott Plaza San Antonio Conference Center on S. Alamo St. - Bill Cogburn

    Sources: 9/28/2000 New York Times Obit; Mary Burkholder's Down the Acequia Madre; KWA Archives

