In the early 1970s, Mary Burkholder, with the help of photographer Graham Knight, produced and published two books: *The King William Area, A History and Guide to the Houses* and *Down the Acequia Madre*. Miss Burkholder, a retired schoolteacher, was a passionate student of local history, particularly that of her own King William neighborhood.

In an age before computers and the Internet, Mary spent untold hours in a musty basement at the County Courthouse with no air conditioning, poring over old, dusty deed records to establish chains of ownership to each and every house. She went house by house, street by street from one end of the original Historic District to the other and when she finished that, she started her second book doing the same with the houses in the newer part of the Historic District to the east of S. Alamo. Next, she went to the County Library and searched through a hundred years of City Directories to find out who lived in those houses.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mary for her tireless work, never seeking personal gain but simply doing something to satisfy her own curious mind and to preserve the history of her beloved neighborhood. In her will, she generously bequeathed all of the rights to her books to KWA.

For over forty years, scholars, historians, tourists and especially King William neighbors have relied on these two books for reference, guidance and entertainment, but the time has come for them to be reprinted. An ad hoc committee chaired by Jessie Simpson will do a certain amount of updating such as new color photos of the houses and adding a few houses that were omitted from the originals. This also gives us a chance to make any corrections that may have been missed in the original printing. If you have spotted any such irregularities, please notify the committee chair at jnmsimpson@hotmail.com.

- Bill Cogburn
One of the pleasures of being president is working with so many dedicated volunteers. Certainly one of the hardest working KWA committees is the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) chaired by Mickey Conrad. This committee’s task is to review and comment on every case that comes to the City’s Historic Design Review Committee (HDRC) from King William. The AAC also reviews some cases that are adjacent to King William that may impact our neighborhood in some way. The hard task of the AAC is to insure that the proper guidelines for exterior modification of our historic homes are followed. This often involves the applicants meeting with the AAC before appearing at the HDRC so that issues and concerns can be discussed. Often the applicant is unaware of the guidelines they need to follow, or what kinds of modifications are not acceptable. All of this is to help preserve the historic integrity of our neighborhood.

One issue that the AAC has been dealing with recently is the installation of solar panels. Solar panels absorb energy from the sun and convert that energy to electricity, thus saving the homeowner some costs of paying for the energy from the electricity grid of CPS. The panels are most effective on roofs that are either flat or face west or south. But solar panels can be distracting to the appearance of historic homes with peaked roofs that make it difficult to hide the panels from street view. The AAC and the KWA are not against solar panel installation. However, we do encourage that any installation be done in a manner that will not be visible from the street or otherwise detract from the character of the historic structure.

Another issue that the KWA is concerned about is the lack of toilet facilities available for First Friday revelers. No one owns First Friday – not the KWA or the City of San Antonio. Ordinarily the owner of an event (like our King William Fair) provides the toilets. One of our committee members discovered a rather obscure law that requires toilet facilities in any public gathering of 50 people or more. We have shared a copy of that law with John Jacks and others of the City Manager’s staff. Cherise Bell, Jessie Simpson and I met with Jacks and Stephen Barscewski of the Public Health Department to see what might be done about this public health issue. Our streets are public places, so in our view anyone who has more than one booth on their property should provide a toilet for the revelers. The city staff is reviewing the document and we will be meeting with them again this month.

Congratulations are certainly in order to SAY Sí, one of our grant recipients, for its recent recognition from the Adobe Creative Catalyst Program, the COSA Department of Culture and Creative Development Sisters’ City Initiative and the John Santikos Charitable Foundation (see story, p. 9). The Sisters’ City Initiative is a nationally recognized program and the Adobe initiative is an internationally recognized program. We can proudly say that SAY Sí is receiving the recognition that it certainly deserves.

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.

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In the introduction to the City of San Antonio Historic Design Guidelines, Shannon Shae Miller, Historic Preservation Officer, provides good answers to the question “Why Preserve?” Shannon cites the benefits of preservation on several levels including cultural, economic and environmental. The Guidelines are plainly written and help anyone wanting answers to basic questions about preservation and how to go about it. They can be accessed online at: sanantonio.gov/portals/0/Files/HistoricPreservation/1_UsingtheHistoricDesignGuidelines.pdf

The Guidelines provide clarity in our pursuit of preservation as stated in the KWA’s Mission Statement. With the King William and S. Alamo/S. St. Mary’s Historic Districts both being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, preservation is our duty and privilege. The Guidelines address alterations, additions, landscaping, site elements, signage and new construction, including designing for solar panels.

Sustainable and energy efficient technologies are making great progress in America. Initiatives to conserve resources are moving in the right direction by recycling, reusing and reducing. We value collecting and using water from our roofs. Some of us brag on how efficient our air conditioners are and how well our walls are insulated. We all enjoy reduced energy bills and a few of us are making the investment to install solar panels on the roofs of our homes to harvest energy from the sun.

The KWA Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) has enjoyed seeing our neighbor’s plans to install solar panels. Obviously, since the term “solar panel” was not even in the vocabulary of the designers and builders of our historic homes, it takes thoughtful planning to sensitively integrate this 21st century technology on the roofs of our 19th century structures without looking out of place and compromised.

In a case that was widely reported in local media, the City Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) narrowly allowed installation of 45 photovoltaic solar panels on a historic home at the corner of Mission and Eagleland. 32 of these panels will be on roof surfaces that are not easily seen from the public right-of-way, consistent with most installations approved by HDRC in King William and other historic districts. Because the house is on a corner lot, however, 13 panels will be visible from Eagleland, and these panels have been a source of controversy.

For the record, we present statements by Mickey Conrad, architect and chair of the KWA Architectural Advisory Committee, and by former state representative Mike Villarreal, owner and resident of the house. As this newsletter goes to press, we understand that the HDRC will discuss guidelines for solar installations in historic districts at their February 17 meeting.

My family recently applied for city authorization to install solar panels on the back and side of our home – a request opposed by the KWA management and Architectural Advisory Committee. I would like to explain the situation from my family’s perspective.

We chose to live in King William because we love the natural beauty and design of old homes and neighborhoods. We care not only about preserving that inherent beauty, but also about breathing new life into our home and bequeathing it to our children.

We bought our first home in King William nearly 20 years ago. It was a serious fixer-upper. We did nearly all the work ourselves. This was before we had children. Two years ago, we sold our family home for another house on our block that had been boarded up for about a decade. We spent the first year living in the back yard apartment while our home went through a significant restoration. We told the kids that it was going to be fun, just like camping! Our 100-year home is now full of life and once again creating family memories.

The history of life in King William is one of adaptation and change, as new people come in, appreciating, yet also adapting historic homes for modern needs.

The goals of historic preservation and solar energy production can be mutually supportive. For homeowners in historic homes, every dollar saved on energy bills can be used for further restoration. On the flip side, if older neighborhoods cannot access solar energy, the cost of historic designation becomes higher and these neighborhoods become unaffordable.

The King William board and membership should revise its architectural committee’s current practice of opposing solar energy projects that fail to meet its minimum visibility standard. In our case, the
We have had a fairly mild winter, but if you are like me you are looking forward to spring and warm weather. But when is that? Because of newsletter deadlines I happened to have started composing this on Ground Hog Day. That got me started thinking about theories and tales of when spring starts and the danger of frost is past. Here are a few. I hope you find them somewhat informative and maybe even amusing.

Ground Hog Day is February 2. I do not know how it got started, but up in Pennsylvania a ground hog named Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his burrow and if he sees his shadow that means six more weeks of winter. This year he did not see his shadow, so based on this “theory” we will have an early spring. But Phil lives in Pennsylvania. So what does that mean for us in South Texas? We will have to wait and see.

My maternal grandparents were farmers, a group that probably has enough weather tales to fill a book. About this time of year my grandmother, an avid gardener, always said we could have frost anytime up to Easter, which March 27 this year. My grandfather, on the other hand, believed that frost was possible anytime before the mesquite tree leafed out. If you want to test these positions, there is a mesquite tree in the side yard at 735 E. Guenther St. So again, we will have to wait and see.

And lastly, we come to all the weathermen on radio, television and in newspapers. On any given day, their forecasts are slightly different from one another. I have read that their consensus, based on historical records, is that the last average frost is the first weekend of March. Again, wait and see.

As to what to plant and when, I am hedging my bets and say wait until at least early March to plant warm weather plants. Nurseries will soon get new inventories of plants and have great sales. Take advantage of these sales, but hold off planting for a while.

From The Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations – “A classic, something that everyone wants to have read and nobody wants to read.”

Garden Note: There is nothing more relaxing than to:
- Sit in the garden with a cool drink,
- Smell the flowers,
- Listen to the melody of a wind chime and birds singing, and
- Watch birds fly from feeder to birdbath.

SAPD Central SAFFE Unit Contact Info
Main office: 207-7413
KW SAFFE Officers on patrol: 
Officer Robert Esquivel Tel: 207-7413
Officer David McCall Tel: 207-7413

Special Events to Benefit Bonham
The Friends of Bonham are excited to announce two upcoming events. Please join us for An Evening in Asia on Friday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., to be held at 1800 W. Commerce St. Asian food, drinks, dance, music and more! Tickets: $40 each, 2 tickets for $74, 4 tickets for $125.

Mark your calendars for May 7 for the 3rd Annual Friends of Bonham Academy Shake It! 1K/5K Run/Walk. This year’s race will start from Roosevelt Park and run along the Mission Reach Trail. Become a sponsor and race with us. Your sponsorship includes race registration and helps to create an enriched and multidimensional educational experience for Bonham Academy students.

Funds raised have contributed to the development of the outdoor science and garden program incorporating science, mathematics, anthropology and art in its curriculum. Meanwhile, 70 sixth graders travelled to Bamberger Ranch Preserve in January where they learned about land stewardship.

Sponsors have also had a significant impact on Bonham’s arts program, language curriculum and science programs. Contact fobonham@gmail.com, visit us on Facebook or friendsbonham.org for more information.

All proceeds go to help the students and teachers at Bonham. Thank you for your support of our neighborhood school!

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini President, Friends of Bonham
These are busy months around Bonham. Our elementary started a UTSA Bilingual Teacher Interns partnership in February, supervised by Dr. Jodi Maker and Dr. Jose Solis. These New Face for Future teachers are working with our dual-language students and teachers from Kindergarten to 5th Grade, and are becoming a fun part of our campus. It is always good for teachers to have real field study practice with the diverse students our campus holds, and it is always fun for our students to interact and engage with young people, especially those interested in becoming dual-language teachers and making a difference in the future of SAISD children.

Our PTA is also embracing the Dual-Language spirit by having a purely Spanish language meeting. The February meeting was held offering translations in English via headphones. This demonstrates to our community of parents and children that neither language takes precedence over the other in a truly dual-language model, such as we have here at Bonham.

Our school-wide Geography Bee finals were held on February 2, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Students were asked a variety of questions on world and national geography and competed in the same format as a spelling bee. After the classroom competition was finished, representatives from each class met to determine the school champion. It was a hard fought contest and the finalists were: Nyomi Raphael – 6th Grade in 3rd Place; Jose Rodriguez – 8th Grade in 2nd Place; and Charlotte Sherwood – 4th Grade in 1st Place. Charlotte will go on to the regional and, hopefully, statewide competition through a mail-in written assessment. The National finals take place in Washington, D.C.

In our middle school, there were two major events of note. First, students who participated in the District One-Act Play competition brought home 1st Place, along with multiple individual honors. Our Bobcats earned Best Actor, along with two who made the All-Star Cast, two who earned Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, and an All-Star Crew member. Way to go Bobcats and Ms. Clifford, their director and teacher!

The other news relates to our annual middle school field trip. Each year we fundraise so that we can take all students. This year, we headed to the Hill Country, visiting Enchanted Rock and the heritage sites in Fredericksburg. We enjoyed hiking, museums and local flavor. Next year we'll be heading to Austin to visit the State Capital buildings and museums.

Finally, it is wonderful to include Gemini Ink as one of our partners. In February, poets began an eight week program with our 6th and 7th graders. They will help students understand the art of poetry and become stronger writers. With the goal of a publication by the end of the year, all involved hope that this is the beginning of a beautiful partnership. And it’s a great way to support the already growing Open Mic event that occurs every nine weeks! The next Open Mic, where you’ll see our kids and their teachers perform, will be April 19 at 6:30 p.m. That’s Fiesta Week, so put it on your calendar now. All community members are welcome to attend these performances!

The dedication of new construction at Bonham academy is tentatively scheduled for March 24. All our King William neighbors are cordially invited to come help us celebrate!

- William Webber, Principal
The most time consuming New Year's resolution is the one I've made this year. I'm finally going through the pyramid of boxes that have been entombed in my carriage house since I moved in ten years ago. The move from Austin was more like the flight of an exiled government, there wasn't time to burn all the documents so I dragged them all with me, unsorted, unread, and largely unknown. I had to start my new job here on very little notice and was lucky to find a house that could shelter generations of family accumulations.

Last weekend I opened a box that I thought contained drawings from my graduate school days. It did, but there was a foreign object wrapped in layers of paper. I took it out in the sunshine and slowly began to unwind its shroud.

It was my maternal grandfather's dress sword. I thought it had been lost or stolen but here it was, it's always been with me here after all, and I hope it always will be.

I don't think even my siblings know it exists. It was in a trunk in my parent's garage, I discovered it after heavy rains had backed up into the space and caused the bottom of the trunk to corrode and ultimately disintegrate.

The sight of it made my mother cry. She had a deeply conflicted relationship with her father, a charming playboy and apparently undependable parent.

He had the sword because he was an officer in a National Guard regiment in Chicago. In his time, National Guard units in big cities were more like exclusive clubs, the men kitted themselves out with tailored uniforms and fancy gear like the sword. There is only a vestige of its leather strap left but the rest is very much intact, including its gleaming elaborately engraved blade with the mark of a Philadelphia maker, something for future research on my part.

The only thing my mother told me about it was that she knew her father had been called up during the infamous Chicago race riots of 1919. He was a horseman and member of a cavalry unit. The sword was more than an ornament during that tragic episode.

In an echo of our own times, the riots began when a napping African American teenager on a raft drifted over to a segregated beach on Lake Michigan. He was savagely beaten, igniting days of rage among Chicago's burgeoning African American community. Police reaction was swift and brutal until they realized they were overwhelmed and called for the Guard.

The sword is all I have of my grandfather who departed my mother's life forever after my grandparents' acrimonious divorce. I hope there's no blood on it.

- Michael Guarino
As a young child full of excitement and wonder about the natural world, I recall watching a tiny spider painstakingly weave its large, intricate web. I also remember watching with glee when a fly unwittingly flew into its trap as the spider rushed to devour it. The delicate, artistic web that this little engineer of the natural world builds and the clever hunting tactics it applies to capture prey all happen with such magical precision.

This black and yellow gem you may find residing in your garden is an utterly harmless arachnid called the Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*). Considering that this spider is tiny and powerless, the size and bright color are meant to scare away predators. Its two-foot wide web, found in a sunny part of a garden, is strategically placed to catch the maximum insect traffic. Fascinatingly, the conspicuous central zigzag pattern of its web is actually meant to keep birds from flying into it. For dinner each night, the spider enjoys its favorite meal of moths, flies, wasps, bees and mosquitoes.

Laying over 1,000 eggs, the female keeps the eggs in a papery sac on the web until little spiderlings move out on their own. Lizards love these little spider snacks, while hummingbirds try stealing mama spider’s web silk to line their own nests. Fancy that!

- Minna Paul
San Antonio River Authority

The gardener’s lovely friend, the Golden Garden Spider, with a wrapped snack in its fantastic web.

This beautiful spider represents a key ecological link in the food web thriving along the banks of the San Antonio River. Now that you have been introduced to this colorful native, we hope you will be able to overcome any unfounded fear and grow to love and respect this silent, essential part of the bio-diversity found on the San Antonio River Watershed. Surely it is imperative for us to acknowledge that this is their land, too!
Tomas Arredondo, Jr., known by many of his friends as Tommy, passed away on November 30, 2015, at the age of 78. He was born in Laredo, Texas on August 17, 1937 where he attended high school and Laredo Junior College. After moving from Laredo to Corpus Christi, he moved to San Antonio in 1961, and in 1965 he met the love of his life, Margaret Trejo. They were married for 50 years and raised four children and enjoyed many grandchildren.

Many of us knew Tommy from the family-owned Iris Bakery, which was located at 1030 S. Presa. A third generation baker, he learned at an early age how to bake wonderful Mexican sweetbreads and other treats and continued baking at the Iris until it closed in 1995. Tommy was also well known as a long time member of the San Antonio Charro Ranch, where he spent many days riding his beautiful quarter horses and enjoying time with his family and fellow Charro horsemen. It was a treat to spend the day with Tommy and his friends cooking outdoors at the Ranch, riding and enjoying life.

Tommy had many interests and activities throughout his life, including basketball in high school, coaching city league softball with Margaret as manager, fishing, woodworking, and family bar-b-ques and get-togethers. He enjoyed working on his old cars and hanging out on his front porch, enjoying friends and family. There was rarely a weekend when his kids and grandkids weren’t playing in the street while Tommy watched from the porch and smoke from his grill filled the air.

The first time I met Tommy was 30 years ago when he brought me burgers and candles following a power outage. It typified his sweet and kind nature. He was a great listener, with a witty and wonderful sense of humor. Tommy loved to laugh, and I think it gave him great pleasure to make others laugh.

- Scott Smith

Women’s History Month

King William has a history of strong-willed women fighting for righteous causes. Women worked together to get our historic district designations. Women fought for the Bed and Breakfast Ordinance and the Bus Tour Ordinance. These actions were done to keep King William a great place to live – not just to visit.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, here is another example of a dedicated woman who contributed to keeping King William a great place for education.

"Friends Join Teachers in Fight on Salary Slash" was a headline in the June 4, 1924 edition of the San Antonio Express. “A mass meeting of 800 persons took up the teachers' fight for better salaries. The meeting was held in Brackenridge Senior School auditorium. It adopted resolutions demanding abolition of the 5 per cent cut in teachers' salaries.” The accompanying photo showed a group of mostly women, who represented the parent-teacher association (PTA) and instructors, including Mrs. Ed Basse, president of the Bonham PTA.

Elfrieda Siemering was born May 21, 1880 in Texas, the fourth child of August and Clara Siemering. She married Edward Basse in 1903. They resided at 423 Mission.

- Cherise Bell
SAY Sí Goes Global

SAY Sí (San Antonio Youth, YES) has long been known as San Antonio’s premier out-of-school time creative youth development organization. Since its inception in 1994, its growing success rates have garnered national attention and recognition. But for the first time in its 21-year history – SAY Sí’s tuition-free programs will go global.

On February 9, SAY Sí hosted a “Changemakers Press Conference” event to announce new program support from: The Santikos Charitable Foundation, COSA’s Department for Culture and Creative Development and Adobe’s new corporate responsibility initiative, Project 1324.

SAY Sí is one of seven international youth arts organizations chosen to receive an inaugural Creative Catalyst Award by Adobe Project 1324. Creative Catalyst Awards are given to organizations across the globe that support and inspire the next generation of creatives. Awardees receive a classroom donation of Adobe’s Creative Cloud software for up to 25 computers. Participating youth from these organizations can also apply to the Adobe Creativity Scholarship Program, which provides full-ride education grants to youth pursuing a creative path in higher education. Additionally, Creative Catalysts have multiple opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, convening and professional development.

Project 1324 is also awarding SAY Sí with an Innovation Grant to fund a new SAY Sí-led initiative called Project Papalote. Through Project Papalote, SAY Sí staff and youth will travel to Boston, Massachusetts; Salt Lake City, Utah; Mexico City, Mexico and Kolkata, India to work with other youth development organizations to collaboratively create media projects that focus on the theme of identifying borders and breaking boundaries.

Strengthening the organization’s place on the global stage, the Department for Culture and Creative Development, in conjunction with the International Relations Office, has sponsored five SAY Sí students to attend the Annual Sister Cities Youth Leadership Summit this July. Through the four-day Summit, Sister Cities International empowers young people to think globally, spurring a new generation of citizen diplomats who become instrumental in promoting peace, mutual respect and prosperity.

Last month, SAY Sí was also one of the first organizations in San Antonio to receive a John Santikos Passion Grant. For this grant, John L. Santikos chose six San Antonio organizations that would be part of a competitive process for funding. SAY Sí was selected to receive a grant to strengthen the film and media programs with updated equipment and supplies for students.

- Stephen Guzman
SAY Sí Communications Manager

High school students in SAY Sí's Media Arts Studio learn how to use new filmmaking equipment purchased with support from the Santikos Charitable Foundation.

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Technology Enhances Our Neighborhood

continued from page 3

KWA argued that solar panels must be made minimally visible, which is an admirable position. Their stance did not fully consider solar energy production concerns, however, and I think it went too far. I believe that the KWA policy does not reflect the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Rehabilitation, nor the City of San Antonio’s existing policy, which recommends balancing concerns for visibility with solar energy production.

Such a policy would allow solar energy panels that are (1) located on the rear or side of a home, (2) respect the slope of the existing roof-line, (3) hug the roof-line, and (4) mimic the color of the roof or are non-reflective black. The City’s Office of Historic Preservation recommended authorization of my solar panel system because it respected these requirements.

A vibrant historic neighborhood requires a delicate balancing act as new technologies emerge. Telephone and electricity wires a century ago altered the look and feel of our neighborhood, but carried modernizing benefits for a vibrant residential life. Similarly, I regard evolving solar technology as an essential and necessary option for 21st Century living. Responsible historic preservation – as regulated by national and city institutions – should guide the adoption of technology that enhances this neighborhood we all love.

- Mike Villarreal
Most of the solar panel installations the AAC has reviewed were designed to be in keeping with the Historic Design Guidelines that promote a balance of minimizing the view of the panels while maximizing solar orientation. Panels should not be placed on roofs that face a street. They should be located on roofs that face the side or back yards, where they’re not readily seen from the street, other public right-of-way or the River Walk. In some cases, existing trees help to screen panels from streets without blocking the path of sunlight to them.

Unfortunately, a few of the solar projects proposed had panels located in clear view from the street, which would be an unfortunate detraction from the historic character of the home. In these cases the AAC offers suggestions to integrate the solar arrays without diminishing the historic character of the home.

Like other improving technologies, we should expect the future of solar energy harvesting to become progressively efficient, cost effective and less obtrusive when integrating them into our historic homes. Until then, we will continue to strive for a balance of preservation and sustainability with the technology we have today.

- Mickey Conrad, AIA, LEED AP BD+C Chair, KWA Architectural Advisory Committee
March Calendar

2  General Membership Meeting - KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
16 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

April Calendar

3  Siclovia
6  General Membership Meeting - KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
12 Deadline for May newsletter
20 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
23 King William Fair!