



KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 14, No. 6

July 2018

Knowing Neighbors Makes It Nicer

Helen Geyer reflects on 71 years in King William

When Helen Ganter moved to 414 E Guenther in 1936 as a 12-year-old, she couldn't have known that she was moving into one of the best neighborhoods anywhere - or that she would never leave that neighborhood for the rest of her life. She attended Page Middle School at the time. "It was the only school that our whole family attended - Bill, myself, and our three kids." She reminisces about life in the 'hood almost 100 years ago: "Kids used to skate and run around at the corner of Guenther and Crofton," she remembers. "The windows would be opened in all the houses and you could hear the radios playing. That was before TV and air-conditioning, you know. I really never thought I'd see air-conditioning in houses! I liked the heat then. We didn't have anything else so we all just tolerated it."

Helen also remembered hanging out with neighbor kids at one of the Dreiss family's houses in the spot that Insko has occupied for over 30 years. "We used to go swimming in the river behind their house, right by the Alamo St. bridge," she says. Helen later moved with her family to 523 Cedar Street, and lived there after she graduated from Brackenridge High School in 1941. She remembers being shocked that the Japanese would bomb Pearl Harbor and start a war with the United States. She was dating Bill Geyer at the time, a neighborhood boy in the merchant marines. "He got to come home, unlike the other soldiers," she said. "Wars back then were different. Today



Photo: Angela Martinez
Helen Geyer

there are all kinds of ways for families to stay connected to the men and women at war across the world. Back in that time you said goodbye and weren't sure you would ever see them again."

She continued to live at the house on Cedar with her family until she married Bill in 1946. She reports that rent for that house was just \$25 a month! That's one of the changes she is most flabbergasted by: the intense gentrification of realty in the neighborhood. "I never thought I'd see the houses around me going for half a million or more than a million dollars! What does that do to our taxes?!"

Bill, her new husband, had grown up in the family home in the 700 block of Guenther, a block which Helen has dubbed "the best block in King William" because of the neighbors that look out for each other like a second family. Helen moved into the Geyer home in 1946 and still lives there today. She raised her own family in that house: Ron, Julie and Billy. They all went to neighborhood schools - Bonham or Robert B. Green for elementary, Page or Terrell Hills for middle school, and Highlands, Brackenridge or Wheatley for high school. "I worked 25 years for the PTA!" she recalls with a shake of her head. "Ilse Griffith recruited me. Ilse recruited me for a lot of things; I served on the King William Board for two or three years (1976-79) and even got involved with the Conservation Society for a while, but had to quit that when I needed to help Bill with the family business."

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President's Report

by Chris Price

It is that time of year when we start thinking about next year and the board. This year the nominating committee consists of Gloria Arcchi, Shawn Campbell, Gretchen Garceau-Kragh (chair), Margaret Leeds and Robin Raquet.

The nominating committee will recruit KWA members to serve on the board. This year is a little different than in past years in that the committee will be recruiting only one new board member, in addition to nominating a new president. This past year, we had three board members leave the board mid-term. According to the bylaws, board members vote to fill vacancies and the newly-elected board member may serve three years in addition to the partial year they filled. As a result, we have only one board member moving off the board this year.

Serving on the board and as President for the last two years has been one of the most gratifying experiences I have had. It provides the opportunity to give back to the community, have a positive impact, work with one of the most professional staffs in the nonprofit world and, of course, make new friends with other residents. I strongly encourage you to consider serving on the board. Your involvement will help ensure that we have a strong board that broadly represents the various interests in our neighborhood. The time commitment is not overly burdensome and can be easily managed.

Contact any nominating committee member or Tracy Moon, Executive Director, to discuss the time commitment and expectations of board members. If this is not the right time for you, there are many other ways to contribute and serve the neighborhood – from volunteering to serving on a committee. Most importantly, we need you to actively contribute! Do it, you will not regret it!

Board Briefs

The board met on June 20, 2018 to take action on three items. First, the board approved a donation to SAISD of 100 copies of *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses* by Mary V. Burkholder and Jessie N.M. Simpson. Second, the Board approved the appointment of Mel Laracey and Gloria Arcchi to the board of the King William Foundation (formed in 2017 to address TABC issues). Finally, the board approved the termination of the 50th anniversary committee.

The board heard from several members regarding two issues: funding of professional services and confusion over member voting rights at the June general membership meeting when members of the nominating committee were elected. The board will consider the funding issue when it approves the next budget. The board voted to establish a committee to make recommendations for clarifying and simplifying the bylaws.

The board also heard presentations from city staff regarding improvements to South Alamo Street and the repaving of neighborhood streets north of it. Tracy Moon provided the board with a multi-year overview of Fair and Association finances. Steward Bryant of Merrill Lynch provided a summary of the KWA investment account and potential loan management account (to be used to address the short-term cash flow needs of the Fair).

Our guest from the Lavaca Neighborhood Association was Selsa Adham Gonzalez.

This column is not intended to replace the official minutes.

- Rose Kanusky



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,
Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn
LAYOUT Angela Martinez

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 ourkwa.org.

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kwfair.org
kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com

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Knowing Neighbors

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She recalls the many changes she has seen in our neighborhood over almost three quarters of a century: Taco Haven used to be a photography studio where everyone took their kids for the family pictures, and she shopped at the Handy Andy (where Ace Mart is today) and later the HEB on S. Presa (now a senior center). She volunteered at the dinner theatre, one of the many iterations of business attempts in the old church on S. Alamo (most recently the home of Frank's). She remembers going to the Roosevelt pool - still there today! - and the Roosevelt library, which closed when the McCreless library was built (the building is now home to a fixtures showroom).



Photo: Gloria Jasso

Helen Geyer with her son Billy and daughter-in-law Carrie on King William Fair day.

Helen laments the destruction of the beautiful old Brackenridge High School in the 1970s. "They wanted air conditioning! But they knocked down blocks of houses to build it! That's the real tragedy." She recalls the boondoggle of renaming Brackenridge "Wheatley" once the new building was constructed, and how a team of alumni rallied to change the name back to "Brackenridge." "I haven't been to a reunion since 2001," she said, which was a few years before her husband Bill died of lung cancer in 2004. "I guess they're all gone now." This is Helen's last regret: that so many of her friends and neighbors with whom she has grown up and grown old in the King William neighborhood have either died or moved away.

"I think the neighborhood has just gotten better over the years," she insists. "People used to not be as friendly as they are now. We didn't know our neighbors as much as we do now." Helen considers the neighbors on her block an extended family. She enjoys knowing every one of her neighbors and chatting with them as they walk by her porch swing. She laments that she can't get to know all the new people as quickly as she would like.

"Knowing your neighbors makes living here nicer," Helen says. Her only disappointment with living in King William through the years has been people who insist on butchering the name of her street, Guenther (pronounced /gen-thur/, after the German immigrant Carl Guenther). "If you have to put up with crazy historic stuff living here, you should at least get the name right!"

- Dina Toland



Want to Promote World Peace?

Hosting an exchange student allows you to do that one person at a time!

The AFS high school foreign exchange program is looking for homes for students for the upcoming school year. A "home" can include traditional two-parent families with kids, couples without children, single parents and kids, or even single individuals without kids. All it takes is a desire to be a parent to a high school student. You provide a bed, food and a loving home. You receive a world of experience in return.

For more information, visit the AFS website at www.afsusa.org or contact Jeannie at AFSalamo@hotmail.com or (210) 274-0554.

- Jeannie Frazier



Free Concert Series

The Cultural Arts Committee of the King William Association announces the 2018 Concert Season:

-  August 12 - The Legendary West Side Horns - Latin Jazz
The Friendly Spot
-  September 9 - Henry Brun Sextet - Latin Jazz
Upper Mill Park
-  October 21 - Youth Orchestra of San Antonio - Classical/Pops - 110 Musicians!
King William Park
-  November 4 - Volcán - 13-piece Latin Indie Orchestra
King William Park

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. and are FREE! Mark your calendars! Bring your friends and neighbors! We hope to see you there.

- Ethel Pedraza

SAPD
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210-207-7273
KW SAFE Officer on patrol:
Officer David McCall
210-207-7413

Summer Workshop at SAALM's Semmes Studio



McCarthy will show how to combine the styles of two painters into one innovative abstract painting.

The San Antonio Art League & Museum will host Inspired Abstractions, an all-level painting workshop taught by Marguerite Moreau McCarthy, at our newly-refurbished Semmes Studio.

This three-day class will show students how to combine ideas, techniques and styles from at least two artists they admire, producing original abstract works on canvas.

Marguerite Moreau McCarthy is a painter, printmaker, graphic designer, and art educator. Her works can be found in personal and corporate collections throughout the United States. She is equally accomplished as a printmaker in a variety of media including serigraphy, intaglio, relief and monoprint techniques. McCarthy is a versatile collage artist, incorporating surrealist visions in her multimedia, sometimes sculptural, collage pieces.

Classes are July 10-12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and limited to 8 participants. Tuition is \$165 per student. For details, registration and materials list, please visit www.saalm.org - "Workshops."

The Semmes Studio is an accessible, multi-use space on the grounds of the San Antonio Art League and Museum made possible by a grant from Pat and Tom Semmes and the Semmes Foundation.

- Lyn Belisle, SAALM President

Blue Star Contemporary News

Blue Star Contemporary is pleased to present two public programs in July. The first, Regarding



INSPIRE. NURTURE. INNOVATE.

the Discarded, is a workshop led by From Underfoot: Breaking Through Surface and Ground exhibiting artist Carrie Dickason, to be held on Saturday, July 7 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Registration is required to participate in this workshop ([go to bluestarcontemporary.org](http://go.to/bluestarcontemporary.org)).

This public program offers the opportunity to learn about contemporary art through hands-on activities. Discover artist Carrie Dickason considers post-consumer materials in her large-format work. She invites participants to bring some of their own frequently used, but often-disregarded materials, and join in reconstructing them through a variety of textiles processes.

This workshop will include a brief presentation of anthropological and contemporary references, and discussion and demonstration of simple textile techniques. Participants should consider bringing at least one material collected from the ground. This can be anything that draws your attention and that you find interesting - there is no "wrong" material! These items will inform our conversation and direct our processes for a fun, creative afternoon.

The second program BSC will host is a Berlin Brunch in partnership with Liberty Bar. On Saturday, July 21 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., join BSC Berlin Residency Program Alumni Amada Miller and Andrei Renteria as they discuss their experience at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien as part of the Blue Star Contemporary Berlin Residency Program. This small intimate setting is an opportunity to get unfettered access to the artists and residency program while joining the international art dialogue in San Antonio. Registration is also required for this program so please visit www.bluestarcontemporary.org to save your seat!

- Inessa Kosub

BSC Public Affairs and Engagement Manager



Free Outdoor Movies

7/13, **Westworld** (1973), The Monty + Ivy

7/14, **Isle of Dogs**, Hemisfair

7/18, **A Bug's Life**, Confluence Park

All movies start at dusk. Bring lawn chairs. More info at slabcinema.com

Hi! I am your neighbor, Camille Rodriguez Brigant, over on Gramercy. I am also a **realtor specializing in our unique neighborhoods**. If you have been considering selling your home, I would love to introduce you to my new boutique brokerage, *Motif*.

I decided to start Motif to expand on the **truly customized, personal touch** I have developed with my clients over the years. I have seen so many clients frustrated by the one-size-fits-all approach used by big conglomerate agencies. I look at each of my clients with fresh eyes, and create an innovative, specialized strategy that serves YOU.

Born and raised in San Antonio, my first job was working in my mother's real estate company. After graduating from Princeton University, I worked in both residential and commercial real estate on the West Coast and Louisiana before returning home to focus on our community. I am a supporter of many local art, conservation, and historic preservation groups. I am also both a Senior Real Estate Specialist and a Historic Homes Specialist.

Historic homes have such character - but they possess their own set of challenges. I can accurately price your home, target buyers who appreciate the vintage charm of older homes, help navigate the contract, inspections, appraisal, and lender requirements our unique homes require. Repairs are common, and Motif has a network of affordable, reliable contractors to make this process go smoothly.

If you are interested in a local expert with personalized services, I look forward to hearing from you.



Camille Rodriguez Brigant, *Realtor®*

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Book Review: *The Financial Rules for New College Graduates*

Before moving to King William, Michael Taylor was a Wall Street bond salesman and ran his own investment fund. Today, our neighborhood financial expert follows his passion of providing a basic financial education to the rest of us.

Michael is an instructor at Trinity University in personal finance, and a freelance columnist for several Texas newspapers. He has distilled much of his teachings down to a breezy, accessible, 200-page book entitled *The Financial Rules for New College Graduates: Invest Before Paying Off Debt – and Other Tips Your Professors Didn't Teach You*.

Michael's book does not try to show you how to "beat the market" or "beat the Street". He doesn't share any secret knowledge. Instead, the reader is encouraged to cultivate the attitudes of wealthy individuals. One should be optimistic about your ability to build wealth. One should be modest about comparing your wealth or investment performance with others. Finally, one should be skeptical of what the "Financial Infotainment Industrial Complex" is selling. These attitudes, with a bit of self-discipline, are all that Michael advocates.

You can't have a book entitled "Financial Rules" without math, and there is plenty in this section of the book. The math-avid will find reasons for optimism from Mike's illustration of the power of compound returns. The skeptical will find tools that will help them separate the good financial products from the bad. The modest, particularly the math-averse, will learn the basic principles that support the remainder of the book.

Once armed with the right attitudes and the tiniest bit of math, the reader is ready to follow the book's remaining chapters, which discuss the typical, important financial decisions of a person's life. Chapters about beginning to build a surplus include practical lessons on debt, savings, taxes, and the purchase of houses and cars. Later chapters teach the reader to discern between good financial products and bad. The book ends with discussion on retirement, estate planning and death.

In these chapters, Mike disposes of several financial planning myths that could lead to bad decision-making. My favorite example explains why even those paying-off high-interest debt may be better off participating in employer-sponsored retirement plans.

While aimed at new college graduates, the book is equally useful to any young person – particularly with its emphasis on starting retirement savings early. Put one on your gift list for your new graduates, and maybe get one for yourself.

- Patrick Conroy

National Junior Tennis and Learning at Brack

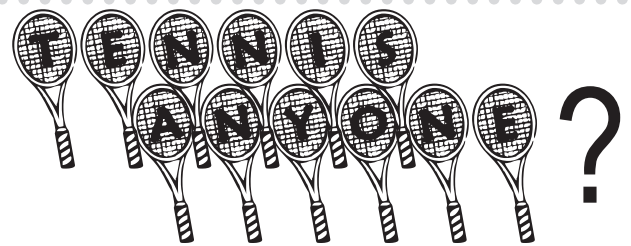
National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) is back at Brack! This is our seventh year to have NJTL at Brackenridge High School. For those of you not familiar with this program, this is a FREE program for all kids to take tennis lessons and have fun at a camp. We take ages 6-15 (if they are younger, please talk to me because I usually take them), and in the past most of my campers have been from Bonham and other SAISD schools. There is a \$10.00 donation requested, but it is voluntary. No child is turned away!

I volunteer my services every year and I am not compensated from this program in any way. In past years we have had many faculty, staff, SAISD employees from other campuses and SAISD police officers bring their kids to participate in this camp.

Tennis camp starts June 11 and we are here Monday – Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Afterwards we normally take kids to the cafeteria for the free lunch program that is offered at Brack. We will not have the camp during the Fourth of July week, and we will end the summer on Wednesday, July 25. Participants must sign up online at www.satennis.com before kids start the camp.

I love having all these youngsters learning how to play tennis, so the more the merrier!! Feel free to send this info to anyone you think will enjoy having their kids in a free daytime summer tennis camp.

- Coach Victoria Shaheen, Head Boys & Girls Tennis, Brackenridge High School



I am trying to organize an adult summer group of King William/Lavaca/Southtown residents to play some friendly social tennis on Thursday nights. We have only 4 courts, so there may be a need to limit the number of players & set up a fair rotation system. To make the best use of the courts, it is highly likely that we would play doubles. 5:30pm-7:30pm or 6pm-8pm. Each player would be responsible for bringing their own racquet & a new can of balls. I am open to suggestions from my fellow neighbors. Feel free to email me directly: johnbarrerrainsa@gmail.com

Join the Conversation with EPIcenter Neighbors

Located just two miles from downtown along the banks of the San Antonio River, the new \$74.5 million EPIcenter will transform the historic Mission Road Power Plant into a new energy innovation center – a cradle for invention, a nucleus of activity, a catalyst for future development and a hub for education and community engagement.

If you live or own property in 78204 or 78210, you are eligible to join EPIcenter Neighbors for FREE! EPIcenter Neighbors is a forum for feedback from those surrounding the Mission Road Power Plant and for EPIcenter to share information about what's happening.

For the month of July 2018, we are asking those already enrolled in our Neighbors program to help us grow the EPIcenter community. The Neighbor who refers the most new residents to join EPIcenter will receive a \$500 HEB gift card and a gift basket filled with goodies from local businesses. In addition, every new Neighbor who joins during the month of July will be entered into a raffle to receive a \$250 HEB gift card.

For more information, visit epicenterus.org/connect and go to the "Neighbors" section, or contact Jill Vassar at (210) 904-2682 or jhvasar@epicenterus.org.

Thank you for helping the EPIcenter community to grow!

- Jill Vassar, Director of Development and Partnerships



The M Words: Mission, Money and Marketing

"The nonprofit model isn't broken. But the system is evolving and we can be better." - Mohan Sivaloganathan

As the KWA begins its annual budgeting process, I thought it might be helpful to understand the current thought in nonprofit management.

Ellen Rosewall points out in her book *Arts Management* that many in the nonprofit world are driven by a passion for a cause and have developed the feeling that money is a dirty word. After all, claiming the moral high ground may be more difficult if at the end of the day social warriors are reduced to covering expenses just like any common business. Although there is much to admire in many nonprofit missions, as well as the passion of their advocates, such a snobbish disdain for business realities may ultimately impede success.

GuideStar, an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies, conducted a survey of newsletter readers asking, "What is the greatest challenge your organization faces?" Nearly half – 46% - responded: "Finding the money to accomplish our mission." There is no lack of vision or enthusiasm, but finding a way to keep the doors open remains a challenge. The connection between money and mission becomes all too clear in the face of financial challenges.

The grants "go-to" is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain as government funding continues to dwindle. Nonprofit organizations must adjust their funding mix and focus on private funding: individuals, foundations and corporations. With so many organizations competing for support, including socially conscious, for-profit corporations, nonprofits need a more business-based marketing mindset.

Nonprofits understand the need for marketing, but similar to attitudes regarding money, many associate marketing with manipulation and reducing standards to appeal to the lowest common denominator. "Not-for-profit arts organizations are supposed to be shielded from the marketplace. Our bottom line is mission, not money." Such attitudes indicate that it may be time for many nonprofits to come down from the rarified air of good intentions and engage in the often-gritty work of problem solving. Marketing does not need to compromise mission integrity, but the ability to accomplish the mission requires marketing. In order to be successful, nonprofits must understand marketing principles and how they can be applied to mission-driven organizations. This may require attitude adjustments and stepping out of comfort zones.

Many of the more forward-thinking nonprofit organizations have already made adjustments and are embracing a more entrepreneurial approach. Telfair Museums' Board of Trustees cited the combination of entrepreneurial skills and arts knowledge as essential for their new Director/CEO. Colleges and universities like the Savannah College of Art and Design are doing a better job of preparing students for the new realities of nonprofit leadership. However, too many organizations with laudable missions stubbornly cling to old prejudices, often at the expense of the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the communities they serve.



KWA Executive Director
Tracy Moon

- Tracy Moon

The Flavor of the Neighborhood

New in the Neighborhood

We moved to the neighborhood last fall after selling our empty nest. In the old neighborhood we met many friends through our children at school; now it's through our dog, "Casper-with-a-Q." Because we love walking the neighborhoods, our new motto is "Eat Where You Live."

This column won't do four-star ratings of the tastiest, best service, best price. You can read plenty of critics covering the food, art and culture scene. What I will try to do is capture the flavor of the neighborhood, where you can walk your dog to a restaurant, meet friends, and linger over good food and conversation.

So, let's get down to the food. New in the neighborhood is the redevelopment of the site of the HemisFair '68 World's Fair, and four new restaurants have opened there: Dough, Paeteria San Antonio, Commonwealth Coffeehouse & Bakery and Con Safos Cantina.

Dough.

Those who know Dough's Blanco Rd. location have been watching their remodeling of the historic OK Bar. The wait is over - well, the wait for a table has begun - they are now open for business. I love



Dough owner, Doug Horn, throwing a pizza. their wood-fired pizza, but it's not just about the pizza: fresh salads, creative antipasti, yummy desserts, curated wine list from southern Italy.

When we walked in, "Bingo's" parents invited us to join their table and introduced us to new friends for a lovely evening. One attentive waiter kept "Qasper" (yes, that's "Casper-with-a-Q") occupied with water and dog biscuits and another kept us refilled.

Catch their First Friday Happy Hour for a bargain wine or beer and cichetti, Italian tapas. And due to a quirk in the law left over from HemisFair '68, it's legal to carry your drink all over the park. So, get your snack and beverage, and watch the kids play in Yanaguana Gardens.

Tuesday-Thursday, 5:00 p.m. until the cheese runs out; Friday-Sunday, noon until the cheese is gone; closed Monday. 434 S. Alamo, doughpizzeria.com

Paeteria San Antonio. What's better on a hot summer day than a paleta? That's a popsicle, for those not from around here. These paletas are



Gansito Paletas at Paeteria

hand-made with fresh fruits, with creative flavor combos like strawberry-walnut, lime-chamoy, Oreo cookie, mango-nada.

Monday - Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Closed Wednesday; Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. 510 S. Alamo, paleteriasanantonio.com

Commonwealth Coffeehouse & Bakery HemisFair.

Can't decide whether to eat breakfast in Paris or Puebla? Commonwealth's breakfast taco special has you covered: breakfast taco, croissant and a cup of coffee for six bucks! The breakfast taco, on a handmade flour tortilla, comes with a generous portion of egg with various fillings and red or green salsa.

On a pleasant Saturday morning, you can watch the kids play in the water playground as you eat a delicious brunch on the back patio. There's usually a dog bowl on the front or back porch, so we park Qasper in the most shade. Dog treats are in the jar on the counter. Check out their community garden near the back porch: fresh vegetables and LIVE CHICKENS!

Breakfast: 7-11; Lunch: 11-3; Saturday brunch: 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., closed Monday. 611 HemisFair Boulevard, commonwealthcoffeehouse.com

Con Safos Cantina. This bar showcases the art, music and food of the owners' Westside roots. Catch their live music on First Fridays. Aguas frescas, agave-wine frozen Margaritas, and over 30 kinds of beer pair well with the food. The Concha Burger is unlike any other burger you'll find around: traditional Mexican pan dulce sliced open with a beef patty and all the trimmings.

Tuesday - Thursday, 4:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.; Friday, 4:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., Saturday - Sunday, noon to midnight. 607 HemisFair Plaza Way, consafos-sa.com

Meet friends and dog-friends in the Yanaguana Gardens. On the 50th anniversary of HemisFair '68, the HemisFair redevelopment is making the park an inviting place to gather.

- Dan Ratliff

Jeff Ketner

July 30, 1941 ~
May 22, 2018

King William has lost a dear friend. When Jeff and Mary Grace were traveling to Germany to visit their daughter and family, they were required to change



Jeff Ketner

planes at Dulles Airport where Jeff tripped and injured his vertebrae. Although he was safely moved back to San Antonio for treatment, complications occurred during his rehab procedures resulting in his death.

Jeff was a CPA for 45 years and operated a successful accounting firm until he retired last year. He took his turn as a King William board member in the mid-2000s also serving as secretary of the board.

Those who knew Jeff will miss his wry humor and his mischievous smile while regaling his audience with funny stories from his vast repertoire. A kind and gentle soul, he loved his wife Mary Grace, his family and his many friends. And we all loved him back.

- Bill Cogburn

Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

May was a good month for gardening events in San Antonio. On May 18 the Botanical Garden had guided tours to promote cultivation of Texas native plants. The tours were advertised in a recent SAWS newsletter included in their monthly billing. Major renovations have been underway and a trip to the Garden is well worthwhile. Some of the new areas are family-friendly and include activities for kids. All types of plants are grown at the Garden, even those we would not want in a home garden. For example a healthy clump of poison ivy was pointed out by the tour guide with the warning "Leaves of three, leave it be."



On May 19, the Green Spaces Alliance organization had a tour of "The Secret Gardens of King William". The purpose of the tour was to provide information for South Texas gardeners. There were 14 neighborhood gardens on exhibit. Homeowners and docents were at each garden to answer questions and highlight such things as native and adapted plants, water conservation techniques, and low-impact development projects. Many thanks to the neighbors who opened their gardens for this special event.

Then on May 26 the annual Festival of Flowers was held at the Austin Highway Event Center. This was a very convenient location, whereas in years past it was held on Loop 1604. The San Antonio Water System was a major sponsor. This was my first time to attend and it was worth the time. Local nurseries and conservation organizations made presentations about how to have beautiful gardens while conserving water using xeric techniques and plants that use less water. Garden tools and many types of plants were available for purchase.

If you are an avid gardener or want to become more involved in gardening, make plans to attend these and similar events. You could not meet a nicer bunch of people as the ones who sponsor and volunteer to make them possible.

Spring in South Texas is a great time for activities as those mentioned above. However, we are now in the "dawg days" of summer. Limit gardening activities to maintaining plants during the cool of the day, preferably with a glass of iced tea in one hand. Remember to limit the use of water based on SAWS requirements appropriate at the time - we are currently in Stage 2 Water Restrictions. Potted plants bought in early spring are beginning to show wear and tear and may best be relegated to the compost pile or your green composting bin.

Garden Note: A garden commentator told this story about his mother, a long time gardener: "As she got older, new men came into her life - Ben Gay and Arthur Rightus."



Neighborhood Yoga Classes

As a service to the community, the Center for Formative Action and Reflection offers donation-based yoga classes every Tuesday night at San Antonio Mennonite Church. Classes are from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Enter through the green doors at 1443 S. St. Mary's Street.

The Coalition for Formative Action and Reflection provides holistic wellness activities to community workers such as pastors, teachers, non-profit employees, volunteers and social workers to avoid burnout so that they can keep doing important and essential work in our city.

All are welcome at the yoga classes! Please join us and bring a friend.



2018 King William Fair Parade Awards

Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered their time to make the 2018 King William Parade a stunning and educational success! This year's parade theme, "History is Alive & Well - 300 Years in San Antonio," inspired the audience to take a closer look at our city's diverse story. The Parade committee was faced with a daunting task in selecting the final entries. All in all, the 104 entries selected did not disappoint - participants were entertaining, hilarious and/or breathtaking. Our neighborhood Parade judges certainly had their work cut out for them.

And now, the moment you've all been waiting for...



Photo: Patricio Paterson

Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and Battle For Texas

Best Historical Recreation: *Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and Battle For Texas: The Experience*

These two groups joined forces to open the Parade by bringing to life the people who discovered and settled San Antonio. Spanish explorers discovered the Payaya Nation's settlement at San Pedro Springs in 1661, and "Villa de Bejar" was founded by 1718.

Los Granaderos and Battle For Texas gathered members and friends who love to share history to reenact the people who lived the stories. Together these friends collected key characters who paved the way for San Antonio's settlement: Spanish Colonial guards, a commander, a general, soldiers, plus American and Spanish militia men keeping pace to a cadence performed by a Spanish Colonial drum major and his fifers and drummers. Walking in front of the soldiers were two Presidial soldiers and a Franciscan friar.

Leading this historic Spanish sight were six individuals dressed in the attire of the time and region of the six flags they carried that once flew over Texas.

Thank you to these ladies and gentlemen for a respectable and awesome presentation of San Antonio's earliest known roots!



Photo: Al Rendon

Angelina de Carlo Salon

Best Show of Historical Creativity: *Angelina de Carlo Salon*

Mary Alice Medina and her sister, Rebecca Medina, created an extraordinary feast for the eyes. Larger-than-life Frida Kahlo models struck a pose on an elegantly decorated trailer end-capped with a large painting of Kahlo by salon stylist Beth DeLeon's niece. The fashionistas on their float wore oversized round Frida Kahlo heads created by Rebecca and Mary Alice. Each mask had large bright eyes, pouty red lips, splendid earrings, beautiful facial hair, and dark braided hair crowned with vibrant and enormous roses, lilies, carnations and tropical birds. In addition to the large heads, the women wore fabulous modern takes on traditional Mexican fashion designed by several Angelina de Carlo stylists.

Are you questioning what this has to do with San Antonio's timeline? The Mexican Revolution brought a lot of immigrants north, which helped San Antonio become the "Mexican" city it is today. Frida was a child during the Revolution, but was later known for dressing in the traditional Mexican attire that was prevalent during that time. It's a bit of a stretch, but there was no way the Parade Committee was saying no to this quality of artistry.

Best Comedic Historical Recreation: *La Tuna Ice House*

Imagine men and women dressed in brown tights, cowboy boots and brown T-shirts with baby bottle nipples glued to their bellies. Now, finish that look with a cowboy hat adorned with a pair of handmade longhorns. Finally, include a loud "mooooo" and now it makes sense that they are conjuring up Samuel Augustus Maverick!

In case you're still scratching your head, Samuel Maverick, among his other claims to fame (Texas Revolution), was notorious for not branding his cattle. His name became the source of the term "maverick."



Photo: Patricio Paterson

San Antonio Birth Center

What the Heck, But It Works: *San Antonio Birth Center*

Imagine a trailer float with an early German settler cabin scene. While a heavily pregnant woman is doing laundry she loudly proclaims, "The baby is coming, fetch the midwife!" A child who is walking with other settlers alongside the trailer animatedly runs around hollering for a midwife. A woman in the group comes to the child and follows her to the trailer. Meanwhile, the pregnant woman is quite animated and loud. The midwife arrives and tends to her. Climbing under her skirt, she comes out with a baby. The new mother is ecstatic at the sight of her freshly born babe and she retreats into her cabin.

Yes, that birthing reenactment was in the King William Parade. It had most laughing out loud, a true "what the heck" moment.



Photo: Al Rendon

Canary Islands Descendants

Their Historic Spirit Made You Have Spirit: *Canary Islands Descendants Association*

Honored as this year's Grand Marshal, the Canary Islands Descendants were accompanied by the artwork of SAY Sí alumnus Martin Delgado. Martin created a San Fernando Cathedral sculpture to represent the first organized civil government in Texas that was created by the Canary Islanders.

These descendants of San Antonio's early pioneers wore traditional 18th century Canarian fashions that were dynamic with vibrant reds, sunny yellows, deep blues and rich blacks. The Canary Islands Descendants proudly held hot pink signs decorated with colorful ribbons bearing the last names of the sixteen families who settled here.



Photo: Jonathan Ivy

Texas Camel Corps

Most Memorable Entry: *Texas Camel Corps*

Two camels and their three humps marched down the streets of King William just like they once did in the 1850s. Well, sort of. Between 1856 and 1866, the United States Camel Corps used camels to haul military supplies between Camp Verde and San Antonio.

For the Texas Camel Corps, education is the heart of it all. Their driving goal is to share their camels in a one-of-a-kind setting that the public will enjoy and remember.

If you happened to witness the camels behind the scenes, it was a treat to hear them coo when their handler appeared. Thank you to Doug Baum for caring for these beautiful beasts that sparked our audience to learn more.

To view more photos of the 2018 Parade Winners, please visit our website at kwfair.org.

- Alicia Spence-Schlesinger, Fair Coordinator/Chief Parade Wrangler





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KWA Summer Social Fourth of July Celebration

Please join us Wednesday, July 4

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Upper Mill Park

Washington & Arsenal Streets

Special performance by Rudi Harst and The Rudiments!

The KWA will provide beverages & a main course. Please bring a dish (in a disposable container) based on the first letter of your last name: A-I: Desserts, J-R: Appetizer, S-Z: Side dishes

Please note our Summer Social will take the place of July's General Membership meeting.

July Calendar

- 4 KWA Office closed
- 17 Deadline for August KWA Newsletter
- 18 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.