

stay in the loop

KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 14, No. 5

June 2018

PAUSE Debuts

Please, Take a Seat

"When we pause, allow a gap and breathe deeply, we can experience instant refreshment. Suddenly, we slow down, look out, and there's the world." - Pema Chödrön

We are happy to announce that "PAUSE" is now installed at the intersection of S. Alamo, Pereida and Adams Streets, next to the parking lot of the Liberty Bar and near the B-Cycle station. This piece of public art is made of limestone blocks with blue steel lettering, and is intended to invite travelers to take a break, unwind....pause.

The Cultural Art Committee of the King William Association commissioned local artist Jennifer Khoshbin to create a seating area for the small green space. Originally from Philadelphia, Jennifer has lived in San Antonio for about 14 years. Her work has been exhibited throughout the country and in San Antonio at Flight, the Southwest School of Art and 1906 Gallery; she has a permanent installation at Hemisfair's Yanaguana Garden. "My goal was to design a space that maximizes restful, inviting opportunities to sit for a few minutes or for a long conversation," Jennifer says. "The site is well suited for a quiet, pocket-sized sitting area, encouraging ways to support community connections."

"PAUSE" is a gift to the neighborhood. Many thanks to Liberty Bar for its collaboration on this project. We hope you will enjoy it and use it. We have more public art benches planned, so be on the lookout!

- Nora Peterson



Left to right: Cultural Art Committee members Jim Gillette, Susan Athené, Nora Peterson, artist Jennifer Khoshbin, Molly Shafer and Ethel Pedraza pause at the completed installation.



Artist Jennifer Khoshbin inspects the limestone blocks delivered to the site.



The heavy blocks are put in place with skilled hands and a backhoe.

Photos: Susan Athené

President's Report

by Chris Price

This year's King William Fair was a great success! The weather was beautiful, the parade was fabulous, and we had a record number of attendees! The fair vendors were elated by the response and turnout. I want to thank Syeira Budd, the King William Fair staff, and all the volunteers whose hard work and dedication make the Fair so successful. In the coming weeks we will have the final numbers to report.

We are looking forward to the King William Holiday Home Tour on the first Saturday in December. Once again, Anne Alexander will be leading the effort as she has so capably for past several years. Anne will be recruiting houses and will need volunteers, so be sure to reach out to her and offer assistance.

Finally, I want to thank Ethel Pedraza and Noah Peterson for organizing our Music in the Park series. They have done a fantastic job of lining up a diverse offering that has been well attended. Last month's Mariachi Damas de Jalisco concert drew over 300 people!

As we head into summer, we will have lots more neighborhood events, including our annual Fourth of July regatta and picnic. I look forward to visiting with you all at this unique and fun event. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me or the KWA staff.



Board Briefs

The board met on May 17, 2018 to review various committee and financial reports. There were no action items and no citizens to be heard. Our guest from the Lavaca Neighborhood Association was Selsa Adham Gonzalez.

Tracy Moon provided the board with an overview of strategic planning. In 2014, the board worked with a facilitator to develop a two-year strategic plan. It is time to revise the plan.

Jacob Floyd, a planning coordinator with the City, introduced a draft of the SA Tomorrow Land Use Category Definitions, which would amend chapter 35 of the Unified Development Code. The King William neighborhood is part of the Downtown Regional Center Plan, which in turn is part of the City's comprehensive plan called "SA Tomorrow." SA Tomorrow is broken down into 13 employment areas.

We anticipate that Mr. Floyd will present an informational meeting and feedback session at a future general membership meeting. His work is expected to become part of a new neighborhood plan. More information can be found at downtown.sacompplan.com.

This column is not intended to replace the official minutes

- Rose Kanusky

2018-19 KWA Grant Program Announced

We are happy to announce the 18th year of the King William Association Grants Program. The application contains all the instructions needed to apply for a grant. It can be obtained at the KWA office
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Applications are due Friday, June 29 by 3:00 p.m.

Please note this grant does not apply to individual restoration of properties.



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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Saving King William – 503 East Guenther St.



503 East Guenther, 1970's



503 East Guenther, now

C. A. Stieren emigrated from Germany in 1860, first settling in New Braunfels where he met and married Hedwig Remer. Soon, the couple moved to Gonzales where they opened a mercantile store. By the time they moved to San Antonio in 1890, the family had grown to include seven children.

In San Antonio, Stieren joined Axel and Paul Meerscheidt in the real estate business. He built the house at 503 E. Guenther in 1891 where his family lived until 1902. The house has had several owners through the years, but one that many neighbors will still remember are Craig and Lola Austin who owned the house from 1988 to 2004. They were famous for hosting great parties and participating in neighborhood activities.

Craig served as KWA board president in the mid-1990s. Lola Austin and her next-door neighbor, Lynn Dickey, who lived at 427 E. Guenther, served as Fair co-chairs in 1992, memorable as the year that the Fair almost didn't happen. Just before the parade stepped off, the sky turned dark, thunder clapped, and rain began to pour. We were all sure that the Fair was ruined.

The parade marshal delayed the parade hoping for a break in the rain. While they waited, Lola and Lynn raced home and put on their swimsuits. When they returned, it

was still raining but it had slacked off somewhat so they perched themselves on the back of vintage convertibles hamming it up like 1940s bathing beauties. They had a great time laughing and flirting shamelessly along the parade route doing their best to keep the fairgoers' spirits up while trying to put the best face on a Fair that was threatening to be a total disaster.

When the parade ended, the rain stopped, the skies cleared, the sun came out and except for a few puddles we had another great Fair. The next year, Lola was the Fair parade chair and was dubbed "Rain Queen" in honor of the drenched parade the year before.

The next owners of the house were Scott and Diana Cano who lived there from 2004 to 2008. They had the vision to see what could be achieved by removing the 1950s siding and exposing and restoring the beautiful porches. Belinda Molina Yndo has owned the house since 2008.

- Bill Cogburn

Source: Mary Burkholder's, *Down the Acequia Madre*; King William archives; 1970s photo courtesy Graham Knight; current photo by Bill Cogburn.

SAALM Wildcatter Weekend Begins June 8

Opening on June 10 at the San Antonio Art League and Museum, *A Wildcatter's Dream: Art, Oil and Wildflowers*, is a major exhibit of the Art League's foundational Davis Collection. The complete Davis Collection has rarely been exhibited in its entirety. The Davis Competitions – from 1927, 1928 and 1929 – were among the most significant cultural events in Texas during the formative years of the 20th century and were instrumental in forging the state's emerging art community, catapulting Texas into the national limelight.

"Wildcatter Weekend" begins on June 8 with an invitational preview reception from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The preview reception offers patrons the opportunity to see the full collection and the privilege to hear William Reeves, author of the 1998 book *Texas Art*



Horse Wrangler by W. Herbert Dunton (1929) is one of the most popular paintings in the Art League's Davis Collection.

and a Wildcatter's Dream: Edgar B. Davis and the San Antonio Art League, speak about the Davis Collection, which includes paintings by such important artists as Jose Arpa, Dawson Dawson-Watson, Xavier Gonzalez, Edward G. Eisenlohr, and Oscar E. Berninghaus and Herbert Dunton, the latter two being among the founding members of the Taos Society of Artists.

Preview reception attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction to bid on "A Little Piece of Texas," artworks by Lyn Belisle, Sylvia Benitez, Ruth Burick, Sallie Stanley Carter, Lynn Maverick Denzer, Vikki Fields, Sonja Harris, Francis Huang, Billy Keen, Tim McMeans, Elizabeth Payne, Terry Gay Puckett, Lee Ricks, Steve Smith, Anne Brennan Vela, E. Gordon West and Nancy Wood.

Tickets for the preview reception on June 8, which includes food, wine, music and a complimentary exhibition catalog, are \$60.00 per person and can be purchased online at saalm.org.

A Wildcatter's Dream: Art, Oil and Wildflowers opens to the public on Sunday, June 10, with a reception from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The exhibit will continue through July 30.

The San Antonio Art League & Museum is located at 130 King William Street across from King William Park, and open to the public free of charge Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Donations are welcome. For more information call 210-223-1140 or visit www.saalm.org.

- Lyn Belisle, SAALM President

SAY Sí - Stories Seldom Told

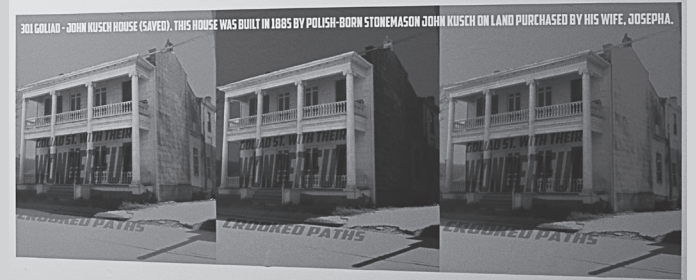
In May's exhibit, *Stories Seldom Told: Omitted Histories*, SAY Sí's middle and high school student-artists uncovered and illuminated the neglected episodes of San Antonio's history.



Faces of San Antonio's past



Photo courtesy: SAY Sí
Re-creation of Neighborhood destroyed to build HemisFair



Students used the pop art styles of the time to recreate HemisFair posters with a more authoritarian point of view, much like the locals might have seen it.

- Wiley Martinez

5% of all commissions donated to local non-profits!



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Thank you, Mr. Webber!

After 32 years in education, the last five as Bonham Academy principal, Mr. Webber is retiring. When he came to Bonham, then-Superintendent Sylvester Perez asked him to commit five years. He gave us his all in those years, and more.

Growing up with a Spanish teacher (later college professor) father and a French teacher (later journalist) mother, it's no surprise Mr. William Webber developed a love for languages. His four brothers and sisters all learned German, as that was one language his parents didn't know and they could speak without them understanding.

When, as a child, his father asked him what he wanted to be, young Will Webber said, "I don't know, but not a teacher. They work so hard, they don't make much money, they're not appreciated." But he was committed to learning languages. He learned Spanish from his teacher-father, and also from his Alabama-raised grandmother who had relatives in Cuba. She spoke Cubano Spanish with an Alabama accent. But probably most significantly, he learned Spanish from his co-workers on the construction crews with whom he worked since he was 14.

Until the sixth grade when the state desegregated the schools, he and his two closest friends attended three schools: the Hispanic school, the African American school, and the white school. Understanding segregation and trying to overcome it has been a theme of his career.

A double bass player, he spent 12 years playing in an orchestra. Young Will knew then how crucial music was to academic achievement and carried that on as a teacher and administrator. Every year before Christmas break, he plays his dulcimer for the students.

It was Mr. Webber's wife, already a teacher, who convinced him to take to the classroom. He spent 14 years as a middle school social studies teacher in Smithson Valley. An advocate of project-based learning, one of his favorite lessons borrowed from both science and history: the sundial and the Sumerians. Ask him about it!

Later, his superintendent, Dr. Jose Parra, sponsored him for Trinity University's Tomorrow's Leaders Program. When he finished in 2000, Hays CISD brought him on as an assistant principal of a bilingual campus. Then, as principal, he opened a pre-K school with 200 Spanish- and 200 English-speaking students and supervised the construc-

tion of Negley Elementary.

When the principal position at Bonham was posted in 2013, his family and friends said, "That's your school. It's where you're meant to be: Music, Science, Art, Languages." Bonham was about to undertake a major construction project. A former construction worker who had also supervised the building of a school as principal, Mr. Webber had unique experience to bring to Bonham.



Photo: Cherise Rohr-Allegrini
Bonham Academy Principal Will Webber with students

It was everything he wanted in a school: "If I had designed a school, it would be like Bonham," he said. In the early years, he would escape to the Secret Garden to just soak it all in.

We now have five high school level courses offered in English, two Spanish courses and a college (AP) Spanish. We had 450 students then and have 570 now, as the middle school students don't want to leave. Bonham has undergone many changes in these

five years and has been more successful than he ever imagined.

When asked what he'd take away from his time at Bonham, Mr. Webber said, "Believe in your school, it is a jewel. It is what it is thanks to the parents and community, which includes both the neighborhood and the broader community of families who come to Bonham. The community makes it the gem that it is."

Thank you, Mr. Webber, for your service to Bonham and to education in Texas.

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini

Author's Note: It's a well known "rumor" that when hiring a new principal, district administration told Mr. Webber they needed someone who could "handle those difficult Bonham parents." As one such parent who never hesitates to speak up, it would not have been surprising if I had been shut out of meetings. Instead, Mr. Webber has often called to say, "I would like you to serve on this committee." When I said, "I'm not going to sit quietly and agree. I will question and give you a hard time," he would say, "Yes. Please be there. We need that voice." That, to me, is a leader.

Garden Street School News



Summer is here at last. Summertime often means fun time and family time. Our kids have time to explore, and learn on their own, during the summer. Part of what they explore is, who they are, what they like and dislike, and what their place in this world will be. It is a time of adventure and discovery.

This summer, spend some time with your children letting them be themselves. You get to be yourself too. Think of creative ways to express yourself and follow up on interests your child may have. San Antonio and Texas have a wealth of opportunities for families to explore. Zoos, parks, museums and road trips are a great way to spark a child's interests and explore things that your child already finds interesting. And, don't forget the library. San Antonio's public and electronic libraries have thousands of volumes, in Spanish and English, for children to explore. "Read, read, read! ¡Lee, lee, lee!"

Over 20% of our 5th and 8th graders demonstrated mastery of the state student assessment, STAAR, at the "Masters" or College Ready level this year. All of the students who took English I and/or Algebra I scored at the high school credit standards on the End of Course exams. We have little information about their potential from that assessment. Now we also use a longitudinal assessment called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), which includes more detailed growth information.

At Bonham, we strive to educate the whole person - the person that is every child who comes to our school. We have a robust and thriving

fine arts program, which began in 1999. We have one of the only folclórico programs in the state, Folórico Alegria, taught as a regular part of every child's physical education class. We added a phenomenal art teacher to our faculty last year. We have an outstanding theater program and venue, in the Black Box Theater in the new Middle School building. Performances are "standing room only." Bonham generally gets top accolades in the UIL One Act Play competition, as we did this year. Many of these accomplishments, including teaching children in two languages, are impossible to quantify. The King William Association's support of these vital programs is tremendously appreciated!

This coming school year we are extending a robust Dual Language program through 8th grade and beyond, into high school. Our goal is to develop bi-literate students who can function and access information in either language. Not just conversational Spanish, but professional-level Spanish.

I enjoyed my past five years here at Bonham Academy. I will retire in June with 32 years of experience - 14 in the classroom and 18 as a campus level administrator. The Bonham community is unique. It was the school of my dreams, come true. I believe it will continue to be the school of your children's dreams in the years to come.

Thank you for these five wonderful years. *Go Bobcats!*

- Principal Will Webber

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Photo courtesy Ruth Wells
Bill Cogburn and Amanda Ochse

Amanda Ochse

April 28, 1921 ~
April 14, 2018

Amanda Ochse, a member of an early pioneer neighborhood family, died April 14, 2018, just a week shy of her 97th birthday. In her heyday, she was a very active member of the city's civic and social circles.

Amanda grew up at 528 King William Street, home of her parents, Lawrence and Regina Beckmann Hurst. Regina Hurst was the daughter of Albert and Marie Dorothea Beckmann, who lived at 222 E. Guenther. Marie Dorothea Beckmann was the daughter of Carl Hilmar Guenther, the Pioneer Flour Mill founder.

Amanda married William Ochse on April 30, 1941 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and after a honeymoon trip to New Orleans, they made their home in an apartment in what is now the restored home at 523 King William Street.

On visits to our home over the years, Amanda always enjoyed reminiscing about her early life in King William.

- Bill Cogburn



KWA Grant Recipient: Gemini Ink at Bonham Academy

This spring, magic ensued in Room 2612 during fifth period. Bonham Academy and Gemini Ink teamed up to form a creative writing space for a group of 15 young learners for a nine-week reading and writing series. Students produced bound-book-worthy poetry - with the guidance and support of Carol Gonzales and Pam Deusing from Gemini Ink's Writers in Communities (WIC) program, along with Maile Parker, sixth-eighth grades educator at Bonham.

Each day, the children read, shared, and discussed selected works from various celebrated writers including Sandra Cisneros, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes and Pablo Neruda. Students also received a visit and reading from a local published poet and playwright, Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson. Sanderson shared her first published poem with the students and spoke to them about being comfortable in their own skin, celebrating what makes them unique, and the significance of writing daily.

The students read and wrote diverse styles of poetry, from odes to haikus, blank verse to acrostics. One poem that was perfected by the students was a work that reflected on the children's fond memories of their family and home. It was appropriately entitled "Where I'm From," and was inspired by the works of educator and writer George Ella Lyon. Each of the students' writings revealed the pride of place and their appreciation of being in the heart of San Antonio with its vibrant and vast cultural persona. The

children described streets, buildings, melodies, flavors and scents in ways only a San Antonian would truly understand. On most days the class sessions ended with students proudly sharing what they produced that day, and each poem unveiled a new layer of the students' creative minds.

The young writers not only rose to the opportunity; they eventually exploded with creativity and sincere expression of their fears, dreams, and inspirations. During a post-questionnaire given on the last day of the series, some students shared that they themselves were their biggest inspiration when writing. Students compiled their poetry into a handmade bound book and performed their favorite poem during the final celebration.

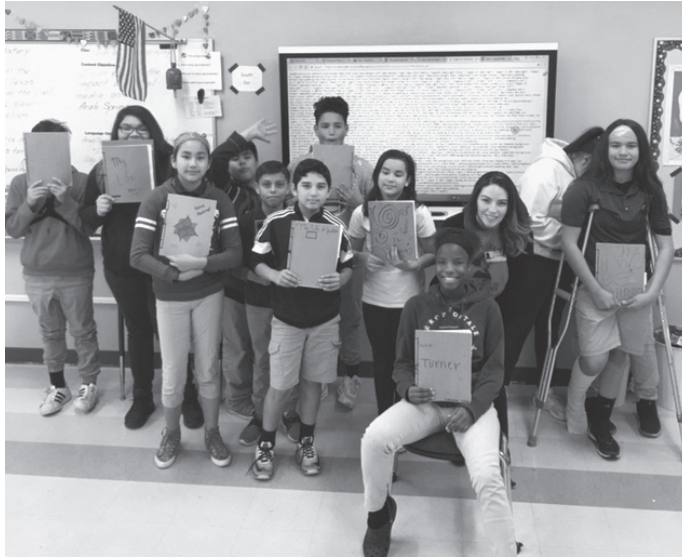


Photo courtesy Pam Duesing

Bonham Academy Gemini Ink program participants

The community that has carved out the special creative space of Bonham Academy should be very proud of the students' work. Each of them displayed soaring pride in their ability to express themselves through poetry and creative writing. We would like to extend our gratitude to Maile Parker for creating a place in her curriculum to allow a partnership between Bonham Academy and Gemini Ink.

A special thank you to the students of Ms. Parker's fifth period class for allowing the WIC writers to help them stretch their creative minds further. Lastly, a gracious thank-you to the King William Association and the community of Bonham Academy for their continued support of the arts!

- Carol Gonzales and Pam Deusing

Area Roadwork Beginning in June

The City of San Antonio Transportation and Capital Improvements Department (TCI) will be conducting a pavement rehabilitation project in King William. Roadwork is scheduled to begin the end of June and be completed by mid-August. TCI provided a draft schedule to the King William Association. They are reviewing this schedule to minimize the inconvenience.

CD	ProjectStreet	StreetFrom	StreetTo	Estimated Project Length	Estimated Project Width	Estimated Project Area	START	FINISH
1	Beauregard	Washington	S Alamo St	1066.5	31	3673	6/25/2018	8/15/2018
1	E Guenther St	S Flores St	S Alamo St	2022.1	31	6965	6/27/2018	8/15/2018
1	E Sheridan	S Alamo St	Dead End	1090.9	30	3636	6/28/2018	8/15/2018
1	King William	S St Mary's	E Guenther St	2775.4	32	9868	6/29/2018	8/15/2018
1	Madison	S St Mary's	E Guenther St	2523.8	34	9534	6/30/2018	8/15/2018
1	Pancoast	E Cesar Chavez Blvd	Washington	319	36	1276	6/25/2018	8/15/2018
1	S San Saba	Dolorosa	W Nueva	393.6	40	1749	6/26/2018	8/15/2018

Brackenridge High Junior wins Congressional High School Art Competition



Photo courtesy Rep. Doggett's Office

From left: Brackenridge High School Principal Yesenia Cordova, art teacher Theresa Ybanez, 2018 Congressional Art Competition Winner Maya Diaz, and U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett

On May 14, Brackenridge Principal Yesenia Cordova, art teacher Terry Ybanez and KWA Executive Director Tracy Moon joined a celebration for Maya Diaz, a junior at Brackenridge High School who was the winner of U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett's (D-San Antonio) annual Congressional High School Art Competition. Maya's original piece, *Picture Perfect*, featuring the reflection of light against objects that remind her of her parents, will hang in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for a full year, providing her with national exposure as she represents San Antonio. Maya's passion for art extends past the classroom: she served as the President of Brackenridge's Art Club and will be applying to colleges to pursue art.

- *Analyse Escobar, Field Representative*



Celebrate Independence Day with your neighbors! Plan now to participate in the July 4th Regatta! Contact the Commodore for details: marita.emmett@gmail.com.

KWA Grant Recipient: Art Smart at Bonham Academy

As the 2017-18 school year wraps up, the Bonham Academy PTA would like to thank the King William Association once again for its generous support of our Art Smart Program. With this support, we are able to offer high-quality fine arts curriculum to all our students in grades K-8. Our fine arts teachers are some of the most dedicated and hardworking teachers in the district and their efforts show as Bonham students consistently win recognition for their artwork, drama productions, dance and musical performances.

This year, our theater arts teacher, Holly Clifford received a grant to study Shakespeare in England this past summer from the International Thespian Society. She produced three Shakespeare plays this year: *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. Our art teacher, Monico Vitela won a grant from the SAISD foundation for his *Flipping Out for a Flipped Art Room* initiative that involves student-directed art projects. If you have a chance, check out the ceiling tiles in our art room. Students are leading a project to paint each one. Mr. Vitela is also partnering with Spare Parts and the Mini Art Museum to bring enhanced art instruction to all our students in the final month of school. This is a partnership we look forward to growing.



Photo: Frederic Alegri

Bonham Academy Art Smart program participants

Our music program continues to get stronger under the direction of Amber Nowlin. This spring, Bonham students participated in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Competition, the SAISD Solo/Ensemble Competition and the King William Parade 2018. Our folclórico instructor, Ricardo Muñoz, produced another wonderful end-of-year performance, where our students performed dances from various regions of Mexico. He also spent part of the year instructing students in folk dances from other countries and explaining how they have influenced Mexican folk dance.

The support of the King William community has been vital to our thriving arts program. Thank you!

- *Sarah Sorenson, 2017-18 PTA President*



2018 King William Fair Art & Craft Awards

Congratulations to these outstanding artists who won this year's Art and Craft awards! We had a wonderful group of amazingly talented artists. Thanks to all who participated in the King William Fair and to Nancy and Chris Price for serving as our Volunteer Art & Craft Managers!

Best in Show: Rachel Dory

Rachel Dory is an Austin-based artist known for her site-specific urban and rural landscape paintings of Roadside America. She is focused on capturing the feelings and emotions of physical locations. After visiting and studying a location, the image emerges through multiple layers of paint that are brushed, wiped, scraped and scored. Ink, fabric and other materials may also be incorporated into the final composition.



Rachel Dory and her daughters with Chris Price

Often her work is the result of requests received to produce commissioned paintings. "It is always an honor to be trusted to paint a location that holds deep meaning for someone," Rachel says. "I approach every commissioned painting as collaboration. I listen closely during conversations to understand what is important about the subject I am painting, and how to incorporate the emotions and memories into the composition. I travel to locations and work from photographs provided to me, but the location does not necessarily have to be readily accessible. Some locations exist only in memories, and I can work from what is remembered or what the client has available in order to recreate the place."

Rachel's goal is to capture the feeling that the special place evokes, whether it is the farm where you grew up or the café where you met that special someone. To see more of Rachel's art, visit racheldory.com.

Best Fiesta Spirit: Liz Leathurbury, Bird & Pear



Liz Leathurbury and Chris Price

After years in retail and merchandising, Liz Leathurbury started Bird & Pear in her dining room after looking all over for cheerful, quality, hand-made gifts and home accessories that reflected the South Texas aesthetic and made her smile. But she realized that we all live in reality: "Things can't be too dear to us. Purses really get used to carry stuff. Pillows are used for lounging. The dog sleeps on the sofa! It's got to be cute, colorful and most importantly, hold up. Mexican dresses were the answer! I grew up wearing these easy, cool, 100% cotton, super colorful dresses. There was a different one for every summer, and beach vacations where you wore a different one every day were the best! The flowers simply make any day more delightful and the little extra flourishes like the butterflies, birds and bows unique to each stitcher are so fun. I adore the images and sun-soaked colors of Mexico and quirky displays that contain the unexpected."

Visit thebirdandpear.com to see more of the fun that Liz creates.

Best Booth Display: Barbara Warren, B Warren Designs



Barbara Warren and Chris Price

Barbara Warren, a native of San Antonio, has been designing and making jewelry for 12 years. What started out as a hobby quickly turned into an obsession, or as she sometimes



THE EAGLE REPORT

Graduation Commencement Ceremony for the Brackenridge High School Centennial Class of 2018 will be held on Sunday, June 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Alamodome. Everyone is welcome! Best wishes to the Class of 2018!!

Mighty Eagle Band

Congratulations to the Mighty Eagle Band, for the 2017-2018 UIL Sweepstakes award-winning ensemble! Kudos to Eagle Band Drum Major Erik Gamez, who became an SAISD 5A All State Symphonic Band Member.

- Alfonso Alvarado, Director

JROTC

Brackenridge JROTC Golden Female Color Guard finished in 6th place amongst 43 teams in the nation competing in Daytona Beach, Florida against Color Guard units from across the United States and Germany. They were also the lead Color Guard unit of the Fiesta Flambeau parade this year.

- Major Jonathan Ladson, JROTC

Athletic Teams Update

The Varsity Boys Track and Field team is Back to Back to Back District Champions!

- Isaiah Robinson, Boys Track & Field Head Coach

The Eagle Baseball team (15-11) captured second place in District 28-5A after winning 12 of 16 district games. They were one win away from a district championship, but fell short, 6-1, against Highlands in the regular season finale on April 26. Brackenridge advanced to the playoffs to take on Angleton in a best-of-three series featuring a stellar pitching performance from junior Daniel Rodriguez.

On May 1, as part of National Signing Day for high school students throughout the country, two Eagle baseball players signed letters of intent to play college baseball: Greg Quiroga (second baseman) signed with Medaille College in New York and Richard Esquivel (pitcher) signed with Barstow College in California.

- Bryan Adams, Head Baseball Coach



Photo courtesy Brackenridge High School

The Mighty Eagles Baseball team captured second place in District 28-5A.

The Lady Eagles Varsity Soccer Team won the Bi-District Championship March 29 against Angleton High School. They ended their regular season in third place in District 28-5A with a record of 10-6!

- Juan Sandoval, Varsity Girls Soccer Coach

The Mighty Eagle Tennis Team stormed through the District 28 5-A tennis tournament, capturing 7 regional qualifier spots for the Region IV tennis tournament. Capturing first place and becoming the District Champions in mixed doubles were Alexis Granados and Alexandra Lucas. Showing strong effort were Sebastian Gutierrez, second place boys singles, Myteanna Terry and Diana Castillo, second place in girls doubles, and Rosendo Ceballos and Efrain Ortiz, second place in boys doubles.

I feel so blessed to be coaching these young student athletes. They are always giving me extra on and off the court! I never have to worry about them not hitting the tennis ball outside of practice, and it showed because once again Brackenridge Tennis had more Regional Qualifiers than anyone in District 28 5-A.

- Victoria Shaheen, Tennis Coach

- compiled by Brack Alumnus Letie Wawrzyniak

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Why Art Matters: Or How to Think Like Leonardo Da Vinci

The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of. Leonardo da Vinci (Painter, sculptor, architect, musician, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer).



Leonardo da Vinci, self portrait

I recently attended the ceremony for the Congressional Art Competition winner Maya Diaz of Brackenridge High School. Watching this talented young woman beam with pride reminded me how important cultivating the arts is to our future. I am grateful to be part of an organization that supports arts education and cultural development. This caused me to consider the question: Why does art matter?

Many people today see science and art as polar opposites. Science is driven by data and art by emotion or so this perception is perpetuated by a society often possessing inadequate knowledge of either. Technological advances create the illusion that science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies have greater value than the arts. However, this denies a fundamental truth: The universe demands balance.

In Leonardo da Vinci's time, science and art coexisted naturally. Da Vinci combined art and science to the benefit of both. In ancient Greece, the word for art was *techne*, from which technique and technology are derived – terms that are applied to both artistic and scientific practices. This historical view of the relationship between art and science seems more consistent with reality than the current stereotypical divisions. After all, both science and art seek to answer many of the same questions: "What is truth? Why does it matter? How do we move society forward?" Can society truly move forward with only one perspective?

Maybe one of the reasons the United States has fallen behind in areas like math and science is because for too long we have been functioning using only half our mind's capacity. Arts and music education programs are mandatory in countries that rank consistently among the highest for math and science test scores, like Japan, Hungary, and the Netherlands. Students who study a foreign language perform significantly higher in math and Basic Skills Test. The arts are not "nice to have," only for elites or lacking practical application. They are necessary to function at peak mental capacity. Art and science are synergistic.

One measure of genius is the ability to make connections more rapidly. This ability to connect the unconnected enables geniuses to see things to which others are blind. Leonardo da Vinci forced a relationship between the sound of a bell and a stone hitting water. This enabled him to make the connection that sound travels in waves. The study of various disciplines, including the arts, increases the number of pathways in the brain. This in turn increases the number of possible connection points and enhances creative, multi-perspective problem solving. As the world grows increasingly interconnected and complex, eliminating the arts may limit our ability to formulate effective solutions in the future.

Naturally, not everyone who studies both art and science will develop a genius intellect. However, with a balanced approach to education, more children and adults can achieve greater potential. Want to know how to think like Leonardo da Vinci? Study the arts.

- Tracy Moon

Image source: tvaraj.com/2014/11/20/leonardo-da-vinci-3-pupils/

Fair Art & Craft Awards

continued from page 10

says, "her night job." During the day she works as a speech pathologist in private practice in San Antonio. Barbara a self-taught studio jeweler who began by taking classes at local bead stores to learn the basic skills. Over the years she has continued to take classes to hone her metal smithing skills.

Barbara designs jewelry with the belief that simplicity can make a statement, creating pieces that are handcrafted from high quality materials with great attention to detail. She uses a variety of materials, including semi-precious gemstones, freshwater pearls, Swarovski crystal, Czech glass and vintage beads. Most designs include sterling silver, vermeil or 14 karat gold-filled metals.

For Barbara, the process of creating is as exciting as the finished product. She finds that every now and then she will make something that's not quite what she envisioned, and then will spend even more time taking it apart or replacing a stone that isn't quite right. She has to love it and want to wear it herself! Barbara says, "I am grateful for all of my customers and their continued support over the years. Participating in the King William Fair is always a highlight of my year! Thank you for letting me be a part of it."

Honorable Mentions:

- Jerry Locke, Walls That Rock, wallsthatrock.com
- Kristen Saksa Juen, saksajuen.com
- Shawn Corder, Get Bent Metal Works, getbentmetal-works.com

To see more of our 2018 Art & Craft participants visit kwfair.org.

- Zet Baer, Fair Consultant

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What in the World is Making that Noise?

Can you bring to your mind the sound of the New Year's Eve ratchet-like noisemaker? You hold the handle and spin it around to make an annoying sound. That is one of the first new sounds I heard after moving to San Antonio. I also heard a long, loud whistle; a sound like static on a radio; and the sound of crumbling aluminum foil or breaking glass. I found out that these often-earsplitting sounds and more emanated from the same source, a grackle.

Coming from the Midwest U.S., this was new to me. Swarms of them descend on our lawn in King William in the mornings for a short while and then lift off together to forage for food farther from the city. Then in the evenings, back they come for a short stay before going to roost downtown. I was fascinated. I learned there are common grackles, great tailed and boat tailed. The males were impressive with their size and a purple-blue iridescence. The females are smaller, duller and have a lighter brown underbelly. Their eyes are yellow.

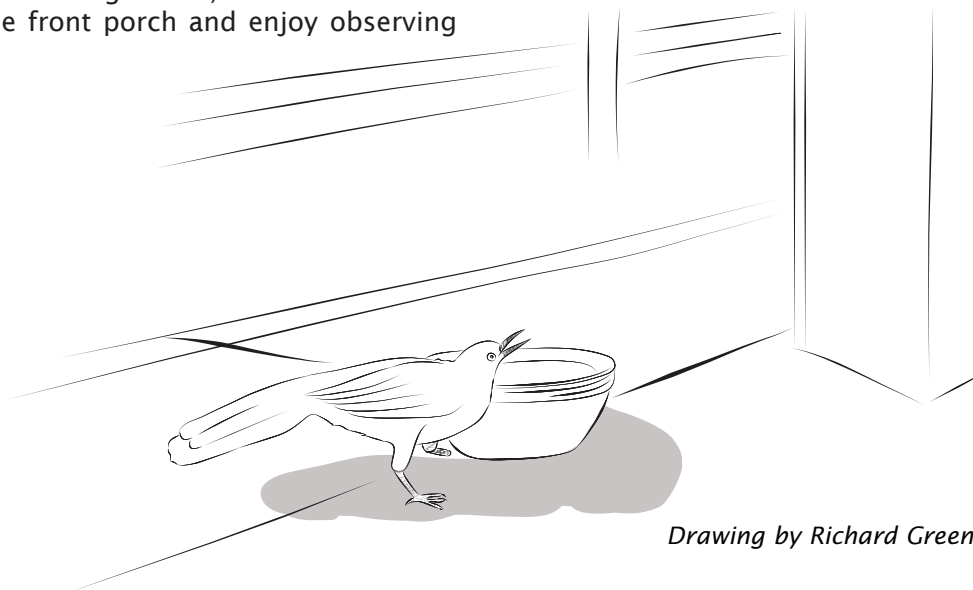
In checking some facts on the internet, I discovered that I am among the minority of folk who like these birds as most people consider them total pests. Some describe them as ugly. I think they are grand. When we moved my elderly father here from the Chicago area, he would sit on the front porch and enjoy observing

them. Our out of town guests were amazed. We often heard the grackles flying back to downtown around five in the evening and we dubbed that the "Grackle Hour." It was time to break out the cocktails.

Several winters ago, a flock of the birds chose to roost in the bamboo grove behind our house. I could hear their wings flapping as they settled in for the night. We seemed to share the same bedtime as they finally quieted down about the time our heads hit our pillows. As daylight neared, the leader would make a screech and then a few others joined in until they were all making a racket. Then all at once, they lifted off and left for the day, allowing us a little more shuteye before the other birds started singing. As much as I admire them, I am pleased that in the following winters they found a different overnight roost.

For a couple of years now, a one-legged male grackle nests near us. He has discovered the Cannoli water bowl that we keep filled with fresh water in front of our house. He has a very distinctive hop. He shares the water with dogs, cats, squirrels, birds and, I suppose, lizards, etc. I haven't been able to get a photo of him yet but will keep trying. I learned that grackles can have a lifespan of 20 years, but most don't make it that long. I hope to see him for years to come.

- Nora Peterson



Drawing by Richard Green

Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

Annual and perennial plants are putting on their spring show. Browse through your favorite nursery or around the neighborhood to see first-hand



what you might add to your garden. Check out the Monarch Waystation along the riverwalk below the San Antonio River Authority office on E. Guenther St. to see plantings that are favorites of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Go to monarchwatch.org for ideas.

If you need shade for a small urban area, consider planting a crepe myrtle. There are literally dozens of varieties in several colors and sizes. Most are now starting to bloom. The free list of plants and trees outside the door of the King William office includes a listing of them.

If you want a hedge that is dense, evergreen, drought tolerant, and can be kept trimmed to almost any height, plant elaeagnus. It will grow in full sun or part shade. Go to www.dirtdoctor.com/dirtdoctor-library for a picture and other information about it. An example is just inside the fence in the front garden at 1037 S. Alamo St.

Here's something to try to keep squirrels from digging in patio pots: sprinkle the dry red pepper seeds that you put on pizzas on top of the soil. An experienced gardener in the know told me about this recently. Anything that can control squirrels is worth trying.

I collect humorous and thoughtful sayings. Here are a couple: The best antiques are old friends. There are no strangers here - only friends you haven't yet met.

Garden Note: Gardeners know all the dirt.

Summer Exhibitions Opening at BSC

Thursday, June 7 – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

June 7 marks the opening night of Blue Star Contemporary's four new summer exhibitions: Veo Mis Huesos, Manhattan Beach Memoir, As Far as the Eye Can See, and From Underfoot: Breaking through Surface and Ground. Each show appeals to some aspect of summertime: the vibrating sounds of a city, nostalgia for the past, reflection and decision-making, and an engagement with the natural world.



Photo courtesy Blue Star Contemporary

Marianne McGrath, *Roots*, 2011, Earthenware, tree roots, 3' wide x 6' deep x 5' high

artist Thomas Georg Blank and guest curated by Angelika Jansen Brown, is a video installation presented in celebration of San Antonio's newest sister city, Darmstadt, Germany, in collaboration with the Lone Star Art Alliance and the city of Darmstadt. While living in Mexico City for several months, Thomas Georg Blank asked musicians that he met during his stay to improvise with their instruments, resulting in the soundscape of Mexico City that is Blank's video installation.

For the artist, sound resonates deeply and intensely on both a physical and emotional level. The literal translation of "Veo Mis Huesos" is "I See My Bones," a reference to the ability of sound waves to both bounce off an object and rattle them with vibrations, such as with bones, and as a tool to map their structure, such as with a sonogram.

Also felt bone-deep is the emotional power of place and past in an exhibition of Gary Sweeney's work *Manhattan Beach Memoir: 1945-2015*. In early 2016, Sweeney created his site-specific installation to commemorate his family home. In 1945, while Sweeney's father Mike was returning from Guam after World War II, his mother Anita bought a small house at 320 35th St in Manhattan Beach, California. It was their family home for 70 years. Sweeney

sold the house in 2015, with the understanding that the new owner planned to demolish the house and put a new development in its place. As a tribute to his family, hometown and father's photography, Sweeney covered the exterior of the house with over one hundred large-scale family photographs and occupied the house during its final month.

For this exhibition, the artist re-sites the photographs and relics from the Sweeney home in the gallery and gives viewers the chance to connect to this unique project. The work encourages us to reflect on the significance of documentation in our own families as a critical player in the architecture of memory.

Also opening this month is artist Mila Hundertmark's *As Far as the Eye Can See*, guest-curated by Angelika Jansen Brown. The work in this exhibition is a kinetic sculpture and performance in which the artist deals with the theme of everyday decision-making and its consequences. For the show, Darmstadt-based Hundertmark enlisted the help of local volunteers to record stories about the impact of decision-making in their lives for footage in an immersive video installation with moving parts that require the viewer to act as active participant. The sound for this installation is a choral composition by Hundertmark, performed by a choir of Texas State University students, and the recordings of personal stories. Live performances by participants of *As Far as the Eye Can See* will take place June 7 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and June 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Lastly, in the main space of Blue Star Contemporary this summer through September 9 is the exhibition *From Underfoot: Breaking through Surface and Ground*, featuring the work of artists Caroline Carlsmith, Jennifer Day, Carrie Dickason, Leah Dyjak, Anja Marais, Marianne McGrath and Ronen Raz. Each work included in this show either makes use of a natural element in materials or alludes to the natural world in form or theme, from roots to Pyrite crystal to soot. Ground, surface, root systems, landscape, destruction, rebirth and human interaction are themes at play creating powerful poetry between the pieces in this exhibition.

Regular hours for Blue Star Contemporary are from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. General admission is \$5, senior price is \$3, and students, teachers, first responders and military are free. BSC is free every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Katy Tuck, BSC Visitor Ambassador



“When you see the lights come on, it’s awesome!”

In 1963, when a little girl named Janice Barker skipped across S. Alamo Street to start her first grade at Bonham Elementary, she couldn’t have known that, in 2018, she’d be saying goodbye to Bonham Academy after 38 years teaching.

Mrs. Janice (Barker) Schwab grew up in King William in the 1960s and 70s. Back then, Bonham Elementary had open breezeways instead of hallways, and if it was pouring rain, the kids had to brave the weather to race to the outdoor bathrooms. There was no air conditioning, so they made good use of the large windows and transoms.

In classrooms with 40 students, little Janice had many friends from the neighborhood. Many came from Victoria Courts. Much like today, neighbors walked their kids to school, parents and kids sharing stories on the way. You couldn’t get away with much, because everyone in the neighborhood knew everyone else and the adults looked out for each other’s kids.

Bonham’s legacy of parent involvement goes back just as long. The moms on PTA would arrive in dresses and gloves to meet for their formal tea at 2:00 p.m. led by Mrs. Sandoval, who “worked like crazy for us kids.” While the dresses and gloves may be gone, “the parents of Bonham continue to work hard to support the students,” Mrs. Schwab said.

Young Janice eventually went to Brackenridge High School, where she played flute in the band and graduated in 1974. She and her family stayed in the neighborhood as houses fell into disrepair and many other families fled to the suburbs. In 1980, after earning her degree in Education from St. Mary’s University, she came back to Bonham as a student teacher in the very same classroom she’s in today.

When asked what made her become a teacher, she said, “I love my kiddos. When you see the lights come on, it’s awesome!”

Mrs. Schwab has taught pre-K, Kinder and 1st grade over her 38 years at Bonham. With the exception of this past year, her classroom has always been at capacity. She’s taught kids from all level of incomes, backgrounds, abilities. Bonham served the local Children’s Shelter and homeless shelter. One year she had 42 children come through her class over the course of the year. In the early days there were very few services for the Gifted and Talented or for those with Special Education needs. Her

classroom had kids from the entire range of academic needs, and she served them all. She had students whose families had very difficult living conditions, kids with no shoes, kids who had no home. Mrs. Schwab embraced them all.

As she prepares to retire after 38 years at Bonham as a teacher, and even more as a member of the Bonham community, Mrs. Schwab said, “It’s been a wonderful ride. This is home. It’s my home school, my home community.” Our school will miss her greatly, but we hope young Janice Barker Schwab will continue to skip across S. Alamo Street from time to time.



Photo: Cherise Rohr-Allegrini

Janice Schwab with students

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini



Wes Anderson Film Festival

- June 1 - *Bottle Rocket*, Monty + Ivy Hall
- June 7 - *Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, McNay
- June 15 - *Grand Budapest Hotel*, SAMA
- June 29 - *Moonrise Kingdom*, Botanical Garden
- July 6 - *Darjeeling Limited*, Hays Street Bridge
- July 14 - *Isle of Dogs*, Hemisfair Park
- July 27 - *Royal Tenenbaums*, SAMA
- August 3 - *Rushmore*, San Antonio College
- August 7 - *Fantastic Mr Fox*, Travis Park

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June Calendar

- 6 General Membership Meeting –
KWA Office – 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Deadline for July KWA Newsletter
- 20 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 29 2018 KWA Grant Applications due – 3:00 pm.