KWA DONATES 100 BOOKS TO SAISD

by Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

The King William Association donated 100 copies of *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses* to 42 schools in the San Antonio Independent School District. Part of the ongoing mission of the King William Association is to provide educational materials which illustrate the rich cultural and architectural heritage of our great city. It is hoped that students will enjoy this gift and that the book will inspire further interest in the history of the King William Area and San Antonio.

If you have lived in King William for the past few years you probably remember a woman and a man knocking on your door in the early evening asking to take a photo of your home. That was Jessie Simpson, former King William Association board member and KW resident, the newest contributing author of *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses*, accompanied by photographer Al Rendon. For Jessie the act of preservation starts with education. There’s a tale to be told about each house in Texas’ first historic neighborhood. The King William Area begins with those stories.

In 1973, Mary Burkholder originally published the book; it was updated in 1977. The focus is on the homes built in the Thomas Devine subdivision which are more than 50 years old. The book is organized alphabetically by neighborhood, street, and house number. It contains 250 photographs of homes built in the 1920s to 1940s.

The book also contains a preface and historical introduction by Jesse Burkholder, who is a professor of history at the University of Texas at San Antonio. It includes a list of what is known about each house, dates of construction, names of people who lived there, and the names of the builders who designed and built them. It also includes information about the architecture of the time and the building materials used.

What’s Happening In & Around King William

Continued on pg. 8

New Member Mixer

by Tracy Moon

The first King William Association New Members Mixer was a great success. Small Planet eBikes, a notable neighborhood gathering spot, was the perfect venue for a relaxed social event, which included music, food trucks, beverages and great conversation. What a great way to spend a Friday night! Neighbors from throughout the Southtown Community showed up to socialize and learn more about the KWA, and new members signed up and increased our numbers by 6 percent.

From the beginning, the KWA was organized to “foster and promote the..." Continued on pg. 8

KWA MEMBER MEETING AND ELECTION

Wednesday, September 5 • 6:30 pm • KWA Office, 122 Madison St.

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK facebook.com/safirstfriday

Friday, September 7; Friday, October 5 • Generally 6 pm - 10 pm

KWA CONCERTS IN THE PARK: HENRY BRUN

Sunday, September 9 • 5:30 pm • Upper Mill Park, King William

ourkwa.org/articles/events/878-free-concert-series

10th ANNUAL HISTORICAL HOMEOWNER FAIR

Saturday, September 29 • 9 am - 2 pm • Pearl Stable 8307 Pearl Parkway

sanantonio.gov/historic/Events/Home-Owners-Fair

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texancultures.com/itc-news/photoexhibit2018
Welcome new board!

The King William Association will elect a new president and board on September 5th. Boards have an important role to play in nonprofit management. An active, involved board doing its job can make all the difference to a nonprofit. The board can help to strengthen its operations through solid financial oversight, strategic planning, fundraising, and executive director oversight. It can help to build its solid reputation by fulfilling its ambassadorial role. It can ensure that the organization stays focused on its missions, fulfilling its promises to its constituents, donors, the general public through strategic planning and evaluation of all of its programs establishing a clear course for the future and measurable benchmarks for successful programs.

An inactive board can lead an organization to stagnation and, ultimately, to defeat. Each new board has a choice and an opportunity. Let’s choose to be an active board and use the leadership opportunity to fulfill the organization’s charter. Be encouraged to use all of its talent and expertise to make the right choice. Let’s take advantage of opportunities presented and move forward!

Board Briefs
by Rose Kanusky

The board met on August 15, 2018. The meeting opened with comments from neighbors concerned about changes to the newsletter, more communication, and the proposed budget for the cultural arts committee.

The board reviewed the 2019 draft budget, prepared by our executive director, Tracy Moon, and vetted by the finance committee. Included in the budget are grants proposed by the grants committee. The timing of the grant cycle needs adjusting as it commits funds from the next Fair, which is risky, as Fair income is unpredictable. Consequently, suggested grants in the proposed 2019 budget are not as large.

As Tracy explained, the Association spent more money in the past two years than it brought in. One of her key goals is to diversify and strengthen our funding sources. The new budget anticipates an endowment fundraiser, as well as a general savings fundraiser. More emphasis will be placed on membership drives throughout the year, starting with the National Night Out scheduled for October 2. Additionally, KWA held a small format mixer for potential new members on August 25.

The proposed budget includes funding for the following in-house programs: membership campaign, endowment event, savings event, and newsletter. The proposal includes funding for the following volunteer programs: tree beautification, concerts in the park, cultural arts, Burkholder books, and sidewalk grants. There is also a programs contingency fund to allow more flexible programming.

The proposed budget also includes a category for professional fees, as well as fees for the professional parliamentarian who will assist the by-laws committee and fees for a strategic planner who will assist the neighborhood with creating a new long-range plan. The Board took no action on the budget.

Future board packets will include cash flow analysis, as the expenses of the Fair have created cash flow issues. These issues also necessitate a conservative budget. Tracy is looking into alternative ways to address the cash flow issues that do not necessitate selling Association securities.

This column is not intended to replace the official minutes.
Joey and Maggie Villarreal, owners of Blue Star Brewing Co., began dating in the early 90s when Joey owned his first business on the North St. Mary’s strip, Joey’s. They fell in love, got married, and nine months later opened their brewery in the Blue Star Arts Complex.

As children both Joey and Maggie share found memories of Sunday visits with their families in the King William neighborhood. The neighborhood wasn’t the glamorous historic spot that we all know today. When the original owners and families of the historic houses passed away or decided to sell their homes, some of them were divided into apartments which quickly deteriorated.

In 1993 their good friend Arturo de Peña showed them the Blue Star Arts Complex. Joey will never forget the first time he drove into Blue Star, “The complex had only one light. It felt as if you were in a remote country town. You could hear the water falling from the dam; it was beautiful.”

Joey and Maggie quickly became friends with the Director of Blue Star Contemporary Art Center Jeffery Moore and his assistant Anet Alaniz, owner of Pig Liquors. The exhibits curated by these two brought in massive crowds on First Fridays. Excited to join the developing Arts District of King William, in 1995 they signed the lease and exactly 9 months later they opened their doors.

They remember the early occupants in the complex—David Zamora Casas, Jump Star Theater and Bobby Hullinger and Chuck Ramirez who designed the iconic Blue Star Brewing Co. logo. Twenty-two years later, Blue Star still stands as the neighborhood brewpub.

While San Antonio has a rich brewing history, many San Antonio brewers refer to Joey as the Godfather of Brewing. Not only has the brewery created well-crafted San Antonio beer, the owners train their employees to be kind and hard-working. Most of these employees have continued on a path as leaders, business owners and fellow brewmasters, and a common joke with the locals is, “Who hasn’t worked at Blue Star Brewing Co?”

When first arriving in 1996 the Fair Crafting the Beer Frontier by Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

Crafting the Beer Frontier by Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

Investing in Education is Truly Investing in Our Future

by U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-San Antonio)

Back to school—an exciting time for students, from our youngest learners at Pre-K 4 SA to college campuses. It means buying supplies, reunions with friends, and the promise of cooler days. While our littlest learners on campuses like Bonham Academy worry about progressing at math, or college-aged learners stress about their first exam, in Washington we are facing our own challenges. Protecting Public Schools: I remain committed to protect funding for our schools because I believe education is vital to economic security and democracy.

Reaching for Higher Education: For students willing to work hard to obtain higher education, we must work hard to make it affordable. I have backed legislation to limit interest rates on federal loans and provide more Pell Grants and other types of assistance. I also wrote provisions in the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), which authorized a tax cut of up to $10,000 on education expenses such as tuition, textbooks, and fees.

As school bells across Texas ring in the new year and college mascots spread spirit, know that I too will be at my desk, hard at work, ensuring your priorities are my priorities.
Edna Rose Bouquet Reed grew up in Prospect Hill on the near West Side where many railroad families lived back in the 20’s and 30’s. Her father, Arthur William Bouquet, Sr., was a railroad express messenger.

Edna Rose and her twin brother, Arthur William, Jr., came to know the King William neighborhood as they drove through it every day to get to Brackenridge High School where they were students. Edna Rose and her brother, who was always a straight A student, graduated from Brackenridge in 1934.

After attending Johnson Beauty School the next year, Edna Rose became a hair stylist, a profession she practiced for the next 25 years. Her brother, Art, Jr., trained first at Lackland AFB then at Randolph to become a B-26 pilot. He was stationed in England in WWII and flew 65 missions over Europe.

During the war years, San Antonio was crowded with service men. Young, pretty and vivacious, Edna Rose loved to dance and never lacked for beaus but she always lived at home under her mother’s watchful eye. “I would work all day and dance all night.” remembers Edna Rose.

Edna’s father bought 432 King William before the rest of the family had a chance to see it. When Edna Laura, Edna Rose’s mother saw their new home, she sat out front and cried, thinking of all the work involved in making the house livable and the care it would take.

Edna Laura, who came to love the house and the neighborhood, died in 1955 at age 65. The next year, Edna Rose’s father, Arthur William, Sr., met Helga Adams who lived at 403 Madison and they were married in September of 1957. They formed the “57” dance club which became the oldest dance club in San Antonio and to which Edna Rose belonged as an active member until her late years. Arthur and Helga became locally famous for their dance teams and performed at various functions such as the King’s Ball during Fiesta. Arthur, Sr., who died in 1978 at age 91, danced up until the last week of his life.

Many of the original settlers of King William were still living in the neighborhood during those years. Edna Rose counted Ike and Nellie West, the Pancoast’s, Carrie Steves, and the Burkholder’s among her best friends. Christine Carvajal moved next door in 1948 and they were close friends for over 50 years.

In 1948, Edna Rose married Bob Teeter, a sailor from Chicago. They were married at 5 am on New Year’s Day at St. Mary’s Church because Edna Rose wanted to be the first bride of the new year. Bob was stationed at various locations around the country over the next few years during which time Edna lived off and on in King William. After her first husband died in 1960, Edna Rose married Bob Reed; died in 1996.

For years Edna Rose operated a beauty salon in her carriage house. “I had a thousand customers in my heyday,” she says. “I was the fastest hair stylist in San Antonio. I could turn you out in no time flat and you’d look beautiful. “

Always a social person, Edna Rose once held membership in 22 organizations. Until she moved out of King William, she was still active in about 12, and still danced several times a week. Every Thursday morning for 25 years, she joined other Conservation Society members to make flowers and decorations for NIOSA.

Edna Rose moved away from King William in the fall of 2006. She died June 24, 2007 at age 91. Her dancing spirit lives on in her former King William home!
Good Will Dining by Wm. Charles

Friends, this is the first edition of what I hope becomes an ongoing read for all who live or visit our fantastic neighborhood eateries and taverns. Having lived in KW for 25 years, we have seen our culinary possibilities increase significantly, from just the few like the “original” Rosario’s (now, Hot Joy!), Taco Haven and La Tuna! Look at us now – so many places, so many great places! And I, like you, enjoy each and every one. While we support our locals, there are also other wonderful restaurants and establishments throughout our fair city for great fare. This short read will be about experiences, tastes, finds, and all things food and drink.

At the time of this read, hopefully the weather has cooled to below triple digits and maybe, just maybe, a cool (not cold) front has brought the first hint of Fall. That being the case, I look forward to enjoying many great “porchable” wines on my back patio. That is what “porchable” wines are for! And if you know me – I am always looking for a good wine with an even better price tag (under $15)! A couple of my favorite varietals include Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Rose’ and of course Chardonnay. Let’s get started:

Sauvignon Blanc - my go to is Joel Gott. “The 2016 Joel Gott California Sauvignon Blanc has aromas of mango, pineapple and melon with soft floral notes. On the palate, the wine opens with bright, tropical flavors, followed by crisp, refreshing acidity and a long, clean, balanced finish.” – gottwines.com. (HEB - $8.99)

Viognier – this month’s “Local Flavor” – I need to give a nod to the Lone Star State’s – Becker Vineyards. The very first winemaker to introduce viognier to Texas wine lovers. “Our 2016 release is one of the most seductive and alluring wines we make. From the heavy melon and apricot aromas to the full mouth feel of the golden-hued nectar, our wine caresses your senses with unabashed forwardness.” – beckervineyards.com. (HEB - $10.97)

Rose’ – this varietal has become one of my favs lately. Rose’ all day I like to say! There are several to choose from but currently I enjoy Sacha Lichine Rose’.

“Grenache, Cinsault. Single Blend has a bright, blush color with an elegant nose. It is both full and balanced and has a fresh finish.” - sachalichine.com. (HEB - $9.98)

Chardonnay – during the summer / fall months I enjoy an unoaked chard. You can always find Toad Hollow Chard in my icebox. FYI, Toad Hollow is created by Dr. Todd Williams (brother of the truly missed Robin Williams). That too is a story for another day.

“This Chardonnay is clean and crisp with flavors of mango and melon. Slow malolactic fermentation with tie on the lees help to create a full, rich mouth-feel that perfectly balances the bright acids and stainless steel aging.” - toadhollow.com. (HEB - $10.98)

Come on Fall and sit back relax to enjoy all things “porchable” – Life, drink it up!

School has started, summer gardens are harvested, and fall officially begins on September 23rd.

Fall activities begin in earnest in October so we can take a rest and plan ahead. For now, stock up on mulch, organic compost and fertilizer and be ready to start. Also check for end of season sales on plants. Three perennials to consider that add color to the garden throughout the growing season are Firebush, Shrimp, and Thryallis. Each can die back if we get a hard freeze and should be trimmed back to about 8 to 12 inches around Valentine’s Day. Information and pictures for each can be found at dirdoctor.com - click on Library Topics.

Four local nurseries that are good sources for xeric plants and organic supplies are Evergreen Garden at 922 W. Hildebrand; Fanick’s Nursery at 1025 Holmgren Rd.; Rainbow Gardens at 2585 Thousand Oaks; and Shades of Green at 334 W. Sunset Rd.
The History of the INSCO Mural Project

by Harry and Molly Shafer

As you drive up South Alamo Street past Blue Star and across the bridge, it is hard to miss the mural on the wall of the INSCO building. Newcomers in the neighborhood may not know the story behind the mural and why it was painted.

For years, unsightly graffiti tagged the long wall at the INSCO building creating an unwelcome eyesore. KW volunteers and the CoSA graffiti abatement program worked at cleaning the wall, but this painting-tagging-painting went on for about four years. In 2004 the neighborhood decided to do something about it.

Working with our SAFFE officer, and INSCO, the building owner, we explored options to curb the vandalism. The group suggested a mural, and Molly Shafer researched graffiti abatement programs in other cities that had successfully invested in murals as a deterrent to graffiti.

After some research, Molly obtained funding from the City of San Antonio, King William Association, and several private donors to cover the cost of labor and paint. Jon Hinojosa at Say Si served as the coordinator for the mural project and recommended muralist Jane Madrigal. Jane has an impressive resume as a muralist and painted several on the west side of San Antonio. Jane enlisted artist Jose Cosme to help and they presented some ideas. The group held three public meetings for King William residents and business owners for input regarding the initial mural design. The King William Board also reviewed the design. Rick Mitchell, the manager of INSCO at the time also needed to approve the mural. While he vetoed the first designs, Molly and Jane negotiated a compromise design that included images of prominent buildings in King William (including the INSCO building) and Jane’s personal signature in the form of an abstract river with an Indian woman representing the spring at the river’s source.

HDRC approval for the design, as the building is in an historic district and the INSCO building is considered a historic structure, included a presentation to the CoSA Public Arts Committee. The Public Arts Committee needed three presentations to approve, and with that, the project went before the HDRC. With the help of Ann McGlone and Chris Sills, the project obtained HDRC approval. Jane and Jose started work on the mural in late spring of 2008.

The wall needed cleaning and preparation and a coat of primer on the surface, finished with host of volunteers from the neighborhood and Lisa McKenzie, head of Graffiti Abatement for San Antonio, and her staff. Jane and Jose then blocked in the mural and began work. Jane, the mother of two, and Jose, employed elsewhere, had to work part-time during the heat of the summer, but with persistence and patience, they finished on October 11, 2008. The King William graffiti team applied the last touch, a special coating over the mural to protect it from tagging. The goal of the mural is to alleviate vandalism and it has accomplished its purpose.

KW is grateful for the many people who stepped forward to help when called upon, especially Lisa McKenzie and her staff, Erik Doyle, Chris Sills, Ann McGlone, Jon Hinojosa, and volunteers from the King William Graffiti team, Ed Haverlah, the late Tom Berg, Fernando Barrios, Neil Leatherbury, and Bill Cogburn, and all donors who provided funding, including the City of San Antonio Graffiti Abatement program, the King William Association, and anonymous private donors. Unbeknownst to us at the time, Jim Gillette documented the project with photos. He also prepared a video, which is available at the King William office.
The San Antonio Art League and Museum has named Steven G. Smith its Artist of the Year for 2018. This honor has been given to a regional artist annually since 1946. Smith joins a list of iconic SAALM Artists of the Year, including Amy Freeman Lee, Cecil Casebier, Robert Tiemann, Marilyn Lanfear, and Charles Field. He will be honored at a reception and opening at the San Antonio Art League and Museum, 130 King William Street on Sunday, September 9th from 3-5 p.m.

After retiring about 10 years ago, Smith has focused on his fine art career, and the results have been extraordinary. His subject matter varies from places to people, but it is in his paintings of musicians where the motion of the brush captures the emotion of the music, making it seem as if the notes are coming from the canvas.

And perhaps there’s good reason for that. Smith usually listens to blues or jazz music while creating his visual compositions. So, as the musicians improvise, so might Smith on the canvas using the emotions of the music to inspire the motion of his brushstrokes.

As a way to capture quick studies, Smith relies on photography and says he’s “always seeing a painting in a photo.” Of course, using photos more so as an inspiration for a painting and not the representational translation from photo to painting. Smith adds, “The painting transcends the photo to become my interpretation of the moment… my representational documentation of it.”

Travel is another big influence on Smith’s subject matter, and he’ll bring sketchbooks along or rely on photos to capture studies for canvas back at his studio. His “Latin Quarter Tapas” has a strong cubistic influence that puts you smack dab in the Quarter with geometrics shaping up the surroundings.

Viewers will have the chance to see and appreciate Steve Smith’s work first-hand starting with the September 9th opening and continuing until Friday, October 26th. The San Antonio Art League and Museum is free and open to the public.

*San Antonio Art League Museum Names 2018 Artist of the Year*

by Peter Szarmach, Special Projects Chair, San Antonio Art League and Museum

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Blue Star, Continued from p. 3

immediately invited the new brewery to be in the 1997 parade. Adorned with foam hats replicating the King William Gazebo, the Oge House, Pioneer Flour Mill and the Blue Star Brewing Co. created by employee John Dawson, employees rode the parade atop their 1957 Chevy pickup. That year Rick Hunter took a photo of their entry which made the front page of the San Antonio Express News! In addition to their regular annual parade entry, Blue Star Brewery offers gelato and craft beer to Fairgoers.

Over the years they have watched the Fair grow. Maggie remembers walking through the Fair with lots of open space, “It was a very relaxing feeling,” she notes.

The unique aspects of King William and the fair are what both Maggie and Joey adore. Maggie loves the beautiful historic neighborhood and Joey likes the Fair being so close to work.

King William is thankful for your support!

Blue Star Brewing Co.
1414 S. Alamo #105
bluestarbrewing.com
Every year the King William Fair hosts the amazing musical talent in San Antonio on our stages. Henry Brun is one of our premier perennial personalities. More than that – he’s also our September featured artist for the King William Association’s Concerts in the Park on Sunday September 9th, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at Upper Mill Park.

San Antonio’s favorite adopted son is originally from the Bronx, NY. His family moved to Puerto Rico in 1968 where his percussive fire was ignited at a young age. He studied music at Juan Morel Campos Escuela Libre De Música (Liberal Arts School) in Ponce, Puerto Rico and on the bandstand with many, many artists and bands. He is a former Air Force bandsman with well over 750 recordings to his credit, along with a host of awards and honors including certified Gold and Platinum albums and 2 Grammy awards. His areas of expertise include the conga, bongo, timbale, and ethnic percussion instruments of African, Brazilian, and Middle Eastern origin.

He is an educator and started outreach programs for disadvantaged youth. He has hosted a weekly radio show for more than a decade, The Latin Jazz Brunch with Henry Brun, which airs every Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm on KRTU.

During the September 9th concert, Brun’s band, Latin Playerz, will be keeping things moving and grooving with music covering a cavalcade of Latin styles, from the slow tempo of a Cuban cha-cha and the upbeat mambo, to the conga and rumba, guaguancó, songo, charanga, son montuno, timba and merengue rhythms. The band integrates rhythm and blues, swing, and straight ahead Jazz with a Latin beat. The award winning Latin Playerz has become a very popular Latin Jazz ensemble, performing throughout USA and abroad.

Henry is excited by his music, his band, and his sound. He says, “Excitement is an understatement. To achieve an identity, a sound by which audiences acknowledge your talent and ultimately making a musical statement is a milestone achievement in a musician’s career. I’m proud and truly privileged to have the blessings to do what I love to do – make people forget their daily challenges and bring happiness to their lives. This is what I live for.”

We are thrilled and honored to have Henry Brun grace our stage at the King William Fair and pleased to have him be part of our concerts for the King William Association. Please join us on Sept 9th at Upper Mill Park to enjoy and appreciate San Antonio’s favorite adopted son.

Find Henry online at latinjazzartist.com.
In the never-ending quest to find music in the hood, we traveled down to our favorite bar/coffee shop/lounge to see what’s on the musical menu at Halcyon!

Halcyon is arguably the coolest hang in King William. It’s a hipster haven, a college-student sanctuary, a great place to grab some tasty food, and the only place I know of where you can roast your own s’mores. Looking around on a Thursday night the tables are loaded with laptops, college girls with dyed hair, fit dudes with skinny jeans, groups of teens sitting around, smokers on the porch outside and everybody enjoying the sound and light show from GrooveTronX.

Located at 1414 S. Alamo, manager Casey Schwamb took a few minutes between sling drinks, watching bands setting up, switching servers out, and serving food to let us know “the haps.”

September jams: DJ Jarvis spinning your favorites on Sept 7th, GrooveTronX (Nu Jazz/Livetronica) on Sept 6th, 14th, and 20th, and the Odie Afen Arcade on Sept 28th. There’s also a very special Halloween themed event sponsored by Jager on October 1st: Test-tube drinks, schwag, and fun all night! Don’t miss it.

And don’t forget the drink specials! Margarita Monday, three-dollar beer every Thursday, Tuesday is college night and Trivia, Wednesday is half-price bottles of wine.

I asked Casey about the music offerings at Halcyon and what people can expect. He said the music is reflective of the customers and the Halcyon concept. It’s eclectic, it’s inclusive, it’s got some special flavors for everyone; he wants to keep it different, keep it cool and mix it up. He’s always got some other groups he’s trying out to see if they “fit” into the blend that makes Halcyon, well…Halcyon.

So next time you’re wondering where to wander in the hood for some food and fun. Halcyon is a sure-fire stop for everyone. Coffee, drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), food, desserts, music, games, and a room full of friendly and cool people. What more could you ask for?

Halcyon
1414 S. Alamo
halcyoncoffeebar.com
When the summer heats up it seems as if crime does too, at least that what appears to happen on the news. While it’s a wonderful thing for us to connect on social media to help keep any eye out for the bad guys, sometimes we can lose a little perspective on real life in the neighborhood.

KWA Board member Gretchen Garceau-Kragh pulled some statistics together to empower us with some facts; here’s what she found out from the website of the San Antonio Police Department: For the month of July there were 124 calls for service from the King William neighborhood to SAPD. The top calls for service were traffic related/violations (20), disturbances (17), visitation violation (6), suspicious vehicle (5), injured/sick person (5), patrol by (5) and assist the public (5).

By comparison, downtown San Antonio had 2,675 calls for service in July; Lavaca neighborhood had 138 calls for service, and the Lone Star neighborhood had 388. To date, the top reasons for service calls for the King William Neighborhood have been traffic related/violations (124), disturbances (122), suspicious persons (55), theft (38), patrol by (32), burglary (31), burglary of vehicle (27), welfare checks (24) and loud music (23).

Overall, calls for service are down 13.5% in 2018 compared to the same time-period for 2017.

Let’s keep up the good work by staying in touch, being good neighbors, and making sure people know we’re keeping an eye on our neighborhood. •

As always - for emergency assistance please call 911 immediately.

Non-emergency calls can be made to 210-207-SAPD

Tell us what you want to know!

Email your neighborhood questions/ideas and thoughts to info@ourkwa.org
 Calling ALL Parade Participants

by Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

The King William Fair parade team has concepted the story/theme for the 2019 King William Fair opening parade! This year’s theme is to enlighten our audience on the age-old question asked by the tourists who visit our neighborhood “Who Is King William?”

King William may be named in honor of Kaiser Wilhelm of Prussia. However, there is a long history before and after that period belonging to this area.

We would love to have everyone apply to be an official parade entry. When deciding on your story for the parade, think of the many ways this area developed over time, as far back as the 1700s.

We ask applicants to choose a time frame between 1700, now and the future. Not having a solid plan for your parade’s theme is fine, as long as you are inspired by the era. Our chief wrangler will help you pick a story for your time era. If your entry is considered, someone from the parade committee will contact you to discuss your ideas. Acceptances will be sent no later than February 28, 2019.

When you apply please be specific when describing the story you plan to tell and how it will excite parade viewers. The more exciting your idea and your ability to enhance the theme’s story, the better chance you have being selected.

If you’re an artist and would like to participate, please email our chief parade wrangler at alicia@kwfair.org. We are looking for artists in the form of sculptors, painters, actors and musicians who to would like to help enhance our participants’ entries.

If you have additional questions or would like to tell your story about King William please email alicia@kwfair.org.

The Inside Scoop

by KWA Staff

Everybody knows the Fair staff – but how well? Here’s some goodies about our parade wrangler: Alicia Spence-Schlesinger.

Alicia was born in New Braunfels and raised in Schertz, but considers herself a native San Antonian. She has an Associates degree in Print Graphics from San Antonio College. While she attends conferences/trainings for graphics and marketing, most of her training has been on the job.

As an aspiring artist, Alicia hosted her first solo show at Peep Hole Gallery and was a resident artist at Ellis Bean, an “underground” art/music gallery in what is now called the Lone Star District.

Along the way she has been involved the community from designing parade floats to volunteering at Art in The Hood.

Alicia was hired as production designer for the San Antonio Current and later was hired by Joey & Maggie Villarreal (Joey’s Inc.) as the Marketing/Graphics Director. She spent 8 years with Joey’s Inc. working her way up to General Manager.

Furthering her graphic design talent, Alicia designed packaging for Freetail Brewing. She created the original beer can designs and additional support materials for marketing Freetail’s beer products.

The King William Association is lucky to have such a dedicated and talented artist on our staff. During Alicia’s first year as Parade Chair she received a silver medal at the Texas Festival and Events Association and a gold medal for redesigning the Fair’s website.

Alicia and her husband Marty opened Small Planet eBikes in the old Citgo station on South Alamo that now has food truck Fridays, beer, and bike repairs.

See more of her artwork at alicia-spence.com
Memories of Judith Helen Mary Greaves Maxwell

As recalled by Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Judith Helen Mary Greaves Maxwell, known to most as Judy, arrived in New York from her native England in 1961. Judy was still an architecture student when she met O’Neil Ford while studying in England and he recruited her to come to San Antonio to work in his office at 528 King William Street, the permanent address recorded on her immigration papers. She was the first female architect hired to work in Ford’s office that was not part of a husband/wife architectural team. San Antonio became Judy’s adopted home for the remainder of her life and, with the exception of the past three years, she was a resident of the King William neighborhood. Judy had been in San Antonio for a short time when I first remember meeting her. She was one of the many creative, artistic individuals who lived in the yet-to-be-rediscovered neighborhood that was still affordable and somewhat shabby in the pre-HemisFair era.

My mother was a friend of O’Neil and Wanda Ford and involved in preservation activities, so our family became part of the extended design community that lived and worked in King William. As a young teenager, I was the group’s mascot. Judy lived in the attic at 309 King William before moving to 414 where she hosted eclectic gatherings of neighbors and colleagues long before Walter Mathis purchased the house. During this time she worked briefly for architect E.B. Flowers in the Wagner House at 219 E. Guenther, then still owned by Pioneer Flour Mill. She met Isaac Maxwell who also worked for E.B. after he arrived in San Antonio fresh from architecture school at the University of Texas. Isaac rented the outbuilding behind our house at 213 Washington and our backyard became a lively gathering place.

Judy drove a British green Morgan and would roar down our driveway to visit. The top was always down and she wore a wide-brimmed hat, prompting my parents to christen her “the Hat.” It was in our backyard that Judy, Isaac, and their friend and fellow architect, Jerry Comiskey, built a camper on the back of Isaac’s open-bed truck. The threesome set out for a journey to reach Tierra del Fuego. They made it deep into South America before Isaac’s grandmother died and he flew home, leaving Judy and Jerry to make their way back to Texas.

I was still in high school when Isaac began punching his signature light fixtures in our backyard house that he christened “Washington Works.” The rhythmic tapping was mesmerizing. Some of his commissions involved stenciled panels that Judy helped design and execute. When time and help were short, I was drafted to assist. With the Works overtaken by Isaac’s projects, Judy and Isaac rented the downstairs of the James House at 303 King William. They married in December 1969 and spent many happy hours with friends drinking gin and tonic in the richly planted garden they created.

Judy left Ford’s office after six years and joined landscape architect Jim Keeter, helping during the 1970s to design the river channel through the neighborhood she called home. In 1972 she and Isaac bought and remodeled 129 Crofton Street. There Judy created another garden filled with exotic plants and fruit trees that produced limes and oranges for her signature marmalade. She created extravagant meals served to appreciative audiences in the double-height living space. Judy and Isaac also purchased the adjoining house where her mother lived after relocating to Texas. Judy and Isaac’s projects continued with the help of Judy’s mother.

The workshop moved from Washington Street in 1974, first to 1102 South Alamo and later to 1009 South Alamo. After Isaac’s death in 1998, Judy oversaw the business and created new designs, assuring that the sparkling works would continue to delight future generations. Judy and her beloved cat moved in 2015 to the Incarnate Word Retirement Community where, true to form, she maintained a garden. She died there peacefully on August 4, 2018.

Donated Books - continued from p. 1

years old. In the 1840s, Devine purchased a number of suertes, plots of land, and created a subdivision which included King William, Washington and Madison Streets between César Chávez and Guenther Street.

While Mary Burkholder wrote her book with all the information she had at the time, the Internet unearthed more history. Bill Cogburn, another former board member, shares Jessie’s passion for the homes in KW. Over the years since Mary’s book, Bill continues researching and writing about homes in the area and encouraged the board to continue to publish information where Mary’s book ended. Eventually Jessie answered the challenge and began updating the book.

Jessie completed the book in about a year. She expanded the original copy of the book to include more houses that would complete Mary’s version of the tale, more than doubling the information originally published. Working on this project taught Jessie the art of research and a passion for the hunt for more information. The access to more research tools allowed her to correct mistakes and thoroughly update the material.

When asked if she felt The King William Area book is now complete, Jessie said, “It’s a great little tale but there’s a long story about every house. There’s always room for someone else to do more.”