

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION NEWS

APRIL 2021

THE King William Fair ISSUE

AN OPEN HOUSE WITH AN OPEN HEART

Michael Quintanilla, aka Mr. Fiesta

Many years ago I put together a “100 Reasons Why We Love Fiesta” list published in the newspaper, a book, poster and on a commemorative noise-making fan. The King William Fair and Parade was my list’s deliberate centerpiece of the 11-day bash that swathes our senses with hypnotic aromas of cuisine, sounds of marching bands and the glitz of crowned heads dying to show us their shoes. Still, it’s the memories that keep Fiesta alive and so many of those remembrances are rooted in King William festivities.

Having been a Guenther Street resident my recollections start there. My casita was decorated like a float covered with neon tulle and fluttering ribbons, including a porch adorned with hot-hued flowers, long before the residents of New Orleans did theirs.

Soon I was helping decorate a float on a four-wheel flatbed in my driveway that would roll in the Parade as I barked on the microphone as the 4 Paws Animal Hospital master of ceremonies, in the entry organized by veterinarian Dr. Olga Jaimez Payne.

We were always a crowd favorite because our canines were dressed to the nines in their finest Fiesta wear. Who doesn’t love a Greyhound dressed like a Greyhound bus? How about Teacup Chihuahuas enjoying a slow ride on



PHOTO OF MICHAEL QUINTANILLA, AKA MR. FIESTA, BY AL RENDON

a miniature Ferris wheel? Or a pooch decked out like a piñata?

Our home soon became KW headquarters for the day that started with pancakes and bacon and ended with wine on the porch for friends and family. Best of all, strangers strolling by on the sidewalk soon became fast amigos.

One year five guys from Japan visiting San Antonio for Fiesta stopped in front of the house, stunned by its psychedelic splendor. I invited them in. A couple from Switzerland and from Portugal were in the house too. They, too, were strolling by and I was giving away

fresh yellow roses to everyone. I had dozens of them. I invited them in for a cold drink and they stayed. I offered up an impromptu Fiesta fashion show of my custom-made towering hats and shiny costumes. I had my dogs, Coco and Charlie, glammed up in rainbow Pride hues to match mine.

On the street I created my own Quirk du Soleil pretend high-wire act, holding a Fiesta-adorned parasol in my left while balancing on a curb, pretending I was 40 feet above the pavement. Children and grandmas were

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THE PARADE MUST GO ON

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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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Margaret Leeds

Even though our March General Membership Meeting had to be a Zoom event, it was good to see so many neighbors on screen to find out what's "happenin' in the 'hood." And a lot is happening! For those who missed the meeting, the Residential Quality of Life Committee is on target in its efforts to reduce noise pollution in King William. Thanks to Pat Conroy's perseverance in pursuing the help of COSA agencies in the battle against noise disturbance, D1 Councilman Roberto Treviño and SAFFE Officer David McCall joined the meeting to address the ongoing difficulty of enforcing the noise ordinance. Trevino shared a proposal he has drafted to address the issue and to facilitate more effective enforcement of the ordinance.

We need your help to move this effort forward. When you are disturbed by excessive noise or vibration, please report the abuse to the SAPD by calling the non-emergency number (210) 207-7273 and keep a record of the incident number you will be given for the report. It is also helpful to contact King William area SAFFE Officer David McCall via email at David.Mccall@sanantonio.gov to report the abuse. If the noise persists, we need for you to keep calling the SAPD non-emergency number and keep getting incident numbers. Notify KWA Executive Director Lisa Lynde of the incident and give her the incident report number so KWA will have a record of what is happening in our neighborhood. We need to establish a record of repeated abuse to build a case for corrective action by the city.

While we are on the topic of city ordinances and residential quality of life, I urge you to become knowledgeable about zoning in your area and how it impacts your quality of life. The noise allowed on a specific property is linked to that property's zoning. In the near future, we will host a virtual meeting to share a recording of the recent Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition webinar workshop "Zoning 101" to hone your knowledge of this important aspect of quality control. We will be more successful when you fully understand your rights and join us in reporting threats to our residential quality of life.

The soon-to-be-elected District 1 Councilperson will be the one to carry forward desired changes in noise ordinance enforcement. Six candidates are vying for your District 1 council seat. We will be communicating with these candidates to ascertain their position on important topics such as historic preservation, zoning and noise control. Let me know what questions you would like for them to answer prior to election day. Your King William Association is focused on protecting and preserving the residential quality of life that we desire.

On a brighter note, spring has sprung and although we will not have a King William Fair again this year, we still have the King William Flair. Your Cultural Arts Committee is filling in the gap by coordinating a colorful and exciting House Float Parade. I congratulate those of you who will join in the festivities by decorating your home. Viva King William!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

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BOARD BRIEFS:

At the March 17 KWA Board meeting the Board approved the 2nd quarter budget, discussed the 3/28 concert and April house float parade. The Residential Quality Committee discussed the need for increased cooperation among residents, bars or restaurants with outdoor entertainment venues, and the city code enforcement office to reduce noise ordinance violations. The RQC asks residents to report noise nuisance to the SAPD non-emergency number (210-207-7273), record the complaint number for each call, and forward those complaint numbers to the KWA offices. The Residential Quality Committee will continue to work with Councilman Treviño, Officer David McCall (the King William area SAFFE Officer on patrol), and city zoning offices to address noise in the neighborhood. "Board Briefs" are not intended to replace the official minutes of the Association but to highlight some of the board's latest activities.

Dan Ratliff, KWA Board Secretary

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Lynde

Welcome to our 2021 King William Fair issue! Our Fair issue looks a bit different this year and it didn't even happen last year!

When I first heard about the Fair during my initial visit to San Antonio, I was intimidated. I'd never managed an event that size before. Then I was immediately flooded with relief when I learned we had an amazing Fair Director who, with her staff, managed the entire thing! I was told all I needed to do that day was ride in the Parade. I immediately started thinking about costuming.

Coming from New Orleans, celebrating is in our blood and we'll don a costume every chance we can. I was excited to bring a little of NOLA with me to the Fair and thought about throwing some beads and getting my pink wig out of storage. My bead-throwing hopes were immediately dashed thanks to local laws and 2020 left us all bereft of the King William Fair. So I spent the year thinking about what I would wear in the Parade for 2021 only to be thwarted again. By the time April 2022 comes around I will have been in San Antonio just shy of three years and still without a Fair experience. This is why I am so excited to read about Fairs past this month. It's the closest I will get to the real thing this year. ...or is it?



PHOTO OF NEW ORLEANS' YARDI GRAS BY LISA LYNDE

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Our mission is to support the arts, education, and community improvements with family fun in Texas' first residential historic district.

Insider's View of the Fair That Isn't Happening (Again)

Syeira Budd

Every morning after Fair Day in the so-called normal years before 2020, I would wake up to find myself physically and emotionally overwhelmed by what I call Phantom Fair Syndrome (PFS). PFS is the distinct sensation of all the days, weeks, and months of our manic, hard work culminating in a mere nine magical hours of community celebration only for it to come to a sudden, anti-climactic halt. It's sheer exhaustion mixed with a somewhat melancholy realization that what we labored over during our year-long planning cycle is gone in a flash. This discom-

bobulating feeling typically stays with me for a few weeks following Fair Day while we wrap up the aftermath of having just thrown a party for approximately 40,000 revelers.

I never thought I'd feel nostalgic for the weird effects of PFS, but now that we're approaching what would've been two Fair planning cycles without producing an actual Fair, I find myself strangely yearning for the morning after Fair



KWA/FAIR TEAM PHOTO FROM MARCH 2020 BY AL RENDON, PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE LISA LYNDE, ZET BAER, SYEIRA BUDD, MONIKA PEREZ-MOAD, DANIELLE GRIFFIN, ALICIA SPENCE-SCHLESINGER, NOAH PETERSON, ANNICE HILL

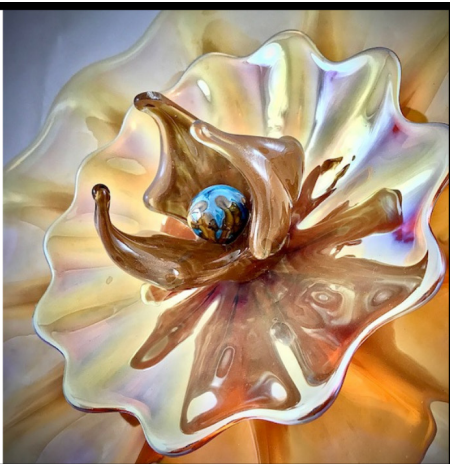
Day. In some ways, though, this pandemic year has been a prolonged tussle with PFS. I certainly haven't been working as much or as hard as I would in a normal Fair year, so the physical exhaustion aspect is absent. However, similar emotional aspects accompany the reality that all our satisfying Fair work came to an abrupt stop in March 2020 and its return is still a ways off.

Needless to say, I can't wait for the day when the odd sensation of PFS washes over my body and brain as I crack open my eyes and stumble out of bed the morning after the next Fair. I'm marking my calendar for Sunday morning, April 10, 2022, so I will be ready to meet PFS head-on with a grateful new outlook after producing a stellar 2022 Fair!

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King William Fair Chair's Message

Annice Hill

My husband Keith and I moved to St. Benedict's the Wednesday before Thanksgiving in 2007. So that next April 2008 was our first Fair – we had no idea we would be living in the fair Zone! We had a great time enjoying corn on the cob, gorditos, sausage on a stick, and of course, beer! We invited some friends down for the Fair and watched the Parade right behind St. Benedict's on Madison. My friend has always had trouble with her weight, like me, so when the belly dancers came by – many with their bellies hanging over – she exclaimed, "I love San Antonio!"

The very next year, Ginger Ardid and I were Food Co-Chairs for the Fair. We learned by doing that year, loved getting to know all the food vendors, and of course, the Fair staff. We had worked all day Friday and been up since 4:30 am on Saturday and were finally waiting for the Parade to come down Madison. Ginger said she would be right back, and she was – holding huge gin and tonics for both of us! First time I had a gin and tonic at 10:30 in the morning and it tasted great!



MAMA LOU AND ANNICE'S GRANDSON, RYDER, SHOWING OFF THEIR GUNS IN KIDS KINGDOM

Unless you have volunteered for the Fair, you have no idea of all the work that is involved. Volunteers like me start in December and January and it is so much work and so rewarding too! A few years ago, I was in the KW office at 5:00 am on Fair Day with all my food volunteers standing around waiting on me to give them their assignments. The phone rang and it was a new vendor from the Dallas area complaining she was lost. I told her to turn the map over which had intricate directions for vendors to get in the Fair. Later she told us she

was so surprised because she sold out early and that had never happened to her before in North Dallas fairs.

The last few Fairs I have also been Fair Chair in addition to my Food Chair position. Fair Chair is different now since we have great staff in the office and a BUNCH of great volunteers. My greatest Fair experience has been getting to know Fair staff. KWA members, you have a great Fair staff with lots of experience. I hope you appreciate them – and tell them that you do!

¡Viva Fiesta!

What's Cookin'?

Annice Hill

You won't be able to buy this dessert at the King William Fair, but it is a great German recipe that speaks to the heritage of our neighborhood. Satisfying and pleasing to look at for guests – and easy and tasty enough for you!

OMA'S APFELKUCHEN (GRANDMA'S APPLE CAKE) 10 SERVINGS

- 5 large egg yolks
- 2 tart apples, peeled cored and halved
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1¼ cups sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup whole milk
- Powdered sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350 ° F. Grease a 9-inch springform pan, wrap bottom of pan with heavy-duty aluminum foil, and set aside. Let egg yolks stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Slice apple halves in to ¼-inch slices and set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5 – 7 minutes. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. In another bowl, combine flour, cornstarch, cream of tartar, baking powder and salt. Gradually beat into creamed mixture. Add milk – beat well (batter will be thick).
3. Spread batter into the pan. Gently arrange and press apples into batter. Bake until toothpick inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs, about 45 – 55 minutes. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Loosen sides of cake from pan with knife; remove foil. Cool one hour longer. Remove rim from pan. Place cake on serving dish and dust with powdered sugar.

Guten Appetit and Viva Fiesta!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Margaret Leeds, KWA President

It is time to renew membership with the King William Association or join KWA for the first time! In previous years, the renewal process occurred over the summer and members received mailed renewal statements. Bylaws changes in 2019 made it even easier to become a member and changed the membership year to begin in January. That makes it time to renew or join NOW – it's never too late!

Robust membership improves our ability to advance the mission of the King William Association, as well as broadens relationships with neighbors and expands our diversity. Membership benefits include numerous discounts at businesses and on KWA merchandise (including some Fair discounts!). Joining as a Voting Membership allows voting participation on KWA issues and eligibility to serve on the KWA Board of Directors.

And if that wasn't reason enough, being a member helps to support all the programming KWA offers during a "normal" year:

- Concerts in the Park
- Art Exhibitions in the Molly Shafer Gallery
- Educational Lectures
- Monthly Membership Meetings
- Opportunities to talk to City and State Representatives
- Sidewalk Grants
- Community Organization Grants
- Architectural Advisory Assistance
- Twice-a-year Socials
- The King William Fair
- Sauerkraut Bend 5K Fun Run
- Holiday Home Tour

Joining for the first time or renewing your membership is quick, easy, and secure online by visiting our website at www.ourkwa.org. Alternatively, you can fill out the application in this newsletter. And you can always call the office if you need assistance with your membership dues. So please take a moment and join or renew now. One of our current Board members, Carlos Villarreal, is working to increase membership by increasing its value, and he would appreciate your input or help on this important process.


Margaret Leeds
KWA Board President





KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

SIGN ME UP OR RENEW MY DUES TO BE A KWA MEMBER IN 2021

While dues were due January 15th, you can **still** join or renew your dues! Remember to be a voting member you must be current with your dues at least 30 calendar days prior to any vote. We will be nominating neighbors to serve on the nominating committee for our Board of Directors in May, so now is the time to renew your dues if you haven't already! The membership year runs January 1 - December 31. Dues may be paid any time but will not be prorated. The King William Association is a nonprofit 501c3.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Select a category:

Individual (Free) Family (Free) Business/Organization (Free)

VOTING MEMBERS: Select a category:

Individual (\$30/1 vote) Business/Organization (\$50/1 vote)
 Patron (\$75) Family (\$40/2 votes)
 Benefactor (\$250) Lifetime (\$1000)

INDIVIDUAL NAME(S): _____

For voting business members, list the designated person and alternate who may cast a vote.

BUSINESS NAME (if applicable): _____

CHILDREN (under 18, list names): _____

VOTING MEMBERS: Would you like your children's names in the KWA Directory?

YES NO

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(Check one) I AM AM NOT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION.

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YES NO

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE ON THE...

Board Home Tour King William Fair Architectural Advisory Cultural Arts
 Newsletter Committees Other: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

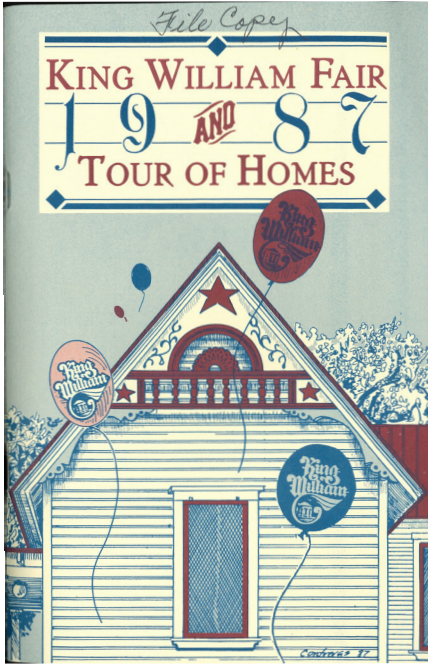
Please fill out the KWA membership form above and mail to the KWA office. You may also drop your KWA membership form in the mail slot in the door facing Madison (not the parking lot entrance). You may also email us at: info@ourkwa.org. Finally you may also become a KWA member online by going to OurKWA.org/Membership

Memories of Fairs Gone By



In 1967, the King William Association was chartered as a non-profit corporation to preserve the oldest residential historic district in the state of Texas and to promote the unique cultural heritage of San Antonio. To further that mission, the Association hosted its very first Fair in 1968. Since then, the Fair has grown from a one-block arts exhibit to a major Fiesta® San Antonio event spanning well over a dozen residential blocks...all thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the many neighbors who have volunteered countless hours over the years.

While we aren't able to host the Fair this year, we can certainly reminisce about Fairs gone by and look forward to Fairs to come. Enjoy these memories from some of our neighbors who have experienced how the Fair has evolved over the years!



In the late 1990s, there was a year that the Fair was almost rained out. It had been raining off and on all night and was still pouring down when the Parade started. To ease the tension and put the best face on what was beginning to look like an absolute disaster, the Fair co-chairs, Lola Austin and Lynn Dickey, went home and put on their swimsuits and rode in the Parade on top of open convertibles, shamelessly hamming it up like bathing beauties. About eleven o'clock when the Parade was just about over, the rain stopped and the sun came out. Although attendance was way down that year, many of the Fairgoers who persevered said it was the best Fair in years because it wasn't crowded. Of course they were sloshing through ankle-deep water most of the morning.

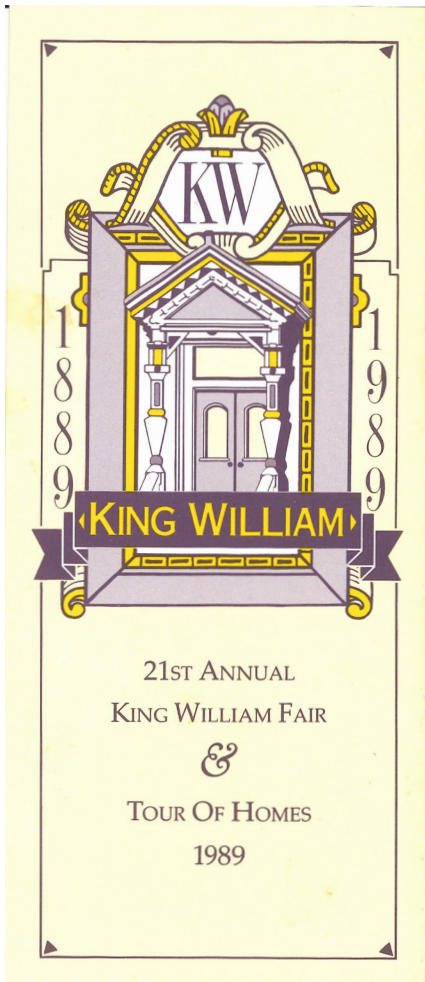
when we had balloons for the first time. The Fair was closing down and lots of people were walking past Mike and me in the park, on their way to the night parade. We were frantically blowing up balloons for buyers when I realized that the person tying the helium-filled balloons was none other than Charles! He spent maybe 30 minutes helping us out on his way to the River. We sold more balloons that afternoon than all morning thanks to our new neighbor!

- Penny Wiederhold

- Bill Cogburn

Forty-plus years ago the King William Fair featured house tours. Every year five good-natured homeowners would agree to shine up their homes to permit the KWA to profit by inviting in the public. The neighborhood realtor Julia Cauthorn assigned me to be a docent at the Fair home tour days after submitting a contract offer for my house. By the next year I was in charge of preparing the booklet that described the year's

The only really eye-opening moment that might amuse people was in about 1983 (it was the first year Charles Butt lived in the neighborhood)





houses and the mission of the KWA. The hardest part was finding an artist to prepare a sketch of each house. The sketches were so time-consuming that I had to find a new artist every year. Then I'd focus on writing the history of each home. Since these were pre-digital days where deed records were buried in the courthouse basement, I would start with Mary Burkholder's books (Mary's first editions were recently updated by Jessie Simpson). Then I'd pull out the big guns and ask Maria Watson Pfeiffer to share her wisdom on neighborhood architecture and residents. We'd drop the top of my 1975 Cadillac Eldorado (with rolled leather, extra-wide white walls and custom pin-striping...cha cha cha...it was the eighties, after all) and drive the neighborhood streets. Maria would talk about the houses and I'd take mental notes. Somehow this resulted in a little handbook that our KWA home tour guests could enjoy both on Fair day and later.

- Marita Emmett

I moved into the neighborhood in 1979 at 206 Madison St. There was and still is a vacant lot next door which is part of the condos built into the old furniture warehouse. The Fair wasn't near as large as now. About a month before Fair Day, a group of neighbors would start assembling the 15 food booths for the Fair. The booths were built by neighbors and stored in the barn in the backyard of the house at the corner of E. Guenther and S. Alamo. A couple of pickups were used to take all the pieces up to the vacant lot where the booths were assembled. On the morning of the Fair, the booths were put on the back of the pickups, one by one, and put out on the street. After the Fair they were taken back to the lot where they were taken apart over a few weeks and then taken back to the barn. I'm not sure how many years this was done, but as the Fair grew booths were rented and set up by a company. I remember one particular year it rained cats and dogs and the booth crews got the booths out just in time. The Fair started later then and by starting time the rain had stopped, the sun came out and it was a beautiful day.

- Alan Cash

As we all know, thunder clouds and rain are not unusual on Fair Day. At one of my first Fairs, I delayed a little too long in scurrying to my home on Madison Street and was caught with my young son in the deluge. We were running as fast as we could when a giant black Cadillac stopped beside us, rolled down its window and Walter Mathis demanded that we get in. We flopped, soaking wet, onto his black leather seats and he delivered us home.

- Jessie Simpson

The King William Fair was the one function my young son was allowed to roam at will. Back then the Fair covered the park and about three blocks of King William Street. There was no crowd and you saw all of your neighbors at some point during the day. It was a day for strolling and gossiping, when you were not working your shift as a tour guide, food server, or beer drinker – as we called the guys who manned the beer booths. Back then the TABC was not involved, we bought our own kegs and the reward for selling beer was free samples.

- Jessie Simpson



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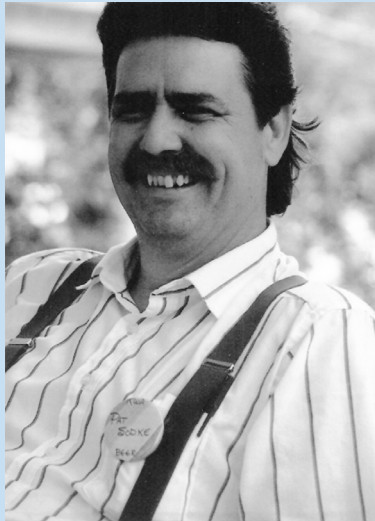
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NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES REMEMBERED AT THE KING WILLIAM FAIR

Bill Cogburn & Rose Kanusky

When you've strolled through our neighborhood on past Fair Days, have you ever wondered about the names given to certain Fair sites and activities – "Pat's Pub," "Julia's Veranda," "Ilse's Attic," "Wrangle On, Sue"? Old-timers will recognize those names, but if you're a newcomer, you might be curious. Over the years, the various Fair committees have chosen to recognize a few 'gone but not forgotten' King William residents and volunteers who have left an indelible imprint on our neighborhood. It's yet another way to honor those who have gone before us and to keep their memories alive.



PAT'S PUB

King William and Johnson Street

Pat's Pub honors Pat Sodke, who moved to the neighborhood in the 1970s and lived at 311 Mission Street from 1990 until his death in 1995. He was the Fair's beer chair for several years. Through his construction business, Pat remodeled about 40 houses in our area. When Pat had his fatal heart attack, he had his saw in hand, doing the work he loved.



ILSE'S ATTIC

King William Park

Ilse's Attic honors Ilse Griffith, who attended Bonham Elementary and who graduated with Brackenridge High School's first graduating class in 1916. She lived at 422 East Guenther from 1973 until she died in 1999 at age 99. She was KWA board president (1974-1976) and served as Fair Chair for two consecutive years (1973-1974).

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NYE



JULIA'S VERANDA

King William and Sheridan

Julia's Veranda honors Julia Cauthorn, who moved to the Sartor House at 217 King William in 1973. She was a passionate supporter of the local performing arts and on many Sunday afternoons hosted musicales in her home, serving refreshments on her veranda. She was also an ardent preservationist. Julia died in 2000 at the age of 82.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NYE



WRANGLE ON, SUE

The end of the Parade

Wrangle On, Sue honors Sue Duffy, who was Chief Parade Wrangler from 2007 until her death in 2017. Although Sue did not live in the neighborhood, she devoted countless hours to curating and cultivating the parade into a city-wide favorite. Sue was also a former Fair performer (Irish dance) and loved spending time in the 'hood.

PHOTO BY AL RENDON

Charles Schubert

We regret to inform you that our friend and neighbor Charles Schubert passed away on November 24, 2020. A commemorative article will be in the May Newsletter.

Charles was a real King William pioneer, an incredible architect, and a great friend. He will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

An Open House With an Open Heart continued from page 1

enthralled and believed my shtick, all part of the King William vibe that builds such unique traditions, memories and, above all, bonds among Fiesta lovers.

I've interviewed Alicia Spence-Schlesinger about this. She produces the King William Parade and is known as Chief Parade Wrangler. "Fiesta has a weird, spiritual energy that is upbeat and optimistic and that just puts everyone in a good mood, even when we're just thinking about it," she has told me.

She's correct. Fiesta is contagious. So are Fiesta memories built on tradition, community and the belief in one word that also stays with us: Viva!

House Float Parade



We started to think about the idea of doing house floats more seriously as January rolled around and we decided to make it happen! Hoping to at least get about 20 homes to sign up, as of writing this we've almost doubled that. We also decided we wanted to partner with our neighbors! Lavaca, Roosevelt Park and Lone Star neighborhood associations are participating too! We've made it simple for folks to sign-up and register their house address as a participant. We're reaching out to King William Fair Parade participants too and, if they are interested, we hope to pair them with homeowners who need a little extra creative help in creating their house float.

INSPIRATION FROM NOLA

Lisa Lynde

Back in mid-December I learned that NOLA was getting creative. I sent an email to our Fair and Parade staff suggesting we copy their idea. Mardi Gras festivities had already been canceled, but there was no way the city wasn't going to still acknowledge it somehow. With float artists unemployed, a group got together with the idea of creating house floats that would be decorated by Mardi Gras float artists.

That is when the idea really took off. Over the next couple of months more and more homes were added to the list. Some were decorated by professionals. Other homes were decorated by the resident with just simple purple, green and gold. By the time Mardi Gras came around there were over 2,000 addresses that had been added to the "Yardi Gras" map.

I went to New Orleans in February and got to see several of these homes. After lunch at Commander's Palace we drove around the Garden District and enjoyed seeing the range of "floats" from elaborate to simple and from elegant to irreverent. It also gave us the chance to simply enjoy the architecture of the city in a new way. I am so excited to bring a little bit of New Orleans to San Antonio and even more excited to share our unique neighborhoods with the city at a time we could use a little celebration.

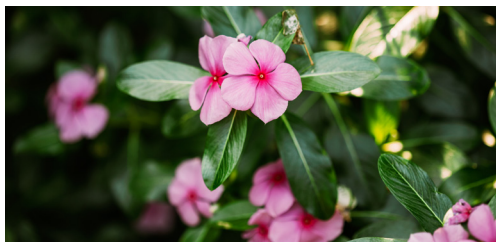
Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

It seems odd writing a garden article for an April newsletter. Typically the April issue is all about the King William Fair and other articles take a break. Because of the virus there was no April 2020 newsletter and there is no Fair in 2021. So pardon me if some of the following comments seem familiar.



Here's a tip for those who have limited outdoor space or who prefer container gardening. Plants that do well in containers are numerous with flowers and leaves of many colors. A good way to add more color to the garden is to use pots of various colors to complement the plants. An easy and inexpensive way to do this is to purchase plastic bowls at discount stores. They come in colors and

the large ones referred to by some as "potato salad bowls" would be best. All it takes is to drill a couple of drain holes in the bottom.



The following plants will provide color most of the growing season. In full sun: zinnias and periwinkles. For sun to part shade: begonias, Mexican Heather, and pentas. For shade: impatiens, coleuses, and caladiums.

Flower pots can become infected with fire ants. Control them by watering with a solution of one teaspoon of orange oil diluted in a gallon of water. Orange oil is available at most nurseries.

Looking for a shrub to replace those that did not survive the recent cold snap? Check out a plant called Little John. It is a dwarf bottlebrush. Little John has red flowers, prefers full sun, is drought tolerant, and attracts birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It grows to 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide. Examples can be seen as foundation plantings of the apartments on the west side of the river in the Blue Star area. Pictures at dirtdoctor.com/dirtdoctor-library.

Garden Note: Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.

BLUE STAR CONTEMPORARY



Photo courtesy of Sanctuary City Project

ART KITS AND MORE!

Daniela Oliver de Portillo

After a successful and restorative Contemporary Art Month last March, Blue Star Contemporary (BSC) is delighted to see our community continues to celebrate contemporary art in San Antonio.

This month BSC has prepared two programs which can be safely enjoyed by families and art lovers. On April 10 from 10 am to 6 pm families can pick up their very own Family Saturday Art Kit to take home. Packed with self-guided activities and artist-created projects, BSC's Art Kit comes with everything you need to let your creativity and imagination take control. A self-guided scavenger hunt will take you through our galleries for a closer look at contemporary art and our at-home art projects will extend our exhibitions into the comfort of your home. Kits are available on Saturdays while supplies last.

A new episode of the Texas Talks Art series featuring BSC artist Ryan Takaba in conversation with BSC Curator and Exhibitions Manager Jack McGilvray will be on Tuesday, April 20, at 12:00 pm via Zoom. Texas Talks Art is a multi-institutional initiative intended to both introduce the work of artists across the state of Texas to a wider audience and to foster collaboration between local non-profit arts organizations. Taking the form of virtual 30-minute lunchtime talks, the series features 50 Texas artists and artist collectives in conversation with 50 Texas curators. More at textalksart.org.

Don't forget to visit (or revisit) BSC's current exhibitions, on view for a few more weeks and closing May 9. Blue Star Contemporary will continue to prioritize the health and safety of its staff and visitors with the continuation of our COVID-safe procedures and protocols. All visitors are required to use face coverings, have their temperatures checked, and observe social distancing to maintain safety at BSC and our community. Visit bluestarcontemporary.org for more information.

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