November 2020

THE GRATITUDE ISSUE

SILVER LININGS: GRATITUDE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Things for which I am grateful... I'm retired. Housing and income are covered. Early on I started a weekly get-together in the Upper Mill Park with masks, distancing, elbow-bumping. When the pools in Austin closed my son moved into my house, working remotely, & we started swimming 6 evenings a week at my friend's big, lonely pool. I've actually lost ten pounds since April!!

- Anne Alexander

During the "lockdown" I have missed many things. I miss seeing my friends, ushering at the Tobin Center, eating in restaurants, Silver Sneakers classes at the YMCA, going to UPC for worship. I do attend my two book clubs and KWA meetings via Zoom, a poor substitute.

But I have to say one of the things I most miss is the public library. I am a voracious reader and go there frequently. Although I can put books on hold and pick up contact-free, it is not the same. So my biggest comfort has become visiting the private libraries of dear neighbors Mary Grace Ketner, Kathleen & Ralph Laborde, and Nora Peterson. They let me browse safely and carry away rafts of books! I have exhausted their resources! How fortunate I feel for having literate friends!

- Robin Raquet

I am so grateful for this neighborhood. As a relatively new resident (5 ½ years) I have appreciated so much about it during the pandemic.



Gathering for a photo in Roselyn's Garden left to right are Anne Alexander, Jane Bockus and Roselyn Cogburn

I feel like things are almost normal when I am riding my bike, walking, or kayaking on the River. I am so lucky to have been included in the Prosecco in the Park evenings. Just being face to face – at a distance – with interesting people who are making the most of a difficult situation has been a saving grace. So although we took off for the Northwoods of northern Minnesota for a few weeks, this is home and we are happy to be here – every day! We are grateful that Randy's 92-year-old dad, who is living in an independent living facility, has not gotten COVID.

- Jane Bockus and Randy Gay

I'm glad I didn't know mid-March that the quarantine would still be going on mid-October. I believed "them" when "they" declared a six-week shutdown "to keep from overwhelming the medical system" (ha-ha!). No problem! I can handle six weeks without socializing, dinner with friends, museums, concerts, movies,

meetings. But not being able to attend in-person church was really hard.

My church became a long cool Spring in the garden: time to appreciate God's creation, time to really taste the herbs and see the flowers, time to marvel at butterflies, bees, ladybugs, hummingbirds and anoles.

The quarantine gave me time to visit over the fence with neighbors and strangers exploring King William for the first time. I met young people from the new apartments ringing King William and retirees who come to our neighborhood for a pleasant place to walk.

I gave away herb bouquets and tutorials on their use. People came back with exotic plants and seeds for me to try. They brought pots, corks and bricks for projects. Above all, they gave appreciation and encouragement.

All in all, time well spent, I would say. •

- Roselyn Cogburn

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES INCLUDE:

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A MUSICAL ARTIST

November's KWCAD Virtual Concert ... pg 5

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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.

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CONTENT: Monika Perez-Moad

EDITOR: Lisa Lynde

EDITORIAL DESIGNER: Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

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KWA CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: Mon. - Thur., 9:00 am-3:00 pm

ADDRESS: 122 Madison St., SATX 78204

KWA PHONE: (210) 227-8786

FAIR PHONE: (210) 271-3247

KWA EMAIL: INFO@OURKWA.ORG

FAIR EMAIL: INFO@KWFAIR.ORG

WEBSITES: <u>OURKWA.ORG</u> • <u>KWFAIR.ORG</u>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

John Doski

"Why do you write like you're running out of time? Write day and night like you're running out of time? Ev'ry day you fight, like you're running out of time? Keep on fighting. In the meantime – Non-stop" - Hamilton, Lin Manuel Miranda

Continuing to align my column to the early experience of the Republic, I share with you thoughts on the Association in this ongoing plague. As mentioned in October, there is much going on across the spectrum which fails to reach the collective. Insulation is more pronounced with social distancing, relying on this newsletter, emails, and marginally attended virtual general meetings. As I write this, there is still a ban on public gatherings of more than ten people: indoor or outdoor. I am personally thankful for effective and appropriate local leadership which allows San Antonio to reopen balanced against monitoring of our neighbors who continue to contract COVID and the ability of our medical resources to fully attend to them.

As previously alluded to, we have profoundly scaled back many activities pending clarity of when we hold our next King William Fair. However, we continue to function effectively where most important. With the purchase of 122 Madison, short-term costs will be reduced, and longterm plans are being put in place for the leasing or sale of 1032 S. Alamo. Great neighbor participation drives the effective and appreciated Architectural Advisory and Cultural Arts Committees. Costs have been cut while protecting the resources necessary to stand up the KW Fair (optimistically April 2021). Lisa has worked hard to protect office functionality with seasoned business expertise and is aided by Monika's welcoming smile and extensive KWA knowledge during limited office hours. Alicia collects and releases timely and relevant electronic communications, including assembly of this newsletter. We are open to resuming or expanding activity; safety and budget permitting. This includes social gatherings, in-person meetings, and perhaps a virtual Sauerkraut Bend run. Finally, the KWA recognizes the uptick of surrounding intrusions, especially commercial/residential frictions related to noise, traffic, or garbage, and area plans and projects increasing strains on existing infrastructure. Dialogue has markedly increased with city leaders to alleviate, mitigate, or ameliorate the most detrimental aspects, hopefully to the betterment of all involved.

My mindset is aligned with the opening quote, but then I step back and acknowledge the truth of the concluding quote. Thanks for listening.

"Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now."

- Hamilton, Lin Manuel Miranda •

BOARD BRIEFS:

On October 21, 2020, the board of directors met via Zoom as permitted by the bylaws. The board approved a resolution for the purchase of 122 Madison Street and a separate resolution for the sale of 1032 South Alamo Street. The board also authorized the hiring of an attorney to help KWA address the expansion of outdoor seating and amplified sound at Francis Bogside. "Board briefs" are not intended to replace the official minutes of the Association but to summarize the board's latest activities – Rose Kanusky, Board Secretary •



LETTER FROM LISA

Executive Director Lisa Lynde

This past summer our KWA staff met to discuss the newsletter and create an editorial calendar in an effort to have a bit more intention when it comes to putting it together each month. Themed issues were one of the changes we made and as you may have noticed we've named this issue The Gratitude Issue. It's been hard to feel a lot of gratitude for these last six months but like many I have gratitude for quite a few things despite COVID.

I am grateful for my home. I know I mentioned I moved this summer and there is not a day that goes by that I don't think "I love this house!" We finally have room to spread out and settle into. And I know my dogs are grateful for the room!

I am so grateful for KWA staff. These last six months have not been easy for any of us. It's been especially challenging for staff when faced with reduction of hours and constantly changing office operations. But KWA staff has dealt with the uncertainty with nothing but grace and they are an example to us all.

I am especially grateful for our outgoing Board President. Dr. John Doski has essentially had a second full-time job that he doesn't get paid for! His leadership, support and vision for KWA has been inspiring in this odd "in-between" time as we adapt to the constantly changing circumstances. And I cannot thank John without thanking his wife Deb. Not only have they both been on the frontlines, she's been so supportive of his work with KWA.

What have you been grateful for this crazy and strange year? I'd love to hear from more of you! •





HOW A PAIR OF EARRINGS CHANGED MY LIFE: HELP THE FOOD BANK

Shelley Galbraith

Well, it was more than the earrings, I'll admit. Social media is excellent for communicators, influencers, and those who need to feel in touch with others. I'm one of those, and I've gathered acquaintances all over the world with my writing. In fact, someone in Brussels, Belgium, recently wrote to me explaining that she'd rented a house in King William because she read an article I'd written about our life here. That's fulfilling to me, and I have a new friend!

One day about four months ago at the beginning of the pandemic, I noticed that my friend and neighbor Nancy Diehl had shared a Facebook post by a friend of hers, Kim Pipes, an artist in Boerne. The post outlined how Kim was auctioning her jewelry designs to benefit the San Antonio Food Bank. Make a bid, win, pay the Food Bank, show your donation receipt, and Kim would send you the earrings.

As an aside, at one point about 8 years ago our home had been hit by thieves, and I lost all of my jewelry. It was painful and frustrating, but I went on. In this context, at a starting point of 50 years without an earring to my name, whenever I see jewelry, even worn by others, I look.

When Kim Pipes' earrings appeared in my Facebook feed, I thought they were lovely, and I bid on them.

I won the bid, made my Food Bank donation, and sent the receipt to Kim. Kim mailed me the earrings, and they are wonderful. Kim added one more comment to her note to me at some point, "Why don't you volunteer, too?"

When you want something done, you ask a busy person. That's what I am, busy: with work, family, volunteering, rescuing animals, helping neighbors, and whatever. The challenges never end. So, when her comment came through, even though it was from someone I didn't even know, I could only give the right answer: yes, I'll look into that.

The images of almost 2,000 cars lined up and snaking through the Alamodome parking lot during food distribution at the beginning of the pandemic are iconic and made the

national news. It was reported that the number of families relying on the Food Bank had doubled, and mega-distribution sites were one good way to get the food out quickly and effi-

ciently. There is no doubt that there is a need. The Alamodome is on our doorstep, and I had no excuse.

I signed up to load food into cars in May and have served every two weeks since then. The experience has been extraordinary for several reasons. The Food Bank relies so heavily on volunteers that their customer experience is stellar. As a volunteer you feel as if you're as important as anyone working there. Communication is excellent, every need has been addressed, and the atmosphere is always upbeat. Volunteers too have become friends when we see each other on a regular basis.

Most of all, the people driving through to pick up food are appreciative, kind, and pleasant, unlike any I've ever met before. I am buoyed by their humor, friendship, and continuous appreciation. Our time together is brief as we greet each family, load the assigned commodity into their vehicle, and send them to the next station. As short as it is, those moments mean so much to me, and ultimately of course also to them. I come home full of hope every time I work there.

This is a crazy time, full of difficulty and challenge. We've been forced to slow down, to stop and use what's around us to persevere,

and to appreciate what we have. We don't need a fancy haircut, or to dress in nice business clothes to get the work done. Sitting in pajamas while using Zoom does the trick. Pulling on some old clothes, a pair of solid shoes, a mask, and a cou-

ple of hours every other week are all you need to help people who need the Food Bank.

My current favorite author, Simon Sinek, re-

cently posted a podcast with some interesting thoughts. In the "old" world six months ago, life had many highs, such that "normal" started to feel like lows. Today, there's been a restoration of appreciation for the simplicity in normal moments of life. Simon says, "Take care of yourself, and take care of each other."

This speaks to me now because of a pair of earrings I saw on Facebook. Spending time to help fill the basic need to provide food for so many in our community speaks to me. Helping the community is why I am here right now. Working for the Food Bank at the Alamodome is one of those simple things I will always look forward to, and I always wear those earrings. •





WHAT'S COOKIN'? Annice Hill I am so thankful for my family, all of my KWA friends, and especially all the great KW Fair staff that I have had the privilege to work with over the past 10 years. This recipe has become a Thanksgiving staple for my family - no more insipid jarred cranberry sauce for us!

Ruby Red Cranberry Sauce

Serves 8 - 10

• 12 ounces fresh cranberries

berry sauce you have ever had. Blessings to you all! •

Please make this and enjoy the best cran-

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cherry brandy (use the red type – not the clear Luxardo)
- 1/3 cup water

Put everything in a pan over medium high heat and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and let it bubble away until the berries start to pop, stirring every now and then with a wooden spoon – about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir vigorously.

Do not worry if it is runnier than you want – as it cools, it will thicken up because the cranberries have lots of pectin.

You can make this early and store in the fridge until ready to serve. Just make sure to stir well before serving.

Remember THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR!



KING WILLIAM CONCERT #7

Ken Little will entertain us online this month for the 7th King William Concert series, thanks to a grant from the Texas Comission on the Arts!

Over the years, Little's work has been featured in over 40 oneperson exhibitions in national and international venues, but Ken also happens to be a songwriter and a performer. He plays guitar and sings in two bands, Rodeo Ho Ho and the Swingbillies. He has one CD out titled "Simple America," which contains his original material. •



KEN LITTLE

November 15, 2020 | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm King William Cultural Arts Facebook Livestream



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IN MEMORIAM



Jessie Simpson

On September 19, the King William neighborhood lost one of its longest-term residents and its biggest booster. Helen was very proud of our neighborhood, the fact that it was the first residential historic district in Texas, that people knew each other, that the word neighbor meant something. To say that she was a pillar of the community during her 84 years here is an understatement. She served as a volunteer in many neighborhood efforts including the annual home tour and the King William Fair. She gave many hours to the San Antonio Conservation Society and the King William Association (KWA), serving on the KWA Board of Directors and supporting the neighborhood in many informal ways. Her KWA Parade parties were famous as was her twinkly-eyed designation of the 700 Block of East Guenther as the "Best Block in King William."

As they say, Helen wasn't born in King William but she got here as quickly as she could. She was born in Dallas on August 20, 1924, to John B. and Irma Rivers Ganter. Helen, her mother, sister Grace, stepfather, and step-grandparents moved to King William in 1936. They lived in the Dunham House at 523 Cedar Street, and Helen and Grace attended Brackenridge High School.

The 1941 Brackenridge High School yearbook, *La Retama*, includes a picture of Helen as a lovely young woman of 18. During her senior year she was Captain Sponsor of ROTC Company C. The Sponsors were a woman's auxiliary, and the captain was akin to a fraternity sweetheart. She is pictured with her Company in a crisp white uniform, every inch a sweetheart. Her social side was evident early; during her time as Lanier Literary Society President, the club sponsored a Shamrock Swing (Dance), news of which made *The San Antonio Express*. She was a star then just as she was the rest of her long life, her activities hinting at a lifelong interest in community participation and history -- Student Council Historian, Advertising President of the National Honor Society, and other honor societies.

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ANDREA AYALA DECEMBER 1, 1922 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Bill Cogburn

In September, longtime King William neighbor Andrea Benito Ayala died as she had lived, quietly and cared for by her son, David. She was just two months shy of her ninety-eighth birthday.

Andrea was born and grew up in New Braunfels where she attended a segregated makeshift school for Hispanic children. The Benito family moved to San Antonio in 1941, the summer after she graduated from high school.

Andrea's first job was at the peanut factory on Frio Street where the work was notoriously hard and she was poorly paid. Thinking she could do better, she enrolled in a business school located above the Aztec Theater downtown where she learned typing, shorthand and other secretarial skills.

Andrea immediately found employment at Kelly Field. It was 1941 and everybody knew a war was coming. The military bases in and around San Antonio were all ramping up, getting ready for a flood of men and war material. Andrea Benito, small, quick and determined, was there to help manage the deluge.

During the war years, Andrea rose early to walk downtown where she joined other civilians, many of them young women, boarding the Army shuttle bus at 6:30 a.m. for the ride to Kelly. They were let off at the gate, still a mile from the offices where they worked. In wet weather, Andrea removed her shoes and walked barefoot. New shoes were rationed, expensive and hard to get.

Andrea continued at Kelly after she married Army veteran, Gilbert Ayala in 1948 and moved with him back to New Braunfels, but now the commute was longer. She had to rise at 4 a.m. and walk to the Greyhound Bus station for the ride into downtown San Antonio to make connection with the Army shuttle bus.

In 1953, Andrea took time off from work for the birth of her son, David.

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OUT IN THE GARDEN

Alan Cash

Early November to mid-January is a good time to plant and transplant trees and shrubs. Plants tend to be dormant during this time and it gives roots time to become established before new spring growth starts. A layer of mulch 3 to 4 inches deep around each plant will protect roots from cold weather and

help maintain moisture in the soil. Do not pile mulch against the trunks of plants. Leave a ring of exposed soil about 8 to 12 inches in diameter.

Fall and early winter is also a good time to add mulch to flower beds to maintain a depth of 3 to 4 inches.

If you have a problem with varmints digging in your flower pots, sprinkle a layer of Blood Meal on the soil surface about once a month to repel raccoons, possums, and skunks. They are



ALAN CASH CATCHING UP ON HIS READING IN HIS GARDEN

not supposed to like the smell. Blood Meal is a fertilizer and will not harm plants and can be found at most nurseries. •

GARDEN NOTE: Gardening gets you outside.

Being outside in bright light can alleviate depression, improve immunity, increase social relationships, and more.

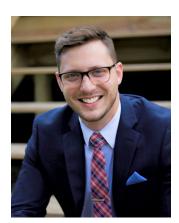
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After graduation Helen contributed to the victory in WWII by working at Ft. Sam Houston and, on December 8, 1946, married William J. Geyer. The couple moved into Bill's childhood home at 732 East Guenther, the Barnhart/Geyer House. Lafe Barnhart, the first owner, was Bill's step-grandfather. The house is one of only a few in the area to have been continuously occupied by generations of one family. The Geyers had three children: Ronald, William and Julie, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We will all miss this outgoing, happy, intelligent woman and her friendly face, but her spirit lives among us as we continue to foster new friendships and welcome new neighbors as she always did. •

The furlough became longer than expected when both new mother and infant contracted tuberculosis in the hospital. It was three years before Andrea was well enough to return to work.

The young Ayala family moved back to San Antonio in 1956 to live with Andrea's parents on Nathan Street. It was a mostly Italian but still diverse neighborhood which once thrived where Schnabel Park, SAHA offices and the abandoned Alamo Community Colleges offices now stand. When the Federal government took possession of this neighborhood by eminent domain and razed the homes, Andrea and her husband bought the small house at 218 Guenther Street and it became their home for the next fifty years.

Management at Kelly was happy to have Andrea back. She was a valued and frequently commended employee, even when she was attempting to organize a union of civilian employees and advocating for women's pay equal to that of men in similar positions. They were still asking her to stay on when she finally retired after forty-two years' service.

Retirement did not mean rest for Andrea. She became a full-time volunteer at Chandler Assisted Living in Laurel Heights, serving well into her 80's.

Gilbert and Andrea were early members of the King William Association, quietly enjoying meetings and socials. Gilbert died in 2002, leaving Andrea to tend her roses and backyard vegetable garden until a series of falls led to a broken hip and impaired mobility.

Still, she rarely missed a King William social and she loved the KW Fair, particularly the Parade. She always had her spot staked out near the corner of Guenther and King William. In later years she was still there, but in her wheelchair. She was a small woman who took up very little space but that small space will miss her.

Andrea is survived by her son David who currently serves as a KWA Board Member. •

Thank You!

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