

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION NEWS

OCTOBER 2021

THE ARCHAEOLOGY ISSUE

ANCIENT OVENS

Harry Shafer, PhD

We are very fortunate living in King William with such wonderful restaurants. Great chefs and cooks using the most modern appliances to process and prepare our food. But it has not always been that way as longtime residents can attest, and even those who were here long ago. I mean a long time ago.

What food choices did the indigenous people have who settled along the San Antonio River and around the headwater springs to the streams in its watershed and how did they cook their food? What kinds of foods did they eat, and how was it prepared? We don't have all of the answers because so many of the native resources are no longer here, but we do have some clues based on archaeology. One misconception people have about local indigenous groups is they grew corn, beans, and squash. This is inaccurate. Caddo Indians in east Texas and the Mogollon Indians of far west Texas did, but not the hunters and gatherers who lived here. Their commissary was nature's bounty. The valley, hills, and prairie were known for the fish, crawfish, river mussels of the spring-fed streams, deer, antelope, rabbits, squirrels, opossums, and other small game, land snails, birds, snakes, and insects. Pecans, walnuts, wild hackberry, persimmon, mesquite, prairie turnips, amaranth, onions, pigweed, sotol, and yucca were among the items on the grocery list. Missing were bison except for rare occasions.

How was their food prepared? Raw or by open



WOMEN BAKING IN AN EARTH OVEN, PAINTING BY CHARLES SHAW (WWW.TEXASBEYONDHISTORY.NET)

fire cooking are two ways food was consumed but beginning about 8-9,000 years ago people began to construct earth ovens using hot-rock cooking. Earth ovens were used by indigenous people throughout the Americas, Australia, and Africa. The archaeological evidence of earth ovens and hot-rock cooking is one of the most recognizable artifacts found in the San Antonio River valley and throughout central and western Texas. That artifact is a fire-cracked burned limestone rock, often found scattered on the surface or buried in alluvial terraces. Repeated use of earth ovens resulted in mounded accumulations of burned rock, or commonly known as burned rock middens. Burned rock midden are among the most common archaeological site in norther Bexar County.

So, what is an earth oven? An earth oven was

made by digging a pit, lining it with wood fuel, placing a layer of limestone rocks on the fuel, starting a fire, and heating the rocks. Or the pit was lined with rocks and the fire built on top to heat them. Once the rocks are heated, a layer of insulation, such as grass or prickly pear pads, is placed on the rocks and the food is placed on the insulation. Another layer of insulation covers the food, and the entire oven is covered with a layer of soil. The hot rocks provide the heat source that cooks the food for two to three days, depending on what was in the oven. The oven is opened after the desired time, and the food is ready to eat.

The idea of an earth oven is not far removed from a Dutch oven where one puts food in a deep pan with a lid and sets the pan directly on the open fire. Also, primitive earth ovens are used by some modern chefs such as Francis Mallmann on Chef's Table.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES INCLUDE:

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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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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KINGWILLIAMCULTURALARTSDISTRICT.COM

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Noah Peterson

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Promote your business directly to your King William neighbors by advertising in this newsletter! Advertising Rates are listed on our website at ourkwa.org or you can call 210-227-8786 or email info@ourkwa.org

FOLLOW US ONLINE

FACEBOOK: KingWilliamAssociation
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KingWilliamFair
KWCAD

SAFFE OFFICER DAVID McCALL
DAVID.McCALL@SANANTONIO.GOV

September was a busy month for the KWA. The slate of nominees for the 2022 Board was approved and you will find their bios in this newsletter. Remember to cast your vote in November. Lisa and Syeira are in the process of interviewing candidates for the KW Fair Director position and hope to make a final decision this month.

We are establishing a close working relationship with Councilman Bravo's office and with officials at DSD and will be asking for their help with issues that merit immediate attention such as the Noise Ordinance that is currently under review and the Short-Term Rental Ordinance that needs clarification related to the density of Type 2 STR's in residential neighborhoods and the unbearable disturbances caused by STR Type 2 "party house" invaders. You have spoken loud and clear regarding your loss of privacy and the diminished quality of residential life when you have been assailed by amplified sound from outdoor entertainment venues and subjected to raucous behavior at party houses that have erupted in previously quiet areas. We may not achieve success immediately, but we shall persist in the effort.

On a lighter note, we were happy to see many of you enjoying the performance given by members of the Teresa Champion Dance Academy in SAHA park, courtesy of our wonderful KWA Cultural Arts Committee with the help of H-E-B. Cultural entertainment is one of the gifts KWA gives to the city. We may have missed out on a couple of Fairs, but get ready to welcome visitors again to the neighborhood when we have the KWA Garage Sale October 16. I hope you have great weather for that venture. I always relish that first day in October when the air is crisp with a bit of a nip in it when I go out to get the morning paper. It means we have survived another San Antonio summer! And these days survival is good!

BOARD BRIEFS:

The King William Board met by videoconference on September 15 with all members present. The first slate of the Board of Directors of the King William Foundation was approved: Peggy Ramsey, Kate Ruckman, Rusty Guyer, Carmen Van Meter. The role of the King William Foundation is to create a separation required by Texas law between the entity that files for TABC alcohol permits and receives alcohol sales, the Foundation, and the entity that collects donations, the King William Association. The Residential Quality Committee continues to work on the noise abatement issue and enforcement of the existing noise ordinance. "Board briefs" are not intended to replace the official minutes of the Association but to summarize the board's latest activities.

Dan A Ratliff, PhD, Board Secretary

BLUE STAR CONTEMPORARY

Blue Star Contemporary's 31st annual Red Dot kicks off on October 7 with the Red Dot Show. This year, Red Dot pays tribute to its unique San Antonio arts community by highlighting people who have been instrumental to its vibrancy. This year's honorees include the residents (past and present) of the venerable King William home for artists, The Compound, located at the corner of Stieren and St. Mary's Streets. For nearly 30 years, The Compound has welcomed creatives thanks to the generous spirit of Mike Casey and figures prominently in the story of San Antonio's history. There, artist Alejandro Diaz founded nonprofit Sala Diaz, San Antonio's premier artist-run space for contemporary art, which shares space with Casa Chuck, the residency program named after the beloved late Chuck Ramirez. Proceeds from the sales of Honorary Artists' artwork will be shared equally between BSC and Sala Diaz during the Red Dot Show.

Joining the artists of The Compound include



BLUE STAR CONTEMPORARY'S RED DOT SHOW, PHOTO BY FRANCISCO CORTES

this year's honorary patrons, Janet and Bruce Flohr, and Art Education Champion H-E-B. Together, the honorees demonstrate the strength of our creative community in San Antonio which is the heart of BSC.

The Red Dot Show will feature more than 100 San Antonio artists offering work available for purchase to benefit BSC. Artwork sales proceeds are evenly split between BSC and the

artists. Artwork will be on view October 7, 2021 – January 9, 2022. Special events for sponsors and collectors will be offered throughout the Show, including a campfire evening at Sala Diaz, a virtual panel discussion about collecting contemporary art, and a big celebration on December 9, 2021. Visit bluestarreddot.org to find out more about these events, sponsorship, and how to become a collector.

A colorful poster for a fundraiser. At the top, there are autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. Below them, the text reads "Texas Masonic Lodge No. 8 A.F. & A.M. 2nd Annual PUMPKIN patch Fundraiser". The word "PUMPKIN" is in large, bold, orange letters with a black outline, and "patch" is in a smaller, cursive font. There are two Masonic symbols (a square and compass with a 'G') on either side of the word "PUMPKIN". Below the text, it says "October 17th - 31st 11:00 am - 7:00 pm 122 Washington St. San Antonio, TX 78204". At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a boy sitting on a pumpkin, holding a sign that says "WELCOME GREAT PUMPKIN". There are also several pumpkins and green leaves with yellow flowers at the bottom.

A stainless steel 20oz cup with the Blue Star Brewing Company logo. The logo features a blue star with the words "BLUE STAR" above it and "FINEST QUALITY" and "EST. 1996" on either side. Below the star, it says "BLUE STAR BREWING COMPANY RESTAURANT & BAR SAN ANTONIO". The cup is sitting on a wooden surface, and there is a brick wall in the background. The number "25" is written on the cup.

25th Anniversary Special
20ozs FOR \$10

(some exclusions apply)

(210) 212-5506 • 1414 S Alamo St #105
BlueStarBrewing.com

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Annice Hill

Archaeologists find food all the time, whether it is hiding in ancient tombs, resting on the bottom of the sea in a sunken ship, or tied around the neck of a mummy. Here is a list of some of the oldest foods discovered – contemplate facing these choices at a sadistic buffet!

1. BONE SOUP

2,400 years old found in a Chinese tomb.

2. BEEF JERKY

2,000 years old found in a Chinese tomb.

3. BOG BUTTER

3,000 years old found buried in an Irish bog – ancient equivalent of hiding money in a mattress!

4. CHINESE MUMMY CHEESE

4,000 years old found tied around a mummy's neck.

5. WINE

1,700 years old from a Roman tomb.

6. PICKLED FISH

2,000 years old from a sunken ship on its way from Italy to Spain.

7. NOODLES

4,000 years old found buried under 10 feet of dirt. Likely, an ancient earthquake flooded the Yellow River interrupting this person's meal.

8. BURNT BREAD

5,500 years old found in a pit near Oxford, England.

9. POPCORN

7,000 years old – Ancient Peruvians made popcorn by wrapping a cob



STOCK PHOTO OF BEEF JERKY

and resting in on the coals until the kernels popped.

10. HONEY

3,000 years old from an Egyptian pyramid and still edible!

LET'S DO DINNER!

1ST COURSE – Charcuterie: pepperoni or salami slices, goat cheese drizzled with honey, wheat crackers – our equivalents of beef jerky, mummy cheese, burnt bread, and honey.

ENTRÉE – Udon noodle soup made with bone broth and anchovies – our equivalents of bone soup, pickled fish, and noodles.

And serve everything with a nice Italian wine – but not 1,700 years old!

LATE NIGHT SNACK WHILE WATCHING A MOVIE – Popcorn drizzled with butter – but not bog butter!

DOWN THE ACEQUIA MADRE

Cindy Miller



KWA EMPLOYEE LEARNING THE HISTORY OF THE KING WILLIAM AREA

Charming and stately homes throughout our beloved historic neighborhood give residents and visitors an idea of how early residents lived. Archaeology and preservation are ways we can learn about and understand the past while ensuring future generations are able to appreciate the value of history as they make plans for renovations or new construction. Many adults and children think about digging when the topic of archaeology arises. Archaeology is the study of human activity and culture often based on artifacts and architecture. Archaeologists analyze physical remains to study past cultures. A walking tour through the neighborhood will show construction techniques and details in the homes dating back over one hundred years. Every house in King William has a story to tell. As a relatively new resident (six years), I enthusiastically recommend reading *Down the Acequia Madre* by Jessie N.M. Simpson. Anyone interested in history, archaeology, or architecture will appreciate the beautiful homes and insights.

SERENDIPITOUS BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Harry and Molly Shafer

Molly and I have maintained a little triangle bed and potted flowers at the King William Lofts for years. Last year a couple of volunteer milkweeds appeared and to our surprise the seeds yielded a small crop this year. Some time ago we noticed a crop of Monarch larvae feasting on the little stand. Then they mysteriously disappeared, then I saw a pupa. They literally stripped the leaves off, but the plants did not die; they put on new growth. We then saw a Monarch fluttering around the new growth but not feeding on the flowers. We suspected she was laying eggs again, and sure enough a week or so later a new crop of larvae appeared consuming the foliage. Soon they too disappeared. And the plants again

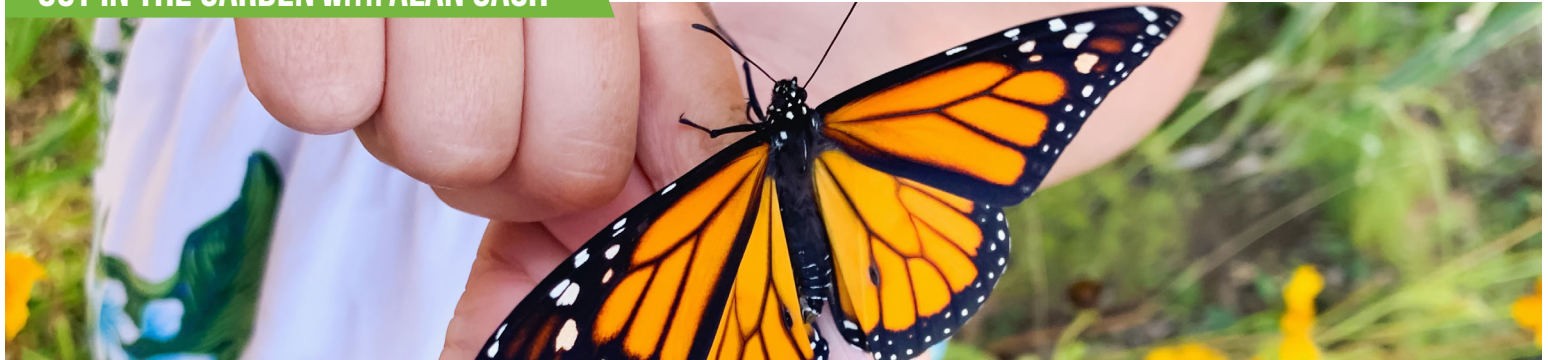


PHOTO RIGHT, MONARCH LARVEE RIGHT, PHOTO LEFT MONARCH CHRYSALIS

came back, only to be chewed up by a third-crop of larvae. While the flowers are a joy to us and our neighbors, it was the unexpected ecological benefit that caught us by surprise. The

takeaway here is that even the most modest little stand of milkweed in your yard can help restore the Monarch population.

OUT IN THE GARDEN WITH ALAN CASH



Every October millions of monarch butterflies move through San Antonio on their way to Mexico, and the City has been named the nation's first Monarch Butterfly City by the National Wildlife Federation. In observance of the migration, the 6th Annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival will be held at Confluence Park. The park has been designed to provide a sanctuary for Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators. Entrance to the park is off the Mission Reach of the River Walk and at 310 Mitchell St. Festival Day is Saturday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Various related activities will be held during the month of October. Details can be found at texasbutterflyranch.com.

To create your own butterfly waystation consider adding the following colorful perennial plants to your garden to not only attract butterflies but also hummingbirds and bees.



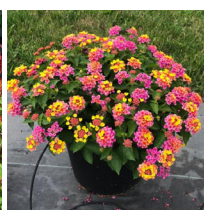
Butterfly Weed



Esperanza



Firebush



Lantana



Pride of Barbados



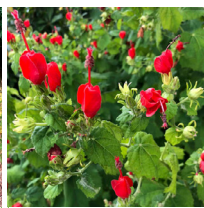
Rock Rose



Shrimp



Thryallis



Turks Cap

Go to dirtdoctor.com/dirtdoctor-library for pictures and growing info.

GARDEN NOTE: A dried plant is nothing but a sign to plant a new one.



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

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

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

PRIMARY PHONE (with area code): _____

home cell work

WEBSITE ADDRESS (for businesses): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES): _____

VOTING MEMBERS: Would you like your email address listed in the KWA Directory?

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 www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join

Renew your membership today or join King William Association for the first time! The membership year began in January but it is never too late to renew or to join.

The more numerous and diverse our members the more powerful our voice in the effort to advance the KWA mission of preserving and protecting our historic residential environment. We encourage you to become involved in the work of KWA and to participate in KWA sponsored events that offer an opportunity to strengthen a sense of belonging by building relationships with neighbors. Your membership offers other benefits in the form of discounts on KWA merchandise and at businesses in the area.

Equally important, your membership helps to support KWA programs that we hope will return to in-person events in the coming year, including the King William Fair!

Joining for the first time or renewing your membership is quick, easy, and secure online by visiting our website at www.ourkwa.org.

Margaret Leeds
KWA Board President





FORMULARIO PARA MEMBRESÍA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

FAVOR DE ACTIVAR O RENOVAR MI MEMBRESÍA DE KWA PARA EL 2021

Las cuotas para el 2021 se pagan antes del 15 de enero. Los miembros con derecho a voto deben estar al corriente con el pago 30 días corridos antes de cualquier votación. El pago antes del 15 de enero, le dará derecho a recibir pulseras de entrada a la Feria King William gratis y a ser parte del directorio impreso. La membresía es efectiva del 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre. La cuota se puede pagar en cualquier momento, pero no se prorrateará. La Asociación King William es una organización sin fines de lucro 501 (c) (3).

MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS: Seleccione una categoría:

Individual (Gratis) Familia (Gratis) Negocio / Organización (Gratis)

MIEMBROS CON DERECHO A VOTO: Seleccione una categoría:

Individual (\$30/1 voto) Empresa /Organización (\$50/1 voto)
 Patrocinador (\$75) Familia (\$40/2 votos)
 Benefactor (\$250) De por vida (\$1000)

NOMBRE (S): _____

Para los miembros empresariales con derecho a voto, indique la persona designada para votar y el respectivo suplente

NOMBRE COMERCIAL (si aplica): _____

HIJOS (menores de 18 años, liste los nombres): _____

MIEMBRO CON DERECHO A VOTO: ¿Le gustaría que los nombres de sus hijos se publiquen en el Directorio de KWA? Sí NO

DIRECCIÓN: _____

CIUDAD/ESTADO/CÓDIGO POSTAL: _____

(Seleccione uno) VIVO NO VIVO DENTRO DE LOS LÍMITES DE LA ASOCIACIÓN KING WILLIAM.

TELÉFONO PRIMARIO (con código de área): _____

Casa Celular Trabajo

DIRECCIÓN DE SITIO WEB (para empresas): _____

CORREO(S) ELECTRÓNICO(S): _____

MIEMBROS CON DERECHO A VOTO: ¿Le gustaría que su dirección de correo electrónico se publique en el Directorio de KWA? Sí NO

¿ESTÁ DISPUESTO A SERVIR EN . . .

Mesa directiva Recorrido de Casas Feria King William
 Comité de asesoramiento arquitectónico Artes culturales
 Comités para el boletín Otro: _____

GRACIAS POR SU APOYO!

Por favor llene el formulario y envíelo por correo a la oficina de KWA. También puede depositarlo en la ranura de la puerta que da a Madison (no en la entrada del estacionamiento). También puede enviarla por correo electrónico a: info@ourkwa.org, o puede activar su membresía en línea en www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join





CARMEN TAFOLLA (LEFT) AND REGINA MOYA (RIGHT)



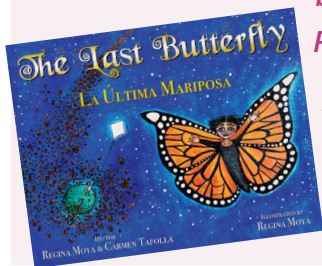
ANY COLOR YOU LIKE

THE LAST BUTTERFLY/LA ULTIMA MARIPOSA A BOOK READING AND SIGNING

by the Authors
Regina Moya & Carmen Tafolla

Saturday, October 9, 2021
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Café Cotidiano
1443 S. St. Mary's Street



We are delighted to host a book reading and signing by two accomplished San Antonians and to feature their new children's book collaboration, *The Last Butterfly/La Ultima Mariposa*. Join authors Regina Moya and Carmen Tafolla for a live reading of this exciting new bilingual children's book that explores ecology, empowerment, and the power of love. *The Last Butterfly* is a delightful adventure into the migration of monarch butterflies and the value of protecting those things we love. A fun family event and appropriate for all ages.

Dr. Carmen Tafolla was named State Poet Laureate of Texas in 2015. She has published more than 30 books and received numerous awards. She is a performance artist and motivational speaker with an international reputation.

Regina Moya's art is "influenced by her Mexican roots and incorporates bright colors and mixed media techniques in her illustrations, paintings and sculptures." She has written and illustrated books for children and adults.

The King William Association will be giving away five copies of the book as door prizes. We will also have a donation jar available to help us to purchase copies of the book to donate to the library at Bonham Academy. Books will be available to purchase for \$20.

The event is FREE and open to the public of ALL AGES. Bring a blanket or chairs as seating at the Community Garden and Café is limited. Do NOT bring in outside food or beverages. There will be complimentary Agua Frescas and you are encouraged to sample the coffee and snacks at Café Cotidiano. We hope to see you there.

ANY COLOR YOU LIKE THIRD SUNDAY CONCERT IN THE PARK

Sponsored by H-E-B

Sunday, October 17, 2021
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hosted By
San Antonio Housing Authority at Beautify San Antonio Park
801 S. Main Street between Johnson and Sheridan Streets

Come and listen to Any Color You Like play their mix of soul, hip hop, and psychedelic folk sounds at the park. The members of the band include founder Noah Slavin, Gilbert Salazar, Monroe Chapman, Ryan Hollander, and Russell Anthony. These San Antonio musicians are diverse in their culture, style, and energy and their goal is to bring joy everywhere they go.

The event is FREE and open to the public of ALL AGES.

Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic if you would like. Set up early as the concert will start promptly at 5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

November 21 Third Sunday Concert in the Park featuring The 323d Army Band.





KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS

Our board election is coming up next month! Dan Ratliff is nominated for President and Shawn Campbell is nominated for Vice President. There will be an additional 8 returning board members seeking to be re-elected, including Margaret Leeds as Past President. There are 3 new board nominees filling 13 of the 13 seats. We've outlined short biographies of the nominees here.

DAN RATLIFF *President*

For over 30 years, my wife, Nancy, and I have enjoyed the arts, culture, and historic neighborhood of King William, so we moved about 5 years ago to live where we play. The King William Association is unique among historic preservation, cultural arts, and neighborhood associations in that it generates \$1.25 million through the King William Fair to fund its operations, neighborhood quality of life, and community grants. The KWA success is due to the countless volunteer hours supporting its priorities. Just like a historic renovation preserves the past and includes modern amenities, we have to preserve our volunteer engagement and include modern standards of non-profit professionalism.

SHAWN CAMPBELL *Vice President*

I am a 21-year retired Special Agent of the U.S. Secret Service. I could tell you stories, but...since retiring I was a strong volunteer in the PTO at my sons' schools, a church volunteer for Corazon Ministries Inc. at Travis Park Church downtown, and a 10-year plus volunteer at Haven for Hope in ID Recovery. My husband Jim and I have lived in King William since the summer of 2011. I previously served on the KWA board from approximately 2016-2019, stepping in early to fulfill a board member's seat and then continuing a few months past the 3-year term because of the bylaws change. I served on the AAC during that time and was the secretary for 2 years. I have been a docent and home chair for the KWA Home Tour and Jim and I offered our house for the last tour. I regularly walk the Mission Reach and the neighborhood. I want to encourage KW residents to use the KWA as a resource for advice and support.

MARGARET LEEDS *Past President*

A native Texan, I chose to live in King William in 1998 after retiring as Assistant Principal of Beverly Hills High School in California. I volunteer as a mediator at the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center. My primary concern is preserving the historic residential character of the neighborhood. I learned a lot about historic preservation as a member of the KWA Architectural Advisory Committee and through interaction with the Historic and Design Review Commission. During my service on the KWA Board, I have been particularly involved with the city's revision of the STR Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance. I look forward to collaborating with another wonderful KWA Board.

KATE CAMPBELL *Board of Directors*

I am a native Texan and moved with my family to San Antonio in 1984. My husband and I moved into the 1010 apartments 7 years ago. I am retired from being executive director of a ministry that provided housing and services to women in recovery from addiction. I joined the KWA board in 2020 and serve on the Cultural Arts Committee and the Membership committee. I love the King William area and have really enjoyed serving on the board.

MICKEY CONRAD *Board of Directors*

In 2010, my wife, Cyndee, and I moved to King William fulfilling our desire to

live, work and play all within walking distance. As an architect and raised in historic Castroville, living in our neighborhood, filled with history and charm, feels just right. I have served as the Chair on the Architectural Advisory Committee since 2015 and want to continue to serve on the Board to help sustain the great work preserving the historic character and promoting the cultural, recreational, and educational activities for all of San Antonio to enjoy.

TINA GARZA *Board of Directors*

I have lived in my family home on South St. Mary's Street all my life (54 years) along with my husband Rick and our 12-year-old son Christopher. I served on the KW Board fifteen years ago and am currently serving my third year as a Bonham Academy PTA board member. I am honored to be considered to serve again. I look forward to meeting all my neighbors, listening to their issues and concerns, and helping to find a solution that will improve everyone's way of life in KW.

RANDY GAY *Board of Directors*

My wife (Jane Bockus) and I have lived in King William for about 6 years. We love the neighborhood and our neighbors. I am an artist and photographer. I find plenty of inspiration all around the King William area. You may have seen some of my work displayed in my front window on Madison. Previously I worked for Apple, was a stay-at-home dad, and long ago, an attorney.

PAT HEARD *Board of Directors*

I was born and raised in Mexico City and received my bachelor's from UT Austin. John Heard and I were married in Mission San Jose in 1983. We lived in Monte Vista and Terrell Hills. When it was time to downsize, King William is where we chose to come. I was Chair of the KWA Nominating Committee in 2020. This year I worked with the Membership Committee contacting our Business Members and Business Sponsors to obtain updated information for our new KWA membership directory, to encourage businesses with expired memberships to renew their memberships, and to encourage businesses to advertise in our KWA newsletter.

LEIGH ANNE LESTER *Board of Directors*

Leigh Anne Lester is an artist that has had exhibitions across the country and internationally. She also ran an alternative exhibition space, cactus bra SPACE, in the Blue Star arts complex for 19 years. She has worked at San Angel Folk Art in the complex for 28 years and counting. She served for 5 years on the board of the Artist Foundation of San Antonio.

She and her husband Nick and pup Noli moved into the neighborhood 3 years ago. They jumped into making their house a home in a personal way that embodies the spirit of King William. They love the true sense of a neighborhood they feel since arriving. If you happen to cross their paths, please don't hesitate to say "Hi."

Continued on pg 10

KWA Board Elections continued from pg 9

KERRY MCKEON *Board of Directors*

Kerry and her husband Joe moved to the King William neighborhood in September of 2017 and currently live on Mission Street. Although now empty nesters, they have 10 children who live across the country and overseas. Kerry is a former Spanish teacher and current PhD candidate at UTSA.

GRETCHEN ROSE *Board of Directors*

Mel Laracey and I reunited at our 40th high school class reunion. After a 3-year, long-distance relationship, I finally made the big move, and I haven't regretted it for one moment. I feel so fortunate to be living in the beautiful King William district, where I have made so many friends. In the past, I served on the following boards: The Riverside Children's Theatre, The Samaritan Center, The Homeless Center, and the St. Sebastian Building Committee—all in Vero Beach, FL. I feel passionate about preserving the quality of life we so prize in King William and serving my community.

BRAD SHAW *Board of Directors*

I moved to King William in the 1990s. My first volunteer experience was with Alan Cash's Fair barricade group. Those were the days when the neighbors did most of the tasks of the Fair. I managed all the Fair beverage booths for 3 years. Then I moved over to manage the Fair food booths for 3 more years. Those were the years that Fiesta sleep happens on the last Sunday evening.

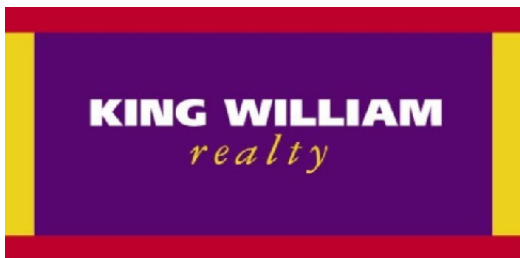
CARLOS A. VILLARREAL *Board of Directors*

I am a native Texan who first visited King William in the 90s and fell in love with the architecture and historicity. My wife, Macarena, and I are profession-

al translators (Spanish/English). We became KW property owners in 2016 and residents in 2017. We rehabbed our home, working with the KW Architectural Advisory Committee and the Office of Historic Preservation. I have served on the Board for two years and have served on the Nominating Committee for both years. I understand that change and preservation are essential to continue to enrich KW's character and sense of community.



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REMEMBERING AL

Mary Newsom

Alfonso “Al” Cervantes died Saturday, August 28, 2021, after a lifetime of service to all he encountered.

He began a career in teaching after he received both a Bachelors and Masters degree in History from St. Mary’s University. He first taught in the San Antonio School District at Irving Middle School and later Burbank High School. He then moved on to teaching at the college level at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. After that he began his long association with the Alamo Community College District, holding various teaching and administrative positions.

Al also held positions at his church, the Immaculate Heart of Mary. After his pastor encouraged him to become a deacon, he began a 5-year long course of study which led to him being ordained as a deacon in May 2007. He held this position for fourteen years.

While Al had a distinguished life as an educator and theologian, I knew him and his wife, Ofelia, as our next-door neighbors. He and Ofelia have lived in the King William neighborhood since 1992. Their first residence was on Madison Street and later on Adams Street where I first encountered this fellow who would come to mean so much to me and my family. I was down the street visiting our daughter who at the time lived in the house we would eventually call home. We heard a loud crashing noise outside and ran to the fence to see what had happened. What we saw next was merely Al getting up, saying that he was fine. Fine? He had just fallen off the roof! We have often reminisced about Al’s grand entrance into our lives.

Over the years we grew to know Al and Ofelia much better. Al and I both enjoy gardening and



ALFONSO “AL” CERVANTES

would often visit as we worked on our plants. There are a few times, however, I remember with a special fondness. One morning I was leaving for a doctor’s appointment and Al was outside. We said our hellos and I went on my way. That afternoon I heard the doorbell ring. When I opened the door, there stood Al with a pot in his hand. He said that when he saw me that morning I looked like I didn’t feel well and he cooked something for me. Inside that pot was the best vegetable soup anyone could ever want! Another time the doorbell rang and there stood Al and Ofelia both. From their grins and Ofelia’s big bright eyes it was obvious they were happy about something, but weren’t sure how to announce their visit. But then, right away, they said they had good news and they wanted to share it with us. Al had just received news that he had earned another degree, a Masters degree in Theology.

Al was a truly kind soul and our family has been blessed to know his humble generosity and service to others. When my mother passed away we all thought of Al to lead us through her service, which he agreed to do without hesitation. In fact, a few days before when my mother’s body was being removed to the hearse, I saw Al

and Ofelia standing on their porch in a silent, sweet tribute to my mother.

My husband, Henry, was particularly fond of Al’s evening visits on the front porch. When the discussions centered on Texas history, Al was our resource. When asked a question, he would often respond with a better answer and further information than could be found in any book.

Even our cat, Neut, thought that Al was his best friend. When Al was outside, Neut would follow him everywhere, rubbing Al’s leg and hoping Al would stop to pet him. It has been rumored that Al kept a sack of treats in the garage for Neut. Now Neut still spends the night at Al’s back door.

Al was a man who would go wherever he was needed to help someone, we are particularly blessed that he called next door home. Recently my daughter and I were reminiscing about Al. She said that Al had a sweet and comforting way that always made her feel like you could fall into him and he would catch you so gently and smile. That is how we will remember this remarkable man.

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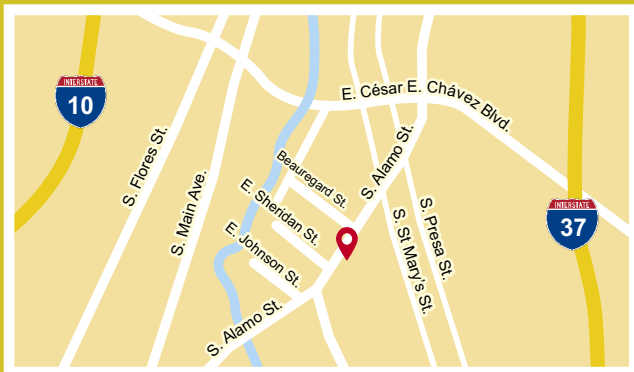
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