April 25th Meeting

We are delighted to have Melodey Hauch as our April speaker. A local historian and genealogist, Melodey will discuss the fascinating history of Virginia Point to include settlers James and Mary Campbell and their family cemetery, Judge William J. Jones, the Confederate fort on both sides of the first railroad bridge, and the multipurpose 1912 causeway. She will also discuss efforts to preserve the area. Melodey Mozeley Hauch, her husband Robert and two sons became residents of League City in 1984. Melodey is currently an active member of six local lineage and historical societies. She started researching her family history nearly thirty years ago and became addicted to the hobby on her first visit to Clayton Library. Always interested in old cemeteries, Melodey has been researching and writing about local cemeteries since 2003 and is particularly interested in the historic graveyards in the area. She researched and compiled biographical sketches on all of the persons buried in three vandalized cemeteries, Sandy Point Cemetery in Brazoria County, Arcadia Evergreen Cemetery in Santa Fe and Campbell’s Bayou Cemetery in Texas City. She is currently working on two more in the League City and Hitchcock areas. Melodey has won eight personal writing awards for her books and articles from the Texas State Genealogical Society and has been the editor of the Bay Area Genealogical Society Quarterly since December 2008. She was recently appointed to the Galveston County Historical Commission.

Calendar

April 25 Melodey Hauch Virginia Point
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

May 30 Rene Palmer Armstrong Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

I hope everyone that made it out to our last meeting at Butler’s Courtyard with Andy Upchurch. I enjoyed his presentation and very much enjoyed the refreshments so generously provided by Diana Dornak, Phyllis White, and Irma Dodge.

This just in...our new Walking Tour brochures have been printed and are now available for pick up at the Museum. They are in color and on really nice paper stock, quite a step up from the version they replaced. I want to thank all of those that had a hand in this project because I know it is very detailed and time consuming to update and proof this piece. We were awarded funds to print this piece from the City of League City Hotel Occupancy Tax. I can’t think of a better way to put these dollars to work for League City.

The annual dues statements came out as a page in the newsletter. Please make certain to get yours paid. As a not for profit, the League City Historical Society, relies heavily on membership dues.

We thank Susan Pierce and the Bauer Family for this month’s refreshments.
Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2013 Meeting

Ronnie Richards opened the March meeting, held this month at Butler’s Courtyard. After reminding us that membership fees are due, Ronnie introduced our guest, musician and author Andy Upchurch, who spoke about his book, *The Oleanders of San Leon*. The book is the story of building his home himself in San Leon and other adventures, including playing for an Elvis impersonator in Las Vegas, moving to the Galveston coast, living on a sailboat, hosting the first Oleanders Party, and repairing his home after Ike. Andy’s current band, Andy and the Dreamsicles, plays at restaurants and clubs in our area.

An amazing spread of refreshments for this meeting was generously furnished by Diana Dornak, Phyllis White, and Irma Dodge.

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Over five hundred and fifteen visitors came to the Museum in March with 110 of them walk in visitors. It helped that most of March was sunny, but cold. Our scheduled classes came from Kingwood, Tomball, Crosby, Houston, Webster and League City. Our walk in visitors came from California, Pennsylvania, Florida, Mexico and more from local areas like Humble, Seabrook, Sugarland, Friendswood, Houston and even Orange, Texas. Many of these visitors were just visiting the area or doing research. They are always delighted they stopped and took the time to visit and comment about how wonderful everything is. We even had a day where a newspaper photographer came to photograph top state teachers in this area. The article is to be published sometime this month, but I am unsure of the exact date.

March was a good month financially also. We received $190 in donations, $1337.50 in program fees and $1448.40 in gift shop sales. We even stayed in the black for expenses.

During March, we changed the Windows of History exhibit, taught 17 sessions, continued to work on the collection and did a lot of gift shop booking, orders and making kits for sale.

Please plan to come and help on Saturday, May 4th for our Museum work day. We plan to really clean out the storage trailer behind the barn. There are signs, old paint, lumber, and stuff that needs to be removed. Other helpers can trim bushes, weed gardens, and generally spruce up the yard. We need help from 9-Noon.

Summer camp plans are set for June 24th – 27th and July 8th – 11th. Help us get the word out through family and friends with children ages 7-12 years, to share in camp from 9-4 daily.

Galveston County Historical Commission’s Famed Lighthouse Jetty Lens in New Home

Five years after Hurricane Ike devastated the Galveston County Museum, the famed and extremely rare, third order Fresnel lens has been relocated to its new home in the Galveston County Courthouse lobby.

In 1874, the U.S. Army engineers began work on two jetties at the entrance of Galveston Bay. One jetty was connected to the eastern entrance of Galveston Island and the other was extended from the western tip of the Bolivar Peninsula. The Lighthouse board petitioned Congress for the necessary funds for a substantial lighthouse to mark the jetties. The 1900 storm delayed the project because of a needed redesign of the lighthouse mount.

A third-order Fresnel lens that was manufactured by the Parisian firm of Henry Lepaute arrived in late 1917. The lighthouse was completed in 1918, but a coastal blackout imposed by the military in World War I, delayed activation. Finally on November 12, 1918 after fourteen years of off and on construction, the lamp was lit for the first time.

Modern lights were built off the ends of the jetties in the early 1980’s and the Fresnel lens was donated to the Galveston County Historical Museum where it has shed its light on the history of Galveston County as it premier artifact.

In the very near future, the County Museum will also be relocated to the courthouse.

*We are still looking for an additional volunteer for May refreshments and several volunteers for our September, October and November meetings. Please contact Doris Teets at gdteets@verizon.net to volunteer.*
League City Historic District
Commission Report
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC
...Fay Dudney

March 28, 2013

Commission members and Attorney Jim Douerty continued discussion of the proposed amendments to Chapters 56, and 125 of the Code of Ordinances, and the Preservation Plan, at a Workshop, March 28, 2013. Further discussion of the amendments is scheduled at the regular Commission Meeting April 18, 2013, in Council Chambers, at 6:00 P.M.

Leslye Mize received the National DAR Conservation Award on April 6. This is a very special honor and recognition of her dedication to preserving the live oak trees that are the hallmark of our community.

At the suggestion of Deborah Gammon, a member of LCHS and the DAR, Leslye was nominated by Fay Dudney and Kathy Weisskopf for her efforts with our Live Oak Tree Registry, and her dedication and to work in saving the rare majestic Compton Oak on Louisiana Street.

Leslye has measured more than 300 trees for the LCHS Live Oak Tree Registry, using the nationally recognized standards of the American Tree Registry. Sometimes she has had to slog through mud and high weeds to reach these trees, which are scattered over the 53-square mile area that comprises League City.

In 2011 and 2012 she was asked to serve on the city’s Citizen Focus Group for considering options on what to do about the very rare century old Compton Oak tree in our registry, which stood in the way of widening of Louisiana St. One of the largest in the country, it had only months to live before being chopped down.

- Leslye helped the group decide to have the tree professionally moved, and then worked on getting support for this effort.
- She started a petition to save it.
- She started a web page on Facebook for Friends of the Ghirardi Oak
- She contacted media, including Channel 13, which came out and did a story on it.
- She helped secure a funding grant from Trees of Houston.
- She prepared the final report for the focus group to give to City Council, with a beautiful, very professional PowerPoint presentation!

The tree was moved to safety in the Watersmart Park, a quarter mile away, and at this point it is doing well. We are very happy to see Leslye’s outstanding dedication and hard work recognized by the DAR.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our longtime West Bay Common school Children’s Museum teacher, Catherine Gill and her family, with the loss of her mother.

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Evelyn Garland</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<td>Susan Pierce</td>
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<td>Joanna Sharp Dawson</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
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<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
<td>Museum Director</td>
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**Become a supporting member of the League City Historical Society....**

Thank you for your interest in your community.

League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

I/We wish to become a member of The League City Historical Society. Enclosed is a check to cover dues.

**MEMBERSHIP CIRCLED:**

Single (Individual)..............$25  
Family Membership............... $40  
Senior Citizen..(65 or older)...$15  
Organization........................$50  
Life Membership...................$250

Name/s: ________________________

_______________________________

Address: _______________________

_______________________________

Phone: _________________________

Email: _________________________

Circle projects you might be interested in working on: School/Museum, Tree Registry, Membership, Fund-Raising, Landmark Medallions, Events/Receptions.

☐ Please call me. I'd like more information.