April 24th Meeting
Capturing Historic Architecture with Classic Hand Drafting

Our speaker this month is Chief Architectural Draftsman Gene Nelson, a person who has decades of drafting experience from architectural firms on the east coast of the United States. He currently creates landmark architectural drawings and was commissioned by our Museum to draw 6 historic homes in League City. These stunning drawings are now on display in the 6 Windows of Texas History on the outside of our Barn Museum. What he produces is architectural “art”, not architectural “design” or “construction” drawings. Hand architectural drafting is an art form that has existed for centuries, long before the introduction of computers and their CAD (Computer Aided Drawing) programs. He is going to share the history of this form of hand architectural drafting and show some drawings from his portfolio that span the globe. The social, with refreshments, begins at 6:45 followed by the speaker at 7:00pm.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

I hope everyone saw the great news segment on ABC Channel 13 about headstones that were secured through efforts of several members of the League City Historical Society for two World War I veterans who died fifty years ago and are interned in Fairview Cemetery. Credit goes to Joyce Zongrone, Deborah Gammon and Catharin Lewis for their efforts. Once the headstones are received, a special ceremony is planned for the placing of those headstones.

Our March meeting speaker Steph McDougal delivered a great presentation on Mid-Century Modern Architecture in League City. At our next meeting set for Thursday evening, April 21st our speaker will be Gene Nelson. His topic will be Capturing Historic Architecture with Classic Hand Drafting. Hope to see you there.

We thank Phyllis White and Irma Dodge for this month’s refreshments.

Special get well wishes to members Kathy Weisskopf and Evelyn Garland on their recent surgeries.
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary

March 27, 2014 Meeting
Ronnie Richards welcomed members and any visitors to our meeting, and then introduced our guest, Steph McDougal, who spoke about mid-century modern architecture here in League City. Mid-century modern was popular from the 1930’s through the late 1960’s. Among her examples were photos of the League City School, erected in 1938, League City Elementary, and the municipal center and Helen Hall Library. She showed photos of homes illustrating the three types of mid-century modern: minimal traditional (1940’s – 1950’s), ranch, including the “atomic” ranch (1950’s – 1960’s), and contemporary (including A-frames, homes with “pony walls,” and masonry screens).

Refreshments for this meeting were furnished by Kathie Nenninger and Catharin Lewis.

Next month’s meeting will feature Gene Nelson who will speak about classic hand drafting.

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Hands on Museum Classes by the Galveston County Museum Curator Nikki Diller

April 28th - 9:00 - 12:00am
Building Mounts for Collections
If you’d like to work more with the museum collection, and you’re feeling crafty, this is the perfect workshop for you. Learn how to build mounts for objects in the museum’s collection. These classes specifically for the new Galveston County Museum, these mounts will ensure safe transportation to the new museum building, as well as facilitate easy evacuation in the event of a natural disaster or other compromise to the storage facility.
For more information, or to reserve a spot, please contact Nikki Diller at 409.765.2664.

We want to highlight Barbara Vermillion this month with very special thanks for her thirteen years of volunteer service at the museum. She has faithfully come and helped with all kinds of tasks such as registrations, inventory, making copybooks and even made this doll for display as well as made bonnets and book covers to sell in the gift shop. She is my “visiting angel” of the month and is very much appreciated for her time and dedication she has given.

March was a productive month. We had time to catch up on replenishing supplies for the program, cleaning some artifacts, restocking the gift shop and giving many docent talks to walk-in visitors. We held seven sessions of the schoolhouse program last month. Kindergarten through Adult groups roll played children of the 1800’s going to school. These groups came from various parts of the Houston area and League City. We had 313 visitors in March including walk-in visitors. We had super sales in the gift shop bringing in $875.

Garet and Kathie Nenninger and I attended the spring workshop in Galveston on orientation and basic collections care. It was a good refresher course for me and a great introduction for new volunteers. The County museum will be reopening in the fall for the first time since Hurricane Ike and there is a lot of work to be done in preparation for the opening. Our next workshop is set for April 14th on Past Perfect training. The March workshop was well attended and had to be broken into two sessions to accommodate everyone. Two more sessions are planned for April 28th on building mounts for collections and on May 5th for museum office volunteer training.

Volunteers and I continue to work on digitizing the collection. I could use more help in this area. If anyone would like to volunteer one or two afternoons a week for a couple of hours, I will be glad to teach you how to use the equipment. I usually dedicate Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons for collection work when it is quiet around the museum. If you would be willing to help please contact me at 281-554-2994 and then come. We welcome “visiting angels”.

April and May Schoolhouse session dates are filling and that will make the months pass quickly. Because of my shoulder issues, we will not be holding any summer camp programs this year. The museum will be open for scheduled schoolhouse sessions, but will close for a period of time for restoration and cleaning of the buildings. These dates will be announced later.
Never Leave a Man Behind

By Joyce Zongrone

No stranger to military service, League City Historical Society member, Deborah Gammon, epitomizes the Marine Corps’ motto, “never leave a man behind.” In this case, it was two men; two World War I veterans who died more than 50 years ago, Army Privates Frank Ellis and Oscar Juenger.

Deborah’s family served proudly. Her son was in the Coast Guard and her Dad served in the Navy during World War II and in the Marines the 1950s. It was this experience and her tenacity as a genealogist that motivated her to spend three years of her time and money, pursuing government headstones for Ellis and Juenger.

The daunting task of cataloging more than the thousand graves in League City’s historic Fairview Cemetery began in 2001. More than 10 years later, after Deborah assisted other local families in obtaining government headstones for their loved ones, she realized all that were left were the two almost 50 year-old-unmarked graves of Ellis and Juenger.

After an exhaustive three-year genealogical search resulted in no living next of kin for either man, she petitioned the Veterans Administration for their headstones on behalf of the cemetery. Both claims were denied because of a recent change in the law, which required a next of kin.

Not willing to give up yet, Gammon was put into contact with Galveston County Judge Lonnie Cox, 56th Judicial Court, who promptly set the wheels of justice in motion.

“Our veterans preserve our rights, our freedoms and when we forget them, then we forget what our freedoms are all about,” Cox said.

Cox contacted League City Attorney Jack Ewing who readily agreed to rectify the situation. Ewing drafted petitions for probate court requesting Gammon be appointed next of kin for both men in order to meet the legal qualifications for requesting government headstones.

“The probate court would be the most appropriate court to go to handle anything that was related to their estate,” attorney Jack Ewing said.

On Tuesday, April 8, history was made in Judge Kimberly Sullivan’s probate court. For the first time in Galveston County and perhaps in the State of Texas, a probate court judged appointed a non-relative as next of kin for the express propose of obtaining government headstones.

"It’s an honor to have assisted you with this process. I think it’s very important that we take care of our veterans," Sullivan said.

“I am thrilled about the court order. I know my Dad would be proud,” Gammon said.

The story gained the attention of ABC Channel 13’s Tom Abrahams. Abrahams visited the cemetery where Fairview Cemetery Board Member Catharin Lewis pointed out the graves, marked only by small American flags, placed by Gammon on Veterans Day, when the League City American Legion Post 554 supplies flags for all 106 veterans in Fairview Cemetery.

Mid Century Modern Architecture in League City... a note from last month’s speaker

Steph McDougal, our delightful March speaker on “Mid Century Modern Architecture”, has provided the following websites for those who would like to do more research on this very interesting topic.

Information
https://www.atomic-ranch.com/
http://midcenturymodernist.com/
http://www.glenbrookvalley.org/Glenbrook_Valley/Home.html

Renovation
http://retrorenovation.com/
http://savethepinkbathrooms.com/

MCM furniture
http://www.refevesantiqueshouston.com/
http://www.coolstuffhouston.com/
http://www.metroretrofurniture.com/cgi-bin/
http://www.remophomeshop.com/
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY to RECEIVE OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

League City, TX—The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized Fairview Cemetery as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an Official Texas Historical Marker. The designation honors the cemetery as an important and educational part of local history. Fairview Cemetery was established in 1900, and during the past 114 years, approximately 1200 residents of League City and several surrounding communities were buried there.

Members of League City’s Italian, Japanese, German and Irish populations were buried in their community cemetery. In 1903, Japanese agriculturist Seito Saibara (1861-1939) came to the area to teach advanced rice production techniques to local farmers. His family and thirty colonists soon followed, and Saibara founded a Japanese colony in nearby Webster, Texas. A large section of the cemetery serves as the burial place for members of these Japanese families.

A dedication ceremony to commemorate the event is being planned for Memorial Day, May 26, 2014, a special day in the history of the cemetery. The cemetery became an important gathering place for local citizens and a convenient spot for picnics. Memorial Day was celebrated every year at the cemetery, referred to as “Decoration Day” because the graves of soldiers were always decorated on that day.

“The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation,” said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. “Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of our state’s history. This designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of important cultural resources,” Wolfe said.

A subject qualifies for a marker if two basic criteria are met: historical significance and age. Fairview Cemetery easily met those two criteria. The cemetery is the site of League City’s “Ghosts of the Past Tour,” held in October and spotlighting historical sketches of several of the citizens buried in the cemetery.

League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC ...Fay Dudney

March 20, 2014

Commission members conditionally approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to relocate a house into the Historic District with the condition that a house more compatible with the District’s 1890’s architectural design be found.

No meeting is scheduled for May.

Galveston Historic Homes Tour

The 40th annual Galveston Historic Homes Tour opens the doors to numerous, privately owned, historic island homes May 2nd through 4th and 10th through 11th, 2014. This year’s tour, which features nine homes, six of which have never been on tour, also hosts numerous special events and spotlights new island construction with specially selected additional homes both weekends.

“The 2014 Historic Homes Tour is one of our strongest set of houses and properties in a number of years,” says Dwayne Jones, Galveston Historical Foundation’s Executive Director. “The range of dates and architectural styles provide an excellent overview of Galveston’s architectural history. It’s a “not to be missed” architectural tour.”

The first weekend will feature new construction with a reference to the historic architecture of Galveston Island. Ticket holders will have the opportunity to visit select new homes in the award winning Beachtown development where nationally recognized architects are inspired by Galveston’s rich architectural heritage.

The second weekend will offer additional new houses reflecting green or environmental design.
Coming May 29th – Harriet Tubman – 
*The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman*
League City Historical Society
P. O. Box 1642    League City, Texas 77574

Thank you for purchasing an ad in the League City Historical Society 2015 – 2016 Yearbook. Your participation supports on-going efforts of the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, the Oak Tree Registry and our Medallion Program. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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All ads must be black & white. Camera ready copy is greatly appreciated. Please email catharin@orbitworld.net with a copy of your ad. Make checks payable to the League City Historical Society and mail check to the above address. Call 281-554-2994 for us to come and pick up your check and ad. Deadline: May 23, 2014

Thank you so much for your support in this project.

Ronnie Richards, President
Catharin Lewis, Museum Director/Curator
2014 League City Historical Society

Dues Form

Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

Choose the membership level that is best for you. Complete the form below and mail it with your check.

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

☐ $25 Single Membership
☐ $40 Family Membership
☐ $15 Senior Citizen Membership (65 years old and older)
☐ $50 Organization Membership
☐ $250 Life Membership

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2013 or later, you are current for the year 2014.

Please update your membership information.

Name__________________________________________________________________________
(If Family Membership, please include names of family members.)

Address ________________________________________________________________

City__________________________________________State________________Zip___________

Phone: Home Phone______________________________ Cell Phone: _____________________

email address ________________________________

☐ Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.

☐ Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save on postage.
The Fairview Cemetery Group

Presents

Fairview Cemetery Fund Raiser

Sunday, April 27, 2014
12-4pm
Admission $5.00 adults (presale), $7.00 day of event
13 & under free
Free admission to the Museum with each ticket
Hay wagon tour of our beautiful century old cemetery
League City’s valuable history needs to be kept alive for our families and schools.

Food 12-3pm: BBQ, Chips, Fountain Drinks 6.00
By Lighthouse Charity Teams

Music 1-4pm by Kevin Anthony & G-Town Band
Come join us for some great Cajun Music!

Graciously hosted by the Butler Longhorn Museum
1220 Coryell in old League City (281)332-1393
Tickets available League City Chamber of Commerce,
Nana’s Attic, Book Haven, Milk Pail,
Butler Longhorn Museum, One Room Schoolhouse

If you cannot attend, mail your donation to Phyllis White, Treasurer, 804 Bauer Avenue,
League City, TX 77573