

# League City Historical Society

P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574

281-554-2994

[leaguecityhistory.org](http://leaguecityhistory.org)

February 2009 Newsletter

Kathie Nenninger, Editor [knenninger@verizon.net](mailto:knenninger@verizon.net)

February 26, 2009 Meeting

**Rice Farmers to Astronauts: Stories  
from the Webster Community**

**Judy Allton**, former Curator at the  
Astromaterials Office - NASA JSC

## Calendar



**February 26, 2009: LCHS Meeting Program:  
Judy Allton – Rice Farmers to Astronauts:  
Stories from the Webster Community**

**Note: Location change for this meeting  
Butler's Courtyard  
122 Michigan Avenue  
League City  
Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm**

**March 7, 2009 – Ghosts of the Past:  
The Greatest Generation, Veterans of WWII**

**March 26, 2009 – Suzan Fineman - Saving our  
Legacy Through Restoration.**

**April 30, 2009 – Kathryn Morrow, MA -  
Defender of America's Gulf Coast - A History  
of Ellington Field**



*from the president...*

**Ronnie Richards**

This year marks an important milestone for the Society as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year. It all started with a call from Diana Dornak who at the time was serving as President of the League City Merchants Association, to Faye Dudney. The topic of the call was "should we start a historical society for League City?" Obviously the answer was yes and the organizers began enlisting a group of charter members, some of whom are active today. Charter members were **Diana Dornak**, Holly Gibbons, Leslie Adcox, Charlotte Henson, **Fay Dudney**, David Hoffman, Lynn Shahady, **Geri Gatlin**, **Kathy Weisskopf**, G. I. Butler, Betty Evans and Herbert Medsger. From this humble beginning we have grown to an organization of almost 100 members. We have cause to celebrate in 2009.

The League City Historical Society Museum Expansion Project is in the hands of the League City Council. At the February 24<sup>th</sup> council meeting we are on the agenda for approval to add the additional artifact storage space we so badly need. If you are available that evening please come out and support us. Should you wish to speak during the public comments portion of the council meeting please arrive before 6 pm and sign in. I plan to speak on behalf of the Society before council.

Ghost of the Past set for March 7th is fast approaching. Tell friends, family & co-workers about this event. Included with your newsletter is a flyer. Print it out and post it at work.

Our next meeting will be hosted at Butler's Courtyard and it is "Bring A Friend" night. The only way we can grow the Society and the awareness of our history is through inviting guests to our meetings and events. The speaker is Judy Allton and the featured topic **Farmers to Astronauts - Stories from the Webster Community**. Judy is the former Curator at the Astromaterials Office - NASA JSC and former Apollo Historian and current author on the Webster Community. This should be really interesting.



## November 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes Sherry Frankovich

Kevin Burke, our Vice President, opened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. He introduced John Dupla, who presented us with a wooden bench that has many cattle ranch brands on it. He donated the OT brand from the Butler Ranch.

Minutes were printed in the newsletter. Carole Ragland made the motion to approve them. Catharin Lewis seconded it. Vote was unanimous.

Catharin Lewis gave her Museum report. She received boxes of dollhouse furniture. She already had 2 rooms that were on display.

Deborah Gammon reported about the Ghosts of the Past, which was postponed due to Hurricane Ike. It has been rescheduled for March 7. Eight ghosts will portray Veterans of WWII that are buried at Fairview Cemetery.

Diana Dornak reported about the Historic Home Tour. We made a profit of \$1003.

Diane Gillette reported about the Grant committee. We gave \$20,000 to the Museum in grant money last year.

Parking lot has been completed. We plan to put in 3 light posts and a light on the sign. We plan to paint the schoolhouse this year.

Artifact expansion building will be built on the left side of our Museum this year. It will be 8x20 foot.

Kevin Burke introduced our speaker, Lew Fincher. Lew is an historian, who writes about hurricanes. He gave his views about the recent hurricane to hit us, Ike.

Meeting adjourned.



### MusNews

**Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator**

The New Year started off quiet with a few visitors and seven scheduled classes but still much to keep us busy. Inventory, year-end reports, putting away decorations, and exhibit planning occupied our time. February picked up the spring pace with more registered classes and visitors. We also had 21 people venturing in geocaching and touring the museum as virtual cash with some visitors coming from as far away as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To date, there have been 249 visitors and

collected \$1032 in program fees with teachers free and \$220.25 in gift shop sales. The March and April calendar still has room for more classes.

We want to thank several people for their recent donations to our collection. Dorothy Ludwig donated a collection of school photos, a yearbook, local newspaper clippings and some Kennedy memorabilia. We also want to thank Ernie Randall for a large set of dollhouse miniatures, which are still being cataloged. Already these have delighted our volunteers and we are excited about the exhibit possibilities to share with our visitors. We want to thank David Jarmillo, Jr. for his addition of a mail carrier's belt to our Post Office Collection and thank Mike Mize for donating a large black slate to the museum.

There have been some changes to the exterior of the property. We now have additional parking lot along Second Street, which is really great. We also had the mold and mildew removed from the exterior of the schoolhouse. As time and weather permits, we will schedule to have the building painted and make the few needed repairs to the trim of the structure. The Icehouse sound system has now been replaced with a new one that will work better with power outage. Richard Lewis, and twin John with his son Morgan installed the new system, purchased from part of the Peggy Fenimore Memorial Fund. We thank these men for their donated time and energy in the project.

The exhibit, "On the Home Front, League City and World War II" will open on March 7<sup>th</sup> to tie in with this year's Ghost Tour. We look forward to having another big turnout for this event.



## MEMBERSHIP Renewals Due March 1st

**Diana Dornak, Treasurer**

It is time to renew membership in the League City Historical Society. Please print the renewal form, fill out the information and note if there are changes that need to be made to our records. Mail the form and a check to:

League City Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1642  
League City, TX 77574

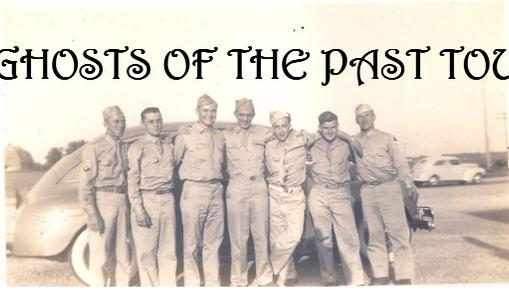
You may bring your form and check to our next meeting instead of mailing if you wish.

New members who paid in October to the present are not due. Your dues are paid through 2009.

Life Members do not renew as their dues are paid.

Several members have already given me their renewal checks. If you are not sure if you paid or not just email me at the email address below and I will look it up for you. [diana.dornak1@verizon.net](mailto:diana.dornak1@verizon.net)

## GHOSTS OF THE PAST TOUR



### THE GREATEST GENERATION The Veterans of WWII March 7, 2009 ...Deborah Gammon Co-Chairman

The day has almost arrived. We are going to be having the Ghosts of the Past cemetery tour of Fairview Cemetery on March 7, 2009.

There is going to be an exhibit "On the Home Front" located at the Museum at 210 N. Kansas St. Dr. Terry Williams will be displaying his WWII jeep, too. Please, take the time to tour both the cemetery and the museum.

The "Ghosts" are as follows:

**Alice Braud Jones** portraying CAROLINE D'ETCHEGOYEN Block # 7

**Alan Yang** portraying SUICHI IMAI Block #103

**Sarah Eubanks** portraying LOUISE HEWITT, MOTHER OF JAMES C. HEWITT Block #55

**Kathy Baker Biggs** portraying LOIS HENNIX, MOTHER OF B. K. "DARBY" FLEMING Block #98

**George Weisskopf** portraying TRUMAN HATFIELD Block #69

**Phyllis White** portraying Mrs. MAUDE GORDY MCFADDIN, MOTHER OF JOHN MCFADDIN Block # 70

**Catherine Gill** portraying MRS. LOIS ELDERKIN, MOTHER OF GEORGE R. ELDERKIN Block #88

**Melodey Hauch** portraying MRS. INEZ HARDY, MOTHER OF ROY L. HARDY Block#85

If you have any questions, please call Deborah at 281-334-4950.

A Special Welcome to Our New Member

Betty Suagee



This month, the Museum electricity bill was covered by a donation from **Dr. Bill and Lori High**. During the spring, summer and fall, we have donation opportunities to cover grounds keeping expenses.

If you would like to help support the Museum in this tangible way, please feel free to contact Catharin Lewis at 281-554-2994.

## 2009 LCMS OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards	President
Kevin Burke	Vice-President
Diana Dornak	Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich	Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf	Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen	Board Member
Diane Gillette	Board Member
Richard Lewis	Board Member
Doug McKee	Board Member
Carole Ragland	Board Member
Joanna Sharp	Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis	Museum Director



## League City Masonic Lodge #1053 Fay Dudney

The League City Masonic Lodge #1053 will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

To help plan the celebration, members are in search of historical facts and any pictures of the lodge from it's beginning until now, that anyone would be willing to share. Former members, and members' descendants might be a good source. Does anyone have any knowledge to share with this group?

Contact: Manuel Perez  
Telephone: 281-557-3836.

The League City Historical Society  
presents

The Greatest Generation  
Veterans of World War II

## **Ghosts of the Past**



**Saturday, March 7, 2009**

(rain or shine)

Guided tours of Fairview Cemetery, located at the end of N. Kansas  
on the banks of Clear Creek.

Costumed "ghosts" will enlighten you with tales of the lives of  
World War II Veterans, the Greatest Generation.

Tours every half hour beginning at 1:00 PM until 4:30 PM

**Plus "On the Home Front" Exhibit 1-5 PM**

With self guided tours of the

**West Bay Common School Children's Museum**

210 N. Kansas St.

**Adults \$10 Seniors (60+) \$5 & Students (age 4 - 18) \$5**

Admission price includes both tours. Start at either location.

No reservations required

For more information call the Museum at 281-554-2994 or Deborah Gammon at 281-334-4950

*Please use care and respect while walking through our beloved old cemetery*

*Proceeds from the tour will benefit the League City Historical Society projects, such as West Bay Common School Children's Museum and programs. Thank you for your support.*

# 2009 League City Historical Society

## Dues Form

Thank you for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2009. Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

To renew your membership, choose the membership level that is best for you, complete the form below and mail 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*

Our new Membership Directory will be published in late spring. So that we can include your updated information in the new directory, please send your dues by April 1st.

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2008 or later, you are current for the year 2009.

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.*