Monthly Speaker Series

February 28
7pm – 8pm
Helen Hall Library

The Making of the Bryan Museum –

J. P. Bryan from the Bryan Museum Galveston will discuss how the personal collection of J. P. Bryan, a successful Texas businessman, was turned into a museum that houses one of the world’s largest collections of Texas and the American West-related artifacts.

Don’t miss this informative presentation regarding another important museum in our area!!

Welcome New Members!
Trevor Rumbaugh, Brandon Lopez, Bette Specion, the Caitlin Tovar & Joshua Pratel Family, the Madden Family, the Stacy Overbeck Family & the Ron & Tracy Rohrbacher Family.

Supporting Patrons:
Julie Massey & Bill Martin
Larry & Monica Millican

A Word From The President

January and February have been fun and productive months for the Society as we continue to preserve and enjoy history as well as guide our organization into the future. In January we enjoyed our first joint meeting with the League City Library History Club. February 28 is our next meeting with the History Club and the topic is “The Making of the Bryan Museum”. It will again be hosted at the Helen Hall Library from 7 to 8 p.m. I recently toured this great new museum in Galveston and was amazed. League City’s explosive growth makes preserving its’ history more important than ever. That’s why I’m asking you to renew your membership or join our member driven organization. We are focused on preserving history and educating those new to the area about our history. This is a mission we take seriously and we can’t accomplish it without supporting members.

The League City Historical Society celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. We want to continue our legacy with our any active programs and projects and want you to be a part of this. (continued on page 2)
Historic Home Tour that brings alive the Historic District and opens homes to the public.

West Bay Common School Museum with its hands-on-history program that has reached over 100,000 children demonstrating a day of school in the late 1800’s.

Living History Dinner an authentic presentation of the life of an important person in history.

Monthly gatherings and field trips with speakers delivering information about history.

Your involvement and help are critical if we want to continue preserving the history of the city and introducing it to others. It’s easy to join, just visit us online at LeagueCityHistory.org or complete the enclosed form and mail.

Ronnie Richards
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281-797-1970

Guest speakers at our first History Club meeting at Helen Hall Library on February 28 were Colonel Cooks and Mark Lardas who brought us a wonderful program entitled “Warships at Seawolf Park”. An interesting and informative book written by the two on this subject is available. See secretary’s minutes for more details of the well attended meeting.
Welcome to our new Director of Education, Sarah Eubanks!

We are very pleased to announce that the League City Historical Society has hired Sarah Eubanks as our new Education Director at our West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. Sarah has been teaching classes at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum for 15 years under the direction of our former Curator, Catharin Lewis.

Sarah has a BA in English and Public History from Texas Lutheran College as well as an MA in Museum Science from Texas Tech University with an Archival Minor. She has a Post Baccalaureate Lifetime Teacher Certification and Gifted and Talented Endorsement from Texas Tech. She did her two museum internships at the San Antonio Museum of Art and Science Spectrum in Lubbock.

Sarah and her husband Patrick, who is a shipping agent for Promar, have three children. Daughter Rebecca just passed Boot Camp at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and is now going to the Military Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo. Their youngest Kitty is following in her big sister’s footsteps and loves her new Daisy Girl Scout troop and Kindergarten. Big brother Jess is finishing his last year of Clear Creek High School’s Hearts Program for special needs and is getting ready for the Aces program next year. Sarah and Patrick and their family live in Nassau Bay.

Not only does our new Director of Education have excellent qualifications, training, and on the job experience at our West Bay Common School, but she is an active community volunteer and has held many past positions of responsibility and leadership. Some of Sarah’s many and varied volunteer positions in the community areas were Environmental Chairman for LCE PTA, Girl Scout Leader, and Treasurer of the History Honor Society Phi Alpha Theta’s Eta Mu Chapter in Seguin. She is a Kitten Foster for League City Animal Shelter and cared for League City Elementary’s now lost Nature Habitat. She’s done docent work with Armand Bayou Nature Center and Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, operated the planetarium at the Museum of Texas Tech University, and was the basketball coach for “the rats” while interning at the Science Spectrum.

Ronnie Richards President of LCHS stated “we were fortunate to have someone with Sarah’s experience and educational credentials to step into this important role. It will be a big job filling Catharin Lewis’s shoes but I feel Sarah has the skill to do this plus the energy to move the program to the next level.”

“Welcome Sarah!”
League City Historical Society - “Night At The Museum”
Feb. 21 at WBCS - What a wonderful evening as we visit with members, new friends and old friends!
WBCS needs a volunteer to vacuum the museum once a week, either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. It takes about an hour once a week. If you think you might like to volunteer to do this job for us please contact Richard Lewis, LCHS Property Chair, 832-741-2680 for more information or to volunteer!

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” to:

**Darryl Krogman and the Sign Shop**
for donating an iPad for our schoolhouse program so that we can take charge cards for purchases in our museum store and for other events. Also for making the special banners and cut out creatures for the Wine & Cheese Event.

**Susan Pierce** for providing the MANY boxes of office supplies including paper, pens, pencils, folders, labels, staplers, hole punch, Kleenex, bottled water and more.

**Thank you both so much!**

March speaker series:
“Texas Dance Hall Preservation”
Guest Speaker: Steph McDougal
January 31, 2019

The Historical Society met at the Helen Hall Library for its monthly membership meeting. Steph McDougal welcomed everyone and introduced Col. Kelley Crooks, USAF (retired), and author Mark Lardas, who spoke about “Warships at Seawolf Park.” (Their remarkable book, with the same name, is where most of the following notes come from.)

Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, north of Galveston Island, is the resting site for the USS *Cavalla* submarine, the destroyer escort USS *Stewart*, the remains of the USS *Selma*—a WWI tanker made of concrete, the “sail” of the USS *Tautog*, and the tower of submarine USS *Carp*. Both the *Cavalla* and the *Stewart* were built quickly to do battle during WWII and then be scrapped. Instead, the *Cavalla* and the *Stewart* were donated to the Pelican Island Park by the U.S. Navy in the 1970’s.

The submarine USS *Cavalla* is named for a torpedo-shaped fish, was built in Connecticut, and commissioned during a leap year, on February 29, 1944. *Cavalla* served in the Pacific as a war patrol against the Japanese Navy. On her first trip out, June 14, 1944, *Cavalla* came across two large Japanese tankers and three destroyers, and had to dive to escape. The next day, they came across multiple Japanese carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers heading to Saipan. Again they dived and then began following this Japanese convoy, radioing their location as they went. The Japanese fleet was intercepted on June 19th, and the *Cavalla* torpedoed the aircraft carrier *Shokaku*. Crooks says the *Cavalla* was the only submarine to avenge Pearl Harbor, and her crew were awarded the Presidential Citation. The *Cavalla* is a commissioned vessel in the Texas Navy.

The USS *Stewart* was built in Houston, launched in November 1942, and commissioned in May 1943. The *Stewart* is one of three ships named after Admiral Charles Stewart, who commanded the *Constitution*, “Old Ironsides.” USS *Stewart* was first used as a trainer and then as an escort to protect allied convoys from German U-boats in the Atlantic, including escorting Pres. Franklin Roosevelt’s yacht early in its way to meet with Churchill and Stalin in Tehran. In 1945, the *Stewart* was ordered to Pearl Harbor, then San Diego, then the East Coast. She was decommissioned in 1947 in Florida and then donated to the City of Galveston for the museum at Pelican Island.

In October 1988, Galveston’s city leaders considered whether the badly deteriorating and vandalized ship and submarine should be scuttled. Local “salty dogs” and philanthropists, as well as the Submarine Veterans of Texas and later the Cavalla Historical Foundation, began restoration of the ships to museum standard. The *Stewart* was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 12, 2007, and the *Cavalla* on May 27, 2008.

The *Cavalla* and the *Stewart* can be seen by passing cruise liners, a good reminder of the sacrifices made by sailors during WWII.

Meeting adjourned.
JOIN NOW!
League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. Annual memberships and dues are below. Select the level best for you, visit LeagueCityHistory.org/membership or complete and mail to:

LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77574

**CATEGORY**
- Student/ Active Military $20
- Senior (60 and over) $25
- Senior Couple $35
- Single (Individual) $35
- Family $50
- Supporting Patron $100
- Life Membership $400
- Other or gift $____

**BUSINESS CATEGORY**
- Business Member $100
- Business Partner $200
- Business Leader $300
- Business Sponsor $500

Name __________________________________________________
(For family membership, please include names of family members)

Address: __________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ________ Zip: ______

Phone: __________________________ Cell: __________________________

Email address: __________________________________________

☐ Check if your address or email has changed.
☐ Newsletter and meeting notices will be emailed unless you check here for postal mail.

Membership is annual and renews each January.

201 N Kansas, League City, TX 77573 281-554-2994

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