January 28th Meeting

Celebrate 20 Years

of the League City Historical Society

with Founder, Diana Dornak and view

the museum’s current exhibit depicting

our historic past. There will also be a

behind the scene tour of the new storage

addition.

from the president...

Ronnie Richards

I want to start by welcoming all of our newly elected

2010 board members and officers. The board remains

unchanged except for the addition of Helen Hodges as a

new director to fill the slot vacated when Carole

Ragland departed. The other officers are as follows:

Kevin Burke – Vice President
Diana Dornak – Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich – Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf – Corresponding Secretary
Joanna Sharp Dawson – Past President
Diane Gillette – Director
Jeff Hansen – Director
Catharin Lewis – Director & Curator
Richard Lewis – Director
Doug McKee – Director

So much has happened since our last regular meeting in

November - our Historic Homes Tour December 12, the

construction of the archive storage room at the museum

and the loss of one of our beloved members, Dr. Ned

Dudney to name a few.

One of the fun things I participated in since the last

meeting was a presentation by the League City

Elementary Junior Chamber of Commerce entitled The

Top Ten (+2) “Free” Things for Kids to Do in Historic

League City held at the school. The Oak Tree Registry

project and One Room School House made the list and I

was very proud to participate in the presentation along

with Catharin Lewis.

Our next meeting is Thursday night January 28 at the

Museum. We will celebrate the Society’s 20th birthday

through a talk by one of the original founders Diane

Dornak and a tour of the exhibit on display at the

museum honoring our twenty years of history.

We thank Diane Gillette and Doris Teets

for this month’s refreshments

Calendar

January 28, 2010 – LCHS 20th Anniversary

Diana Dornak, Founder

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm
LCHS met on November 19, 2009. Ronnie Richards welcomed our members and guests. Dion McInnis, who is a Professor at University of Houston, spoke about art being important to the Clear Lake area. He introduced Annette Musgrave, who showed us the paintings of 10 Taos, New Mexico artists. Their art depicted the Taos Pueblo Indians. The theme was that art does matter to our lives.

Ronnie Richards invited everyone to attend a Centennial Celebration at the Butler Building. Refreshments will be served.

Diana Dornak told us about the Historical Home Tour on December 12. Forty signs need to be put up on Nov. 27 in the neighborhood. We have done lots of advertisement. We still need docents.

Minutes of last meeting were printed in the newsletter.

Catharin Lewis told us about receiving a $500 grant from the Lunar Rendezvous. Construction crew arrived today to begin work on the Museum extension. We acquired a roll-up desk from the Ghirardi family. The desk was the station desk in the LC railroad station.

Jeff Hansen needs people to sign up to work at the booth at Holiday in the Park.

Joanna Sharp had calendars to sell for $10.

Nominations Committee recommended the 4 directors on the board to serve another 2 year term. They recommended Helen Hodges to serve in Carol Ragland’s place.

Special called meeting to vote for these 5 directors has been called for December 10.

Ronnie Richards adjourned the meeting.

Ronnie Richards called a special meeting of the LCHS to order. The purpose of this meeting was to elect the Nominating Committee according to the current By-Laws. Nominations were made from the members. Diana Dornak, Richard Lewis, and Joanna Sharp were nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. We voted unanimously for these to serve. Ronnie Richards dismissed the meeting.

We have a bright look to the New Year with the archival storage area near completion and the joy of finally having more space in the office for our volunteer staff. We are doubling the amount of storage space and creating a better atmosphere for the collection. We are presently waiting on the electricity, air/heat unit to be installed and the paint to dry. Patak Construction Company deserves your many thanks for their donation and support of our program here at the Museum. They have been a wonderful team of workers throughout the project. Please share in our thanks to them by using their services or by telling others about Patak Construction and their labor donation for our new storage room. I have enclosed some photos of the work in progress and we will be holding a behind the scene tour at the next Historical Society Meeting on January 28th.

The New Year also looks bright with upcoming Museum Classes. Spring registrations are still coming in via e-mail and phone calls and classes are already sharing in
the schoolhouse experience. The weather has been a bit cold and wet at times, but January has held three and nine more sessions are scheduled with four others moving their dates to another month due to the January weather.

In 2009, we held 141 schoolhouse sessions and 27 others were cancelled due to illness or weather, but some visits were moved to this spring. We had over 3300 students and adults participating in our school program and approximately 418 walk-in visitors. We made $12,609.50 in program fees, $4002.25 in gift shop sales, $603.87 in walk-in donations, $748 in organizational donations and $10,000 in grant funds to help fund the daily operations of the Museum.

The tour was successful again this year and thanks to all who helped in so many ways. To make an event of this type work, it takes lots of volunteers each doing their particular job well. Whether it was home or site owners, docents, money takers, parking assistants or just members and friends who came to participate, all were friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable about what they needed to do. It takes all these and lots of planning to do a successful tour.

We already have people asking to put their home or site on the tour next year. Wow!

Kudos and thanks to all of you!
During the homes tour we had many requests for the delicious cookies served at the Cox-McQuirk home.

**Old Irish Oatmeal Cookie Recipe**  
(Probably about Civil War time)  
From the kitchen of Diane Kerkhove

3 cups oatmeal  
1 cup shortening (lard was used long ago)  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp. soda dissolved in 1/4 cup hot water

Mix above, then knead into 2 cups of flour or so on a floured board. Flatten and cut with biscuit cutter. Bake about 11-12 minutes at 375°

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**Our LCHS Lapel Pin**  
Diane Gillette

The LCHS pins will once again be available for $5 at the January meeting. Wearing a pin will be a great way to spread the word about our wonderful society.

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**League City Historic District Commission Report to the League City Historical Society**  
*Fay Dudney*  
*LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC*

**October, 2009**

A request for the refinement to the Certificate of Appropriateness to delineate acceptable elevations for conformity with the Historic District Ordinance and the Architectural Guidelines for the Township Subdivision was approved for elevations 2,3,5,7,8,9,10,11,14 as submitted by the developer.

Certificates of Appropriateness administratively approved: a business permit for office use at 1026 E. Main and 1011 E. Main, a monument sign for a full service eating and drinking establishment at 1015 E. Main, a monument sign and four temporary banner signs for retail sales at 1015-A E. Main

**November, 2009**

A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to expand an existing residence at 307 N. Wisconsin Ave. was conditionally approved with the stipulation that engineering drawings be submitted to staff prior to Administrative Historic District approval.

Policies and Procedures for the Historic District were approved.

Administratively approved two temporary banner signs for retail use at 1015-A E. Main for 2010.

**December, 2009**

A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a residence at 707 Coryell Street was approved conditionally with the stipulation that:

1. A Tree Disposition Plan will need to be submitted, reviewed and approved prior to the issuance of a building permit. The residence will be periodically inspected by the Building Department for conformance with the building codes and construction plans prior to occupancy by the owner.

2. The architectural design elevations shall replicate the architectural elevations submitted and remain in conformance with the Architectural Guidelines.

3. The applicant selects an exterior color paint choice from an “approved National Trust Historic Paint Colors List as done in previous cases.

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**A Special Welcome to Our New Member**  
Carol Dowell
Newton Ezekiel Dudney, M.D. passed away Jan. 1, 2010 at 84 years of age.

Born and raised in Magnolia, Ark., Ned came to Texas to attend the University of Texas, then UTMB Galveston. He completed his medical degree and married the love of his life, Fay, in 1949. After serving as commander of a Battalion Aid Station in Korea, he joined his good friend Harry K. Davis in family medical practice in League City in 1954. He once commented that he chose to open a family practice because he wanted to form long-term relationships with his patients.

For 50 years, he served as family doctor to many grateful patients, some families across five generations.

Doctor Dudney, known for his bedside manner and diagnostic abilities, loved his patients and the practice of medicine. He served on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and received the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award from UTMB. His service as president on various county and medical organizations was frequent. His gardening and weekly golf game were his getaway and rejuvenation time. Doctor Ned was most deeply touched by the rededication of the Dr. Ned and Fay Dudney Clear Creek Nature Park in April. In mid-December, Ned and Fay attended the planting of three oaks on the grounds of Galveston’s City Hall, replacement trees he urged the City of League City to donate as part of the recovery effort from Hurricane Ike.

With abundant enthusiasm for making his hometown and area a better place for everyone, he envisioned and joined others in their visions of creating cultural, environmental, medical, commercial, and governmental foundations enabling the Clear Lake Area to thrive. Known for his optimism, Ned was an enthusiastic colleague and supporter in the lives of many men and women who worked to guide the growth of this area. With these gifts for building strong coalitions, Ned was instrumental with others in the incorporation of League City, the founding of St. Christopher’s, the creation of Clear Lake Hospital, as well as the Clear Lake Economic Development Foundation, now the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. His concern for quality of life and the environment led him to initiate early action to preserve the Clear Lake ecosystem.

Fay, his wife of 60 years, his son, Dr. Bob Cars Dudney, his daughters, Gretchen Stolfo and Vaness Hamilton, and his son-in-law, Martin E. Hamilton III, survive Dr. Dudney. He is the beloved uncle of many dear nieces and nephews. Of all his accomplishments, he was most proud of his seven granddaughters: Rebecca, Joan, Damara, Drew, Miranda, Katherine and Sonia. Ned Dudney occupies a vibrant place in the hearts of his patients, friends, and family, for he was a warm and caring person whose concern for others was deep and genuine.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. today, Jan. 7, 2010, at St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, Highway 518 and St. Christopher’s Avenue in League City. Arrangements are with Crowder Funeral Home in Webster. The family welcomes stories of how Ned touched folk’s lives to be shared at http://drneddudney.blogspot.com.

The Society thanks all of our members for their generous contributions of food. A special thank you to Butler’s Courtyard for opening their hearts and doors for the Dudney family.

In the September issue of the LCHS newsletter, we told about the exciting discovery Bernardo the home of Jared Ellison Groce II, (the family of our own Debbie Groce’s husband) one of the Old Three Hundred settlers of Stephen F. Austin’s colony who received land grants from Spain.

Archeologists have discovered and are excavating the site of Bernardo Plantation, the place where Gen. Sam Houston took possession of the Twin Sisters cannons and marshaled his troops for the battle of San Jacinto. Located just a few miles south of Hempstead on property owned by Houston television station owner Greg Brown, teams of professional and volunteer archeologists have unearthed two of the four fireplaces of the 1822 plantation home and are recovering a treasure trove of artifacts.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below: http://www.hcnonline.com/articles/2009/12/22/waller_county_news_citizen/news/bernardo121709.txt