**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| January | “Exploring Texas History”  
Peggy Dillard, Special Collections Manager, Rosenberg Library  
Galveston and Texas History  |
| February| “League City History”  
Caris Brown, Helen Hall Library  
Local History Librarian and Archivist  |
| March   | “The 1900 Storm in Words & Photos”  
Andrew Coleman, Galveston Historical Foundation Historian and Digital Projects & Interpretation  |
| April   | “Texas Railroads”  
Ellen Ferrill, Curator Galveston Railroad Museum – “Texas Railroads”  |
| May     | “Sally B Wallace Preservation Awards”  
Jami Durham, Galveston Historical Property Research  |
| June    | “Getting on the Right Track to Finding Your Ancestors”  
Sue Kaufman, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston  |
| August  | “The Crew Left Behind”  
A report of Jean Laffite’s crew and their descendants who remained in Galveston and the Bay Area after their captain sailed away.  
Lou Graves MacBeth – Laffite Society of Galveston  |
| September| “Galveston County Ghosts”  
Dash Beardsley, Ghost Tours of Galveston  |
| October | “Haunted League City”  
Joyce Zongrone, VP of LCHS, “Haunted League City”  |
| November| “The History of the Catholic Church in Galveston County”  
Lisa May, Archivist, Archdiocese of Houston  |

**January 28th Speaker**

We start off the New Year with Peggy Dillard, Special Collections Manager, Rosenberg Library, Galveston and Texas History Collection. Her topic, “Exploring Texas History,” highlights the resources in the oldest continually operating library in Texas. The Rosenberg Library also serves as the headquarters for the Galveston County Library System and its librarian also functions as the Galveston County Librarian. Prior to accepting the position with the Rosenberg Library in January 2014, Peggy Dillard served as Director of Library & Archives at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia. She holds a M.S. in Information Science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a M.A. in American History from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is also a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. A native of Ohio, Ms. Dillard is no stranger to Texas having lived in Houston from 1995-1998 while her husband transitioned out of the military.

The League City Historical Society meets at the Bus Barn next to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum 210 Kansas Street, League City - 6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

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**From the President... Doug McKee!**

Happy New Year!

As someone's old Grandpappy could have said "All’s wow that ends wow".

Our year of 2015 Started with the January retreat and rolled out great reports and leadership by all our board members.

Committees were formed and great happenings started rolling in such as:

- HOT tax grant,
- Yard/Rummage sale,
- Teddy Bear parade,
- Sally Wallace preservation awards,
- Ghost Tour Bake sales,
- Living history dinner (DOUBLE WOW),
- Holiday in the park
- Home Tour (TRIPLE WOW).

We were blessed by the hard work that has been provided by members of League City Historical Society. That hard work continues to flow through this year and I look forward to the growth of LCHS and League City (Wow, over a hundred thousand people).

Our challenge is to remember and learn from those who have passed before us and trust in our future to make our own historical WOW.

I do have to mention Richard’s beloved twin brother, John Lewis, to be remembered for all the work that he did in his life to preserve history with his hands, heart and mind. God bless him and his family, we will truly miss him.

The LCHS Board meeting/retreat will be held at the Barn Museum, 210 N Kansas, starting at 9:00am, Saturday, January 23rd. Here’s to entrusting our LCHS Board to make history in 2016 as we did in 2015. GOD BLESS
LCHS 2016 Board Members

Doug McKee
President
Mike Peterson
Vice President
Diana Dornak
Treasurer
Susan Pierce
Secretary
Phyllis White
Corresponding Secretary
Helen Hodges
Director
Richard Lewis
Director
Daryl Krogman
Director
Melodey Hauch
Director
Katie Benoit Hake
Director
Elizabeth Quigley
Director
Doris Teets
Director
Ronnie Richards
Director
Catharin Lewis
Museum Curator/Director

Please keep the following members in your thoughts:

Pat Dawson during his recovery
Fay Dudney during her recovery
Evelyn Garland during her surgery
Mary Alice Rice during her recovery
&
Richard and Catharin Lewis

Meeting Minutes

Susan Pierce, Secretary

November 19, 2015 Meeting

The group met this month inside Old St. Mary’s Church on Main Street. Doug McKee called the meeting to order and welcomed our guests. Joyce Zagrone announced that the Rosenberg Library now has a museum on its fourth floor. Mike Peterson discussed the plans and publicity for the Homes Tour on December 12th.

Garet Nenninger and Jerry Dornak spoke about the restoration of Old St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Old St. Mary’s actual name is “St. Mary of The Expectation,” referring to the Virgin Mary’s pregnancy. To Garet’s knowledge, this is the only church named with reference to the “expectancy” of Mary. The background of this church was discussed, as was the extensive restoration done over the last seven years.

An election was held and a motion made and seconded to accept Ronnie Richards and Elizabeth Quigley as Directors for the next term.

Meeting adjourned.

Curator’s Corner

Catharin Lewis, Director/Curator

“Enjoy the little things”. We look back on 2015 and realize it is the little things that made the year a success and something special to remember. Children, changes and special gifts are the things that made a difference to the year’s highlights.

Children of all ages visit with their smiles, energy and excitement of stepping back in time.

We had close to 5000 visitors and half of them were children coming from twenty one cities with thirty-eight zip codes. It is always fun to watch the children use pen and ink with black stains coating their fingers and ink spots on their papers. It is a delight to watch the children climb on the newly added horse-drawn school bus as they imagine travelling to school so long ago. The sound of laughter is heard as they roll the hoops around the school yard and the giggles of excitement as they fill their paper cups with water from the well is another “little thing” I treasure from the past year. It is extra special to receive a little hug from some, showing their joy in the morning experience and it is always a pleasure to read their evaluations of the trip to the one-room schoolhouse. A distinct moment in early December was to receive a call from a parent sharing how much their child talked about the visit all year and needing help with something very special. It is the “little things” that paint distinctive pictures in my mind.

Changes made a difference too in 2015. I moved aside to let another take the lead, but Jennifer Wycoff found another position after six months and I returned to wearing all the hats. We continued to have a great team of teachers with Melissa Aguilar, Catherine Gill and Sherry Frankovich. Sarah Eubanks returned to the teaching staff part-time and we added a new volunteer and teacher, Linda Michael. Cindy Schnuriger taught two special classes to bring adults to evening programming. We cannot thank them enough for the wonderful job they shared with their teaching talents. In addition to the changes in the staff, we added new volunteers this past year. Richard Lewis and Barbara Vermillion continued with more than four hundred hours of service. Linda Michael, Judy Monthey, Joyce Zagrone joined our team of “museum angels” helping with more than fifty hours of their time. We even had two junior volunteers helping with inventory, thanks to Joey and Josh Michael. We thank everyone for their support in the work here at the museum and the unmentioned many who contribute behind the scenes with marketing, newsletters, and spreading the word about our Historical Society Museum project. It is the “little things” that tug on my heart from the friendships we share.
This report could not be complete without mentioning the special gifts given in 2015. **Tannos Construction Company** built and donated the cover to our Garden Classroom and built a winding brick pathway to this new pavilion. This is a beautiful addition to our property and will be very beneficial to our schoolhouse program. **Flag Ship Floors** donated new carpeting in the Bus Barn which brightened the entrance after more than twenty years of the old carpeting. This gift made a wonderful difference in the attractiveness of the building. We want to thank **Mike Scanlon of Norex Engineering** for the architectural drawings of our garden classroom. We again thank all of these companies for their wonderful donations and improvements to our property. We also had special funding gifts from **D&D Pest, SSCI Environmental, Construction and Consulting Services, Lunar Rendezvous Organization, The Sign Shop**, and **Richard Lewis**. We want to thank these companies and individuals who helped fund special museum projects or events freeing strains on our budget. It is the “little things” that bring comfort and satisfaction that a dream is being fulfilled with this kind of support.

A different kind of gifts came from those donating various items to our museum collection. Thanks once again to Melissa Aguilar, Fay Dudney, Margaret Cowart, Norma Callendar, Jennifer Wycoff, Ruth Tobey, Katie Hake, Robert Jones, Norman Anderson, Paul Derrick, Julian Meza, Phyllis Wright Tate, J'Nean Henderson, Joyce Zongrone, Vicki Simon, Carole Porcher and Robert Benoit for the many local artifacts, archival papers, longhorn certificates, military clothing, dolls and educational materials to add to our collection. We continue to collect local and national educational artifacts as well as any League City memorabilia to preserve the history of our town, its people and the education of the community, state and nation. We now have more than 4000 items in our collection. It is the “little things” that show growth.

It is the “little things” that make a difference in our lives, our friendships and the directions we take. We now look forward to the New Year and will enjoy the “little things”- the children, the changes and the special gifts. Many plans for the year are being finalized and will be announced soon. Continue to visit with your family and friends and tell others about the museum. If you want to join our team of volunteers, you are very welcome and needed.

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**Local Preservationists Honored**

Local preservationists, Ed Linck and Jerry Dornak, were given a Proclamation at the League City Council Meeting for restoring Old St. Mary Church on January 12.

Over a period of seven years, 1994-2011, Linck and Dornak gave League City’s Old St. Mary Church a face lift. The church received a new foundation and the original bell was returned to the steeple. Restoration included a new roof, cross, electrical wiring, heating, air conditioning, landscaping, wall coverings, floor refinishing and wall restoration. The painted windows and ceiling surfaces were sugar sandblasted to remove the paint. The original wall paper was found and replaced to bring the interior back to its original beauty. Linck and Dornak recently continued with having the stained glass windows in the front loft, the sacristy and the sanctuary renovated.

Their wives, Berneice Linck and Diana Dornak, along with many others, volunteered hundreds of hours to the restoration which took place during the construction of the new St. Mary Catholic Church on Walker Street, dedicated in 1999. Donations of time, labor, in-kind goods and services totally funded the project. Thanks to the hard work of several dedicated people, the church and property remains debt free.

In 2010, the Texas Historical Commission honored St. Mary Church with two historical markers. The first was for **St. Mary Mission Church**, which as a gothic revival structure is the only extant example of the original Mainland Missions. The second, a subject marker, recognizes **Mainland Mission Churches**.

St. Mary of League City is the only mission church left standing and remains a testimony to the impact the mainland mission churches had on the lives of the Catholic residents in Galveston County and proudly takes her place on Main Street as one of the focal points of the Historic District of League City, known to the community as “Old St. Mary’s.”
The Historic Homes Tour Recap…
Mike Peterson, Chairman

This year’s 2015 Historic Homes Tour was a huge success for our League City Historical Society. The 2015 Homes Tour took place December 12th on the streets of the historic district. Several homes along with the LCHS Museum, One Room School House, The Walding Station and the beautiful St Mary’s church were open to the public. The weather was perfect which allowed everyone to walk the streets and visit as they experienced more of the history within League City.

We also had the privilege to watch the spectacular dancers sponsored by the Victorian Lady as they shared different dances from the early 1900s. They were dressed for the occasion and presented the beauty by wearing gorgeous costumes/outfits that were considered upper society back at the turn of the century.

Our 2015 Docents were complimented by everyone. We continuously heard how educated they were on our history and how many individuals visiting gained historical information about our amazing little city.

The 2015 LCHS Home Tour was a success. With the help of several individuals, we set a record for ticket sales of over 300 tickets sold. With great suggestions from the Home Tour committee, we offered new ways of purchasing tickets so several people could join the event. We opened the option for bulk buy of tickets so local businesses would join in on the fun. It was a success.

Special appreciation goes out to 2015 Home Tour Committee which included Phyllis White, Catharin Lewis, J’Nean Henderson, Elizabeth Quigley and Diana Dornak. This level of success could have not been accomplished without the volunteers, the docents, dancers, ticket takers, security officers, neighbors and many others who were involved to ensure our guests enjoyed themselves during the 2015 LCHS Home Tour.

We have already started the planning for the 2016 LCHS Home Tour so get ready for another spectacular League City Historical Society event!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

The Board of Directors of our Historical Society recently appointed a committee to review the current membership dues structure and research the dues of other organizations similar to ours. The committee’s objective was to bring membership dues in line with our costs that have increased every year and to offer members more options to financially support the Society. The Membership Dues Committee consisted of Doug McKee our President, Catharin Lewis, our Museum Director/Curator and One Room School Director, Helen Hodges, director, and Ronnie Richards, Immediate Past President and director.

The committee met and developed a new dues structure, which after many years of remaining unchanged, included a small increase necessitated by continuing cost increases. In addition, new membership levels were added to allow members and businesses to support our organization at higher levels if they desired. The Board of Directors approved the following Membership Dues schedule for 2016 beginning April 28th:

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<table>
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<td>Business Partner</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Leader</td>
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Did you know that …?   

by Joyce Zongrone

**Did you know that** more than 9,000 years ago Native Americans inhabited League City? The indigenous Karankawa were long gone when the first Anglo to own property here, Father Miguel Muldoon, purchased land in 1831 from Stephen F. Austin. In 1839, John Robert Derrick was issued 640 acres of land on the south side of Clear Lake. His family was among the first settlers in this Clear Creek community.

In 1854, the Butler, Coward and Perkins families settled at the conjunction of Clear Creek and Chigger Bayou. In 1872, Butler purchased a thirty-acre tract of land in what was to become League City, therefore becoming the city’s first resident.

Butler introduced and raised Brahman cattle, but after 1890 the early settlers turned to farming. In 1903, Japanese farmers immigrated here and began cultivating rice. In 1923 thirty Italian families arrived in the area and began raising vegetables.

The community became known as Butler’s Ranch until 1893 when J.C. League acquired the land from Father Muldoon and laid out the town site which consisted of a railroad depot, Straggler’s Hall, a general store, a saloon, poor and convict farms and the Clear Creek School House. The Great 1900 Storm destroyed that schoolhouse and in 1901 The Little Green Schoolhouse was built.

In 1897, League donated land to create League Park for public gatherings and concerts, featuring a two-story gazebo bandstand.

In the early 1900s, the Magnolia and Fairview cemeteries were created. Fairview now has more than 1000 graves. Magnolia was an African-American burial site.

Fairview Cemetery was built at the end of North Kansas Avenue, at the foot of the Clear Creek wooden Bridge, then the main road to Houston. It was originally the site of the Holmes and Waterman Brickyard, the city’s first business. Today it is the final resting place for many who fought in the Civil War, World Wars I & II and the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts.

In 1909, the first brick commercial structure in town, the two-story, Butler Building, housed the Citizens State Bank, a drugstore, a doctor’s office, a real estate and insurance office and a hardware store. Located nearby was a fig factory, the Lawrence Broom Factory, a newspaper and the Schenck family bakery. By 1914, League City was a dynamic community with a population of 500 regularly serviced by four railroads creating a thriving commercial district. During World War I, troops camped here and in 1915, Kilgore Lumber Company opened.

The League City Fire Department was formed in 1939 and by 1946 the Humble Oil Tank Farm had been constructed.

The 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed League City’s journey from ranches to riches.

Editor’s Note: These remarks were delivered at League City’s Community Celebration, December 29, 2015, at Hometown Heroes Park, commemorating the City reaching a population of 100,000! They were also placed in a Time Capsule along with 20 historic photos, to be opened in 50 years. The photos that were placed in the time capsule follow.

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**Original League Park Bandstand**

Photograph of the first bandstand, an elevated gazebo with a double staircase, at League Park. A group of four young men are posed for a picture on the structure. Two of the young men are reclining on the railing of either staircase; the other two are seated on the railing where the two staircases meet. 

*Photo Courtesy of Helen Hall Library, Caris Brown, Local History Librarian*

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**A Birds Eye View of League City**

Caroline Atkinson d’Etchegoyen, a former resident of League City donated “A Bird’s Eye View of League City” to the Helen Hall Library. The artist, J.M. Mahaffey, painted the picture around 1898 on a 6-by-4-foot rectangle of handkerchief linen. This painting is an extraordinary representation of League City at the turn of the century. “A Bird’s Eye View of League City” now hangs in the Local History Room on the second floor of the library.

*Photo Courtesy of Helen Hall Library, Caris Brown, Local History Librarian*

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**Butler Building**

Postcard photograph of “The Brick Building,” also known as the Butler Building. The large brick building, which houses the Citizens State Bank, has three horse-drawn carriages parked in front. Two men are posed in front of the building. One man is standing off to the right side, and above him another man is sitting in the window. Date: unknown.

*Photo Courtesy of Helen Hall Library, Caris Brown, Local History Librarian*
Pvt. George Ghirardi, U.S. ARMY

George Ghirardi was born in 1896 as the 3rd of nine children and the son of Italian immigrants. He was a member of one of the first families to settle in League City. George's father was disabled and his mother died during childbirth in 1905. George entered military service in order to allow his older brother to remain home to support the family. George Ghirardi was lost at sea on August 25, 1918 while crossing the ocean to join the war in Europe. He was 22 years old.

Photo Courtesy of West Bay Common School Museum, Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director

ITALIAN FARMER Boni Saracco (1877-1926)

Saracco was a native of Italy and truck farmer in League City. He died at age 49 from blood poisoning from pulling his teeth with a pocket knife and a pair of pliers. He left a wife, seven children, two brothers and two sisters in League City and a mother in Italy.

Photo Courtesy of West Bay Common School Museum, Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director

Japanese Rice Farmers

Photograph of Japanese rice farmers operating multiple pieces of rice-farming equipment. Date: unknown.

Photo from “PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY,” University Of North Texas, Denton, TX, Contributing Partner: Heritage House Museum

League City's International Hotel

Grandfather Johnson & owner John J Johnson

Photo from LEAGUE CITY A HISTORY FROM ITS BEGINNING TO 1912

Compiled by Judy Warco, Copyright Helen Hall Library, Caris Brown, Local History Librarian

Elmer Lawrence Broom & Mop Company 1909

Photo Courtesy of West Bay Common School Museum, Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director

Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad Depot in League City 1939

The Depot has been relocated to Dickinson Historical Railroad Center at 218 Fm 517 Rd W Dickinson, Texas

Photo Courtesy of West Bay Common School Museum, Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY ENTRANCE

Photo Courtesy of West Bay Common School Museum, Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director

League City General Store

Photograph of a small, unidentified general store in League City, Texas. A small table of produce is visible through the open front facade.

Photo Courtesy of Helen Hall Library, Caris Brown, Local History Librarian
The Bryan Museum announces the unveiling of the San Jacinto Diorama

Featuring over 1,200 hand painted figures and historically accurate terrain, The Bryan Museum's San Jacinto Diorama is crafted to show the engagement that decisively ended the struggle for Texas independence. By featuring realistic figures and formations that accurately recreate the monumental battle, this one of a kind display will allow visitors to imagine the report of the Twin Sisters canons firing, see the gleam of the weapons, view the authentic military uniforms, witness the battle formations, take in the surrounding landscape, and envision the battle cries as both sides rush forward to attack. Plan a trip to The Bryan Museum and witness the first display that puts you on the front lines of one of the most decisive and influential conflicts in recorded history, the Battle of San Jacinto.

The Bryan Museum is home to the world's largest collection of historical artifacts, documents, and artwork relating to the Southwestern United States. Open Friday through Monday 11am to 4pm, it is located at 1315 21st Street.

A must see, The Bryan Museum houses the largest collection of its kind in the world. 70,000 items, spanning 12,000 years, it includes treasures ranging from ancient Native American cultural artifacts to 21st century pieces - rare German, French, Spanish and English documents, exquisite saddles, spurs, antique firearms, exceptionally rare maps and books, fine art, religious and folk art, portraits, and documents.