June 24th Meeting

Our June speaker is author **Johanna Wycoff** who will discuss her recently published book, *Dancing in Bomb Shelters: My Diary of Holland in World War II*

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**Calendar**

**June 24, 2010 - Johanna Wycoff**  
West Bay Common School  
Children’s Museum  
210 Kansas Street, League City  
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm  

*Note...No meeting in JULY*

**July 3, 2010**  
**Teddy Bear Parade**

**October 7, 2010**  
**Living History Dinner**

**October 30, 2010**  
**Ghosts of the Past**

**December 11, 2010**  
**Historic Homes Tour**

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**from the president...**

**Ronnie Richards**

A lot of great things have been going on for the League City Historical Society thanks to a number of our dedicated members. The One Room School House has a new coat of paint and Phase I of an enhanced landscaping plan has already made a difference and continues today as I write this article. Special thanks to all who have pitched in.

I experienced a historic event several weeks ago when my grandson Eli Max Erminger came into the world. The middle name was selected to honor my father whose name was Maxie. Mom, baby and dad live in Little Elm, Texas and all are doing great.

Speakers have been selected for most of the remaining meetings this year but we do have a few openings so let me know if you have any suggestions. This month I am proud to welcome author, friend, member of the Galveston County Historic Commission and a volunteer for the Butler Longhorn Museum plus a former member of our Society Johanna Wycoff to tell us all about her recently released book. When World War II broke out in Holland in 1940, Johanna’s father encouraged her to keep a diary, for history’s sake, and she faithfully wrote of the events for almost five years. At the beginning of the war she was only fourteen. This diary is totally different from other W W II books, because it is written during the entire war, as seen through the eyes of a teenager. The diary describes in an honest way the family’s struggles, including stealing, to find food and clothing, hiding of Jewish friends, sudden Gestapo house searches, and constant fear.

After sixty-five years Johanna finally found the courage to translate the diary thinking it would be of historical value and would give insight into the teenage mind during times of extreme stress.
May 27th Meeting Minutes

Kevin Burke, Vice President, opened the meeting. He introduced the speaker, Charlie Gordy, who is with the Houston Archeologist Society. Mr. Gordy talked about the Bernardo Plantation. They plan to excavate the plantation home and the slave quarters.

Kevin Burke presided over the business meeting. Secretarial minutes and treasurer reports will be given at the June meeting.

Catharin Lewis gave a short report on the Museum. She also asked if 2 antique bonnets could be returned to the school. She had forgotten who borrowed them for a presentation of some kind, but they have not returned as yet.

It was announced that a work day to paint the school would be held on Tuesday. Bettie Moss announced that she will be working on landscaping also on Tuesday. She would appreciate volunteers to come help. She took up a collection to help purchase plants. $148 was collected.

It was announced that there will be a Memorial Day celebration at 10 A.M. at Fairview Cemetery. Meeting was adjourned.

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

We held thirty three schoolhouse sessions during May this year as well as opened for walk-in visitors and other daily operations. We enjoyed the groups from Austin, Lumberton, Kemah, Richmond, Dickinson, Pasadena, Houston and League City. There were 567 students, 29 teachers and 68 adults in attendance. We also so had 23 walk-in-visitors for docent talks during the month of May. We brought in $2,514.00 in program fees and $312.25 in gift shop sales during the last month.

June opened with a workday and I was pleased with the number of volunteers who came to help work in the gardens and to paint. We worked all that week and into the weekend. Alan Yang, Richard Lewis and I completed the painting of the schoolhouse. Betty Moss, Diana Dornak, Kathie Nenninger, Pam Kinser, Mike Conwell, Kathy and George Weisskopf, John Dupla, Doug McKee and Catherine Gill all worked on the gardens. Everyone worked very hard and we thank them so much for making a beautiful difference in the property. This was phase one of the project that needs to be done this summer. We still need other flowerbeds spruced up and trees to trim. The outhouse painting is also on the summer agenda. If you still want to help, do come by dressed in work clothes and I will give you something to do.

We have some classes scheduled for the summer months, so part of our time will be working with visitors. The other time will be spent doing research, inventory, working on exhibits and planning for the fall classes. We will continue to photograph the collection and get organized in our new storage space. We are making much progress.

Richard and I will be attending the annual Country School Association of America Conference in Oklahoma this year. The Museum will be closed June 21 – 24 during my absence.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

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Catharin Lewis Museum Director

Photo taken at our May 27th meeting
Volunteers are needed to help register, hand out prizes, photograph and for traffic control beginning at 9:00am.

Contact Doug McKee to volunteer.

The League City Historical Society website has a new look. Be sure to check it out at leaguecityhistory.org

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
David & Evelyn Garland
Robert & Billie Bauer

LCHS Web Check...
Webmaster...Greg Nenninger

Landscape Project - Phase 1
Chairman...Bettie Moss

The first phase of our landscape project has been completed. With the new plants and the fresh paint job by Catharin, Richard, and Allen Yang, you all will be proud of how nice the little schoolhouse looks now.

When it gets cooler we'll add one more type of perennial plant and finish a little brick work. Thank you so much for your monetary contributions for our new landscaping. I don’t have a list of you all who dropped money in the hat at our meeting, but we all know who you are. I have a little money left for a few more plants.

Also, I want to express a big THANK YOU to the people who helped move bricks, weed, spread the new soil, install our beautiful plants, deliver the mulch and spread the mulch. Those who contributed their time to the project were Mike Conwell, Diana Dornak, John Dupla, Catherine Gill, Pam Kinser, Catharin Lewis, Doug McKee, Kent Moss, Kathie Nenninger, and Kathy and George Weisskopf. It took us five days to complete the project. We installed a loquat tree, two yellow knock-out rose bushes, dwarf mondo grass (donated by Kathie Nenninger), yellow melampodium flowers and red dwarf penta flowers. We plan to remove the stump from the old orchid tree, and add another rose bush in that place. In addition, we transplanted some of the agapanthus from the shady side to the sunny side of the schoolhouse. We’ll complete that in the fall. It has been such a pleasure to work with a fun, congenial group who will just do whatever is necessary to get the job done. What a great group you’ve been! I do appreciate your dedication and time.

We have a small team of people who will continue the watering of the plants until we get through the hot summer weeks and the plants are more established. For now, this is the plan: Pam Kinser will water this week before she goes on an extended trip. Then beginning next week and until we determine that we can cut back on the watering, Diana Dornak will water on Mondays, Kathy and George Weisskopf on Wednesdays, Kathie Nenninger on Fridays and Diane Kerkhove as a vacation fill-in. I’ll check on the weekends and other times that we have extremely hot, dry days. If anyone else would like to fill in when some of these people go out of town during the summer, please let me know (bettie@texasmoss.com or 281-334-7805). We’ll probably need a few people to take a day here or there. I will work with your schedule to make it convenient for you. It only takes about 30 minutes to do. We have a hose that reaches all the plants. In the future, we may set up soaker hoses on a timer, but at this time we have to connect to water in the outhouse. We’d have to re-plumb the water source to provide an outside faucet. Anyway, we now have an attractive complement of plants for the schoolhouse, and we want them to stay pretty!
Historical impersonators bring history to life for third graders...

Kathy Weisskopf

Three of our historical impersonators portrayed early residents of League City for third graders at Bauerschlag Elementary School on May 25.

Sherry Frankovich, Catherine Gill and Deborah Gammon fascinated more than 100 students with their portrayals of Lucretia Coward Kipp, Sarah Girard Reifel and Lucy Cravey Gorsen.

Sherry Frankovich kept them spellbound with her beautiful 40-year love story with the surprise ending. Catherine shared what it took to be a survivor on the Texas frontier in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, and Deborah gave them insights into how long it took for communities to recover from hurricanes a century ago… The presentations were woven into a brief historical narrative given by Kathy Weisskopf.

After the presentations, Deborah and Catherine fascinated the students by showing them how ladies dressed in the late 1800’s. Lifting the skirt of her antebellum dress, which was loaned by J-Nean Henderson of Texasvictorianlady.com, Catherine showed the hoop skirt under it, and the pantaloons… and explained how tight the corset was…

The children were full of questions, including “Why did girls have to wear dresses?” They were surprised when Deborah told them that little boys wore dresses, too, until they were about 2 years old. One boy exclaimed “Yuck!” Then Deborah explained the reason -- it was simpler for Moms to change their diapers!

Bauerschlag’s librarian, LaDonna Littlejohn, and the teachers expressed their appreciation for the presentation, and plan to ask the historical society to send impersonators back for next year’s third graders.

“Our impersonators are fascinating to both elementary and middle school students,” says Kathy Weisskopf.

“Kids of all ages are fascinated by the way they bring history to life.”

Memorial Day at Fairview Cemetery

The Girl Scout Brownie Troop No. 7314 Annie Hankamer, Kelsey Maca and Abbie Chohrach, and troop leader, Kathleen Maca, helped us place the flags on the Veterans’ gravesites at Fairview Cemetery. Joining them were DAR members, Bobby and Alice Braud Jones, Barry and Deborah Gammon, and Ruby Cubley, Fairview Cemetery Association members, Doris and Gene Teets, Jack Phillips, and Joanna and Pat Dawson.