Is the rain over? How about the cold weather? Hopefully we are into the milder part of the year and can get back outdoors again unless like me, pollen is an issue for your allergies.

There are a number of interesting history related events coming up this month and next. The League City Library’s History Club - Speaker Series, in partnership with LCHS, continues at the library. The next topic is Texas Dance Hall Preservation set for March 28 from 7 – 8 pm at Helen Hall Library. Please try to join us.

April 14th the Houston Symphony League City Bay Area will include Butler’s Courtyard in their Day by the Bay 18th Annual Home tour. If you are interested in touring the unique buildings that make up Butler’s Courtyard and many others around the Bay Area please visit their web site at www.hslba.org. (continued on next page)

Welcome New Members!

Andy Peters, Debbie Groce
Business Members: All About Plumbing, Shipley Donuts
Business Leader: Home Town Bank of League City
A Word From the President....... Continued from page one..

Friday April 12th at 7pm a Murder Mystery Dinner will be hosted at Butler’s Courtyard. The murder takes place on the Titanic and dinner guests are encouraged to wear period attire. Information and tickets can be obtained from info@butlerscourtyard.com or by calling 281-557-5551. This is not a LCHS sponsored event.

Will we see a renaissance in old downtown League City? The City has three projects in various stages that will improve downtown and League Park. The first of the projects has been let. It is for the paving of South Park Street with new sidewalks, lighting, hardscape and landscape added. It will create additional parking and make the street more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. The overhead utility lines will be buried as part of this project.

The second project focuses on League Park improvements while the third project will impact Main Street from Highway 3 down to Illinois.

Thanks for your support if you are a new member or have renewed your membership for 2019. If you haven’t please go to our website at www.LeagueCityHistory.org and join or renew!

Ronnie Richards  ronnie@butlerscourtyard.com  281-797-1970

Watch for information about our Living History Dinner July 18th!!

There’s Hope For Historic Homes

For those who live in (or love) historic homes. People in modern day open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason......

When Brenda Didonna was house-hunting recently, she knew what she wanted: a home where the kitchen, living room, and dining room were one big, uninterrupted space. “In our old house,” said Didonna, a financial analyst, “I’d come home and make dinner and my husband would be watching TV in the other room, and a good portion of the evening we’d be apart.” She got her togetherness, all right, in a glorious new house in Millbury, MA. Now when she cooks and her husband watches TV, he’s in full view. Relaxing... While she works. “Frankly it’s annoying” she said. “I miss the walls”

Wait, what?!? For decades, Open-Concept, and the togetherness-loving, friend-filled lifestyle it was supposed to bring, has been a home buyers’ religion, the only way to live. Go to Houzz, the home remodeling site, type in “open concept,” and up come 221,569 photos. Over on HGTV, DeRon Jenkins, costar of the popular “Flip or Flop Nashville,” will tell you, as he recently told us, that an open floor plan “allows the love to flow.”

But now, experts say, people are starting to openly yearn for walls. “Buyers are moving away from uninterrupted views,” said Loren Larsen, a real estate agent with Compass, in Boston, who is hearing from clients who don’t want their kitchens — and the dirty dishes — on display.

“The pendulum is swinging back,” said Bob Ernst, president of FBN Construction in Hyde Park. “The reality is that life can be loud.” There may be few real estate trends as enduring or as aspirational as open concept — the name realtors and home designers gave to vast living spaces that are all about happy together time. The message is so powerful that to admit you don’t want to live in a house as open as a soccer field is to reveal something shameful: That you’re not a parent who wants the kids RIGHT THERE when you’re in the kitchen, your only alone time, or what used to be or what used to be your only alone time. That you’re not a host relaxed enough to chat with guests while preparing a three-course meal. That you’re not perfectionist enough to keep every inch of what used to be three rooms, clutter-free at all times.

“It’s time to end the tyranny of open-concept interior design,” said author Kate Wagner, an architecture and design critic, said readers thanked her for giving them a voice. “They didn’t know others felt the same way,” she said. The interior-wall-free style became popular in the 1970s, Wagner wrote in CityLab. “Overall, the open concept was a reaction against years of small, low-ceilinged living, which felt restricting and stuffy to a new generation of home buyers.” Oh, open concept, how you seduced us, made us believe that the fault is not in ourselves, but in our walls. Without them, we’d be free to soar!

As one real estate agent put it: “Whether [buyers] entertain or not, when they’re looking for a new home, they picture themselves entertaining. They want that big open space.” With a sophisticated lifestyle dancing in her head, in their dreams, customers removed the separating walls in the main living space. “It was going to be like a gallery,” one writer said. “We’d have art-viewing parties and it was going to feel like this cool loft space.” With its high ceilings, gorgeous exposed brick, and modern furniture, it could indeed feel like a cool loft. If you’re not the one who lives there, that is.

Unless the couple’s two school-age children are in their rooms, the couple can’t watch a TV show, have a neighbor over for a drink, or conduct a work call. Others get seduced by the fantasy of living in a pristine minimalist space (Continued on next page)
— per every photo ever taken of an open concept home — only to forget that when your first floor is one giant room, there’s no place for clutter to hide. “It’s all or nothing,” said Laurie Campbell, a mother of two. “I joke I’m going to get a huge print of my kitchen clean and just pull it down when I don’t feel like cleaning it.”

Scholarly studies on open-concept living, and what it means for family relations and entertainment are hard to find. But researchers have looked at what open space means in the workplace. Home owners might want to take note of these two examples. The headline of a 2018 Inc.com story read “It’s Official: Open-Plan Offices Are Now the Dumbest Management Fad of All Time,” and a Harvard study found open offices kill teamwork, and the lack of privacy drove employees to wear headphones and correspond via email rather than talking face to face.

There is hope yet for our historic homes and their time tested walls.

Excerpted and adapted from Beth Teitell article, Boston Globe, March 06, 2019 © “People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason.”

League City Historical Society
2019 Fundraiser Yard Sale

Bring items to 1518 East Walker St. (the Lewis Home). Try to call or text before you come, if we are not home, put it on the porches — BY APRIL 11th

Call Richard at 832-741-2680

LCHS Membership or Renewal Form included on last page of newsletter for your convenience. !!! We appreciate YOU!!!
About our guest Speaker
Steph McDougal, who will tell us about Texas Dance Halls

Steph McDougal moved to Texas with her husband Alan, a NASA engineer, in 2005. She earned a Master of Science in Historic Preservation degree from the University of Texas School of Architecture in 2008 and has been a historic preservation consultant ever since. Steph recently retired from the League City Historic Commission and currently serves on the Texas Historical Commission’s State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places. She is the author of *Lighthouses of Texas* (Arcadia Publishing) and contributed to *Buildings of Texas: Volume I* (Society of Architectural Historians).

"Don't miss hearing Steph talk about Texas Dance Halls! It is sure to be interesting and fun to hear about!"

March 28th – 7 – 8pm
@ Helen Hall Library
The Historical Society joined the Helen Hall Library’s history club for its monthly membership meeting at the library. Our speaker was Rebecca Diaz, Director of Volunteers and Guest Services for the Bryan Museum in Galveston. The Bryan Museum houses the private collection of J. P. Bryan, featuring the history and art of Texas and the American West. The building was an orphans home and private residence before being purchased and restored by Mr. Bryan, maintaining many of the building’s original architectural details. The museum is just one of the buildings and hotels restored by Mr. Bryan.

The next exhibit at the Bryan Museum will display quilts, called “Patchwork History: Texas-Themed Quilts from the Winedale Quilt Collection.” The exhibit opens in June. The Bryan Museum offers tours of its permanent and traveling exhibits, has a speaker’s series, and sponsors a local farmers market. See TheBryanMuseum.org for more information.

Meeting adjourned.

* * * * * *

April History Club Meeting

Sam Collins, III will present:
Jack Johnson: The Galveston Giant
We REALLY, Really, really need your help setting-up the tables this year. This is the largest Yard Sale we have ever had. PLEASE, Please, please put it on your Calendar.

League City Historical Society
2019 Fundraiser Yard Sale

Membership Benefit

Get The First Pick By Helping Set Up, FRIDAY 4/12 Starting at 9am
(Come Anytime You Can)
Members.............It is Time to Pay Dues!
If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. It is time to renew membership for 2019. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to: **LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77573**

**CATEGORY**

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

**BUSINESS CATEGORY**

- Business Member $100
- Business Partner $200
- Business Leader $300

*Please update your membership information here:*

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

Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: ________________________________State:____________ Zip: ____________

Phone: _____________________________Cell: ____________________________

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 postage.

**Please Note:** Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2020.