November 2009 Newsletter

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**November 19th Meeting**

"Art Matters"

Dion McInnis returned to the University of Houston System in 2001 as the Associate Vice President for university advancement at University of Houston-Clear Lake. Previously, he had served in the University of New Mexico School of Engineering, Sam Houston State and University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering.

In addition to his nearly 23 years in fundraising, alumni relations and communications in higher education, he is a photographer, speaker and author. He has been published in national magazines, newspapers, a professional development book and is the author of “Listen to Life: Wisdom in Life’s Stories” and other books. He also teaches and presents photography programs at more than six locations…Art Matters to Dion.

Dion has presented numerous workshops, including many for Bay Area Turning Point, Clear Lake Association of Seniors Programs and more. He also created Her Legacies Foundation, a nonprofit that saves women’s stories and the images they inspire.

**Calendar**

**November 19, 2009** – "Art Matters" Dion McInnis

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

**November 27, 2009** Centennial Celebration of the George W. Butler Building
122 Michigan Avenue, League City 6:00PM

December 10, 2009 LCHS Special Meeting

December 5-6, 2009 Holiday in the Park

December 12, 2009 Historic Homes Tour

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**from the president...**

**Ronnie Richards**

The November meeting will include a Special Meeting set for 6:30pm prior to our 7pm Regular Meeting. This Special Meeting was necessitated by the new Bylaws that require a Nominations Committee be elected at the September meeting which I failed to catch. The Special Meeting will allow us to get back on track.

Our next big event is the Historic Home Tour set for Saturday, December 12th. We plan to make this the biggest event of the year. Diana Dornak is chairing the event and in her usual fashion has assembled a great team and has everything very organized. Please let Diana know if you want to volunteer to help.

Our next speaker is Dion McInnis, Associate Vice President for university advancement at University of Houston-Clear Lake. His topic is Art Matters.

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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

The League City Historical Society will hold a Special Meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 6:30 pm for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee. The new Bylaws adopted in 2009, changed the requirements for the selection of the Nominating Committee and require that this Committee be nominated and elected by a vote of the members. Following the 6:30 pm Special Meeting the Nominating Committee will meet prior to the Regular Meeting to nominate candidates to fill the director’s positions on the Board. The Regular Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm and the Nominating Committee is expected to announce their selection of nominees and nominations will also be taken from the floor.

**On December 10th** a Special Meeting of the membership will be held at 6:00 pm to vote for those nominated.

Should you have any questions please call me at 281-797-1970 or Ronnie@hstr.com.
We thank Diane Gillette and Diane Kerkhove for this month’s refreshments.

April 30 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

Ronnie Richards welcomed members and guests to the monthly meeting. Richard Lewis introduced the speaker, Kenneth Brown, who is a professor at the University of Houston. He showed slides and gave a speech about the African slaves on the plantation in regards to their religion. Archaeological excavations of 4 cabins in Magnolia, called the Jordan plantation revealed West African traditions concerning the Cycle of Life and Bakongo Commagam. These traditions were assimilated into their Christian religion learned here in America.

Ronnie Richards began the business section of the meeting. He called on Catharin to give the Museum report. The Museum received a laptop computer from IBM, because of Richard Lewis’ many volunteer hours. Schedule for November and December are booked up. She is having an actor portray Abraham Lincoln at the Museum on Saturday at 10 A.M. Boy and Girl Scouts are invited.

We received $5,000 profit from the Living History Dinner. Attendance was less than last year.

Diana Dornak reported about the Historical Home Tour on December 12. She is taking pictures for advertisement. Scripts were given to the homeowners for approval.

Joanna Sharp had 2010 calendars for sale. The cost is $10.

Next meeting is November 19.

Ronnie Richards said he forgot to have the Nominations Committee elected in September. So, he announced that he had appointed Diana Dornak to this committee. He asked us to vote for Richard and Catharin Lewis to be elected. He called for the vote and most members raised their hands. He did not call for those who were against to raise their hands, even though there were some who did not vote yes. Then, Ronnie recognized Richard as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to give their report. Richard said that the committee had already contacted the 4 Directors. They had agreed to serve another term. They are Diane Gillette, Jeff Hansen, Doug McKee, and Richard Lewis. They recommended Helen Hodges to replace Carole Ragland, who has moved away. These five will be voted on at the November meeting.

Ronnie Richards dismissed the meeting.

Curatorial work at the museum continues to progress around the schoolhouse programs. We held seven classes in October and five programs were moved to November and December due to illness and weather. We had 141 visitors and 25 walk in visitors.

November is a very busy month with schoolhouse programs scheduled almost daily. We sponsored a Community outreach Program and brought Abraham Lincoln to visit. Friday we took Mr. Lincoln to visit the Bay Area Christian School and then the Lutheran South Academy to speak to third through fifth grade groups. On Saturday, Lincoln spoke to a full classroom of scouts and parents at the schoolhouse. It was a very successful event and everyone enjoyed having Lincoln come to visit.
Below is a link to a two-part article by Jim Fox in the Clear Lake section of the online Houston Chronicle.

**Take a tour of a one-room schoolhouse**

November 4, 2009 10:03 am by Jim Fox

Clear Lake Reflections blogger Jim Fox gets the grand tour of a one-room schoolhouse in League City. Curator Cathann Lewis spins amazing tales of history.

Part 1 -

Part 2 -

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**A Special Welcome to Our New Members**

Patricia Bryant
Ed and Berneice Linck
Ann Hacker

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**LCHS Officers & Board**

Ronnie Richards - President
Kevin Burke - Vice-President
Diana Dornak - Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich - Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf - Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen - Board Member
Diane Gillette - Board Member
Richard Lewis - Board Member
Doug McKee - Board Member
Joanna Sharp - Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis - Museum Director

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**2009 Historic Homes Tour**

Chairman...Diana Dornak

The Historic Homes is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 - 10am to 5pm.

The Tour Committee continues to work diligently to get this popular event all lined up.

Tickets are $12 prior to the event and $15 the day of the tour. Tickets are now available at Nana’s Attic, League City Chamber of Commerce, Park Avenue Show Place and West Bay Common School Children’s Museum.

Tickets may be purchased with a credit card. Call Diana Dornak (281-316-2122) if you want to charge tickets and she will take the information over the phone and mail you your tickets.

Pictured: Charlene and Doug McKee, owners of the Giessler Home - one of the homes on this year’s home tour. The McKees have completed recent renovations in preparation for this exciting event. Doug is one of our Board of Directors for the League City Historical Society.

Pictured is Deborah Gammon and Catherine Gill in front of the T. J. Dick Home at 720 Second. Deborah is Director of the Tour at the Dick Home and Catharine will assist her.

There are still a few spots left for docent positions. Scripts do not have to be memorized. Call one of the following Directors to volunteer if you are interested.

Diane Gillette - (The Butler Building) 713-893-4243
Deborah Gammon - (The T. J. Dick) 281-334-4950
Kathy Weisskopf - (The Giessler Home) 281-554-6317
Joanna Sharp - (The Medsger Home) 281-332-6636
Kathie Nenninger - (The Cox McQuirk Home) 281-334-4418

For a glimpse into the past - don't miss this great event. Hope to see you all at the Historic Homes Tour!
The George W. Butler Building is celebrating 100 years and is included on this year’s homes tour.

Pictured: Charlene McKee with a beautiful feather trimmed lamp in the living room of the Giessler Home which will be on tour Dec. 12.

Shop League City Historical Society for Christmas Gifts

The League City Historical Society has many items for your holiday giving. Pictured above is the League City Historical Society 2010 Calendar, a small Cookbook and Live Oak Tree Registry Book. They are all $10. The reprint of our Original "Repast and Reflections" Cookbook is $25.

As an added plus, we do take MasterCard/Visa or Discover.

LCHS 2010 Calendars Have Arrived

The 2010 League City Historical Society Calendars are available for $10 at the following League City Merchants: Nana’s Attic, Book Haven, and the Barn Museum.

Help Wanted

The League City Historical Society will have a booth at the Holiday in the Park on December 5-6. Jeff Hansen, (281) 486-7226 is in charge of our booth and needs some extra volunteers to man the booth for a few hours. Call him (281) 486-7226 if you can volunteer.

The former history librarian of League City’s Helen Hall Library and former member of LCHS, Dr. Heather Wooten has just published her latest book The Polio Years In Texas. Heather draws on extensive archival research as well as interviews conducted over a five-year period with Texas Polio survivors. Heather graduated from UTMB in 2006 with a PhD in medical humanities and the title of her dissertation was “Polio Years in Harris and Galveston Counties: 1930-1962.” Heather’s book is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com.