October 2016  Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

Calendar of Events

October 27  
“League City Haunts: The Unofficial Ghosts of League City”  
LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

November 17  
“The History of the Catholic Church in Galveston County”  
Lisa May, Archivist, Archdiocese of Houston  
*Meeting to be held at Old St.Mary’s Church

December  No meeting

December 10  
Historic Homes Tour  
10am-5pm

A Special Welcome to our New Members  
Larry and Monica Millican

October 27th Speaker

League City Haunts: The Unofficial Ghosts of League City

League City Historical Society presents League City Haunts: The Unofficial Ghosts of League City, Thursday, October 27, 7 pm, at the West Bay Common School Museum, 210 North Kansas Street, League City. Society member Joyce Zongrone will relate local lore and ghostly legends. Zongrone is a retired Navy Public Affairs Officer, teacher and journalist. She worked for the National Broadcasting Company in Burbank, CA, NBC News New York, the Galveston Daily News, The Houston Chronicle, The Bay Area Citizen and United Press International. She was also a technical writer for the Johnson Space Center, NASA, during the Challenger disaster. Joyce moved to League City after her return from Desert Storm’s Operation Southern Watch.

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  
281-554-2991

6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

LCHS is proud to announce that The Sally Wallace Preservation Awards given by the Galveston Historical Foundation has awarded the Outstanding Rehabilitation Award to LCHS Vice President Mike and Deanna Peterson for the Captain Meyer house. Additionally, board member, Melodey Hauch along with Lanny Martin have been awarded a Community Service Award for their book, Pioneer Families of the 1867 Settlement, Texas City, Texas.
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary

September 29, 2016

Doug McKee welcomed everyone. He announced our upcoming election for officers. Richard Lewis will be the chair of the nominating committee. Doug asked if there were any nominations from the floor; none was heard.

Catharin Lewis gave us the figures for the Living History Dinner. 77 tickets were sold; $2,000 was brought in from the Silent Auction; after bills are paid, we will make about $4,000.

Doug asked our guests to introduce themselves: Larry Millican (running for City Council Position #3); Monica Millican; Greg Gripton (running for City Council Position #5); Sebastian Lofaro (newly appointed to the Parks Department); Justine Gripon; Bill and Cheryl Hines; Rudy Salcedo (running for City Council Position #4); John Baumgartner, Deputy City Manager.

Joyce Zongrone announced that, once again, members of the Historical Society have won Sally Wallace Preservation Awards given by the Galveston Historical Foundation. Mike and Deanna Peterson have won an Outstanding Rehabilitation award for the Captain Meyer’s house. Melodey Hauch and Lanny Martin have won a Community Service award for their book, Pioneer Families of the 1867 Settlement, Texas City, Texas."

Doug introduced our speaker, Mayor Pat Hallisey. Our mayor has lived in the area for 41 years. Among other things, he is a former Parks Director and worked with Fay Dudney, Margaret Revis, and the League City Oak Tree Committee to save the Butler Oaks along Main Street. The Butler Oaks were planted by Walter Hall near was then the entrance to the Butler ranch. The Mayor’s better half, Janice Hallisey, began volunteering for the Park Department 20 years ago. The Mayor concluded by saying that the City should have an interest in preserving League City’s history. He then introduced John Baumgartner, the Deputy City Manager.

Mr. Baumgartner presented the PowerPoint slides being used to illustrate the plans and financial side of the Renovation Project for Main Street, including a slide of the newest plans for League Park and the proposed trail system.

Mayor Hallisey reminded us that a lot of things will change in League City in the coming months and years, but the Historic District will not be badly impacted.

Meeting adjourned.
Curator’s Corner

Catharin Lewis, Director/Curator

Age must be catching up with me and time keeps flying by me. August and September passed with eight schoolhouse programs, 317 visitors and lots of work done on the collection. I did take time off to travel with my husband which helped make the months pass quickly. I sent over 300 postcards to remind schools about the museum inviting them to visit and began registering the groups for the fall and spring programs. We are excited to see so many children and adult groups planning visits to our area again.

Progress is under way to make changes in some of the exhibits and improve the appearance of our outside yard. We are taking bids on the garden work and hope to get help in this matter soon. Meanwhile, if there is someone interested to take on this project, I welcome the help.

Now that the weather is getting cooler, the Icehouse needs some work and again we need help. Please call if you would like to work on this project and we will set the day to work together and repair the siding and paint.

We have had several large collections donated to the museum and we want to thank the following people for their wonderful gifts. These large collections take time to number, photograph and prepare for exhibition. We want to thank Ellie Rhodes from South Carolina for a school bell, 46 star flag, and thirteen school text books from her family of teachers. We also want to thank Tommye Randolph for the burgundy bustle dress to add to our collection. Many thanks also to Marion Fuller via Andrea Dickerson, her daughter, for the eleven files of papers, binders, notebooks and maps of early League City. This collection alone has been taking a month to number and all still need to be photographed. And most recently, we want to thank J'Neal Henderson for a large collection of postcards, cards and photos and Bert Schroeder for the book entitled, Journey to the Day Before Yesterday by E. R. Eastman. We appreciate all these items of school memorabilia or pieces of League City history.

There are two LCHS events in December and both are in need of volunteers.

- Volunteers are needed to work the League City Historical Society booth for Holiday in the Park for the weekend of December 3rd.
- Volunteers are also needed as docents for the Historic Homes Tour on December 10th.

Please check your calendars and let us know if you can volunteer for either or both events. Times will be scheduled closer to the events. Contact Phyllis White at phylliswhite630@gmail.com or Kathie Nenninger at knenninger@verizon.net
Thank you to all of the members for making this year’s Living History Dinner so successful! President Ulysses S Grant was an extremely informative speaker and was pleased to end his world tour in such a friendly place like League City. Ludwig’s Catering provided a delicious meal of beef tenderloin tips and ended with warm cobbler with whipped cream. We thank Butler’s Courtyard for donating delicious wine for the event. Members and local businesses donated an amazing variety of items for our very successful auction. Many thanks go to our volunteer MC, Mike Peterson, for stepping in at a moments notice. Of course, our generous host, Gary Walding of Walding Station, cannot be thanked enough for opening his beautiful facility for our event. A big thank you to our hard working committee members Richard and Catharin Lewis, and Joyce Zongrone.
The weekend of October 7-8, I had the honor and pleasure of being aboard the First All Woman Veterans Honor Flight, sponsored by Honor Flight Austin. Southwest Airlines flew 41 female veterans: 9 World War II veterans, 3 Korean War veterans and 29 Vietnam War veterans to Washington DC. At both airports we were greeted by processions, bands and water salutes from the Washington DC and Houston Fire Departments. Water salutes are given to departing aircraft only for honor flights, when the plane is carrying the coffin of a service man or woman and when the pilot flies his last flight. Each of us was given an escort. Mine was Corporal Andrea Wood, United States Marine Corp. She is a member of the Marine Helicopter Squadron which guards the Presidential Helicopter.

In addition to festive dinners and lunches, we toured the USMC Iwo Jima Memorial the Air Force Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials and Arlington Cemetery. At the World War II Memorial we were greeted by Senator Robert Dole, 93, who comes out every Saturday to meet veterans. At Arlington National Cemetery, we were saluted by the U.S. Army Sentinels during the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Our last stop was a ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Although I was one of the honorees, I was privileged to meet all of these brave women who went before me and made my military career a reality.

Many tanks to my LCHS friends, Kathie and Garet Nenninger, Richard and Catharin Lewis and Evelyn and Dave Garland who provided moving letters for my “Mail Call.”
Did you know that LCHS’s own Evelyn Garland’s Dad, Les Albrecht, operated the famous Dairy Dream for 21 years, from 1959-1980? As League City’s only hot spot at the time at 213 E Main St, it had the “best dip cones in the world,” according to Melody Land Leary, whose first job was there. Leary, now with Alamo Title in Clear Lake, worked there in the 1970s when she was in high school.

Evelyn worked for her Dad flipping burgers and dressing the buns according to order. Everything was made at the time of purchase unlike many fast food restaurants today who precook food. In 1959, Dairy Dream’s revenue was $30 a day. Five to six years later it increased to $600 a day! Evelyn says she was astonished when her annual paycheck reached $3,000 on the 1960s. Dairy Dream’s menu included burgers, fries, onion rings, chicken and fish sandwiches and ice cream, malts, shakes and Mexican food. Beans, rice, tamales and tacos highlighted a third of the menu. Refried beans were made from scratch and the rice was cooked all day. Hamburger baskets, real chili cheeseburgers and later homemade barbecue made with meat from Alban Reynolds Meat Market, filled the menu. Albrecht would test the ground meat first by cooking the burgers and watching them shrink to ensure he had the proper meat to fat content. Albrecht learned to cook Mexican food when he lived in Brownsville. According to daughter Evelyn, he had to learn to cook after his Mom passed away because there were no women to cook for him and his Dad. He was “known for his quality and for what a big burger he had,” Evelyn said. The men who worked for General Telephone came in en masse for lunch.

Between 1960-61, hamburgers were thirty-five cents each. While Burger Chef in Austin, a franchise, boasted nineteen-cent hamburgers, Dairy Dream’s claim to fame was their “two-handed burger.” Various sized Cokes went for 5, 10, 15 and 20 cents. Lunch and dinner baskets were $1.65 and $2.00.

As time went on, Albrecht revamped the whole kitchen and enlarged the grill to twice its size. He also added a speaker system and gave customers numbers. His intercom system was innovative for the 1960s. He screened the patio windows and later added an air conditioning unit. In the winter, he replaced the screens with glass window to retain heat.

The Dairy Dream was the teen activity center for League City. Friday night football hosted the pregame rush. Buses had to go through the town and pass by Dairy Dream to leave League City. If the opposing team lost, the bus would drive by quietly; if they won they would honk loudly. The City Icon was witness to the traditional Halloween water balloon flight across the street in Snell’s Grocery parking lot for many years. Eventually it was moved to Galveston County Park because there was little else for teens to do in League City at that time.

“Dairy Dream was where everything happened,” Evelyn said. “It was the like Arnold’s from Happy Days.” Teenagers would park in the lot and when Les Albrecht caught them necking, he would come over the speaker and say, “Y’all cut that out over there. We’ll not have any of that.” The young lovers would wave, smile and drive away.
League City Historical Society

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
Saturday, December 10, 2016

10am to 5pm
Advance Tickets $13 • Day of Event $15

Available at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum - 210 N. Kansas Ave.
or League City Regional Chamber of Commerce - 319 E. Galveston St. Ste B.

Directions to homes and sites provided with ticket.

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 N. Kansas Ave.

The Diebold Home
813 Third St.

The Dibrell-Coons-Henderson Home
720 Third St.

The Grace Gardens Home
712 Third St.

The Stationmaster’s Home
Park & Second St.

The Platzer-Donaldson Home
914 Second St.

Quilts will be on display on porches at many homes in the historic area during the Homes Tour.

For more information call 281-554-2994
or visit our website leaguecityhistory.org
Thank you for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2016. Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

To renew your membership, choose the membership level that is best for you, complete the form below and mail to LCHS, P. O. Box 1642, League City, TX 77574. You may also bring renewal and check to the next meeting.

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2015 or later, you are current for the year 2016

**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.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

(If Family Membership, please include names of family members.)

Address __________________________________________________________

City________________________________________ State________ Zip__________

Phone: Home Phone_________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________

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 on postage.