October 26th Speakers

Dr. Mary Smith and Melodey Hauch

“Butler Ranch Black Cowboys on the Chisholm Trail”

Dr. Mary M. Smith and LCHS member Melodey Hauch will present “Butler Black Cowboys on the Chisholm Trail.” This rich history began with Alecia Gallaway, Butler family historian, who discovered the connection between the Butler and Perkins family slaves who became Butler Ranch cowboys and later pioneer residents of the 1867 Settlement in Texas City. Seaborn Lyons, former slave of and long life friend of George Washington Butler, was League City’s very own “Butler Black Cowboy.” Their presentation will also discuss the history of our beloved live oaks and Lyon’s connection to them.

Please join us for a long-forgotten piece of League City and Galveston County Black history.

Mary Smith grew up in Texas City, Texas and graduated from Lincoln High School. Following her retirement in 2010, she returned home to Texas City, her roots, where she is proud to say that she grew up. She proudly proclaims that Texas City is a community with richness in its’ history culture and diversity. She approaches each new day as an opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to her.

She currently serves as secretary on the Galveston Historical Commission and as an advisor to the African American History Preservation Committee. And as such, she is diligently striving to preserve the history of the pioneer families of the 1867 Settlement in Texas City, Texas and the Black Cowboys on the Chisholm Trail. She currently serves on Texas City’s Parks, Recreation and Tourism Board, and Texas City’s Juneteenth Committee.

October 2017 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

October 28th
Live Oaks and Dead folks Fairview Cemetery Tour  
Noon to 4pm See flyer for details

November 30th
Mark Keehn
Harvey and the History of the National Weather Service Radar in League City

December 2nd
Victorian Fashion Show And Tea 1:00 – 3:00 See flyer for details

SAVE THESE DATES

We welcome our newest Members
Kirby & Linda McKillip
Lindy & Freeman Mendell
Matthew & Christie Stites
Jacqueline Valcoviak

The Mckee Family and the Fuller Family are in our prayers for the loss of one of their loved ones.
Historical Society Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

Mike Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Our speaker at this meeting was Jennifer Brewer, head librarian for Helen Hall Library. Jenny spoke to us about a project to gather information on the library’s history and place the information in a book for use by library staff and the general public. This project has launched several times, but not to fruition due to assorted delays, one being the City’s conducting a needs assessment of its facilities, including the library. This information-gathering project is now going forward, and volunteers are needed for the focus group work on November 18th. The group will ask questions of those attendees who have information about the history of the library. Jenny gave us information on this and other events:

- Library Focus Group for the history of the library, November 18, 1:00 – 3:00, in Helen Hall Library’s theater;
- League City’s Volunteer Fair, September 30, 12:00 – 2:00, in the Civic Center Building;
- Veterans’ discussion panel regarding experience during their time of military service and beyond; make greeting cards and help put together CARE packages for the troops, November 4, 2:00 – 4:00, in Helen Hall Library’s theater.

Jenny gave us a little history of the Library and outlined its strategic goals, which include: improve mobile technology, increase e-books, optimize programs, staff, and facilities, and survey citizens about branch libraries.

And speaking of new facilities, the much-desired West Side library branch has been put on hold, due to budgetary issues.

Jenny told us 700,000 books are circulated each year from the Helen Hall Library. Thousands of visitors come to the library each day. Of those visitors, only 3-4% are using electronic readers instead of books. She also spoke about the Library’s Monday night book club.

Mike opened the membership meeting. Richard Lewis volunteered to be the chair of the nominating group. He’ll be contacting those who currently serve on the Board of the Historical Society to see if they wish to continue serving, and if new members are needed, Richard will do the recruiting.

Susan Pierce and Katie Benoit Hake put forth the recommended change to Section 4.07 – Membership, of the Society’s bylaws, whereby all membership dues are due at the first of the year, and membership covers only that year, even if membership payment is made later in the year. This will make membership easier to keep track of and should prevent issues encountered when giving membership discounts for Society events. Richard made the motion to accept this revision, seconded by Kathie Nenninger, approved by all present.

Mike spoke about this year’s home tour. We’re not having a home tour this year because of the storm damage to homes that were being considered for the tour, among other things. Instead, as a fundraiser, the Society will have a tea and fashion show. J’Nean Henderson’s Victorian Lady will supply the fashion. Mike will again request Expense reimbursement through the Texas HOT program. The tea and fashion show will take place the same weekend as Holiday in the Park, December 2, in the T. J. Dick Home from 1:00 – 3:00. Janice Hallisey will assist with this event, but additional volunteers are needed.

Catherine Gill announced that on October 28, from 12:00 – 4:00, the Society will hold its “Live Oaks and Dead Folks” program at Fairview Cemetery. The event will include re-enactors in period clothing, telling stories of a pioneer family in League City, the Gordys. Tours will be given on the hour, and the cost will be $12 for adults and $6 for seniors and students.

Meeting adjourned.
“Life is divided into three terms — that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present, to live better in the future.” William Wordsworth

We visited England last month and I sat in Wordsworth’s school desk. What a wonderful experience to be a part of that kind of history. The trip will be a great memory in my book.

Since I was away, the museum was only open a limited amount of hours per week. We had one group cancel because of the storm, but did hold two other groups upon my return bringing in 95 visitors. More groups have registered for October and November with future dates still being added.

We need to thank Vicki Simon and Melissa Markle for their recent donations to the museum. Vicki donated a tailor’s Point Presser and Pounding Block, a pressing ham and a sleeve ironing board and material for our hands on programs. Melissa donated a child’s dress, a Victorian skirt and blouse, a Victorian slip and the most beautiful set of Victorian Picture Puzzle Blocks containing 80 blocks with six possible pictures in it’s original box. We have the blocks and child’s dress on display right now. We really appreciate their donations and thank them for thinking of us.
League City Historical Society is proud to sponsor the “Live Oaks and Dead Folks” tour of the Historical Fairview Cemetery in League City on October 28, 2017 from noon to 4pm. Tours begin on the hour: Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and last tour at 4p.m. The tour will include re-enactors telling the stories of the Pioneer Family, The Gordy’s. This event is intended to honor the history of some of the first League City residents and not intended to be a scary event. Rain or shine the tours will take place beneath a tent with chairs setup for public use. Fairview Cemetery is located at 901 N. Kansas St., League City. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the event and will be $6 for seniors and students and $12 for adults. For more information please call West Bay Common School Children’s Museum at 281-554-2994.
“Discovering League City through a Child’s Eye”

Student Photo Contest

Your Community, Your Stories, Our History

October 1 through December 15, 2017

Make a difference in your community through photographs. The photo contest is open to all League City residents from first through 12th grade. Winners will be announced as part of the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum’s Celebration Event on January 27, 2018.

Become part of the history of our community. You can leave us with a remarkable record of League City’s history, from the 21st century through a child’s eye about our schools, churches, businesses and the community we share. Tell your story in pictures about where you live, learn, work and play in our town.

Participants: First grade through high school, school year 2017 to 2018

First Place and second place winners from each grade level will be on exhibit January through March at the museum and each will receive special gifts once secured by our sponsors.

Contest specifics:

1. Must be the work of students and photographed in League City between September 1 and December 15, 2017.
2. Categories will be divided by grade, first through 12th
3. Students are encouraged to tell a story through their photographs
4. Entries can be submitted on line and via email or mailed to the museum
5. Winners will be announced as part of the museum celebration, Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Museum.

Contact: Catharin Lewis, project coordinator, 281-554-2994, oneroomschoolhouse.org or rklewis45@gmail.com or via mail to 210 North Kansas League City, Texas 77573
League City Historical Society
PRESENTS
A “VICTORIAN FASHION SHOW AND TEA”
By J’Nean Henderson, The Victorian Lady

Please Come & enjoy a unique afternoon as the Victorian Lady recreates the atmosphere of the 1800’s with her beautiful Victorian fashions and demonstrates the art of afternoon tea.

Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 from 1 pm to 3 pm.
720 2nd Street, League City, TX

Support our local hotels in League City, Texas:
South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center, 2500 South Shore Blvd 281-334-1000
Hampton Inn & Suites League City, 2320 Gulf Fwy South 281-614-5437
Candlewood Suites League City, 2350 Gulf Fwy South 281-534-9848
www.visitleaguecity.com

Tickets $30.00 per person
Call 281-554-2994 or 713-299-4777 for tickets
Thank you for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2017. Dues are for various types of memberships 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, Texas 77574. You may also bring the form and check to the next meeting or drop it off at the Schoolhouse Museum.

Please Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2016 or later, you are current for the year 2017.

**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: _____________________________________________________
(if 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 you newsletter, meeting minutes and or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.