from the president…

Well, Historical Friends, Hurricane Ike has come and gone and left his mark on us, for the rest of our lives.

As you can see from the photos that I took, Richard and Catharin did their usual great job of ‘battening down the hatches!’ And they did so on their own, while we were all scurrying around doing what we had to do to get ready for Ike. We are very lucky that we received no damage, when all around us were so many broken or uprooted beautiful trees. My hat’s off to them, as our property is realllllllllly one of their children, and I lead us all in saying a big THANK YOU!!

Our fall calendar is full, with exciting things ahead. The next item is the Oak Tree Festival, which will probably be postponed because of Ike. On October 9th is the Living History Dinner, chaired by Ronnie Richards, that highlights the life of Stephen F. Austin, whose land grants included some of our Historical District. This gala fundraising event should be the usual success, and the evening promises some surprises! Then Ghosts of the Past, chaired by Deborah Gammon, will be presented in Fairview Cemetery on October 25th. After Thanksgiving will come Holiday in the Park, at which time we will have our 2009 Calendars ready to sell, and then the Historic Homes Tour, chaired by Diana Dornak, on December 13th. Please calendar these dates and get involved!

Society member Caris Brown of Helen Hall Library’s History Room will bring us the program next week and will tell us all about the City’s efforts to preserve League City’s history, including all sorts of interesting historical collectibles. She will also talk to us about the City’s outreach in working with groups like us, on historical projects and research.

Next week’s meeting is a very important one, as the revised bylaws have been given to all of us so we can read it and make an educated vote to adopt them at that time. And once these new by-laws are in place, a nominating committee must be filled by nominations from the floor. The committee’s nominations will be presented at the October 30th meeting for election at the November meeting. We really need your presence for this meeting on September 23rd.

Lastly, just a note about the fascinating tidbit about Alice Jones’ presentation for our October meeting, in which she will talk to us about WWII Code Talkers.
We will have the 2008 yearbooks at next week's meeting...you will be quite impressed with chairman Kathy Weisskopf’s great product!
See you next week! You all are just great, and doing a fantastic job.

Joanna Sharp

August 28, 2008 Minutes

Sherry Frankovich

Joanna Sharp called the meeting to order. She honored Diana Dornak, who was the first president of our LCHS. She presented her with roses.

Joanna told about the October 9th Living History Dinner. She encouraged us to donate silent auction items. She then told about the Ghosts of the Past. There will be 9 members portraying Veterans of WWII. One of the veterans lacked a tombstone. Deborah helped her family get one from the VA. Hopefully, it will be put up before our event at the Fairview Cemetery.

Diana Dornak told us the 5 homes that will be on the Historic Home Tour on December 13. We will be able to tour the Ferrill home, the Hayes home, the Fig Factory, the Sneighr home, and the Milby-Butler home.

Business meeting began with approval of the minutes. Carole Ragland made the motion to approve the secretarial minutes of the last meeting. Kathie Nenninger seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Tommy Frankovich presented the Revised By-Laws to the members. Members read them and we voted to make a few changes. By-Laws were then sent to every member, so that we can vote on them at our next meeting.

Museum report was printed in the newsletter. Catharin Lewis is working on the records of the cemetery. She also, is working to get an historical marker for it from the state.

The yearbook is going to the printer. It should be finished next week. A special thanks goes to Carole Ragland and Joanna Sharp for selling ads.

Fay Dudney reported about the Windstorm Insurance. Galveston Historical Foundation is offering it to historical homes in Galveston County. We decided to help get the word to homeowners via the mail about this offer.

Joanna Sharp adjourned the meeting.

LCHS 2008 Yearbook

Kathy Weisskopf

Our beautiful yearbooks have arrived. They will be available at our September meeting.


Deborah C. Gammon, Chairman
The Hardy Family

The patriarch of the Hardy family, Walter Leroy Hardy came from Pike County, Arkansas. The son of Robert L. and Sarah York Hardy was living in Wood County, Texas before the age of eight. Walter married Inez Doshia and moved his family to Galveston County around 1925. Walter and Inez were the parents of seven children.

Their oldest boy, Roy Lafayette Hardy was born in Winnsboro, TX. Roy was mechanically inclined. He had married and divorced before enlisting in the U. S. Army 08 April 1942. After returning home, he wed again, and opened a garage with a brother in Galveston. This is when fate took over his life. Roy met Johnnie Louise Rogers, a divorcee from Seabrook. Johnnie had three children and was divorced. She supported her children by working as a waitress in a Seabrook cafe. She and Roy carried on their relationship for three years. Roy and his wife, Dolores lived at 911 33rd. St. in Galveston. On the fateful night of 27 September 1950, Johnnie went to talk to Roy about their relationship and how unhappy she was as the "other woman". Johnnie carried a gun. During the confrontation, Johnnie shot Roy in the chest. Bystanders rushed to aid and removed the gun from her hands. She cried and screamed as Roy Hardy was being put on the gurney and whisked to St. Mary’s Infirmary. Roy languished in the Infirmary for 11 days before he succumbed to his wounds.

On 24 May 1951 and after six hours of deliberation, a jury found Mrs. Johnnie Louise Rogers guilty of murder and imposed a five year suspended sentence.

If you visit Fairview Cemetery, you will note that another son, Travis has a tombstone close by. Travis was also a veteran of WWII and he is deceased, passing on 06 September 2006, but his tombstone is not marked with a death date. He was cremated and his remains are with his second wife in Bacliff.

There are many descendants of Walter and Inez Hardy living in the area.

Please join us on 25 October 2008 for Ghosts of the Past, The Greatest Generation, Veterans of WWII. The tours will begin at 1 p.m and run every 1/2-hour with the last tour beginning at 4:30. Please be sure to view the exhibit, Women and Children at War in the museum before or after you stroll the graves at Fairview. If anyone would like to volunteer for the event, please, contact me at 281-334-4950. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.
From The Finance and Grant Chairman...

Diane Gillette

The Finance and Grant Committee met on August 18 with our consultant from SSCI. Five grant proposals were reviewed by the committee and have since been submitted. The committee will meet again on September 24.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Diana Dornak, Chairman

The Historic Home Tour committee has announced the list of homes that will be open for the holiday tour on Saturday, December 13 from 10am to 5pm.

- The Ferrell Home - 620 Third Street owned by Barry & Patricia LaChance
- The Hayes Home - 1004 Fourth Street owned by Steve & Christa Parker
- The Fig Factory - 495 Coryell owned by Dennis & Judy Ruhl
- The Sneighr Home - 300 N. Wisconsin owned by Sharon Brown
- West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, The Barn Museum and The Ice House

Tickets will be available beginning October 1st at West Bay Common School, Nana’s Attic and Hole In the Wall Antiques. Advance tickets $12 - Day of the Event $15.

Brochures, tickets, flyers and posters are ready and committee members will be contacting the honored homeowners to go over plans for the tour and to set up photo sessions for publicity.

Members who would like to work on the committee or be a docent at one of the homes are very welcome and may call Diana Dornak - 281-316-2122.

LCHS By-Laws

Chairman Tommy Frankovich and his committee have taken on the enormous task of reviewing our By-Laws and making recommendations for changes. These By-Laws were presented at the August meeting and additional revisions have been now incorporated. Copies of these By-Laws were sent to our members for review. These By-Laws must be ratified at our September meeting.

The League City Historical Society

Announces its 4th Annual

Living History Dinner

“An Evening with Stephen F. Austin”

Butler’s Courtyard

122 Michigan Avenue
League City, Texas

Thursday, October 9, 2008

6:30 Social

7:30 Dinner

Come and meet Stephen F. Austin portrayed by Bob Hezner, founder of Texas Heroes, a professional troupe of historians/films who portray heroes and heroines of Texas in the first-person. Bob first portrayed Stephen F. Austin in 1996, at the request of the Texas State Historical Association, in honor of Austin’s 200th birthday.

$50 per person

Call 281-557-5551 For Reservations

Proceeds benefit the League City Historical Society

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Joanna Sharp  President
Ronnie Richards  Vice President
Diana Dornak  Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich  Secretary
Deborah Gammon  Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen  Board Member
Diane Gillette  Board Member
Richard Lewis  Board Member
Carole Ragland  Board Member
Kathy Weisskopf  Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director

Our LCHS Lapel Pin

Diane Gillette

The LCHS pins will once again be available for $5 at our meeting. Wearing a pin will be a great way to spread the word about our wonderful society.
The members of the League City Historical Society are most grateful to Catharin and Richard Lewis for taking care of our buildings prior to Hurricane Ike’s wrath and their steadfastness in preserving the wonderful history of League City. We all thank them for going above and beyond when we know that they had their own home and family to care for.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our October 30th meeting featuring Alice Jones, who will intrigue us with a program about WWII Code Talkers and an experience she shared with one of the Code Talkers.