September 30th Meeting

Former local history librarian at League City’s Helen Hall Library and former member of LCHS, Dr. Heather Green Wooten will be our featured speaker.

Heather will discuss her award winning book The Polio Years In Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown. Heather draws on extensive archival research as well as interviews conducted over a five-year period with Texas Polio survivors.

Heather has been honored with the T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award, an annual publications contest established by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in the 1960s. The contest was designed to recognize outstanding original research, study and publication in the field of Texas history.

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.”

Calendar

September 30, 2010 - Dr. Heather Green Wooten
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

October 7, 2010 Living History Dinner
October 9-10, 2010 Oak Tree Festival
October 30, 2010 Ghosts of the Past
December 11, 2010 Historic Homes Tour

from the president...

Ronnie Richards

Last month’s speaker, Carmen Moreno, author of Journey to the Aisle a story of Cultural Expectations was very informative and enjoyable. And this month’s speaker, Heather Green Wooten author of The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown, should be equally interesting. Heather, you may recall, spoke to us a few years ago on the topic of the Japanese rice farming community in Webster and League City.

We really need everyone’s help in filling the house at Butler’s Courtyard for the Living History Dinner October 7th. We also need silent auction items and event underwriters. Underwriters are needed to cover costs such as the speaker fee, speaker travel, bartender, parking attendant, program printing and so forth. Underwriters typically commit $200 but the range is $50 to $400 and of course we will accept more.

At our September 30 meeting, the members in attendance will elect a Nominating Committee of three or more members of the Society. They will elect a chairman and nominate candidates for officers and directors for next year. The nominations will be presented at the general meeting in October at which time nominations may also be made from the floor. The election will be held at the annual meeting in November and those elected will take office on January 1.

Those elected to the board serve a two year term. The terms are staggered and this year all of the officer positions terms are up. The Nominating Committee will need to nominate candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

The current Directors will continue to serve through 2011. This includes Doug McKee, Diane Gillette, Richard Lewis, Jeff Hansen and Helen Hodges. Museum Curator Catharin Lewis is a nonvoting advisory member of the board.
Please save these dates. October 30th is the Ghosts of the Past event and December 11th is our Historic Homes Tour.

May 27th Meeting Minutes

Sherry Frankovich

Ronnie Richards welcomed members and guests. He told about upcoming events. The Oak Tree Festival is on September 25-26. Sign up with Jeff Hansen. The Yearbook and Directory is being worked on. Please help us sell ads. The Teddy Bear Parade was held on July 3. They had the parade before the rain came. Living History Dinner is scheduled for October 7. The actor will portray George Washington. We need some silent auction items. Ghosts of the Past is scheduled on October 30 at Fairview Cemetery. The Historic Home Tour is on December 11. We will feature these homes: Old St. Mary’s Church, Farrell Home, Dribrell-Coons Home, Dowell Home, Johnson-Lothrop Home, and the West Bay Common School.

Ronnie introduced our speaker, Carmen Moreno. She wrote a book for her children about culture and marriage. She was very interesting.

Ronnie Richards finished the meeting by encouraging members to read the Museum report and the secretarial minutes in the newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

We thank Melody Hauch and Marian Fuller for this month’s refreshments.

"An Evening with George Washington"

The League City Historical Society presents its annual Living History Dinner on October 7, 2010 at the historic Butler’s Courtyard.

Portraying George Washington is Mark Collins, a stage, screen and movie actor, who just happens to be the minister of First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Mr. Collins portrayed George Washington in the latest Disney movie "National Treasure", starring Nicolas Cage as well as the Disney Channel’s miniseries entitled "The Revolution".

For information or to donate a silent auction item call 281-557-5551.

The 16th Annual OAK TREE FESTIVAL

Fall registrations are trickling in for September and October, however the November schedule is full. We have also been receiving winter and spring class reservations and look forward to a busy schoolhouse calendar.

We continue to work on the collection by updating information, photographing and making repairs when necessary. Research for future exhibits fills up much of our free time. We can see progress on all areas of the project.

Walk-in Visitors and gift shop sales have been slow, but we look for this to pick-up when Hurricane season is over. We are prepared for the groups when they come.

I have included a picture from our collection to share. It is an early photo of the Little Green Schoolhouse with the whole school in attendance. If anyone can name any of those pictured, I would love to hear from you. Call 281-554-2994. We are always looking for school memorabilia, early photos, programs, report cards, yearbooks, or such. Please consider donating these items to the Museum. If you would rather to just have us scan them, that would be wonderful too.

The Little Green Schoolhouse

Please note that The Oak Tree Festival has been postponed due to the forecast of continued rain and will be held at League Park on Saturday, October 9 from 10am-6pm. and on Sunday, October 10 from 10am-5pm. Our LCHS Festival Coordinator, Jeff Hansen, will be passing around the signup sheet at the September meeting for volunteers to help in the booth. Each shift will be two hours each. This is an excellent way for new members to become involved. Please contact Jeff at 281-486-7226 or by email at jeff.hansen@live.com
“Ghosts of the Past”
Catharin Lewis, Chairman
Deborah Gammon, Researcher

This year’s Ghosts of the Past event is scheduled for October 30, 2010 between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m. at the League City Historical Society’s Barn Museum and on the banks of Clear Creek’s Fairview Cemetery.

Costumed ghosts will be interpreting the stories of some of League City’s earliest immigrants. The prices for this year’s event are Adults: $10.00, Seniors over 60 years of age and Students between the ages of 4 and 18: $5.00.

The early immigrants to League City came for many reasons.

Hope Harrison Turner, president of the local United Daughters of the Confederacy © chapter, lived with her widowed identical twin sister in Webster. Their father, Harris K. Harrison migrated west after losing his plantation in the War Between the States.

The Brittnacher family came from Wisconsin but were originally from Germany. Their in laws, Fred and Caroline Winkler first arrived in League City and after many letters to Wisconsin extolling the virtues of the farm land in League City, their daughters and their husbands, Marie and Jacob Brittnacher, Hannah and John Brittnacher decided to join them. Hannah and John Brittnacher had one of the first dairies in the area and they also raised poultry.

The Saibara family came to the area for the rice farming venture. Seito Saibara, the grandfather of Harvey Saibara, came to the United States and studied in 1901. He brought his family to Webster and established some of the rice farming operation in 1904. Harvey, his grandson, served the U. S. in the U. S. A. F. and died a tragic death in 1951 when he was learning to fly.

Gerald Hewitt, a WWI veteran was born in Illinois. He came to League City to work in the Tank Farms. While living with his brother, LaVern, Gerald met a neighbor, Miss Effie Grissom. Even though she was 20 years his senior, the couple married. The Hewitts died in a tragic car accident in Minnesota.

John and Marie Ghirardi immigrated to the U. S. from Italy in the late 19th century. Marie died in childbirth in 1904 and left John with 5 small children to raise on his own. The family worked hard and became one of the pioneering truck farmers in the area.

The Ghirardi Family

Leslie Scott gave the ultimate sacrifice in WWI. He was, the grandson of one of the founding families in this area, the Thomas Perkins family from Louisiana.

John J. and Lena Enger Johnson were originally from Norway. They first migrated to Wisconsin and then settled in League City with their 10 children.

J.J. Johnson ran the first hotel in League City. Tragedy struck the family in 1925 when their son, J. I. Johnson took his own life. He is interred in Fairview in an unmarked grave.

If you can give your time to help make this a successful event, please contact me at 281-334-4950 or Catharin Lewis at the Museum. Still needed are money takers at the cemetery and at the museum, and 2 ghosts.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Richards</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Burke</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Dornak</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherry Frankovich</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Weisskopf</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Hansen</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Gillette</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lewis</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug McKee</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hodges</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanna Sharp Dawson</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
<td>Museum Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
League City Historic District
Commission Report
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC
...Fay Dudney
August 19, 2010

Staff reported one Administrative Approval for July and August for a business registration permit for a retail use at 613 East Main Street.

A request to construct a swimming pool on Lots 9 and 10 of Block 1 of the Hough’s Addition No. 1 at 818 Lewis Street was tabled until plans and drawings are submitted by the applicant.

Mr. Chein Wei, League City Parks Director, discussed improvements planned for Heritage Park to accommodate patrons of the park during street construction on Coryell Street.

The brick pad connecting the bar-b-que structure to the existing trails in the park will be replaced with concrete.

Water Smart has approached the City with federal funds to install a rain garden adjacent to the parking lot. Rain gardens filter run-off pollution, improve water quality and are excellent for water conservation. The rain garden is free to the city, but the City will be responsible for its upkeep.

Mr. Wei discussed proposed signage for the Boundless Playground in League Park to recognize those contributors to the equipment.

Wes Morrison discussed proposed amendments to the Sign Ordinance.

September 16, 2010

Commissioners conditionally approved a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for construction of a pool house/work shop, a swimming pool and a 7’ fence to surround the pool and structure at 818 Lewis Street with the condition that drawings for the structure’s doors, windows and color samples be submitted for administrative approval before a building permit is issued to the applicant.

The removal of a flat roof which will be replaced with a hip roof, on an existing building located at Illinois and E. Main Street, was approved by commissioners.

Commissioners conditionally approved two house elevations for construction in the Township subdivision, Kansas and 7th Street. Four additional elevations are to be revised by the developer at commissioners’ request. Upon submittal of revised drawings by the developer, the drawings will be reviewed, and possibly be administratively approved by a three member committee of the commission.

A request for entry signage submitted by the developer was tabled.

A sign permit for retail use at 615 E. Main Street was administratively approved by the Historic District Commission designee.

League City Historical Society
HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
Saturday, December 11, 2010
10:00am – 5:00pm
Advance Tickets: $12.00 - Day of Event: $15.00

See six (6) historical sites and hear fascinating stories about League City at the turn of the 20th century.

Old St. Mary Church – 620 East Main
The Ferrell Home – 620 Third
The Dibrell-Coons Home – 720 Third
The Dow Home – 320 N. Kansas
The Johnson-Lothrop Home – 1512 E. Walker
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 N. Kansas

Tickets available at: Nana’s Attic, Book Haven, Park Avenue Showplace, Butlers Longhorn Museum, League City Chamber of Commerce and West Bay Common School Children’s Museum.

For more information call: 281-554-2994

The next Historic Homes Tour meeting is Sept. 29th at the home of Diana Dornak, 1013 Texas Ave., LC. at 10am. Anyone interested in helping is welcome.

October is Texas Archaeology Month

The Brazoria County Historical Museum will sponsor an evening lecture series dedicated to Texas history and archaeology during October from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the museum, located in the 1897 Brazoria County Courthouse, 100 E. Cedar St. The lectures are free.

For Information: Michael J. Bailey, 979.864.1591, curator@bchm.org; ww.bchm.org.


