



## Remember When.....



In 2009 the Milby Butler Home was on the LCHS Historic Homes Tour. Owner, John Dupla helped visitors brand the bench pictured above and donated it to the museum. The bench is still in front of our museum. What a wonderful treasure!!



When the League City Friends Church was on our Historic Homes Tour the ladies at the church made and served all the refreshments during the tour. We will never forget their friendly and welcoming manner and their wonderful cookies!

## From The President



“Hi Neighbor”

This greeting was first heard by me from our former neighbor, Mr. Walter Hall.

Memories abound when I greet my neighbors with the same greeting, “Hi Neighbor”, Being a part of this old townsite since 1950.

I some-times forget how blessed my family and especially myself, have been.

Everyday when walking our dog Sneakers and Termite, before,.... I get reminded how fortunate we are to have a beautiful area to live in and enjoy all the time..... Hearing the wildlife (especially the owls) in the trees and sounds of our loved ones, furry pets, birds, squirrels, etc.

It is good to hear the morning bustle of neighbors getting ready for work or pleasure, always waving or just saying “Hi neighbor”. When I think of our city having a lot of diversity, I know each and every one of us has a memory of the goodness of League City, and always will.

Thanks to all of League City Historical Society for keeping history alive by having events like the WALKabouts that have been such a joy to a lot of neighbors.

In Hawaii “Aloha means Hello and Goodbye.. so does “Hi Neighbor”.

Doug McKee, President.

Remember when.....continued.

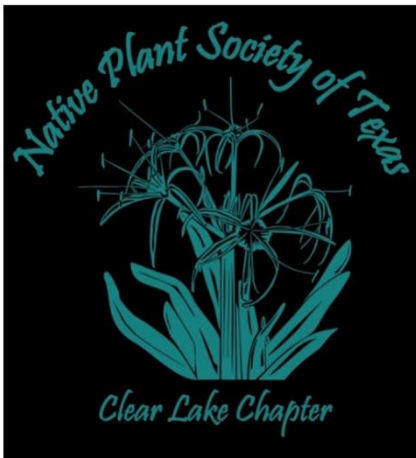


Frankie Blansit was a docent at the Ferrell Home during the 2011 Historic Homes Tour. We miss Frankie!! She now lives in Pasadena.



Left to right: Debbie Groce, Jackie Peden, Kathie Nenninger and Richard Lewis were docents at the Cox McQuirk Home during the 2009 Historic Homes Tour.

\* \* \* \* \*



## In the Garden Classroom..

**Saturday, May 8th  
10 am to 11 am**

**"Transforming your landscape  
with native plants"**

LCHS in partnership with:  
**Native Plant Society of Texas  
Clear Lake Chapter**

Patricia Steinke\* from the Native Plant Society of Texas Clear Lake Chapter will talk about the importance of transforming non-native landscapes to more native, giving benefits to us and nature... a real win-win situation. This will be an interactive meeting with plenty of information and time for questions.

**This is a free event with donations accepted.**  
Limited bench seating available, lawn chairs welcome!

\*Patricia has been a biology teacher for 37 years, a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas Clear Lake Chapter for 5 years, served as treasurer and is currently a member of the community outreach committee for NPSOT CL.



## WALKabout Old League City, 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

The weather was a bit chilly and threatened rain but we had a completely sold out event for our April 17th WALKabout! Director Deborah Gammon provided hours of research as well as volunteering to docent a walking group. Member Joyce Zongrone presented the complete history of the Captain Meyer Home to all the groups. Member Catherine Gill and Director Katie Benoit volunteered to lead up the two other walking groups. Transportation was provided by LCHS Vice President, Richard Lewis and Director, Mike Peterson. The event was promoted by the City of League City on Facebook and they providing swag bags of goodies for all of our guests. Lots of happy guests and another successful WALKabout!



After the WALKabout, LCHS received a wonderful guest review:

"Betty and I just took a League City Historical Society WALKabout tour of old League City. It was a fun experience and we enjoyed it. Our docent was well prepared and there was a lot of new "old" information we learned. I highly recommend any event prepared by the League City Historical Society." Gary R.



## Excellence in Preservations Awards

Before the April WALKabout, the Sam Houston Chapter NSDAR presented two Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards to homeowners in the Historic District. Board Member Mike and Deeann Peterson received recognition for their home, the Captain Meyer Home, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street as well as the TJ Dick Home on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Neighbors Barry and Patricia LaChance were recognized for their preservation of the Ferrell Home on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.





# Memorial Day 2021

This year LCHS is partnering with the City of League City for a Memorial Day event. After the ceremony at the cemetery, guests will be invited down to the museum grounds to place a poppy in a memorial garden around the Schoolhouse Museum. This will be an opportunity to remember as well as to teach. Our six windows of history, on the side of the Bus Barn Museum, will tell the story of the past 100 years of war and conflict. The Garden Classroom will feature "In Flanders Fields" and explain the importance of the poppy and how it has come to symbolize soldiers who have died in battle. Several guides in period clothing will help guests explore the displays and place poppies in the garden. Cool water will be provided by the City. Guests can come and go from 11 to 2 on Monday, May 31st. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please send an email to [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com) and let us know how you would like to help.



Thank you again to The Sign Shop for another creative and eye-catching solution to a very vague and badly described idea. These poppies can have a message written on the back and be attached to a trellis in our memorial garden.

## HOME OF MERCHANT MARINE SPANS TWO CENTURIES

By Joyce Zongrone

One of the gems of the April 17 Walkabout was the 1905 Captain Anthony Gerit Meyer home at 721 Third Street and Kansas. Meyer came to Texas in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and his legacy still lives on into the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Queen Anne style home, asymmetrical with an ornamental façade, was built in 1905 by the Dametz family with reclaimed wood from the 1900 Storm. It resided at 802 Beaumont St, amidst ten acres of orange, grapefruit and pecan trees for 100 years. When a developer bought the property, League City Historical Society members, Michael Peterson and his wife Deeann, decided to save the house and restore and preserve it. Deeann is the great-granddaughter of CAPT Meyer.

In 2013, the house was moved one mile north of its original location and relocated to the League City Historic District.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor had to be removed and was reconstructed to meet city codes and windstorm guidelines. Its restoration took three years. The original façade of the home was recreated along with three gables matching the roof's original pitch.



The Captain Meyer Home

Wood sash windows were ordered recreating the vintage windows. Matching siding was installed to resemble the original.

First floor interior structural walls, floors and ceilings were kept intact. Existing sheetrock, plumbing and wiring were replaced to meet building codes. The original Heart Pine floors salvaged from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor replaced the downstairs damaged flooring, keeping the same patina throughout the first floor. Second level flooring was replaced with custom-milled 110-year-old matching Heart Pine. Custom board and batten, bead board and shiplap, were used in various rooms to recreate the unique look of the era. The project took three full years costing \$200,000 including the \$36,000 moving fee.

Contractors completed the structural portion as Mike and Deeann completed many of the other restoration requirements. (Continued on next page.)

(Home of Merchant Marine Spans Two Centuries – continued.)



Captain Anthony Gerit Meyer

CAPT Meyer came to the US in 1884 from Holland. His family arrived at Ellis Island and lived for a while in New York where Anthony's father was a tailor and wanted his son to follow in his footsteps, but Anthony was more interested in going to the docks and watching ships. At age 11, he made friends with the captain of a sailing ship, convincing him he was an orphan. So, the captain took him aboard as a cabin boy and he literally ran away from home. The ship transported logs and lumber to the Orient, via Seattle, Portland and Vancouver, Canada. Anthony was gone for four years and his family presumed him dead.

When the ship finally returned to San Francisco, he went home. His distraught father was so angry, he whipped him for leaving, so Anthony ran away again!

He became a professional wrestler in Seattle in his early twenties. He also worked for the railroad in Bakersfield, California.

After working odd jobs in various cities in the Southwest, he ended up in the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1897-8, he roomed with author Jack London. In the early 1900s, he worked on the Panama Canal as a railroad brakeman and engineer.

He made his way to Tampico, Mexico and operated a ship's chandlery business during Pancho Villa's rampage. Villa's enemy, Venustiano Carranza, tried to steal supplies from Meyer, so he took his goods and left. He escaped aboard a British ship ending up in Galveston. While on shore leave, he met and married his wife, Mary O' Sullivan.

His son John Meyer was born in 1922 in Houston. In 1926 he moved to League City with his family to work for Humble Oil at the Webster Tank Farm.

(Continued on next page.)

(Home of Merchant Marine Spans Two Centuries – continued.)

Never giving up his love of the sea, he joined the Merchant Marine during World War II at age 61, receiving a waiver for his age. He was on a supply ship in the South Pacific bringing ammunition and aviation fuel to the troops as they captured strategic islands. During this time, he was promoted to the rank of Commander.

He also served again during the Korean War.

His 1963 death certificate lists a heart attack at age 82. His wife, Mary, survived him by 26 years and died in 1989 in League City at age 101.

The fully restored home made its public debut in December 2015, during the League City Historic Homes Tour, hosting over 400 visitors.

In 2018, new visitors arrived in the form of a swarm of bees. The bees made their home in one of the front porch columns. The owners relocated their visitors to a new hive by hiring a beekeeper who cut out the hive using a bee vacuum to collect the swarm. The airflow eased them into the vacuum where they moved about easily and were transported to a new hive.

The home also now permanently hosts a woodpecker in another column.



Meyer Home being moved to it's new location in 2013.



Captain Meyers' Bees



## League City Historical Society

### 2021 Officers

Doug McKee	President
Richard Lewis	Vice President
Amber Murphy	Secretary
Katie Benoit Hake	Treasurer

### 2021 Directors

Diana Dornak	Director
Deborah Gammon	Director
Helen Hodges	Director
Darryl Krogman	Director
Catharin Lewis	Director
Linda Michael	Director
Michael Peterson	Director
Susan Pierce	Director
Ronnie Richards	Director

### Other Historic Events Happening In Our Area.

**47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Galveston  
Historic Homes Tour**  
May 1,2,8 & 9, 2021  
Ticket Prices Increase on  
Monday April 26

## Minutes of January 16, 2021 Meeting

Amber Murphy, Secretary - January 16, 2021

The meeting called to order by President Doug McKee in the Outdoor Classroom at WBCS.

- Minutes of September meeting were read and approved. December minutes will be sent to everyone by email from the President. Approval will be done via an email.
- Treasurer Katie H presented her report and discussed 2020 budget. Report was approved.
- Success of our Yard Sale was discussed.
- Dues mailing will be done by Diana Dornak.
- A motion to use Bowers & Sadler CPA for 2020 Tax Return was approved.
- Phone and internet expense was negotiated by Richard L. to get the cost down.
- Past Perfect: Catharin L. asked to increase budget for PP to buy a license that allows for 2 users. All voted to approve.
- Mike P. discussed website analytics.
- Virtual Classroom Programs were discussed. Diana D. motioned we put \$750 in budget for that expense. All voted to approve.
- Security systems were discussed. Mike P. Will research and it was approved to allot \$750 for a security system.
- It was mentioned the Outdoor Classroom needs to be wired before summer. Mike P. and Richard L. will make sure this is done.
- CCISD Covid update.
- Eagle Scout projects are in the works. This includes lattice work, fence on alley extended, gate placed in fence & walkway.
- Leaks in the barn need to be sealed with rubber. Richard L. will get this done.
- New Business: Newsletter was discussed Walkabout's were discussed. Katie brainstorming different themes.
- Ghost Tour: It was suggested that group do research and branch out to other parts of city
- Historic Home Plaques were discussed Richard L. has researched and has new vendor.
- Meeting was adjourned.



If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

# League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:

**LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77574**

## CATEGORY

- |                          |                          |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student/ Active Military | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (60 and over)     | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Couple            | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single (Individual)      | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family                   | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting Patron        | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Membership          | \$400 |

## BUSINESS CATEGORY

- |                          |                  |       |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Member  | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Partner | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Leader  | \$300 |

*Please update your membership information here:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(For 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 your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.
- Check if we may list your name and address in our membership directory. This publication will only be distributed to LCCHS members and will not be used on our website.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2022.