



League City Historical Society
League City, Texas



P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574 281-554-2994 leaguecityhistory.org Greg Nenninger, Webmaster

February 2020

LCHS Newsletter

Diana Dornak, Editor



**Members & Friends
Don't Miss Our
February 27 Meeting !**

**“So You Want To Climb
Your Family Tree?”**

- *A genealogy workshop*
By Nick Cimino

**It's That Time Again!!
2020 Dues Are Due!**

A membership renewal form is included in this publication for your convenience; or you may wish to go online to www.LeagueCityHistory.org and pay them online. We appreciate your continued membership, help and support!



From the President



Valentine's Day is gone and the Mardi Gras season is upon us. With so much always going on it can be easy to miss our regular monthly meetings which are the last Thursday of each month with a few exceptions. Our next meeting is Thursday, 7pm February 27th at the Museum.

I want to thank our volunteers for their hard work in getting the Barbershop Icehouse painted. Special thanks to David Hake for his efforts along with Richard Lewis and Mike Peterson. I'm sure there are others I may have missed so please forgive me if I did.

The school house program continues and has expanded to include a number of merit badge classes for Girl Scouts created by School Director Sarah Eubanks. If you want more information about school and Scout programs at the West Bay Common School visit www.OneRoomSchoolHouse.com

Ronnie Richards

ronnie@butlerscourtyard.com

281-797-1970

LCHS
Board Members

Ronnie Richards
President

Richard Lewis
Vice President

Katie Benoit Hake
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Diana Dornak
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Director

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Linda Michael
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Director

League City Historical Society 2020



Saturday, April 18

1518 East Walker St.

8am to 2pm

**Time to clean out those closets, nooks
and crannies, and get rid of things
you don't need!**

We need your "stuff"!

We need your "help"!

**This event is one of our largest
fundraisers of the year!**

Let's make this "fun"!

For more information contact:

Darryl Krogman- DarrylKrogman@yahoo.com

or Richard Lewis – rklewis45@gmail.com



Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7 PM –
Schoolhouse Museum



So You Want To Climb Your Family Tree?
- *A genealogy workshop*

Do you know the names of your eight great-grandparents? Have you wondered if the stories that you have heard about your ancestors are true? Have you submitted your DNA to a popular website and are you confused by your results? Or are you just curious to find out why genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the U.S.?

Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogist and President of the *Bay Area Genealogical Society* will present a genealogy workshop at League City Historical Society, 210 N Kansas Street, League City in the Barn Museum. Meeting starts at 7 pm on the last Thursday of the month, February 27, 2020.



New LCHS Directory Coming!

How many times have you wanted to contact a League City Historical Society member and couldn't remember or find a phone number or address for them? I know that has happened to me lots of times! And I know, I know,....the internet and/or your phone has everything....."nearly" but having that little directory where you can find the contact information for your friend at League City Historical Society when you need it, is soooo..."convenient and helpful". Consequently, the Board has given permission for me to work on a new directory for us. It probably won't come out until May or June. First, we have to reverify all member information and give members a chance to opt out if they so choose. And..., of course, that information will not be put on our new website, it is for "members only" but each member who wants a membership directory will be able to have a current one.

A few small ads will be sold to help defray cost of the publication so if you are interested in promoting your business or know someone who might want to purchase an ad, let me know!

Diana Dornak – diana.dornak1@verizon.net - 281-316-2122

World War II - Fairview Cemetery

By Deborah Gammon

This month I would like to start a column in which I tell the stories of the families of World War II veterans buried in Fairview Cemetery, League City. I will begin with the Atkinson family who resided at 803 2nd St.

The Atkinson family of League City began in Brooklyn, N.Y. Edward Spear Atkinson was born in 1845 in Brooklyn. By June of 1880, Edward S. Atkinson was living in Refugio County, Tx with his Texan wife Annette Russell. They were married in Refugio County, Tx on 15 February 1877. They would have six children. One of those six was John Paxton Atkinson born 11 February 1878 in Refugio County. By the 1900 Census, Edward and Annette Atkinson had moved their family to Brazoria County, Texas. John P. Atkinson and Ava Pauline King were wed in Brazoria County on 14 November 1906. They had two lovely daughters, Caroline and Flora Atkinson.

Caroline Atkinson was born in League City on 10 September 1907. Her sister Flora Annette Atkinson was born 6 December 1910 in League City. Both of these ladies would service their country in World War II.

In 1925, the family moved to Houston but returned to League City about 1930. John P. Atkinson was a bank cashier. He assisted in the organization of Citizen's State Bank. He later worked for Humble Oil. Their mother was a housewife-as were most women at that time. But even Mrs. Ava Atkinson was known in League City for her charity work and was very instrumental in the Red Cross during World War I.



Caroline Atkinson
D'Etchegoyen

Caroline worked for Humble Oil after her formal education at the University of Texas. She worked in one of the original high-rise office buildings in Houston. The summers were miserable - they didn't have air conditioning. The ladies in the building would use blotters from the storerooms and put them in their armpits to counter act the effects of perspiration. They couldn't open the windows or their papers would blow away.



Flora Annette Atkinson

World War II began in 1941 and Caroline wanted to do as much as she could to help her country – as did everyone. She volunteered to sell War Bonds after work. She was given a corner across from Union Station, in a low-income area of Houston. She had a Boy Scout as a guard. *(continued on next page)*

World War II – Fairview Cemetery By Deborah Gammon – continued.

The people didn't have much and lived in tiny apartments and were extremely poor, but they gave to the War effort.

Caroline knew then that she had to do more. As luck would have it, there came an announcement that an organization was forming for women to join the military.

This was a first for the United States. Only a few very qualified women would be selected to run Officer's training school. Oveta Hobby had been made the head of the organization. Hobby Airport was named for her family.

Caroline had to pass an IQ test and all the tests given to the men for officer's candidate school. This organization became the WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS. (WAAC).

After Caroline passed all the tests, she reported to Fort Sam Houston. After being sworn in at the Old Market Square, she was sent to Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She traveled by train, then by truck. The truck had benches in the back on both sides. Caroline said in the papers and interviews that she did for Helen Hall Library that she had NEVER been in a truck before.

The most difficult thing about being in the military was the uniform. It was difficult getting used to the khaki colored-everything-underwear and cotton stockings. She hated those stockings, but after nylon was no longer available because of the war – she loved her cotton stockings. Their hats were made by Dobbs and Stetson and their shoes by Hill and Dale.

After her graduation from Officers training, she was sent to Daytona Beach, Fl. She was there from October 1942 to May 1943. She was an intelligence officer. She taught classes in defense against air attack, defense against chemical attack, how to identify a plane (remember, we didn't have a lot of planes back then), and how to wear the uniform. She then went to Fort Lawton in Seattle, Washington, then on to the Pentagon, in Washington, D. C. and later she was sent to San Francisco.

While she was in D. C., she met her future husband, Charles D'Etchegoyen. He was born in Canada. His father was French and his mother was an American. He was serving in the United States military, too.

After the war in 1945, Caroline and her new husband moved back to League City. Charles worked for Exxon. Caroline became very busy with the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and Daughters of 1812. These are all organizations that honor someone's lineage.

Caroline lost her husband in 1985. She joined her husband in Fairview Cemetery in 2006. She was 98 at the time of her death.



LCHS Workshop

Learn How To Make Sugar Easter Eggs



March 16 - 7:00 PM

West Bay Common School Children's Museum

210 N. Kansas



There is no charge for this workshop which is being taught by local artist and longtime member Diana Dornak. She has been making these unique eggs for over 50 years. To reserve your place either call 281-554-2994 and leave your name and phone number or email leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com.

Detailed instructions will be available to take home.

Hope to see you there!!

Other Upcoming Monthly Meeting Programs

March 26 “*Deeply Rooted in Texas*”. The Groce family history. Part of the original Texas 300 families, long time League City resident Debbie Groce will be presenting.

April 30 “*Lookie What We Have Here*” A look inside Dr. Davis’ medical bag. From the museum collection, a registered pharmacist, Judy Obenland Preston will see what a doctor on house calls used 50 years ago.

May 28 “*Crisis response therapy dogs.*” Their training and handling and use in emergency situations by Sally Farley from Crisis Response Team, Houston.

* * * * *

**We are still looking for that special person!
Is that person you?? Think about it and
here’s our ad again!!!**



**Time to
renew
membership!
See next page
for renewal!**

HELP WANTED

**Do you own a cleaning service?
Know someone that does?
Are you a clean person?**

**We need a volunteer to vacuum and dust the Museum once a week.
Maybe a cleaning service will volunteer that one hour a week.
It would only take one hour of your time.
Won't you please consider it.
We really need help in this area of support for your Museum.**

GOOD BENEFITS PACKAGE

**Good Vacation Package*
High Job Satisfaction
Flexible Work Hour
Instant HERO status
High fives all around
> Easy Application Process**

*** If you are busy this week, just come next week.
> Hit **REPLY** to the email that sent you this newsletter.**

Attention Girls Scouts! From our roles as citizens in communities to natural science discoveries to cultural treasures, the WBCS Children's Museum provides Girl Scouts local programs in a charming historical setting. Please get the word out that we have several badge workshops for Spring 2020 with registration through Council. Thank You!

Sarah Eubanks, WBCS Education Director



Good Neighbor GS Daisy Workshop

West Bay Common School Children's Museum in League City
Saturday, April 4th, 2020 *1:30 to 3:00 pm * (281-544-2994

Find out how to be a good neighbor in your community! Learn about what it means to be a good citizen as we tour League City's first Fire Station and first Ice House, as well as a real One Room Schoolhouse from 1898, all here on the museum's grounds. We'll also get to know Texas and why this area was once the Strawberry Capital of the South. We'll end with a special Texas treat in our lovely Garden Classroom, yummmmm!



Flowers GS Junior Workshop

West Bay Common School Children's Museum in League City
Saturday, April 18th, 2020 * 1:30 to 3:00 pm * (281) 554 – 2994
Register through GSSJC with Julia Shank: jshank@sjgs.org (713) 292-0338

Everything is coming up roses with the return of the popular Junior Flowers Workshop! All steps required for badgework done with a vintage flair, from crafts to a science experiment to a flower hunt. Featuring Botanical Lessons inside the charming One Room Schoolhouse & lovely new Garden Classroom, complete with Victorian Schoolmarm.



Playing the Past GS Junior Workshop

West Bay Common School Children's Museum in League City
Saturday, April 25th, 2020 * 1:30 to 3:30 pm * (281) 554-2994
Register through GSSJC with Julia Shank: jshank@sjgs.org (713) 292-0338

Get ready to relive turn-of-the-century history! What was life like as a schoolgirl then, for Laura Ingalls Wilder or young Juliette Gordon Low? There will be chores, an outhouse, lively dancing & music from the player piano. Role play your character as we finish the program in our 1898 Schoolhouse complete with Schoolmarm. Get a taste for what school was really like & maybe come dressed the part!



Doll Collecting GSSJC Program Patch Workshop For all Girl Scout Levels

West Bay Common School Children's Museum in League City
Saturday, May 16th, 2020 * 1:30 to 3:00 pm * (281) 554-2994
Register through GSSJC with Julia Shank: jshank@sjgs.org (713) 292-0338

Learn about the art of dolls as you explore the third largest collecting hobby: doll collecting! We'll go on an exhibit scavenger hunt, discover dolls through the generations, and find out just exactly what are little dolls made of. We will finish by making a Girl Scout Paper Doll to take home, complete with different historical uniforms through the decades. Collecting and playing with Paper Dolls was one of Juliette Low's favorite pastimes!

Fun, Friends & Fellowship @ the January LCHS Meeting Come Join Us at the Feb. 27 Meeting!!



There was good food, too!



The slide show of the Prohibition Era was great!!
Thank you's to Richard Lewis!



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 2021.