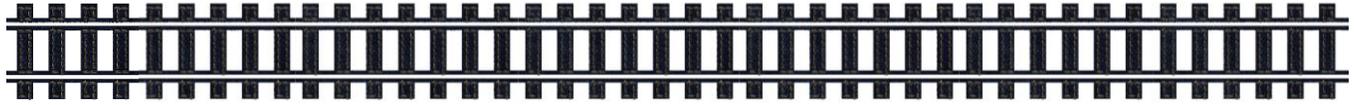




# The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

October 2019



## A Word from our President:

I have recently had the opportunity to be a docent at both the Heritage House and Caster Cabin. As I have mentioned to some of you, although I am usually okay with speaking in front of a group, I always feel insecure at first. Especially when it is a new experience, or I don't feel like I am an expert on the topic. The worst part is that I am afraid I will get asked a question I don't know the answer to.

I knew I had to overcome my fear. When it came to the Heritage House, I decided that Mary's Playhouse seemed manageable. The back bedroom or the kitchen would have been my next choice. I found that if I read through the one-page document about the playhouse right before I led the guests outside the information would still be fresh in my mind and I would be able to talk conversationally without looking at my paper. I also decided that if I didn't know an answer to a question I would simply say, "You know, I'm not sure, let's ask that when we go back in the house to see if one of the other docents may know." Happily, I have only had to use that phrase once so far and as a result I feel my docent experience was successful.

With Caster Cabin I read the Historical Marker in front of the building and followed Jan Hart around for a tour and I was good to go.

Did I make some mistakes? Sure, I did, but the historical police did not come arrest me and most of our visitors didn't seem to notice. They just seemed to be curious to see what the cabin looked like on the inside.

After my docent experience, I thought I would look up what job responsibilities of other historical docents.

Additionally, I looked at job postings for docent/tour guides at the National Museum of American History, USS Missouri Memorial, the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter and the Historic Village in Pennsylvania, as well as for a Visitor Experience Volunteer with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

What do all these positions have in common?

1. They don't pay very well.
2. The minimum requirement is sometimes a high school education, but even that is not always required.
3. They are expected to greet and/or assist visitors and be friendly.
4. Provide tours as needed.
5. Have an interest in history.

Nowhere does it say you have to know everything, which just goes to show that we can all be volunteer docents.

One other note, being a docent does not mean you have to stand for hours on end. Providing a one room tour at the Heritage House, Mary's playhouse, the Depot or Caster Cabin takes very little time and there is a place to sit at each venue in between tours.

Please call Cynthia Sharp, Mary Higbie or me and let us know you are willing to help with docent activities 2-3 times a year. WE NEED YOU! Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

*Linda Wood Shotwell, President*

## UPCOMING EVENTS!



**Sunday, October 27, 2:30 pm**

### **General Meeting**

***Get Your Kicks Around 356: Historical Markers in Irving***  
Main Stage 222, 222 E. Irving Blvd.

Learn about all the historical markers located in the City of Irving and hear about some of the historical areas from Irving citizens. Recognition of NEW Irving Heritage Society members.

2:30 Gallery Walk & Refreshments

3:00 General Meeting and Panelists

4:00 Gallery Walk & Refreshments

### ✓ **Heritage House/Mary's Playhouse tours:**

303 S. O'Connor Road, Irving

The Heritage House is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and was built in 1912. Tour admission as well as participation in the Quilt of Valor project are free and open to the public.

### ✓ **Sunday, November 3, 3:00-5:00 pm**

"Quilt of Valor" display and gathering of signed quilt blocks. Guests may sign quilt blocks with their name and/or message to the military. The blocks will become part of the next Quilt of Valor created by the Irving Quilt Guild. This national project involves the creation of quilts to honor and comfort our physically and mentally wounded service men and women in all branches, both active and retired. Visitors will also be able to tour Mary's Playhouse in the back-garden area. Originally built as a chicken coop, it was adapted as a playhouse for the young Schulze children in the 1920's.

### ✓ **Sunday, December 1, 3:00-5:00 pm**

**All events are free to attend! Invite a friend.**

**Monday, January 27, 2020, 7:00 pm**

### **General Meeting/Program**

***An Archeological Dig into the Irving Archives***

Irving Archives and Museum Auditorium

801 W. Irving Blvd.

**Sunday, February 9, 2020, 2:00-4:00 pm**

### **Vintage Valentine's Day Tea**

Irving Heritage House

## Welcome to our newest members!

- Joyce Murphy
- Rick & Sharon McCullough
- Debbie Abadie
- Rikki & Samwel Bett
- David & Susan Holcombe
- Benny & Connie Griffin
- Al & Rochelle Zapanta
- Nell Anne Hunt
- Major (Ret.) Eric King
- Kensley Cunningham
- Dr. Nikisha McDaniel



**New Board Members!**

### **Newly Elected Board Members**

- Kensley Cunningham
- Major (Ret.) Eric K. King
- Dr. Nikisha McDaniel

## A LOOK AT SPRING/SUMMER 2019

### Success! Celebrate Irving April 2019

Celebrate Irving this year was a great success and saw the addition of a new and promising partnership with Parks and Recreation; **Family Game Night** at Lively Pointe! John Dennis Anderson did a wonderful job portraying **Washington Irving** and we concluded with the signature **Irving Trivia Contest**. Congratulations to our winners, the Abecedarians; Pamela Slaughter, Carol Johnson, Martha Koriath and Lea Bailey (three of the four team members happen to be Heritage members!). Thank you to all for helping to make this possible.



**John Dennis Anderson**



### The weather cooperated with the Fish Fry!

A record size crowd attended. Thanks to Marvin Randle and friends who made it possible. The ever popular cake auction was the "icing" on a beautiful evening!



**May 2019 General Meeting/Election/Installation/Ice Cream Social** made everyone happy!

### Other noteworthy participation

We celebrated July 4<sup>th</sup> by participating in the City of Irving's Parade! Caster Cabin and the depot were opened during the City's Main Street event in September.

### UPDATES

You may notice some updates and repairs to the Heritage House including a new roof and driveway improvements. Stop in soon to see the newly painted walls!

### DONATIONS

The Irving Heritage Society donated \$55,000 for the future Irving Archives and Museum on July 25, 2019. These were accumulated funds that we have been collecting over many years for a future heritage museum! Also donated was \$5000 from the Heritage Festival funds.

**THANK YOU** to those who donated to the Heritage Society during the North Texas Giving Day!

### YEARBOOKS

The new copy of the yearbook is available. Be sure to pick up your copy at the Oct. 27 program, or call Mary Higbie at 972-252-3838 to get your copy.

[www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com)

**Information: 972-252-3838**

(Since our last Newsletter)

**DEATH OF MEMBERS:** James H. Wilcox, JoAnn Deakins Hackley, Wayne Pfaff, Shirley A. Stehman, Joe Bell

**MEMORIALS/DONATIONS FOR:** Wayne Pfaff, Judy Howard, Mariolyn Johnson, JoAnn Hackley, Jeff Youngblood, Shirley Stehman, Jackie Mae Townsell, Billie Root Coburn, Linda Blackwell Duggan , Betty Murray Ratteree, Max Whitley, Velma White, David Schober, Joe Bell, Bill Clyatt

**HONORARIUM FOR:** Marvin Randle, Ida "Pete" Fernandez, Dixie Caraway, John Boyle, and Phillip Prince

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!**



**U-Con Construction**

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