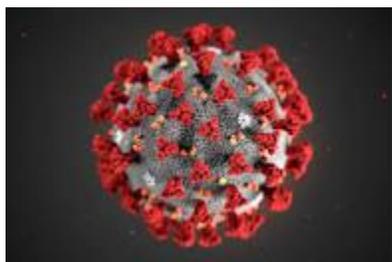




# The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

April 2020



## UPDATES

Due to the Covid-19 and with concern for our community's health, the Irving Heritage Society has cancelled all meetings and events scheduled for April and May 2020. This includes all Celebrating Irving activities including the April 14 Honoring Mayors of Irving program, April and May Heritage House tours, plus the May 3 ice cream social and general meeting. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual fish fry will be rescheduled for fall with a date to be determined later. We are currently playing Irving Trivia on Facebook!

**For any questions, please contact:**

[irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com)

or call **972-252-3838**. We will continue to assess the situation and make any future adjustments when necessary. It is our sincere hope that all of you are staying well during this challenging time in history.



## IN REVIEW

**Valentine's Day Tea 2/9/2020**



**Congratulations to our Sweethearts:**



**Lea Bailey and Jearlene Miller!**



Thank you to all who joined us for the 2020 Valentine's Day Tea. We counted 108 guest signatures for this annual vintage Valentine Tea of 1914. Young member Preslee Prince greeted guests at the door of the Heritage House, along with her father, past President, Philip Prince. Attendees were treated to tea sandwiches and sweets, many taken from the recipes used by Mrs. Virginia Schulze in 1914. Jearlene Miller and Lea Bailey were announced as the Irving Heritage Society 2020 Sweethearts as the guests serenaded them in song. Both honorees have provided extensive leadership and service to the organization over the years, which was shared with the guests by President Linda Wood Shotwell in the introductions. Vice President Gary Schepf was the chair of the event and assisted by a host of volunteers.

## Irving Heritage Society General Meeting 1/27/20

Guest Speaker Kevin Kendro gave a fascinating talk titled, *An Archeological Dig into the Irving Archives*. Not sure what to do with your past photos taken in Irving? Run them by Kevin who may spot something of significance to Irving history in the background.

### A Big WELCOME to our newest members!

- Sylvanna & Brandon Neeley
- Sara Henderson & Kevin Lovett
- Don & Lily Ashley

### Heritage Society's Christmas Tree at Irving Arts

**Center 12/6/19** The Irving Heritage Society decorated a tree as part of the Holiday of Irving's Masterpieces Exhibit last December at the Irving Arts Center. Our tree won first place in the nonprofit group category for a grand prize of \$250! The tree committee consisted of Sybil Novinski, Nancie Rissing, Mary Higbie, Jo Ann Johnson, Shirley Smith, Gary Schepf, and Lea Bailey. Lea's granddaughters Jayna and Brynn helped with the decorating of the tree.



Jo Ann Johnson, Gary Schepf and Mayor Rick Stopfer

## Tree Narrative

A Holiday of Irving's Masterpieces—Historical Markers

Irving is a place rich with history. Many of the locations have been noted with historical markers. The Irving Heritage Society's holiday tree features those historical markers. The forty nine postcard size ornaments feature each of the markers at their present day sites.

You can see some of Irving's Masterpieces when you find the Ruth Paine House, the Caldwell House, the Heritage House, the Otis Brown House, the Caster Cabin, the Joffre-Gilbert House, Kit Cemetery, Sowers Cemetery, the Irving public library, the Dallas County Irving Fresh Water Supply District, MacArthur Pump Station, etc. Which markers interest you?

The hanging ornaments feature the logos of the three different types of markers: the Texas Historical Commission, the Irving Heritage Society, and Irving Texas Centennial. Each group has its specific criteria to be met before designating a marker. Are there other spots in Irving which should be recognized? Let the Heritage Society know of any of those.

The featured ornaments were constructed by Irving Heritage Society members. The photographer of the markers with their locations is Gary Schepf. A special thank you goes to him for allowing the Irving Heritage Society to use his photos.

\*More information about these markers can be found at the Irving Heritage Society's website. [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com) Enjoy exploring Irving and locating these Masterpieces of History.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

**Heritage House/Mary's Playhouse tours: Cancelled until further notice.**

303 S. O'Connor Road, Irving

**The Heritage Festival** donated an additional amount of \$42,300 to the Irving Archives and Museum.

**Irving Archives and Museum (IAM)**, 801 West Irving Blvd, is currently closed due to the Shelter in Place order, however they had opened their doors on February 16, 2020 with these hours, Wed-Fri noon-5pm, Sat. 10am-4pm and Sun. noon – 4pm.

**Irving, 2020: Documenting History during the Pandemic** Across the globe, people are living through an unprecedented moment in history. The COVID-19 global pandemic is radically transforming the world. Nearly every aspect of life has changed in a very short period of time.

The Irving Archives and Museum (IAM) is committed to preserving the history of the city and its residents, and the IAM is seeking help to fulfill its mission during this challenging moment. The IAM is launching a collecting initiative to document the experiences of Irving residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information visit the city's website at: [Cityofirving.org/3618/documentinghistory](http://Cityofirving.org/3618/documentinghistory)

**Vintage Playing Cards** The Heritage Society has had decks of playing cards created using old photos from the Irving Archives, primarily before 1950. Various people "sponsored" a card and were able to add their own dedication comment along with a historical fact about the photo. These cards are now available to be purchased for \$10 a deck. All proceeds will go to help fund the Irving Archives and Museum. Call Mary at **972-252-3838** to get your deck.



Linda Shotwell, Lea Bailey, Shirley Smith, Corine Barberena, Rosemary Robbins, John Dennis Andersen, Pamela Slaughter, Mary Higbie, and Kevin Kendro.

**A Toast to Washington Irving!** To celebrate the 237<sup>th</sup> birthday of Washington Irving, several members met via a **Zoom** meeting on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm to raise a toast to the man and to chat about recent events. This event was in lieu of the monthly board meeting and was hosted by Lea Bailey. We were joined by Tracy Hoffman, President of the Washington Irving Society and John Dennis Anderson, Washington Irving character actor.

**North Texas Giving Tuesday NOW**, a special edition, is currently underway with early donations being accepted now. The official final day will be Tuesday, May 5 from 6 am to midnight at [www.northtexasgivingday.org](http://www.northtexasgivingday.org). Your support is appreciated!

**The Heritage Society** will host a general membership meeting on Sunday, May 17, at 3 pm via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please contact Mary at [irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com) or 972-252-3838 and additional details will be provided closer to that date. You may join us online or via phone. We look forward to making President-Elect Jearlene Miller and the slate of officers official for the new year, beginning June 1, 2020.

**DEATH OF MEMBERS:** James White, Linda Deatherage, Sally Hendricks, Vernon Proctor, Dorothy Henry and Martha Watson

**MEMORIALS:** Marion Guthery, James White, Jim Wilcox, Wayne Pfaff, Beverly Williams, Linda Deatherage, Bill Bailey, Sally and Bill Hendricks, Vernon Proctor, Dorothy Henry and Martha Watson

**HONORARIUM:** Jan Hart

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!**



**U-Con Construction**

\*\*\*\*\*

Irving Heritage Society  
P. O. Box 171572  
Irving, TX 75017-1572