



The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

September 2018



UPCOMING PROGRAM

LT. COL. Bruce A. Bleakley

D/FW Airport: From Ranch and Farm to Airport

OCTOBER 28, 2018

2PM New member reception

2:15 Business meeting

2:30 Program

Join us for an overview of the formation of the D/FW Airport and its metamorphosis into a multibillion-dollar economic engine for North Texas. LT. COL. Bleakley is the Former Executive Director of the San Diego Aerospace Museum and former Museum Director of the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, from October 2006 until his retirement in August 2017

Co-sponsored by the Irving Public Library, the event will be held on Sunday, October 28th, at the South Irving Library, 601 Schulze Drive.

Heritage House and Mary's Playhouse tours 3pm-5pm with docent led tours at 3pm and 4pm. Free admission. 303 S. O'Connor

The Irving Quilt Guild will host a Quilt of Valor exhibit at the Irving Heritage House during the Oct. 7 first Sunday monthly tour from 3pm-5pm. Located at 303 South O'Connor, 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.

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.

**Lyle Novinski, Reception and Artist Talk:
Oct. 7, 2018 2:00 p.m. Irving Art Center, 3333 N
MacArthur Blvd.**



Thank You!

Heritage House Tour Exhibit Features Hump Pilot Memorabilia, Sunday, November 4th.

In honor of the upcoming Veterans Day, tours of the Irving Heritage House will feature an exhibit of memorabilia of Hump pilot Robert L. Willis. The family of Robert L. Willis will share photographs, records and other personal items of his time as one of the Hump pilots from 1944-1945. Mr. Willis flew the Hump 105 trips in one year as part of the Army Air Corps, Air Transport Command at the age of 25. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross among many other medals. The Hump was the name given to the airlift operation of flying the aerial supply route over the Himalayan Mountain Range by way of India, Burma and China during WWII. Treacherous weather conditions, mechanical aircraft problems and inaccurate route charts made flying the Hump a most dangerous 525 mile air route.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis and their family of 3 children moved to Irving in 1964 when he transferred as an airline pilot for Slick Airways from San Antonio to Dallas Love Field. He passed away in 2007 at the age of 88.

Historical Markers

Two historical markers were placed in June for the Estelle Community and the Harrington Cemetery. Jan Hart chaired this event, which was attended by members of the Harrington family, Estelle descendants, members of the Estelle Masonic Lodge, as well as many others from the Irving community. Speaking were Mayor Rick Stopfer, IISD President Randy Randle, Philip Prince, Jamie Herrington Appleton, and Bill Brown, an Estelle descendant.

Docent Volunteers are always welcome!

Check out our website:

<http://www.irvingheritage.com>

City of Irving FY 2017-18 Budget Funding was approved for repairs at the city owned Heritage House. These funds were used for repair of a beam under the kitchen floor, foundation repairs, replacement of the roof, exterior wood repairs and painting of the exterior and installation of a new HVAC system. Additional funding was approved in the FY 2018-19 budget. These funds are earmarked for repairs to the interior of the house. A special thanks for the relocation of the family of raccoons found at the house. **Bob Bourgeois**

Oscar and Kaye Ward Our special thanks to you for providing a solar powered illuminated flag pole and flag for the Heritage House. We are in the process of getting it installed now in time for our upcoming patriotic exhibits. Stop by and check it out!

iFratelli's Thank you for your support received through DoughNation!

North Texas Giving day allowed us the opportunity to raise funds to be used for the project of Mary's Playhouse video and other guest experiences. Thank you to all who contributed!

Previously this year

July 4th Parade 2018

We had a great time at the July 4 parade this year! Philip Prince, President, drove a lovely black Corvette convertible joined with his wife and children riding in the car and Patrick Shields drove his red Camaro convertible with President Elect Linda Shotwell and her granddaughter riding in the car with him. It was a hot day but all had a great time! **Pam Brown**



Irving 2018: The City and the Man

Celebrating Irving has not been afraid to try new things. This year, with the help of the Singley Academy drama and art students, they took on the challenge to present Tableaux Vivants on the life and works of American Artist Grant Wood. The students, under the direction of IISD teachers Jennifer Brockett and Jennifer Polansky, and assisted by IISD Fine Arts Department and Gayla Lawrence, presented a number of Wood's paintings in a staged setting. We were provided the opportunity to learn about the history before each scene as well as to gain insight to the life of Grant Wood. ICTN Producer Cathy Whiteman narrated the evening assisted by a student performer, William Pipes, as Grant Wood.

The month continued with a one man Chautauqua show of Grant Wood by Iowa actor Tom Milligan. Teri Van Dorsten came from Cedar Rapids to tell us more about the magnificent Memorial Window at the Veterans Memorial Commission and Building. Debbie Beilstein of California, a relative by marriage to Grant Wood, arrived to share many of her memories of Grant Wood's siblings. The Irving Arts Center hosted a full set of lithographs by Wood as well as one of his original paintings plus work by other regionalism style artists. Lyle Novinski helped us "Celebrate the Heart and Homeland". Also, life size original drawings of two of the six soldiers in the Memorial Window were allowed to be brought to Irving to be part of this exhibit. We all have a new appreciation for this unique piece of art by Grant Wood. Refreshments were often complemented with corn cob jelly and corn salsa.

An art exhibit themed "The View from My Window" included so many original scenes by all ages, including beautiful photos from a cockpit window in the Far East. Geocaching once again stirred interest with a new series of local Irving sites to find. And a real "Grant Wood" graduate of Irving High helped present the art awards. The grand finale for this very busy month was the highly competitive Irving Trivia. The final two teams include the

Irving Heritage Society and the Abecedarians from Alpha Delta Kapa. Past President Lea Bailey had agreed to be on both teams, never dreaming they might face each other, especially in the final round. Congratulations to the ABC team for their successful first time participation in the Irving Trivia.



Finalists Irving Heritage Society and ABC Teams

The program was a partnership with the Irving Heritage Society, Irving Public Library, Irving Independent School District, Irving Art Association, Irving Black Arts Council, Boy Scout Troop 773, Irving Arts Center, and the City of Irving. Financial funding was provided by Humanities Texas, Irving Heritage Society, Irving Arts Board, Irving Schools Foundation, Inelda Alaniz, and Dr. James Filbeck Sr. Additional in-kind support was given by all of the partner organizations plus The Burb, Irving Public Library, Jefferson Bed and Breakfast, Heritage Center, Parks Department, Irving Community Television Network, Irving Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Irving Archives, The Irving Rambler, and the Irving Garden and Arts Club. Countless volunteer hours were provided to make this perhaps the most successful Celebrating Irving to date.



Tableaux Vivants, Dinner for Threshers

Fish Fry April 2018

On April 20th this year many of you, along with bunches of our fellow neighbors and friends, joined together for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fish, with all the trimmings.

It was a successful fundraiser with 327 tickets turned in at the chow line and another 144 sold by our membership. For those wondering who sold the most tickets this year, it is Oscar Ward we should be congratulating once again with 107 tickets sold! Our other star player was the 'always there' Master of Fish Fry Marvin Randle who, although not single-handedly but with a well-coordinated team of batterers, fryers and servers, fed the attendees without fail. We actually ran out of fish in the last few minutes and refunded about 7 patrons who did not get a chance to eat at the last minute.

A total of \$5894.25 was collected from ticket sales. Kathy Howard, our 'heroine of cake bakers everywhere,' masterfully received donations of 36 cakes for the auction.

By the end of the night \$1163.80 was collected due to the efforts of Kathy and her team at the auction. And 'team' is the key word for Success, from selling tickets, to setting up in the afternoon, to helping Marvin and Kathy, to cleaning up afterwards, there are so many to thank for lending a hand, or two. And with the sponsorship donations of \$3250.00 from 13 area businesses, YES, the day was a GREAT success. You will see notices of when the 2019 big day soon. **Gary Lee Westerman, Third Vice President of Projects**



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