



# *The Whistle Stop*

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

October 2015



## **Mark Your Calendars for October 20 at the Texas Musicians Museum**

Join us for the October 20, 2015 General Meeting of the Irving Heritage Society at the Texas Musicians Museum located in the downtown Irving Heritage Crossing District at 222 E. Irving Blvd. Our host and guest speaker will be museum owner and curator, Tom Kreason, who will provide a special tour of the museum which showcases invaluable displays of memorabilia from a variety of Texas legends such as Buddy Holly, Janis Joplin, and Willie Nelson.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Food boxes (consisting of sandwich, chips, and drink) will be available for \$7 at the Neon Armadillo Café. Please call (972) 252-3838 if you would like to reserve a food box. Mr. Kreason's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The general public will be welcomed to this meeting as well as all Heritage Society members at **no charge**. Please invite your friends!

*Kaye W. Ward*

President

## **Installation of Irving Heritage Society Officers/Board for 2015-2016**

Sunday, May 31, 2015, as Irving Heritage Society members and guests enjoyed "Lemonade on the Porch" at the Heritage House, Kaye Ward was elected President to lead the organization for the 2015-2016 year. Patty Caperton, 2014-15 President, presided over the meeting and provided a recap of the many organizational activities over the last year. Former Heritage Society President and Mayor Marvin Randle conducted the installation of the officers.



In addition to Kaye Ward, the slate of officers included President-Elect Rick Stopfer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership Bob Bourgeois, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs Jo-Ann Bresowar,

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Projects Diane Mannon, Treasurer Stacey Martin, Recording Secretary Carol Lucas, Corresponding Secretary Anne Pfaff, Historian Karen Martin, and Parliamentarian Patty Caperton.

Directors elected were Beth Bowman, Susan Fairless, Debbie Fleck, Marian Guthery, Shirley Smith, Kevin Kendro, and Trevor Putman. The new officers were welcomed by current directors Kitty Boyle, Chris Dobson, Angie Drake, Vernon Proctor, Lea Bailey, Kathy Howard, Rosalie Jensen, and Patrick Shields. This is an outstanding group and we are proud to have them.

Many thanks to Jo-Ann Bresowar and Vicki Tate for planning and providing the refreshments and beautiful flowers.



## Mary's Playhouse

### **Mary's Playhouse Opens November 8**

Project includes backyard improvements,  
new stone path

Rebuilding of Mary's Playhouse has been completed and will open on Sunday, Nov. 8. A brief program at 2 p.m. will be followed by a reception and refreshments in the Heritage House. Landscaping and a new paved pathway to the backyard area of the Heritage House are also part of the project.

As a member of one of Irving's founding families, C.P. Schulze built one of the community's first homes (now the Heritage House) in 1912. A few years later, in the 1920's-30's, he converted a backyard chicken coop into a playhouse for his young daughter, Mary. As she grew up, Mary used the small building as a quiet place for reading and writing.

Over the years, the playhouse became over-run with vines, bushes and tree limbs. A brainstorming session with several Heritage Society members in 2012 resulted in special fundraising efforts to restore the playhouse. After consulting with the City's Capital Improvement Program staff, it became clear that the original structure had deteriorated beyond repair.



With help from Heritage Society member Vernon Proctor, owner of Mart, Inc., the playhouse was razed in February 2013. F& F Concrete donated labor and material for the concrete pad for the new building. Mart, Inc. built the new playhouse using much of the shiplap pine interior salvaged from the old building.

The interior of the playhouse reflects the early life of little Mary Schulze, who grew up in the Heritage House. Items from Mary's room in the House and from the original playhouse were used to create vignettes to highlight the life and interests of Mary Schulze and her older brother, Charles. A 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolroom bench has been placed in the playhouse for children to sit on while while learning about the history of their community.



The playhouse project, in collaboration with the City of Irving, was funded through a special gift from the late Mary Garner's family and many other individuals. Major contributors included Mart, Inc.; F & F Concrete; City of Irving CIP, Building Services, and Parks and Recreation Departments. Funds were also raised from the Heritage Society Treasures & Oddities sales.

Mary's Playhouse will be open during the monthly first Sunday tours of the Heritage House and will be available for special tours upon request.

## Washington Irving: the City & the Man



This annual event continues to expand and involve new ways to learn about America's First Man of Letters, Washington Irving, as well as the history of Irving, Texas. The 2015 celebration included several Internet "Google" connections. Irving Independent School District students were introduced to the history of the Irving Heritage House, the Ruth Paine House, and the Mustang Museum through this popular modern Internet arrangement. In addition to being able to view the historical and cultural sites, they were able to ask questions of the docents at each location.

Additionally, Washington Irving, aka John Dennis Anderson, took time to visit several classrooms from a setting representing the study in his home of Sunnyside, located in Tarrytown, New York. That afternoon guests had "Real Tea With A Virtual Washington Irving" as he shared stories of his life as well as answered questions for the guests.

The ever popular Irving Trivia Contest found numerous teams battling for bragging rights. In the final round the Irving Senior Arts Program, the Irving Public Library, and the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau finally yielded to the skill of the La Cima Heritage Committee, our new reigning champion.

The project was accomplished through the combined efforts of the Irving Heritage Society, the Irving Public Library, the Irving Black Arts Council, the Irving Independent School District and the City of Irving. In 2016 the Irving Arts Association and the National Scouting Museum will join the planning committee. Plans are underway for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual event to include guest artist and illustrator Will Moses, beginning on April 3, 2016.



### **April 2015 Fish Fry & Cake Auction**

The April 2015 fish fry and cake auction were a great success. Held on a beautiful spring evening with a city special events concert just down the street, 470 tickets were sold for the event. Oscar Ward was recognized for having individually sold an amazing number of tickets. Diane Mannon was in charge of the fish fry while Kathy Howard and Virginia Meler organized the cake auction. Of course they were ably assisted by a number of volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of past Heritage Society President Marvin Randle, the Heritage Society made a net income of \$4,855. Mark your calendar now for the next edition of this popular event: April 15, 2016.



Founded in 1978, the Irving Heritage Society is a vibrant, intergenerational volunteer organization that:

- ADVOCATES historic preservation
- EDUCATES the community on its heritage
- PRESERVES and accumulates local history

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### **New Members**

Roxanne Del Rio, Debbie & Alan Fleck, Jack D. Huffman, Dee Dee Ingram, Karen & Karl Martin, Trevor Putman, Barbara Scott, Sandra & Richard Stewart, Melanie & Rick Stopfer, Judy & Robert Toler, Richard Young, corporate member Avanté Rehabilitation Center – Philip Prince

### **Deaths of Members**

Flor Smith, Pat Bolger, Nancy O'Teter, Troy Kelley, Barbara Grogan, Norma Stanton, Virginia Haley Sampson Diggs, Paula Fuller Flatley

### **Memorials Received for:**

Mary Louise Wadsworth, Flor Smith, Nancy O'Teter, Troy Kelley, Naomi Laird, Lora Inez Farine Ekrut, Dorothy Kamenicky, Douglass Bales, Pat Bolger, Dr. Eldon Attaway, Dr. Thomas Murphy, Huitt & Jean Caster, Johnathan Michael Boyle, Ed Fulbright, Martha Russell, Joe Rice, Priscilla Gaston, Barbara Grogan, Norma Stanton, Virginia Diggs, Paula Flatley

### **Honorariums for:**

Patty Landers Caperton, Eleanor Corry Bell, Mary Higbie, Leroy Toler