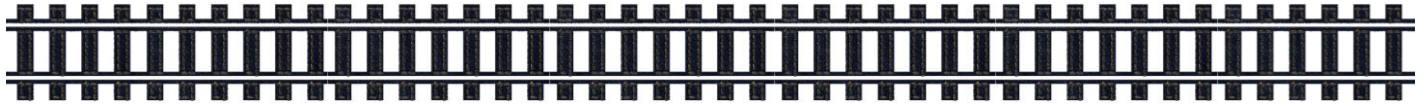




# The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

September 2016



## HERITAGE SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN THE BIG READ

Join us at the Irving Arts Center Suite 200, 3333 North MacArthur at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 25 for our general meeting. Pick up your year book and then stay for **The Big Blend: The Hispanic Experience in America**, part of the Irving Public Library's NEA Big Read. This year the library celebrates *Into the Beautiful North* by Luís Alberto Urrea, a wonderfully written novel about the immigrant experience filled with humor and hope. At 2:30 p.m. host Al Zapanta will lead Patricia Alvarado of Irving



Juan Daniel Ramos

ISD; Juan Daniel Ramos, 2014 MacArthur High valedictorian and Dr. Christina Salinas of UT Arlington in a conversation about the meeting of Hispanic and Anglo

cultures in the United States. Refreshments will be served and guests are welcomed. The Big Blend is sponsored by the Irving Heritage Society. The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



Rick and Melanie Stopfer at Heritage House

New president, Rich Stopfer and his wife Melanie moved to Irving in 1988. Rick's significant civic experience includes service on the board of the Irving Flood Control District, Irving Planning and Zoning Commission, DFW Airport Board, Irving City Council and presently the DART Board. Rick says these experiences taught him how passionate, protective and proud Irving citizens are of their neighborhoods.

"I'm excited to serve as Heritage Society President," said Rick. "My goal is to bring the residents of Irving's diverse neighborhoods together to experience our local history. This year offers many opportunities to do so with the redevelopment of Heritage Park and construction of the long-awaited Irving Historical Museum."

## OFFICERS INSTALLED

A Sunday afternoon ice cream social in the front yard of the Heritage House was the setting for the election and installation of the 2016-2017 Heritage Society officers. Former mayor and former Heritage Society president R. Dan Matkin conducted the installation ceremony. New officers include:

President – Rick Stopfer

President Elect – Lea Bailey

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Membership) – Kitty Boyle

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Programs) – Jearlene Miller

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Projects) – Diane Mannon

Recording Secretary – Carol Lucas

Corresponding Secretary – Anne Pfaff

Treasurer – Stacey Martin

Historian – Karen Martin

Parliamentarian – Kaye Ward

Directors – Bob Bourgeois, Dwane Crain, Philip Prince, Trevor Putman, Nancie Rissing, and Gary Westerman.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Saturday, September 24*, 1–4 p.m. in honor of the nationwide Smithsonian Museum Day, the Heritage House will be open for tours. For other options, check out [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday).

*Sunday, October 2*, 3–5 p.m. during the Heritage House tours, weaver/spinner Ameda Holmes will demonstrate the skill of using a spinning wheel on one recently donated by Treasure Hurst. Come and watch the magic of the spinner, sign up for a future class or try your own hand at spinning.

## HERITAGE SOCIETY DOCUMENTS HISTORY OF IRVING SCHOOLS

Have you noticed the new link on the Irving Heritage Society's web page?

The web page's new link is History/Irving ISD Schools. The Celebrating Irving Committee, with help from volunteers, is compiling a short history of each school in the Irving Independent School District which was named for a person from the Irving community. Each entry tells about the person and why a school was named for him or her. The audience is students. The page is not meant to be a *complete* biography of the person.

About half the schools are posted. The others are still in progress. So, check back every few weeks to see how this project is progressing.

Check out the pages at [http://www.irvingheritage.com/ihs\\_IISD\\_history.html](http://www.irvingheritage.com/ihs_IISD_history.html). Schools completed as of August 15, 2016 are:

Barton Elementary School  
Britain Elementary School  
Brandenburg Elementary School  
Elliott Elementary School  
Farine Elementary School  
Keyes Elementary School  
Townley Elementary School

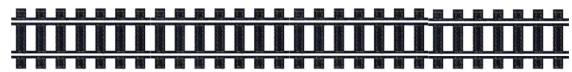
If you have additional information that should be considered for inclusion, please contact Lea Bailey at [lbailey695@gmail.com](mailto:lbailey695@gmail.com).

**CELEBRATING IRVING:  
THE CITY AND THE MAN**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating Irving: The City and The Man began with a fully-packed first weekend, encompassing the birthday of Washington Irving, America's First Man of Letters. Artist and author Will Moses, great grandson of the legendary folk artist Grandma Moses, was in Irving from his home in Eagle Bridge, New York, to participate in many of the events. A Conversation with Will Moses, hosted by ICTN producer Cathy Whiteman kicked off the celebration. The Irving Arts Center displayed 35 original paintings by Mr. Moses during a three-month exhibit. A special painting was done by Moses in honor of the Celebrating Irving program which he graciously gave to the Celebrating Irving committee. Other events during his visit included an interactive Google Hangout with IISD art students and presentations at the Betty Jean Ramsey Huffman Folk Art Exhibit at the Jaycee Center for the Arts. Other activities included several exhibits throughout the city, a family movie, and the challenging Irving Trivia contest. The final four teams included Entertainment Series of Irving, Irving Senior Arts, La Cima Heritage Committee and this year's winner, the team from the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau. Thirty-five books by Moses were donated to school libraries thanks to generous donations by members and friends.

The month-long series of activities was a partnership of the Irving Heritage Society, Irving Public Library, Irving Independent School District, Irving Black Arts Council,

Irving Art Association, the National Scouting Museum and the City of Irving. Additional support was provided by Jack Huffman, Michaels, Irving Arts Center, Irving Schools Foundation and Humanities Texas. The support of these organizations, many individuals and the efforts of numerous volunteers made this a very successful celebration.



**LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW  
PRESENTED BY THE IRVING ARTS CENTER**

Be transported to Tarry Town, a place where strange things happen and the townsfolk seem entranced by spirits. When Ichabod Crane mysteriously disappears and his horse is found grazing in a pasture near the woods, rumors circulate that he is the victim of the dreaded "headless horseman" who allegedly haunts Sleepy Hollow. Prank or the stuff of legend?

Script, lyrics & music © 1996 & 2006 by Paul Deiss; based on a story by Washington Irving; presented by Virginia Rep on Tour.

Sunday, October 16 | 2:30 p.m.  
Monday, October 17 | 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
(school matinees)

All performances in Carpenter Hall  
Arts Center Box Office: (972) 252-2787  
Tickets: \$6 - \$7.50

**MEMORIALS RECEIVED FOR:**

Tally Parker  
Charles Brown  
Meredith Bolger  
Art Rubeck  
Joseph C. Rice  
Douglass Bales  
Mary Jo Deatherage  
Mary Jackson  
Barbara Fryrear  
Thelma Coleman  
Forrest Scott  
Betty Jean Ramsey Huffman  
Lee Wilcox  
Dr. Ben Thomas

**MEMORIALS RECEIVED FROM:**

Mary Higbie  
Susan Rice  
James and Marsha Dickens  
Loveta Bales  
James Deatherage  
Lea Bailey  
Barbara Terrill  
Mary and Don Oberlin  
Jack Huffman

**HONORARIA RECEIVED FOR:**

All of the Heritage Society volunteers  
Mary Higbie  
Pete Fernandez  
Sandra Cole



**NEWEST MEMBERS:**

Carol Haynes  
Nancy Starnes  
Connie Mason

**DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM:**

Carol Haynes  
Kaye and Oscar Ward  
Dorothy Leibensberger  
Sybil and Lyle Novinski  
Gwyn Shea  
Diann and Joe Contestabile  
Jan and Byron Killen  
Linda and Bill Brown  
Betty Bessler  
Regina and George Story  
Suzy Beeman  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fong  
Janice Carroll  
Pat Kamenicky  
Susie and Joe Smith  
Kim and Chris Arrington



**LOSS OF MEMBERS:**

Tally Parker  
Charles Loyd Brown  
Meredith Bolger  
Art Rubeck  
Barbara Fryrear  
Forrest Scott  
Lee Wilcox  
Dr. Ben Thomas

### RECENT GIFTS

A beautiful cradle was donated to the Heritage Society from the family of Sybil Grisham. It is now at the foot of the bed in the pink bedroom. Sybil was one of the early members of the Heritage Society and a wonderful volunteer.

A small spinning wheel was donated by Treasure Hurst. This will be used in the Caster Cabin. Meanwhile come and see it demonstrated during the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Heritage House tours.

An 1880-1910 round top wood trunk with gold-colored crystallized tin covering was donated by Kim Limberg and can be viewed in the Heritage Park Depot.

### HELP WANTED

Docents are needed to help at the Heritage House, Mary's Playhouse, Caster Cabin and the Heritage Park Depot. Your schedule may be as frequent as you wish....you set the dates. To learn more, contact 972-252-3838.

### STAY INFORMED

Be sure to visit our website [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com) to check on upcoming events and photos of past happenings.

### SPECIAL SALE

A limited number of prints of **The Lot Sale** by Guy Deel are available for the amazingly low price of \$15. The print depicts the sale of Irving lots that took place on December 19, 1903. The son of West Texas ranchers, Mr. Deel was a well known Western artist and illustrator. He painted over 250 book covers in the 1950s and 1960s including covers for Louis Lamour. He had a reputation for vivid historical accuracy and exceptional detail.



The Lot Sale is on view at Big State and at Heritage House. To order a copy, email [irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com) or call (972) 252-3838.

Also available at a special discount are copies of *Irving, Texas, From Rails to Wings, 1903-2003*, a pictorial history of the city by Norma Stanton and *Irving, Texas, Centennial Cookbook and Family Histories* by Helen Ogden Widener. The hardbound volumes are now available for just \$5.00 each at Big State, the Heritage Senior Center or FJS Vintage & Antiques. They make great gifts for anyone with an interest in history.

### HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FISH FRY

Started by Marvin Randle and friends, this 12<sup>th</sup> annual event had the largest attendance to date with more than 500 people. Oscar Ward received the “Big Fish” award for the most tickets sold. All proceeds go to benefit the Irving Heritage Society. Diane Mannon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, was the overall chair of this popular event. The cake auction was chaired by Kathy Howard and Virginia Meler.

Bruce Burns led the effort to enlist sponsors for the event including Avante, Sunbelt Pawn, Texans for Rodney Anderson, AMBUCS-Irving Chapter, Bruce Burns Real Estate, Dr. Elba Garcia, Rick’s Car Care, Sandi Brown-State Farm, Big State Fountain and Grill, Brown’s Memorial Funeral Home and Jack Spurlock Real Estate. In-kind donations were provided by Irving Counter Top, American Golf Cars, Irving Rambler, and Fast Signs.

Special thanks to Marvin Randle for his dedication and generosity to this project over the years. His crew included Randy Randle, Allan Meagher, Gary Westerman, Doug Gregory and many others. Support from the Irving Parks Department made the day go smoothly. Thanks to all the Heritage Society



board members who sold tickets and the many community friends who attended. It was a lovely spring evening with good food and friendship.

*Chef Randle takes a break at the Fish Fry*

---

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

Visit us at [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com) or Friend us at facebook.com/irvingheritagesociety

\*\*\*\*\*

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