

THE WHISTLE STOP

The Irving Heritage Society Newsletter
August 2012

New President Elected for 2012-2013

This edition of the *Whistle Stop* will report on various activities this year, and announce future endeavors. Before looking back at activities, the Heritage Society can point with pride to its new president. Elected in May, Chris Wallace brings knowledge and enthusiasm to the Heritage Society. He is Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and was recently designated as a Certified Chamber Executive by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives. The CCE is the only national certification for chamber professionals.

“The applicants who are designated CCEs rightfully earn this outstanding recognition through hard work, countless hours of dedication to their field, and leadership of their chambers to achieve their missions. We applaud this year’s recipients and are proud to have them join a long tradition of professional excellence,” said John MacMartin, CCE, president and CEO of Minot Area (ND) Chamber and CCE Commission chairman.

According to an article in *The Irving Rambler*, Chris Wallace was one of twelve chamber executives in the nation who earned the CCE designation this year. The CCE program is designed to assess and test the applicant’s knowledge of the core chamber management areas; management, planning and development, membership and communication, and operations. Candidates are required to submit an application outlining their professional achievements and activities, prepare a written presentation, complete an intensive interview by a panel of CCEs and pass a comprehensive four-hour examination. Since the program was initiated more than forty years ago, only about 520 individuals have earned this highest designation in the profession.

The Heritage Society congratulates Chris. We look forward to working with him this year.

Additional Officers and Directors Elected

Assisting Chris will be the following officers: President-Elect – Janice Carroll; First Vice-President (membership) – Lorraine Taylor; Second Vice-President (programs) – Patty Landers Caperton; Third Vice-President (projects) – Kaye Ward; Recording Secretary – Pam Engman; Corresponding Secretary—Connie Gifford-Herrington; Treasurer – Diane Mannon; Historian – Kevin Kendro; and Parliamentarian – Mary Moorman.

New directors include Joy Goodrum, Sigrid Canto, Doug Fox, Jo Ann Goin, Stacey Martin, and Elizabeth Philipp.

The officers and directors were installed by Patty Landers Caperton at the May ice cream social.

Heritage Society and Library Invitation

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 6th. On this date the Irving Heritage Society and the Irving Public Library invite you to the unveiling of the “Original 1903 Town Plat Map for the City of Irving.” The time will be from 5:30PM until 6:30PM in the lobby of the Central Library, 801 West Irving Blvd. Reception will follow. For additional information, call 972-721-3729.

Events and Activities to Date

The year began with a general meeting in January. Senior Archivist Kevin Kendro and retired Archivist Jan Hart presented an interesting and informative program on historical markers.

February brought the annual Valentine Tea. This splendid affair showed off the entertaining talents of so many of the members. Chaired by Kaye Ward and Louise Henderson, members provided food in keeping with the party of so long ago. Connie Gifford-Herrington chaired the food committee, and thanks to all those members who helped with the food. Carol Susat created and donated the beautiful centerpiece, and Barbara Terrill and Jean Werry had the house looking festive in accordance with the Valentine theme. Diane Mannon organized the kitchen, and George Story took his usual turn at washing dishes. Clay Gilbert played his lovely music during the afternoon. The tea books sold very well.

Special thanks to everybody who helped make the tea a success.

Dan Matkin was honored by being named this year's sweetheart. Dan has served the organization faithfully in so many capacities, including president. An interesting note: Dan was mayor of Irving 1971-1977, and it was during his tenure that Heritage House was given to the City of Irving by the Schulze family. Congratulations, Dan!

April was once again designated as "Celebrating Irving: The City and the Man." The various programs for 2012 not only enlightened us with information about America's First Man of Letters Washington Irving and the history of our city, but it also encompassed the Heritage House's 100th anniversary. In addition to other events, the Trivia Contest drew nine teams. These teams included the finalists -- Entertainment Series of Irving, Henry Holmes Breakfast Forum – Team Jim, Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and the La Cima Heritage Committee. The HHBF team consisting of Jim Bullock, Troy Kelley, Stacey Martin, Don Miller, and Kaye Ward took home the trophy.

Honoring Women of Irving's history focused on Esther Weaver Hurwitz. Her extensive list of civic accomplishments includes founding the first Irving Public Library and operating it from 1941-1962. A large crowd welcomed noted book reviewer, author, and actress Rose-Mary Rumbley and was fascinated as she portrayed Mrs. Hurwitz in a local version of "This is your life, Esther Hurwitz." Program host Dr. Stephen Jones, radio announcer Oscar Ward, and voices from the past (Eleanor Corry Bell, Louise Revier Henderson, and Martha Jo Watson) added to the entertainment. Mrs. Hurwitz had a strong influence on Irving even before it started growing.

The month long series of activities was sponsored by the Irving Heritage Society, Irving Public Library, and the Irving Independent School District. This program was made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project was funded in part by the City of Irving through the Irving Arts Board.

The April fish fry was once again a resounding success. The windy weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd, and the fish and everything that accompanied it tasted great. We offer special thanks to Marvin Randle and his helpers and all the volunteers who pitched in to help. Appreciation also goes to the people who donated the cakes and the many door prizes.

The Heritage Society has long been involved with markers and trails in Dallas County so it is with appreciation that we recognize a recent City of Irving's accomplishment. The Parks Department produced an outstanding program in Trinity View Park as it dedicated the link of the trail crossing Irving. Dr. Elba Garcia, County Commissioner, spoke to the assembled crowd. Several other dignitaries were on the platform and complimented the people who had worked on this project. It was a great day for Irving!

Don't forget our website: www.irvingheritage.com.

New Members Since the Yearbook was Published

Welcome to Mary Douglas, Monica Ellington, Doug Fox, JoAnn Goin, Teresa G. Mogavero, Dava Adams, Rosemary Robbins, and Max and Jackie Whitley.

Special Donations

Bill Brown and Linda Harper Brown, Dorothy Henry, Bob and Kay Haaser, Suzy Beeman, Tyler and Nancy O'Teter, Mary Baker, Jack Spurlock, Helen Schilling, Woody and Carol Schober, Ed and Betty Fulbright, Carol Sullivan, Jacklyn and Frank Mueller. Designated for Mary's Playhouse – Jan Hart, Jean and Bob Werry, and Grant and Laura Gardner

Deceased Members

The Heritage Society has lost several members since the last publication of the *Whistle Stop*. James (Zip) Taylor, Ross Spicer, Mickey Watson, Anna Walker Kirkland, James Widener, William Wicks, Pat Miller, Mary Gardner, and Joan Kelly. Our condolences to the families.

Memorial Donations

Anne and Wayne Pfaff, Christina Gears, Mary Higbie, Dan and Earlene Matkin, Betty Ratterree, Becky Hugman, Sam Smith, Joyce Range, Loveta Bales, Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau, John and Kitty Boyle, Don Miller, Jeanne Brown, Ken and Pam Engman, Chris and Kim Arrington, Regina and George Story, Peggy Duvall, Nancy Spicer, Joel and Ruby Blackwell, Barbara Terrill, and Virginia Haley Sampson Diggs.

Mary's Playhouse to be Restored

Plans are underway to rebuild the small building behind the Heritage House. This building was originally a chicken coop but was later converted into a playhouse for the young Schulze daughter, Mary. As she grew up, Mary used the small building as a place of quiet for her creative interests of painting and writing as well as a place for meditation.

A committee has been appointed with Patty Landers Caperton as Chairman. The committee's charge is to review and develop plans to rebuild the playhouse. The new playhouse will be a tangible way to engage children in the history of their community as well as improve the overall look of the backyard area of the Heritage House. The Board authorized funds from the Treasures and Oddities Silent Auction and Sale to be designated for rebuilding the playhouse. The project will be completed in collaboration with the City of Irving.

Another important date to remember...

September 8 – City of Irving Main Street Event and Car Show at Heritage Crossing Downtown – 11:00 AM – 6:00PM

Caster Cabin and Train Depot in Heritage Park will be open for tours. Also, there will be a Treasure Hunt sale at Glory House, 109 South Main Street from 11AM-3PM. From silver and crystal items to whimsical collectibles. Stop by to find just the right gift. Proceeds benefit the Mary's Playhouse project.

Still celebrating...

In March Irving oldest businesses were recognized by the Heritage House 100th Anniversary Committee at the home of Wayne and Anne Pfaff.

Program and General Meeting

Patty Landers Caperton announced that the October 16th general meeting will be at the Irving Central Library Auditorium. The Board of Directors will meet at 5:45PM, and the general membership meeting will begin at 6:45PM. The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert M. Woods, Professor of Great Books, Faulkner University, Montgomery, AL., at 7:30PM.

With a healthy respect for preserving reading, cultural literacy, and historical knowledge, Dr. Woods will present a special program that is part of Irving's *Big Read* initiative. In collaboration with the Irving Public Library, Friends of the Library and the Irving ISD, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* has been selected as the 2012 "community read" book. The public is invited to attend this program.

AND....Don't forget that the Heritage House is open for tours on the first Sunday of the month. Tours begin at 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon.

Books for sale: The history book *Irving, Texas, Rails to Wings* by Norma Stanton and the *Centennial Cookbook and Family Histories* by Helen Ogden Widener plus a limited number of the Tea Recipes books are available. Contact 972-252-3838 for information.