

THE WHISTLE STOP

The Irving Heritage Society
March 2014

April: Celebrating Irving: The City and The Man by Mary Higbie

The Irving Heritage Society, the City of Irving, the Irving Independent School District, the Irving Public Library, and the Irving Black Arts Council have joined together to present the seventh annual Celebrating Irving: the City and The Man events during the month of April.

Activities will begin with a discussion of Washington Irving's book *A Tour on the Prairies* on Sunday, April 6, at 1:45pm in the Heritage House, 303 South O'Connor. Washington Irving Society President Dr. Tracy Hoffman will lead the afternoon program. Books are available for purchase in advance although a purchase is not required to participate. The discussion is free to attend as well as the exhibit and Heritage House tours immediately following from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

On Saturday, April 12, Dr. John Dennis Anderson will portray America's First Man of Letters in "A Literary Conversation with Washington Irving." This will be held in the Central Library Auditorium, 801 West Irving Blvd., beginning at 7:00pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Additional programs include the Irving Trivia with strong team competition at the preliminary rounds. The contests will begin at 10:00am on Saturday, April 26, in the West Library at Rochelle and Esters Road. Final rounds of the trivia contest will be Saturday, May 3, at 10:00am at the Valley Ranch Library at 401 Cimarron Trail. To receive a trivia team application, contact the Irving Heritage Society at 972-252-3838.

Family movie matinees will be held twice during April with the showing of Disney's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* based on Washington Irving's famous short story. The first showing will be Tuesday, April 22, in the Central Library at 4:30 pm. The Valley Ranch Library will host a showing of the Disney film on Saturday, April 26, at 2:00pm.

On Saturday, April 26, a special program will be presented to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Irving and the Honoring Women of Irving's History. An election held in April of 1914 determined that Irving, Texas, would become incorporated and the first mayor, Otis Brown, was elected. Ten women have been selected to be recognized for their significant contributions in a wide variety of areas within our community. These presentations will be done in various video excerpts, narration, and music. Students from the City of Irving Parks Department After School Program will participate with an art exhibit.

Exhibits on the life and works of Washington Irving as well as the City of Irving will be on display throughout the month of April at the Central and Valley Ranch libraries as well as at the Heritage Senior Center at Second and Jefferson Streets.

Online interactive activities will test your knowledge of Washington Irving and the City of Irving. Details are available at www.irvingisd.net/learningresources/celebrateirving.htm//orwww.irvingheritage.com.

All events are free and open to the public. Additional information is available at www.irvingheritage.com or by calling 972-252-3838.

This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funded in part by the City of Irving through the Irving Arts Board.

Vision and Mission Statements Are Adopted

While the vision and mission statements are very brief, the story of their being updated demonstrates the concerns and interests of the Heritage Society's membership. After informal conversation with board members, President Janice Carroll proposed carrying forward the goal of past president Chris Wallace. He saw the need for creating a 2013-14 version of a vision and a mission statement. Even in 1978 when the society was formed, the purpose generally extended beyond being the caretakers of Heritage House.

The need for such specific statements was acknowledged. However, board members needed help, and Chris introduced Jennifer Posey, Director of Membership Development for the Chamber of Commerce. She graciously agreed to assist the group. The very talented Jennifer gave a report on exactly what these vision and mission statements are. Then the two were created. The statements were presented to the general membership for approval. Both were accepted at the February 4, 2014 general meeting as follows:

Vision Statement

The Irving Heritage Society's vision: A diverse community that values its past, celebrates its present, and embraces its future.

Mission Statement

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

Society Is Appreciative of Memberships

Doug Fox, Vice-President for Membership, gave a report at the last board meeting. 366 individuals were members as of February 28, 2014. Corporate memberships for the year were Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau; Irving Family YMCA; and Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce.

New sponsorship levels include \$1,000 gift – Irving Founders: Schulze and Brown; \$500.00 gift – Las Colinas founder : Ben Carpenter; \$250 gift -- Heritage Society Founders: English and Bates; and \$100.00 gift – School Founder, E. C. Lively.

This membership report admirably demonstrates that the Heritage Society is recognized as a true treasure for the community. If you would like to become a member, please call 972-252-3838 or visit the website www.irvingheritage.com.

More information will be coming on this opportunity to contribute to the Irving Heritage Society.

Valentine Tea Honored Charles Percy and Virginia Schulze Posthumously

The annual Valentine Tea found the silver polished and the tea table lavishly filled with special treats, some taken from recipes of yesteryear. This year's special event was a reflection of the 1914 Valentine Party as hosted by new homeowners, Charles Percy and Virginia Schulze. A cast of historical figures provided a presentation of that original housewarming party. The cast included the following: Steven Jones and Dana Davis Bailey as host and hostess C. P. and Virginia Schulze; Woody Schober and Cindy Gilbert as builder Fred Joffre and wife Minnie; Jere Gilbert as his grandfather Franklin Monroe Gilbert; Andrew and Ericha Brown as Andrew's great, great grandparents; Irving co-founder and first mayor Otis and Netta Barcus Brown; Gabe Weinstein as their son Loyd Brown; Vicki Tate as Virginia Schulze's sister, Billie Tucker; and Keri O'Connell Weinstein as guest Miss Inez Moore.

Tea guests were invited to share a game of croquet on the front lawn by Dwane Crain and Patrick Shields along with Patrick's granddaughters Sarah and Angela Morgan. Dr. Clay Gilbert entertained guests with musical selections, and Woody Schober led the singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

Co-chairs past presidents Barbara Terrill and Mary Oberlin put together a hard working committee composed of Carol Susat, Diane Mannon, Gloria Hernandez, Mary Higbie, Steven Jones, Dana Davis Bailey, and James and Marsha Dickens. Many volunteers provided the delicious treats which were enjoyed by the large number of guests. President Janice Carroll welcomed guests and introduced this year's sweethearts C. P. and Virginia Schulze.

Special Recognition for One of Our Own

Prior to the Heritage Society's general meeting, the Irving Masonic Lodge #1218 presented Irving Heritage Society member Mary Higbie with the Grand Lodge of Texas Community Builder Award. Also, on behalf of State Representative Linda Harper Brown, Shirley Dobson presented a Certificate of Acknowledgement of Mary's community service. Congratulations to Mary!

Annual Fish Fry and Cake Auction Date Announced

Save the date: Friday, April 25, 2014 Time: 5pm to 7pm

Please join us at Heritage Park (Main at Second Streets Downtown) for fantastic food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate Irving. Enjoy the delectable fried fish and sides prepared before your eyes by our own Marvin Randle and his helpers. Sample his special recipe of fried Spam, and top it off with a sweet selection from the cake auction. (If you would be willing to donate a cake, please call 972-252-3838.)

Tickets for the fish fry are \$12.50 in advance, and \$15.00 at the gate. Tickets for children 3-8 years are \$5. Purchase your tickets at Pat Cook's Clothes Quarters, the Mustang Museum, from any Heritage Society board member or call the above number.

Notice: The Heritage Society is seeking volunteers to become docents for the Heritage House. Docent led tours are at 3:00pm and 4:00pm on the first Sunday of each month, March-December. Volunteers are also needed for the Caster Cabin and the Depot at Heritage Park. These buildings are open on special occasions. Anyone who is interested should call Barbara Terrill at 972-986-7238.

New Members: Lea Bailey, Pam and Phil Brown, Jack and Sandra Hickey, Bob and Myrna Mercer, Mark Murray, John and Judy Samuel, Vicki Tate, Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau, and YMCA Irving.

Progress Continues on Mary's Playhouse

by Patty Landers Caperton

The rebuilding of Mary's playhouse is progressing well with completion expected sometime this spring. The interior walls (wood used from the original structure) and ceiling have been completed. The flooring has been purchased and will be installed soon. Following this installation, final decorating of the interior can begin.

A letter has been submitted to Home Depot, Inc. requesting assistance in landscaping the backyard area around the playhouse as well as replacing the stone walkway. Notification is expected within the next few weeks.

Funding for rebuilding the playhouse has been possible through collaboration with the City of Irving and the generosity of Mart, Inc. and F & F Concrete. The Gardner family provided a significant gift to the Heritage Society in honor of Mary Gardner, a longtime member of the organization. Several current members have also made generous contributions to the project. Approximately \$3,500 was raised for rebuilding the playhouse through three Treasures and Oddities sales held in 2012. During 2013, about \$1,800 was raised at the T & O sale on September 14. A porch/yard sale on November 2 netted almost \$1,000. A few remaining items have been placed on consignment at the *Fabulously Frugale Boutique* on Main Street or were posted on eBay. Some of the special plates and dolls are available at Debra Cox's booth at 135 on Story Road (formerly JoAnn Fabrics).

In total, more than \$12,000 has been raised for the playhouse project. Expenditures to date are a little more than \$7,000. Most of that amount has been the cost of materials.

For more information about the playhouse or to volunteer with furnishing and decorating the interior, please contact Patty Caperton at plcaperton@tx.rr.com.

Watch for Peruvian Gold Exhibit

At the Heritage Society's general meeting, Irving Arts Center Executive Director Richard Huff provided a sneak preview of the National Geographic Society's Peruvian Gold: Ancient Treasures Unearthed Exhibit to the large crowd in attendance. This rare exhibit will be displayed only in two venues: Washington D. C. beginning April 10 and in the Irving Arts Center October-December 31, 2014. After that, the treasures return to Peru. The exhibit consists of rare gold artifacts, including royal crowns, masks, jewelry, and other items from as early as 1250 BC.

Irving is indeed fortunate to be able to host this unique exhibition. Volunteers will be needed, and anybody interested may call the Arts Center at 972-252-7558. Ticket information to view the exhibition will be available later in the year.

Donations: Shirley and Burnell Stehman, Mary Baker, David and Sandra Cole, Chris Wallace, Barbara Fryrear, Bob and Kay Haaser, Suzanne S. Beeman, Mark Murray, John and Angie Drake, Norma Stanton, Lorraine and Craig Taylor, and Carol Sullivan.

Designated Donations:

Mary's Playhouse: Clint and Kathy Howard, Betty Beufford Bessler, Helen Schilling, Clark Ruggles, and Larry and Pat Nicks.

Celebrating Irving: Mary Higbie

Honorariums: Bob and Jean Werry in honor of Barbara Terrill, Regina and George Story in honor of Janice Carroll and Mary Higbie, Byron and Jan Killen in honor of Norma Stanton and all women city council members, Larry and Pat Nicks in honor of Tom and Patty Landers Caperton.

Condolences to the families of the following members: Earl Ayles, Marion Joe DiMaggio, David Tate, Gaylynn Taylor, Bob Werry, and Jean Werry.

Memorials for the following: Patrick Steven O'Teter, Steven, Patrick, and Nick Kamenicky, Earl Ayles, Joe DiMaggio, David Tate, Bob Werry, Gary Burke, Kary Fieseler, and Jean Werry.

Memorials given by Nancy and Tyler O'Teter, Pat Kamenicky, Mary Higbie, Vicki Tate, Janice Carroll, and Regina and George Story.

Website and Facebook: Be sure to check our website www.irvingheritage.com often for the latest news about our organization! Karen Farris does a fantastic job of keeping it up to date and beautifully designed.

Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet? Maura Gast keeps everyone informed about the recent activities of the Heritage Society. Check it out and be sure to "like" us and become a "friend."

Washington Irving books for sale: Copies of the Washington Irving's book "A Tour on the Prairies" are available to be purchased. A special commemorative bookmark comes with the book as well as an invitation to have a chance to share a meal on April 11 with Washington Irving aka Dr. John Dennis Anderson . He will be portraying Washington Irving in a special presentation on April 12. Paperback book cost is \$12. Call Mary Higbie at 972-252-3838 for details.

Special thanks: Thanks from the editor to the following for contributing news items: Martha Watson, Janice Carroll, Stacey Martin, Patty Landers Caperton, and Mary Higbie.