

stay in the loop

KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 13, No. 1

February 2017

2017 Fair Logo Revealed!



Our 2017 King William Fair logo is by Zane Thomas, of Black Moon Print. Zane is a local San Antonio artist who combines his years of graphic design experience with his Flatstock printing knowledge to create works that have a vintage look of years past.

Celebrating Our 50th Birthday

As we begin the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the King William Association (KWA), it is appropriate to pay tribute to those who worked tirelessly to assure the preservation and restoration of the neighborhood we know today. By the time the first meeting of the KWA was held on October 4, 1967, residents had already been working for 20 years to protect the place many of their families had called home since the 1800s.

Concerned about the decline of the neighborhood, residents formed the King William Area Conservation Association (KWACA) in March 1947. The group included descendants of founding residents — the James, Groos, Steves, Pancoast and Guenther families — as well as more recent arrivals. At a party in their honor, new residents Della Gething and her daughter Margaret suggested forming an organization to preserve the “unique charms and historic values of King William Street.”

For the next 20 years, members of the KWACA defended the neighborhood against threats of an expressway, funeral home, river channelization and commercial encroachment. Members relocated the Arsenal bandstand to King William Park, dressed in period clothing to showcase homes, and petitioned City Hall to remedy zoning violations.

By the early 1960s, a new group of preservation-minded homebuyers began to invest in the neighborhood. They included Raford Dobie, Earnest Sam Heard and Henry and Roma Hafemann who purchased houses on King William Street. Dobie, who was deeply interested in preserving the area, envisioned a non-profit organization that

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President's Report

by Chris Price

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the King William Association! This is an accomplishment of which we should all be extremely proud! We are one the oldest neighborhood associations and we should celebrate the accomplishments we have achieved over the past half century!

Our 50th year celebration was kicked off in December with the home tour and holiday fair. Kudos to home tour and fair organizers for a job well done, even through terrible weather! Unfortunately, we had heavy rain and cold weather on the day of the home tour. Despite this, 273 people attended and we broke even. KWA had not held a combined home tour and fair since 1991.

We have begun 2017 with lots of activities in preparation our 50th Anniversary. Our March social event, to be held on March 26th at the King William Park, will be the official anniversary celebration of the King William Association complete with a birthday cake.

The celebration will continue with our annual event - the King William Fair. Stay tuned for lots more news on the fun and excitement planned!

To help us celebrate this momentous occasion, the King William Association has developed 50th anniversary Christmas ornaments, banners and Fiesta medals, on sale at the KWA office. Please call or stop by the office to pick up your mementos.

I look forward to celebrating with you all the pride and joy of being part of the historic and dynamic community of King William!



Photo: Susan Athené

The 2017 King William Fair logo was unveiled at the December KWA Social at Blue Star Brewery. From left, KWA President Chris Price, Fair Chair Brad Shaw, and logo artist Zane Thomas of Black Moon Print.



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,
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MASTHEAD CONCEPT Cherise Bell

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the KWA. Editorial guidelines are available on-line at kingwilliamassociation.org.

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2017 King William Association

Our 50th Birthday

Continued from page 1

could buy and sell property, conduct tours and operate businesses — a more far-reaching purpose than that of the existing group. He named the new organization the King William Association (KWA).

Organized in July 1967, 21 members attended the group's first membership meeting on October 4. The KWA's founding board included Raford Dobie (president), Henry Hafermann (vice president), Roma Hafermann (secretary), Earnest Heard (treasurer), and Richard Garza, Jack Kent, Sr., Graham Knight, and Mrs. P.S. Navarro. Members discussed still-familiar issues — a new sprinkler system for the park, traffic, street lighting and membership recruitment. And they voted to hold a fair and home tour on April 27, 1968.

The KWACA and KWA operated along parallel lines for eight years. Discussion of merging the groups began in 1974 and in December 1975, the KWACA voted to "disband and pass into history." Since the 1970s, increased interest in historic preservation and living in the inner city have assured a steady stream of new owners who have transformed the neighborhood. As a result, the KWA has continued to grow and prosper. And, as the saying goes, "the rest is history!"

- Maria Pfeiffer



Wulff House 1971- Collection of Maria Pfeiffer



Joske House 1971- Collection of Maria Pfeiffer



Chabot House 1971- Collection of Maria Pfeiffer.

Commemorate!

Commemorate is the theme for 2017 as the King William Association turns 50 years old and we hold our 50th Fair this April. "Commemorate" is defined by Merriam-Webster as a "call to remembrance" or "to mark by some ceremony or observation". We hope to commemorate pivotal moments, plus report on interesting finds as we delve through past newsletters, dusty folders, and the foggy memories of our neighbors who lived through the events that impacted our neighborhood, then report our findings in our newsletter.

Please join KWA in the celebration of our 50th anniversary by sending us your favorite King William memories and photos for us to commemorate in the newsletter!

- Cherise Bell

Sybil Maloney Casey

January 6, 1923 –
December 23, 2016



Photo: José Chapa

Mike Casey and his mother Sybil.

Over the last few years we have all walked by Mrs. Casey's house at 225 King William and seen her sitting on the porch dressed in her cool, cotton dresses all perfectly pressed and each a beautiful clear rainbow color. You could not pass her house without a smile from her and a wave to speed you on your way.

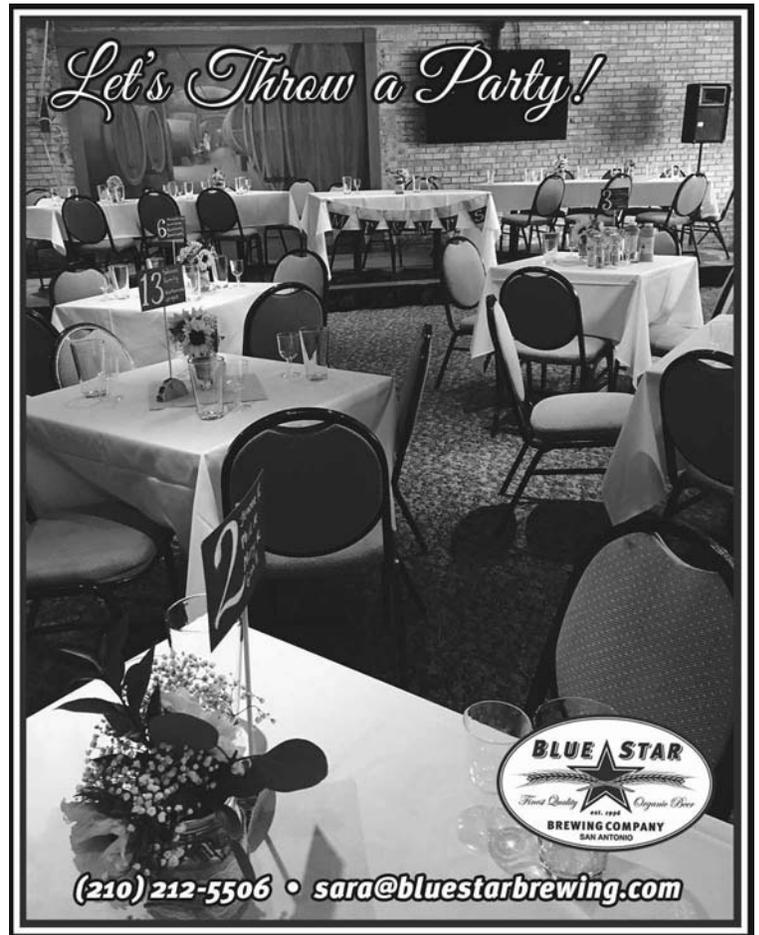
She wasn't just the beautiful butterfly on the shelf; she lived a full and productive life. One of her last "public" appearances was in King William Park to enjoy one of the concerts while keeping perfect time with the music.

Until a few years ago she did her own yard work and was still caring for her son, Michael, who tells the story of her ironing his white shirts until she was 89 years old, worrying out loud who would take care of him when she died. She raised two wonderful sons, loved dancing, accomplishing things and living life. She was a doer, a part of our daily lives and she is missed.

- Jessie Simpson

Newsletter Improvement Plan

Do you have a story to tell? A neighbor to praise? News to share? A general interest column to launch? Submissions and contributions to the KWA newsletter are welcome! Please send to info@ourkwa.org.



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Remembering Dan Boone

June 17, 1935 – December 15, 2016



Dan Boone, along with his wife, Robbi, have been major contributors to Historic Preservation and business growth in King William. They opened A King's Attic antique shop on the corner of S. Alamo and Turner Streets in the early 1990s, where we first met Dan while checking out a player piano. That was the start of a treasured friendship, even though we did not buy the piano.

Dan was a visionary and always had new and interesting plans. A favorite quote from Dan is, "This will just be a little project..." One of

those "little projects" was to move a historic, two-story house built in the late 1800s from W. Houston and Rosillo Streets to 951 S. Alamo Street. This saved the derelict building from decaying or being torn down. The ambitious move of six miles was made in March 1997. The building was cut into small pieces for the move.

Once it was put back together, the house was renovated inside and out and small additions made. Painted yellow, the house now has pride of place in the middle of the King William District. The Boones relocated A King's Attic to the first floor and rented out rooms on the second floor. In 2002, they converted the building into the Alamo Street Victorian Inn, welcoming guests from around the world until they closed the B&B and sold the building.

Dan and Robbi also acquired Canyon Lake Ranch, splitting their time between the city and the country. Their longhorn cattle are delightful entertainment for the guests who vacation in the lodges on their hill country property.

Dan has had more jobs than many people put together. He retired from the Air force as a Lt. Colonel after 26 years of military service that included time in the Navy and Army. He completed a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology and taught in several universities. He had a passion for learning and deep concern about our Texas public education system. This, along with his support of women's rights and healthcare, led Dan to run for congress in the state as a Democrat and representative of Comal County.

Other pursuits included flying his beloved Piper Archer, hydroponic gardening and ownership of a restaurant. Dan loved his family and cherished his marriage to Robbi. He was unfailingly kind and supportive of friends and he enthusiastically greeted each day. He bravely met the challenges of pancreatic cancer for the last year of his life, living each day fully, and always looking forward to the next adventure. Dan liked to quote Mark Twain: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." Dan was happy and he spread that happiness to all he met. We are so lucky to have known him.

- Nora Peterson

In the Beginning...

The King William Association (KWA) Charter was submitted to the State of Texas on July 28, 1967. The purpose of a charter is to proclaim an organization's purpose and intent. The purpose and intent of an organization are accomplished through goals. According to the November 1967 KWA newsletter, the newly-formed organization had eight goals:

1. Beautify the King William Park
2. Beautify the River
3. Beautify Public Areas
4. Beautify Private Property
5. Make King William Area an Historical District
6. Attract Tourists to the Area
7. Reward Property Owners for the Beautification and Restoration of Their Property
8. Establish a King William Association Community Center, Museum and Library

The founding members immediately went to work on accomplishing their goals by setting up committees and creating fundraiser activities. That December, President Ray Dobie opened up his home, 316 King William, for a \$1 per person admission charge. The proceeds were to "pay for the installation of an underground sprinkler system" in the King William Park. Approximately one-third of the money needed was raised from their home tour, and the board voted to establish a Park Fund to raise the remaining amount needed. According to the January 25, 1968 newsletter, KWA joined the Fiesta San Antonio Commission and the initial plans for the King William Fair were created with the Fair to be held during Fiesta Week 1968.

According to our newsletters, in addition to fundraising activities the KWA "petitioned the City Council for a public hearing" for Historical Zoning. Historic designation was granted and the city established a "Review Board for Historic Districts."

The combination of historic designation plus establishing fundraising activities provided both the framework and revenue sources needed to establish the King William Association and ensure its future success.

- Cherise Bell

City Lights

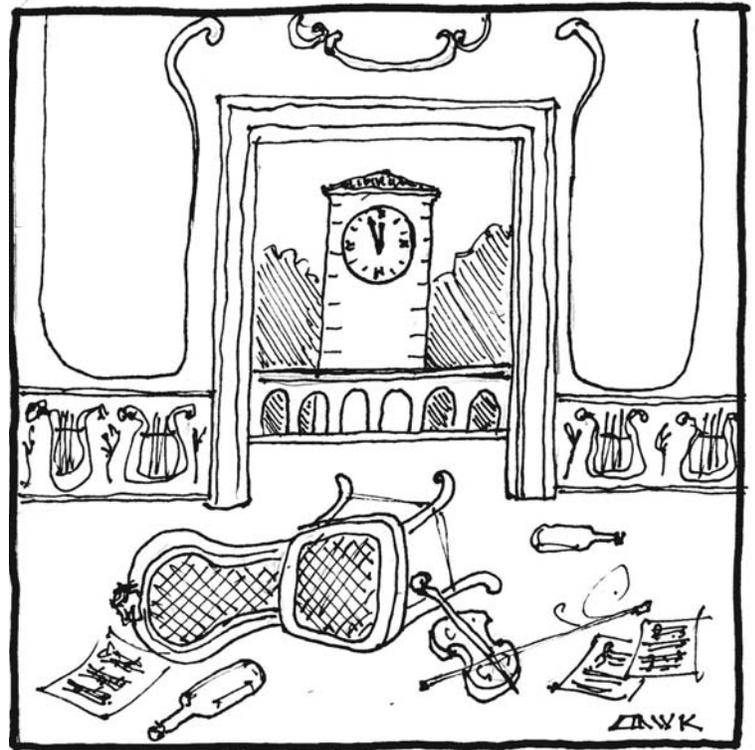
I was rummaging in my massively disorganized bookcases and a battered sketchbook fell out, and open, on the floor. It was the sketchbook I carried as a 21 year old art history student at the University of Siena. The page was dated February 22nd, the day of Carnevale, the Italian answer to Mardi Gras. On that long-ago night I was at the art student's ball at the Palazzo Chigi-Saracini, the seat of Siena's famous music school. I'd been trying to catch the eye of a reddish-blonde with almond shaped green eyes, to little avail. Most of the crowd was in the Palazzo's grand ballroom, a rococo confection of crême and gilt plaster swirls and mirrored doors catching the flickering light of its enormous chandeliers. In the courtyard just outside was a clock set on a stone well head, about to play its part in the evening's ritual of turning its hands back from midnight to postpone the arrival of the first day of Lent.

One of my pals dragged me over to a squirming human pyramid and indicated it was my turn to climb up and delay the arrival of the new day a little longer. I managed to step on several fingers and collarbones on the way up, and, having accomplished the task, fell to the bottom of the pile as the would-be acrobats came tumbling down onto the very hard, very cold bricks that paved the court. As a frequently sacked high school football player, the sensation was entirely too familiar. When I opened my eyes the first thing I saw was an inverted face, almond shaped green eyes framed by reddish gold hair. "Cretino!" (imbecile) she exclaimed. "Mi Chiamo Michele" I replied.

We danced every dance for the rest of the night until the student orchestra had finally had enough, it was five in the morning, no more re-setting the clock.

The apprentice conductor tapped his bow on his violin drawing all eyes in his direction. "Un altro di piu, e, poi, vai a letto" (One more and then let's go to bed). The entendre of the double entendre wasn't lost on any of the guests.

Thanks to being forced to take dancing lessons at the age of 12 I was the possessor of a completely archaic skill, I remembered how to waltz.



Johann Strauss' "Roses from the South". All of the European students began to twirl around the candle-lit parquet. My partner was a little surprised that I could do it too, and, for the first time, gave me a wide smile and a laugh.

No one wanted to leave but eventually we all did. We were walking home as couples, drawing close for warmth under the icy cobalt sky of the Tuscan night. As we passed a bakery, the baker emerged and started handing out steaming rolls to the famished party goers who made a circle around his door. We looked up past the arcs of the swinging street lamps and saw what seemed to be fluttering silver stars. It was starting to snow.

- Michael Guarino

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- ☞ Ir despacio y ver alrededor, especialmente en las intersecciones y en accesos a cocheras.
- ☞ Obedecer las reglas de las calles, incluyendo darle el paso a los que caminan.
- ☞ Tener cuidado en todo momento.
- ☞ Compartir la promesa Vision Zero con mi familia y amigos.



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- ☞ Slow down and look around, especially at intersections and driveways.
- ☞ Practice the rules of the road including yielding to people walking.
- ☞ Be alert at all times.
- ☞ Share this Vision Zero pledge with my family and friends.



SAN ANTONIO

Drive safe. Bike safe. Walk safe.

Fair View

The King William Fair will celebrate its 50th year in 2017! We are looking for neighbors who grew up in King William, especially those still involved in the neighborhood. Our theme and focus for the Parade and Fair is a celebration of the past 50 years. We plan to honor those folks with an invitation to be our honored guests in the Parade.



If you are one of those people or you know a family member, neighbor or friend who grew up in the neighborhood, please contact us at 210-271-3247 or zet@kwfair.org.

Need some King William Fair merchandise? Our online store is up at www.cafepress.com/kwfair. There is a mousepad with the perennial logo and lots of great 2016 collectibles, mugs, glasses, water bottles and beer steins. Keep checking, as the 2017 collectibles will be added soon!

- Zet Baer, Fair Manager



KW Fair logo products

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Old News

This article is inspired by past issues of the King Association newsletter, beginning in November 1967. Its purpose is to inform newer neighbors and remind those who have been here awhile of how the King William Area has evolved through the years.

References and comments are from those issues containing "news" items that seem, to this writer, to show the development of the King William neighborhood or merely to show how some things are unique to an historic district. The series starts with comments taken from the November 1967 newsletter about the first King William Association meeting held in October 1967. Articles will continue, but will not in every issue of the newsletter.

November 1967 issue - The first meeting of the King William Association was held in October 1967. It was attended by people who cared very much for the future of the area and who were committed to the idea of getting together to accomplish that which no one could ever accomplish alone. Individual dues were \$2 a year and \$5 for businesses or organizations. Those joining by January 1, 1968, would be considered Charter Members of the Association.

December 1967 issue - The City Director of Planning made a presentation at the monthly meeting concerning what the addition of historic zoning would mean for property owners.

January 1968 issue - Plans were begun for the first King William Fair to be held in April during Fiesta. Miracles were not expected, but it was hoped that the Fair would give people the opportunity to come to the neighborhood, visit the King William Fair, and then go to the night parade downtown.

The City Planning Commission made its recommendation to the City Council on the area to be included in the proposed Historic District.

February 1968 issue - Newcomers were welcomed at the last Association meeting. One of these was Mr. Walter Mathis, who became a driving force in the revitalization of the King William neighborhood. The King William Association was six months old and membership had grown to over 100.

March 1968 issue - The City Council of San Antonio appointed three members to meet with the San Antonio Conservation Society and the King William Association to study the boundaries of the King William Historic Zone.

- Alan Cash

Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

Believe it or not, warm weather is not far away and plants will soon be putting on their spring growth. Valentine's Day marks the time to start getting the garden ready for the next growing season.

One of the most important things to do now is to trim evergreens and perennials that have grown too large or have frozen back. Plants trimmed now will begin to put out new growth in early March, which is usually past the last damaging frost. Firebush, lantana, thryalis, plumbago, shrimp, Phillippine violets and variegated ginger are popular perennials in many gardens that should be cut back to about 6 inches tall. Large evergreen shrubs can be trimmed to desired size and shape.



Nandinas are a different matter. Because of their growth pattern, cut back about one fourth of the tallest canes to 2 inches tall. This will cause new growth at ground level which will fill bare spots as nandina, not tended, can have foliage concentrated in the top half of the bush as they age.

Bush roses should also be trimmed by about half to keep them compact and to promote more flowers on new growth. Climbing roses are an exception. They flower on old wood and should not be trimmed, if needed, until after their spring blooming. This also applies to mountain laurels.

Nurseries will soon have plants on sale. Take advantage of the sales but do not plant most annuals until after the first week of March. Wait until around the first of April to plant periwinkles, impatiens and caladium bulbs to prevent them from rotting before the soil warms.

Mulch flower beds as needed. If you are just starting a mulching program, mulch flower beds to a depth of 4 to 5 inches. Mulch helps keep soil moist, protects plant roots from summer heat, and reduces the need to water often as temperatures rise. Keep mulch a couple of inches away from the base of plants to prevent stem rot.

You may want to add new plants to your garden or replace aging ones that no longer look good. Select plants that need little care once established and that require less water. (There is a FREE list of adaptive perennials outside the KWA office just to the right of the door.) Look to locally owned nurseries for these. Good sources include Fanick's on Holmgreen Road, Rainbow Gardens on Thousand Oaks, and Shades of Green on Sunset Road.

From *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations*: Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.

Garden Note: Tickle the earth with a hoe, and she will laugh with a harvest.

Parking / Transportation Committee Report

In October 2014, the King William Association and Lavaca Neighborhood Association created an ad hoc joint committee to secure a parking needs assessment from the City that would support solutions to our traffic-related problems. These problems included, among other things, decreased visibility at intersections, blocked driveways and impaired first responder access. Both KWA and LNA conducted surveys, held meetings and engaged in social media discussions. Transportation issues were regularly addressed in the KWA newsletter while City staff worked with its outside engineering consultant to secure a study and recommendations.

On November 10 and 17, 2016, the City and its consultant held meetings to announce a new parking permit program that could be used in areas adjacent to downtown, including King William and Lavaca. This new program was proposed to replace the special event permit program currently used in portions of Lavaca and perhaps the residential parking program on Arsenal Street. At these meetings, Jim Mery, Deputy Director of the City's Center City Development Office, stressed that "nothing is set in stone." The initial ideas for this plan are in the City's presentation, which can be found on the homepage of KWA's website (www.ourkwa.org).

The City heard many concerns raised by the neighbors, and is revising details of the plan based on the feedback from the November public meetings. We anticipate there will be more public meetings in the coming months and appreciate everyone's participation. There is currently no implementation schedule, and while the eventual plan will require city council approval, there is no date set for that review.

- Rose Kanusky, Transportation & Parking Committee

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**KWA 50th Anniversary
Birthday Bash
March 26
King William Park
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

February Calendar

- 1 General Membership Meeting - KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Presidents' Day