



The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

March 2021



THE "VIRTUAL" VINTAGE VALENTINE'S DAY TEA

CONGRATULATIONS to our two new sweethearts!

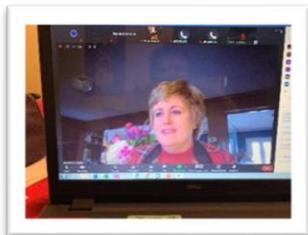
Cynthia Sharp and Bob Bourgeois, who received flowers and other gifts to honor this award.



Cynthia Sharp



Bob Bourgeois



Karen Martin



Lara Zwhalen

If you were not available for the Vintage Valentine Tea, you missed a fun online event!

Prior to the Tea, each past president and sweetheart received a gift bag with a teacup and a special blend of tea. Woody Schober sang the Sweetheart song, Karen Martin emceed the event, and Lara Zwhalen was the guest speaker who enthralled the audience with her attire, props, and discussion of the history of teatime. She indicated that thousands of years ago, a loose tea leaf landed in a hot cup of water held by a

Chinese Emperor, who drank the water with the added leaf and thoroughly enjoyed the aroma and flavor; hence, the beginning of the beverage we love now, hot or cold.

Gift packages were also delivered to our Corporate Sponsors as a part of this event. Thank-you to the committee for working so hard on this unique project and pulling off a virtual event so well!

Karen Martin, Chair, Linda Proctor, Co-chair, Kathrine Pennington who designed the invitations, Paige Hillis for "stuffing" them all and helping with deliveries, Susan Motley and President Jearlene Miller for delivery help, Lea Bailey for the technical support, President Jearlene Miller and President-elect Carol Little.

We appreciate our sponsors, Bruce Burns, Stars and Stripes Bargain Center, and Flowers of Las Colinas. They made it possible for the event to be extra special.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CELEBRATING IRVING: THE CITY AND THE MAN

The 14th annual event celebrating the First American Man of Letters Washington Irving as well as the City of Irving will kick off with a virtual "Happy Hour" on April 3 at 5pm. We will raise a toast in honor of the 238th birthday of Washington Irving, brush up on the history of both the City and the Man, and award a few prizes. The wearing of party hats is optional. This will also kick off a month-long Irving trivia contest on Facebook. To receive an invitation to the virtual birthday party, send an email to irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com today.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, May 1, at 2:30pm will be our next general meeting and election/installation of the board. By-law changes will be presented. This will be done virtually, and an invitation link may be requested from irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com For any additional information call 972-252-3838.

REMEMBERING OUR CAREGIVERS

On recognition of our members who lovingly take care of loved ones, clean their homes, and shop for them, we sent cards to let them know we were thinking of them in November during National Family Caregivers Month, "Caregiving Around the Clock."

FUN FACTS ABOUT IRVING!

Courtesy of Kevin Kendro, Archivist Coordinator

- The city of Irving was founded on December 19, 1903 by way of a town lot auction.
- The city of Irving began on 80 acres, today it encompasses 67.7 square miles.
- Natural gas service arrived in Irving in 1911.
- Electric service came to Irving in 1925.
- The University of Dallas, a Catholic liberal arts college, opened in Irving in 1956. Irving's first institute of higher learning.
- Irving's first hospital, Irving Community Hospital, opened in 1964. Today it is part of the Baylor, Scott and White hospital system.
- Texas Stadium, home to the Dallas Cowboys football team, opened in Irving in 1971 bringing Irving its first national recognition. The stadium closed in 2008.

HERITAGE HOUSE/MARY'S PLAYHOUSE TOURS

Cancelled until further notice.

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, SEND A NOTE TO IRVINGHERITAGESOCIETY@YAHOO.COM OR CALL 972-252-3838. WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Introducing Pam Engman!



Pam is a long-time area resident. She grew up on a dairy farm outside of Irving where DFW airport is now and she and her family always went to schools and churches here in Irving. Pam graduated from Irving High School, as did her father, and her brother was in the first graduating class at Macarthur High School. Barbara Terrill contacted her from time to time to join the Heritage Society, but Pam's work kept her from attending the meetings. When her friend Mary Moorman was president-elect, Pam was no longer working and was able to say yes to her first term as secretary. Mary Higbie contacted Pam to serve as secretary again three years ago, making this her second term as recording secretary.

Pam has been married to Ken for 22 years and between them they have 4 grown daughters and 12 grandchildren, three of whom are married. They enjoy spending time with the grandkids when they can!

Pam has an interest in music and has been singing in the Irving Chorale for 30 years and really enjoys it. She has been the secretary, president-elect, president twice and the librarian of the music for the last few years. Pam attends the Bethel Methodist Church of North Texas where she sings in the choir (when there is one) and she serves on the board of stewards.

VINTAGE PLAYING CARDS

Decks of playing cards with vintage photos continue to be for sale for \$10 at the Irving Archives and Museum gift shop, Big State Fountain Grill, The Monkey Junkie, and Baylor Scott and White Gift Shop. Porch drop deliveries in Irving are available for two or more decks by calling 972-252-3838. Proceeds benefit the Irving Archives and Museum

LOOKING BACK

Heritage Bingo - President-elect Carol Huntley Little put together a fun evening of Heritage Bingo last November via Zoom. Clever Bingo cards reflecting historical landmarks and identification of Irving were distributed via email. The players used their own imagination to select the cover-up pieces which included buttons, coins, candy pieces and scraps of paper. Prizes of restaurant gift cards were mailed to the lucky winners. Attendees were asked to share the oldest item in their home (not including their spouse!). Jenn Landry, Director of the Irving Archives and Museum brought us up to date on the new museum.

Christmas Tree at Irving Arts Center - Gary Schepf chaired the decorating of our Christmas tree at the Arts Center competition, assisted by Judy Samuel, Charlotte Callahan, Lilly Allison, Jearlene Miller, and Mary Higbie. With a theme of 1903 and the notable Babes in Toyland operetta, photos of various community "note-ables" were displayed along with their favorite holiday song.

What's Shaking at Heritage Park - The general meeting was held virtually on January 8th. Since this is the birth date of Elvis Presley, the program was titled "What's 'Shaking' at Heritage Park?". Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Moses and Amy Kinkade brought us up to date on the renovation going on at Heritage Park. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, in time for the holiday events.

HERITAGE PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

Courtesy of Gene Moulden, CIP Planning Administrator

This project will completely redevelop the existing Heritage Park. In addition to relocating and renovating the existing Depot, Library, Water Tower and Caboose rail car, this project will also provide for a new entertainment stage building and gazebo.

The entertainment stage facility will include a permanent sound system with stage lighting and a large video screen for movie showings and performance visual graphics.

With construction starting in June of 2020, construction is near 50% complete. Underground utilities and building foundations have been completed. The Depot, Library and Caboose have been moved to their permanent location with building renovations underway.

The masonry for the stage building has started and roof steel beams installed. Sidewalks at the street intersections and the site interior are being installed. The project is scheduled to be completed this Fall.



KING'S SQUARE King's Square, located at 200 Gilbert, is a pocket park and will act as a gateway to the southern section of the Bear Creek Heritage Community. The Bear Creek Community in west Irving is one of the oldest African American communities in Dallas County. The project will honor the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Planning & Community Development has allocated approximately \$310,000 of CDBG funds for development.

The project will have architectural pavement, brick columns and walls, seating, shade trees, landscaping, and irrigation. Construction is underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.

Welcome new members: Mark and Erin McKee, April Baker, Gayle Westmoreland

Loss of Members: George Story, Jim Meler, Ann Nelson, Sandy Franco, Rebecca Allen Hugman, Clint Howard, Joel Blackwell, Dr. Clay W. Gilbert, John Michael Brown, and Martha McMurray.

Memorials received for: Pete Fernandez, Richard Huff, John Boyle, George Story, Jim Meler, Sandy Franco, Lea Tabler, Rebecca Hugman, Clint Howard, Dr. Clay Gilbert, Joel Blackwell, Ann Nelson, John Michael Brown, and Martha McMurray.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



U-Con Construction

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