

# King William

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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KINGWILLIAMASSOCIATION.ORG

## The McDaniel House and the Bonn-Avon School

MADISON STREET neighbor Linda Winchester recently posed an interesting question about a bit of King William history. She was told by an old friend of her father's that he remembered living in the 100 block of Madison Street as a child. He also remembered that his mother walked him across the street to a French private girls' school, which he was allowed to attend until he was six years old.

The man's childhood home no longer exists, but Maria Pfeiffer identified the school as Bonn-Avon School at 117 Madison. She says that the school was named after the birthplaces of Beethoven and Shakespeare.

According to Mary Burkholder's 1977 book, *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses*, 117 Madison was a wedding gift to Dr. and Mrs. Alfred McDaniel from the bride's father, Colonel Gibbs. The property included several deep lots extending all the way from Madison to King William Street. The bride and groom moved into their grand house in 1896.

After his wife died in the 1920s, Dr. McDaniel converted the carriage house into a duplex and moved into one of the apartments, where he lived until 1931. The duplex was later renumbered as 132 King William Street, extensively remodeled over the years, and is the current home of the San Antonio Art Museum.

In 1929, the Bonn-Avon School moved to 117 Madison Street. Julia Catherine Hall, a St. Mary's Hall science teacher, had founded the school in 1904 on Avenue C, where it began as an all-girls school. After



In this circa 1930 photo, a car decorated for the Battle of Flowers parade sits in front of the Bonn-Avon school, which was located at 117 Madison.

Hall's death in 1914, one of the teachers, Carrie Jo Estes, became head of the school.

According to *Express-News* columnist Paula Allen, newspaper and city directory advertisements through the 1910s say the school offered boarding and day students courses in history, English, singing and violin, as well as "special advantages in music, art expression and dancing."

Among the school's 1908 graduates was Mary Milby Giles, daughter of famed architect Alfred Giles. In 1915, Mary Giles mar-

ried Adolph Guenther Beckmann, grandson of the Pioneer Flour Mill founder.

After studying art in New York City, Eleanor Onderdonk, sister of the more famous Julian, returned to San Antonio in 1915 to teach at Bonn-Avon School.

Allen quotes Camille Sweeney Rosengren, a 1930s alumna, as saying that Bonn-Avon's heyday as a prestigious girl's school probably was in the 1910s and early 1920s. After the school moved to the King  
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# president's message

RICHARD (DICK) DAVIS




SOMETIMES I fear you will accuse me of spending too much space on our annual Fair. But it is the lifeblood that funds all the other things we do. On June 16, the Fair chair briefed board members about some significant changes for us to consider. I want you to think about them and share your conclusions with us. Either talk to a board member or send us an email at [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net)...or both.

1. Should we raise the admission price and, if so, by how much? The recommendations are raising it to \$10 or \$7 or to stay with the current \$5. Children 12 and under would still be free in any case.
2. Should we expand the perimeter of the Fair, perhaps all the way to South Flores, to try to reduce the density of the crowd? This change would add art and craft booths and food and beverage booths along the streets west of the river. Perhaps Kids Kingdom could be moved to the large park adjoining the O.P. Schnabel Apartments.
3. Should we move the parade to assemble on Main, entering King William from Guenther, turning right onto Turner and marching back down Madison before exiting to Main again? Depending on how we answer question 2, the parade could be completely within the Fair zone. All the street closures between South Alamo and Eagleland on Saturday morning would go away. Or, should we try harder to get the City to close South Alamo for a couple of hours on Fair day? That's where the bottleneck and safety issues are. Maybe the parade route should change every year or two?

These would be significant changes to our event and each one has its pros and cons.

We could do all of them, some of them, or none of them next year or we could develop a plan to implement these changes over several years. The board needs to hear from you soon, especially on question 1, so we can develop the budget for next year by our August deadline.

Those of you who attended our last neighborhood meeting saw Dr. Boganic's briefing on the survey of this year's Fair-goers. Some of the data was fascinating and will be useful for years to come. For instance, 78 percent of the people surveyed had attended on average six previous Fairs!

We are preparing another survey to assess how we residents feel about our neighborhood, and I hope you will all participate. It will be online and won't take much time. Hard copies will be available in the KWA office for those without internet access. Your board wants to know how you like the newsletter and the weekly e-blast and what other forms of communication you might like. Do you enjoy the speakers and programs at our monthly meetings and socials? How about the programs like spay and neuter, side-walks, concerts in the park, art exhibits in the office? How can we better address issues that affect our neighborhood? What motivates you to join the Association, or not to join?

Watch for an e-blast when the survey's available and click the link. ☺



## King William NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

EDITOR Susan Athené

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Marley Diehl

STAFF Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn, Nancy Diehl

CONTRIBUTORS Susan Athené, Cannoli, Paula Cantrell, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn, Richard (Dick) Davis, Janis De Lara, Nancy Diehl, Marita Emmett, Shandelle Girdley, Claire Oxley Gluck, Jennifer Herrera, Fred Pfeiffer, Jeanne Russell



1032 S. ALAMO

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78210

210-227-8786

[KING.WILLIAM@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:KING.WILLIAM@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

[KINGWILLIAMASSOCIATION.ORG](http://KINGWILLIAMASSOCIATION.ORG)

[KWFAIR.ORG](http://KWFAIR.ORG)

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Syeira Budd

FAIR COORDINATORS

Zet Baer, Susan Rothman

*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 King William Association.*

Editorial guidelines are available online at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org)

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# from the editor's porch

SUSAN ATHENÉ

*Susan Athéné*



**A**FTER FOUR YEARS AS EDITOR of the King William Neighborhood Newsletter, John Hartman has decided to take a well-deserved break. I'm honored that President Dick Davis has asked me to follow John in this position.

Thanks to John's initiative and Marley Diehl's artistry, we now have a beautifully re-designed newsletter, full of really useful information for all our neighborhood, and I'm delighted to be a part of it.

I'm astonished to realize that I've lived in the neighborhood about 18 years now! First at Blue Star, then to Adams Street, and now on Johnson Street, so I've had a first-hand view from several angles. Since moving here from Tokyo (talk about culture shock!) when my son was just a toddler, many things have changed. Babies do grow up, unexpected life shifts happen, and of

course no vital neighborhood is stagnant, not even an historic one. I'm very grateful to now be living in such a fabulous spot by the river in the house that Jack (and Jack's dad) built.

Thanks to Syeira and Marley and the Newsletter Committee, production and distribution are well taken care of. I see my part as being a channel for your input. So please, if you have news, stories or events that could be of interest to the whole neighborhood, send them in. Practical information, historical information and personal reflections on living here are welcome. I can't promise there'll be a page for every species (Dog Blog? Bird Word? definitely no Catty Chat!), but I hope that our newsletter will continue to be a real source of knowledge and insight for all of us.

Thanks for your support. 🐾

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## King William Yacht Club Fourth of July Regatta

**A**HOY! The King William Yacht Club is planning to hold its annual Fourth of July river outing on Sunday, July 4, 2010, despite the closing of the San Antonio River through our neighborhood. Tentative plans are to canoe the river on the Eagleland Reach. Please plan to put in your canoes and kayaks at the boat ramp at Lone Star Boulevard, north of the tunnel outlet. The water festivities will begin at 10:00 am. We will canoe northward toward Alamo Street. There will be a potluck brunch following the water outing.

RSVP to marita.emmett@gmail.com.  
Marita Emmett

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# cat chat

WITH CANNOLI



Dear Cannoli,

*A cat gave birth on my back porch. Originally there were four kittens and now there are only two. Is this normal? I am worried about the other two. What should I do? Also, when can I get the mamma cat spayed?*

—Concerned on Crofton

Dear Concerned,

It is kitten season in the neighborhood and there are many kittens being born these days. I applaud you for wanting to take care of the mom and the kittens. Unfortunately, it is not unusual for feral newborns to disappear. In fact, a study from the University of Wisconsin predicts that 75% of feral kittens do not make it past 12 weeks of age. Although unfortunate, you should not beat yourself up over the two kittens disappearing. If you are concerned about the safety of the remaining two, you may want to take the babies and mamma cat into your house. If that is not possible, try building a temporary enclosure around her with boxes, tarps, etc. so she is protected from the elements and other animals. If that still does not work, you may want to take the kittens. I would only take them from mom as a last resort because they need her for food, warmth (kittens can't regulate their body temperature until 3 weeks of age), and as a teacher. If you take them, you must be pre-

pared to be with them constantly and to feed them every three hours until they can feed themselves (at about four weeks old). You can check with your vet about the best way to care for newborn kittens. As for mom, she can get fixed when she is done weaning the babies. You will have to get her quickly, because she can get pregnant again about only one month after giving birth.

Dear King William Residents,

Most of the time I am the one answering your questions but I need to address an issue that is of real concern to me and to a lot of human residents in the neighborhood. Recently, Tumbleweed, a feral cat my parents were caring for, was attacked and killed by a dog. He was a sweet boy whose only fault in life was that he was born feral and, therefore, never really felt comfortable about coming inside our house. He lived quietly on my parents' porch for six years, mooching a few meals a day and looking



Athena left and Tumbleweed take an afternoon cat nap together.

out for his feral girlfriends, Sedona and Athena. He took his chances living on the street, but his death could have been prevented if people would follow city ordinances and keep their dogs restrained at all times (in your house or yard, on a leash, etc.) and would not let their dogs "self-walk" at night. It's against the law to allow dogs to do this so if you are reading this and let your dog roam at night, please stop. It is best for the people in the neighborhood, for us kitties, for your dog and its safety, and ultimately, for your checkbook if you get

caught and have to pay a fine.

After Tumbleweed died, people would try to comfort my mom by saying things like "Oh, so it was not really one of your cats," or even "I am glad it was not Cannoli." Even though Tumbleweed never came inside my mom always treated him as one of "her cats"

(and legally, he was). Just because he was feral, it did not mean that he was not worth watching over, caring for, and bonding with. There are a lot of people in the neighborhood who care for the ferals as if they were their own and they mourn their loss. So, the next time you hear of someone in the neighborhood losing a feral cat, all you need to say is, "I am sorry for the loss of your cat."

Thanks everyone! Keep the questions coming! You can contact me via my Facebook fan page, Cannoli of King William, email [catchatwithcannoli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catchatwithcannoli@sbcglobal.net), or write to Cannoli, c/o KWA, 1032 S. Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78210. 🐾

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This year's winners *left to right* Kristin Benavides, Alan Estrada, Ada Flores, Pamela Rodriguez.

## 2010 King William Association Scholarships Awarded

**T**HE WINNERS of this year's King William Association scholarships, with their prospective colleges and areas of concentration, are Kristin Benavides, St. Philip's, psychology; Alan Estrada, St. Philip's, health care; Ada Flores, Palo Alto, veterinary medicine; and Pamela Rodriguez, Northwest Vista, health care.

The scholarships for 2010-2012 were presented at the June general meeting. Each scholarship represents a grant of \$1,000 per semester for tuition and books, and is awarded to Brackenridge High School graduates attending one of the Alamo Colleges. Each student will be assigned a mentor, one of the members of the scholarship committee, with whom he or she must maintain frequent communication. Students are also required to maintain a GPA standard and to assist with the parade on Fair day.

Nearly 30 students applied for the scholarships. Based on their applications, essays, grades, and test scores, 12 students were selected for interviews and the four winners were chosen from those. This year's scholarship committee members included Nancy Diehl, chair, Noemi Cué, Jim Heidelberg, Johnny Heidelberg, Beverly Schwartzman, and Nancy Shivers.

Committee members would also like to thank retiring Brackenridge High School senior counselor Jeffrey Blum for his years of invaluable assistance in selecting the King William Association scholarship winners.

*Nancy Diehl*

### *KWA Office Hours To Change June 28 - July 16*

**K**ING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION office hours will be reduced while Syeira Budd is out from Monday, June 28, through Friday, July 16. During that time the office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only. Regular office hours (Monday - Friday, 10 am to 2 pm) will resume on Monday, July 19. ☺



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## King William Teen Miranda McCardle Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

**KING WILLIAM RESIDENT** Miranda McCardle received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout ages 15-17 years old may earn. The 65-hour Gold Award project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing.

Miranda focused on the Davidson Respite Home, an emergency shelter and foster placement agency for abused and neglected children with developmental disabilities. During spring break, Miranda gave the children a "Spring Time Fun Day." They enjoyed a special afternoon planting flowers, filling bird feeders, and painting a mural with their handprints.



The second part of service project was the landscaping of the front yard of a building on W. Craig Place that Respite Care recently purchased. The building will be used to house families with special needs children. Colorful flowers and drought-resistant plants now replace dead weeds and shrubs.

Many thanks go to all of the King William residents who donated items and money at the fundraiser garage and bake sale in March. A very special thank you goes to Mr. Sonny Collins, who donated his landscaper to help with the plant installation. King William neighbors are truly the best!

Miranda, daughter of Douglas and Letty McCardle, is a junior at Incarnate Word High School.

*Letty McCardle*

## Mikayla and the Bee

**MIKAYLA JOHNSON** is a charming nine-year-old girl who attends Bonham Academy. Although she's only in the third grade, she won the all-school spelling bee, competing against students all the way through the eighth grade.

Mikayla lives in Floresville, but her mom, who teaches in SAISD, arranged for Mikayla to attend Bonham, primarily to learn Spanish because Bonham is a dual-language school. Mikayla's older sister, 13-year-old Kiana, also attended Bonham for the same reason—to learn Spanish.

Mikayla laughed and said, "We have fun speaking Spanish to each other. No one knows what we are saying. My sister taught me a lot of Spanish before I started here so it was easier for me."

While Mikayla is obviously very good in spelling, with a bit of urging she admits that she is also good in math, reading and writ-

ing. But geography—NO! "I'm not good in geography. I couldn't seem to remember that Venice was in Italy!"

"And the word that you spelled that made you the winner of the bee?" I asked. "I think it was monarch," she said. "You mean like the butterfly?" I asked. "Yes, like the butterfly," she said.

"Were you nervous or scared when you were competing in the spelling bee?" I asked. "Well, I guess you could say that I suffer from stage fright. I can get a little creeped out sometimes," she answered.

"What about your hobbies?" I asked. "Oh, I love cooking," she said. "I want to be a chef!"

After spending just a few minutes with this bright young girl, I venture to say that Mikayla can be just about anything she wants to be.

*Bill Cogburn*

## Donate to Haven for Hope at KWA Office

**THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION** has partnered with Haven for Hope to accept donations of items that will be put to good use by Haven for Hope clients. Their immediate big needs are underwear and adult books for their adult library. You can drop off donations at the King William Association office, 1032 S. Alamo, during office hours (Monday - Friday, 10 am to 2 pm).



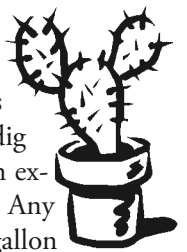
Haven for Hope is a private non-profit aimed at transform-

ing the lives of homeless men, women and children in the San Antonio/Bexar County area. Partnering with 78 governmental, non-profit and faith-based agencies, Haven for Hope seeks to transform the lives of the homeless by addressing the root causes of homelessness through education, job training and behavioral health services. While most "shelters" feed, clothe and shelter the homeless, Haven for Hope and its partners will provide critical social services to help the homeless become self-sufficient individuals on a long-term basis. Visit [havenforhope.org](http://havenforhope.org) to learn more.☼

## Give Plastic Plant Pots to Villa Finale

**I'M A GROUNDS** volunteer at Villa Finale and we need empty plastic pots from the nursery so we can dig up plants to save them from extensive grounds work there. Any size from four inch to ten gallon will do. Call 533-9005 for pickup, or leave them at my house at 619 Mission on the side porch by the drive. Thanks.

*Alan Cash*



out in the  
garden  
WITH ALAN CASH

*is on vacation  
until August.*

# fair view



left to right Ms. Balderas, Bonham Librarian; Richard (Dick) Davis, KWA President; Joey Cuellar, co-owner, Madhatters Tea House & Café; Janet Perez, Bonham Principal; Paula Cantrell, 2010 King William Fair Chair.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME to the neighborhood the new owners of Madhatters Tea House & Café, Gina (not pictured) and Joey Cuellar. This was their first year as owners to participate in the King William Fair and they are already making a difference! At the King William Association May general meeting, Mr.

Cuellar told a very moving story about the impact and importance of having books in your life and presented a \$1,000 check to be used for the Bonham Academy Library to the new Bonham principal, Janet Perez, and librarian, Ms. Balderas. Many thanks for your generosity, Gina and Joey.

*Paula Cantrell*



## Foodie Wanted for 2011 Fair

THE 2011 KING WILLIAM FAIR is looking for a volunteer to be the Food Department Chair. If you are interested in being a part of the 2011 Fair Team, send an email to [kwfair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwfair@sbcglobal.net) or call 271-3247. ☺

## Gemini Ink Poetry Tour in Southtown

LACE UP YOUR WALKING SHOES and check out a neighborhood poetry tour in your own backyard!

Twenty-two broadsides, or posters, with knock-out colors and fascinating kid's poems are on view in two areas this summer: in Southtown and near the Rackspace area in the former Windsor Park Mall.

In an innovative partnership between Gemini Ink's Writers in Communities program and the Rackspace Foundation, writers-in-residence Natalia Treviño and Ignacio Magaloni drew out the seventh and eighth graders' poems in a four-week after-school creative writing class at White Middle School. Visual artist and teacher Carolina G. Flores illustrated the poems.

In the "My Part of Town" class, the 22 young writers focused on building their awareness of, pride in, and connectedness to their neighborhoods and the larger community through writing from their own personal experience.

The broadsides are posted on the windows of 20 locations in the Southtown area. Gemini Ink thanks the generous businesses hosting the broadsides.

"Poetry captures the heart and soul of people when children participate," Tres Rebecas co-owner Rebecca Barrera said. "At a young age, it helps them grow and express themselves. We're thrilled to support this project."

Poetry tour maps are available at the King William Association office or on Gemini Ink's website, [geminiink.org](http://geminiink.org).

*Jennifer Herrera*

## Sidewalk Replacement Reimbursement Program Update

THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION'S sidewalk program has funded new walkways at 42 addresses throughout the neighborhood since its inception in 2004, and property owners have been reimbursed \$55,000. In all cases, reimbursements represent only a portion of an owner's total expenditures, and therefore, the sidewalk fund has leveraged improvements far ex-

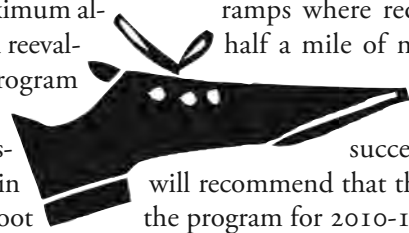
ceeding that amount!

Construction costs and the maximum allowable reimbursement have been reevaluated each year. Initially, the program paid \$14.25 per linear foot up to a maximum of \$700. Reflecting rising construction costs, recipients in 2009-10 received \$25 per linear foot up to a maximum of \$2,500, with ad-

ditional reimbursement for handicapped ramps where required. Well over half a mile of new sidewalks has been constructed as a result of this successful program! I

will recommend that the board continue the program for 2010-11.

*Fred Pfeiffer, Sidewalk Program Chair*



# BIKES FOR THE REST OF US

## NEW SUMMER HOURS!

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## Bonn-Avon School

continued from page 1

William neighborhood, it became co-ed and shifted to a more progressive curriculum to include interpretive movement, conversational French, current events, geography and history. Literature classes were held in the library, “lined with books that nobody kept track of,” says Rosengren. “You just took what you wanted and brought the book back when you were finished.” Bonn-Avon students performed Shakespeare’s plays and played baseball in the yard where the school kept chickens.



117 Madison as it appears today.

After almost 20 years on Madison Street, Estes sold the property in 1948 and moved her school to 427 E. Guenther where it continued to operate into the 1950s. Meanwhile, Florence McDermott, the new owner of 117 Madison, turned the house into a nursing home that operated for the next several years.

When George and Daigue Gilligan bought the house from Ed Hartman in 1981, it had been used as apartments for about 25 years. It continued as apartments until the Gilligans moved into the house in 1994 and began its restoration.

*Bill Cogburn*

**READERS** Do know about any interesting neighborhood history that would make a good story? If so, email [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net).

## Mark Your Calendar!

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# Who are the KWAKs? To All the Friends of Bonham

**KWAKS IS SHORT FOR** King William Area Kids. We are neighborhood families hoping to meet and play with other neighborhood families! The idea is to have a loosely organized group to plan activities and make connections with parents and kids in the greater King William area (including Lavaca, Southtown, SoFlo and anyone adjacent). We hope you will join us and help plan activities geared for kids of all ages. No formal meetings, or dues, it's just for fun!



You can follow the KWAKs as a member of our newly created Facebook group page (search on Facebook "KWAKs - King William Area Kids"), visit our new website at [kwaks.org](http://kwaks.org), or join our email list by sending a message to [kwaksinfo@gmail.com](mailto:kwaksinfo@gmail.com). All neighborhood families are welcome!

*Shandelle Girdley*

**BONHAM** celebrated an amazing year, thanks to tremendous community support. Many of you have joined us in supporting our ArtSmart and fine arts programs, enriching our after school offerings, strengthening our library and expanding Chinese instruction.

One of our goals for next year was to raise funds for new playground equipment, which we were told would cost at least \$25,000. Recently, we learned that the Linda Pace Foundation would donate the beautiful Chris Park playscape. We now hope to raise the \$9,692 it will cost to move the equipment. Please help us reach that this goal and install the play-

ground by the beginning of the school year. You can send donations to Friends of Bonham, 626 Mission St., 78210 or donate online at [friendsofbonham.org](http://friendsofbonham.org).



Your generous donation will help relocate this playground equipment to Bonham Academy.

Thanks again for helping make our school a happier place. We look forward to a great new year together!

*Jeanne Russell, Friends of Bonham*

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# meet the board



## DINA TOLAND

**Year elected to KWA Board** Appointed to fill a vacancy in May 2010.

**Street** 700 block E. Guenther

**Year you moved to KW** 1999

**Spouse/Partner** Bradley Toland

**Kids** Alec just turned 8, Madeleine is 4. Going on 14.

**Pets** Gracie is the sweetest mixed lab rescue dog that ever lived, and Hurly Burly is the meanest near-feral cat in the 'hood. They live together as well as the Israelis and Palestinians. (Not saying who's who; learned my lesson from Helen Thomas.)

**Hometown** Alice, Texas.

**Current and past professions** GT/Enrichment specialist in Northside ISD. Next year I'll be working at Martin Elementary, a new school inside the Loop (410, that is). I've been a vice principal; a first, second, and third grade teacher; and one summer I even cleaned bathrooms at a hill country retreat.

**Hobbies** I love technology/web 2.0 applications in the classroom, and I love to read. Wish I had more time to ride my bike around the 'hood. Ferrying my children to their activities (karate, capoeira, ballet, swimming...) takes up a lot of time, though.

**Other volunteer work** Bonham PTA, Friends of Bonham, ArtSmart committee, active in my church (Alamo Heights Presbyterian).

**Project/ issue you'd most like to work on** I'm all about my own children and public education, so I'd really love to deepen the relationship between Bonham Academy and the community so people can see what an incredible school it is and what a fabulous community of diverse citizens King William (and Lavaca, et al.) is. In education and in our neighborhood, people make all the difference, and we have the most interesting, giving, talented people around! ♪

## King William Concerts in the Park

**THE GROUNDS** of the San Antonio River Authority is becoming a favorite venue for the King William Concerts in the Park series sponsored by the King William Association! At 7 pm it's cool and breezy, and the lush green grass is soft enough to lie on. The last concert given by four guitarists from different backgrounds was a big hit with very good attendance.



Coming up on Sunday, July 11, Jose Linares, or "El Patriarca," will be joined by two fabulous flamenco dancers and a cajón (box) player. The KWA will provide a dance floor to make sure the sound of the dancers' feet is as authentic as possible.

Jose Linares was born into a family of artists in Madrid, Spain. At age of 12 he was introduced as a professional in the art of guitar playing, traveling around the world performing with his family. He has had the honor to perform for President John F. Kennedy, Princess Grace of Monaco, and Aristotle Onassis, among others. In 1976 he and his wife, Chiqui Linares, founded La Compañía de Arte Español in San Antonio, now the Academia de Arte Flamenco.

Join us on Sunday, July 11, at 7 pm for this special concert on the San Antonio River Authority grounds, 100 E. Guenther (on the banks of the river between the Johnson and Guenther Street bridges).

*Janis De Lara*

## SAY Sí Presents STORIES SELDOM TOLD: THE INFORMAL CITY

A New Summer SAY Sí Exhibition Series  
Opening First Friday, July 2, 2010  
6-10 PM

Special King William Association Walkthrough and Presentation  
Wednesday • July 7, 2010 • 6:30 PM  
as part of the King William Neighborhood Summer Social @ SAY Sí

throughout the summer months SAY Sí students will be researching, fabricating and creating a stimulating tableau that will fill the SAY Sí galleries. The focus will be on the world's slums, urbanization and the impact that these "informal cities" have on inhabitants, our economy and the environment.

This first in a new series will be an event not-to-be-missed, and will inaugurate a new summer project where students will spend the summer session researching and shining a light on important issues facing us and our planet.



# Selling the Neighborhood - Not Just the Home!

*King William and Lavaca are dynamic neighborhoods in which real estate is both an art and a science. Experience matters. Family owned and operated by your neighbors since 1985, King William Realty is uniquely qualified to represent you, and the neighborhood, when you're ready to buy or sell.*

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# Karen Casillas 1943-2010

**L**ONGTIME KING WILLIAM resident Karen Casillas died May 15, 2010. She and her husband, Ernest, lived in the Albert Steves house at 504 King William for over 30 years. Ernest actually grew up in the house, which his parents bought from the Albert Steves family in 1951.

After his graduation from medical school, Ernest and Karen got married and immediately moved to California, where Ernest would continue his education and complete his residency in psychiatry. While there, Karen gave birth to their three children, all the while pursuing her art education. When they returned to San Antonio in 1971, they bought the King William house from Ernest's parents who were ready to downsize.

Karen spent the next several years raising their children while restoring the century-old house. Then she studied biochemistry, which led to a position with UTHSC in pulmonary research.

During her years in King William, particularly those in the early 1970s, Karen was very involved with the King William Fair. In a 2003 interview for a newsletter article, she laughed as she remembered those early Fairs saying, "I believe it was the second spring we were back in King William from California—must have been 1973. Caroline Zehner and I were working very hard to get more arts and crafts in the Fair. We had these hand-drawn fliers and were begging newspapers and TV stations for publicity.

"Patsy LeBlanc sold chalupas from Sonora Hartley's front porch on King William Street that year. You should have heard the flak we got from the old guard.

*KWA Weekly*

*E-Newsletters*



**I**F YOU AREN'T ALREADY RECEIVING Our Weekly Update e-newsletter, sign up at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org) to begin having timely information about neighborhood news, community events, lost pets, and more sent directly to your inbox!✉



Selling food at the fair for heaven's sake! What's this neighborhood coming to?"

After leaving King William in January 2005, Ernest and Karen retired to their ranch near Harper, where she was able to spend several years in the beautiful Texas Hill Country that she loved.

*Bill Cogburn*

### *In Memoriam*

*Eva Flores Voelkel, owner of Voelkel Woodcrafts Gifts & Eats on Probandt Street and sister of King William resident Olga Flores, passed away on Monday, May 24, 2010, at age 57.*

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# St. Benedict's: Then and Now

**S**T. BENEDICT'S Lofts on South Alamo Street has brought 66 new homes and five new businesses, including the Liberty Bar and Restaurant, to the King William neighborhood. Six single-family garden homes facing Madison Street will complete the project. This redevelopment has ended 17 years of decline of the buildings that once housed St. Benedict's Hospital and Nursing Home, as well as the St. Scholas-

tradiory versions of the original ownership of the property that became St. Benedict's Hospital and Nursing Home and the St. Scholastica Convent. I attempted to reconcile these apparent contradictions by meeting with the Benedictine Sisters at their convent in Boerne, as well as by searching the Bexar County land records and the San Antonio Conservation Society library. I was not successful, and so I relate

Burkholder wrote that the Pereida family owned some of the suerte (lot) platted by F. Giraud in 1870, sold one parcel on the west side of Mill Street (later renamed Alamo) to Wilhelmine M.H. Griesenbeck, and that property later became the site of St. Benedict's Nursing Home.

Yet according to another author, Mary Carolyn Hollers Jutson, it was Henry Elmendorf's house at 1119 South Alamo Street that became St. Benedict's Home for the Aged. (See *Alfred Giles: An English Architect in Texas and Mexico*, p. 30.)

The Benedictine Sisters themselves told me in our meeting that they received the



The Benedictine Sisters' Convent, which sat on the St. Benedict's site.

tica Convent. (Historical note: Saints Benedict and Scholastica were twins born in 480 AD in Italy. Benedict created his order of religious men, and then his sister formed an order for women based on Benedict's rules.)

As one of the new residents of St. Benedict's, I became interested in exploring its history. I met Bill Cogburn at a King William Association social and learned that he had already begun researching the property's history, which he kindly passed along to me. The project is not finished though. Please send me additions, corrections and clarifications. I hope to produce a monograph by 2011, in time for the 100th anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters of South Texas. (Send any contributions to [cgluck@satx.rr.com](mailto:cgluck@satx.rr.com) or 1115 South Alamo St., #2311, San Antonio, TX 78210).

*1870s - 1920s: Elmendorfs and Griesenbeck and McMonegal*

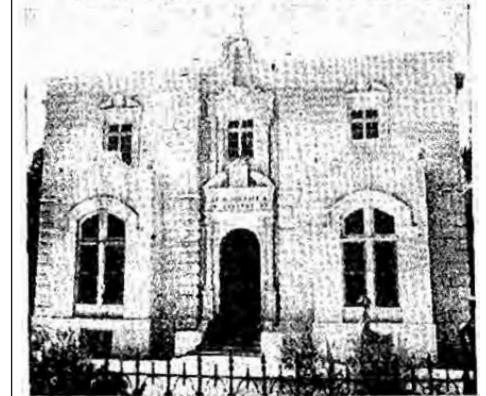
I have come across several possibly con-

all versions to you.

According to Mary Burkholder's book *Down the Acequia Madre*, the property was platted by Thomas Devine and F. Giraud. Burkholder wrote that in 1883 Edward Elmendorf bought two lots from Devine on which he and his brother Henry built homes. Henry was mayor of San Antonio from 1894-1897 and the founder of Elmendorf, Texas. Edward was an architect. Their father, Karl, had emigrated from Germany to New Braunfels in 1844 and begun importing hardware, farm implements and building supplies. Later he moved his business to Military Plaza in San Antonio.

After Edward died in 1893, his widow, Mary Staffel Elmendorf, leased their home to the Boerner family but returned to live in it from 1918 until 1938, when she sold it to the Benedictine Sisters. It's possible that the house became the home of the St. Scholastica Convent.

## Modern Convent To Be Dedicated



BENEDICTINE CONVENT HERE REMODELED.  
Celebrate 20th anniversary of the order.

*San Antonio Light*, June 17, 1939.

original nursing home building from Roger McMonegal in 1926. McMonegal was a cousin of Sister Gertrude Walsh, a member of their community. At the time, he was providing care for elderly men in a mansion on South Alamo Street. He told the Sisters that if they would take over the care of the elderly men he would deed his property to them. They agreed and thus began six decades of providing health care in the King William neighborhood. The home was first called St. Vincent's Home for the Poor and Aged, then St. Vincent de Paul's Nursing Home, and, eventually, St. Benedict's. My best guess is that McMonegal had acquired

**continued on page 15**

All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Email the details of your upcoming community event (what, when, where, contact information) to [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net) for consideration. The deadline for inclusion in the August newsletter is July 14.

# july 2010

## what's happening community events

**First Thursday, July 1, 6 - 9 pm**

**On view until Friday, July 30 at 2 pm**

**King William Artist Exhibit: Jack Kent**

Exhibit can be viewed during KWA office hours. King William Association, 1032 S. Alamo  
Call 227-8786, see the June 2010 issue of this newsletter, or visit [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org) for more information.

**Thursdays in July, pre-show 7:30 pm,**

**movie at 8:30 pm**

**Movies by Moonlight**

**July 8 *Back to the Future***

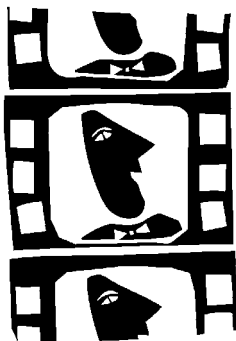
**July 15 *2001: A Space Odyssey***

**July 22 *Gremlins***

**July 29 *Star Trek (2009)***

HemisFair Park,  
200 S. Alamo

Call 212-9373 or visit [slabcinema.com](http://slabcinema.com) for info.



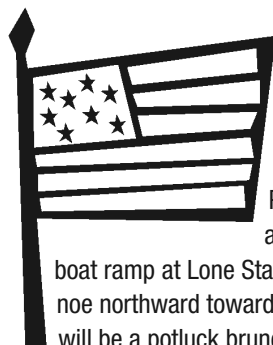
**First Friday, July 2, 6 - 9 pm**

**Narrative Now**

Exhibition and film screening focusing on narrative work by visual and media art programs.

SAY Sí Central, 1518 S. Alamo

Call 212-8666 or visit [saysi.org](http://saysi.org) for info.



**Sunday, July 4,  
10 am**

**King William  
Yacht Club Fourth  
of July Regatta**

Put in your canoes  
and kayaks at the

boat ramp at Lone Star Boulevard and canoe northward toward Alamo Street. There will be a potluck brunch following the water outing. See the article on page 3 for additional information.

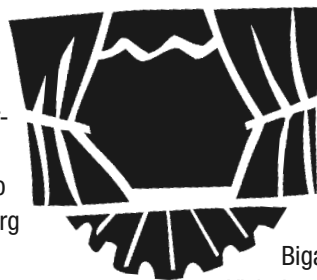
RSVP to [marita.emmett@gmail.com](mailto:marita.emmett@gmail.com).

**Friday & Saturday,**

**July 9 & 10, 7 pm**

**SAY Sí Play**

A new play by Teatro Alas Performance Company students. SAY Sí Central, 1518 S. Alamo  
Call 212-8666 or visit [saysi.org](http://saysi.org) for info.



**Monday, July 19, 5:30 - 7 pm**

**Zocolocos Downtown Residents  
"Meet and Greet"**

Complimentary appetizers and happy hour drink specials. Sponsored by the Downtown Residents Association.

Biga on the Banks, 203 S. St. Mary's  
Visit [drasatx.org](http://drasatx.org) for more info.

**July 9-25**

**Summer Literary Festival**

Gemini Ink's 2010 Summer Literary Festival focuses on biomimicry. Multiple events held at various locations and times.

Call 734-9673 or visit [geminiink.org](http://geminiink.org) for info.

**Sunday, July 11, 7 pm**

**King William Concerts in the Park:**

**Flamenco with Jose Linares**

San Antonio River Authority grounds, 100 E. Guenther (on the banks of the river between the Johnson and Guenther Street bridges). See article on page 10 for more information.



**Friday, July 16, 7 - 9 pm**

**P.O.V. Documentary  
Screening**

Screening of this award-winning PBS series.

SAY Sí Central, 1518 S. Alamo

Call 212-8666 or visit [saysi.org](http://saysi.org) for info.

**Sunday, July 18, 5 - 7 pm**

**Stories Galore featuring Mary Grace Ketner**  
Monthly story-swap hosted by Elder Stone for experienced and beginning storytellers and listeners of all ages. Mary Grace Ketner, president of the San Antonio Storytellers Association and a King William resident, will be the featured "Stellar Teller" this month.

Commander's House, 645 S. Main

Call Elder Stone at 673-4467 for more info.

**Monday, July 26, 6 pm**

**August Newsletter Mail Prep**

Please help us prepare the *King William Neighborhood Newsletter* for mailing. Stop by to stick mailing labels on newsletters and visit with neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated!

KWA office, 1032 S. Alamo

Contact the KWA office at 227-8786 or email [king.william@sbcglobal.net](mailto:king.william@sbcglobal.net) for info.

**Wednesday, July 28 - Friday, July 30**  
**Nuevo Mundo - Palabra, Música & Danza**

Three nights of community readings and performances with live music and world-class writers presented by the Macondo Foundation at various locations and times.

Visit [macondofoundation.org](http://macondofoundation.org) or call 534-0517 for more information.

**Through July 30,**

**Monday - Friday,**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Texas Trails and  
Tales**

Early 19th century Texas comes to life with traditional costumes and character performers.

The Institute of Texan Cultures, Back 40,  
801 E. Durango  
Call 458-2300 or visit [texancultures.com](http://texancultures.com) for more information. ♫



# St. Benedict's

continued from page 13

the Henry Elmendorf home.

The community of Benedictine Sisters who came to the King William neighborhood got their start in the early 1900s when Sister Lidwina Weber responded to a call from a group of Benedictine Fathers who needed help establishing a school and convent in Cuba. The nuns left Cuba in 1918 after suffering two blows. One was a literal blow: a hurricane destroyed their school and convent. The second was the flu pandemic of 1918. They relocated to South Texas and began teaching in Las Gallinas and Loire, where they stayed until they came to San Antonio. Some members of the community continued the educational vocation into the 1980s, while others moved into the healthcare field.

## 1930s-1985: The Benedictines

From the 1930s onward the history is much clearer. The Benedictines ran the nursing home in the mansion until they had it demolished in 1952 to make room for a modern 100 plus-bed facility. The nursing home eventually expanded to 200 beds, including a "Day Care Hospital," in the buildings that are now St. Benedict's lofts. In the 1970s, four rooms in the nursing home housed paraplegic and quadriplegic men who were under the auspices of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

In 1950 the sisters built a separate 20-bed hospital that faced Madison Street, which was the first hospital in San Antonio to have central air conditioning. In the late 1960s an intensive care/coronary care unit was added to the hospital, but was underutilized and so was converted to a rehabilitation center. The hospital has been demolished and six single-family homes are being built on its site.

St. Scholastica Convent became the

mother house for the Sisters in 1939, after they added a second floor to the original home that had been built in the 1880s. The nuns who worked at the hospital and nursing home lived upstairs and had a chapel and common space downstairs. They also had a skywalk connecting the second story of the convent to the second story of the nursing home built in 1953.

By the 1980s San Antonio had many newer hospitals competing with St. Benedict's; also, fewer women entering religious life and the sisters determined that they should focus their energies on helping the poor get access to health care. In 1985 they sold their facilities to Ambulatory Hospital of America, which renamed the property "King William Health Care Center."

The sisters moved to Boerne where they operated a boarding school for a few years.

They now run a retreat center and support a variety of ministries.

## 1987 – 2004: Disuse and Decline

King William Health Care Center went bankrupt after two years, was sold and remained unused, except by homeless people, for seventeen years. In the early 1990s James Lifshutz bought the property and then sold it to Tom Pawel (owner of Concord Oil). Pawel told a local newspaper reporter that residents of King William had been urging him to redevelop the property because "they were tired of vagrants setting fires, drinking and tinkling in the bushes." Also according to a newspaper report, Steve Yndo tried to buy the property from Concord Oil in 2001, but did not succeed.

## 2004 – Present

In December of 2004 St. Benedict's of SA, Ltd, comprised of Christopher Hill,



San Antonio Light, November 14, 1964.



## KWA MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

(if 09-10 appears on your mailing label, your membership is current)

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Membership at any level is tax deductible.

James Lifshutz and Steve Yndo, bought the property and began plans for its redevelopment. Hill applied for "infill development zoning" (a form of urban redevelopment) with a view to creating a 100-room hotel, with a multi-family housing unit as the fall back plan that was eventually adopted.

Most of us living in St. Benedict's are newcomers to King William and are happy to be here. A modern apartment in the best neighborhood in San Antonio can't be beat!  
*Claire Oxley Gluck*



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## *King William Summer Social*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 6:30 PM,  
SAY Sí, 1518 S. Alamo

*Celebrate summer with good food and great company at our potluck social and enjoy a special viewing of SAY Sí's summer exhibition series, **Stories Seldom Told: The Informal City**. See page 10 for more information.*

*Please bring a main course, side dish, salad, or dessert to share.*

*Beverages, plates, cutlery, tables, & chairs are provided.*

*Volunteers needed. Call Debra Walker at 222-0347 to help.*

*Coming up...*

## King William Association August General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 7 PM  
Blue Star Brewing Company  
1414 S. Alamo

*Enjoy a cold drink and learn more about  
what's happening in your neighborhood!*

