



HERITAGE BRAZOS

The Newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society



Volume 4, Issue 1

May 2014

OFFICERS

Stephanie Hilliard
President
stephanie.hilliard@gmail.com

Isabel McPartlin
Vice President
isabel@mcpfamily.net

Sheila Fields
Secretary
atredrobin@msn.com

Beverly Myers
Treasurer
mycobra@suddenlink.net

Dan Beto
Past President
dan.beto@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Sheila Fields
Research
atredrobin@msn.com

Randy Hilliard
Events
trhilliard@verizon.net

Tom McDonald
Of Counsel
tcmaci965@gmail.com

Brazos Heritage Society
P. O. Box 1776
Bryan, Texas 77806
brazos.heritage@gmail.com

<http://www.brazosheritage.org>

President's Message

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, the Brazos Heritage Society held their annual meeting. Randy Haynes, Project Planner for the City of Bryan, gave an excellent presentation titled "Preservation Partnerships," that highlighted historical organizations in Brazos County.

After hearing reports from officers and committees, the Society held their annual elections for a new slate of Executive officers. I am honored to have been chosen as the next president of the organization, along with Isabel McPartlin returning as Vice President, Sheila Fields joining us as Secretary, and Beverly Myer serving again as Treasurer. I am looking forward to working with my executive board members, as well as our various committee chairs over the coming year.

For the benefit of members that I might not have met yet, I'll provide a brief bio. My husband, Randy, and I have lived in Bryan several different times since I started at Texas A&M University in the fall of 1985; our daughter was born here in 1991. We moved back permanently in 1998, buying a brick cottage in the Eastside Historic District in 2002. I have worked at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine as staff support since 1998. Randy has worked for Saint-Gobain Norpro, first in maintenance and later as an industrial controls programmer, since 2003.

As most of you know, Randy's mother, Nat, served as President of the Brazos Heritage Society for two years. We joined in 2012, during her first term, serving that year as Co-Chairs for Heritage Park and the next year as Events Co-Chairs.

Randy is a native Texan and has lived in the state most of his life. While I'm not originally from Texas, history is a strong interest of mine, and I've enjoyed learning more about both Texas history and local events over the past couple years while serving in the Society. I especially appreciate talking with Society and community members who are wonderfully knowledgeable about the area's historic past.

I am dedicated to helping the Brazos Heritage Society preserve our local and regional heritage, and to educating future generations about the value of history and historic preservation.

Over the past couple years, I've developed a vision for

the Brazos Heritage Society that — while serving our mandate of historic preservation and education, and valuing the spirit of the organization's past efforts — will hopefully help raise community awareness of who we are and what our organization can offer.

To that end, I plan to focus on four main issues this coming year:

1) I want to continue developing programs, such as our recent day trip to the Museum of the American GI, that benefit current members while also encouraging new members to join the organization.

2) I plan to actively pursue strategic partnerships with other historical preservation organizations in Brazos County to create a synergistic preservation effort for the area.

3) I would like to see the organization involved in one or more significant preservation projects, including seeking outside funding for these projects.

4) I want to revitalize our educational outreach to the local community, using both standard methods such as our books as well as newer avenues like our web site and social media.

While pursuing some newer initiatives, I fully intend to continue supporting time-honored traditions such as our old-fashioned 4th of July in Heritage Park and the Christmas Stroll. These are wonderful community-wide events that are fun for the whole family.

All of these activities, future and current, cannot succeed without valuable input and support from the organization's talented Executive Committee, and from our membership. I hope that my vision for the Brazos Heritage Society resonates with you and that you will join with us in actively promoting historical preservation and education throughout Brazos County.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at stephanie.hilliard@gmail.com. I love to talk with members, or anyone interested in what we are doing through the Brazos Heritage Society. I am here to serve our membership, and the people of Brazos County.

Stephanie Hilliard, President



Treasurer's Report

The following is an overview of the financial condition of the Brazos Heritage Society as of February 22, 2014. At Prosperity Bank we have a certificate of deposit valued at \$8,400.23 and our checking account at the bank has a balance of 1,952.61, for a total of \$10,352.84. As for membership, there are 58 member units in the Society: 11 individual members (\$10.00); 32 family members (\$15.00); 2 business members (\$75.00); 12 heritage members (\$100.00); and 1 life member (honorary). For more detailed information about the Society's financial condition, please do not hesitate to contact me at 979-229-9414 or by email at mycobra@suddenlink.net.

Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Annual Dues

While we will be researching multiple other sources of revenue, as always we do rely on dues paid by members to help us fulfill our mission. Our membership year runs from March to February of each year; 2014 membership dues are now being accepted. To renew your membership, please complete the membership application on Page 6 and mail it, along with your check, to the address indicated. If you prefer, you may also print an application off of our website and mail it in along with your payment.

Finally, we do offer the option to pay by credit card. If you would like to pay with a card, please call either Beverly Myer, Treasurer, at 979-229-9414 or Stephanie Hilliard, President, at 979-777-4924. We will be happy to process your payment over the phone. We are in the process of providing a credit card payment option through our website. We'll notify everyone when that becomes available.



RECENT EVENTS

Day Trip to the Open House for the Museum of the American GI

A number of Brazos Heritage Society members met recently on a cool, cloudy March morning for a day trip to the annual Open House for the Museum of the American GI on Saturday. The trip, sponsored by the Brazos Heritage Society, provided member entry into the event for half price. This and previous trips are meant as a benefit for members, as well as encouraging attendance at local historical events.

At the Museum of the American GI, we were treated to exhibits of antique military uniforms, weaponry, gear, and vehicles from WWII and other military eras. In the afternoon, re-enactors staged a mock battle between American and German troops, using both infantry and tanks. It was a fascinating look at bygone eras of military engagements.

In addition to the museum's own exhibits, exhibitors came in from outside Brazos County, bringing items for sale, as well as showcasing information about other museums such as the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Admiral Chester Nimitz's hometown of Fredericksburg.

This was our second year attending this event and we've thoroughly enjoyed ourselves both times. According to the museum's website at <http://www.magicstx.org/>, they are busy with construction projects and plan to open for visitors in Fall 2014. I hope you'll consider visiting them once they re-open.

UPCOMING EVENTS

28th Annual Fourth of July in Heritage Park

Randy Hilliard, Events Chair, is hard at work putting together the next Fourth of July event in Heritage Park. You can expect our usual patriotic slate of activities: flag raising and Pledge of Allegiance, children's parade, patriotic music, and food and drinks at old-fashioned prices. He also plans to continue inviting groups from around Brazos County to join us and set up booths showcasing their organizations and providing exhibits for our visitors. He has already contacted organizations such as the Brazos Spinners & Weavers Guild, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild, Habitat for Humanity, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a number of others. In addition, he is currently reaching out to new exhibitors that we hope will join us.

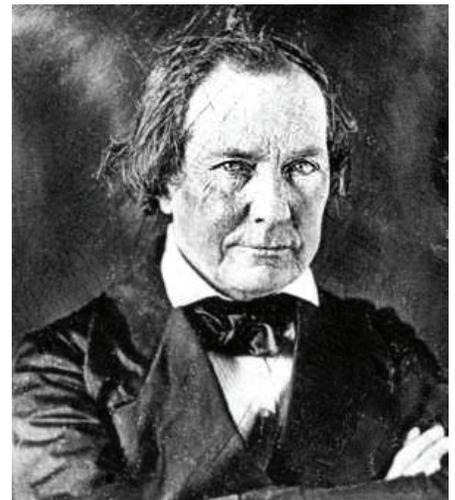
In the past, our Silent Auction has always been a big hit, offering beautiful items donated by a number of local businesses and craftspeople. Several members are currently helping us contact prior supporting businesses for donations. Additionally, Randy is ranging farther afield and seeking auction items from local and major sports teams, such as the Dallas Cowboys, as well as organizations like Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Donated items will be available for review and bidding during the Fourth of July celebration. Winners will be notified immediately after the event.

Be sure to check our website (<http://brazosheritage.org/>) and our Facebook page frequently for updates on our 4th of July planning.

Presentation on the Presidents of the Texas Republic

On Friday evening, August 1, the Brazos Heritage Society is hosting a special, free presentation. Ben Zimmer, son of local College of Medicine professor Dr. Warren E. Zimmer, is a sophomore majoring in history and Asian studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Ben is currently working on an exciting project that compares and contrasts the cultural influences of the six Presidents of the Republic of Texas.

Ben will formally present on his findings in the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History's Discovery Room, with a reception to follow. I hope that everyone will attend this presentation given by a bright and enthusiastic young history scholar. Not only will this event benefit our members and the community,



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/27/Mirabeaulamar_2.jpg

it also supports our mandate of encouraging historical education.

As we finalize plans for this event, we will update members through our website (<http://brazosheritage.org/>) and on our Facebook page.

PROJECTS

Temple Freda

I am excited to announce that our Executive Committee voted to assist a local group of citizens with efforts to restore Temple Freda, the first synagogue built in Brazos County. This beautiful Greek Revival-style building, originally built in 1913, sits next to the railroad tracks on Parker Street in downtown Bryan. After some negotiations with the original owners, an agreement was reached for the City of Bryan to take over caring for the property while it is being renovated. Once renovations are completed, the property will be utilized for public events.

In addition to making the building structurally sound and weather tight, the beautiful stained glass windows covering both sides of the building need to be restored. Foster Stained Glass has been hired for this project; individual windows are available for “adoption” to help offset the cost of this project. The cost of adoption is \$3,500 per window. Donations may be forwarded to the Brazos Heritage Society. We can accept cash, checks, or credit cards for these monies.

A restoration committee has been formed. For more information on this project, you can contact Lindsay Guindi, City of Bryan Planning Manager, at lguindi@bryantx.gov or email Randy Haynes, City of Bryan Project Manager, at rhaynes@bryantx.gov.



Photo: by Door
304 Studios

The Brazos Heritage Society

2014 Membership Application

The Brazos Heritage Society is “dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of Brazos County” through efforts to: identify, document, and preserve the architecture and historical context of Brazos County; promote the community’s appreciation of its history through advocacy and educational programs; and combat the deterioration of older parts of our community through education, advocacy, and special projects.

Type of Annual Membership

Membership dues and charitable contributions are tax deductible. The Society’s fiscal year begins on March 1.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Individual | \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club | \$100.00 |

Volunteer Opportunities

The strength of the society is through the volunteer efforts of its members, Please check all activities that appeal to you.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as an officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Work with archives
<input type="checkbox"/> Address envelopes
<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with High Tea
<input type="checkbox"/> Research restoration projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership development
<input type="checkbox"/> July 4 th Celebration activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Children’s Tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Docent for Historical Homes Tour
<input type="checkbox"/> Ticket sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Host a social event in your home
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer home for a custom tour
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare refreshments for custom tour
<input type="checkbox"/> Make presentation on Brazos County history
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact me for special events
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform me of other options |
|--|--|

Membership Information

Please list your name as you want it to appear on the membership roll and on correspondence.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (Work) _____ (Home) _____

Email: _____

Please mail the completed form and your check to the following address:

The Brazos Heritage Society

P. O. Box 1776

Bryan, Texas 77806

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call Beverly Myer at 979-229-2414-or Stephanie Hilliard at 979-777-4924. We’ll be happy to process your payment over the phone.