



Homes Tour Tops 500 Attendees



Docent Faye Cobb (seated) shares the history of the Alf Jung house with visitors.

Central Bastrop was the place to celebrate over the second weekend of December as the BCHS Rendezvous and Holiday Homes Tour complemented the Lighted Christmas Parade, Snow Day and Library/Downtown Open Houses that were enjoyed by hundreds of local citizens and visitors throughout the region.

On Friday night, December 13 at the Bastrop Convention Center, Rendezvous welcomed nearly 150 people to celebrate the holiday season and honor our Guests of Honor, the homeowners of the sites on the 2019 homes tour. With plenty of delicious food catered by Jean Lang and spirits generously provided by Capitol Wright Distributing and Paperwhite Design, attendees enjoyed the music played by DJ Wendy Lopez.

Our sincerest thanks go out to the property owners, who included Sarah and Josh Bingham, Linda Borsheim, Geoffrey

Connor, Kitty and Clyde Howell, Tina Zapalac Nixon and the First United Methodist Church, for opening their doors to more than 500 people to enjoy the unique histories of each building.

Additional thanks go to the dozens of docents who helped make this year's event spectacular as well as the 2019 Holiday Homes Tour Committee comprised of Lee Ann Calaway, Sandra Chipley, Betty Dunkerley and Doris Kershaw. ★



Homeowner Linda Borsheim (left) shares the history of the Kleinert Gresienbeck Home.



Homeowner Geoff Connor looks on as Molly McClure, Sylvia Cook, and Barbara Vana return to the main floor.



Toni Kesselus, Suzanne Sanders, Nancy Beal and, Ann Brown in the holiday spirit.



Sara and Tom Clayton, Council member Bill Ennis, and Kim Farbo enjoy the festivities.



Visit Poco a Poco Gift Shop at the Visitor Center for that unique, special gift.
The City of Bastrop supports BCHS – Who else? See Page 2

2020 BCHS Members

(As of Dec. 15, 2019)

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We Need Your Musical Artifacts from the Old Days

As part of this year's "History of Artistic Expression" series of Special Exhibits at BCHS, we are seeking artifacts from musical entertainment around Bastrop County in days of yore.

We are asking for the loan of old-time artifacts that are music-related as well as to hear personal memories or stories from area entertainment & social venues like the Kerr Center and the Parish Hall in Rockne along with area dance halls Watterson Hall in Red Rock.

Similarly, we'd love to display old musical instruments like fiddles, harmonicas, jaw harp, gut bucket, as well as old musical recordings and phonograph records. Other items of interest include costumes worn to halls, old posters or playbills.

And we'd love to hear about your memories or stories about USO events during the war, dances at the refectory at Bastrop State Park or at what is now the American Legion in Smithville – anywhere around Bastrop County.

If you have something to contribute, please contact Michal Hubbard at 512-517-1416 or michal_photog@yahoo.com, or the museum offices at 512-303-0057. ★



Photo courtesy of Rockne Museum

BCHS would like to thank...

Susan Green, Tori Bowman, and Maureen Lueders for preparing the Fall Newsletter for mailing.

Maureen Lueders for preparing postcards announcing showing of *Shane* for mailing.

Ken Kesselus for docenting walking tours of downtown Bastrop in October.

Jennifer Leisure for the delicious cookies she provided for refreshments at the October General Meeting.

Glenda Dayton for the coffee donated to the Museum and VC breakroom.

Michal Hubbard for overseeing and curating special exhibits.

Mike Helmick for step-on bus tour guide for group from Belton in October.

Drusilla Rogers for donating "old-time" candy for showing of *Shane* in November.

Lisa Holcomb and all the volunteers for use of the Opera House for showing of *Shane*.

Doris Kershaw for taking photos at the showing of *Shane*, *Rendezvous* and *Homes Tour*.

Joe Grady Tuck for his introduction and comments concerning Bastrop at the time *Shane* was shown at the Tower Theater.

Mike Helmick and Ken Kesselus for conduction oral interviews for the Museum's oral history project.

Geoff Connor for the donation of Christmas ornaments replicating his house.

Pat McKay for donating anew computer monitor for the research library. ★



BCHS Officers

President: Sarah Johnson
Vice President: Jennifer Leisure
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Museum Acquisitions

Calvary Episcopal Church – Postcard photo of Orgain Hospital and Calvary Episcopal Church

Holly Cox – Two children's books

Shudde Bryson Fath – "It Starts With Love" 100 years of tennis history in Sabinal, Texas

Krenck, Harry – Pottery shards from Col. Robert M. Coleman homesite and report on visit to site and retrieval of artifacts

Maureen Lueders – Kodak Signet 30 35 mm camera produced from 1957-1959

Reid Sharp – Items that belonged to Nell Fitzwilliam: Handwritten note to Ladies Reading Circle and 1929 Program from the Texas Fine Arts Association

SAVE-THE-DATE

Portrait of the Savior of the King's Highway to be unveiled on February 23rd.
Special members-only event.
Watch for your invitation.

Members to Consider Board Leaders

BCHS members present at the January 23 quarterly meeting will consider the following current board members for re-election: Lee Ann Calaway, Sandra Chipley, Dan Hays-Clark, Glenda Dayton, Michal Hubbard, Doris Kershaw and Jane Wright.

Research Library Volunteers

Susie Blume Duncan Charlton Michal Hubbard
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**Museum Docent*

Volunteers Needed

Interested in fun work at Bastrop Historical Society's Visitor Center and Museum? If so, we want to hear from you. Roles to be filled include front desk/door greeters, museum docents and researchers in the museum archives. Most positions work 4-hour shifts. For more information, please call Kaye Sapikas at 512-303-0057.

2019 Rendezvous Sponsors

AYUNTAMIENTO:

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Nancy Scott
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Susan Wendel

We thank the City of Bastrop for its support.

Not Really a Casino, But a Fun Place to Be



For Austin Statesman columnist Michael Barnes, who wrote his dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin on early dancehalls and entertainment venues in old-days Texas, it's almost a shrine – the oldest surviving theatre structure in the state.

Barnes, whose frequent history pieces on old Austin have been published in the 3-volume “Indelible Austin”



Austin Statesman columnist Michael Barnes, BCHS Quarterly Speaker

Pass over the railroad tracks at the corner of Farm and Fayette Streets and on the northeast corner, the driver will see a beat-up old building of faded red bricks with a corrugated sheet metal roof – not all that remarkable, unless you know what it was in the Nineteenth Century.

It's still called “Casino Hall,” although its past isn't about gambling. When constructed around 1848, it was early Bastrop's primary location for concerts, banquets, stage plays, and all forms of cultural diversions in the community's early days.

books, will discuss the background of Casino Hall and other places where early Texans enjoyed performances and social get-togethers in a talk at the BCHS quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 23 at Calvary Hall at the Bastrop Opera House, January 23rd, 711 Spring Street in Bastrop (and yes, he will talk about the Opera House as well).

Having written for the Statesman for three decades, Barnes recently initiated a newsletter/column series called “Think Texas,” a weekly digital newsletter that he

described as “about Texas history: from the arrival of indigenous people to the rise of the republic and the never-ending evolution of a state like no other.”

In addition to recounting the history of Casino Hall and the Opera House, Barnes will answer questions about historic entertainment locations throughout the state, much of which he discovered during a years-long tour of all 50 Texas rivers from their sources to their mouths (or vice versa) by car, on foot and sometimes in the water. ★

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 6:30 P.M. BASTROP OPERA HOUSE 711 SPRING STREET BASTROP

Bastrop
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

904 MAIN STREET BASTROP, TX 78602
512.303.0057

www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com