he Conservation Society of San Anton



IN THIS ISSUE:

A New NIUSA1
From the President2
Are We Done Yet?3
Historic Guilbeau Farm4
Dedication at Brackenridge Park5
Community Grants6
Welcome New Members6
Junior Associates6
Capital Club/Donations 7

Thank You! A New NIOSA® in 2021 Jana Foreman, NIOSA Chairman

Te held A Night in Old San Antonio[®] June 22-June 25, 2021. It was hot and humid, but really turned quite pleasant by 7:30 PM. While it was not as large as some of the past NIOSA celebrations have been, the attendees enjoyed more space to walk around. Some food and drink booths were relocated or eliminated to accommodate social distancing. At first, Maverick Plaza was not available to us, but a few weeks before the event, after all the areas were set, the City said we could use it. We managed to move a few booths and a band into Maverick Plaza to utilize the space. We even had a place where people could receive a COVID-19 vaccine (at the request of the City).



Most know that *NIOSA* is the main fundraising event for the Conservation Society of San Antonio. We did manage to raise some money, although not as much in years past. Mark your calendars now for 2022. Fiesta will begin early, March 31-April 10 and *NIOSA* will run from April 5-April 8. Please make plans to support *NIOSA* 2022 to make it our best year yet. A new "coupon/ticketing" system called "Blast Pass" was used. We did not have any paper tickets or coupons, but used a wristband that could be scanned when purchasing food or drink. We were challenged with the new system, but managed. The smaller event provided an opportunity to test the new system. The Blast Pass is very viable and with the knowledge we gained, we intend to use it at the 2022 *NIOSA*.



Due to the reduced number of attendees, we have some food items left over: Mr. Chicken, sausage, and turkey legs. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please email us at <u>niosa@niosa.org</u>.

Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the heat to help us stage *NIOSA* June 2021. We hope that volunteers who did not join us this time will come back in 2022. Anyone who is interested in volunteering, visit our website at <u>niosa.org</u> or call our office at 210-226-5188 and give us your contact information so that we can pass this on to the *NIOSA* Area Chairs and Booth Chairs.



VIVA NIOSA!



Crockett and Woolworth Buildings Saved!

Kathy Rhoads, President

It is my pleasure to serve as the new President of the Conservation Society and to work with our members and partners. While many challenges have been met, new ones are arising frequently as our city grows so rapidly. Because of that, we all must work together to meet

these challenges head on to preserve our city as one of the most historic & culturally diverse in the nation.

A fter six years of advocacy by the Conservation Society, the 1921 Woolworth Building and 1882 Crockett Building on Alamo Plaza have been saved! Much credit goes to our partnership with the many organizations and individuals who formed the Coalition for the Woolworth Building in the River House in late 2018. Founding member, Aaronetta Pierce, was named a Tri-Chair of the Alamo Citizens Advisory Committee earlier this year, along with former Society President Sue Ann Pemberton and former Council Member Rebecca Viagran. In May, Bexar County announced a \$25 million grant to help fund the new Alamo Museum, including interpretation of the important civil rights history in the Woolworth Building.

The Woolworth Building was a key site in the first peaceful and voluntary integration of lunch counters during the "Sit-In Movement" on March 16, 1960. Earlier this year we learned that noted American sculptor Richard Hunt ate lunch at Woolworth's that day. His recollection is part of our documentary video on the event, available at www.saconservation.org/sit-ins_tx/

In 2016, the Conservation Society got the Woolworth Building on the state's Most Endangered list but plans in 2017 and 2018 still pictured the Woolworth Building replaced by a modern museum. The Coalition for the Woolworth Building includes the Conservation Society of San Antonio, the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM), Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Westside Preservation Alliance, San Antonio for Growth on the East Side, the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP and the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute along with individual preservationists and historians.

The Coalition participated in Martin Luther King Day marches, DreamWeek, and other events. In May 2019, the Conservation Society released plans showing how to incorporate the buildings into a new Alamo Museum. The same month, the Woolworth Building became a State Antiquities Landmark. In October 2019, we created an award winning "Ofrenda" for Muertos Fest honoring Mary Lillian Andrews, the young college student who wrote letters asking stores to integrate and planned the sit-ins.

few days later, the World Monuments Fund (WMF) **A**announced its World Monuments Watch List 2020, which included the San Antonio Woolworth Building as one of 25 sites worldwide (only three in the U.S.)! This led to a meeting including the Society, the San Antonio NAACP, the Alamo Trust, and the Texas General Land Office. Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff garnered front-page headlines supporting the efforts of the Coalition. On February 1, 2020, the Society and Bexar County held a World Monuments Watch Symposium on the Civil Rights history on Alamo Plaza. During the pandemic, we filmed video testimonials and developed documentaries with support of grants from Humanities Texas and the World Monuments Fund. By the fall of 2020, things started to change. The Alamo Trust's Director stepped down and the Texas Historical Commission denied the Trust's request to move the 1940 cenotaph sculpture on Alamo Plaza. The John G. Waite Associates, Architects' report confirmed that the Woolworth and Crockett buildings were in excellent condition. Moreover, the report noted that the Woolworth was the only department store to retain traces of its lunch counter.

The Coalition made a strong case for saving the buildings while still realizing the vision for Alamo Plaza and the Alamo Museum. This victory illustrates the importance of everyone in the city working together. As new challenges arise, we must not forget that if our voices are united, we can accomplish many great things-even during a pandemic!



* THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS

Are We Done Yet? Vincent Michael, Executive Director

I recently met with a long-time Conservation Society supporter who asked what we were going to do now that we have saved everything. After violently choking on that concept, I meekly explained that there were still many buildings being threatened with demolition, including some that had been landmarked and supposedly protected years ago.

This summer we joined with neighborhood preservationists to help secure the Whitt Building, designated as part of the *Cattleman Square Historic District* in 1985. Two more buildings in that same district are up for demolition next month! So, we stay pretty busy trying to save buildings that have already been "saved" for decades!

Then there are the buildings that were not considered significant three or four decades ago, but have aged to the point where architects, historians and regular citizens consider them worth preserving. These can range from architectural marvels such as the Confluence Theater/US Pavilion in Hemisfair Park to plainer, but historically and culturally significant sites like the Whitt Building, Lerma's Nite Club or Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

We are blessed in San Antonio to have a long history of preserving elements of our past, beginning with the Alamo and followed by the Conservation Society's decades-long battle to save the Spanish Missions. Indeed, think about the Missions and what we have done. We restored the Granary and Mission San José in 1930. In 1941, we purchased the Espada Dam and surrounding lands to guarantee the water flow into the Espada Acequia. The same year, we secured State Park status for the Missions, acquired National Park Service status in 1979, and led the charge that resulted in World Heritage inscription in



2015. Are we done yet? While the Missions have their own preservation advocates in Mission Heritage Partners and El Camino de San Antonio Missions, advocacy to continue to preserve, interpret and restore these sites is never done!

Our robust Office of Historic Preservation can hold hearings on demolition of some 1,500 landmarked buildings and over 30 historic districts, yet many buildings are lost every year, and demolitions of unprotected buildings – more than 96% of the City - happen weekly. Of course, we aren't trying to save everything, and our focus at the Conservation Society is on those sites and structures that are meaningful to the community. Rarely do we "go it alone." In most cases, we are working handin-hand with community organizations, as in our joint Request for Review of Significance of 503 Urban Loop, one of the last surviving buildings of the near west side Laredito neighborhood, which is co-sponsored by Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Westside Preservation Alliance, and the Tier One Neighborhood Coalition.



SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS TIME! *

Historic Guilbeau Farm House Endangered

Pat Ezell, Historic Farms and Ranches Committee Member

The historic Francois and Catarina Callaghan Guilbeau farmhouse and associated structures (c. 1885) are endangered and may be demolished. The farmhouse is located on the far northwest side of Bexar County. It is not visible from Loop 1604 or from Leslie Road due to heavy vegetation and overgrowth. The City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has initiated efforts to have the property designated as a City Landmark. The owners are opposed to the historic designation. They do not believe it is feasible to restore the structures and are requesting demolition approval.

ccording to the Office of Historic Preservation, the 12-Aacre property includes a residence, several outbuildings and a low-stacked stone wall. The primary structure is a single-story, stucco-clad limestone, dog trot folk house built for the Guilbeau family. This vernacular building type is not commonly found after 1890. Stone, with lime mortar visible on the front façade, supports the 19th century construction date. Folk houses represent the first period of American architecture built by colonists between the 17th century and the introduction of the railroad in 1877, when the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railroad arrived in Bexar County. The house is divided into two sections, both constructed of stucco-clad limestone with asphalt shingle roofs and exposed rafter tails. The front house is side-gabled; the primary façade, which faces southeast, has a full-length shed-roofed screened-in porch and a central door. There are chimneys at each end of the structure. The rear of the house has shed rooms flanking an extended central corridor that turns northeast to create the second L-shaped mass, which also has chimneys at each end. Where present, windows are four-over-four, double-hung wood frame and set deep in the stone; some windows are boarded or missing. The two barns on the property are wood construction with metal roofs.

Francois Guilbeau III (1851-1911) was the grandson of the first Francois Guilbeau (1782-1845) who arrived in San Antonio in 1839 from France with his 26-year-old son,



Francois II (1813-1879). Francois Guilbeau I, had been decorated with the French Legion of Honor for bravery on the battlefield of Jena, October 4, 1806. He and his son, Francois Guilbeau II (AKA Francois Jr.) opened the first bakery in San Antonio on Main Plaza. After Guilbeau I died in 1845, Guilbeau II opened a wine shop and importing business in 1848. This was highly successful, and they became known for providing the best beverages in the area.

uilbeau II, was also known as a horticulturist and is Jcredited with saving the wine industry of France. Grapes in France were suffering from a serious root rot disease also known as phlyoxera vastatrix. Phlyoxera had actually originated in the U.S. Guilbeau successfully grafted wild Mustang grapes from this area and sent hundreds of cuttings to France for grafting on to French vines. This was successful in rejuvenating the French grapes and saving the wine industry in France. Francois Guilbeau II married Maria del Rosario Ramon (1832-1861) on 16 July 1848. She was the daughter of Mariano Leal y Dwyer. They had seven children: Edward, Francisco (Francois), Anita, Rosaria, Adele, Eugenia and Marie. Guilbeau III was a highly successful businessman who accumulated great wealth for the time. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 1841, as City Alderman on several occasions and was appointed Vice-Consul in Texas by the French government. He also assisted Henri Castro in forming the settlements of Castroville, D'Hanis and other colonies west of San Antonio.

He married Catarina Callaghan (1854-1924) in San Antonio on 18 December 1879. She was from the prominent Callaghan family, three of whom were Mayors of San Antonio. This was a double wedding ceremony in which Francois' sister, Eugenia Guilbeau married Edward Grenet on this same day. The mothers of Francois and Catarina were sisters: Rosaria (Ramon) Guilbeau and Concepcion (Ramon) Callaghan, descendants of the Leal Family from the Canary Islands. Francois and Catarina Guilbeau had three children: Frank, Marie Anita and Albin Guilbeau. Catarina's parents were Bryan V. Callaghan (1813-1854) and Concepcion Ramon (1829-1910). Francois and Catarina's daughter, Anita, married Gabriel Wilson Marnoch.

The Francois and Catarina Guilbeau farm property was purchased in 1881 from Jacob and Caroline Hoffman who were large landowners in the Helotes area. The Guilbeaus began operating the Helotes Ranch by 1882. Tax records indicate that by 1883 they had 14 horses and mules, 14 cattle and 1 Jack or Jenny. (*Continued page 5*)

Dedication of First Texas Historical Commission Marker In Brackenridge Park Since 1965 Patsy Light, Society Member

The Bexar County Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) invite the members of the Conservation Society to attend the dedication of the THC Marker for the Mexican Village in the Japanese Tea Garden on *September 24th at 10am*. When the Garden was built, Parks Commissioner Ray Lambert advertised for families to come and live in three cottages and make items to sell to the tourists.

B asilio Aguilar made clay and pottery items, Mrs. Pozo wove cane chair seats and blinds of bullrush, and the Rangel family made baby clothes. The families also served Mexican dinners to the tourists in the large pavilion adjacent to the cottages. Mexican Village children played with the Jingu children who lived in their house in the upper part of the Garden and all of them walked through The Park to Lamar Elementary School together. The anti-Japanese sentiment during WWII resulted in the city turning off the water and the Jingus and the Mexican Village families were forced to leave. Descendants of several of the families will be attending the dedication. Speakers for the event include Conservation Society members; Bexar County Historical Commission Chairman, Tim Draves; Maria Pfeiffer; Lynn Bobbitt; Betty Bueché; and Mary Jane Verette. Entertainment will be by Campanas de las Americas Mariachi, and Central Catholic High School Color Guard will present the colors.

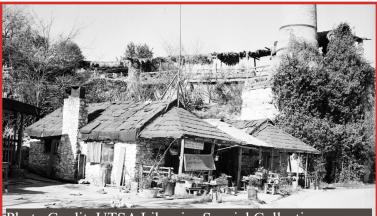


Photo Credit: UTSA Libraries Special Collections

(Continued from page 4) Historic Guilbeau Farm House Endangered

Two former Guilbeau homes were built by Francois Guilbeau I and Francois Guilbeau II. Both homes were located in the 500 block of South Main Street in downtown San Antonio. The second and largest Guilbeau home was razed in 1952 to make way for the South Main Street post office located a few blocks south of the courthouse. The earlier and much smaller Guilbeau home AKA, the "Slave Quarters," was razed sometime after the larger one was demolished. It is thought this small house was likely the first home built by Francois Guilbeau I and was later used as housing for slaves. The existing Guilbeau structure at 9290 Leslie Road in San Antonio appears to be one of the few remaining historic structures built by the French-American settlers in the county.

This Guilbeau property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a significant supplement to the Historic Farms and Ranches of Bexar County, Texas, multiple property designation, which lamented a lack of evidence of extant French complexes.

In 1960 Arthur L. Coleman wrote an article for the San Antonio Express-News, entitled, "For Land's Sake – San Antonio Is Suffering Another Tear-It-Downitis Infection." Sixty-one years later, one cannot help but wonder if that infection is still occurring today. Please help us save the Guilbeau House by calling your City Council representative and/or sending your comments.

For additional information refer to the Historic Farm and Ranch website sponsored by the Conservation Society of San Antonio, <u>https://farmandranch.omeka.net/exhibits/</u> show/guilbeauhouse and/or the case information for the Historic Design and Review Commission for the City of San <u>Antonio. https://sanantonio.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.</u> <u>aspx?ID=4732750&GUID=3CF58995-F052-4A54-91F2-</u> 75942F315E62&Options=&Search=



The Advocate Vol. 58 No. 2 Fall 2021

Community Grants Now Live:

Proceeds from "A Night In Old San Antonio" (NIOSA") go to supporting many of the programs of the Conservation Society. As of August 1st, the application process for the popular Community Grants went live. Now through the 24th of September, the Society will accept applications for either Building Grants or Educational Grants. The grants align directly with the purpose of the Society which is to: "preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirably distinctive to our State." Since 1990, the Society and the Society Foundation have awarded almost \$2.75 Million in Community Grants.

Building Grants are awarded to individuals/ organizations for the restoration or rehabilitation of historic structures in the San Antonio area (that are at least 50 years old). These grants are used to help with restoration or rehab of roofs, foundations, windows, plaster, facades, chimneys, front doors, porches and stonework. To access the application or for more information, visit: <u>www.saconservation.org/whatwe-do/building-grants/</u>



Educational Grants are awarded to individuals and organizations for educational projects such as research, video production, publications, printing, and documents conservation, all kinds of projects related to historic preservation. To access the application or for more information, visit: <u>www.saconservation.org/what-we-do/</u> <u>educationalgrants-scholarships/</u>



Completed application forms cannot be submitted online; applications must be mailed or submitted in person to the Society headquarters at: 107 King William Street, San Antonio, TX, 78204. We are open Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. The deadline for all applications is **4:00 pm, Friday, Sept. 24**th. The Community Grants Committee will notify recipients and non-recipients in early December.

Welcome New Members! April 16, 2021-August 27, 2021

BUSINESS MEMBER Lux Agency, LLC

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER Las Misiones

Associate Members Bea Ackerman-Castellanos Ryan Barry Carter Brown Ingrid Cropper Joseph Dorsey Carl Duane Dyer Lydia Rae Garcia Morgan Gerlach Linda Graves Chrstine Hollan

Justin Ivy Grant Knight Lorie Campos Mukul Malhotra Steve Martinez Tracy Midcap Pamela Noble Anne Palermo Ryan Reed Anisa Schell Rebecca Simmons David Swint Samuel Vasquez Lisa Vaughn Michael Villa Belinda Molina Yndo Abelardo Zavala



6

Junior Associates Kick Off New Year

September 12th at 2PM - Gardening Day

December 5th at 2PM - Gingerbread House Decorating

Meeting notices for the year are being sent to all active Junior Associate Members - Please contact the office if you have not received your notice.

Donations: April 16, 2021 - August 27, 2021



Corinthian Level Glazer's

Doric Level

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Dietel Mr. Jeffrey Fetzer, FAIA Mr. & Mrs. Scotty Light Mr. Chico Newman Mr. Patrick Williamson

Pillar Level

Ms. Anne Alexander AREA Real Estate Mrs. Margie Arnold Mrs. Ann Griffith Ash Drs. Otis Baskin Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bibles Mr. Robert T. Buchanan Ms. Leticia Diaz Mr. & Mrs. John Forestier, Jr. Frost Bank Mr. Oliver Gunnels

2021 Capital Club

Mr. Steve Hixon Mr. Emerson P. Huebinger Mrs. Carolyn B. Jackson Mr. Mitchell Kaliff Mr. James Lifshutz Mr. Dennis McDaniel Motif Boutique Brokerage Mr. Tom Sharp Shivers & Shivers Mrs. Mary West Traylor Mrs. Mary Jane Verette

Keystone Level

Dr. Anna Catherine Armstrong Ms. Nancy Avellar Mrs. Magdalena Barrera Ms. Susan Beavin Ms. Torrey Stanley Carleton Mr. William Crow Ms. Rosemarie Q. Donelson Mrs. Allison Elder Ms. Missy Finck Mr. James R. Garner Mr. & Mrs. Joey Groff NRP Group Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hartmann Mr. James L. Hollerbach Mr. & Mrs. Michael Humphreys Mr & Mrs Ray B Ince Jr Ms. Barbara Johnson Mr. Paul Kinnison, Jr. Mr. Mitchell Kaliff Las Misiones Mr. & Mrs. Sean Lyons Mrs. Debra Maltz Mr. Jerry Martinez Ms. Whitney McCarthy Ms. Celeste McEntire Ms. Roxana McGregor Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Michael Ms. Prentice Miller Mrs. Shanon Miller Mr. & Mrs. Chris Moran



Ms. Linda Child Nairn Ms. Sandra O'Banion Mrs. Mary Maxwell Oliver Mr. Jon Ott Mr. Robert Penshorn Mr. Joseph Penshorn Republic of Texas Ms. Kathy Rhoads Ms. Marlene Richardson Ms. Gretchen Rose Ms. Kate Ruckman Mr. & Mrs. William Sands Mr. & Mrs. David Schoenert Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schulze Ms. Ron Stinson Mrs. Virginia Van Steenberg Ms. Dru Van Steenberg Mr. Andrew Waterman Mr. V.T. Wood (Skip) Mrs. Belinda Molina Yndo

Preservation Corner

Imogen Cooper Louisa Dulaney Bobbie Dale Giffen Joyce Trent

Bricks & Mortar <u>Friends</u>

Mary Jane Blanco Sharon Hearn

Foundation Builders

Carter Brown Madeline McCloskey William McDonald Willa McDonald Marti Salazar Janet Williams

Donor

Robert Buchanan Patricia Evans-English Michele Krier Jerry Martinez Kathy Rodriguez Regina Torrez

Memorials: In Memory Of...

HILARIO GUAJARDO Mary Guajardo

The Preservation Advocate is published by The Conservation Society of San Antonio. Send letters, articles, or comments to: conserve@saconservation.org. Submission deadline for the Winter Newsletter is Friday, November 12, 2021.

The purpose for which the San Antonio Conservation Society was formed is to preserve and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natual beauty and all that is admirable and distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact, to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

Publications Committee: Paul Ringenbach, PhD, Chair; Paula Piper, Vice Chair; Kathy Rhoads, Ex Officio; Murphy Emmons; Christine Forestier; Gary Houston; Velma Nanka-Bruce

The Advocate Vol. 58 No. 2 Fall 2021



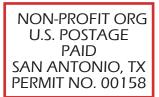
107 King William Street San Antonio, Texas 78204-1312 210.224.6163



'Here is is, I helped to save it' Miss Anna Ellis - 1927

Granary Doors Rescued by the Conservation Society The Society's First Step Towards <u>a World Heritage Designation</u> In 1926, the Society learned that the original wooden doors to the

granary at Mission San José were to be destroyed. Mrs. Essie Castanola, Secretary and Treasurer, rescued the doors from a trash heap and paid \$50.00 from the Society to Ignacio Salcedo. Today, the doors are on display at Mission San José. This was the first recognition by the San Antonio community of the Missions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 6th LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

Sunday, September 12th at 2:00 pm JUNIOR ASSOCIATE MEETING Notice sent out to all enrolled Juniors

Wednesday, September 22nd at 5:00 pm GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: "REACTIVATION OF THE SUNKEN GARDEN THEATER" Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvc-6pqzosH9LUBg]1THvHGck8rlbnN1fg After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Friday, September 24th at 9:00 am-4:00 pm DEADLINE FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS in the Stuemke Barn at 107 King William

Friday, September 24th at 10:00 am DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER AT BRACKENRIDGE PARK in the Japanese Tea Garden

Thursday, November 25th - Friday November 26th THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, December 8th at 4:00 pm

2021 WEIHNACHTSFEIER CELEBRATION FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS & FRIENDS Edward Steves Homestead - 509 King William