

The Conservation Society of San Antonio  
**THE PRESERVATION  
 ADVOCATE**

THE  
 CONSERVATION  
 SOCIETY  
 OF SAN ANTONIO

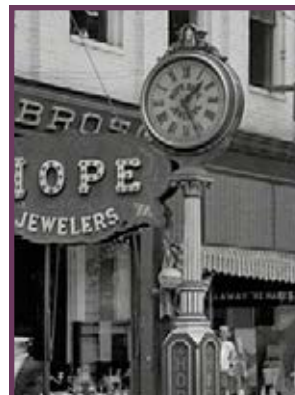
MAKING HISTORY BY SAVING HISTORY.™

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Hertzberg Clock - San Antonio, Texas



Hope Clock - Knoxville, Tennessee



**OUR HERTZBERG'S TWIN**

In December of 2020, the Conservation Society was contacted by Mr. Eric Ryback, vintage clock restorer and owner of the St. Louis Street Clock Company about possible work on our Hertzberg Clock. However, the work wasn't to restore San Antonio's Hertzberg Clock, as we just completed a restoration in May of 2019. It turns out our Hertzberg Clock has a twin!

It is located in Knoxville, TN and currently owned by Kimball's Jewelers, that in 1934 purchased the business from the Hope Brothers. The owner wants to restore the clock to its original appearance and originally contacted Mr. Ryback about replacing a few acanthus leaves that were missing on the top of the column. After a couple email exchanges it was discovered he did not have the original order records and was not aware the clock originally had a fancy top. These two clocks are the oldest 2 dial E. Howard clocks that exist with the style of yoke that supports the head. Our Hertzberg is the only one left standing in the country that has the iconic Jenny Lind topper.

To reproduce the Hertzberg's topper, Mr. Ryback needed several key measurements and a mold of the Jenny Lind bust. The Society agreed to take on the task and ambitiously aimed for a spring completion date. As we learned from our previous restoration effort, it is no easy task to block a busy downtown corner and reach the top of the clock. However, this was just the beginning of a whole host of obstacles that we tackled to get the work completed.

We endured a 'Snowmageddon' in February that put us out of operation completely for a week, then severely impacted our schedules as we spent the next months repairing, cleaning, and recovering from the damage the freeze caused on all our properties. Next, the pandemic wasn't through wrinkling our best laid plans and we faced shortages in workers, supplies, and delays with permits. Our real hero, Mr. Mark Laven of IBC bank who takes care of our clock year-round, provided us with a repaired sidewalk that would hold our lift level without the need to station it in the right of way where we would need the permit. Together with Mr. Laven and IBC's assistance, Society staff was finally able to access the topper to take the required measurements and make a mold of the Jenny Lind head using supplies furnished by Mr. Ryback. It truly takes a village and we can't wait to see the finished product!

For more information on the St. Louis Street Clock Company and Mr. Ryback's work: <https://stlstreetclock.com/>



Making a mold of the Hertzberg's Jenny Lind topper



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Kathy Rhoads, President**

As many of you may know, the Southwest School of Art was recently sold to the University of Texas System to become part of University of Texas San Antonio. However, many may not know the Conservation Society of San

Antonio purchased what was then the old Ursuline Academy in 1965 to preserve the buildings, which were in disrepair. In 1971, the School of Art began using a portion of the property for educational purposes. Following extensive renovations, the Conservation Society sold the site to the Southwest School. Since then, many donors have enabled further restoration, crafting one of the best examples of adaptive use in the country. The Society holds a preservation easement, ensuring the buildings will be preserved in perpetuity.



Southwest School of Art

One of our founders, Emily Edwards, attended boarding school at Ursuline, along with her sisters. She went on to teach and practice her art in various parts of the country, returning to San Antonio to teach at Brackenridge High School where one of her students was Robert H. H. Hugman, the architect of the River Walk! She also studied with Diego Rivera in Mexico and worked with Jane Addams in Chicago.



Emily Edward

Edwards' personal attachment to the old Ursuline Academy likely helped fuel her work to save it more than forty years later. Appropriately, it again became an educational institution. In addition to this excellent example of historic preservation, Miss Emily's legacy lives on at the Society. She published a number of books, and her relatives continue to endow grants and serve as members of the Society.



Ursuline Academy

As we approach our one-hundred-year anniversary in 2024, we look back at founders and Presidents of the Society like Emily Edwards, Rena Maverick Green, Ethel Wilson Harris, Wanda Ford, Margaret Tobin, Nancy Negley, and many others, and reflect on how much of San Antonio's structures and culture they helped save. You see it on every street downtown and throughout our many historic neighborhoods. Today we are still "Making History by Saving History".

## AN EARLY NIOSA®



NIOSA 2022 is early - so mark your calendar for April 5, 2022 - April 8, 2022. The team is hard at work and is looking for volunteers to assist with making this the most successful event ever. Proceeds from NIOSA provide support for the restoration of historic properties, community grants, and advocacy to preserve the history and culture of San Antonio.

If you are interested, visit our website [www.niosa.org/p/getinvolved](http://www.niosa.org/p/getinvolved) and sign up, or you can call NIOSA office for more information 210.226.5188.



# PITY THE NEGLIGENT?

Vincent Michael, Executive Director



Just a few blocks away, the Archdiocese has applied to demolish the stunning 1911 Hughes House at the edge of San Antonio College. This one is in fine shape, but a 2019 state law allows religious property owners to bypass the rules others must live by. The Society has contacted both the Archdiocese and San Antonio College Trustees who own the land surrounding the Hughes House, asking to help preserve this wonderful historic house.



1911 Hughes

Is anyone taking care of their buildings? **We are.**

You may have seen the big FOR SALE sign at the Wulff House – yes, we are selling our 151-year old house after residing here 47 of our 98 years. One of the things the Society can be proud of is that we maintain our properties rigorously. Regular maintenance, cyclical maintenance of exteriors and wooden elements every few years – we need to be excellence steward because that is our business. It is very frustrating to see building owners who are NOT maintaining their property as recounted above.



107 King William

In 1985, the Cattleman Square Historic District was created by the City of San Antonio and five years later, a prominent local restaurant family purchased the landmark. Now, after leaving it out in the rain for thirty years, they have hit the city with a press release and lawsuit demanding the demolition they thought they had last May when the Conservation Society hired a structural engineer who reported that the building's concrete frame was in fine shape despite a collapsed roof and CMU infill.

The Conservation Society joined the Westside Preservation Alliance and the Tier One Neighborhood Coalition to push for the preservation of the Whitt Building. Ownership was allowed to demolish the roof and the CMU infill in the structural frame, but they started demolishing the concrete frame itself as the city required further stabilization, which never happened. Now their press release about the lawsuit is dredging up sympathy despite the years of neglect.



Whitt Building

Another prominent local restaurant family has been trying to demolish 503 Urban Loop, which was thought to have been designated at the same time. It was not, so the Conservation Society joined the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and Westside Preservation Alliance in a Request for Review of Significance which could make it a landmark if City Council agrees. The building has harbored a lot of homeless recently and has suffered at least one fire. Along with our partners, we are still urging the owners to preserve the original 1883 structure. Meanwhile, in Alta Vista a second fire ravaged a historic bungalow and this one may lead to demolition.



503 Urban Loop



800 Russell



# THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY AND THE COMMUNITY

The Conservation Society has always worked closely with the community. Our recent efforts to save the Woolworth Building and 503 Urban Loop have brought together many community partners, all working together. But we also contribute to the San Antonio community in other ways.

2.85 million dollars. This is how much money the Conservation Society of San Antonio has invested in the buildings of our city and region through our annual Building Grants and Educational Grants. This is just one of the many ways the Conservation Society supports San Antonio.

4.3 million dollars. This is how much the Conservation Society has given to save the buildings in La Villita and Hemisfair since 1988 through the rental fee we pay the City for A Night in Old San Antonio®. When you are working in a booth at NIOSA® and when someone asks you where the money goes – say “Look around you!”

Heritage Education Tours. For over half a century, the Conservation Society has brought over 100,000 fourth-graders to see one of the San Antonio Missions and another historic site like Casa Navarro or the Steves Homestead, at no cost to the schools. For the last two years, we have

created virtual Heritage Education Tours of Missions San José, Concepción, the Steves Homestead, the Alamo and the River Walk! These can now be shared statewide and beyond! The Alamo and River Walk videos are premiering in January 2022. We hope to be back to live tours soon!



## WEIHNACHTSFEIER 2021 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



## JUNIOR ASSOCIATES GINGERBREAD HOUSES





# GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** March 2022 will mark the *Society's 98th* anniversary of advocacy and support to the community. Ninety-eight years of keeping the history and cultures of San Antonio alive. As an organization which is managed by the tireless efforts, dedication and passion of the many volunteers through the almost hundred years of its existence. The work which called to form this amazing group is not done - so many more projects require the Society's attention. The holidays are almost over, but the giving can still continue. Gift the gift of membership to your friends and family...invite them to be a part of this special organization and give them the chance to join you in being a part of the best preservation organization in the city as well as one of the oldest in the nation. You can fill out the form below or visit us online at [www.saconservation.org/get-involved/give-a-gift/](http://www.saconservation.org/get-involved/give-a-gift/) and we'll send the gift membership to you or your designated recipient.

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send the gift letter to me
- Please send the gift letter directly to the recipient indicating who gave the gift

Mail this completed form and \$35 membership payment to:  
 The Conservation Society of San Antonio  
 107 King William St.  
 San Antonio, TX 78204

## Welcome New Members! August 28, 2021- December 22, 2021

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER**  
 Beethoven Maennerchor, Inc

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Andrew Blouer  
 Camille Casey  
 Katherine De Luna  
 Marley Diehl  
 Gerry Friedman

Kevin Geary  
 Jeff Hunt  
 Hannah Brynn Leighner  
 Eloy Medina  
 Hubert Muller

Amy Nguyen  
 Andrew Prestridge  
 Jon Robinson  
 Eloy Rosales  
 Becca Siebenaler

Dora Solis  
 Maricela Villalpando  
 Doug Walsdorf  
 Andrea Wollenzin



THE COALITION FOR THE  
 WOOLWORTH BUILDING PRESENTS:

*Piecing Together a Story of Courage:*  
**CIVIL RIGHTS IN SAN ANTONIO**

JANUARY 15, 2022 | 10:30AM-12PM  
 INSTITUTO CULTURAL DE MEXICO  
 600 HEMISFAIR PLAZA WAY, SAN ANTONIO



# WELCOME TO THE TEAM



## Art Cardenas - NIOSA Director of Operations

Please welcome Art to the NIOSA team. He is the NIOSA Director of Operations. After 11 years in the Marine Corps, he worked in government contracting and management. His employment here began in November and he has been busy familiarizing himself with files, contracts and our computer system. We are glad he is here and he has fit right in with the rest of the team.

## Richard Montemayor - Logistics Coordinator

The Society welcomes Richard Montemayor as the Logistics Coordinator. Richard has over 40 years of mechanical and maintenance experience and will take on the giant task of coordinating multiple Society events. His volunteer work includes coaching a youth boys softball team, assisting seniors at voting centers, and at NIOSA since 2017. He enjoys motorcycle rides, dancing to old school music, eating at Mi Tierra and La Parilla, and relaxing at the beach with his wife Esther and their two children.

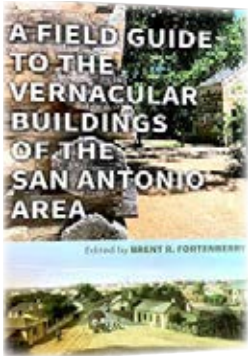


# THE KELSO HOUSE - A STUDY IN PRESERVATION



The Kelso House, a stunning Atlee Ayres design from 1906, stands proudly at the corner of Main Avenue and West Craig Place, just south of La Fonda on Main. The Power of Preservation Foundation took on the effort of restoring this house as a learning lab for architecture, preservation, construction and trades students. The Conservation Society of San Antonio awarded it a building grant for roof restoration over a year ago, and this year the Society provided a \$25,000 grant to secure the envelope of the building, which was achieved in late 2021. Thanks to the Power of Preservation and two timely contributions from the Conservation Society, this Monte Vista landmark lives on!

## NEW BOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR



Looking for a new book to read? Recently, Texas A&M University Press published a new book titled, **A Field Guide to the Vernacular Buildings of the San Antonio Area**, edited by Brent R. Fortenberry of Tulane University. Listed among the seven contributors to the book are three active Conservation Society members. They include Paul T. Ringenbach, Ph.D., current Board member, Lewis S. Fisher, and Maria Pfeiffer.



## Happy New Year Junior Associates

February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2PM - A Day At The Mission

Junior Associates spent the day celebrating the holiday season by decorating their gingerbread houses. The next meeting will be a special in-person tour at one of the five World Heritage Missions.

Interested in joining? Email: [ja@saconservation.org](mailto:ja@saconservation.org) or contact the office for more information.





# CAPITAL CLUB MEMBERS



## Corinthian Level

Glazer's

## Ionic Level

Mr. Patrick Williamson

## Doric Level

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Dietel

Mr. & Mrs. Scotty Light

Mr. Chico Newman

## Pillar Level

Mr. David M. Adelman

Alamo Hardwoods, Inc

Ms. Anne Alexander

Mrs. Margie Arnold

Mrs. Ann Griffith Ash

Drs. Baskin

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bibles

Mr. Robert T. Buchanan

Ms. Leticia Diaz

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Forestier, Jr.

Frost Bank

Mr. Oliver Gunnels

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hixon

Mrs. Carolyn B. Jackson

Mr. Mitchell Kaliff

Mr. Dennis B. Karbach

Mr. James Lifshutz

Ms. Marlene Richardson

Mrs. Camille Rodriguez Brigant

Mr. Tom Sharp

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shivers

Mrs. Richard C. Traylor

Mr. Andrew Waterman

## Keystone Level

Dr. Anna Catherine Armstrong

Ms. Nancy Avellar

Mrs. Magdalena Barrera

Ms. Susan Beavin

Mr. & Mrs. Cary Collins

Mr. William R. Crow, Jr.

Ms. Rosemarie Q. Donelson

Mrs. Allison Elder

Mr. Jeffrey C. Fetzer, FAIA

Ms. Missy Finck

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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ince

Ms. Barbara Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kinnison, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Sean Lyons

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Mr. Jerry Martinez

Ms Whitney McCarthy

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Ms. Celeste McEntire

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Mrs. Shanon Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Moran

Ms. Linda Child Nairn

NRP Group

Ms. Sandra O'Banion

Mrs. Mary Ann Oliver

Mr. Jon Ott

Mr. Samuel Panchevre

Mr. Robert Penschorn

Mr. Joe Penschorn

The Republic of Texas Restaurant

Ms. Kathy Rhoads

Mr. Jon Robinson

Mrs. Gretchen Rose

Ms. Kate Ruckman

Mr. & Mrs. William Sands

Mr. & Mrs. David Schoenert

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schulze

Ms. Rebecca Simmons

Ms. Torrey Stanley Carleton

Mr. Ron Stinson

Mrs. Virginia Van Steenberg

Ms. Dru Van Steenberg

Mrs. Mary Jane Verette

Mrs. Penny Wiederhold

Mr. V.T. Wood

Mrs. Belinda Molina Yndo

## DONATIONS: AUGUST 28, 2021 - DECEMBER 22, 2021

### PRESERVATION CORNER DONOR

Rosebud Coffey

Tertia Emerson

### MEMORIALS: IN MEMORY OF...

#### COLONEL ROBERT EARL BLOUNT

Margie Arnold

#### LEOPOLD CASTANON, JR.

Marlene Richardson

#### WILLIAM HENLEY

Margie Arnold

#### GENE ERNEST MAECKEL

Marlene Richardson

#### CAMILLE DUANE ROSENGREN

Marlene Richardson

#### JOAN NEGLEY KELLEHER

Bradford Breuer

Robert Buchanan

Chris Cheever

Bill Crow & Margaret Anderson

Marline Lawson

Doreen Magoon

Rebecca Price

Lorie Talamantez

The Preservation Advocate is published by The Conservation Society of San Antonio.

Send letters, articles, or comments to: [conserve@saconservation.org](mailto:conserve@saconservation.org).

Submission deadline for the Spring Newsletter is Friday, February 18, 2022.

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 natural 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, Ph.D., Chair; Paula Piper, Vice Chair;

Kathy Rhoads, Ex Officio; Murphy Emmons; Christine Forestier; Gary Houston; Velma Nanka-Bruce



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

**San José Granary Purchased by the Conservation Society**  
**The Society's First Step Towards a World Heritage Designation**

In 1931, Mrs. Essie Crawford Castanola and other Society members volunteered to sign a \$2,500 bank loan to purchase the Granary from Ignacio Salcedo. Interestingly, the bank insisted that the women's husbands co-sign with their wives. This purchase was the first the Society made to save a historically important building. It also was the first important piece of what would be our World Heritage site.

## **SAVE THE DATES !**

**Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10:30 am**

**PIECING TOGETHER A STORY OF COURAGE: CIVIL RIGHTS IN SAN ANTONIO**

**A Presentation by the Coalition for the Woolworth Building**

Instituto Cultural de Mexico, 600 Hemisfair Plaza Way

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Robert HH Hugman, Architect of the River Walk**

Little Rhein Prost House - 231 S Alamo St.

**February 2, 2022 - February 4, 2022**

**REAL PLACES 2002 CONFERENCE**

Austin, Texas - for more information [www.realplaces.us](http://www.realplaces.us)

**Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 2:00 pm**

**JUNIOR ASSOCIATE MEETING**

Information on Junior Associate Calendar

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 5:30 pm**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Missions of San Antonio**

Mission San José - 6701 San José Dr.

**Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS GALA**

San Antonio Country Club, 4100 N New Braunfels Ave

**April 5, 2022 - April 8, 2022**

**A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO**

La Villita