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/
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.

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.

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.

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 and sign up, or you can call NIOSA office for more information 210.226.5188.
I
n 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.

T
he 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.

A
other 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.

J
ust 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.

Is anyone taking care of their buildings? We are.

Y
ou 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.
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 existance. 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/ and we'll send the gift membership to you or your designated recipient.

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☐ 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.

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**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!

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**NEW BOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR**


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**Happy New Year Junior Associates**

**February 6th 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 or contact the office for more information.
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 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
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.