



HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF
AUSTIN

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Austin, TX 78768

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➔ **HSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS** ⬅

April 5 – **Texas Governor’s Mansion Matinee Feature**
4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, \$15

April 9 – **Heritage Homes Tour “The Bold & Beautiful”**
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 23 – **Inherit Austin’s Easter Egg Hunt**
9:30-11:00 a.m., AMOA – Laguna Gloria, \$10 child/adults free

April 25 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information

May 14 – **House Guitar Concert Series – The Phillips House**, 7:00 p.m., 2310 MLK Jr., Blvd., 78702

May 23 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information

June 27 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information

Tickets to Events available at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org or 474-5198.

PRESERVATION

AUSTIN

Spring 2011, Volume 15 No. 2

The Bold & Beautiful

19th Annual Heritage Homes Tour



The Heritage Society of Austin proudly announces its 19th annual Heritage Homes Tour to be held on April 9, 2011. "The Bold & Beautiful" will feature the drama and grandeur of seldom seen estates from historic Austin. Tour highlights include the beautifully appointed interiors of Woodlawn and Sweetbrush, the lush and expansive grounds of Inshallah, the unveiling of the exciting restoration plans for the Commodore Perry Estate, and lively lectures at the Neill-Cochran House Museum.

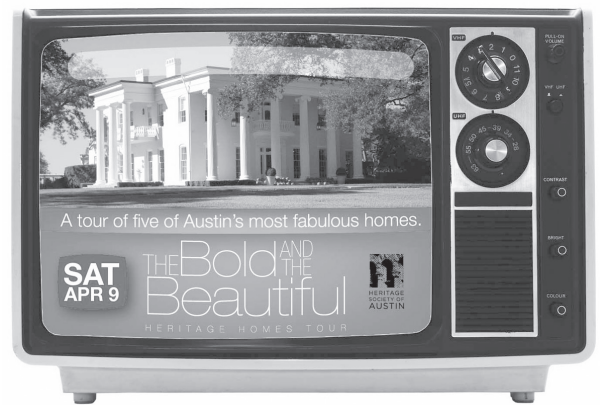
Governor's Mansion Matinee Feature at the Paramount Theatre

Sponsored by McWilliams Governmental Affairs

Enjoy a special afternoon event at the historic Paramount Theatre spotlighting the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration with featured speaker Dealey Herndon, Project Manager for the restoration. Indulge in theater treats and mingling with good company while learning special insights about the restoration of this Texas treasure. April 5, 4:30-6:00 p.m. \$15 per guest.



Woodlawn, 1606 Niles Road



Homes Tour Salon

Don't miss two lively lectures included in the Homes Tour ticket price on April 9 at the Neill-Cochran House Museum. Limited seating available.

Neill-Cochran House: Preserving a Master Builder's Legacy by John R. Volz, AIA, LEED AP, Volz & Associates, Inc. at 11:00 a.m.

Inside the Neill-Cochran House: A Walk Through Time by Candace M. Volz, ASID, Volz & Associates, Inc., at 1:00 p.m.

Abner Cook Breakfast at the Neill-Cochran House Museum

As part of this year's Heritage Homes Tour, a sold-out crowd of history lovers attended a breakfast on March 25 spotlighting Master Builder Abner Cook with speaker Kenneth Hafertepe, the preeminent expert on the topic. Guests were treated to springtime blooms on the Neill-Cochran House Museum patio while enjoying a period breakfast.

The Heritage Society believes that one of Austin's

Continued on page 3

Save the Date



Austin Guitar Salon

Spring Series 2011

The **Austin Classical Guitar Society** and the **Heritage Society of Austin** have forged a new partnership to present intimate classical guitar concerts in historic homes in Austin. These special evenings are made irresistibly delicious thanks to **Antonelli's Cheese Shop** and **Twin Liquors**, who are sponsoring wine and cheese receptions at each concert.

The *Austin Guitar Salon* spring series 2011 is comprised of three concerts in unique, historic settings and features phenomenal Texas talent, including the Old School on February 26 and the McClendon-Kozmetsky House on March 26. For tickets to the final part of the series or more information visit AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call 512-300-ACGS.

Texas Guitar Quartet at the Phillips House

Saturday, May 14th at 7 p.m.

A visit to the superb Mid-Century Modern Phillips House transports guests to an Austin era that was totally modern, supremely cool, and ring-a-ding glamorous. The Texas Guitar Quartet is a stunning ensemble of talented artists that is garnering universal rave reviews.

The Austin Guitar Salon, spring series 2011 is sponsored by The Kinney Company.



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Jacqui Schraad, Executive Director

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Bold and Beautiful Tour continued from page 1

great assets is the wealth of intact historic properties that stabilize and enhance our central city. The Heritage Homes Tour raises awareness and appreciation of our noteworthy neighborhoods and properties. Attendees learn about our community's history and architecture and witness how historic assets benefit and enhance our neighborhoods.

Tour and Governor's Mansion Matinee Feature tickets are available in advance on line. Tour tickets are also available (cash & check only) at the consignment locations: Breed & Co. (both locations), Zinger Hardware, Tarrytown Pharmacy or Restoration Hardware, or on day of event at Tour Headquarters at the Tea Embassy at 900 Rio Grande.

\$23 members / \$28 non-members. To buy tickets or for more information on the tour, map, and FAQ, visit www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.

Photos by J.C. Schmeil, AIA



Neill-Cochran House, 2310 San Gabriel



Commodore Perry Estate, 4100 Red River



Sweetbrush, 2408 Sweetbrush Drive



Inshalla, 602 East 43rd Street

Hospitality Committee Volunteer Opportunity

The Heritage Society is looking for volunteers for the newly formed Hospitality Committee. This committee helps with logistics for HSA events such as the Homes Tour Volunteer Appreciation Party, Explore Austin Landmark events, Beyond Paint Chip lectures, Holiday Party, Annual Membership Meeting, etc. The volunteer work for this committee includes: ordering food, picking up food, setting up for an event, tidying up after an event, and helping with check-in at events. This is a great way to participate in the variety of events that HSA does and learn more about the Heritage Society! Contact Lindsay Hunter at alindsayrose@yahoo.com or 658-0945 if you are interested.

Inherit Austin

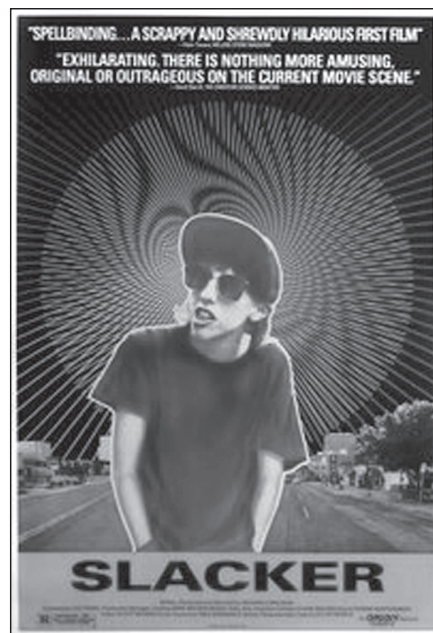
By Bergan Casey, Chair

Inherit Austin appeals to the funky and traditional

On November 7th, Inherit Austin hosted a private screening of "Slacker," the iconic film about never growing old or sane. Special guest Louis Black, editor and co-founder of the Austin Chronicle, walked us down memory lane of laid-back landmarks featured in the film, many of which have been lost to the test of time. The movie features old college haunts such as Les Amis and Captain Quackenbush's, streets such as North Lamar at 10th where car dealerships have given way to shopping centers, and South Congress which now hops with cool restaurants, bars and clothing stores. Many of the changes have occurred in the name of attractive and necessary growth; others eaten by larger, more profitable businesses. "Slacker" is a classic look at sleepy Austin-town before it become a culturally sophisticated and affluent city in 20 short years.

For more information about the sites featured in the film, check out the following article in the *Austin Chronicle*:

www.austinchronicle.com/columns/2011-03-11/page-two-rogue-waves/



Please join us for the 9th annual

Inherit Austin Easter Egg Hunt benefitting the Heritage Society of Austin

Saturday, April 23rd at 9:30 am

(egg hunt to begin promptly at 10:15)

Austin Museum of Art's Laguna Gloria

egg hunts . train rides . face painting . photos with easter bunny

\$10 per child . Adults free

sponsored by:

Agnew & Foster, LLC • Annie Downing Interiors
Austin's World of Rentals • Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
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Join Inherit Austin

Please call the HSA office or check out the website to join Inherit Austin. Memberships: \$65/individual, \$80/couple-dual. Benefits include access to free and discount events held by Inherit Austin and the Heritage Society of Austin throughout the year.

Mission: The purpose of Inherit Austin is to cultivate a new generation of HSA members by hosting social, cultural and educational events that appeal to singles, married couples and families roughly ages 20-45. Events include family-friendly and adult nights out.



Dear Austin Preservationists,

Protecting the Commission that Protects Historic Texas



very other year when the Texas Legislature gavel in for its 140-day session, preservationists stand ready with a watchful eye. Four years ago, during the 80th Legislative Session, Austin's Capitol View Corridors were threatened. Because the Heritage Society of Austin took the lead in a successful advocacy effort to protect those corridors, citizens and visitors continue to enjoy a view of the Capitol from key locations all across our city.

Now the Legislature is in the midst of its 82nd Legislative Session, and once again the Heritage Society of Austin is being looked to for leadership on an issue that impacts the history and heritage of our entire state. An effort to suspend the functions of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) could derail programs that have long promoted preservation and the protection of historic sites. These include historical markers, Texas Heritage Trails, Historic Courthouse and Main Street programs, as well as the oversight of historic cemeteries and museums.

The THC budget as introduced in the House and Senate was cut 77% compared to an average of 28% for other General Government agencies. In concert with other partner organizations such as Preservation Texas and the Texas Downtown Association, the Heritage Society of Austin has engaged its membership in Calls to Action to increase funding for the Texas Historical Commission and to defeat legislation

offered by Rep. Phil King of Weatherford to totally eliminate the Commission.

Many Texans have voiced their horror and disbelief at the state's short-sighted intent to put preservation on the back burner in the face of the current budget crisis. Especially because the THC is not only uniquely qualified to ensure the protection of our state's historic resources, but is actually an economic engine for our state.

More than 200 communities across the state have gained important economic revitalization through the nationally recognized Main Street Program. The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has created 5,800 jobs and nearly \$40 million in state and local tax revenues since its inception in 1999. The Texas Heritage Trails Program, active in all 254 counties in Texas, capitalizes on the impact of heritage tourism—a \$5.2 billion-dollar-a-year industry in Texas. In 2010, the state taxes generated by domestic, Texan leisure travelers influenced by state agency tourism promotion totaled an estimated \$6.00 for every dollar invested. The Texas Historical Commission more than pays its way. During these hard economic times one wonders why the state would even consider endangering this important revenue.

From a letter, "To the Citizens of Texas" by former THC Commissioner J.P. Bryan:

"We share the greatest history of any State in the Union. Shortly we will celebrate the

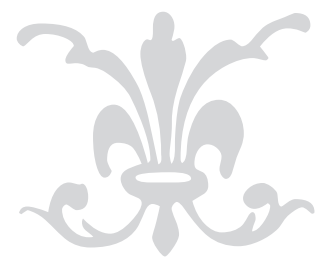
175th year of our victory on the plains of San Jacinto and the birth of a nation, the Republic of Texas.

In this same year our history is under siege. The leader of this assault on our historical heritage is not a foreign military commander. It is our own political leadership. With the pen, not the sword, they suggest dissolving or emasculating the Texas Historical Commission, the guardian organization for all the components of the structural history of Texas.

This attack should get the same greeting we gave at San Jacinto to the last individual who sought to end our history, San Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna—Defeat!"

As a member of the Heritage Society of Austin, you can make a difference. Go to the Preservation Texas website www.preservationtexas.org for specific talking points. Reach out to your state legislators to express your views about this threat. They cast the votes to decide the future of preservation in our state.

Courtney Read Hoffman
HSA President



HSA becomes Partner Non-Profit of I Live Here, I Give Here

By Patsy Woods Martin, ILH, IGH
Founder & Executive Director

Austin, Texas, is an amazing place to live! Just in the last year we've been recognized as:

- ◆ #1 best city for the next decade, *Kiplinger's*
- ◆ #1 best city for job growth in the top 50 metro areas, *US Bureau of Labor Statistics*
- ◆ #3 best city for singles, *Travel and Leisure*
- ◆ #6 of America's smartest cities, *CNN Money*

Other assessments consistently recognize the Greater Austin region as among the most inventive, creative, wired, educated, fit and loved. However, a *Chronicle of Philanthropy* study ranked Austin 48th out of the 50 largest US cities with regard to percentage of disposable income dedicated to all charitable giving.

I Live Here, I Give Here is on a mission to change that.

HOW?

- ◆ Monthly Community Needs Spotlights on the issues affecting our community
- ◆ A website listing over 400 local nonprofit organizations by category of service
- ◆ Quarterly "See Jane Give"/"Give Back Jack" dinners focused on how to become a thoughtful philanthropist
- ◆ A website highlighting local philanthropists and their stories
- ◆ The BIG Give! – a celebration of giving and receiving well
- ◆ Ongoing, research-based program development aimed to raise awareness of the importance of personal philanthropy.

While changing a culture doesn't happen over night, I Live Here, I Give Here is making a difference. The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service evaluated I Live Here, I Give Here programming in 2008 and 2009. They



report campaign events inspire participants to give and to encourage others to give.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| See Jane Give Attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 74% feel a greater obligation to increase giving ◆ 51% report giving more money to nonprofits |
| Community Needs Spotlight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 88% feel a greater obligation to increase giving ◆ 60% report giving more money to nonprofits |
| Multiple Events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 86% feel a greater obligation to increase giving ◆ 64% report giving more money to nonprofits |

The Heritage Society of Austin in one of I Live Here, I Give Here's over 100 partner nonprofit organizations. This means The Heritage Society is featured prominently on www.ILiveHereIGiveHere.org and is among the first agencies contacted when citizens contact I Live Here, I Give Here with any interest in arts and culture in Austin. The partnership also positions the Heritage Society of Austin as not only interested in preserving Austin's past but also building the future. ∞



Act Now for Austin's Landmarks

By August W. Harris, III,
Advocacy Committee Chair

The Heritage Society of Austin (HSA) urges its membership and all who believe in the intrinsic and economic value of historic preservation to reach out to City Council immediately regarding its current consideration of the Historic Landmark program. Please let the City Council members know that the protection of Historic Landmarks is important to you and that investment in historic preservation is vital to Austin's long term vitality. The City Council will hear the Historic Landmark Commission's recommendation for changes to the Historic Landmark program on April 21. You have to let them know you care.

The City's Historic Landmark program is under assault by mischaracterization as a "benefit for millionaires." This misrepresentation has grabbed the media and the public's attention. But it is inaccurate and unfortunate. Focusing on the tax incentives granted to historic landmarks, critics have incorrectly framed the conversation to position historic preservation as a drain on the City's resources, rather than as a proven generator of economic vitality.

Recognizing the opportunity to strengthen and improve the program, HSA developed and presented to the City of Austin a series of recommendations for the program's administration and to mitigate fiscal impact in the future. These recommendations were carefully considered with the intent of creating a first-class preservation program for Austin. HSA needs your help to secure the adoption of these recommendations that are vital to the future of preservation in our city.

Read HSA's Recommendations at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org on

the "Landmarks Program" page. When the City established its preservation program, much of Austin's historic fabric had been lost or was threatened. The cost of restoration and maintenance for older structures as the excuse for demolition was used then and now. Consequently, as an inducement to retain irreplaceable historic fabric, incentives were offered in the form of property tax abatements, the only option available given our tax structure. That, in turn, led to a reinvestment in our historic fabric. Studies have shown that investment in historic assets enriches the tax base. In a state that relies so heavily on property tax, this negligible investment in historic abatements, less than 0.20% of each taxing jurisdiction's operating budget, yields significant economic and cultural returns.

But there is much more at stake for the community as a whole, notably the loss of our preservation program, our designated historical landmarks and those that have not been designated but are worthy for any of a variety of reasons. Our heritage and those things that make Austin unique are under threat. We need your help.

Send message to City Council at www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/group_email.htm

Suggested Message:

I urge you to adopt the Heritage Society of Austin's recommendations for the Landmark Program. These thoughtfully considered recommendations include administrative changes to assure that the process of designating and managing Historic Landmarks is careful and thorough, and adjustments to the tax incentive structure that will continue to

encourage preservation while assuring that the effect on ad valorem tax income is limited to a very minimal percentage of revenues. The City's adoption of these recommendations is the first and most immediate priority to ensure that a viable landmark program continues to preserve and protect Austin and Travis County's historic assets, heritage, and cultural legacy for future generations. ☺



SIGN UP NOW FOR OUR 'CAMP PIONEER' SUMMER SESSIONS

Exciting new history-based summer camps for children at Pioneer Farms that opened for reservations last month are filling up. In a partnership with Pioneer Farms, Kidventure is offering Camp Pioneer — half-day camps that will provide children an opportunity to step back to the 1800s.

Two different camps will be offered: **Explorers**, for boys and girls ages 6-8 (entering first grade in fall 2011, and **Adventurers**, for children ages 9-13. The camps are unique in the Austin area. Come check out the camps at a special Camp Day on Saturday, April 30, starting at 10 a.m. Attendees will be admitted to the museum for a discounted price of \$3 a person. There is a different historical theme for each week: June 6-10, Adventures on the Frontier; June 13-17, Native American Pow-Wow; June 20-24, Trail Blazers; June 27-July 1, Wild Life and Wild Times, and July 11-15, The Farming Life. Enroll now at Kidventure.com.

PIONEER FARMS

AN UPDATE ABOUT ALL THE GOINGS-ON AT AUSTIN'S PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK.

EMMY-WINNING BISCUIT BROTHERS TO HEADLINE FAMILY MUSIC FEST

The Austin Family Music Festival is coming up on Saturday, May 7, a bigger and better springtime festival for children of all ages. Hosted by the Emmy Award-winning Biscuit Brothers, who film their hit PBS



shows at Pioneer Farms, the big event will feature two other headliners. Watch for an exciting announcement about those acts. Some two dozen additional acts will perform on three stages, including Austin Symphony Ensemble, the Taiko Japanese drums, mariachi bands, a barbershop quartet, bagpipes and lots of other local musicians such as Cowgirl Sue.

Other entertainers, an Instrument Petting Zoo and historical activities and crafts will round out the billing. The popular Musical Hayrides will back as the five-hour fest promises to be one of the biggest, most spectacular children's music events in Austin. The festival will run from 10-3. The event will feature food, plus a merchandise tent. Lots of vendor tables will ring our Sprinkle Corner village for the big event. Free music CDs for kids sponsored by Austin Family Magazine will be given out for free while supplies last. The popular event, the only children-oriented music festival in Austin, annually attracts thousands of people for a day of family



AUSTIN FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Early-bird tickets are now on sale for the Austin Family Music Festival at discount prices. See AustinFamilyMusicFestival.com for details, including discount group pricing through Groupons that will offer a block of advance family tickets at half off. Early-bird tickets are \$10 each. At the gate, they will be \$12 each.

SUNRISE RELIGIOUS SERVICE, EGG HUNT FUN ON TAP FOR APRIL 23-24 EVENTS

Easter weekend will bring a variety of old-fashioned events for a variety of Austinites at Pioneer Farms, beginning on Saturday and continuing through Sunday. Holy Word Lutheran Church will hold a Sunrise Easter Service in our Sprinkle Corner town square, just like the ones that Texans used to celebrate in the late 1800s along Walnut Creek in this area. Admission to the service is free.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24, our museum will open for the day with demonstrations of blacksmithing and other pioneering arts at our historic sites. At 2 p.m.

both days, an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt will begin in the Wild-flower Meadow at our 1880s Cotton Planter's Farm — complete with lanes for various ages, and special prize eggs hidden among the hundreds of others. At 3:30 p.m., we'll stage an Easter Egg Roll — just like the more-famous one at the White House that was launched in 1883 — on the Bell House lawn. Bunnies (real and stuffed-toy variety) will be available for petting and (the latter) for purchase. There will also be prizes for egg-hunt winners.

INITIAL RESEARCH CONFIRMING HOW JARMON HOUSE LOOKED

Initial research guiding the restoration of our historic Jarmon House shows the one-story structure looked much the same as it does today when it was first built. Family photos dating to before World War I, a decade or so after the house was built, show two deep side porches and a smaller back porch. The house had a wood-shingle roof and appears to have been painted a light color — possibly off-white with contrasting trim. The Jarmon House was moved to Pioneer Farms in December to save it from demolition. It was built around 1900 by Jarmon, an early-day storekeeper in Sprinkle. If you'd like to donate to this worthy preservation project, send a check to Jarmon Fund, 10621 Pioneer Farms, Austin, TX 78754.



Many Thanks

to our New and Renewing Members

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Valerie Mansbendel House 3820 Avenue F

Last year's Hyde Park Homes Tour featured the home of renowned Swiss Woodcarver Peter Mansbendel, on the corner of Avenue F and 39th Street. That same craftsmanship is evident in this house Mansbendel built next door in 1934 as a wedding present for his daughter Valerie and her husband William T. Williams.

The bride's grandparents, Adele and Monroe Shipe, lived a block away at Avenue G and 39th Street. Shipe had developed Hyde Park in 1891 as the first planned development in Austin and he named this particular area "Shadow Lawn," as marked by still-present concrete benches.

The interior of the home is enhanced by Peter Mansbendel's design and carvings. The beamed living room ceiling rises fifteen feet high and the dining room beams are carved and painted in floral designs.

Perhaps the most unique features of the home are the portraits of Valerie and Bill that Mansbendel carved into the stone façade.

The house is for sale for the first time outside the family. It has three bedrooms, two baths, formal living and dining rooms and a family room. It needs some updating and repairs, but the Hyde Park Historic District benefit includes eligibility for a property tax freeze for seven years at the pre-rehab value.

The property is priced at \$499,000.



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Thanks!