

# AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

“THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY”

SPRING 2018

## Driskill Shines in Eberly Spotlight



Austin attorney and author Monte Akers (speaking) anchored the panel for the 2018 Angelina Eberly Luncheon. Photo courtesy: Jim Innes

It's been the site of business deals, honeymoons, fist fights, celebrations, gun play, and, by some accounts, paranormal activity. On Feb. 2, Austin's historic Driskill Hotel was the site and the focus of AHCA's annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon.

More than 200 guests dined in the ballroom and listened as a panel of notables shared stories about their own memories of the Driskill. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of former President Lyndon Johnson, talked about how the hotel is woven into her family's history, starting with a late-summer breakfast date in the Driskill dining room in 1934 – the first date for Lyndon and, at the time, Claudia Taylor, aka “Lady Bird” – followed many more social and political

events. Julian Read, longtime Texas public affairs guru, shared his memories of political campaign work centered in or near the Driskill, and the community effort in the late 1960s that actually saved the financially-strapped hotel from demolition. Austin attorney and author Monte Akers, AHCA board secretary, moderated the panel and offered his own stories, mined from work on his new book, *The Grande Dame of Austin: A History of the Driskill Hotel*, available for order at [AustinHistory.net](http://AustinHistory.net), AHCA's website, and [BookPeople.com](http://BookPeople.com) on North Lamar.

“The Eberly Luncheon just keeps getting better each year,” said AHCA President Charlie Betts. “The food **EBERLY... PAGE 5 ➔**

## Celebration of Life Stories Highlights AHCA Annual Meeting

One of the most tangible legacies the AHCA provides the Austin History Center is the annual donation of oral histories collected throughout the year.

Their stories have helped define Austin as we know it today.

On Sunday, May 6, AHCA celebrates this year's group of oral history donors as the association transitions from one business year to the next with its annual all-member meeting. After working through a brief business agenda, the meeting will turn its attention to honoring the past year's oral history donors, each of whom have contributed in

some way to the development of the Austin community.

“These are stories that could have been lost forever,” said AHCA President Charles Betts. “Through the tireless efforts of our Oral History Committee we now have these stories recorded for posterity, told by the very people who made the imprint on our city's history. I can't overemphasize the importance of this work.”

Indeed, each person who is nominated and goes through the oral history process spends an hour or more being interviewed by a member of AHCA's Oral History Committee. **MEETING...PAGE 9 ➔**



# Austin History Center ASSOCIATION

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*The mission of the Austin History Center Association is to help the community value our past and build a better future - by supporting the Austin History Center to achieve excellence in its efforts to serve as the collective memory of Austin and Travis County.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Charles Betts - *President*
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## AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

- Geoff Wool - *Editor*
- Beth Fowler - *Creative Director*
- Eve Molnar - *Layout & Design*
- Anne Wheat - *Photographer*



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Since the last edition of *Austin Remembers*, the Austin History Center has added approximately 35 linear feet of new donations to the collection, ranging from official City of Austin records to archives from local organizations. Here are a few highlights of these recent acquisitions:

- The AHC has the records of what was the Discovery Hall Science Center, a children's science museum that operated in Austin in the 1980s and 1990s. The center was located at 401 Congress but also had a traveling aquarium and offered summer camps.
- AHC received early meeting minutes and event handbills of the Capital City Coin Club. The club formed in 1969 and held its first show in 1972. They have held monthly meetings and an annual show since then.

## NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

AHC staff and student volunteers continue to work to make the collections more accessible to the public, processing 28 unique manuscript and photograph collections and over 55,000 items in the last four months. You can view inventories of all the AHC's processed collections online at: [https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html). Here are a few collections recently completed:



▲ Darcee Douglass played for Lord Douglass Phillips, Swine King, and was a sometimes member of Raunchy Reckless & the Amazons. Lisa Davis Photograph Archives, AR.2010.022(07-24-018), Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

### AR.2010.022. Lisa Davis Photograph Archives

Lisa Davis was an Austin-based photojournalist. Her archives document the politics, sports, music, and events of Austin and surrounding cities from 1978 to 1995, including activities of Austin's LGBTQ+ community. The collection contains more than 29,000 negatives, prints, contact sheets, and transparencies.

Davis was born on February 18, 1963, in San Diego, California, but she grew up in Texas, just outside of Houston. In 1981, she moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas where she earned a degree in photojournalism. After college, she remained in Austin where she worked as a staff photographer for the Associated Press and freelanced for numerous publications including *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The Austin Chronicle*, *The Texas Triangle*, *OUT Magazine*, and *The Advocate*. She was active in many local and national social justice groups, including LGBTQ+ organizations and women's advocacy groups. She was an active

presence in the Austin music scene, documenting many musicians, bands, and venues. Her work was used on album covers, and also in promotional material for the VH-1 television network.

The collection inventory is available at: <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00615/ahc-00615.html>

#### **AR.2012.018. David Thomson Emo's Poster Collection**

This is a collection of 125 posters promoting various music venues and festivals in Austin, collected and donated by a former Emo's employee David L. Thomson III. The majority of posters were created for Emo's, a music venue known for showcasing punk and alternative bands throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The posters were created by numerous artists and span from 1982 to 2002. About 45 of the posters in the collection were produced by Lindsey Kuhn, a silk-screen poster artist who moved to Austin in 1990. Kuhn is known for his use of color and controversial content. Another 30 or so posters in the collection are the work of Frank Kozik, a popular poster artist who began his career in Austin but later relocated to San Francisco. Kozik's work reflects pop art, bright colors, and controversial content. The posters within the collection include numerous band names such as The Queers, Butthole Surfers, Jack O'Fire, Supersuckers, Cherubs, The River Boat Gamblers, and Kill Dozer. Other music venues represented in the collection include Kilamánjaro, The Hole in the Wall, and the Electric Lounge.

See the collection inventory at: <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00626/ahc-00626.html>

#### **AR.C.007. Austin (Tex.). Volunteer Fire Department Records**

In 1858, members of the Austin community formed the first volunteer fire department company, the Austin Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. Ten years later, a second fire company formed. The volunteer fire department grew to include a total of nine more companies before its dissolution in 1916. This collection includes administrative and financial records; roll calls and meeting minutes; individual portrait and group photographs; artifacts such as event ribbons and buttons from uniforms; and printed memorabilia relating to fire department events.

The records in this collection provide insight into the evolution of Austin municipal governance over the city's first 50 years of incorporation, as well as Austin's urban development (reflected by the development of distinct fire companies to serve various neighborhoods.) The collection captures the department's growth from a single unit to an organization of 10 companies serving various geographic divisions of the city. As the department evolved, a central administrative apparatus developed in addition to each company's individual recordkeeping systems; as such, records of the department-wide administration have been arranged separately from those of each individual company.

The collection inventory is available at: <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00629/ahc-00629.html>



▲ Two horse-drawn wagons from the Volunteer Fire Department, Colorado Fire Co. No. 2, ca. 1880s. PICA 00279, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

# AHC Expansion Included in Bond Proposal

Money for expansion of the Austin History Center is included in an \$851 million bond proposal now being considered by the Austin City Council.

On March 9, after several months of discussion, public testimony, and collection of information, the Austin Bond Election Advisory Task Force unanimously approved the proposal, which includes \$11.5 million for repairs and maintenance of the now-vacated John Henry Faulk Central Library building. City staff have identified two floors of the building, and its basement, as areas where the AHC can expand its operations. The bond proposal is now being considered by the Austin City Council, and if it's approved, it would go before voters on Nov. 6.

"This is a really significant development in our efforts to help the Austin History Center expand operations into the Faulk building," said AHCA President Charlie Betts. "Our work is not done but getting this included in the advisory task force recommendation is a testament to our members and the effort they've put into our Save Austin History campaign."

The \$11.5 million included for Faulk building repairs and maintenance is a significant part of the \$14.8 million city staff members estimate it will take to make the Faulk building suitable for storing AHC archives. Another \$2 million might come from another part of the bond proposal where the AHC is represented – the Austin Public Library system. Currently, the bond proposal has \$20 million earmarked for maintenance and repairs at branch libraries, \$2 million of which, at one time, had been set aside for repairs to the Faulk building for AHC expansion.

On Feb. 26, the Austin Library Commission showed its support for the AHC expansion by approving two recommendations; one requesting the City Council add the full \$14.8 million to the bond proposal for AHC expansion into the Faulk building, and a second recommendation asking the City Council to pass a resolution renewing its support for AHC expansion into the Faulk. In 2008 the City Council had gone on record supporting AHC's future move into the Faulk.

As the City Council considers its options on the bond proposal, you can add your voice to the discussion. Visit AHCA's [SaveAustinHistory.org](http://SaveAustinHistory.org) website, which provides information on the AHC expansion into the Faulk building. Then, call or email your Austin City Council member or Mayor Steve Adler's office to let them know you value the AHC and support including repairs to the Faulk building in the 2018 bond proposal.

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## History Center Projects OKed for HOT Funding

Two Austin History Center projects are among those that will soon receive funding from the Hotel Occupancy Tax. The AHC projects were among several historic restoration and preservation projects approved for HOT funding by the Austin City Council at the March 22 meeting.

One of the approved projects will make the digital historical resources from the AHC's collections available through the internet. The \$115,000 in HOT funding will pay for software and developer support to put tens of thousands of digitized historic photos, documents, architectural plans, and maps as well as born-digital documents online. The project will include a searchable and

scalable web-based public database of historic materials from the AHC's collections.

The second project calls for improvements to the AHC's interior and exterior. The \$470,000 HOT funding for this project augments money approved in the 2012 municipal bond election for much needed deferred maintenance and renovations. The combined funds will pay for landscape work, signage improvements, restoration of the building's original 1933 interior light fixtures, and new suspended dual circuit track-lighting for exhibit spaces to improve the visitor experience at the AHC.

►... **EBERLY** was excellent, the speakers were terrific, and perhaps most important, it was a financial success due to the generous sponsorships secured by our board members.”

Charles Peveto, chair of AHCA’s Angelina Eberly Luncheon Committee, thanked the members for their work, but quickly pivoted

to the 2019 luncheon. “We’re already planning for next year and looking at ways to keep growing the event,” Peveto said.

The Angelina Eberly Luncheon is AHCA’s biggest fundraiser of the year, another opportunity to highlight the support AHCA provides the Austin History Center.

..... **2018 EBERLY LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS** .....



▲ Charles Peveto, chair of AHCA’s Angelina Eberly Luncheon Committee (center left) with members of the panel for this year’s Eberly Luncheon: Monte Akers (left), Luci Baines Johnson, and Julian Read (right). Photo courtesy: Jim Innes.



▲ Austin Mayor Pro-Tem Kathie Tovo (right) shares a moment with AHCA Board Member Anne Wheat outside the Driskill Ballroom.



▲ Adam Friedman (right), AHCA treasurer and son of the late former Austin Mayor Jeff Friedman, greets Austin Mayor Steve Adler before the start of the Eberly Luncheon.



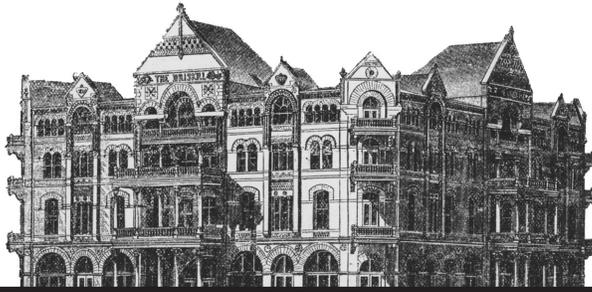
▲ Among those representing Westminster at the luncheon were (left to right) Virginia Nokes, AHCA Board Member Terrell Blodgett, and Bobbie Beal.



▲ John Michael Cortez, special assistant to Mayor Steve Adler, poses with AHCA Executive Director Jeff Cohen and AHCA President Charlie Betts.



▲ Eberly panelists Julian Read and Luci Baines Johnson share a story.



## Driskill Shares Eberly Stage with AHC

Love for the Austin History Center just keeps growing. Though the program for this year's Eberly Luncheon was about the history of the Driskill Hotel, people with the microphone couldn't help but endorse the work and mission of the Austin History Center. It started with welcoming remarks from Austin Mayor Steve Adler, who acknowledged the ongoing discussion about the AHC's expansion into the now-vacated John Henry Faulk Central Library building. Adler said he is intimately involved in that conversation and "we understand the importance of the mission of the Center and we're going to do everything we can to ensure that it is housed properly and appropriately here in our city."



▲ Austin Mayor Steve Adler welcomes guests to the 2018 Angelina Eberly Luncheon. Photo credit: Jim Innes.

The mayor also commented that while growth and development are rapidly changing much of Austin, "the History Center is the place where you can find that continuity of the city." Adler went on to say that in the Center's archives "you can find the records, you can find the pictures, you can find the

stories" that reflect what he termed "the spirit and soul of this city."

Both Monte Akers and Julian Read also endorsed the value of having access to the History Center's archives, but Luci Baines Johnson took it a step further, remembering the treasure trove of photographs and newsletters she found at the AHC when she was looking for archives related to the history of her family's radio stations, and again when she had to overcome objections to her plan for installing a therapeutic swimming pool for her mother atop the Norwood Tower in downtown Austin. Critics, she said, thought the pool's water would be too much weight for the building. Through research at the AHC she found documents that showed a cistern holding the building's water supply had been perched atop the building for many years, evidence that cleared the way for construction of the pool.

"For those of you who may think that the Austin History Center is just something that is esoterically important," Johnson said, "I'm saying you'd be surprised how relevant it can be in your life. It sure has been in mine."



▲ Luci Baines Johnson endorsed the Austin History Center and what it provides. Photo credit: Jim Innes.

### SPONSORS

#### 2018 Eberly Luncheon

ABC Bank Austin  
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# AHC Showcases Photos from the Travis County Negro Extension Service

The Austin History Center opened a 10-week exhibit, “Clearing Stones, Sowing Seeds: Photographs from the Travis County Negro Extension Service” on Feb. 6. The exhibit closed April 15.

More than 60 people attended the opening reception and enjoyed an inspirational speech by Jennifer Cumberbatch, an Austin writer, vocalist, actress, playwright, and Christian pastor. Cumberbatch’s speech brought to life the people featured in the exhibit’s photographs, which were taken between 1940 and 1964 and document the variety of services and educational programs that were offered by the Extension Service, including animal husbandry, crafts, domestic education, gardening and agriculture, and home improvement.



▲ AHCA Board Member Lynn Cooksey chats with Jennifer Cumberbatch. Photo credit: Grace McEvoy, AHC.

## AHC Staff Honored



Staff from the Austin History Center were recognized at the December 14, 2017 Austin City Council meeting as they received the Archival Award of Excellence from the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board. Pictured left to right are Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Tovo, Processing Archivist Molly Hulst, City Archivist Mike Miller, Texas State Archivist Jelain Chubb, Video Archivist Tim Hamblin, Archives Media Specialist Grace McEvoy, AHCA Executive Director Jeff Cohen, and Library Director Roosevelt Weeks.

# AHC ADDS NEW STAFF MEMBERS

*Meet some of the new, friendly faces you might encounter on your next trip to the Austin History Center!*



## Jenna Cooper

Jenna is the Records Analyst for Austin Public Library at the Austin History Center, a new position for the Center. In that role she is responsible for records management for the Library Department. She was born and raised in San Antonio and has lived in Austin for the past 13 years. She

earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to working at the AHC, she was Curator of Collections at the O. Henry and Susanna Dickinson Museums.

Outside of work Jenna is a freelance writer and mom to a 4 year-old and a rescue cat.



## Ayshea Khan

Ayshea is the Asian-American Community Archivist for the AHC. She works to document, preserve, and provide access to the history of Asian-American communities in Austin. She earned a bachelor's degree in Cinema Production & Photography from Ithaca College and a master's

degree from the UT Austin School of Information.

Ayshea specializes in audiovisual collections. She has worked at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, American Genre Film Archive, Louis Black Productions, and the Señal 3 public access TV station in Santiago de Chile. She is the co-chair of the Archivists' Collective for the South Asian-American Digital Archive and was recently a coordinator for the 2017 Disrupting Mainstream History track at the Allied Media Conference and the 2018 Breaking Library Silos Workshop in Austin.

In addition to archives and preservation, Ayshea is passionate about media education for youth and has over six years of experience as a filmmaking mentor for the Austin Film Society.

## Nikki Koehlert

Nikki is the Digital Archivist at the AHC, another new position and one that the AHCA helped get funded. Nikki loves working with primary resources and savors those moments when she gets to share records that evoke memory, identity, and understanding, especially with visual materials. Though she grew up in Texas, Nikki developed her passion for providing access to information, historic preservation, and community service while in Portland, Oregon. She spent five years working at Multnomah County Library and two years in a conservation internship at The Portland Art Museum. From Portland, she returned to Texas to pursue a master's degree in Information Studies at UT Austin where she focused on archives, preservation, and museum studies. During her graduate coursework she completed internships at The Briscoe Center for American History, the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Archives of the Episcopal Church, and Louis Black Productions.



When she is not obsessing about museums, libraries, and archives, Nikki loves painting, hiking, travel, cooking, and watching old movies with her cat "Mikhail Baryshnikat."

## Madeline Moya

Madeline is the Media Archivist at the AHC, overseeing the Center's collection of more than one million photographs, moving image film, and digital collections. Madeline previously worked as Managing Director at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image where she spearheaded TAMI's



endeavor to create dynamic web exhibits showcasing collection holdings. The work resulted in a 2016 Award of Merit for Leadership in History from the American Association of State and Local History. Madeline earned a master's degree in Information Studies from UT Austin, where she worked in the Information Technology Department and co-founded the school's podcast.

Madeline advocates for archives and preservation in her roles as publicity chair for the Austin Archives Bazaar, member of the steering committee of the Archivists of Central Texas, and in her former role as co-chair of the Regional Audiovisual Archives Committee for the Association of Moving Image Archivists.

►... **MEETING** The recording of that interview gets transcribed. What emerges are stories revealing how that person's life somehow affected the evolution of the city we know today. The interviews are videotaped and later transcribed and both formats are then donated to the Austin History Center.

"The people who are nominated are not necessarily VIPs," said Ruthann Rushing, chair of the Oral History Committee. "We interview people whose names you might not recognize but they have some kind of association with Austin and interesting stories to tell about that."

Those stories add colorful threads to the tapestry that is Austin history.

To nominate someone for an oral history interview, go to [www.AustinHistory.net](http://www.AustinHistory.net) and click the Community tab at the top of the screen. In the drop down list pick Oral History Submission Nomination.

**What:** 2018 AHCA Annual Meeting and Celebration of Oral Histories

**Where:** Austin History Center

**When:** Sunday, May 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### **Proposed 2018-2019 AHCA Officers**

President: Charlie Betts

First Vice-President: Geoff Wool

Second Vice-President: Arnold Garcia

Secretary: Monte Akers

Treasurer: Adam Friedman

Executive Committee Member at Large: Kathleen Davis Niendorff

Past President: Beth Fowler

#### **Proposed New Directors**

Kent Collins

Lori Duran

Bob Ward

### **Oral History Subjects Being Honored**

B.J. Andrews

Skip Bohn

Jerry & Barbara Carlson

Elizabeth Christian

Lynn Cooksey

John Paul & Eloise DeJoria

Les & Winnie Gage

Arnold Garcia

Sheriff Greg Hamilton

The Jokers Fastpitch Softball Team

Most Reverend John McCarthy

Joe Osborn

Nancy McMeans Richey

Shannon Sedwick

Judge Bob Shannon

Elaine Novy Shapiro

Tipps Building

Williams / Bray Family

## *It Doesn't Seem That Long Ago*

District 1 Austin City Council Member Ora Houston looks at a photo of herself as a Yellow Jacket from the 1961 L.C. Anderson High School yearbook. The "mirror through time" moment came as Houston toured the Austin History Center archives and work spaces January 26.



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## You Need to Get Out More

Most people would have to use a map to find Wood St. in downtown Austin, but it's worth the effort to find the half-block road off West 6th St. just east of GSD&M headquarters. After a four-year effort, an Official Texas Historical Marker now marks the Wood Street Settlement, the place where former African-American slaves took up residence following the Civil War. The settlement, then on Austin's western border, included porters, yardmen, cooks, laborers, and drivers. As the city's 1928 Master Plan pushed African-American's into East Austin, Tejanos began moving into the settlement. Flooding and development eventually depleted the settlement, but the historical marker now recognizes the contributions Wood Street Settlement residents made to the history of Austin.



▲ AHCA Board Member Charles Peveto (right) and Mitchell McGovern (left) were instrumental in securing an Official Texas Historical Marker for the Wood Street Settlement. Joining them at the February 23, 2018 dedication were Shoal Creek Conservancy Executive Director Joanna Wolaver (next to Mitchell) and Texas State Representative Gina Hinojosa (next to Peveto).

**SAVE THESE DATES** AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9<sup>th</sup>)  
Open Tue.–Sat. 10am – 6pm & Sun. 12pm – 6pm Call 512-974-7480

**NOW OPEN**  
We'll Just Rock for Ourselves:  
Selections from the Lisa Davis  
Photographic Archive. AHC

**SUNDAY, MAY 6**  
AHCA Annual Meeting  
2 - 4 p.m.  
AHC

**TUESDAY, MAY 8**  
The Cedar Choppers: Life on the  
Edge of Nothing  
6:30 p.m. AHC

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9**  
Tech Connect: Managing Your  
Personal Archive  
7 – 8 p.m. AHC

Visit [AustinHistory.net](http://AustinHistory.net) for more specific information about these and other upcoming events.