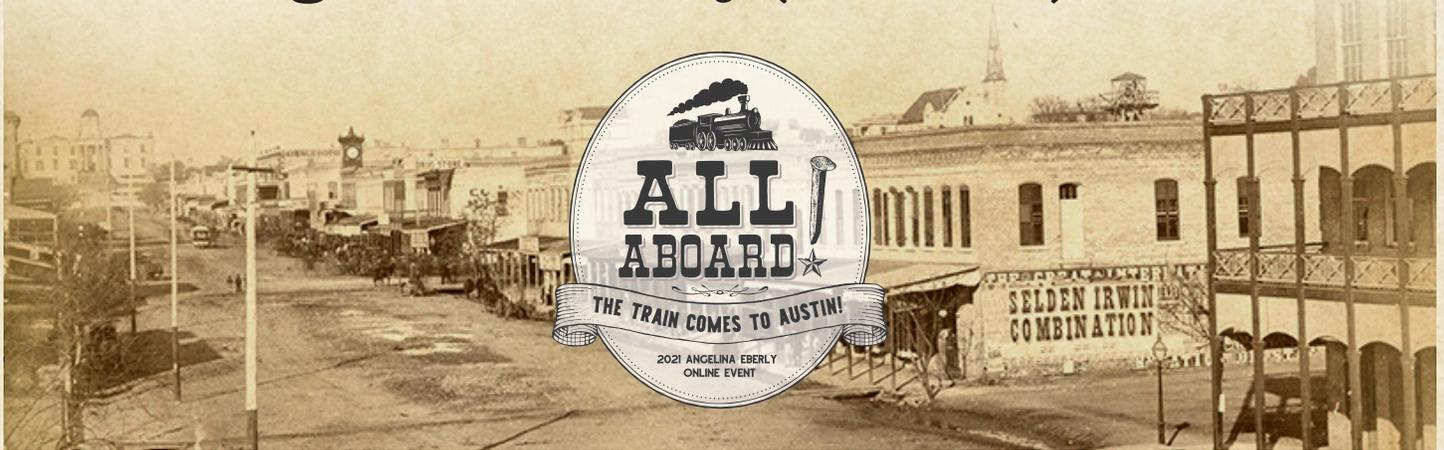


AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

“THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY”

WINTER 2021

Austin Circa 1871 - 1883 to Come Alive at 2021 Angelina Eberly (Virtual) Luncheon



▲ Congress Avenue, looking north toward the old Capitol, circa 1870s. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, PICA 02440

Similar to the excitement that accompanied the arrival of the first railroad train in Austin in 1871, there's a buzz building around this year's Angelina Eberly Luncheon.

For the first time, the luncheon will be a virtual affair, with participants gathering responsibly via the internet, but the excitement is being generated by the centerpiece of the luncheon: a performance of *All Aboard! The Train Comes to Austin!* by a troupe of actors

directed by Austin Playhouse Artistic Director Lara Toner Haddock.

Similar to last year's Eberly, where participants got to time-travel back to New Year's Eve 1842 and witness a live recreation of the events that led to Angelina Eberly's fateful canon shot, which started the Archives War and reaffirmed Austin's claim as the capital of Texas, those who attend this year's luncheon will experience Christmas Day 1871 and the excitement **EBERLY... PAGE 4 ➔**

Rivas-Rodriguez, Barnes Win Katherine Drake Hart Awards



▲ AHCA President Lee Cooke (left) and Hart Award Chair Charles Peveto (right) present the 2019 Katherine Drake Hart Award to Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez.

On the steps of the Austin History Center on a warm, sunny Oct. 2, the AHCA honored two Austin citizens for significant contributions to the preservation of Austin and Travis County history. The ceremony marked the return of the AHCA's signature award program, the Katherine Drake Hart Award.

Receiving the Hart Award for 2019 was Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, founder and director of the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas. Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez has long been a student of history and has made significant contributions to the study of Latina/Latino history. Also honored at the ceremony was Michael Barnes, longtime

Austin American-Statesman staff writer and author of several books on Austin history.

Barnes actually won the Hart Award in 2007 but had not received it due to an interruption in the program. The AHCA had presented the award annually since 1991, honoring the likes of Sue Brandt McBee, Wayne Bell, Audrey Bateman Randle, Matt Kreisle, Emmett Shelton, Dealey Herndon, Dr. David Gracy, and Betty Baker along the way, but paused the program in 2006 during a period of austerity. Now, buoyed by renewed enthusiasm, the award program has been revived under the leadership of Charles Peveto, Chair of the Katherine Drake Hart Award Committee. **AWARD... PAGE 6 ➔**

Austin History Center ASSOCIATION



@AustinTXHistory



@AustinHistory
CenterAssociation



@austin_history

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P. O. Box 2287 Austin, Texas 78768

The Austin History Center Association (AHCA) supports the Austin History Center, ensuring that the diverse stories of Austin and Travis County are discovered, collected, presented, and preserved.

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From the Archivist

As I write this in November 2020, the AHC remains closed to the public though we continue to serve researchers remotely. But it is quite possible that as you read this, we have re-opened our doors, at least in a limited capacity. The library department is actively planning, in consultation with Austin Public Health, how it can re-open its facilities in a way to keep staff and customers safe and resume some in-person services. While we are likely still months away from safely hosting programs and exhibits in our facility, we are looking forward to being open again and helping researchers.

One project we have worked on during the closure has been implementing our digital repository, working with our vendor, Preservica. The repository is primarily for digital preservation – making sure all the digital files that are part of the archives will outlive all of us. An important feature of that is the User Access portal, or UA. The UA will be the primary means researchers will use to access our digital collections. At the time you read this, public access should be live. Check it out at: <https://ahc.access.preservica.com/>. The first items available are some of our more popular photographs. In the coming months we will be adding more photographs as well as audio/visual materials, including oral histories. We will be adding items monthly, so come back often to see what's new!



▲ Mike Miller, City Archivist

Applications Being Considered for 2021 AHCA Board

The AHCA's Nominations Committee is in the midst of reviewing applications and conducting interviews with members who want to serve on the association's 25-member policymaking Board of Directors. Applications for those members wanting to join the board were collected during the last months of 2020.

"The outstanding quality of those responding to the November deadline has been very gratifying to our committee," said Charles Betts, former AHCA president and now chair of the Nominations Committee. "There are so many good applications, each representing deep community leadership over their civic careers. We have a tough job, but it bodes well for a solid succession plan for AHCA in the next few years."

The common thread in the board member applications has been each applicant's desire to become more involved in leading the effort to save Austin history by supporting the work and growth of the Austin History Center.

A yet-to-be-determined number of seats on the board will open at the end of the AHCA fiscal year, June 1, 2021. The five-member Nominations Committee usually recommends full three-year terms for new board members but in some cases, one- or two-year terms become open.

Recommendations for new board members will be made to the current Board of Directors at their last meeting of the fiscal year in March.

The other members of the Nominations Committee are board members Neferritti Jackmon; Adam Friedman; and general members Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, AHCA President in 1997-1999; and Tom Bergstrom.

Though the Austin History Center remains closed to the public, AHC staff still continue to meet with donors and acquire new collections while under stay-at-home orders. Over the last three months, the AHC has received over 40 donations, including:

- An additional five linear feet of photos, ledgers, administrative records, and artifacts documenting Seton Hospital from the 1930s to the 2000s. This donation adds to Seton Hospital Records (AR.2004.007).



historian, videographer, and World War II veteran who resided in Austin for most of his life.

NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION

AHC launched a new online collection on the Portal to Texas History. In 2018, AHC was awarded a Rescuing Texas History Grant to digitize and make accessible 200 images from the Lisa Davis Photograph Archive. To learn more about Lisa Davis and her photography, visit the [AHC website](#), which has links to both

the finding aid for her full collection and the online version of AHC's 2018 exhibit, We'll Just Rock for Ourselves. Collection donor Kate Messer shared her reaction to AHC's treatment of the collection, saying, "...but for one moment, the fact that those/we old dears could relax and have a laugh made my day. The entire reason I gave up the archives was exactly for folks to come across the pictures and gasp and laugh and feel utter joy."



▲ Seton Hospital. PICA 10119, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



▲ Babatunde Olatunki playing drums and woman dancing; part of the Lisa Davis Photography collection. Image # AR-2010-022-04-21-025, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

**"A COMMUNITY WITHOUT ITS RECORDS
IS A COMMUNITY UNDER SIEGE
DEFENDING ITSELF,
ITS IDENTITY,
AND ITS VERSION OF HISTORY
WITHOUT A FIRM FOUNDATION
ON WHICH TO STAND"**

-- Jeannette Bastian

▲ Marketing material from the Austin Asian Complete Count Committee records. AR-2020-021-di001_5, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

- Nearly two gigabytes of digital records created by the Austin Asian Complete Count Committee (AACCC). Included are marketing materials, event recordings, and meeting minutes from February to July 2020 documenting the work of AACCC in ensuring the census count of Austin's Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities.
- Ten-plus linear feet of news clippings; correspondence; photographs; sketches; drawings; artifacts; and film, audio, and video recordings to add to the Ramon Galindo Video Collection (AR.2009.050). Galindo, who passed away in June 2020, was a Mexican American magician,

NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

AHC staff continue to work to make the collections more accessible to the public, processing five unique manuscript and photograph collections and over 24,000 items in the last three months. You can view inventories of all of the AHC's processed collections online at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html. Here are a few collections recently completed:

AR.2019.040. Ziller Family Papers

The Ziller Family Papers document the lives of several members of the Ziller family, particularly Robert Lee Ziller, his second wife, Helena, and his daughter, Angela. The Zillers were a family of pioneering Germans who settled in Austin in the mid-1800s. Robert Ziller was a successful research chemist and follower of Christian Science. Financial documents, personal correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, diaries, booklets, photographs, and legal documents describe the family's activities and dealings, including their involvement in World War II, patents, goat raising, and traveling. A large portion of the collection deals with the Zillers' connection to Christian Science and the afterlife, especially Robert Ziller's religious writings and spiritual discussions with **NEW... PAGE 7 ➔**

►...**EBERLY** that gripped Austin residents as they prepared for the arrival of the first railroad train to make its way to the capital city.

Both windows to the past are part of *Our Austin Story*, an interpretive plan for Austin's four historic squares and Congress Ave., which, along with research from the Austin History Center, provides the factual basis for last year's and this year's theatrical performances. *All Aboard!*, written by Austin playwright Paullette MacDougal, uses arrival of the railroad as the linchpin for stories about America's first Black Medal of Honor winner, Milton M. Holland, commander of the Union's Black Brigade during the Civil War; and the emergence of Austin from frontier outpost to a seat of

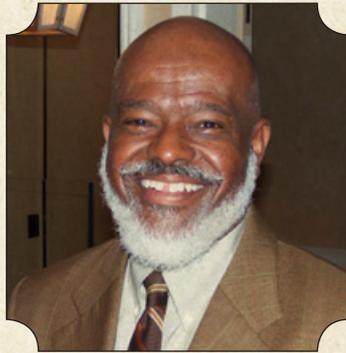
government and center for commerce, a place that's able to attract the likes of world renown performer Miss Lillie Langtry, who in 1883 traveled by train to Austin in her own Pullman car. All Aboard! provides a glimpse of what Austin was like as it recovered in the years following the Civil War.

Former Austin news anchor Ron Oliveira hosts this year's Angelina Eberly Luncheon, with special appearances by Shannon Sedwick of Esther's Follies and Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel. You can be part of the excitement, too.

Tickets for the luncheon, the AHCA's signature fundraiser, are available at the [AHCA website](#).



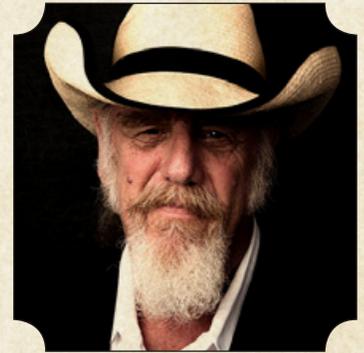
▲ Ron Oliveira, Master of Ceremonies



▲ Harrison Eppright of Visit Austin



▲ Shannon Sedwick of Esther's Follies



▲ Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel

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Despite Pandemic, Popular Spotlight Events Return



When life gives you lemons, make lemonade...or maybe a MoTito.

Like so many other non-profit organizations that depend on memberships and sponsorships to provide needed resources, the AHCA had to get creative when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Austin in March 2020

and figure out a way to virtually recreate the series of fun and entertaining membership Spotlight events that had been so popular pre-pandemic.

AHCA Membership Chair Jeffrey Dochen and Spotlight Committee Chair Linda McCoy came up with a plan. The evening of Nov. 18, AHCA held its first 'virtual' membership Spotlight event, "History Mysteries – Secrets of the Austin History Center," hosted by two Austin luminaries, former KTBC-TV anchor and business leader Neal Spelce and Harrison Eppright, manager of visitor services and tour ambassador for Visit Austin and docent for Six Square, Austin's Black cultural district.

Like previous in-person Spotlight events, the focus of the evening was Austin history wrapped in a social mixer. The event started with a "Mystery Mixer" led by "The Mayor of 6th St.," Bob Woody, who instructed participants how to make a Mystery MoTito, a twist on the Cuban-inspired Mojito cocktail with Tito's Handmade Vodka replacing the traditional rum. Many participants had picked up a Mystery Mixer Box with the drink's ingredients earlier in the day.

Spelce and Eppright, both longtime Austinites, took the attendees on a trail of new discoveries focusing on the evolution of lot #107 of Edwin Waller's original 1839 plan for the development of Austin. Many attendees were surprised to learn in that original plan, the property where the Austin History Center now sits was home to three churches – First Baptist, Colored; Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME); and First Swedish Evangelical Gethsemane Lutheran. Over the years, the churches moved and in 1913, Mayor A.P. Wooldridge lobbied the Texas Legislature, asking that the lot be designated for public library use. Austin's first public library opened there in 1926, and in 1933 it was replaced by the building that currently serves as the AHC. And the rest, as they say, is history.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE EVENT

"Thank you all for a terrific trip to the past. Great job!"

– Bob McBee

"This is amazing, so interesting and well done!!! THANK YOU ALL for producing this Mystery Session!!!"

– Patrick Hoelsing

"This has been wonderful. Thanks to everyone who put this together."

– Paul Keeper

"Thank you! This was so fun and informative!"

– Jen & Trammell Cooper



▲ Spotlight Committee Chair Linda McCoy and Suzy Millner distributing MoTito drink kits for the social hour during the History Mysteries – Secrets of the Austin History Center virtual event.

"We wanted to continue to give our rapidly growing membership a fun and entertaining event as well as share little-known facts about Austin's history," said Jeffrey Dochen. "Harrison and Neal gave us even more, and it helped us recruit some new members to support our mission, now in its 41st year."

Eppright and Spelce shared other history mysteries tied to lot #107, including how the Austin Public Library came to be racially integrated in the early 1950s, and how the AHC evolved from the original Austin-Travis County Collection, started in 1954 and first curated by Katherine Drake Hart. A video of the Spotlight event is available on YouTube.

Sponsors for the virtual Spotlight event included AHCA members Bryan Hardeman, Luci Baines Johnson, and Farrell Kubena, as well as Tito's Handmade Vodka, The Blind Pig Pub, Waterloo Education, Time Trap, Make Every Media, and the Austin History Center.



Next Spotlight Event • March 10, 2021

HISTORY MYSTERIES - MURDER AT THE BUTLER PITCH AND PUTT

Watch your email for an invitation to this popular online event. Please invite your non-member friends!

►... **AWARD** “Katherine Drake Hart was the first curator of the Austin-Travis County Collection and served as the director of the collection from 1954 to 1975,” said Peveto. “She was inspiration in the evolution of the collection, which became the Austin History Center. This award is a fitting tribute to her work and dedication to the preservation of Austin history.”

Hart was a graduate of Wellesley College and Columbia University and earned her doctorate from UT in French Literature before becoming curator of the Austin-Travis County Collection. She died in 2000 at age 95.

Nominations for the 2020 Hart Award will be accepted until March 19, 2021. The nominee must have made a notable historic contribution to Austin-Travis County, which could be during 2020 or as a result of their cumulative achievements toward local history over many years. Winner of the 2020 award will be announced at the AHCA’s Annual Meeting in May 2021.



▲ Hart Award Chair Charles Peveto (right) presents the 2007 Katherine Drake Hart Award to Michael Barnes.



AHCA ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Gaddis, Butts Add Oral Histories to AHCA Collection



▲ Gay Gaddis



▲ Edna Ramon Butts

Two women with strikingly similar childhood upbringings are the most recent who have lent their voices to the AHCA’s collection of oral histories.

Edna Ramon Butts and Gay Gaddis each grew up in small Texas towns – Butts in the south Texas town of Rio Grande City and Gaddis in Liberty, just east of Houston – before making their way to Austin by way of the University of Texas. Each would excel and grow at UT before branching out to become leaders in their chosen fields.

Gaddis started T3, which became the largest woman-owned advertising agency in the United States, with offices in major cities

nationwide, including New York and San Francisco. After building the company from the ground up and being at its helm for thirty years, Gaddis recently sold T3 and is now a nationally recognized public speaker, artist, and author.

After graduating from UT Law School, Butts began her career working in state government. After rising through the ranks at the Texas Attorney General’s Office, she was named Commissioner of the Texas Department of Insurance, only the second woman to hold that position. Butts ultimately held several other leadership positions in state government before moving to the Austin Independent School District, where she is currently Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight.

What comes through clearly in the oral histories of these two amazing Austinites is that they have much more in common than their small-town roots. While they chose the different paths of public service and private enterprise, they both quickly rose to the top of their fields and paved the way for future women to follow. And although they both have demanding careers, Butts and Gaddis have always been committed to giving back to the Austin community through their leadership roles in numerous nonprofit organizations.

If you would like to nominate someone to be interviewed by AHCA’s Oral History Committee, fill out and submit the form on the [AHCA website](#).

Oral History Committee Seeking to Coordinate

AHCA’s Oral History Committee has launched an outreach subcommittee committed to identifying and coordinating with other groups and individuals also doing oral histories in the Austin area. The subcommittee will propose ways oral

history collectors can share information with each other and the public and avoid duplication of effort.

If you know of groups collecting oral histories in the Austin area and can provide names, please contact Ruthann Rushing at ruthannrushing@gmail.com.

Two AHCA Members Elected to Public Service Positions

Vanessa Fuentes and Ann Howard, two members of the AHCA, were elected to serve in public office in elections held Nov. 3, 2020.

Fuentes, who campaigned to improve health disparities in Southeast Austin, won her race and is now Austin City Council member for District 2. She takes over for current Austin City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, who was herself elected to serve as Travis County Attorney.

Howard was elected to serve as Travis County Commissioner for Precinct 3, the post previously held by Gerald Daugherty.

Congratulations to these Austin History Center Association members on their new roles!



▲ Vanessa Fuentes, Austin City Council Member for District 2



▲ Ann Howard, Travis County Commissioner for Precinct 3



▲ David B. Gracy II, Oct. 25, 1941 – Sept. 26, 2020

In Memoriam: David B. Gracy II

The Austin history community lost a true friend on Sept. 26, 2020. David B. Gracy II was a renowned archivist and historian, as well as a longtime active member of the AHCA.

“For nearly 45 years, David and I were colleagues working for the cause of history. He was not only a first-class professional archivist, teacher, and historian; he was a good, kind, and generous man who was deeply dedicated to his profession,” said Don Carleton, executive director at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas. Gracy’s work in the field of Texas history was anchored at UT and he was a friend of the Briscoe Center, where his papers are placed.

Read more about the life and work of David B. Gracy II at [Dignity Memorial](#).

►... **NEW** deceased individuals. Personal writings from Robert, Helena, and Angela provide insight into their religious beliefs, and six original volumes typed up by the Zillers display the accumulation of their spiritual experiences. An inventory of the collection is at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00768/ahc-00768.html.

AR.2005.010. Austin (Tex.). Austin Public Health Department Records

The Austin City Council established the Board of Health in 1871, and in 1938, the Travis County Commissioners Court and Austin City Council created the Austin-Travis County Health Department. Since then, the City of Austin and Travis County have worked in tandem to provide public health services and programs countywide. The collection documents the activities of the department from 1897-2010 in the form of correspondence, meeting minutes, program records, reports, working papers, and visual materials depicting facilities, staff, and services rendered by the department. Of particular interest to researchers today are the records related to planning and response to infectious diseases and epidemics. An inventory of the collection is available at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00770/ahc-00770.html.

AR.1991.091. American Association of University Women, Austin Branch Records

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Austin Branch was organized on November 15, 1923, with Mrs. F. L. Jewett elected the first president of the branch. The first general meeting was held on Feb. 8, 1924 with the speaker, Dr. F. L. Ellis, giving a speech titled “Status of Women in College and University Faculties.” In November 1925, AAUW Austin member Grace Delano Clark persuaded the organization to take on a project establishing a public library for Austin. The Austin Public Library Association was established and erected a temporary wood frame building in 1926. Records in the collection document the activities of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Austin Branch through meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, clippings, scrapbooks, membership lists, financial records and photographs. An inventory of the collection is available at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00769/ahc-00769.html.

AHCA Takes Lead in Fundraising Efforts for 'Austin History Central' Concept



▲ This rendering by Taniguchi Architects reflects how the current Austin History Center building and the Faulk building might form the nucleus for an Austin History Central campus.

As work continues on repairs to the 1933 Austin History Center building and the neighboring 1979 John Henry Faulk Central Library building, AHCA is moving ahead with fundraising efforts to support long-range plans for an expanded AHC, one that transforms the two buildings into what's being referred to as Austin History Central, a state of the art archival research and museum campus to become the centerpiece of a new Downtown Historical Corridor incorporated into the Downtown Wayfinding Plan.

The AHC Campus Expansion committee is exploring grant opportunities and reaching out to potential donors to raise \$50,000 in seed money to help pay for a Master Plan for the project. A Master Plan will align what Austin citizens, Austin Public Library, and Austin city leaders envision for the two buildings as well as provide firm information for what is functionally possible within the 143,000 square feet combined space within the two buildings. A Master Plan will also identify expenses associated with implementing the Austin History Central concept. This costing will enable the AHC Campus Expansion committee to divide the project into prioritized phases and identify what the City of Austin would likely pay for and what the AHCA will need to raise in a community capital fundraising campaign.

By raising the \$50,000 seed money for the Master Plan, the AHCA will have a voice in discussions the Austin Public Library and city leaders have regarding the expansion of the AHC and the vision for combining both buildings into an archival and research campus and public facility that will carry Austin's history into the future.

Meanwhile, former Austin Mayor Ron Mullen is now leading a new AHCA Strategic Planning initiative to gauge interest in a community

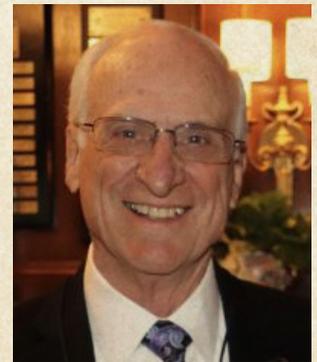
capital campaign tied to expansion of the Austin History Center.

At the Oct. 18 AHCA Board of Directors meeting, Mullen reported that members of the committee have targeted 2025 to 2027 as the timeframe for the possible capital campaign and that they have identified businesses, foundations, and individuals they plan to meet with starting in early 2021.

A capital campaign would cap a years-long advocacy effort by the AHCA to promote AHC expansion into the Faulk building. In 2018, the AHCA supported, and Austin voters approved, funding for building code updates and general repair of the Faulk building, preparing it for expansion of the AHC.

In the last quarter of 2020, two AHCA interns from Texas State University researched examples of recently renovated archive facilities in the United States. Their research and recommendations will inform the Master Plan, ensuring that the expanded AHC is not only a nationally recognized archive and research facility, but also an interactive attraction for residents of the Austin area and tourists alike.

If you'd like to donate to the effort to raise seed money for the Austin History Central Master Plan, or get involved in the work of the AHCA Strategic Planning committee, contact AHCA Executive Director Jeff Cohen at jcohen@austinhistory.net.



▲ Former Austin Mayor Ron Mullen chairs AHCA's Strategic Planning Committee.

NEW OR RENEWING AHCA MEMBERS: AUGUST 8 – DECEMBER 18, 2020

ABC Bank	David Claunch	Francine Gertz	Karen and John Logan	John Robinson
Ruth and Jacob Abraham	Rennie & Kent Collins	Lisa and Sandy Gottesman	Sheridan and Perry Lorenz	Honorable Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
Gerald Adair	Cohen & Associates	Larry Graham	John Luedecke	Patricia and Mark Rowe
Patty and Monte Akers	Jeff Cohen	Amy Hammons	Cathy and Randy Lusk	Randall Ruiz
Molly Alexander	Consort, Inc.	Steve Hanvey	Zoe Lynch	Chelsea Rusch
Dane Anderson	Jennifer and Trammell Cooper	Bryan Hardeman	Liza and Jack Martin, III	Deirdre Rushing
B J Andrews	June and Harlan Cooper	Nancy Nash Harper	Martin, Frost & Hill	Alexandra and Paul Saenz
Austin Public Library	Omar Antonio Cordova	Dan Harrison	Claire Martindale	Margarita Sanchez
Terri and Buck Baccus	Colin Corgan	Becky and Robert Heiser	Colin MacDougal	John Sanford
Nick Barbaro	Margaret Cox	Rob Heiser	Paullette and Frank MacDougal	Sharon Schweitzer
Sarah Barnes	Robyn and Bryan Cumby	Mary Love Henderson	Heather and Mark McCormick	Brian Schwenk
Jerry Bell	Charlyn and Honorable Gerald Daugherty	Henna Chevrolet	Susan Milner	Michelle Slattery
Ryan Bennett	Kathleen Deaver	Dealey and David Herndon	Susan Moffat	Beverly Silas
Tom Bergstrom	Carol & Sandy Dochen	Dane and Rita Hersey	Moore & Associates	Angie Smith
Carla Bertron	Ann and Leonard Dolce	Highland Resources	Jim Morgan	Neal Spelce
Silvia and Charles Betts	Downtown Austin Alliance	Kim and Kenny Hill	Jim Moritz	Nancy Spaulding
Dennis Bitterlich	Susan Driver	Alicia Perez-Hodge	Sarah Mullinnix	Chuck Taylor
Sinclair Black	Lauren Duran	Kelly Hodge	Gloria and Rudy Munguia	Julia Taylor
Joel Block	Sue Edwards	Honorable Bob Honts	Bill and Sharon Murray	Texas Gas Service
David Bodenman	Harrison Eppright	Rhett Hoestenbach	Carol & George Nalle	Toni Thomasson
Charles "Chuck" Borst	Ted Lee Eubanks	Jim Innes	Tom Noonan	Kate Thompson
Terry Bray	Magdalena Evans	Corby Jastrow	John Nyfeler	Powell Thompson
GeorgiAnne Brochstein	Roxanne Evans	Roger Joseph	Carolyn & Joe Osborn	Visit Austin
Anne Bruno	Ila and John Falveyl	Karan Kahan	Charles Page	Sarah Toombs
Cynthia Brown	Pamela Fielding	Biruta Kearn	Ron Palmer	Mary Koock Ward
Dan Bullock	Andy Fish	Bill and Rita Keenan	Miriam Parris	Roosevelt Weeks
Mike Buls	Ben Foster	Lowell Keig	Dewitt Peart	Westminster
John Butler	Beth Fowler	Karen Kocher	Michael Portman	Bette Williams
Cain Foundation	Lynn Fowler	Felicia Kongable	Prominent Title	Conor Williams
Dinah and Norman Chenven	Christopher Friedrich	Jan Lehman	Linda Quintanilla	Giselle Williams
Capital Chevrolet	Frost	Madison Lemmon	MariBen Ramsey	Kim Williams
Jared Chappell	Margaret Furse	Karen Light	Carolyn Thomas Raney	Savannah Williams
Julie Chase	Elizabeth Ann Gates	Sharmyn Lilly	Julian Read	Sonia & Sam Wilson
City of Austin	Alan Geistman	Honorable Emma Lou Linn	Beverly Reeves	Carol and Monta Wolfe
	Steve Genovesi	James Linville	Richard Robertson	

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the loss of the following AHCA members in 2020:

Judy Bray

David Gracy

Vida Marcet Ocaña

Bob Honts

Donna Faulkner

Mitchell McGovern

Margy Stephens

Margaret Wright

Former Board Member

Sam O. Kimberlin

KEEP AUSTIN HISTORY

Renew your Austin History Center Association membership at www.AustinHistory.net

New AHCA Website to Launch in February 2021

An exciting new way to keep up with all things AHCA is coming in February. The AHCA is wrapping up work on a new website that will feature information on upcoming events, the work of AHCA committees, updated social media and news posts, and more. The new website will give AHCA a refreshed, dynamic online presence and provide members with easy, secure methods for renewing membership, buying tickets to AHCA events, and shopping for Waterloo Press books and other products.

“This website gives us more functionality and helps us communicate better with people who are increasingly depending on their smart phones to access information,” said AHCA President Lee Cooke.

The new website will be optimized for easy viewing on a variety of mobile devices such as phones and tablets. It integrates AHCA’s growing social media presence and marks the transformation of the

Austin Remembers newsletter from a 20th century paper product delivered by the U. S. Postal Service, to a collection of web-based news stories, delivered via email, and accessed through a blog on the new website. Archived editions of *Austin Remembers* will continue to be available as .pdf files in the News section of the website but all future editions will only be available online.

“This website pushes us into a 21st century model of communicating with our membership and the public at large,” said Cooke.

The new website was initiated by AHCA intern Daniel Frasson-Nori and built out by a team consisting of intern Zhiyong Miao, graphic designer Eve Molnar, and members of the AHCA Communications Committee.

Watch your email inbox and the existing AHCA website for the details about the launch of the AHCA’s new online home.

End of An Era: *Austin Remembers* to Step Into the Future



▲ The nameplate from the Fall 2009 issue of *Austin Remembers*. Visit the [AHCA website](#) for an archive of past issues.

As part of the new AHCA website, to launch in February, this will be the last edition of the *Austin Remembers* newsletter designed for print. Starting in April, AHCA members will receive an *Austin Remembers* email with short summaries of stories and links for each story that take the reader to where the full story is posted on the AHCA website. Members can expect five to six *Austin Remembers* emails over the course of a year as opposed to the three ‘designed’ newsletters members have been receiving.

As we turn a corner with the newsletter, we’d like to thank those who have worked so hard to bring it to you over the past 11 years.

Past AHCA President Beth Fowler helped initiate *Austin Remembers* and was editor for the newsletter’s first seven years and creative director for another four years after that. Anne Wheat filled the pages with photographs of AHCA members and events. AHCA Executive Director Jeff Cohen has been key in coordinating content and Mike Miller and the staff of the Austin History Center have contributed updates on AHC events and recent archival acquisitions. AHCA committee chairs and members too numerous to mention have provided updates and served as reviewers of the newsletter before we would print and distribute it. Starting in the spring of 2014, Eve Molnar of Acme Design Works redesigned *Austin Remembers*, giving it the bold, refreshing look it has today. Since then, Eve has, for each issue, taken all the elements we provide, added a few graphic and design elements of her own, and laid out the newsletter in a way that was pleasing to the eye and logical in the flow of content.

Many of these same people will be working behind the scenes to deliver the online version of *Austin Remembers*, which kicks off later this spring. Watch your email inbox for the first online edition of an old favorite!

- Geoff Wool, Editor, *Austin Remembers*

History for the Here and Now

If you haven’t seen AHCA on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, look for us on these social media platforms. We have started using digital outreach to help articulate our purpose, bring attention to the richness and depth of the Austin History Center collections, attract new followers, and engage with the public. Through Twitter we also can communicate with city leaders and others interested in plans for the expansion of the AHC. Recent social media postings have highlighted the presentation of the 2020 Katherine Hart Award, historic aerial views of Austin, the first University of Texas football team, The Drag across from UT, and many more fascinating views of our past.

Be sure to catch the excitement and look for us on Instagram at [austin history](#). On Twitter you can find us at [austinTXhistory](#) and on Facebook you can find us at [Austin History Center Association](#).



▲ A recent Instagram post showing The Austin Ballet Society at Mueller Airport in 1962.

AHCA Life Memberships Trending Upward

Several new Life Memberships have recently been added to the AHCA roster. The Life Membership was originally opened to prospective members in the fall of 1992 but brought in few members until the program was reinstated by AHCA President Lee Cooke last fall.

“Life Members are really exciting and very important to AHCA,” Cooke said. “They provide us with a stronger financial foundation. And they are leaving behind a legacy - their money lives in perpetuity.”

Sharon Schweitzer and husband John Robinson joined as new Life Members in August. Sharon was born in California, but she quickly became a third culture kid, growing up in countries around the world. She moved to Austin in the early 1990s after law school, accepting an offer with a local firm and opting for a better quality of life.

“In high school, although I suffered from terrible math anxiety, for some reason I excelled at English and history,” she said. “Even today as an author, I find that history is the true path to understanding a culture, a country and its people.”

Sharon is the founder of Access to Culture, a cross-cultural consulting firm that offers expert training to leaders in Global 2000 and Fortune 500 companies. She is the bestselling author of a series of books on international culture, including Access to Asia and a soon-to-be-released book in 2021. Learn more about Sharon and her books on [her website](#).

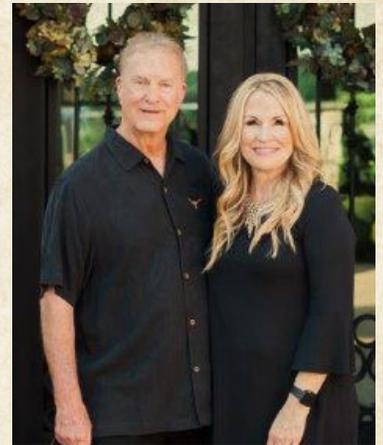
A native of West Virginia, John is also an attorney. Recruited in high school by the University of Texas with a full scholarship as a basketball player, he holds a BBA in Management as well as an MBA and law degree from UT. John’s father instilled a love of history early in John’s life.

“My dad, John ‘Happy’ Robinson, was a history buff and a voracious reader, especially of history; that is what first piqued my interest,”

John said “Then when travelling, I found historic sites particularly appealed to me. They still do.”

John is the co-founder and president of Capitol Services, Inc. that offers registered agent, lien, and other corporate services. See more about John and his company on the [Capitol Services website](#).

Also joining the Life Membership rolls in September were Angie Smith and her late husband, Les Smith. Angie was born in Pflugerville but has lived most of her life in Austin.



▲ John Robinson and Sharon Schweitzer

Waterloo Press Preps for Release of *Indelible Austin, Volume 4*

Waterloo Press, the publishing arm of the AHCA, is planning a post-pandemic launch of the latest in the popular *Indelible Austin* series of books by *Austin American-Statesman* reporter Michael Barnes.

Indelible Austin volumes one, two, and three have been popular sellers for Waterloo Press, so there is buzz building around the release of volume four in the series. Watch your email inbox and the AHCA website for updates on the release.

Waterloo Press is also taking suggestions and collecting

information for new books that will cover the histories and contributions of minority persons in Austin, some known and some as-yet untold. If you have information or other input you’d like to contribute, email Waterloo Press Chair Fotini Margos at jfmargosauthor@gmail.com.

Also, remember you can always shop the [Waterloo Press online store](#) for Austin history-themed books, videos, maps, card sets, and artwork.

SAVE THESE DATES AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9th) Call 512-974-7480

FEBRUARY 5
Angelina Eberly Online Event
12:00 p.m.

MARCH 10
Virtual Spotlight Membership Event
Time TBD

MARCH 19
Deadline for Katherine Drake
Hart Award Entries

MAY 16
42nd AHCA Annual Meeting
Time TBD

Visit AustinHistory.net for more specific information about these and other upcoming events.

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ASSOCIATION
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