

AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

“THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY”

WINTER 2016



CLASS IN SESSION: *Reception Marks the Opening of AHC's New Exhibit*

The AHC opened its newest exhibit, *Making the Grade: Austin's First Public Schools*, at a public reception on Wednesday, September 16. Through creatively displayed visuals, text, and photos, the exhibit explores the difficulties Austin faced in establishing a public school system and what life was like for students and teachers in the early years, before the creation of the Austin Independent School District.

Sue Soy, who attended the exhibit's opening night festivities, found that in some cases, history does repeat itself.

“I'm finding out, just as today, in older days there was a real problem deciding who was going to pay for education in Austin and how it would be delivered,” Soy said. “This exhibit tells all about that.”

AHC Manager Mike Miller delivered a few remarks at the opening, speaking about the exhibit and why the AHC chose this topic. Chef Gregory Dishman from the Escoffier School of Culinary Arts,



▲ Part of the AHC's *Making the Grade* exhibits team: (left to right) Steve Schwolert, Molly Hults, and Rusty Heckaman. Photo by Grace McEvoy, AHC.

CLASS... PAGE 4 ➔



Eberly Luncheon to Celebrate Notable Austin Builders

The annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon is an Austin tradition with a reputation for fostering an appreciation for Austin's past with present-day residents who have a vision for the city's future. That reputation will certainly be enhanced January 29 when the Austin History Center Association honors three of Austin's most celebrated builders, visionaries whose contributions in the last 25 years of the 20th century, helped Austin, Texas become simply Austin in the 21st century.

These honorees, however, are more than the history they've helped create. Their work continues to borrow from the past as they add to the city's visage.

As an example, you need look no further than the work being done at the southern edge of downtown along the shores of

Ladybird Lake. There, longtime Austin real estate mogul John Rosato is involved in the redevelopment of the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant, work that will produce a mix of office space, high-rise condominiums, retail, and restaurants, all near Austin's new Central Library.

Rosato, along with fellow longtime Austin builders Sandy Gottesman and Tom Stacy, will take the stage at this year's Angelina Eberly Luncheon, and share stories of challenges met and conquered while building some of Austin's most iconic work, play, and residential spaces. Moderating the discussion will be John Street, himself a highly-regarded Austin builder of homes, condominiums, and other projects in the hills of Northwest Austin. **EBERLY... PAGE 5 ➔**

INDELIBLE AUSTIN
SELECTED HISTORIES

MICHAEL BARNES

Best of Barnes Put On Display in *Indelible Austin*

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4
BOOKSIGNING CALENDAR ON PAGE 8



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.

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From the Archivist

MICHAEL C. MILLER, CA
CITY ARCHIVIST

Did you know Austin has an official Municipal Flag? Don't worry, most folks don't know either. But thanks to a widely-broadcast talk about flag design by Roman Mars that went viral on the Internet, Austin's flag is in the news. Mars called out Austin, as well as other cities, for poor flag design, leading a few local designers to suggest some new designs. News outlets ran stories about the flag, including an interview with yours truly for the KXAN-TV story.

In 1915, Ellen Wyse, editor of *Gossip*, suggested to Mayor A. P. Wooldridge that the city needed a municipal flag. The mayor created a design competition, offering \$50 for the best entry and formed a citizens committee to review entrants. By the October 2, 1916, deadline, 130 designs had been submitted. Instructions in *Competition for a Municipal Flag*, required that the design factor in the "natural beauty of Austin, the City of the Violet Crown, the lake and dam, the Capitol of the State, the dome of the Capitol, the seal of the city, an educational center, its industries, the sentiment of its past history, the derivation of the name - from Stephen F. Austin, an expression of the ideals of Stephen F. Austin in symbolic form, the use of the coat of arms of Stephen F. Austin."

The committee awarded the top prize to an out-of-state entrant, Ray F. Coyle of San Francisco. With a few modifications by the design committee, Coyle's entry became the official flag and seal for the city. Coyle's design consisted of a shield in red, white and blue, with an outline of the Capitol building as the top of the shield. Elements from the Austin family coat of arms (the triangle) and the Stephen F. Austin coat of arms (the crest of wings and cross) were included. Although Coyle's design featured a white star and crown to represent the City of the Violet Crown, the design committee replaced those elements with the "lamp of knowledge" in the center of the triangle to represent Austin as an education center. It is colored orange to signify the University of Texas. The design committee also added the words "City of Austin" in block letters below the shield. The city began using this new design as a flag and city seal in 1917, and the City Council officially adopted it on April 12, 1919.

At some point in its history, the flag was folded and placed in a brown paper sack, ending up in a desk drawer in the City Clerk's office.

While the design (with some modifications over the years) became emblazoned on just about every city document, police car, and other city property, the flag itself fell into disuse. Scarbrough's received the first shipment of flags in 1917, presenting one copy to the city and selling large and small versions to the public. Within a couple days, the flag presented to the city turned up missing, according to a July 20, 1917 *Austin Statesman* story, but later was found. The 1919 resolution adopting the flag stated that the "flag shall be carefully kept at City Hall and exhibited on all proper civic occasions, as may be determined upon by the then Mayor of the city of the judgment of the City Council as it may exist at the time when such municipal flag may be brought into use and requisition." In 1944, Jane McCallum wrote about the flag in her weekly column in the *Statesman*, lamenting that the flag was not flown, and even questioned who knew the city had its own flag. At some point in its history, the flag was folded and placed in a brown paper sack, ending up in a desk drawer in the City Clerk's office. In 1975, an employee there discovered it and the Clerk's office had it framed. The flag was on display in the Old Bakery when it served as the headquarters for the Bicentennial, then turned over to the archives along with all the materials and records of the Office of Bicentennial Affairs.

The flag resides at the AHC and is usually on display in the Mayor's Room (though not currently for preservation reasons). And whether you agree with Mars or not, or think the city needs a new flag or not, the original is an important symbol of our city's past. And if the city does get a new flag, the AHC will take that, too.



▲ PICA 11952, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library. Deputy City Clerk Elden Aldridge standing with the original Austin Municipal Flag, July 1975.

-Mike Miller

New to the AHC

RECENT ACQUISITIONS—

Though many of you reading this have heard the lament about the lack of space at the AHC, the forces of history march on, as does the AHC's charge to preserve that history. Over the last four months, the AHC has received 56 donations to add to its collections. Those donations total 50 linear feet, or in more practical terms, about 18 shelves worth of material.

Among the recent donations is a small collection of items about or by the local cartoonist Sam Hurt, creator of the comic strip *Eyebeam*. The collection includes all of Hurt's published work and biographical material. *Eyebeam* still runs today, more than 30 years after it debuted in 1979.

Other donations include a collection of scrapbooks from Jim Maloy, a long-time theater projectionist in Austin. The collection documents the history of Austin theaters from the 1970s to the 2000s as well as information about Maloy's Austin-based business, the Feature Film Service. These scrapbooks augment an earlier donation from Maloy that document Austin movie theater history back to 1900.

Another recent donation was the transfer of records from ChannelAustin to the AHC. ChannelAustin was running the city's public access TV station until the newest contract was awarded to the Austin Film Society. The donation includes copies of programming as well as records about the operations of the station. This recent donation, along with previous donations from ChannelAustin and its predecessors, allow the AHC to have a comprehensive view of the history of public access television in Austin.

NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS—

Since the last newsletter came out, staff at the AHC processed 8 unique manuscript and photograph collections and over 41,000 items. Here are a few collections recently completed:

AR.2011.007. Austin (Tex.) City Council. Emma Long Papers

Emma Long was the first woman elected to City Council in Austin in 1948 and served (with a break) until 1969. She campaigned for City Council eleven times and was elected nine times. She was also the first woman to serve as mayor pro tem. From the beginning of her service, she was a voice for all citizens of Austin at a time when city politics was run by powerful business interests. She worked for civil rights, fair housing, founded the Human Relations Commission in 1963,

worked for desegregation of public parks and other city and public facilities, street paving, dog leash laws, caps on utility rates, and public transportation reform. This extensive collection documents Emma Long's tenure on the City Council and her political activities and campaigns. The col-



▲ **PICB 11112, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.** Former Austin City Council member Emma Long sitting in her office, March 1984. Photograph by Pat Blashill

lection consists of printed material, correspondence, meeting notes, reports, surveys, financial documentation, legal documentation, photographs, and clippings.

An inventory of the collection is available online at:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00486/ahc-00486.html>

AR.2014.028. Michael Martin Video Collection

Michael Martin was the manager at PASE Inc. Video (PASE was the acronym for Phillip A. Smith Esquire who owned the company). This collection consists of a variety of video, including live footage of local artists and video clip shows featuring a variety of music genres. These were produced while Martin was manager of PASE Inc. Video. The music video shows, called "Rockvision," feature videos and interviews with touring "heavy metal" bands from the 1980s. The tapes include live footage of Stevie Ray Vaughan and the Fabulous Thunderbirds performing at the 1984 *Austin Chronicle* Music Awards show.

An inventory of the collection is available online at:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00487/ahc-00487.html>



▲ **PICA 32964, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.** Double Trouble band members Tommy Shannon, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Chris Layton and Reese Wynans, ca. 1980s

AR.2014.046. East Avenue Baptist Church Records

The East Avenue Baptist Church started in east Austin in 1884 as a Mission Sunday School, an affiliate of downtown's First Baptist Church. The Sunday school expanded and became the Second Street Baptist Church in 1886. When the church outgrew the 2nd Street building, a new tabernacle was built on the corner of 1st Street and East Avenue. In 1908, the Second Street Baptist Church was formally dissolved and on December 6, 1908, the East Avenue Baptist Church was organized with 80 people present as the charter membership. The church's last services were held in 1964 at which time the building was turned over to the Austin Baptist Association to be used as a rescue mission.

The collection contains a small portion of the records of the Second Street Baptist Church and the East Avenue Baptist Church dating from 1900 to 1983. Included are two ledgers listing the names of the members showing how and when they were received and dismissed. The collection also has meeting minutes, one dated from 1900 to 1904 and the other from 1925 to 1936. The remaining materials – financial records, membership rolls, Sunday school meeting minutes and church reunion records – are all related to the East Avenue Baptist Church and are dated from the 1930s and 1980s.

An inventory of the collection is available online at:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00490/ahc-00490.html>

AR.2012.005. KLRN/KLRU Production Photographs Collection

KLRN is the public television station in San Antonio, but originally it served both the San Antonio and Austin markets until a separate station, KLRU, was created for Austin in the 1980s. Approximately 1,200 photographic prints, 18,000 negatives and 1,700 transparencies document the station's productions and staff from the 1970s. The bulk of the photographs document the television shows produced by KLRN in the 1970s. Images are primarily shots of the programs in progress, including show hosts, actors, and guests on set. Images also

depict camera operators, technical crew, equipment, and other behind-the-scenes views. There are some images of people having their makeup done before the shows and a few shots of studio audiences.

"Carrascalendas" is the most well documented program. Photographs of this program include audition photographs of children, portraits of adult actors, production stills, views of sets, and behind the scenes shots of crew members, all for multiple years of production.

An inventory of the collection is available online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00488/ahc-00488.html> ●

►...CLASS who provided the catering for the evening, also spoke about the menu for the program, an *homage* to a 1940s school lunch menu. Those in attendance each got a school lunch tray that included a square pepperoni pizza, Salisbury Steak with mushroom and caramelized onion, whipped potatoes, English buttered peas, apple-berry cobbler with vanilla ice cream, and milk.

For former students of the Austin school system, like former Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey, the exhibit helped recall a more personal history.

"I love this exhibit," Cooksey declared. "It brings back a lot of memories for me because part of it features the old Austin High School, which is at 12th and Rio Grande, and I really have a lot of fond memories of teachers and classes, principals and all kinds of wonderful events that occurred in my life in the 1950s."

The exhibit is on display through April 10, 2016 in the Grand Lobby of the Austin History Center. ●



▲ Visitors exploring the exhibit, Making the Grade: Austin's First Public Schools, at the exhibit's opening reception September 16. The exhibit is free and open to the public through March 13, 2016 at the AHC. Photo by Grace McEvoy, AHC.

Best of Barnes Put On Display in Indelible Austin

Over the years, Waterloo Press has established itself as a rock-solid publisher of books that bring life to the history of Texas' capital city. This publishing arm of the Austin History Center Association has produced another winner with *Indelible Austin*, a collection of 75 history-rich columns penned by *Austin American-Statesman* columnist Michael Barnes. The columns, which first appeared in the pages of Austin's daily, focus on the small, wondrous histories that make up the great mosaic which is the story of Austin.

"In each one of these pieces I try to link old Austin to new Austin and bring the past into the present," Barnes said at a recent book signing. "They aren't hitting the familiar high points of Austin history but rather they delve deep into personalities, places, and neighborhoods."

Chapters include discussions of political struggles, past and present architecture, some long-time families, the parks, a bit of

fascinating archaeology, and the varied ethnicities that have enriched the culture of Austin.

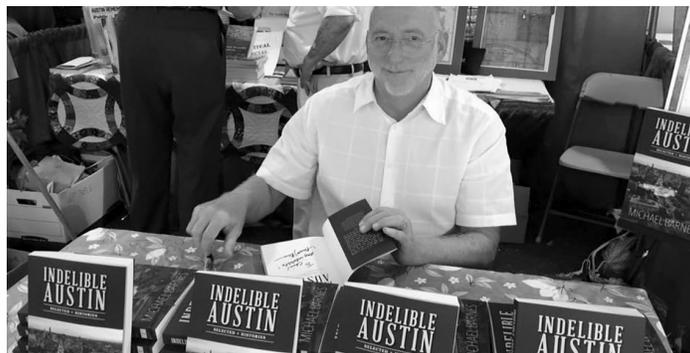
"This book is a gift for every household – indeed every person who claims status as an Austinite," said Kathleen Davis Niendorff, managing editor of Waterloo Press. Davis Niendorff worked with Barnes to bring the book to print.

As with most offerings by Waterloo Press, the Austin History Center and Association are at the heart of *Indelible Austin*.

"It's kind of a perfect match because a lot of the research was done at the Austin History Center, and of course the book benefits the Austin History Center Association," Barnes observed. "I'm happy we've got that kind of symmetry."

To purchase *Indelible Austin* online, visit www.AustinHistory.net and click the tab "Buy Indelible Austin" or pick up a copy of the book in the O. Henry Room of the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe St. ●

Merriam-Webster defines indelible as "lasting, unforgettable, memorable." Under the title *Indelible Austin*, Michael Barnes has collected 75 of his most popular and history-rich columns and created a volume worthy of its name.



▲ *Austin American-Statesman* columnist Michael Barnes signs copies of his new book, *Indelible Austin*, at the 2015 Texas Book Festival. See Booksigning Calendar on Page 8

►...**EBERLY** Before his work on the current Seaholm project, Rosato in 2000 led an effort to renovate the existing buildings sitting on a former World War I U.S. Army Air Service training camp in South Austin. Four years later, Penn Field was named Best Mix-Use Development by the *Austin Business Journal* and today it anchors a resurgence of new development going on near South Congress and Ben White Blvd.

Tom Stacy is Rosato's contemporary in Austin's commercial real estate circles. After years of buying and selling some of Austin's most prominent buildings through his company, T. Stacy and Associates, Stacy co-founded CapRidge Partners, which has become one of Austin's most prestigious real estate investment firms. Within that group is CapRidge Management, which has managed more than 5 million square feet of projects in the past 20 years, including such notable downtown landmarks as the Littlefield and Scarborough buildings, as well as the Perry Brooks Building and the Stephen F. Austin Intercontinental Hotel during renovations of those two historically-significant structures.

Rounding out this year's Eberly Luncheon panel is Sandy Gottesman. If you've wandered through the grounds of the Arboretum in north Austin, you likely appreciate Gottesman's work. Although the 95-acre mix of retail, dining, work and play is wedged between U.S. Highway 183 and Loop 360, the harmonious blending of shops, offices, and the development's natural surroundings make the Arboretum an oasis in what has become one of Austin's busiest intersections. Gottesman was a managing partner at Trammell Crow in the mid-1980s, when the Arboretum was first conceived and developed, and it remains a living testament to the style Gottesman brings to each project – sensitivity to the opinions of the project's neighbors and how the development fits in with the surrounding environment. In 1993, Gottesman started his own company and has continued to make his own, indelible mark on the city with projects like the restoration of the historic Davis buildings on Congress Avenue and innovative reuse of space in Austin's warehouse/entertainment district.



▲ John Rosato is currently working on redevelopment of the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant, which includes shops, condominiums, and public spaces. Nearby is construction of Austin's new Central Library.



▲ Tom Stacy helped manage the renovation of the historic Perry Brooks Building at 8th and Brazos in downtown Austin.



▲ North Austin's Arboretum is one of many mixed-use developments overseen by Sandy Gottesman during his years with Trammell Crow and through his own company, Live Oak Gottesman.



John Street



John Rosato



Tom Stacy



Sandy Gottesman

Join the discussion January 29 at the Driskill Hotel as these three historic Austin builders – Rosato, Stacy, and Gottesman - revisit their past successes and talk about their current and future projects. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit www.AustinHistory.net or call 512-270-0132. ●

The annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon is the signature event of the Austin History Center Association. The luncheon brings together business associates, coworkers, and city leaders, as well as newcomers and longtime residents, all with a love of Austin, and an appreciation for its history, and its history makers. Proceeds go to the Austin History Center Association, supporter of the Austin History Center archives for Austin and Travis County. Sponsors this year are:

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Texas Historical Commission Expert to Lead Free Oral History Workshop



The Austin History Center Association's Oral History Committee and the Texas Historical Commission's Military Sites Program and Oral History Program Coordinator, William McWhorter, will co-host a free oral history training workshop at the Austin History Center on Saturday, January 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. The workshop is designed for people to learn how to conduct, record, and transcribe all types of oral histories, including hands-on training with digital and video recording equipment. Workshop space is limited to 30 people, so if you'd like to attend, please call the AHCA office at 512-270-0132 to see if space is available.

Oral History Committee Sets Goals, Begins Interviewing Former Austin Mayors

Starting with former Austin mayors Frank Cooksey (1985 – 1988) and Gus Garcia (2001 – 2003), the Oral History Committee of the Austin History Center Association has set in motion a plan to interview all nine living former mayors of Austin. The former mayors will be nine of the 20 total oral history interviews the committee has pledged to conduct this year.

In an oral history, the subject is interviewed by one or more committee members. The interview is videotaped and a transcription is produced. Both the videotape and transcript are given to the Austin History Center, which adds them to the AHC's oral history collection. The committee has secured a grant from Humanities Texas to fund the transcriptions of the nine former mayors.

Do you know someone who has made a significant impact on Austin, or perhaps has lived an interesting life in our city?

The Oral History Committee has a fairly long list of people to interview, but they don't want to overlook someone worthy whose name might not yet be on the list. Email your suggestion to RuthannRushing@gmail.com and include a short paragraph describing why the person you're nominating would be a good candidate for an oral history interview. Use that same email address if you'd like to volunteer and help conduct oral history interviews or transcribe interviews from videotape to printed text.

Another option is to conduct and transcribe your own oral history interview. You can attend a free oral history training workshop at the Austin History Center on Saturday, January 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. (see article on this page). Or, you can call the AHCA at 512-270-0132 to learn more about how to conduct and transcribe oral histories. ●



▲ Former Austin mayors, the then-current mayor, and the incoming mayor pose for a rare group photo in the David Earl Holt Gallery of the Austin History Center on January 3, 2015. From left to right are Lee Cooke, Kirk Watson, Frank Cooksey, Lee Leffingwell, Steve Adler, Ron Mullin, Bruce Todd, and Gus Garcia. The AHCA Oral History Committee has started work on a pledge to interview all nine living former Austin mayors. Not pictured are Carole Keeton and Will Wynn.

What's Old Is New Again: AHC Offers Austin's First Cookbook

Next time you need to whip up some peppered mangoes, roast partridge or cucumber catsup, you need look no further than the Austin History Center. The AHC is selling copies of *Austin's First Cookbook: Our Home Recipes, Remedies and Rules of Thumb*, published by The History Press. The book is a new edition of the first cookbook published in Austin, *Our Home Cookbook*, compiled by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1891. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Austin History Center.

From our 21st century perch, the eclectic array of "receipts" or historic recipes featured in Austin's First Cookbook may seem otherworldly, but in fact, they were reflective of the kind of culinary creations made possible by the existence of the railroad, which had laid tracks through Austin just 20 years earlier. In 1891, thanks to railroad shipping, Austin's finer kitchens had access to a wide variety of household equipment and foods, as well as canned goods and perishables like fresh oysters and European cheeses.

The new version of the old cookbook includes a facsimile of the original volume, along with related photographs from the AHC collection, two chapters of contextual information by City Archivist Mike Miller, and a comprehensive bibliography of Austin-centric cookbooks from 1891 to the present.

Austin's First Cookbook: Our Home Recipes, Remedies and Rules of Thumb is available for sale at the Austin History Center Association office at the Austin History Center, at various Austin bookstores and online at AustinHistory.net under the "Store" tab. ●



▲ Austin History Center Archivist Mike Miller signs a copy of *Austin's First Cookbook: Our Home Recipes, Remedies and Rules of Thumb* at Book People on Lamar Blvd. on August 12. The book is a new edition of the first cookbook published in Austin, *Our Home Cookbook*, compiled by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1891.



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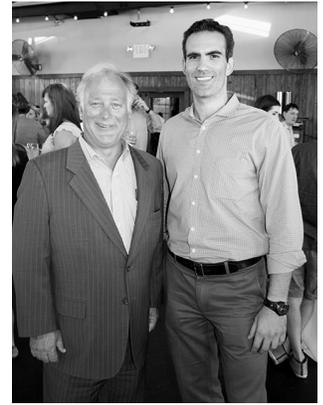
I Need to Get Out More BY GEOFF WOOL

No, it's not a misprint. Yes, I'm the one who usually uses this column to gently chide you for missing one or more of the wonderful events put on by the Austin History Center. But since a bicycling accident landed me in the emergency room on August 1, I found myself mostly home-bound during the months of August and September. During that time I missed the AHCA's Young Professional's "Know Your City" happy hour event at Abel's on the Lake, sponsored by the *Texas Tribune*. I'm told State Senator Kirk Watson had entertaining and insightful remarks and an energized group of millennials talked about the roles the Colorado River and lake system have played in the development of Austin.

I also missed a couple of AHC events, a special screening of the film *La Loma (Or the Place Sometimes Called Hungry Hill)*, and an Austin Museum Day presentation by Austin musician and author Jesse Sublett, who played and sang, then talked about his book, *1960s Austin Gangsters: Organized Crime that Rocked the Capital*. The book tells the story of the Overton gang and their associates, "a ragtag white trash mafia that bedazzled Austin law enforcement for most of the 1960s" as Sublett described them.

The *La Loma* documentary tells the story of East Austin resident Pete Rivera and two students who use the camera to show the obstacles they overcome in their daily journey getting to and from Eastside Memorial High School. The film, directed by Deborah S. Esquenazi and students Isaac Reyes and Joseph Sanchez, takes the viewer on the students' daily route to school, which cuts across large, unkempt fields, involves illegal crossing of railroad tracks (even crawling under parked train cars), and trekking through deep woods that host homeless encampments and wild animals.

Happily, I can report that I've recovered from my accident and am back attending AHCA events. I hope to see you at this month's Angelina Eberly Luncheon! ●



▲ Texas State Senator Kirk Watson and Adam Friedman, treasurer of the Austin History Center Association, share a moment at the Young Professional's "Know Your City" happy hour event.

SAVE THESE DATES **AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9th)** Open Tue.–Sat. 10am – 6pm & Sun. 12pm – 6pm **Call 512-270-0132**

JANUARY 12

Program on the Centennial of Mathews and Metz Elementary Schools. 6:30 pm at the AHC.

JANUARY 29

Angelina Eberly Luncheon, including *Indelible Austin* book signing with author Michael Barnes. 11 a.m. at the Driskill Hotel.

FEBRUARY 21

Program on Central Texas Dance Halls. Time TBD at the AHC.

APRIL 3

AHC Spring Music Revue with Austin Independent School District. Time TBD at Wooldridge Square Park.

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

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