

# Docents of the Governor's Mansion Newsletter

October 2018



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all is here and this newsletter will recap the summer activities, and bring you news of upcoming events.

As your Docent Newsletter Chairs, we want to thank each of you who have helped to make our newsletter informative, full of interesting items and enjoyable reading for each Docent. Please continue to send your items for the newsletter to:

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## News from Our 2018 Chair, Jill Brown

Fall is here and all we talk about is the weather!!

Our September meeting honoring our 30-year and 20-year Docents was very special with Mrs. Abbott presenting their awards. Our speaker, Rowena Houghton Dasch, gave a wonderful presentation. How special to have our Docent Emeritus, Margie Criswell, and her daughter-in-law, Claudia Carroll, present. Claudia lives in the Hogg home in Tyler. As we prepare for the busy, holiday fourth quarter, and transition to the 2019 Board, I would like to look back and thank the Docents for a memorable year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Chair.

The 2018 Executive Board has been fabulous to work with---talented, enthusiastic, and tireless!! We have had wonderful speakers at our meetings this year and our Program Co-Chairs, Gale Webb and Jeani Smith, have coordinated these in addition to trips to Bayou Bend, New Braunfels, and our upcoming trip to Galveston (the Bryan Museum and the Menard House) and West Columbia (the Varner-Hogg Museum). Through their efforts and Erika Herndon's, we have learned much about the Pease family, the Hogg family, and German settlers and artisans, including Herman Lungkwitz. Martha (and Richard) Coons hosted our Kathy's Third Garden Party at their home and arranged for a tour of Woodlawn - a very special tour with historical information provided by Elizabeth Whitlow, Dealey Herndon, and owner Laura Sandefer. Linda Amey has been a very thorough Secretary and provided notes of condolences on behalf of our Docents to several families. LeAnne Skinner has been a careful guardian of our finances as Treasurer and is working on our 2019 budget with Erika Herndon. Education Co-

Chairs, Kay Harvey-Mosley and Candy Hunter have worked hard on a Whole House Tour (WHT) video presented by Dianna Dorman to be used for educational purposes by our current and future Docents. Susan Peloquin, Meetings Chair, has worked tirelessly on our luncheon meetings---invitations, RSVP's, menus, and follow-ups with our Education chairs. Cindy Mitchell, our Immediate Past Chair and Nominating Chair and her Committee presented a wonderful slate for 2019. Nancy Jo Spaulding and Jo Betsy Norton, our Communications Co-Chairs, have produced wonderful, informative newsletters and distributed e-blasts so effectively. Additionally, they have preserved our newsletters for the last 15 years in binders for future reference. My Advisor, Nancy Prideaux, has always been there with positive, upbeat thoughts and advice. Alison Suttle, our Historian, will chronicle the year's activities in the archives, and our Membership Chair, Louri O'Leary has kept fabulous records and informed our members consistently of changes. Our Executive Director, Erika Herndon, is wonderful to work with and always with a smile on her face! Our Chair-Elect, Sara Conley, has been very organized doing our scheduling at the Mansion, and she will be a wonderful Chair for 2019! These special people, the Board of 2018, have made my job very rewarding. Together we completed a questionnaire of our Docents, audio taped interviews of our 30-year Docents, and the video of a WHT will be complete soon.

I know all of us serving at the Governor's Mansion appreciate Governor and Mrs. Abbott who so willingly share our wonderful Mansion with the public. The Mansion Administrator, Katie Taylor, is a pleasure for all of us to work with. Most of all, thank you Docents, for a wonderful 2018 and many memories I will always cherish.

Jill Brown





## Docent Day Trip to New Braunfels

Thirteen Docents and one husband journeyed by car to the German Settlement for a delightful day. They were greeted by staff that provided a bountiful morning refreshment of fresh food at the 19<sup>th</sup> century white schoolhouse.

The tour included not only the Breustedt Family Farmhouse; but also the Cabinet Shop, the Summer Kitchen/Smoke House and the Breustedt Kitchen. The collection of German handmade furniture was constructed by early craftsmen who trained in Germany. They were influenced by the Biedermeier style which was a response to the more ornate styles of the time. The furniture wood is primarily black walnut and pine crafted between 1845-80. Construction styles include rounded corners of tables and chests, saber legs and creative use of wood grains.

Featured local cabinet makers included works by Johann Jahn, Franz Stautzenberger and Heinrich Scholl, Jr. Most of the furniture was from the collection of Bill and Nan Dillen who had also acquired the farm house.

After the tour we had lunch at the Huisache Grill and returned to Austin.

*Gale Webb and  
Jeni Smith*



Museum Guide, Virginia Duke & Jill Brown



Kay Broadus, LeAnne Skinner, Guide, Martha Coons, Virginia Duke, Richard Coons and Ann Sherrow

## Recognition Of Our 30-Year and 20-Year Docents

The September 25, 2018 General Membership meeting highlighted some of our long-serving, dedicated Docents. We like to think of them as our “trailblazers”, who, by hard work, great insight, and thoughtful counsel provided the basis and framework for our special organization that exists today.

Serving the Mansion during the White, Clements, Richards, Bush, Perry, and Abbott Administrations gives these Docents a historical perspective that is unrivaled and is rich with wonderful memories.

First Lady of Texas, Cecelia Abbott, lauded and thanked all Docents before presenting the awards. She posed for pictures with all awardees present and group pictures for our newsletter. The individual photo with Mrs. Abbott will fit perfectly in the award for our 30-year Docents---a Reed & Barton 5x7 picture frame.

Congratulations to 30-year awardees: Helen Bostick, Carrielu Christensen, Martha Coons, June Cooper, Dianna Dorman, Virginia Duke, Linda Gladden, Susan Johnson, Donna Beth McCormick, LaNan McKinney, Anita Mickey, Cathy Powell, and Bernie Slack. Awards for Docents who were unable to attend the meeting will be delivered to them.

Docents honored for serving 20 years were: Joanie Bentzin, JoElla Broussard, Connie Giles, Cindy Mitchell, Barbara Mjos, Jill Nicholson, Karen Oswald, Nancy Jo Spaulding, Pam Willeford, and Eva Womack. They each received a silver letter opener.

Many thanks to Jo Betsy Norton for taking photos and Nancy Jo Spaulding for coordinating the developing and distribution of the photos to all involved. Many thanks also to Erika Herndon, Sara Conley and Susan Peloquin for assistance in planning and staging.

*Louie O'Leary and Jill Brown*



30-Year Docents

Standing: Bernie Slack, June Cooper, Donna Beth McCormick, Virginia Duke, Dianna Dorman - Sitting: Anita Mickey, Susan Johnson, First Lady Cecelia Abbott, Helen Bostick, Carrielu Christensen (Not Present: Martha Coons, Linda Gladden, LaNan McKinney, Cathy Powell)



20-Year Docents

Standing: Joanie Bentzin, Connie Giles, Jill Nicholson, Pam Willeford  
 Sitting: Barbara Mjos, JoElla Broussard, First Lady Cecilia Abbott,  
 Nancy Jo Spaulding, Karen Oswalt  
 (Not Present: Cindy Mitchell and Eva Womack)

## General Meeting/Luncheon



The Docents were honored to have as our luncheon speaker Rowena Houghton Dasch, PhD. Doctor Dasch is the Executive Director of the Neill-Cochran House Museum where she oversees all elements of the preservation of the historic property and operation of the museum. She holds an AB from Princeton University and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Dasch spoke about the 'The Hoggs and Austin: Life in the Capital City at the Turn of the Century.'

In 1886, James Stephen Hogg was elected Attorney General for the State of Texas. Hogg, living in Tyler, Texas at the time, relocated with his family to Austin. Governor Hogg had been orphaned as a youth, and scholars have suggested that at least in part in response to his early losses, Hogg held his family tight and prized time with them.

The early loss of his wife Sallie in 1895 cast a shadow on the Hoggs' time in Austin, but three of their four children spent most of their youth in the city and between the three homes they occupied: 500 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, the Governor's Mansion and at 19<sup>th</sup> Street at Rio Grande, Ima, Mike, and Tom Hogg passed their childhoods in Austin. Will, significantly older than his siblings, was already 12 years old when the family moved to the city; after completing his primary education, he attended The University of Texas while living there.

The Governor's Mansion, unlike 500 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, had at least some running water: in the kitchen, in a small wash room between the dining and sitting rooms, and in the single large bathroom. Heat, as in all early Austin homes, came from the building's many fireplaces, with the exception of a wood stove in the bathroom. Unfortunately for the Hoggs, however, the condition of the Mansion was poor when they arrived. Ima reminisced: "We were prepared for a most hospitable home but I shall never forget our consternation on first seeing the interior. It was in dreadful disrepair. The white calcimine walls were badly cracked and shabby and the dark woodwork was worse. Our family did not attempt to live in it without trying to freshen and redecorate it in, I am sure, a modest way....Before we moved into the Mansion, many days were spent scraping hardened chewing gum from under the tables and chair arms. There were literally buckets of old chewing gum scraped, even from the door moldings...."

Throughout their time in Austin, the Hoggs cultivated fruits and vegetables and livestock on their properties. There was a practical side to this – Ima recalled the beautiful flowers that her mother and then her father cared for, and used either in arrangements in the house or as lapel ornaments, as well as the fruits and vegetables that came out of their gardens and into the dining room.

Mike Hogg, 14 years old in 1899, may have summed up life on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and indeed, in all of the Hoggs' Austin homes, best: "The pigeons are cooing, the ducks quacking, the hens cackling, the roosters crowing, the sparrows are chirping, the mocking birds are warbling, the ostriches in their guttural voices are snorting, the cow is lowing, Joe and Dainty neighing all in common unison to welcome us home."

*Jeani Smith & Gale Webb, Program Co-Chairs*

## Whole House Tour

In response to the Docent survey earlier this year, several docents stated they were uncomfortable giving a whole house tour or had never given one. Now a video tour of the Mansion is in the works.

Dianna Dorman has developed a script that she will narrate for the tour. The final product will be available to current and future Docents for reviewing as a model for giving whole house tours. Several interesting Mansion stories will be included.

We hope the video will assist docents with another source of information for Mansion whole house tours.

*Kay Harvey-Mosley and Candy Hunter, Education Co-Chairs*

## Membership Report

Active Docents:	59
Associate Docents:	29
Docents Emeritae:	1

Total Docent Membership: 89

### Roster Changes:

Karen Landa Taylor  
 1701 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
 West Des Moines, IA 50266  
 ktaylor@tayloredbenefits.com

Marion More  
 4517 Triangle Avenue, Apt 610  
 Austin, TX 78751

Martha Coons  
 4517 Triangle Avenue, Apt 724  
 Austin, TX 78751  
 marthafcoons@gmail.com

Jeanette Auerbach  
 98 San Jacinto Blvd.  
 FSR #909  
 Austin TX 78701

Cathy Powell, cathyzpowell27@gmail.com

*Lowri O'Leary, Membership Chair*



## Scheduling Report 2018

### First Quarter:

Events Scheduled 6  
Docents Participating 15

### Second Quarter:

Events Scheduled 10  
Docents Participating 48

### Third Quarter:

Events Scheduled 7  
Docents Participating 25

### Totals through September:

23 Events  
88 Docents Participating

*Sara Conley, Scheduling/Chair-Elect*



## 2019 Executive Board And Nominating Committee

**Chair:** Sara Conley

**Scheduling/Chair-Elect:** Pam Whitley

**Secretary:** Carol Hanle

**Treasurer:** LeAnne Skinner

**Education Chair:** Louri O'Leary

**Historian:** Jeanette Auerbach

**Meetings Chair:** Marion More

**Membership Chair:** Linda Gladden

**Newsletter Chair:** Jo Betsy Norton

**Program Chair:** Linda Amey

**Advisor:** Jill Brown

**Ex-Officia:** Erika Herndon



**2019 Nominating Committee:** Jill Brown,  
Linda Gladden, Karen Leeke, Catherine Weir,  
Vanessa Wolfe



The 2018 gift from the Docents of the Governor's Mansion arrived. Three beautiful silver tiered serving trays from Reed and Barton are being added to the serving pieces for the Texas Governor's Mansion.





**SAVE THE DATE**  
INVITATION TO FOLLOW

*Docents of the Governor's Mansion*  
**CHRISTMAS COFFEE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018**  
*at the Texas Governor's Mansion*

SECURITY CHECK-IN 9:45 A.M.  
COFFEE 10:00 TO 11:30 A.M.  
GUESTS: 1 PER ACTIVE DOCENT  
COST: \$25 PER ASSOCIATE OR GUEST