

January 2024

Stephen F. Austin Chapter Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello, Ladies!

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year!

Many thanks to **Sherry Crickmer**, who hosted our Christmas get-together at her home on December 1st. In addition to Sherry and her husband Todd Crickmer, **Laura Kitley, Barbara Walters, Debi Pantalion, Sharyl Burshnick, Hazel Burshnick, Carolyn Schilthuis, Allyce Dolan, Sharon Rankin**, Josephine Macaluso (my guest), and **myself** were in attendance. Everyone outdid themselves providing excellent food for us all to enjoy, but Todd deserves special recognition for smoking an excellent stuffed pork roast. After dinner we all enjoyed a white elephant gift exchange and lots of laughs.



Our next meeting is at noon on WEDNESDAY, January 17th, at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry. This will be a unique opportunity to have a meeting and field trip all in one! The Texas Military Forces Museum honors Texas military personnel from before the Texas Revolution to present day. After our business meeting and lunch, we will have a guided tour of the exhibit encompassing the Republic of Texas era. Feel free to explore the rest of the museum afterward- you won't want to miss it! **Debi Pantalion, E.J. Vande Streek, and Sherry Crickmer** will be your hostesses. Entrance to the museum is free, but you *must* show a valid ID at the main gate to Camp Mabry to go on base. The main entrance is at Maintenance Drive off 35th Street, just west of MoPac. Here is a link to the map:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ULdqpSmQYhyoPvQQ8> This will be the first meeting to be live streamed. To

watch the meeting online, you will have to join the “**Stephen F. Austin, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas**” Facebook page, and be watching the page at meeting time.

There will be an informal genealogy workshop held at **Allyce Dolan’s** house on **Monday, January 29th, 2024**. Bring us your questions about posthumous applications, DRT grave marker applications for Republic of Texas ancestors and deceased DRT members, supplementals, how to locate hard-to-find information, or any other genealogy issues you may be having. If you have an interest in genealogy but not a lot of experience, this is a wonderful opportunity to pick up tips and tricks. There will be something for everyone. Allyce’s address is **2318 Shoalmont Drive, Austin, TX 78756**. RSVP to Allyce at allyce.dolan@gmail.com.

Save the date: On **February 20th, 2024** we will be heading up and moving out for another **field trip**. This time we will be visiting **Gonzales and Goliad**. There are so many Texas Revolution and Republic of Texas sights to see in both places, and we are just the ladies to appreciate them. Don’t forget your Texas Revolution and Republic Historic Sites passports, because this is our next opportunity to get stamps as a group! We will meet and park at the Northwest Recreation Center. Plan to be ready to leave there by 8:00 am. RSVP to me at millipope@gmail.com by February 1st. The cost will be **\$30 each**, to cover the cost of the van and gas. There may be entrance fees at one or more of our stops that will cost extra.

Entries for the Texas History Essay Contests are due February 1st! Our 4th and 7th graders must have their entries submitted by that date. It is very important that all essays are correctly formatted and comply with all contest rules. This year the topics are:

4th grade: Collin McKinney

7th grade: The Canary Islanders

Winners at our chapter level receive \$50, and will have the honor of presenting their essay at our scholarship luncheon in April. They will also move on to a district competition, where their essay will be judged beside the other chapter winners in the district, with another \$50 prize for the winner. District winners move on to the national competition, which is a **BIG DEAL!** Winners of the national competition will be invited to the National Convention in May, where they will present their essays, receive a plaque, and get a check for \$500. A copy of the essay will also be preserved at the DRT Library in San Antonio. Go to drinfo.org, click the “**Learn**” tab, then go to “**Texas History Essays**” for all the details. Entries are due to **Laura Kitley** at ldkitley@aol.com or **Barbara Walters** at bwalters7@att.net by February 1st, 2024.

The **Senior Scholarship Essay Contest** topic is **Founding Mother: a woman who made a significant contribution to the Republic of Texas**. Any high school senior who is a relative of a member of the Stephen F. Austin Chapter (associates included) may submit an essay. Those essays are due March 1st, 2024, and winners will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Contact **Laura Kitley** or **Barbara Walters** for essay requirements and more information.

Speaking of essay contests and scholarships, it is time to start planning the Scholarship Luncheon! Ladies, as you know this is our chapter’s big event of the year, and it takes all of us to pull it off. This

year's luncheon will be on **Saturday, April 20, at Balcones Country Club**. There are so many opportunities to help! There will be a sign up list at the January meeting, but email me at millipope@gmail.com if you're unable to come to the meeting and want to help. There will be something for all talents and interests. **ALSO**, be on the lookout for silent auction items to donate. Silent auction sales help replenish our scholarship fund every year, and we are grateful to our generous donors!

Member News:

Please keep **Lucy Duncan** and **Andrew McVeigh**, husband of **Ervalyn McVeigh**, in your hearts and prayers. Lucy has had some setbacks since her recent surgery, and (in typical Lucy fashion) is patiently waiting to heal up and get back on her feet. Ervalyn reports that Andrew did well over Thanksgiving, and they had a nice time with family. If you know of anyone else who is going through a hard time and could use some extra prayers (and they don't mind having their names in the newsletter), please let me know and I will include them in this space.

Financial Report:

As of December 21, 2023, our balances were:

Checking Account: \$10,022.05

Scholarship Fund: \$12,252.35

Texas Honor Days:

January 26th- Mirabeau B. Lamar Day

Mirabeau B. Lamar Day salutes the Father of Education in Texas. On that date in 1839, the Republic of Texas Congress passed The Education Act, setting aside land for public schools.

Please observe this day by flying your Texas Flag.

This Month in Republic of Texas History:

Friday, January 25th, 1839: President Mirabeau B. Lamar today signed an act establishing a new flag for the Republic of Texas. It consists of a blue vertical bar next to the staff, one-third of the flag's width, with a large five-pointed white star in the middle. The remainder consists of two horizontal bars, white above and red below.

Et c.:

To order:

SFA Chapter name tags: GTX Awards in Georgetown (512.868.5881) or info@gtxawards.com. Cost is \$12.50, including shipping.

SFA Chapter pins, stickers, or other merchandise: Send check payable to **DRT-SFA** to

Milli Pope
2641 W. 45th Street
Austin, TX 78731

OR

Send **Zelle** payment to StephenFAustin@drinfo.org; note what it is for.

Chapter Pins are **\$25.00**
Associate Pin with ribbon are **\$20.00**
Stickers and cling decals are **\$5.00** each.

2023-2024 SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook: You can request a free digital copy from **Milli Pope** at millipope@gmail.com or **Lucy Duncan** at lucyd4622@gmail.com. A limited number of paper copies are available at the meetings.

Native Texan License Plates: Visit the Texas Department of Transportation website.

And Finally....

If you would like to put something in the Chapter newsletter, contact **Lucy Duncan** by email at lucyd4622@gmail.com or **Milli Pope** at millipope@gmail.com.

If any of your contact information changes, please let **Sherry Crickmer** and **Lucy Duncan** know through their email addresses:

sacrickmer@gmail.com

lucyd4622@gmail.com.

It's important we keep our records up to date.

Happy trails until we meet again!

Milli Pope