

Houston Guide Posts

The Periodic Newsletter of the Professional Tour
Guide Association of Houston

2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 2015

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MEETING NOTICE

*Monthly Members' Meeting
on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY
19th. Joey Milillo,
Programs Director of The
Bayou Bend Collection, will
present a talk on Ima Hogg,
Bayou Bend, its history and
significance to The City of
Houston. Location: Trini
Mendenhall Community
Center @ 1414 Wirt Road
Networking at 6:30;
Meeting at 7 PM.*

With 2015 under way I hope you are all keeping well and busy.

With the New Year our meeting schedule kicks in and I would like us to try and implement something new at each meeting. This will be a sort of “*show and tell*” whereby members share items they have discovered and feel will be of interest to fellow tour guides or the organization. Items could be anything, books, newspaper articles, websites, photographs, whatever! I very much feel we all have sources of untapped knowledge.

At our general business meeting in January PTGAH members Lucette and Richard Rieger announced that they will be stepping down from hosting our annual Thanksgiving celebration. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank them for their wonderful friendship, hospitality and generosity over the past few years.

This announcement means that we are actively looking for a place where our organization is able to host the Thanksgiving celebration, if anyone has an idea or is able to provide a space please let us know it will be much appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of our organization and hope to see you all at our upcoming monthly meetings.

Andrew Grocock, President, PTGAH

All Aboard!!!

by Certified Member Lucette Rieger

Yes we really can function in Houston without a car... well sort of. I was excited to plan our upcoming trip to West Texas. Why not connect our big city with the Wild West? I thought this would be an excellent opportunity for me to see what a train trip to West Texas would be like. I could then suggest to some of our visitors to continue to do a Texas tour based on my experiences.

We (Richard and I) left our house with our carry on suitcases and walked to the bus stop on Richmond two blocks from our home. We got on METRO, had to change to the Light Rail at Wheeler Station and then got off almost at the end of the line in downtown Houston. We walked about 5 blocks to the Amtrak Train station. The overnight trip was excellent. Dinner and breakfast was served in the dining car. We arrived in Alpine, Texas and stayed in the historical Holland Hotel. The surrounding area can easily be visited in one week. Renting a car in Alpine is a must to be able to see Fort Davis, the McDonald Observatory, the city of Marathon (gateway to Big Bend National Park), the Galleries of Marfa (well did not see Marfa Lights...) and the historic Paisano Hotel. If you are as old as I am you might remember the movie "Giant". This is the hotel where James Dean, Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor stayed for part of the time while filming the movie, and the locals won't let you forget it either!!

As we returned to Houston we got to see Texas from a very different view. Actually it's much better than driving on I-10. The small towns along the railroad looked lovely. The pastures and the trees occupy the open spaces that we all talk about and that Texas is famous for. Entering Houston on rail was another experience. What a city!! I thought to myself how lucky we are to live in such a vibrant place, the City of the Future....

HOUSTON “B” CYCLE

by Certified Member Lucette Rieger

OK, so much for riding the Metro bus, the light rail, or walking or driving....How about seeing Houston like you would do in Amsterdam or somewhere in China.... **Houston B-Cycle**, a City sanctioned operation, is a bicycle renting program. This program provides a quick transportation alternative. This past November, there was a gathering of bikers downtown at Market Square Park and I learned a little more about how to rent and ride these bicycles. The company that operates this new alternative for getting around the city has a program that is easy to use. First you sign in and purchase a membership online (houston.bcycle.com) or at any B-station. Second you select a B-cycle from any local B-station. Third you grab your B-cycle and go (well you better know how to ride a bike!!). Fourth, simply return and park your B-cycle at any B-station.

You can also download the B-cycle Smartphone App!!!

You can sign up for 1 day, 7 days or annual membership. Rates are: \$5.00 for 24 hours; \$15.00 for 7 days and \$65.00 for 1 full year. The usage fees for each checkout: \$0 first 60 minutes then \$2.00 for each additional ½ hour.

As a member you get unlimited access to bikes and your first 60 minutes of each ride at no additional cost.

Not bad for having fun, and it sure is better than sitting in traffic or trying to find a parking spot...

Texas Flying Legends Museum

by Certified Member Lucette Rieger

This Museum is located within Ellington Airport (formerly Ellington Field). The address is 11190 Blume Avenue, Houston. It is a very interesting and well done museum. The facility exhibits restored WWII airplanes. It is possible for you to arrange a private tour of the facility. This non profit organization offers education programs specifically catered to each audience. The facility is also available to rent as a venue for special events and corporate gatherings. On a cold and rainy day I went to see the museum with some of my friends; a Vietnam Veteran, a

politician, an engineer. I think that covered a nice mixture and each one had a great time. You will need to make a reservation. The planes are not all at this location all the time. They do fly them to other parts of the USA for other exhibitions. Contact them before you go.

Their web site: TexasFlyingLegends.org.

(Editor's Note: We owe a great deal of gratitude to Lucette for these 3 most insightful and interesting articles. Thanks Lucette! Now it's your turn. Send in something you'd like to see in this newsletter or point out something of interest that we may be able to include. The main thing, of course, is that the subject must be of interest to the tour industry.)

Odds And Ends

February is already here. Amazing isn't it? How'd that happen? Seems like we were just getting used to saying 2014.

We now have a revised website, please look it over at www.ptgah.com and let us know what you'd like to see there.

Please note, if you ever have a question as to where our upcoming meeting is going to be held and what the topic is you will find the relevant information listed on our website.

Have You Paid Your 2015 Dues Yet?

If you have not done so, please take care of this piece of business immediately! Just mail your check (\$60 for Certified Members; \$30 for Associates) to:

Treasurer
PTGAH
P. O. Box 2844
Houston, Texas 77252-2844

Please make your check payable to PTGAH.

Payments were due on January 31st. If you are still unpaid, this will be your last newsletter and you will be dropped from the Association's rolls on February 15th if payment has not been received. We certainly don't want to lose you!

Construction In Downtown Houston Is Booming!

The following is from Houston First Corporation. You will note that each subheading has a link entitled "More" that will lead you a much more detailed description - along with pictures and/or artist renderings of what's going on downtown - so check it out!

Steel going up at the new Marriott

There's been a structural steel sighting at the Marriott Marquis job site, creating excitement as the construction pace seemingly quickens. [MORE.](#)

Piers going down next door

The 10-story office building going up next to the convention center is an exercise in pile-driving skill. Yes, foundational piers are going down. [MORE.](#)

Boomin' on Rusk Street

Are you a kid at heart who enjoys watching construction? Well, stand on Rusk Street a few blocks from the GRB and you'll see at least 10 projects under way. [MORE.](#)

Testing 1-2, testing 1-2

Testing continues on the new light-rail trains that will crisscross downtown and run adjacent to the GRB. Target for opening remains April. [MORE.](#)

Houstonfirst.

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It's Thanksgiving (?) Time Again - With A Twist!

All good things must come to an end. As mentioned above in our President's Message, the Rieger's have decided that 2014 was their last to host our annual Thanksgiving gathering. It's simply time to change things a bit. For their very generous contributions to our cause over these past many years, we all owe them a tremendous **THANK YOU!** So **THANKS** Richard and Lucette! We certainly appreciate all you've done!

This change means we'll need a new venue come November 2015. Any ideas? Please contact Bob Zurik, who is a committee of one, with any solutions you may have. Sure, it's only February but November will be here quickly!

The Heritage Society At Sam Houston Park News

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
***Financing Texas-Exhibit* Opening Reception**
The Heritage Society Museum Gallery
5:30–7 p.m.
Admission is free

February 18–May 16, 2015

Financing The Republic of Texas

Guest Curator James P. Bevill

The Heritage Society Museum Gallery

Admission is free

The money trail that followed the fight for Independence from Mexico, the establishment of the Republic of Texas and eventually annexation is filled with fascinating documents. A war for independence and building a new nation cannot be achieved without funding. As noted by Guest Curator James Bevill in his book *The Paper Republic*, “the history of early Texas was as much of an economic struggle as it was a military one.” It is documents such as hand-written treasury warrants issued at San Felipe de Austin in 1836 and Texian Loan Scripts signed by Stephen F. Austin or a promise of 640 acres in exchange for a loan signed by Sam Houston that tell this story. Following the money trail also shows how the seat of the Texas government was constantly on the move as the printed bills included “Houston” or “Austin” depending on the year they were issued. Although the Texans struggled to keep the coffers filled, today these documents represent priceless and tangible pieces of Texas history.

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Jerry and Marvy Finger Lecture Series

The Old 300: Gone to Texas by Paul Spellman

The Heritage Society Tea Room

12–1 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members

Learn about the origins of the first Anglo colonist who came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin. Paul will discuss why they came, where they came from, how they got here, and a little bit about the evolution of the book itself.

Thursday, February 25, 2015

Building Arts Lecture Series

Preserving a Landmark: Foundation Stabilization at the Kellum-Noble House by Patrick Sparks

7 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members

Thursday, February 26, 2015

S.I.P. Series #1 (See Irreplaceable Places)

1912 home in Courtlandt Place

6–8 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 each event or \$250 for the S.I.P. Series

Sip cocktails, munch hors d'oeuvres, support The Heritage Society and get an inside look at some of Houston's historic homes and buildings.

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Heritage Family Day

The Heritage Society Museum Gallery

1–4 p.m.

Admission is free

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

S.I.P. Series #2 (See Irreplaceable Places)

1890s home in the Heights

6–8 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 each event or \$250 for the S.I.P. Series

Sip cocktails, munch hors d'oeuvres, support The Heritage Society and get an inside look at some of Houston's historic homes and buildings.

Upcoming PTGAH Meetings

You saw in the masthead on page one that we will have our **February** meeting (this month) on the 19th at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center (formerly the Sosa Center) located at 1414 Wirt Road.

Our **March** meeting (next month) will be a guided tour of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). Meet at the Cafe Express in the Tunnel Level at 6:30 on Thursday, the 19th of March.

Don't forget to send in your articles and news! Our next edition depends on it. And here's a reminder: The first Thursday of each month is set aside for your Executive Board meeting. All members are invited to attend, not just officers and directors. Please let Andrew Grocock know if you plan to be there so that appropriate accommodations may be made. The Board meets at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center (formerly the Sosa Center) located at 1414 Wirt Road, about 1 mile north of the Katy Freeway. Start time is 6:30 PM. And our Monthly Members' Meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month. Venues vary so watch your email and our website for details.

(Editor's Note: I strongly solicit your input on most any subject that you feel may be of interest to our Association, any article you've seen and can forward to me that would be of interest to all and any reasonable observation(s) you may have about your Association and how it operates - or should operate. You may email me at mrk1807@comcast.net or phone me at 281-474-1225. Thanks in advance for your support and interest.)

Mike Kees