

Arlington Historical Society | January 2022 Newsletter

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Arlington Historical Society

Executive Board Members

Geraldine Mills | Executive Director

Nancy Tice | President

Lydia Brosowsky | Secretary

Wanda Marshall | Treasurer

Contact Us

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Phone: 817-460-4001

Our Venues

Fielder House Museum

1616 W. Abram Street

Arlington, Texas 76013

www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum

Knapp Heritage Park

201 W. Front Street

Arlington, Texas 76011

www.facebook.com/knapp.park

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds

600 W. Arkansas Lane

Arlington, Texas 76010

www.ahmgc.org

A note from the editor

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2022! I am honored and excited to be the new editor for the AHS newsletter. I want to extend a huge thank you to my predecessor, **Denise Youngblood**. I'm grateful for her support, encouragement, insight, and mentorship. Thank you, Denise!

This first newsletter of 2022 features a look back at 2021. It was an eventful year for the Arlington Historical Society and our city.

For the 2022 newsletters, I plan to shift from a bi-monthly format to a monthly one. While more frequent than we've done in the past, the newsletters will also be shorter in length. There will be a section for news, announcements, and upcoming events, as needed. For the articles, each newsletter will have a theme. It's a different approach, but perhaps we'll try something else next year.

I'd also like to feature more content on our website and Facebook page. AHS Board Member **Brian Burns** is working hard on a new website for us. Just wait until you see this -- AHS Board Members were treated to a preview, and it's so exciting. Our new website will be a tremendous resource for Arlington's history, with articles, stories, photos, and much more. I also imagine it will help us reach a new audience. The official launch will be in the spring. More details are coming soon.

The start of a new year is a great time to reassess our organization's goals and plans. What do we want to accomplish this year? How do we step outside of our comfort zone and grow? How can we challenge ourselves to continue the Arlington Historical Society's mission and rich history?

Speaking of our rich history, did you know that the Arlington Historical Society was founded on **August 27, 1887**? That makes 2022 our 135th anniversary. Should we have an intimate party at Fielder House? Or should we go all out and have an entire year of celebratory events? Either way, 135 years is a significant milestone. Let's celebrate our longevity and our preservation efforts for Arlington's history.

Lastly, thank you for supporting this organization and Arlington's history. We appreciate your membership, donations, volunteer hours, involvement, and enthusiasm. Local history is an endangered species. As the Arlington Historical Society, it's our duty to preserve Arlington's history for future generations.

Jason S. Sullivan, 01-15-22
Newsletter Editor
Arlington Historical Society
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Arlington Historical Society – Upcoming Events

- **January 27 – Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Fundraiser**
 - J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill -
400 E. Abram Street, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 - Proceeds support restoration efforts for this historic cemetery!

- **February 26 – Black History Month Festival**
 - Arlington Public Library (Southeast Branch) -
900 SE Green Oaks Blvd, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 - More info: www.arlingtonlibrary.org

- **April 11 – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder House, 6:30 PM**

- **August 8 – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder House, 6:30 PM**

- **November 14 – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder House, 6:30 PM**



Arlington Historical Society – 2021 Recap

From community outreach, new exhibits at Fielder House, fundraising, recognition, and special events, here's a look back at some of the highlights from 2021.

New exhibits at Fielder House

New exhibits this year at Fielder House included one about **The Berachah Home** and another celebrating the 60th anniversary of **Six Flags Over Texas**. While both had many photos, the Six Flags exhibit also included maps, souvenirs, and other memorabilia. It's leaving soon to make way for a new exhibit, so stop by the Fielder House if you haven't seen it yet.

We also expanded our Black History exhibit at Fielder House. The display includes photos, mementos, stories, interviews, oral histories, and a collection of funeral programs –

The Berachah Home exhibit



often referred to as "Homegoing Programs." Many of the photos are also included in the Arlington Public Library's "Arlington Black History Community Archive," a digital collection of documents, photos, and resources for local Black history. The AHS contributed to this project, with significant contributions from Geraldine Mills.

Arlington Black History Community Archive website:
www.arlingtonlibrary.org/abhca.

World War II Memorial dedication ceremony

One of the year's highlights was in May when we participated in Arlington's World War II Memorial dedication ceremony. More than 100 people attended, including several World War II veterans, along with others having ties to our armed forces. There were even relatives of a few men being honored on the plaques.

The World War II Memorial consists of the following:

- Colonel Neel E. Kearby's Texas Historical Marker and a life-sized bronze statue.
- A plaque honoring the Arlington heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice in World War II.
- A plaque highlighting the wartime contributions of North Texas Agricultural College, now UTA.
- A plaque, "In Memoriam – Lest We Forget," remembering the service and sacrifice of the men and women of Arlington who entered the armed forces.

WWII Memorial Dedication – event photos



The program included an invocation, ROTC flag ceremony, guest speakers, dedication of the memorials, and a benediction. We also recited the Pledge of Allegiance, sang "God Bless America," and heard a rendition of "Taps." Mayor Jeff Williams spoke and praised the patriotism and spirit of Arlington. Steve Barnes read the names of the Arlington service members who gave their lives to the war effort. A moment of silence followed.

The day concluded with a reception at the Fielder House, with folks enjoying refreshments and admiring our World War II exhibit.

Special Recognitions

It's always a special moment when some of our own are acknowledged and celebrated.

In April, the Arlington City Council voted to name the Fielder House grounds after AHS Executive Director **Geraldine Mills**.

Geraldine's leadership, direction, and influence over the last 20+ years have been instrumental in preserving Arlington's history. Her efforts have undoubtedly helped push the AHS forward to reach new heights. She continues to be a guiding light for us, a woman whose passion for local history inspires and educates others.

The recognition will also include new signage at Fielder House:

Fielder House Museum at Geraldine Mills Heritage Park Home of the Arlington Historical Society

In May, the Arlington City Council recognized **Wanda Marshall** for her extraordinary efforts in preserving Arlington's World War II heritage. Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams proclaimed May 4, 2021, as Wanda Marshall Day. The official proclamation cited Wanda's 25 years with the Arlington Historical Society, her archival work, pioneering research, projects, recordkeeping, and dedicated push to bring the World War II Memorial to fruition. Both women deserve these accolades and much more. Be sure to thank them for their service and dedication to Arlington the next time you see them!

AHS Appreciation Day and a new President

September 19 was AHS Appreciation Day, an opportunity to show gratitude to past and present AHS presidents and board members. About 30 people attended the event at Fielder House, including former AHS presidents Nancy York, Glen Day, and Steve Barnes. Folks enjoyed refreshments and door prizes; it was a fun event, as well as a chance for folks to connect socially and tour Fielder House.

The event was also a chance to meet newly elected AHS President **Nancy Tice**. Nancy brings tremendous experience with community organizations, civic contributions, and fundraising to the AHS. She already has projects in the works with other local non-profit organizations. Check out the AHS October / November 2021 newsletter for more about Nancy.

Steve Barnes stepped down as AHS President, a role he held for several years. Thank you, Steve, for all of your hard work and dedication!

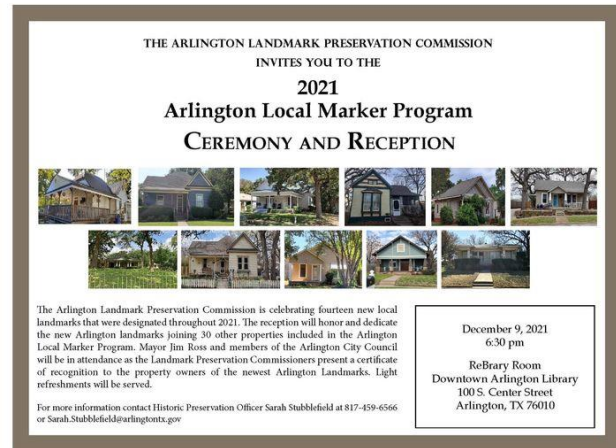
Fall fundraising

The AHS had two fundraising events in the fall. North Texas Giving Day was a huge success for us, with the AHS receiving **\$12,365** in donations. Folks were generous this year, as Arlington non-profit organizations received more than \$2.2 million -- a record-breaking amount for the city.

Our online auction provided a chance to bid on one-of-a-kind items and experiences. Did you have a winning bid?

Local Marker Dedication Ceremony

In December, Arlington's Landmark Preservation Commission hosted their first annual Local Marker Dedication Ceremony. The LPC recognized 14 local landmarks at the ceremony, the most approved in a single year since the program began in 2009. Arlington now has more than 40 local landmarks. While not an exclusive event for us, several AHS members attended.



Kringle Village Holiday Hoedown

Lastly, the AHS helped share the holiday spirit. The Kringle Village Holiday Hoedown made its debut at Knapp Heritage Park. The event was popular, with many folks enjoying the decorations, performances, and festive atmosphere. The event provided exposure for Knapp Heritage Park and the Arlington Historical Society.

2021 Anniversaries

Some significant anniversaries related to local history also occurred this year.

- River Legacy Living Science Center marked its 25th anniversary.
- Moore Rental Service received a Texas Treasure Business Award for being in business for over 50 years.
- Six Flags Over Texas celebrated its 60th anniversary.
- It was the 70th anniversary of Arlington's relationship with Bad Königshofen, our sister city in Germany.
- Arlington's longest continually operated restaurant – former home to The Triangle Inn and Arlington Steak House, current home to Jambo's BBQ – celebrated its 90th anniversary.
- The Bankhead Highway officially opened in Arlington in November 2021, marking its 100th anniversary.
- This summer marked the 145th anniversary since the T & P Railroad first arrived in Arlington. Many consider the railroad's arrival to be the founding of Arlington.

Looking ahead to 2022

These were just a few of the highlights from 2021. It was an exciting year for us, one where we continued our mission and efforts to preserve Arlington's history. We should be proud of our accomplishments and optimistic about the future.

I mentioned earlier that 2022 is the Arlington Historical Society's 135th anniversary. We must keep pushing forward with our efforts and look for new ways to preserve Arlington's history. Arlington continues to grow. With that growth, our history lays the foundation for today and tomorrow.