

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

March 2023 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street

Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

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A note from the editor

We hope you're enjoying our new newsletter format! Many exciting things are happening with the Arlington Historical Society and our venues. Come out and see us at Fielder Museum and Knapp Heritage Park. We hope to see you at one (or more!) of our upcoming events—check out the calendar below.

Jason S. Sullivan, 03-08-23

Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

- **March 14**—New exhibit opens at Fielder Museum: Saga of the Seven Seas
- **March 25**—National Medal of Honor Day; Special Open House at Fielder Museum, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **March 26**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM
- **March 29**—National Vietnam Veterans Day; Special Exhibit at Fielder Museum
- **April 18-22**—Artium Art Association Show at Fielder Museum | www.artiumtx.org
- **April 29**—Arlington Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Fielder Museum
- **May 12**—Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication Ceremony, 11:00 AM

Arlington Historical Society news

We're excited to announce that former Arlington Historical Society President **O.K. Carter** has returned as a Board Member. The AHS Board unanimously voted in our February meeting to have him rejoin the board. Welcome back, O.K.!

And speaking of O.K., the Arlington Historical Society plans to print a revised copy of his book "Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys: Essays on Arlington" later this year. More info coming soon!

Are you interested in getting more involved with the Arlington Historical Society and possibly serving as a Board Member? Join us at our next board meeting on **Sunday, March 26, at 2:30 PM at Fielder Museum** to learn more.

Fielder Museum news

Fielder Museum had some nice activity this month! We celebrated Black History Month and Valentine's Day, enjoyed a pop-up exhibit with antique toys, and had some enthusiastic visitors stop by.

Exhibits and Displays

Our Black History exhibit continues to grow. It now contains many photos, books, memoirs, files, cemetery records, funeral programs, and recorded interviews. Fairly recent additions include concert posters from the Dragnet Club and Lou's Blue Lounge, located in The Hill.



Black History exhibit at Fielder

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we had some vintage valentines displayed and went through some of the others we had in storage. It's interesting to see how holidays have evolved. You don't think of valentines, greeting cards, or postcards as historic, but they help tell personal stories and offer a glimpse of our culture, customs, and spirit.



Happy Valentine's Day from Fielder Museum

And finally, a small exhibit popped up featuring antique toys. Our toy room upstairs is always popular with kids (and adults), but this small exhibit featured some unique items throughout the museum. While the smaller pop-up exhibit is on its way out, an exhibit about Seven Seas is coming soon. We're calling it *Saga of the Seven Seas*—sounds exciting, doesn't it?



Recognize any of these antique toys?

Visitors

Fielder Museum had many visitors this month, including families, younger couples, and a group from UTA—more on that below. Seeing what strikes people's interest while touring the museum is always fascinating. This month, there was a strong interest in the Carrie Rogers and Berachah Home exhibits. And although we don't have anything on display, another guest was interested in Hawaii Kai. (You may remember Hawaii Kai as the final effort of Arlington's short-lived Seven Seas Marine Life Park before it closed for good.)

Local history often goes beyond "history" and includes things you might not expect. One of the things that are so exciting about local history is that there is something for everyone.

UTA Group tours Fielder and Knapp

On Friday, February 24th, UTA's Museum Studies class and Prof. Cheryl Mitchell visited the Fielder House Museum and Knapp Heritage Park to learn more about the importance of local Arlington history, preservation of historic architecture and sites, and how small museums can do big things for their community.

The students were impressed by the knowledge gathered in the museum and that they "had so much real-life documentation available for the community as an invaluable resource." In particular, several students were dazzled by their chance to ride in an "old timey car that felt like a true time machine."



A special thank you to Geraldine Mills, Nancy Tice, Cheryl Mitchell, Sandra Greenwood, Becky Tucker, and Wanda Marshall for helping make this event a success! Thank you, Cheryl, for the photos and write-up!

Photos from the tour

For Sale at Fielder

We recently started to feature a small selection of items for sale at Fielder Museum. We currently have an assortment of local history books, cookbooks, autographed photos of actor Morgan Woodward, Arlington Historical Society T-shirts, and other goodies. Some of the books are out of print and hard to find—they would be a great addition to your collection!

Proceeds benefit the Arlington Historical Society.



For sale at Fielder

Knapp Heritage Park news

Keeping our historic cabins at **Knapp Heritage Park** looking their best takes time, care, dedication, and maintenance. The AHS is looking at how to repair or replace the cabin roofs, which have developed gaps and holes. We want the upgrades to be functional, durable, and above all, maintain the cabins' authenticity as much as possible. It's a delicate balance, and we're exploring different options. Grants may be available for financing, and we've also considered a fundraiser specifically for the cabins.

Knapp Heritage Park's grassy area and prime location in downtown Arlington make it well-suited to host events. On April 8, for example, Arlington Locals will host an Adult Easter Egg Hunt at the Knapp. It's something a little different but will draw folks to the Knapp who otherwise might not have visited. It's an opportunity to expand our reach and be part of something in our community.

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds news

Work continues on internal sidewalk construction and other improvements at the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds. Mark your calendars for **Friday, May 12**, for the Dedication Ceremony, which will be held at the cemetery. It will be a chance to see the cemetery improvements, tour the grounds, and celebrate an important part of Arlington's history.

Did you know that besides being one of the Arlington Historical Society's venues, the cemetery is also a City of Arlington Local Landmark?



View from cemetery entrance, 03-04-23

Local History news

Plans are underway at **Meadowbrook Park** for its centennial celebration! The park opened in 1924 and was Arlington's first park. The City of Arlington is seeking input from residents, including potential upgrades, new amenities, and other feedback. Expect special events and festivities next year at the park to celebrate the anniversary.



Roark Elementary School, in east Arlington near the General Motors Assembly Plant, is expected to be torn down later this year. Roark Elementary School opened in 1961 and served AISD and its students for 60 years. The school was named for Maude Virginia Roark (1881-1969), who was in the teaching profession for nearly 60 years. She taught mathematics in Arlington for 29 years, dividing her time between Arlington High School and Ousley Junior High.



*Maude V. Roark
(Photo Credit: AISD)*

On this day in local history

February 1

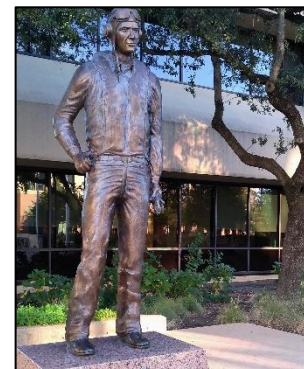
Kalpana Chawla, born in Karnal, India, graduated from UTA in 1984 with a master's degree. She then earned a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988. Dr. Chawla joined NASA in 1994, and later, in 1997, became the first Indian woman to travel into space. Last month, Arlington remembered and honored Dr. Chawla's legacy on the 20th anniversary of her tragic death. She was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster on February 1, 2003. UTA honors Dr. Chawla with an on-campus memorial, a residence hall, and a scholarship.



*Dr. Kalpana Chawla
(Photo Credit: NASA)*

March 5

During World War II, hometown hero **Colonel Neel E. Kearby** piloted a P-47 Thunderbolt and led the 348th Fighter Squadron. Notably, on October 11, 1943, over New Guinea, Kearby brought down six enemy aircraft in a single conflict—after already completing his mission and being heavily outnumbered. He then led his formation to safety. The heroic action would lead to Kearby being awarded the Medal of Honor on January 23, 1944. Colonel Kearby's other honors include the Purple Heart, two Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and five Air Medals. Tragically, in the skies over New Guinea, Colonel Kearby was killed in action on March 5, 1944. Arlington honors Colonel Kearby with a Texas Historical Marker and a life-sized bronze statue.



*Colonel Kearby statue
in downtown Arlington*