

Pic-Mic Papers

NEWSLETTER of the WIMBERLEY INSTITUTE OF CULTURES

WIC Organizes “Celebrate Music” Fundraiser to Preserve Zach House

An ensemble of five gifted vocalists present an evening of glorious music—from Andrew Lloyd Webber to Puccini—at the Wimberley Playhouse Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. to raise funds for the “Save the Zach House” project. The evening



begins with wine and hors d’oeuvres and ends with champagne and desserts.

The performers are Bruce Billingsley, pianist and bass; Anne Jones, soprano; Mary Ellen Johnson, soprano; Peter Bartell, baritone; and Dan Stephens, tenor. All of these are not only trained vocalists but also choral directors, and together they are stunning!

Bruce, who is celebrating his 80th birthday, directed the men’s and women’s glee clubs while attending the University of

Texas, played for and directed our Community Chorus and has done numerous piano concerts celebrating Chopin’s birthday for the local Civic Club’s Hobby Lobby.

Anne Jones, choir director at Wimberley’s St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, has directed the Community Chorus as well as worked and performed with composer Joseph Martin. She will sing the lovely “Pie Jesu” and the Flower Duet from *Lakmé* with Mary Ellen Johnson. A first-rate soprano, Mary Ellen has a doctorate in vocal performance from the University of Texas and will perform Puccini’s lovely “O Mio Babbino Caro.”



Built by Zach Wimberley in 1877, this house is one of only two buildings that survive from the 19th century.

Peter Bartell and Dan Stephens are church choir *Con’t. Page 4*

Many Fall Activities

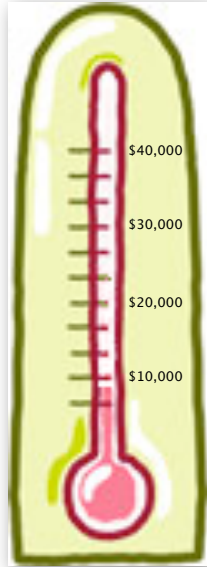
October has three WIC events well worth attending. The board is moving forward with the acquisition of the historic Zach Wimberley House with a one-of-a-kind performance at the Wimberley Playhouse on Thursday, **October 14**, at 7:00 p.m. Five vocalists present “Celebrate Music,” an uplifting evening of champagne (alcohol-free punch, too) and song. Tickets are \$80 per person and tax deductible. Contact Sue Ann Iles on her cell at 214-957-3335 or southerniles@yahoo.com. Seating is limited; don’t delay.

The 2010 Lecture Series concludes Monday, **October 18**, with a presentation by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department land biologist Blake Hendon at 7:00 p.m. at the Winters-Wimberley House. Tinka Eoff provides refreshments and handles the reservations (847-8722).

The annual potluck supper for WIC members is Friday, **October 22**, at 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the home of Dr. Dee Ann Story. Bring a special dish to share and a chair to sit in for a fall outdoor picnic that this year is along the Blanco River.

President's Message

After a year of negotiations, WIC is moving forward on acquiring the Zach House, a frontier Texas-style home that belonged to the families that founded Wimberley. That it is available to us in its original location means it can receive a Texas Historic Registered Landmark designation.



WIC needs \$40,000 in donations to acquire the historical Zach Wimberley House property.

WIC is committed to the process of restoring this unique building. Volunteers spent years researching and compiling records. We enlisted the support of one of the state's leading restoration architects to guide our work with a master plan that will help us rehabilitate the house and obtain outside funding.

There are three phases to this project. First, WIC needs to purchase the land on which the house stands. We cannot do anything until the land and house are legally ours. Second, we will stabilize the house and architectural features to prevent further deterioration. Third, two parlors and the main hallway will be restored to the 1940s, when members of the family still lived there. No mechanical or plumbing systems are planned, only electricity. Total cost for this work and the property is \$130,000.

We are doing our part in pursuing grants and holding fundraisers, such as the "Celebrate Music" ensemble performance on October 14, but in this economic climate, raising funds is a slow, time-consuming process with no guarantee of success.

Your continued support is vital to our efforts to "Save the Zach House." We are grateful for the \$8,000 in contributions received so far, but more is needed. Whatever we raise through fundraisers, grants or donations from you is pledged to bring back this wonderful house that miraculously is still here. ☞

Welcome, New Members

Arts from the Heart
Bob & Susan Ballard

Blue Rock Artist

Bob & Pamela Chamberlin

Kay Henderson

David Lewis

Myers Construction

Wimberley Village Library

Condolences

To the family of Ruth Decker

Board of Directors

• 2010 •

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Record Number Attend Square Exhibit

Nearly one thousand visitors viewed "Then and Now: a Historic Photo History of the Wimberley Square" during its exhibit at the Winters-Wimberley House this year. This attendance sets a new record for all of the many exhibits prepared by WIC members in the past.



Wimberley Village Library Director Carolyn Manning and Youth Services Librarian Monica Rasco were part of some of the special groups that were invited to attend the WIC historical photo exhibit of the Wimberley Square at the Winters-Wimberley House.

Special invitations to groups around the city were key to increasing attendance. Dody Spencer was first to host a reception for friends unable to go to the exhibit opening, so impressed was she with curator Dee Ann Story's extensive photo collection of the village square that she was determined more should share in the "awakening."

Next, Mary Kochenderfer hosted the Square Merchants in an association meeting at

the Winters-Wimberley House. Many members learned about the history of the house and square for the first time. (Any idea how many locals have never set foot in this most historic of homes?)

In turn WIC member Peggy Savage invited her Sunday school class to the exhibit one afternoon for their monthly get-together. As someone who lived on the square, Peggy gave an entertaining account of life in Wimberley in the 1930s and 1940s. She also helped host a meeting of a service organization with 15 young women.

Realtors, bankers, CPAs, Wimberley Village Library staff, stock brokers, *Wimberley View* staff, restaurant owners...all were invited to receptions with wine, punch and hors d'oeuvres to see the photos from Wimberley's past, learn about local history and witness first-hand how WIC uses the Winters-Wimberley House. Almost every one in these groups saw the house, which was restored by WIC, for the first time.

The historic Winters-Wimberley house is available to WIC members and the public for weddings and receptions, parties, seminars and family reunions.

Live a little history in Wimberley. Rent the Winters-Wimberley House for parties, reunions, exhibits, weddings and receptions. Contact Reservations Manager Deb Bradshaw at 847-7475 or visit the WIC website at www.wimwic.org.

Calendar

October 14

"Celebrate Music," a special fundraiser for the Zach House, featuring champagne, hors d'oeuvres and songs from Broadway to Opera, 7:00 p.m., Wimberley Playhouse. Tickets \$80 (tax deductible). Reservations Sue Ann Iles 847-8589 or southerniles@yahoo.com

October 18

Lecture Series: "Texas - Keep It Wild," by Blake Hendon, private land biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 7:00 p.m., W-W House. Free but reservations required. 847-8722

October 22

Potluck Supper (covered dish), 5:00 p.m., at Dee Ann Story's home, Dan Williams, Chair

December 3

Fireside Holiday Supper, 5:00 p.m., at the W-W House and lawn

Kudos...

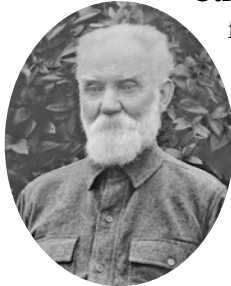
Gary Harlow was inadvertently left out in the last newsletter when all those involved in the success of April's Pie Social were thanked. Gary was an invaluable contributor. Apologies for that omission.

Dr. Dee Ann Story did an outstanding job as curator of the "Then and Now" photo exhibit.

Carolyn Manning and **Linda Eagleton** at the Wimberley Village Library made it possible to display the "Then and Now" exhibit at the library for two extra months after it closed at the W-W House July 31.

Old Photos Detail British Homesteaders on Mt. Sharp

Whatever would possess an English gentleman and his wife, along with their daughter and son-in-law, to leave the luxury of London's Regent



Street for the hardscrabble farming-and-ranching life on Mt. Sharp? That is a question asked by two brothers, Robert and Sam Garnett, who recently donated to WIC family photos covering 70 years along with annotated notes.

In 1872, Robert and Sam's grandparents set sail from England on the ship *SS Alice* (we have the ship's passenger list) arriving in New Orleans, bound for Hays County. The family was Thomas and Elizabeth Dodsworth; the son-in-law, William Garnett and wife Elizabeth Dodsworth Garnett and their three children. Descendants from these passengers include the Sites, Meeks, Calhouns and Garnetts.

"Theirs is one of the most complete photographic records of one family we have. The dates range from the 1870s to the 1950s," said archaeologist and WIC board member Dr. Dee Ann Story.

Included in the collection is a diary of their grandfather, William Garnett, that covers October

1894 through January 1896, revealing such details as traveling by buggy to Wimberley to bring his shelled corn to the mill and to visit with John Henry Saunders; traveling to Gruene to sell his cotton; camping at Purgatory. One of the most interesting entries described William Garnett's fascination with the stars and planets: He ordered a telescope from Ohio, set it up on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol and encouraged people to take a look.

Another treasure is a hand-drawn map of the community of Mt. Gainor, now gone, as well as



details of the Mt. Sharp Community where the Garnetts owned about 1,200 acres. This photo of William's son Barry (1875–1955) reflects some prosperity: family well

dressed, handsome wagon and a fine team of mules. Even though the Mt. Sharp area had no electricity in the early 1930s, Barry owned a refrigerator powered by gas and radio with a battery powered by a wind generator.

OCT. 14 FUNDRAISER FOR ZACH HOUSE - *Con't. from Page 1*

directors in Wimberley: Peter at St Mary's Catholic Church and Dan at the First Baptist Church. (You've seen Dan on stage at the Emily Ann Theater.) Peter will join Dan and the ensemble in music from Jerome Kern's *Showboat* and the exquisite "And This Is My Beloved" from *Kismet*.

For reservations, contact Sue Ann Iles at 214-957-3335 (cell)

or southerniles@yahoo.com.

Tickets are \$80 per person and tax deductible. Proceeds will be used for preserving the Zach House.

If you are unable to attend, please do as several other people have done: Send a contribution to WIC to support this important project that preserves more of Wimberley's unique history.



Zach Wimberley (left) built a house for his bride Mary Elizabeth Franklin (right) in 1877 that still stands today.

October 18 Finale for 2010 Lecture Series



Land biologist Blake Hendon with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is the speaker at the last Lecture Series for the year.

Mr. Hendon will talk about open-space tax valuations, which can help landowners preserve native landscapes, wildlife and natural resources, and how TPWD can assist private

landowners. Educated and trained in wildlife ecology and rangeland management, he has worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado and is now working with TPWD, assigned to Blanco, Hays and Travis counties.

The lecture is free, but reservations are required. Refreshments are provided. Call Tinka Oeff at 847-8722 to reserve your seat(s). The Lecture Series is held at the Winters-Wimberley House and begins at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements

BOARD APPROVES \$2500 TOWARD VIDEO ON FAMED MURALIST BUCK WINN

At the September 14 meeting the WIC board approved \$2500 from its general fund for videographer Richard Kidd, who is making a documentary on noted Wimberley muralist Buck Winn. WIC also agreed to be a local sponsor. The funds are designated for final editing, reproduction and distribution costs. WIC members had previewed an unfinished version of the film at the September 13 quarterly dinner meeting. Mr. Kidd intends to give videos to all libraries and schools but sell individual copies for \$15. A previous video he made was about the life of Captain Jack C. Hays.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In addition to its newsletters, WIC will now send annual membership renewal letters via e-mail to save on postage costs.

Look for a notice in early November. Letters will be mailed, however, to those who do not have e-mail accounts. WIC is able to save hundreds of dollars in postage costs each year by using e-mail for its newsletters and other member correspondence.

2010 WIC DIRECTORIES STILL AVAILABLE

Many WIC members have yet to pick up their 2010 directories with member addresses, phone numbers and e-mails (which do change) and a calendar of events for the year. Since postage costs are so high, we are now distributing copies at every WIC membership meeting, even the Pie Social. Please check with Melinda Gumbert if you need to pick one up before the next quarterly dinner meeting in January 2011.

DISCONTINUED NUMBER

Please update your directory: Joe and Peggy Snodgrass have asked that we let members know they have canceled their local land line (847-7885) and now can be reached only on their cell phones.



Photo of Elizabeth Dodsworth, who, with her family, left an elegant life in London in 1872 to live on a farm in Hays County. (See article on Page 4.)

WIC Membership Form

Check One:

Individual \$20

Family \$25

Contributing \$35

Sustaining \$50

Patron \$100

Renewal

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Address

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