

# AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

"THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN &amp; TRAVIS COUNTY"

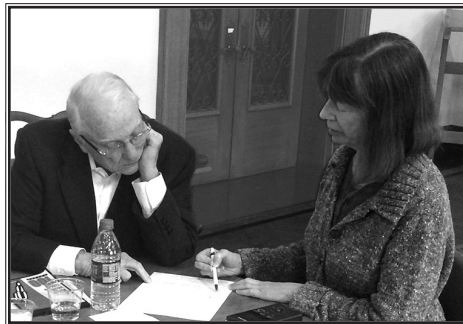
SPRING 2017

## BUSINESS OR CELEBRATION? » AHCA Annual Meeting Has Both! «

It might be time to come up with a more appropriate name for the AHCA's Annual Meeting. For one thing, the AHCA has many meetings during the course of the year, not just the one deemed 'annual' that comes at the end of the organization's fiscal year. For another thing, the Annual Meeting has, during the past few years, become something more akin to a celebration of the work and accomplishments of the AHCA.

This year's edition of the Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Austin History Center.

Once again this year, there will be official business conducted at the meeting – a financial report, introduction of new board members and a vote on the new slate of officers – but the star attraction will come after the business obligations have been tended to. At that time, the spotlight will turn to the work of AHCA's Oral



▲ Transcriber Felicia Kongable talks with Brooks Goldsmith about his AHCA oral history interview Nov. 22, 2016. Goldsmith is among those who will be honored at the AHCA Annual Meeting. Photo by Cindy Brandimarte.

History Committee, which will honor the people who have been interviewed and shared their stories during the past year. The video and audio recordings of each interview, plus a written transcript, are donated to the AHC and are available for use by researchers or the general public.

As a bonus to those who have been interviewed, Oral History Committee chair Ruthann Rushing has arranged for local non-profit Austin Book Arts Center ([atxbookarts.org](http://atxbookarts.org)) to painstakingly hand-bind each transcript and create a one-of-a-kind keepsake book. All who provided

oral histories this past year will receive their bound transcripts, many at the Annual Meeting.

As always, the AHCA Annual Meeting/Celebration is free and open to the public but parking fees are collected on Saturdays starting at \$1.20 per hour.

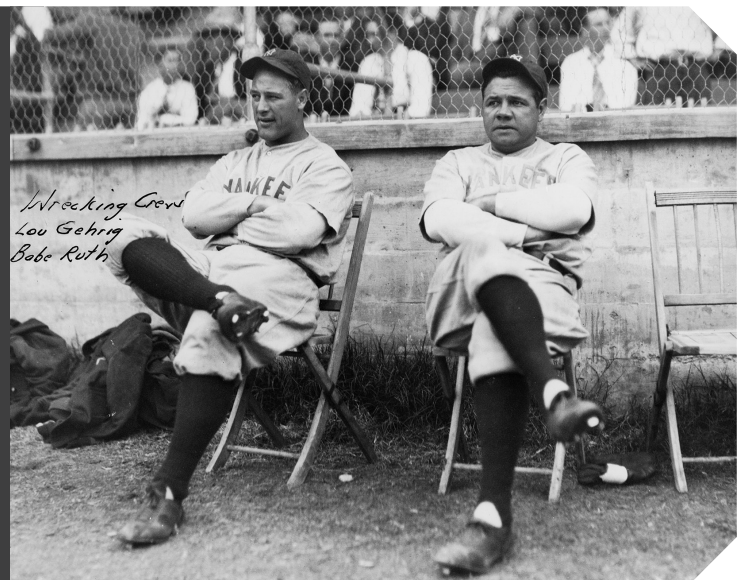
**AHCA ANNUAL MEETING · SATURDAY, MAY 13 · 2:30 – 4:00 P.M. · AHC DAVID HOLT PHOTO GALLERY**

# Play Ball!

A new exhibit at  
the AHC celebrates Austin's  
involvement in the national pastime.

SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 5.

New York Yankee sluggers Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth relax during an exhibition game against the UT Longhorns in 1930. C07555, Chalberg Collection of Prints and Negatives, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



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ASSOCIATION**

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*The mission of the Austin History Center Association is to help the community value our past and build a better future - by supporting the Austin History Center to achieve excellence in its efforts to serve as the collective memory of Austin and Travis County.*

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# AHC's *Finding Refuge* Exhibit Opening An International Affair



▲ Austin History Center Community Archivists Phonshia Nie and Amanda Jasso helped produce AHC's current exhibit, *Finding Refuge in Austin, 1848 to 1980*. The exhibit uses documents, photographs, and objects from the AHC's collections to show how refugees in Austin have grappled with the challenges of displacement, forced migration, and resettlement while empowering themselves and their communities. The exhibit runs through Aug. 27 in the AHC's Grand Hallway and Lobby. AHC photo by Grace McEvoy.

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*Finding Refuge in Austin, 1848 to 1980 runs through August 27, 2017 in the Austin History Center's Grand Hallway and Lobby.*

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▲ The opening of the exhibit *Finding Refuge in Austin, 1848 to 1980* Feb. 21 featured foods favored by German, Jewish, Mexican, Lebanese, and Vietnamese cultures, just a few of the refugee groups represented in the exhibit. The food was prepared and presented by Chef Uyen Pham of the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts. AHC photo by Grace McEvoy.



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The past few months since the last Austin Remembers newsletter have been busy ones for the Austin History Center. During that time, we brought in almost 60 donations, totaling over 50 linear feet of new acquisitions for the collections. That's a lot of history! Here are a few highlights of these recent acquisitions:

### **The AHC received materials from the Stanley Hall estate related to the Austin Ballet Theatre, where Hall served as artistic director.**

The Austin Ballet Theatre was founded in 1972 as a non-profit repertory company and dancer's school. It arranged professional performances around Austin and established a school for children and adults to learn various dance methods. In October 1973, the company began giving monthly performances at the Armadillo World Headquarters on Barton Springs Road in South Austin. The uniqueness of a ballet company performing in a well-known Austin "honky tonk" venue contributed to the reputation of the Austin Ballet Theatre as a pioneer in the introduction of ballet to mainstream Austin culture.

The Austin Ballet Theatre records include administrative and financial records, correspondence, and printed promotional material such as programs, flyers, and posters, and photographic material.

### **Austin-based photographer Mark Goodman donated a collection of 81 photos of the original square mile of Austin taken in the 1980s for a book called *Capital Improvements*.**

Goodman is an art photographer based in Austin, active from the 1970s to the present, who served as a professor of photography at the University of Texas at Austin from 1980 to 2013. Shortly after moving to Austin, Goodman began his *Capital Improvements* project, photographing the original square mile of the city. The suite of photographs was exhibited locally at Photowork Gallery and later, at the AHC. Working with Cloverleaf Studios, Goodman published the photographs in 2013 in a limited edition book with a run of five books.

## NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

Since the last newsletter, staff at the AHC processed 25 unique manuscript and photograph collections, and over 56,000 items. You can view inventories of all of the AHC's processed collections online at: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html). Here are a few collections recently completed:

### **AR.0.011. Austin (Tex.) Mayor's Office. Jeffrey M. Friedman Records**

Jeffrey M. Friedman was a two-term member of the Austin City Council and one-term mayor during the period 1971 to 1977.

Friedman was born on January 20, 1945 in New York to Sidney and Evalyn Friedman. He graduated from the University of Missouri in Kansas City in 1967 with a B.A. in psychology, then attended the University of Texas School of Law, graduating in 1970. As a student, he worked as the legal advisor for the University Student Council on Voter Registration, organized the Student Legal Action Committee, and was a staff worker for the Presidential Commission on Campus



▲ Left to right: Roy Butler, unidentified man, Lowell Leberman, and Jeff Friedman huddle in the council chambers. PICA 00144, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Unrest. After graduation, Friedman formed the law firm of Friedman, Burroughs & Hansen. Friedman was elected to Austin City Council Place 5 in a run-off election in 1971, and was re-elected in 1973. He was elected mayor of Austin in 1975, a position he held until 1977.

The campaign materials, constituent correspondence, photographs, speeches, press releases, and research/subject files in the collection document the issues facing the City of Austin in the 1970s during a time of growth and development in the city and the global energy crisis.

### **AR.R.015. Pauline A. Pinckney Papers**

Pauline A. Pinckney was an art historian, art instructor, and writer who spent much of her life in Austin.

Pinckney was born in 1889 in Austin to Pauline Mellette and Theodore Frelinghuysen Pinckney. She earned her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Texas in 1917 and later obtained a master's degree from Columbia University. Over the course of her career, she served as an instructor of art and design at Texas Woman's College (now Texas Wesleyan), Southern Methodist University, Purdue University, and Kansas State College. In 1940, Pinckney published her first book, *American Figureheads and Their Carvers*, which was praised for its thorough coverage of a previously undocumented art form. Pinckney's interest in woodcarving continued, resulting in several published articles and an unpublished manuscript titled "The American Tobacconist or the Sign of the Indian Chief." Her interests later expanded to include early Texas paintings, which led to her 1967 book *Painting in Texas: The Nineteenth Century*, published by University of Texas Press and sponsored by the Amon Carter Museum.

Pinckney spent her childhood and later years in Austin, but lived many years in New York and Washington, D.C. She died on October 25, 1982, in Austin and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery. The collection dates from 1918-1971 and contains Pinckney's research notes, correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, photographs, and legal documents.

**NEW TO THE AHC... PAGE 4 ➔**



## ►...NEW TO THE AHC

### AR.2016.023. William Robert King Drawings

William Robert King was an architect and structural engineer who spent the majority of his career based in Austin.

King was born in San Benito in 1929 and grew up in nearby Harlingen in the Rio Grande Valley. He attended the University of Texas and graduated in 1951 with a bachelor of science in architectural engineering. He began his career in the early 1950s in Los Angeles, California as a structural designer for North American Aviation Corp. In 1954, King and his family returned to Austin where King re-enrolled in the University of Texas and graduated in 1956 with a bachelor of architecture. He was a member of several architectural firms before forming his own firm, King Engineering Group, Inc.

The drawings in the collection document his career as a structural engineer in Austin from 1956 through 1997 and include commercial, ecclesiastical, public, educational, residential, and recreational projects.

### AR.2011.024. Nellie P. and Sipriano Tellez Family Papers

Nellie Tellez (néé Pérez) is a community volunteer and activist for Mexican American causes in Austin.

Born on April 10, 1929 in Bluffsprings, Texas, Nellie was one of seven children born to parents who were agricultural workers. Nellie and Sipriano married in 1945 and moved to the Govalle neighborhood of Austin, where they raised three sons. While working concessions at her youngest son's semi-pro baseball games at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, Nellie noticed that the center was in a state of disrepair and neglect by the city. Driven to change this, she joined the Parque Zaragoza Advisory Board and drew on her

past organizing, planning, and fundraising skills to become an active force for not only events and fundraising but also petitioning Austin City Council and the Parks and Recreation Planning Commission to build a new recreation center. Her efforts proved successful with the passage of Proposition 8 in 1992, which provided funding for the construction of the new Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. It was completed in 1996.

Later in life, Nellie became involved in advocating and volunteering for the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center.

The papers in the collection date from roughly the early 1940s to about 2007; however, the majority of the records date from the time period of 1980 to 1995. The collection is divided into three series: (I) Personal Papers, (II) the Parque Zaragoza Advisory Board, and (III) the Conley-Guerrero Senior Center.



▲ Children playing at Parque Zaragoza in 1934. PICA 20321, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

## AHC Puts Women's History Spotlight on Activism

The program was called Women in Action, but the five Austin women featured March 21 at the AHC brought more to the panel than their experience overcoming challenges in a male-dominated society. Susana Almanza, Priscilla Hale, Ora Houston, Linda Phan, and Angela-Jo Touza-Medina all witnessed injustice and overcame both racial and gender prejudice to become successful leaders of the organizations

they represent and effective advocates for those who continue to be marginalized.

After enlightening the audience with stories about their experiences and their work, the panel members talked about the importance of resistance activism and the work that still needs to be done in the areas of race, gender equality, and social injustice.



◀ LaToya Devezin, AHC African-American community archivist, listens as Susana Almanza speaks. Almanza is a founder and director of PODER, People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources. She was part of the Women's History Month panel March 21 at the AHC which also included (from right to left) Austin City Council Member Ora Houston; Linda Phan, executive director of Asian Family Support Services of Austin; Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, executive director of the YWCA of Greater Austin, and Priscilla Hale, executive director of allgo.



◀ This audience member's tattoo resonated at the AHC's Women's History program: "He offered her the world, she said she had her own."



# Play Ball!

## AUSTIN AND THE GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME

MARCH 28 - AUGUST 13, 2017 IN THE DAVID EARL HOLT PHOTO GALLERY

On March 28, the AHC opened its newest photograph exhibit in the David Earl Holt Photo Gallery. "Play Ball! Austin and the Great American Pastime" is an overview of Austin's love affair with the game of baseball and explores the sport in 22 photographs from the Austin History Center collections.

Baseball came to Austin shortly after the Civil War when Union soldiers first introduced this new game, and for almost 150 years Austin has enjoyed "the great American pastime." From Little Leagues to professional ball, Austin has been home to hundreds of teams in dozens of leagues, forever making the story of baseball a part of Austin's story.

The first organized tilt occurred on June 29, 1869, with a team from the 15th Infantry challenging a group of locals called the Austin Unknowns. Before long, games were common around the city, and Austin fielded a team in the pro ranks starting in 1888. In 1891, Austin pitcher Jake Schmitt pitched 27 innings in a game against Galveston, ending in a 3-3 tie when it grew too dark to continue playing. Austin also hosted major league exhibitions in those early years, pitting local amateurs against the New York Giants and Cincinnati Reds. The University of Texas invited various teams in the 1920s and 1930s to play exhibitions, hosting games against the Chicago White Sox, Detroit Tigers, and New York Yankees.

Baseball was especially popular among Austin's African American community. Immediately after the game was introduced to Austin, local black teams formed and the game proved quite popular. Austin had an entrant in the short-lived semi-pro Texas Colored League, and then formed the Austin Black Senators, competing in the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League and later, the Texas Negro League. The team played into the 1930s before the Depression led to its demise. Willie Wells and Hilton Smith, players with the Austin Black Senators, were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

Austin boasted many professional teams through the years playing in various minor leagues, mostly the Texas League. The Austin Senators played from 1906-1914, winning three league titles. Pro ball returned in 1947, with the Austin Pioneers (1947-1955) in the Class B Big State League, followed by the Austin Senators (1956-1965) and Austin Braves (1965-1967) in the AA Texas League.

These teams were successful on the playing field, but often less so at the box office, having to compete for fans with UT's powerhouse collegiate baseball program. But whether it was pros, UT, or Little League teams, millions of Austinites answered the call of "take me out to the ballgame" and made the game a part of the social fabric of this town. This exhibit explores the stories of the teams and players who have made an impact on baseball in Austin and the country, though it only scratches the surface of the deep history of Austin's love affair with the great American pastime.



◀ Austin Hix baseball club, ca. 1887. PICA 06057, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library."

# Untold Stories: Eberly Panel Looks for Ways to Preserve and Promote Family History



▲ The crowd gathers in the mezzanine of the Driskill Hotel before the 2017 Angelina Eberly Luncheon.

Everyone has a story. Everyone, in their own way, has contributed to the development of the community we know as Austin. Some stories are well documented and serve as the de facto narrative of our city's history, but there are significant gaps in that narrative that are lost as time moves forward and people fade from the scene.

On January 29, those who gathered for the annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon heard about the challenges faced by some who have had to overcome adversity to preserve and share their families' stories, and add those stories to the historic narrative of Austin. Led by Michael Barnes, columnist for the *Austin American-Statesman* and author of *Indelible Austin*, three longtime Austinites – Evan Taniguchi, Sandra Kirk, and Lonnie Limon – talked about the barriers that have limited the sharing of stories about members of Austin's Asian-American, African-American, and Latino communities, and how more of those stories can be preserved moving forward.

Watch the full discussion online at the ATXN Video Archive website: <http://austintx.swagit.com/play/01312017-875>

See more photos at [www.AustinHistory.net](http://www.AustinHistory.net)

*The AHCA's Oral History Committee helps preserve the stories of people who helped make Austin what it is. If you'd like to nominate someone to be interviewed, visit [www.AustinHistory.net](http://www.AustinHistory.net) and find the nomination form. The form requires the following information about the person being nominated: Name, contact information, and a brief statement about why the person would be a good candidate for an oral history interview.*

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## 2017 EBERLY LUNCHEON



▲ Moderator Michael Barnes (left) introduces the Eberly Luncheon panel. From right to left are Lonnie Limon, Sandra Kirk, Evan Taniguchi, and Barnes.



▲ Eberly Luncheon Committee Chairman Charles Peveto (right) shares a moment with AHCA Board Member Steve Manning.



▲ Pastor Steve Manning of the Sweet Home Baptist Church, and AHCA board member, offers the blessing.



▲ Panelist Lonnie Limon recalls the tactic he used to convince his older relatives to talk about the family's history.



▲ Retired Travis County Judge Bob Shannon listens to the panel discussion.



▲ Panelist Sandra Kirk poses with AHCA Executive Director Jeff Cohen (left), AHCA President Charles Betts (center), and former Austin City Council Member and AHCA Board Member Chris Riley.



▲ Panelist Sandra Kirk talks about the challenges many African-Americans face in documenting the history of their family.



▲ A full house at the 2017 Angelina Eberly Luncheon.

# You Need to Get Out More

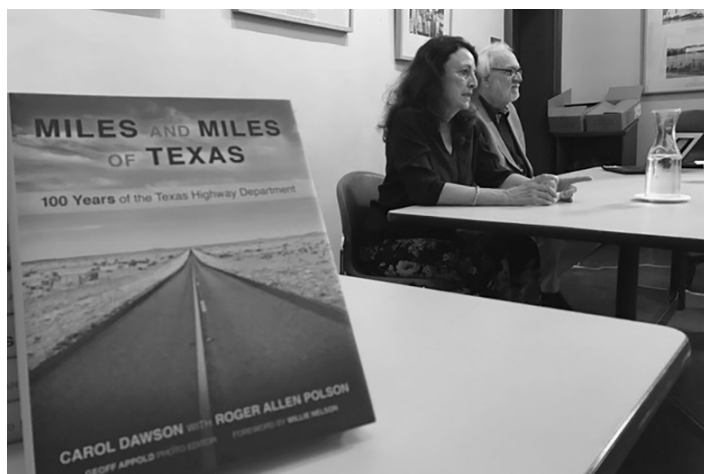
BY GEOFF WOOL

Imagine Texas in 1917. The state was more rural than urban. Most 'roads' were little more than dirt paths widened to accommodate the new-fangled automobile, which was quickly starting to replace the horse and buggy. It's against this backdrop that a new book, *Miles and Miles of Texas*, unfolds. The book's authors, Carol Dawson, Roger Allen Polson, and Geoff Appold discussed the project during an afternoon presentation at the AHC April 1.

While the book commemorates the history of the Texas Highway Department, which celebrates its centennial this year, Dawson told the group that *Miles and Miles of Texas* is really more of a history of Texas over the past 400 years, viewed through the prism of transportation development. The story, she said, reads like a good novel, rife with conflict between profit-seeking political power brokers and the principled engineers who saw highway design and road construction as a higher calling.

The book also features more than 350 historic photos mined from the archives of what is now the Texas Department of Transportation.

*Miles and Miles of Texas* is available through Texas A&M University Press.



▲ Authors Carol Dawson and Geoff Appold discuss their new book, *Miles and Miles of Texas* at a Saturday afternoon presentation at the AHC.

## SAVE THESE DATES

**AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9<sup>th</sup>)**

**Open Tue.–Sat. 10am – 6pm & Sun. 12pm – 6pm**

**Call 512-974-7480**

### MAY 9

#### *Armadillo World*

#### *Headquarters: A Memoir*

Book discussion and signing with Eddie Wilson and Jesse Sublett. 6:30 p.m., AHC

### MAY 13

#### **AHCA Annual Meeting**

Honoring people who contributed oral histories in 2016, election of officers. 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., AHC

### JUNE 20

#### **The History of Juneteenth**

6 p.m., Pflugerville Public Library Heritage House

### AUGUST 29

Opening reception for Dewey Mears photography exhibit and special "Night Crafters" program. 6:30 pm, AHC

### SEPTEMBER 17

#### **Austin Museum Day**

Austin's annual museum "open house" day with free family activities at area museums and cultural centers, including the AHC.

Visit [AustinHistory.net](http://AustinHistory.net) for more specific information about these and other upcoming events.

**Austin History Center Association, Inc.**

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