



**Monthly
Speaker Series
Thursday, May 30
7:15pm – 8:15pm
Helen Hall Library**

Come learn about.....

**Texas City Museum and
it's wonderful programs
and events!**

Amanda Vance, curator of the Texas City Museum, will speak about the history of the Juneteenth holiday, the different ways you can celebrate it in Texas City today, and the 1867 Settlement/Bell House and Museum exhibit.



**Welcome New Member:
Juanese Calkins**



A Word From The President

The League City Historical Society recently received a grant to redesign its web site. Check out our current web site at www.LeagueCityHistory.org. As part of this project we hope to make the School Program website design at www.OneRoomSchoolHouse.org adopt the same look and feel of the main web site.

The Society and Library History Club will come together to enjoy the topic "*Juneteenth at the 1867 Settlement in Galveston County*" at the next gathering on Thursday, May 30, 2019 from 7:15 – 8:15pm at the library. Amanda Vance, curator of the Texas City Museum, will speak about the museum's Juneteenth exhibit, which focuses on how and why Juneteenth was celebrated at The Settlement in Galveston County. The Settlement, which was in current-day Texas City, was an independent community of African Americans established after the end of the Civil War. Many the Black Cowboys and ranch hands working the Butler Ranch in League City lived in The Settlement. (Continued on Page 2)



You may have seen in the news that one of League City's fallen sons is finally coming home after 77 years. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Richard Thomson was killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. His body was never identified until recently when an exhumation of a number of unidentified war casualties by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency resulted in his identification using DNA technology. Thomson was assigned to the battleship Oklahoma, which capsized during the bombing. The attack on the battleship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Thomson. The League City Historical Society has volunteered to assist in the reception to be hosted following the graveside ceremonies at Fairview Cemetery. The funeral is at 1pm with a full military burial by the US Navy. The reception will be at the City of League City Recreation Center building next to Johnny Arolfo Civic Center. Please attend the graveside ceremony to honor this home town hero and the reception that follows. I'm sure the family will appreciate the turn out to honor their family member. If you would like to volunteer to help with the reception please contact Phyllis White at (832) 561-0024.

As of last month, the LCHS has completed 11 months with the Texas Association of Museums Finding Alternative Future program that has resulted in a \$2500 grant to redesign our websites. We were chosen from Houston area museums to participate in a new program based on the Summerlee Commission on the Financial Sustainability of History Organizations and challenged to rethink and reimagine the future of LCHS. A few of the other local museums chosen were the Texas City Museum, San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship Texas, Lone Star Flight Museum, 1940 Air Terminal Museum, Buffalo Soldiers Museum, and Fort Bend History Association/George Ranch. Our team, made up of volunteers and Board Members, has attended monthly seminars with museum professionals as well as individual coaching sessions with our own Coach, Candice Matelic. Topics discussed were ranging from redefining our mission statement/purpose, marketing/PR/fundraising, community engagement, leadership/succession planning, and sustainability. Change is always a challenge but our team was up to the task and a renewed enthusiasm and purpose has invigorated the Board.

A Word From The President.....Continued from page 3



Many thanks to our LCHS team - Catharin & Richard Lewis, Linda Michaels, Helen Hodges, Katie Benoit Hake, Mike Peterson, Susan Pierce, Steph McDougal, Joan Peeples, and Steve Jones. We would also like to thank TAM, Ruth Ann Rugg, Candice Matelic, Steph McDougal and the entire FAF team for helping us craft what future success looks like for LCHS.

Ronnie Richards

ronnie@butlerscourtyard.com

281-797-1970

League City Historical Society mission statement:

"To inspire all people to make history a part of their lives by continuing to present compelling educational opportunities, exhibits, programs, and publications."



Above: FAF check presentation with our Coach Candice Matelic, Katie Benoit Hake, President Ronnie Richards, Steph McDougal, and Executive Director of Texas Association of Museums Alex Freeman.



Pictured left: Melissa Waddy Thibodeaux portraying Harriet Tubman, a presentation that she has done for LCHS in the past.

Photo by Flying Geese Productions.

LIVING HISTORY DINNER

Thursday, July 18

"Melissa Waddy Thibodeaux will present:
"The Black Female Spy in the Confederate White House -
Mary Elizabeth Bowser"

The Living History Dinner will be held the evening of Thursday, July 18, 2019, at Butler's Courtyard. League City Historical Society will host the acclaimed presenter Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux, portraying "Mary Elizabeth Bowser: The Black Female Spy in the Confederate White House." This event will include the always popular silent auction! More details and tickets will be available soon. For more information, please contact Steph McDougal, 281-755-2144.

Memorial Day Ceremony

The American Legion Post #554 will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony at Fairview Cemetery, 901 N. Kansas in League City. The Ceremony will begin at 10am on May 27th. After the ceremony you are invited to the American Legion Hall at 1650 Hwy 3 So. in League City for hot dogs and fellowship.



Pictured left:
Richard Thomson



Ceremony for Pearl Harbor Veteran Saturday June 1st – 1 PM

A 19 year old League City sailor who died in the 1941 Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, and whose remains were recently identified using DNA, will be interred at Fairview Cemetery on North Kansas on Saturday, June 1 at 1 pm. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, on Tuesday, April 16, announced that Navy Seaman 2nd Class Richard J. Thompson of League City was accounted for nearly 77 years after the attack. The City of League, in conjunction with the Fairview Cemetery Group, and the League City Historical Society, will host a reception after the service at the League City Recreation Center on 400 West Walker. This reception is open to the public.

Title of History Program at Helen Hall Library Theater on Thursday, May 30

Juneteenth in Texas City and the 1867 Settlement

Program will be from 7:15pm to 8:15pm

This talk will include a short history of Juneteenth and information on the activities that will take place in celebration of it in Texas City. The Texas City Museum participates in the City's Juneteenth celebrations by offering a special exhibit and by opening the Bell House for tours. The Bell House is the oldest structure in the 1867 Settlement Historic District. Information about the 1867 Settlement and the special exhibit will also be featured.

Pictured below: Amanda Vance
Curator of Texas City Museum



Amanda Vance has been the Curator at the Texas City Museum since May 2017. She has a M.A. in Anthropology (Nautical Archaeology Program) and certificates in Archaeological Conservation and Historic Preservation from Texas A&M University. An Aggie twice over, her undergraduate degree also came from Texas A&M University, she has a B.A. in Maritime Studies with a minor in Archaeology.

Originally from Chicago, Amanda first became involved with Museums in 2001 as part of the Field Museum of Natural History's teen volunteer program. Since then she has worked in a variety of institutions including the Shedd Aquarium, Moody Gardens, the Henry Ford, and the Galveston Railroad Museum.

West Bay Common School Children's Museum



Sarah Eubanks
Director of Education

Message from the Marm

We are looking for help with electrifying the ceiling fans in our Garden Classroom before the heat really kicks in! Our summer is absolutely buzzing with nine booked groups, plus a Girl Scout Playing the Past Junior Badge Workshop on August 17th. Come on by to see our new lovely Flower and Herb Garden planted by Junior Troop 140132 after last Saturday's Flower Badge Workshop. The garden looks stunning, Scouts!

Thank you, GS Troop 140132



Before



After

West Bay Common School Children's Museum
OneRoomSchoolhouse.org 281-554-2994

**LCHS
Board Members**

**Ronnie Richards
President**

**Mike Peterson
Vice President**

**Katie Benoit Hake
Treasurer**

**Susan Pierce
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**Darryl Krogman
Director**

**Melodey Hauch
Director**

**Diana Dornak
Director**



**League City Historical Society
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary**

April 25, 2019

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The Historical Society and Helen Hall Library's history club met at the library. Our speaker was Samuel Collins III, a leading preservationist, who spoke about "Jack Johnson, The Galveston Giant." Johnson was a Galveston-born heavyweight boxer, winning the World Colored Heavyweight Championship in 1903 and the World Heavyweight Championship in 1908. Johnson moved to Chicago after winning the world championship. In 1910, a call went out for a "Great White Hope" to take the title back from Johnson. James J. Jeffries, the former undefeated heavyweight champ, came out of retirement to fight Johnson. Jeffries lost and commented later that he couldn't have beaten Johnson even when at his best. For this "fight of the century," Jeffries was given \$120,000, and Johnson, the winner, received \$65,000.

Johnson was married three times, to white women. In 1912, Johnson, while crossing state lines with his fiancé' was arrested and charged with violating the Mann Act. Found guilty in 1913, he skipped the country and lived in Europe, South America, and Mexico. He continued to box and lost the world heavyweight title in 1915 in a match fought in Cuba. Johnson returned to the United States in 1920 and served a one-year sentence in Leavenworth for his 1913 conviction. He was 54 years old when he won his last fight.

Johnson was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1954 and into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.

Johnson never returned to Galveston. The Jack Johnson Park in Galveston was dedicated in 2012 and has a bronze statue of Johnson. President Trump gave Johnson a posthumous, full pardon, accepted by Sylvester Stallone, on May 24, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned.



If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:

LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77573

CATEGORY

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student/ Active Military | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (60 and over) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Couple | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single (Individual) | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Membership | \$400 |

BUSINESS CATEGORY

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Partner | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Leader | \$300 |

Please update your membership information here:

Name _____

(For family membership, please include names of family members)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

- Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.
- Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2020.