



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Ladies, I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day, thinking of past Valentine memories and making new memories. Sixty of us had a wonderful Valentine Luncheon at the mansion from beginning to end with a special champagne cocktail, to a five-course meal. The elegant Valentine décor provided an atmosphere of romance and our handsome crooner delighted us with love songs. We had our very own Queen of Hearts who read a beautiful "Love Poem" by our WC Poet Laureate, Lea Fagin. Thank you to those of you who showed your loyalty to our club by attending our 2026 Valentine Luncheon. Another successful event! Committee Members: Susan Handlin Monica Trust Iris Francis Linda Champagne Kathy Tarkington Ashley Bruno Virginia Van Cleave Tina Zimmerman Sandra Ojeda Medina

On Sunday, February 15th, we continued to celebrate with our traditional Queen's Reception. The reception was fit for a Queen! The mansion was decorated from top to bottom with much color, mariachis played on the porch greeting our guests along with our Ingenues. We had a full house with many Fiesta VIP guests. Our Princess Paulina and our Queen Tessa were elegant and eloquent in their talks. Thank you to the Christiansen Family for the beautiful reception. Committee Members: Angela Pfeiffer Diane Lewallen Johanna Christiansen Donna Liston (former WC Member)

March 17th is our traditional Friendship Tea at the Woodward Mansion when we recognize our founders, Eleanor Brackenridge and Marin Fenwick. It's a social event to come and be reminded of their dedication to our community, mingle with friends, have dessert bites, tea and coffee, of course. This tea is sponsored by our Friendship Round Table.

As we look at our March events, we get started with Fiesta...VIVA! Make plans to attend our Official Fiesta Teen Queen Coronation on March 22nd when our royalty will get officially crowned. It's a beautiful formal pageant with long, formal dresses and gloves. Queen Tessa has been participating in the coronation since she was 4 years old, amazing. Come support our beautiful children and congratulate Michele Moad-Hageman for her many years of dedicated service to this event.

March 28th we're invited to join the San Antonio Women's Federation for their annual luncheon fundraiser; the theme is 'Countries Around the World'. For a copy of the invitation with details, call Helen Jones or Arabella Dalton. SAWF always has a nice luncheon. We need to continue to support the SAWF because as a member of that organization, we get a tax break.

Other dates to put in your calendar: April 17 – 18 Official WC Fiesta Flower Show April 22 Official WC Fiesta Hat Contest and Luncheon This event is a big one for us..."Get the Word Out"! Start putting your table together. Let your friends and relatives know what we do for our community (i.e., \$40,000,00 to SAC Empowerment Center, plus other non-profit organizations). We have been able to sustain our mansion for 100 years and fulfill our charity obligations with these monies. Thank you.

Yours in service. Sandra

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ludivina Smith	March 2
Jocelyn Jackson	March 3
Ruth Gonzales	March 3
Leona Maples	March 4
Jeanette Rodriguez	March 4
Maida Perkins	March 7
Barbara Vander	March 7
Janice McGraw	March 8



Linda Oliver	March 8
Kimberly Keller	March 10
Robin Steinhauser	March 13
Gloria Tate	March 13
Marcella Schroder	March 16
Orbilvia Hayes	March 21
Erika Haskins	March 22
Michelle Sheldon	March 26
Nancy McFarlin	March 28

GOLDENBOOK

Submitted by: Sandy Salinas, Golden Book Chair

❖ In memory of member Barbara Neiman, by Marie Soules.

PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBER



Margaret England Canfield: Member of Conservation Society, DRT Alamo Chapter, The State Association of Texas Pioneers, and many other organizations. She has done much volunteer work with various Churches, CAM, Threads.



Fiesta Medal 2026

Our medal is in and available for purchase. The design celebrates the 100th anniversary of the purchase of our beloved Woodward Mansion.

Pick yours up in the office for \$15 each. Or bundle the new medal with a couple of blasts from the past for \$20.

RUSTLING LEAVES is published monthly by the Woman's Club of San Antonio

Editor: Carolynn Snyder

Assistant Editor: Vacant

Members are invited to submit relevant photos of people or events for possible use in the newsletter and/or Facebook to womansclubnewsletter@gmail.com. **Advertising in Rustling Leaves is available** at the following rates: full page - \$100; half page - \$50; and, quarter page - \$25. Your ad may include business cards, recognition/celebrations, and announcements of upcoming events. The deadline for submission and payment for advertising is the 15th of the month prior to the publication month.

Upcoming General Meeting and Events

Tawana Timberlake, Vice-president

RSVP to the Woman's Club office @ 210-732-4811 for credit card payment

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO
MARCH GENERAL MEETING
Speaker
Peter Baron



PETER BARON IS A SAN ANTONIO FIRE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANT, LICENSED PARAMEDIC AND MASTER FIREFIGHTER, TO NAME A FEW OF HIS LONG TITLES! AN AVID HISTORIAN & GENEALOGIST, HE HAS MEMBERSHIPS IN NUMEROUS GENEALOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND LINEAGE SOCIETIES, HOLDING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN MANY OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS. AS THE US CELEBRATES THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1776 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, HE WILL PRESENT INSIGHT INTO THE LIVES OF OUR FOUNDERS AND WHY THEY ARE RELEVANT IN TODAY'S WORLD. THE REENACTMENT WILL INCLUDE THE WEARING OF THE UNIFORM OF THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER, THE ACCOUTREMENTS, THE FLAGS AND A BRIEF GENEALOGICAL INTRODUCTION.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2026
10:30 AM SOCIAL, 11:00 AM MEETING, 12:00 PM LUNCH
1717 SAN PEDRO AVENUE

Menu: Greek Salad, Pastitsio (Greek Pasta Bake, Grilled Vegetables, Baklava Cheesecake

RESERVATION \$30 BY NOON ON MARCH 2ND
AT TICKET LEAP OR CALL: (210) 732-4811

<https://events.ticketleap.com/events/wcosa/march-general-meeting-367346808>



Fiesta Flower Show

- ❖ The Fiesta Flower Show will be held April 17-18
- ❖ The theme this year is "All things bright and beautiful. All things Great and Small"
- ❖ The Flower Exhibit Categories will be the same as last year for adult and youth, with new emphasis of exhibits coming in February
- ❖ We need volunteers for:
 - Set-up ad take down (4)
 - Judge clerks (3)
 - Greeters (6)
 - Refreshments (2)
 - And lots of donations of cookies for guests

Contact Karen Ward at 219-218-4029 if you would like to participate in this awesome event!!



Congratulations!

Congratulations
Melissa Rogers for
winning Pure
International Classy
Ms Lonestar 2026.

*Love,
Ashley Bruno*

February General Meeting

Our guest speaker was Dr. Chaunte Hall. Dr. Hall is a USAF veteran, executive leader, and author of SOFT. She is a passionate advocate for military families, education, and youth. She serves on multiple nonprofit boards. We also welcomed six new members to the Club.





Valentine's Day Luncheon

Gorgeous decorations by Susan Handlin of Tablescapes and Monica Trust. Great music and food. And all of the attendees looked absolutely beautiful in their seasonally appropriate attire.





A shout out to member Ashley Bruno who was selected as Pure International Elite Ms. Texas 2026!

ALL THINGS FIESTA!!

Fiesta events are in full swing! Our Queen and Princess are visiting schools as part of their official duties. One of our very own (Irma Duran) is the Honorary Lady Chair of the Texas Pioneers; and past president Ferne Burney is President of the Fiesta Commission. Our Royalty had their OFFICIAL photo shoot at the House, and on February 15th we hosted the Queen's Reception in honor of Queen Tessa Christiansen and Princess Paulina Rodriguez. Donna Liston did an incredible job with the decorations! The food was wonderful and a special thanks to all that brought cookies and drinks and donated money to the event. Following are just a few photos of events that have occurred over the past few weeks. Additional photos will be included in a special Fiesta edition of the newsletter at the end of Fiesta season. Viva!!







Bluebonnets for Blueprints, by Elizabeth Neely

“Bluebonnets for blueprints.” That’s how my grandmother always explained the origin of her home in Castle Hills — a beautiful two-story house built in 1931 from stone gathered along nearby Olmos Creek, topped with a classic barrel tile roof.

Today, thousands of cars pass the house each day on busy Lockhill Selma Road. Few realize that it once sat far out in the country and was simply known as “the castle” in Castle Hills.

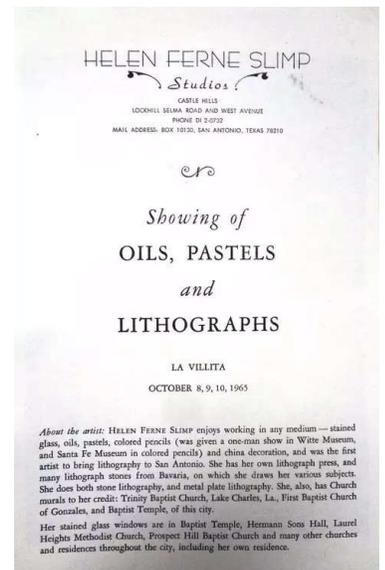


My grandmother had admired a home on Geneseo Road and contacted the architect to ask about it. Instead of paying cash, she traded one of her bluebonnet paintings for the blueprints. She loved telling the story: “Bluebonnets for blueprints — that’s how I got this house.” The architect was Ralph Cameron, a prominent South Texas architect in the early 1900s.

My grandmother, Helen “Slimp” Slimp, was a lifelong artist who worked in oils, charcoals, lithography, and stained glass. She was a friend of art patron Marion Koogler McNay, painted alongside the Onderdonks, and even taught Porfirio Salinas. She had little patience for abstract art. “She liked that modern stuff — I never cared for it myself,” she would say. “I thought an apple should look like an apple, and a bluebonnet like a bluebonnet.”

Born in Virginia in 1890, she was just 19 when she boarded a train to San Antonio to live with her brother. She always said she came because she wanted to see a “real cowboy.” Independent and determined, she used the skills she had learned at the Miller School in Virginia to secure a job with the San Antonio Art Glass Company, designing stained glass windows. Her work can still be seen at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, Hermann Sons Lodge, Prospect Hill Baptist Church, and the United Methodist Church in Center Point.

It was unusual for a woman to work in that field at the time. When she traveled to Center Point for installations, she was required to hire a chaperone. She married Chester Slimp, a local oil distributor, on Christmas Day in 1913. They had three children: Chester Jr., Beverly, and my mother, Helen May. My grandmother loved taking her children north of San Antonio to a hill where they could roam freely while she painted landscapes and wildflowers. In 1923, Chester purchased 35.5 acres of wilderness along what is now Lockhill Selma Road. That hill became the site of their future home.



The family helped build it themselves. Beverly carried buckets of water for mixing concrete. The foundation was poured in a single day, with work stretching through the night, illuminated by car headlights. Stones were gathered from a creek bed along Olmos Creek and hauled by wagon to the site. The walls were built from those light gray and tan stones, flecked with rusty orange. Family papers later showed the total cost of the house was around \$6,500.

A 400-foot well was dug into an underground cavern. For the water tower, concrete was hoisted in large buckets using a rope and pulley system attached to a derrick. My mother’s job was to drive a Ford pickup truck back and forth with a rope tied to it, raising and lowering the buckets of concrete.



When I was young, Lockhill Selma Road was nearly empty. Military Highway had occasional weekend traffic — we would see or hear tanks and trucks headed to Camp Bullis. My cousins and I played tennis and kickball in the middle of the road without worry. With so few buildings around, everyone simply called it “the castle on the hill.”

When heavy rains fell in the Hill Country, we could hear water rushing through the underground cavern beneath the house. It was both thrilling and slightly eerie. The well water was always ice cold — and very hard — straight from the limestone.

Over the years, many interesting guests visited the home, including Pat Neff, who was a frequent visitor and lifelong family friend. My parents were the first couple married in the house, in 1945.

My grandmother surrounded herself with subjects to paint: pheasants, peacocks, goats, roses, squash, sunflowers, cactus, flowering bushes, and endless wildflowers. Something was always in bloom. Striped cats wandered the property, and a collie dog kept watch. She was named “Artist of the Year” in 1956 and was an active member of The Woman’s Club. As a child, I attended luncheons and meetings there, even watching members debate where to place new window air-conditioning units. The ladies were always kind to me, and I knew even then that I wanted to be a member someday.

My grandmother lived to be 105 years old, passing away on October 29, 2005.

ROUND TABLE CORNER



Friendship Round Table’s February meeting celebrated the Rodeo and all things PINK! They had a HUGE turnout. Friendship meets on the second Tuesday of each month.



At this month’s **Fine Arts Round Table** we made wreaths. Chair Mickey Tovar led us through a craft project using pool noodles, silk flowers, and clothes hangers to make these easy and colorful wreaths. Fine Arts meets on the third Monday of each month.

Dear Members,

The Coronation honoring our Queen and her court will be held March 22nd, at The Carver Center. Any club member who wishes to have a child participate are welcome. Ages of participants are four through eighteen. Please follow the link below to register and upload their bio. This bio will be used for the program the day of the event.

Our club sponsors one of the seven official Fiesta Queens. This year will be our sixty first year. Each year we hold a coronation to celebrate our Teen Queen and Teen Princess. They are selected from the club members' relatives, daughters, granddaughters or nieces. The court is made up of girls and boys sponsored by a proud club member. Both King Antonio and Rey Feo are in attendance to crown our royalty.

This event is one of three official Fiesta events that the Woman's Club hosts. The coronation is open to the public and is a free event. Participants are dressed in their finest. Ladies are dressed in white gowns and girls may wear tea length white dresses. White gloves are to be worn. No tiaras are to be worn. Boys are asked to wear white suits. We do have a limited number of white dresses and suits available at the club. A bio and photo of each child is needed with the participation fee. A reception is held at the club afterwards and participants and family and friends are invited.

If you do not wish to pay via Ticketleap, cash or checks should be taken to the office - before the deadline, 03/01/2026.

Follow the link for the WCSA Coronation submission form. Please use your computer, not your phone.

<https://forms.gle/ympqzvLlZtEHPpKA>

If you're having trouble filling out the form, please call Tina @ 210-732-4811 for assistance.

Any member with questions can contact me at 210-445-0142. This event has been a special occasion for so many young people throughout the years and our members.

Thank you and VIVA!!

Michele Moad-Hageman
Coronation Chair
210-445-0142

The Woman's Club of San Antonio

1717 San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78212 Phone 210-732-4811

ADS DUE BY March 1, 2026

Email Ad Copy and a Copy of this Form to Karin Fee – karinlfee@gmail.com

Copy of this Form and Payment should be sent or left at the Woman's Club

Program Advertising Agreement

The Official Fiesta Flower Show, Fiesta Hat Contest and Luncheon, and Fiesta Teenage Queen Coronation

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Company Signature: _____

Full page = exact borders 7.5" wide, 10" tall
Half page = 7.5"wide, 5" tall **OR** 3.25" wide, 10" tall
Quarter page = 3.25" wide, 5" tall **OR** 7.5" wide, 2.25" tall

Please check rate and ad size below:

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Full page\$400.00

Inside Front:
Full page..... \$350.00

Inside Back:
Full page..... \$300.00

PAGES:

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1/2 page\$100.00

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