

CHESTNUT SQUARE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 27, 2006

2006 BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE!

BY CINDY JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nothing brings history to life like people! During my first month at Chestnut Square I have been so impressed by our docents and Living History Group volunteers. The knowledge they share about the homes at Chestnut Square and life during each decade makes the Square come to life for our visitors. Through their crafts our Living History Group provides a glimpse of the way people lived ...an eye opener for many of our visitors.

I truly believe that by breathing life into Collin County history we are drawing from the past to build toward the future. After April's Living History Day a first time volunteer stopped by just to say "Thank you". She really summed up the way a lot of us feel when she said, "Being part of Chestnut Square reminds me of why I first moved to McKinney ten years ago. I want my daughters to get involved and experience the unique history of McKinney!"

Chestnut Square reaches out and touches people in many ways. Recently a group of 100 first graders from Finch Elementary toured the historic buildings looking for examples of how life was different "back then". They learned the importance of music as entertainment, what it meant to move West in a wagon (everything you owned had to fold down!), how food was stored, what a "hotel" looked like in 1860...and more. The true epiphany occurred when one young man finally stirred up the courage to ask, "But how did they go to the bathroom?" When our Taylor Inn docent pulled the chamber pot from beneath the bed his eyes became the size of saucers. Life **had** been hard back then!!

On the other hand, a couple visiting from England were non-plussed by the lack of closets in the early homes. There are no closets in their home in England either. As they mused, "Only in Texas do they make whole rooms into closets."

And only in McKinney do we have Chestnut Square Historic Village!

MAY IS MUSEUM MONTH IN MCKINNEY!

On Tuesday, April 26, McKinney City Councilman Bill Vitz signed a proclamation naming May: McKinney's Museum Month as part of National Historic Preservation Month. Guy Giersch, McKinney Historic Preservation Officer and Heritage Guild board member also unveiled McKinney's new designation as a Preserve America city.

During May, Chestnut Square will host events in honor of Museum month (see the events page for more information). The

following is the proclamation signed by Bill Vitz:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, educating our children, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

Whereas, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban

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Preserve America Logo...expect to see more of it around McKinney!

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Cindy Johnson, Bill Vitz, Janis ????, Barbara Johnson, Kay Motley, John Ernst and Guy Giersch attend the signing of the Mayoral Proclamation for Museum Month in McKinney

LIVING HISTORY GROUP: LENDING THEIR CRAFT TO HISTORY

LIVING HISTORY PROFILE: GLENDA MOUNGER

On any given Living History Sunday you can find Glenda Mounger displaying her soap making skills on the porch of the Faires House.

Born and raised in McKinney, she is a seventh generation resident of Collin County. Glenda has been doing Civil War Reenacting for 12 years and has been an active volunteer at Chestnut Square for 15 years.

“Civil War reenacting doesn’t present a lot for women to do since we don’t carry guns and march, but it gives me the opportunity to travel and enjoy history up close and personal. Making soap was something women did then. Making confederate candles is something else I’d like to try someday,” Glenda shared.

As a volunteer at CS, Glenda has served on committees, been a docent and has thoroughly researched the Faires family. She hopes someday to publish something about the family and their home at Chestnut Square.

Glenda and her husband will celebrate 40 years of marriage in July. She is the mother of three, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of one.



Glenda Mounger in period costume stirs her lye soap on the porch of the Faires House during a recent Living History Day at Chestnut Square.

LIVING HISTORY DAY CALENDAR

Date	Theme
May 14	Maypole, Early Music, Dancing and old time games
June 11	Six Flags Over Chestnut Square with Betsy Ross
July 9	Cowboy Art & Poetry, Bandana History
August 13	Back to School, Spelling Bee
September 10	County Fair

Weather permitting, stage coach rides to the square will be available for \$3/person.

Admission: \$2 per person/\$5 per family

PRAIRIE ADVENTURE CAMP: DE-MODERNIZING FOR THE FUN OF IT

Do you know a child who is looking for a one of a kind summer camp experience? If they love history and hands on fun, they’ll love Chestnut Square’s Prairie Adventure Camps.

Once again this year, we have camp attendees signing up from all over the Metroplex...and even from other states. After all, where else can you:

Campers start each session by “de-modernizing” for a class photo. This includes putting all of their “modern” items (think Gameboys!) into a pail and changing into period clothing. During the course of the camp they learn weaving, spinning, gardening, old-time games, hearth cooking, butter churning, rug and soap making. To sign up for a Camp, call 972-562-8790 or sign up online at www.chestnutsquare.org.

PRAIRIE ADVENTURE CAMP CALENDAR

2 day weekend camps:

May 13-14, June 10-11, July 8-9, August 12-13

3 day weekday camps:

June 13-15, July 11-13, August 1-3



Above, a recent Prairie Adventure Camp after de-modernization.

Left, campers learn about spinning and weaving in the Faires House.

EVENTS: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHESTNUT SQUARE

TEXAS WOMEN OF LETTERS

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2:00 P.M.

To celebrate *May: McKinney Museum Month* The Heritage Guild of Collin County is pleased to present "Texas Women of Letters" at Chestnut Square. This new lecture/book signing series honors the founders of The Heritage Guild of Collin County with appearances by Texas women writers.

On Sunday May 7, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel at Chestnut Square our debut speaker will be Sharon Hudgins. Sharon is the 2005 Cordon d'Or - Gold Ribbon Winner of the Annual International Cook Books and 'Culinary Arts' Awards for [The Other Side of Russia: A Slice of Life in Siberia and the Russian Far East](#). Sharon's talk will be followed by a book signing with light refreshments in the Dixie Store.

Sharon Hudgins has worked as a university professor, book editor, magazine editor, freelance journalist, food columnist, media consultant, filmmaker, and photographer.

More than 600 of her food and travel articles have been published in magazines, newspapers, scholarly journals, and on the Web, in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Formerly the food columnist for *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper in Europe and editor of *Chile Pepper* magazine, she now writes for major publications in the United States and Europe, including *German Life* magazine where she has been the food columnist since 1997.

DIXIE STORE RIBBON CUTTING

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 3:00 P.M.

Come help us officially open the new Dixie Store at Chestnut Square!

Representatives from Wal-Mart and the McKinney Community Development Corporation will be present to cut the ribbon. Light refreshments, a book signing and the opportunity to browse our one of kind merchandise will add to the fun. Heritage Guild members will receive a 10% discount on any purchases.

TASTE OF CHESTNUT SQUARE

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 7:00 P.M.

What better way to draw a close to McKinney Museum Month than a soiree on the porch at the Dulaney House?

Please join us and enjoy cool breezes, friends old and new, a glass of cold wine and Mediterranean fare at the first Taste of Chestnut Square. Wines featured will include Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Cabernet and Black Raspberty Dessert Wine from McKinney's own D'Vine Winery. Appetizers, tapas and dessert will be provided by Annie Stokes of Café Málaga.

In addition to great wine and food, the Heritage Guild will be raffling custom baskets and offering private, Chestnut Square labeled bottles of each of the wines offered that evening. Stock up on the wine you like and benefit Chestnut Square—25% of the sale of each bottle will be donated to The Heritage Guild.

Cost for the evening is \$35. To make reservations, call 972-562-8790.

COMING THIS FALL: CHAMPAGNE & CHOCOLAT, TOUR OF HISTORIC MCKINNEY HOMES!

You'll know fall is in the air when you receive your invitation to the annual Chestnut Square Champagne & Chocolate. This event, a favorite in year's past, will be held on September 22 at the Heard Craig Hall. Mark your calendar for an evening of bubbling champagne and smooth chocolate. For more information about sponsorships, auction donations or to volunteer for the event committee, contact Cindy Johnson at 972-562-8790 or e-mail marketing@chestnutsquare.org

Plan to get in the holiday spirit this December 2-3 with our annual Chestnut Square Tour of Homes. You'll be thinking *home for the holidays* when you visit five homes in McKinney's historic district decorated for the holidays.



Plan on joining friends of the museum for "A Taste of Chestnut Square" an evening soiree on the porch of the Dulaney house featuring wines from D'Vine Winery and foods from Café Málaga.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONOR NEWS

MEMBERSHIP IN CHESTNUT SQUARE

BY PAT SWARTZ, MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be a member of The Heritage Guild of Collin County?

The rewards are so numerous!

- We actively restore and preserve the valuable Chestnut Square historical houses and their contents.
- We preserve the history of our ancestors so future generations can relate to the past and connect to a sense of community.
- We open young minds to the past and imaginations soar with each school tour and Living History Day we offer.
- We enjoy the fellowship of our volunteers, learn new skills and influence future leaders in the community.

Most of all, we ensure that Chestnut Square—buildings, contents and programs—continue for future generations.

As a member, you receive e-mails about events and volunteer opportunities and a newsletter filled with information about the happenings at Chestnut Square. Members receive a 10% discount in the Dixie Store and free admission to Living History Days. Dulaney members receive special opportunities to get together for events and contribute to the success of Chestnut Square. Dulaney Club membership requires a commitment of \$1,000/year for three years.

There are currently 176 active members on the Chestnut Square membership roster. 64 members are currently up for renewal. So...if your dues are due, duly note and do send a check!

Why renew? Your membership in Chestnut Square is valuable to the community and the future of McKinney. Thank you for being a member!

WHAT IS A MEMBER?

MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEER

SINGLE:	\$25
FAMILY:	\$35
SENIOR (OVER 65)	\$15
SENIOR AND FAMILY	\$30

These members volunteer 4 or more hours per month in support of Chestnut Square programs.

MEMBERS WHO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ASSOCIATE:	\$ 75
SUPPORTING:	\$ 100
SUSTAINING:	\$ 175
PATRON:	\$1,000
LIFE:	\$1,500
DULANEY CLUB:	\$3,000

Dulaney Club members make a \$1,000 commitment over three years.

RECENT DONATIONS TO CHESTNUT SQUARE

Donations to Chestnut Square continue to add to our collections and the success of our programs. Recent donations include:

- Mary Morris Love Alley of Savannah, GA and her sister Lu Kingsley of Virginia recently visited Chestnut Square to donate beautiful portraits of their great grandparents, Lula Ella Field Love and Robert Grant Love. This donation follows one they made in 1994 of portraits of the Waddills which are currently on display. Ms. Alley also provided written historical information on the Love family and Judge Robert Lawrence Waddill and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Shackelford Morris Waddill (their great-great grandmother). The portraits are lovely examples of the Love's as a young couple when they lived in McKinney. The Chestnut Square curation team will determine the appropriate place to hang the portraits. Many thanks to Ms. Alley and Ms. Kingsley for their donation.
- Brent Allen, manager of the new sustainable Wal-Mart in McKinney made a generous donation on behalf of Wal-Mart of \$5,000 to start up the Dixie Store operation. As a result, the Dixie Store has been renovated to it's original state and stocked with items that are consistent with the time it was operational in McKinney. The ribbon cutting for the store will take place on Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m. Many thanks to Brent Allen and Wal-Mart for this generous donation.
- An anonymous donor has signed up to construct a brick courtyard and trellis near the Chestnut Square Chapel. The area will be between the chapel garden, Dixie Store and 405 Chestnut. The courtyard will provide much needed outdoor event space and will become part of the new wedding reception complex once the finish out of 405 Chestnut is complete. Many thanks for the help in kicking off this important expansion.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER AT CHESTNUT SQUARE?

BY PAT SWARTZ, MEMBERSHIP

Do you need something to do?

Something to fill your time?

I know, you're saying, "are you crazy" or "surely you jest"?

Well, you know, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! There are so many things to do at Chestnut Square, I really have a hard time condensing the list, but there is something for everyone to do. All skills and interests are welcomed here. The following is a list of existing volunteer opportunities:

- **Front Porch Events**
We hold these events on Friday evening and Saturday morning (watch for e-mails) We work on whatever our facilities director, Peter, has scheduled. We build, clear, rake, dig, well, you get the idea! Fun, fun, fun...come on out and enjoy these work parties. Oh, and we also feed you when you finish with the hard work...it's a great opportunity to connect with others who care about history.
- **Docents/Field Trips**
We have many tour groups and school groups who come through Chestnut Square. Some groups are as large as 100 people. It is so much fun to tell the school children and visitors about the houses and history of Collin County. Their little eyes just shine and they enjoy the tour so much! With demand increasing (after all, look at how McKinney has grown!) we really need more docents. Denise Harrelson is the coordinator of our tours and could really use more help. Volunteer if you can...it's definitely worth the experience!
- **Living History Sundays**
The second Sunday of each month is

Living History Day at Chestnut Square! This has been a very popular weekend program...with over 500 attendees! We need people in each house to answer questions and watch over the artifacts. We also need volunteers to sell refreshments and just walk around and spread the Chestnut Square message. Come on out and volunteer. The next Living History Day is May 14—Mother's Day. We'll have a big crowd and will need lots of help!

- **Fund Raisers/Event Committees**
Part of supporting Chestnut Square is raising money. We have two key fund raisers scheduled for the fall and winter—Champagne & Chocolat on September 22 and the Tour of Homes on December 2. These events are labor intensive and we really need committee members and other volunteers.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Chestnut Square, call the office at 972-562-8790.

MUSEUM MONTH

(continued from page 1)

urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

Whereas, Sustain America—Vision, Economics, and Preservation" As the theme for National Preservation Month 2006, cosponsored by the City of McKinney, Texas and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR BILL WHITFIELD, do proclaim May 2006, as National Historic Preservation Month and May: McKinney's Museum Month and call upon the people of McKinney to join their fellow citizens in recognizing and participating in these special observances.



Front Porch Friday volunteers work on the Dixie Store in preparation for the grand opening and ribbon cutting on May 7. Volunteer projects don't always require tools! Call to find out more!



CHESTNUT SQUARE HISTORIC VILLAGE

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CHESTNUT SQUARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Directors: Tom Gerron
Guy Giersch
Denise Harrelson
Peter Maerz
Bob Matlock
Kay Motley
John Rattan
Pat Swartz
James West
Advisory: Erma Beeson

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

There's always something happening at Chestnut Square: School and group tours, Living History Days, curation and preservation of the structures and artifacts, fun and interesting events...

As always, we need your help to keep Chestnut Square alive now and into the future! How can you help?

- Become a member...that way you'll always know what's going on at the Square **and** your membership dues will help defray some of the operational costs. For more information about membership call 972-562-8790 or go to www.chestnutsquare.org
- Become a sponsor or donor. By sponsoring or donating to the Square, you ensure that we are able to share the history of Collin County with more and more citizens, both young and old. You also receive recognition that is shared with all of our members and visitors.
- Volunteer! Remember, volunteers have *fun* at Chestnut Square!