



## Yesterfest 2023

On May 20, 2023, the Visitor Center hosted a reboot of Bastrop's iconic Yesterfest event to a wonderfully supportive crowd. The uniquely Bastrop event of 27 years, followed by a 5-year hiatus, featured reenactors, demonstrators, vendors, musicians, and storytellers highlighting history from 1832 to 1952, and which provided activities, sights, and sounds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Pine and Water Streets in historic downtown. Crowds were treated to Native American spiritual drums and teepee; an 1830s saloon and bowling alley; broom making and butter churning; blacksmiths; and a large assortment of handmade items from vendors.

Music was acoustic on an outdoor "stage" and featured the Traveling Mystics (a folk group with banjo), Celtaire (folk songs with fiddle), and Max Butler (on the saw); the Visitor Center hosted Cottletown for a two-hour indoor session of folk music.

On a Soap Box set up under the trees at Pine and Water Streets, speakers engaged



the crowd with topics that addressed pioneering skills current for today's living, and storytellers, Ken Kesselus and George Rollow, shared anecdotes from early days in Bastrop's history.

A special "thank you" goes to Ascension Catholic Church and Rev. Ramiro Tarazona for allowing the use of their yard for the beautiful setting of the teepee and the saloon, along with other smaller tents, which created an authentic experience. And another huge "thanks" to The Grace Miller (Gracie's) and owner Rhonda Gannon for feeding the reenactors; they appreciated the staff's professionalism and the food quality – they will all be back next year because of Gracie's!

These events do not happen without volunteers: Will McFerren, Mark Mowery, Amy Schumacher, Dick Smith, Lyle Nelson, Dennis Martin, Cynthia Meyers, Miriam Fahrenthold, John Kirkland, Carolyn Holt, Rosie Cabrera, and the entire crew at the Visitor Center added charm and enthusiasm while ensuring that everything ran according to plan!

The event was supported by a marketing grant from Visit Bastrop and by sponsor funding from Frontier Bank (thanks,

Wanda Rucker), First National Bank (thanks, Connie Juarez), Lost Pines Toyota  
*see Yesterfest 2023 on page 2*



## 2023 Leading Members

### BENEFACTORS:

Glen Long  
Virginia and John L Sinclair Foundation

### MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Barbara Allbright/All City Realty  
Bluebonnet Electric Coop  
Blue Ribbon Services Inc.  
Central Texas Elevator  
City of Bastrop  
Darling Ingredients  
Karen and Forrest Chalmers  
Darling Ingredients  
Eagle Pest Control  
First National Bank  
Kerry and Steve Fossler  
Frontier Bank of Texas  
G & C Printing & Forms  
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa  
Sarah and David Johnson  
Medack & Oltmann, CPAs  
Osborn Plumbing, Inc.  
Small Innovations

### HERO:

Adjust Chiropractors  
Aqua Water Supply Corporation  
Sandy and Ron Barclay  
Jill and Charles Barrow  
Joan and Kent Bohls  
Ann and Larry Brown  
Capital of Texas Roofing  
Sandra Chipley and Chuck Kellogg  
County of Bastrop  
Barbara and Andrew Coy  
Pat and Robert Cunningham  
Glenda Dayton  
The Dentists  
Betty Dunkerley  
Traci Frary and Jeff Crouch  
Sherri Gilmore  
Doris and James Kershaw  
Jennifer Leisure  
Jamie and Curtis McDonald  
Ron Ramirez  
Carol and Joe Shull  
Joe Grady Tuck  
L.C. Wright Land and Cattle, LLC

### CHAMPION:

Cindy Aarvig and Larry Hill  
Shirley Barber  
Sondra and Richard Black  
Linda Borsheim  
Deborah Cartwright  
Karen Clardy  
Faye Cobb  
Bryna and Dan Cox  
Pat Crawford  
Nicole DeGuzman  
Judy and Lonnie Enis  
Anita and Leslie Feigenbaum  
Marilyn Glass  
Debi and Tommy Goode  
Betty Gurwitz  
Michal Hubbard  
Idea Exchange of Bastrop  
Stephanie Jenkins  
Carol and Lynn Kysar  
Carrie Martin and Dan Chamberlin  
Rick Neff  
Mayor Terry and Dr. Patricia Orr  
Lynn Oualline  
Eliza Perkins  
Robbie and Terry Sanders  
Suzanne Waugh Sanders  
Libby Sartain  
Nan and DeDea Sayers  
Nancy and Tom Scott  
Ginni and Fred Smith  
Charlotte and Fred Synnott  
Brenda and George Uptain  
Barbara and Alex Vana  
Debbie and Jeff Wahrmund  
Becki and Rick Womble  
Allen and Martha Ziegenhals



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(thanks, Carlos Liriano), and Bluebonnet Electric (thanks, Josh Coy). The Planning Committee includes George Rollow (reenactors and demonstrators), Bluebird Solorzano (authentic vendors), Debbie Moore (site location), and Debby Denny (marketing expertise), all of whom have “re-upped” to plan next year’s event!

## Thanks for Your Membership

Greetings and thanks from the Membership Committee of BCHS. We hope you are all enjoying a fun-filled summer and staying cool.

Your participation makes a difference, and it is time to start planning our Membership Drive for 2023-24. Several activities are underway: a mailout to introduce new residents to our Society is planned for August, and promotions will be distributed through local realtors.

Our membership information will be mailed to all current members in September; we will host a Members Only Event at the Museum on September 28th with a presentation on El Camino Real de los Tejas and refreshments.

Please look for membership renewal information in your email and mail; you can also renew in person at the front desk.

## BCHS would like to thank...

**Darlene Benoit** for donating six clipboards for Scavenger Hunts in the Museum.

**Judy Enis** and **Ken Kesselus** for leading tours of Bastrop’s historic district in May during Historic Preservation Month.

**Judy Enis, Carrie Martin, Ron Ramirez,** and **Barbara Vana** for leading tours of the museum for Emile Elementary fourth graders.

**Ken Kesselus** for showing the museum to the 2023 B.E.S.T. Leadership Class.

**Sandra Chipley** for serving as a step-on tour guide for Pearlee and Edmund Mayes Family Reunion in June.

**Judy Enis, Rachel Hatch, Carrie Martin, Will McFerrin, Mark Mowery,** and **Ron Ramirez** for leading weekly tours of the Museum. ★

# Welcome Heather!



As the new Museum Collections Manager of Bastrop County Historical Society, Heather Bloom is proud to be an integral part of the BCHS team, their cultural mission, and future success. She brings to her position an interdisciplinary background and set of diverse experiences, including three years of collections management in both museum and academic settings, facilitation of moving and reorganizing large collections, and development of object-based educational projects connecting rural culture, environmental science, and knowledge preservation. Before these experiences, Heather served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Paraguay,

where, when not dueling with roosters in her bed, she had the honor of developing various youth-based educational programs and related community exhibitions. Heather received advanced degrees in History and Spanish from Bowling Green State University. When not playing with artifacts, she enjoys primitive camping, kayaking, and traveling. She lives in Bastrop, Texas, with her two very precocious Paraguayan cats. ★



Carol Kysar, who retired on June 15 after 13 years of employment with the Bastrop County Historical Society, received a proclamation honoring her work from former Bastrop Mayor, Tom Scott. Carol's husband Lynn, pictured, is looking forward to spending more time with her.

## Museum Acquisitions

- Bastrop Public Library** – 2014 Bastrop Advertiser
- Burleson Family Association** – Digitized BFA Bulletins from 1981 to the present
- City of Bastrop** – Clippings and back issues of the Bastrop Advertiser
- Hana High** – Documents and photos of Johnson and Staples families
- Charles & Gayla Hoffman** – Genealogical information about the Hoffman family
- Frank Huffman** – Documents related to moving from the old museum to the new museum and renovation of 904 Main Street
- Ken Kesselus** – Various newspapers that contain articles on Texas and Bastrop history.
- James Kirkham** – Military metal drinking cup from 1952, old business cards from local businesses
- Cherie Mahler** – Two fur stoles from the very early 1900s
- Carrie Martin** – Four WWII ration stamp books in a leather ration book holder
- Molly McClure** – Wooden milking stool and wood and copper scoop
- Dianne Mills** – Eyeglasses worn by Lucinda Franklin, mother of T. C. Franklin
- Carla Osborne** – Photo album, loose photos, and letter. Found in old desk, unidentified
- Brad Weber** – Copies of the complete National Archives records on Camp Swift ★

### Research Library Volunteers

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Jackie Givens  | Dianne Mills     |
| Andres Herrera | Ron Ramirez      |
| Megan Hodson   | Robin Schneider  |
| Gloria Hoffman | Jan Slack        |
| Adela Jones    | Bernie South     |
| Ken Kesselus   | Laurie South     |
| Kathy Kolhoff  | Brenda Uptain    |
| John Lockwood  | Brad Weber       |
| Mary Lucas     | Allen Ziegenhals |
| Pat McKay      |                  |

### Visitor Center Volunteers

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Michelle Adams  | Adela Jones    |
| Jackson Atchley | Bob Malerk     |
| Milla Bailey    | Carrie Martin* |
| Rosie Cabrera   | Will McFerren* |
| Carol Calvery   | Randy Mikel    |
| Judy Enis*      | Lori Mitchell  |
| Bert Godkin     | Mark Mowery*   |
| Rachel Hatch*   | Ron Ramirez*   |
| Megan Hodson    | Jan Stringer   |

\*Volunteer Museum Docent

### BCHS Officers

Sherri Gilmore, President   Glenda Dayton, Vice President  
Jane Wright, Secretary   Bob Malerk, Treasurer

### TRUSTEES

Lee Ann Calaway   Sandra Chipley   Barbara Clemons   Judy Enis   Michal Hubbard  
Sarah Johnson   Jennifer Leisure   Ron Ramirez   Joe Grady Tuck

### SOCIETY STAFF

Nicole DeGuzman, Executive Director   Barbara Vana, Office Manager  
Heather Bloom, Collections Manager   Traci Frary, Archivist

### VISITOR CENTER STAFF

Gloria Perkins, Visitor Center Manager   Candiss Lawrence, Visitor Center Associate  
Martha Huett, Visitor Center Associate   Nancy Wood, Director of Events

# Summer Quarterly Meeting

Join us for a very special BCHS Quarterly Meeting —  
“Latinos & Latinas of World War II”



Esther Bonilla Read

**Featuring Guest Speaker:** Esther Bonilla Read, author of *After the Blessing: Mexican American Veterans of WWII Tell Their Own Stories*

**With Special Guest:** Texas Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, World War II Veteran Eduardo Hidrogo of Elgin, Texas, and Noe Rivas and Albert Hernandez who will sing and play guitar.

**Meeting Location:** The historic Primera Baptist Church, 306 Paul C. Bell Street, Bastrop

**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 PM

*This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. ★*



## SPECIAL EXHIBIT

### Images of Valor: Latinos and Latinas of WWII

July 5 - August 26, 2023

This exhibition provides a historical overview of U.S. Latino participation in World War II through images and stories. The exhibition focuses on individual stories that reveal larger themes, such as citizenship and civil rights, and features excerpts from the more than 500 oral history interviews that were part of the project. This is a traveling exhibit from Humanities Texas.

**THURSDAY, JULY 27 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**PRIMERA BAPTIST CHURCH**

**306 PAUL C. BELL STREET**

**BASTROP**

*Bastrop*  
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER  
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

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[www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com)