



# VIGOR

A Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Houston Alumni

## President's Message...

**SPRING IS HERE! Get started with those FUN ways to enjoy the season.**

Come enjoy the fun activities our club has planned. We would like to thank **Mary Brown** for arranging the recent trip to Lake Jackson to ride on the Yellowstone Paddleboat down the San Bernard River with 35 members and guests.

The 2017 Membership Drive has come to an end. Unfortunately we have quite a few members that did not renew. Those that did not renew will not receive this issue of the VIGOR. If you know of members that have not renewed, please tell them to get their dues to **Lola McMann**, our treasurer, as soon as possible. If you have a question about whether someone is paid up or not, call Lola at 281-665-1125 or email her at lolamc@consolidated.net.

Our annual Spring Event is fast approaching May 6. Get registered, come out and enjoy. **Gary Luckett** has planned a fun event for us. You can read more about it further in the Vigor.

The TIHAA board held the second meeting this year. We are still working on the details and confirming dates for the annual TI BBQ and Christmas party.

We would like to thank **Corall Harrington**, our new calling committee chairwoman, for her outstanding report at our last meeting.

**Best regards for a great 2017 and your participation in TIHAA events.**

Jean Houston jhouston\_1@myway.com TIHAA phone: (832) 551-8025 TIHAA Email: tihaaemail@gmail.com





## Upcoming Activities

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**April 12th Luncheon Meeting** at the America Buffet, 12815 SW Freeway at 11:00 A.M.

o **Peter Ehlig of Texas Instruments** will speak on the current State of T.I.

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**April 25th Day Trip** to Historic W. Columbia. See the attached brochure.

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**May 6th Annual Spring Bingo Event.** See the attached brochure.

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**May 10th Luncheon Meeting** at the America Buffet, 12815 SW Freeway at 11:00 A.M.

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**May 22nd Day Trip** to the Wendish Heritage Museum. See the attached brochure.

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**Always check our web page for the latest updates on planned activities: [WWW.TIHAA.ORG](http://WWW.TIHAA.ORG)**

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### Recognition Award is presented to Gary Lockett

Our incoming President, **Jean Houston**, presents a plaque to past President **Gary Lockett** at the February 8th Lunch Meeting. The plaque contains the following:

*Recognition Award  
Presented to  
Gary Lockett  
In appreciation of 6 years of dedicated services,  
devotion and commitment to our organization.  
TI Houston Alumni Association  
President 2014 - 2016  
Treasurer 2011 - 2013*

### TI Sugar Land Building Develops a Problem

The Texas Instruments Sugar Land office building has developed an issue with the tiles on the outside wall of the building that has necessitated the addition of scaffolding and plywood sheets to protect persons that enter and exit the building. The main building entrance has been relocated about 50 feet to the right in the photo, and is accessed through an opening under the scaffolding. If you look carefully in the photo on the left side, you can see a missing tile near the top of the vertical wall. The problem is scheduled to be repaired in time for our Spring Event Bingo in May.



## Personal News

PERSONAL NEWS IS SUPPLIED BY OUR MEMBERS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE VIGOR. WE SOLICIT YOUR PERSONAL NEWS ABOUT VACATIONS, FAMILY EVENTS, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY YOU PARTICIPATED IN THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS. A SUBMISSION FORM IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB PAGE. BE SURE TO INCLUDE A PHOTO!

**Israel and Nora Morales** spent 5 days in Costa Rica and Nicaragua beginning on January 14. Traveling with very close friends they consider as family, they did more than what they had envisioned in this mini-vacation. They stayed at Dreams Resort and Spa in Costa Rica not far from Santa Cruz.

The first day was spent exploring the huge resort while sampling all the foods at their all-inclusive stay. Every kind of cuisine was available (their steaks were terrific). On day two, they set out to explore a rainforest nearby. There they hiked a semi-strenuous 4.5 mile hike through a thick and dense forest going over many small bridges built over the creeks, and streams created by the waterfalls. Along the way they saw snakes, sloths, birds, termite nests, iguanas, large colonies of ants, and the favorite and of course all kinds of plant life.

Then they traveled to Nicaragua the following day to tour an active volcano near colonial Granada. While visiting Granada, they took a stroll through the quaint streets filled with colonial buildings while enjoying informative commentary from their guide. After a meal a-la-Nicaraguan, they drove about 20 miles to Managua to take a peaceful boat ride on Lake Nicaragua (also known as Lake Granada). They boarded a wooden boat for the cruise on the tranquil waters of the lake, weaving in and out of the small islands that dot the water. The 40-minute boat ride was a special surprise treat hidden in their itinerary. They saw several small islands in which people have lived for ages. The guide showed the island on which he and his father, mother, brothers and sisters lived. He was born on the island as were his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and ancestors before them. The islands, of course, are of different sizes all having been created by the volcano eruptions centuries ago. All these islands are privately owned. Some are large enough to have small restaurants.

Israel and Nora learned about the native plant and animal life that inhabit the archipelago of 365 islands. After this island tour they set out to see a volcano from the crater's top edge. Led by their guide, they traveled to Masaya Volcano National Park, where they stood right on the edge of the active volcanic crater and took selfies with the hot live volcanic lava at their backs. There was so much to do with not enough time. They enjoyed it to say the least. Scratch this one off their Bucket List.



**Daryl Moss** writes about the Little League Opening Day, March 4, in Sugar Land. A “big” parade of kids and coaches and some parents proceed along a 5 block route to the baseball fields, with their uniforms on and team names on banners. The parade is lead by a fire truck, lights flashing and siren screaming, supported by police to block off streets. If you’re a parent or grandparent, it’s almost obligatory to go, take pictures, and yell a bit to support your team. A huge volunteer



organization makes this happen. Joe Zimmerman, Sugar Land’s new city mayor, was introduced and he, in turn, introduced a couple of city council members, an assistant city manager, and others. Swatson, the Skeeter’s green mascot, was flitting around, and threw out the first ball. A dozen or so booths were hawking their wares. Bounce houses and a mini-train were on the

premises. Hustle-bustle everywhere. The ball games start around 11 am, on four fields, and activities go on till dark. A good time was had by all, even if your team didn’t win their game. Daryl & Brenda’s grandson, Thomas, is shown at bat.

*Houston Astros, get ready!!*

#### Quotable Quotes:

"Success is most often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable." -- Coco Chanel

"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out." - John Wooden

"It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop." - Confucius

"Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." -- Warren Buffett

"Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." -- Albert Einstein

## TIHAA Day Trip to Liberty Opry - February 11, 2017

by Daryl Moss



On a very nice Saturday afternoon, twenty-one TIHAA members and guests rode the bus over to Liberty, Texas to see a 4 p.m. opry matinee of *“Classic Oldies”*, music from the 50’s - 70’s. Anticipation was high since nearly three years had passed since the last opry trip. **Mary Brown**, our trip organizer, passed out a Valentine’s goodie bag and water bottles, and then most played four Bingo games on the way up to pass the time. Our winners were Hilda, Ralph, Sharon, Sylvia, and Della. There were multiple winners the last two games.

Upon early arrival, Mary picked up and passed out individual/couple admission tickets. Some of us went over to buy a pre-show snack/meal at the Generations Coffee & Sandwich Bar within the opry building. Available were sandwiches, combos, soups/salads and various snacks and drinks.

We each had received a playbill showing that Glenda Lynn, an opry regular, was the featured singer, along with the Liberty Opry Band & cast. Combined, we listened to 26 vocals (and a drum solo), such as “Mustang Sally”, “Blue Velvet”, “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow”, “Only the Lonely”, and “Where the Boys Are”. All of us remembered these platinum hits from much younger years.

Jay Cantu, the Opry co-owner, welcomed us warmly, and opened with a short prayer followed by recognition of all the veterans (by branch) in the audience. He then introduced each of the very talented band members.

During some of his audience ‘warm-up’ time, Jay permitted his 3-year-old, prancing, ‘cute as a button’ granddaughter, “Miss Allie”, to share the stage. She was generally unpredictable, but when her time came she was

spot on with her rendition of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”. Audience applauded, of course. (See the Liberty Opry homepage and photos, and also their complementary Facebook pages for her picture, plus others.)

The comedy segments, performed by regular Larry “Booger Lee” Etheridge, were funny. His build up and one-liners kept the audience entertained and laughing. His costume is right out of Booger Holler, his stage-character hometown. [He’s actually a native Liberty homeboy.] He did his routines with very little assistance. During the after-intermission portion, he introduced the various bus groups in the audience, including “Mary Brown and the Texas Instruments Houston Alumni Association”, at which point we all did some hollering of our own.



Glenda Lynn, the featured singer, was truly good. Dressed the part, she did fabulous vocals of eight, classic oldies. After intermission, between two of her songs, she stopped momentarily and removed her drop clip on earrings, telling the audience in an aside they were too painful. (Nobody could see them anyway due to her long hair.)

At the closing song, when all cast members were lined up across stage front singing “Keep On Prayin’”, we got up slowly after the nearly 3-hour show and headed to the bus. Jay Cantu thanked us at the door as we left the theater, and later he and wife Nina again stepped onto the bus to thank us again for attending.

Join us soon for another memorable day trip!

Attendees: Della DuHart, Jean Houston, George Wolf, Tom and Cindy Croissant, Daryl and Brenda Moss along with their friends Marilyn and Bill, Israel and Nora Morales, Ralph and Estella Garcia, Gurette Roep and her friend Pat, Mary Brown and her friends: Sylvia, Juana, Hilda, Denise and Sharon. We missed having Lola and David Schellhaas and their friends on the trip with us. We hope David is feeling better soon!



## TIHAA Day Trip on the Paddleboat Yellowstone - Saturday March 11, 2017

*"A damp day aboard the Yellowstone Paddleboat on the San Bernard River"*

by Mary Brown



On Saturday, March 11, 2017, thirty-five Texas Instrument Houston Alumni and friend/family set off for an adventure to discover the San Bernard River aboard the Yellowstone Paddleboat. The day was overcast and the news had been predicting rain for the day. That did not deter this fearless group of day trippers. The weather held off while we boarded the bus at Bayland Park. The ride to the paddleboat was just over an hour. That was ample time to pass out a snack bag and play three games of BINGO. I have to thank Tom Croissant for shouting BINGO for the shy winners.

It was misty when we arrived at Dido's Restaurant where the Yellowstone Paddleboat was docked. However, we were warmly greeted by the staff and the owner Nancy Kanter. A few of the guest ordered drinks

to take aboard the ship to make it feel like a real cruise. The Yellowstone had enclosed seating on the lower deck; however, some of us chose to go upstairs where there was an awning over some table and chairs. We had a few drops of rain seep through, but since we are not made of sugar we survived.

Nancy was a little damp because she was going between the levels to convey the history of the Yellowstone Paddleboat and the facts about the San Bernard River. She told us that the boat was built on the banks of the San Bernard River by a retired fellow co-worker from Dow. She watched his progress on her way to work. Around 2005, Mike Leebron purchased the boat and renamed it the Brazos Belle. Leebron was a licensed riverboat captain and a trial lawyer in Houston. He made major renovations, estimated cost of a million







dollars, then moved it to the Brazos River, south of State Highway 35, near East Columbia. Unfortunately Captain Mike passed away unexpectedly in July 2013 of a heart attack. The new owners put a bid in on the ship. Even though theirs was not the highest, Mr. Leebron's estate felt they would carry on Mike's dream of preserving a piece of Texas history. They renamed the paddleboat after the Yellowstone side paddle wheeler that played an important role in the Texas Revolution of 1836. That Yellowstone took the Texas Army, under General Sam Houston across the swollen Brazos River, ahead of Santa Anna's pursuing Mexican Army. This positioned the Texas Army for the battle at San Jacinto and Texas independence.

Nancy told us that the San Bernard is a spring fed river. So when the other rivers are flooding, the San Bernard is not affected. The high and low tides in the nearby Gulf of Mexico do affect the river depth and cause it to rise and fall some daily. We enjoyed seeing all the beautiful homes along the river and believe it or not, there where people out in their yards waving at us and blowing us



kisses because they love the San Bernard as much as we did.

We all enjoyed the great food prepared in the kitchen at Dido's Restaurant. We were loving food and company so much they had to say, "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here!"

We played a few more BINGO games on the way home and our bus driver, Karena, based upon her experience taking other groups, shared some places that we might like to go in the future. When we arrived back at Bayland Park it was a miracle "No rain."

Attendees:

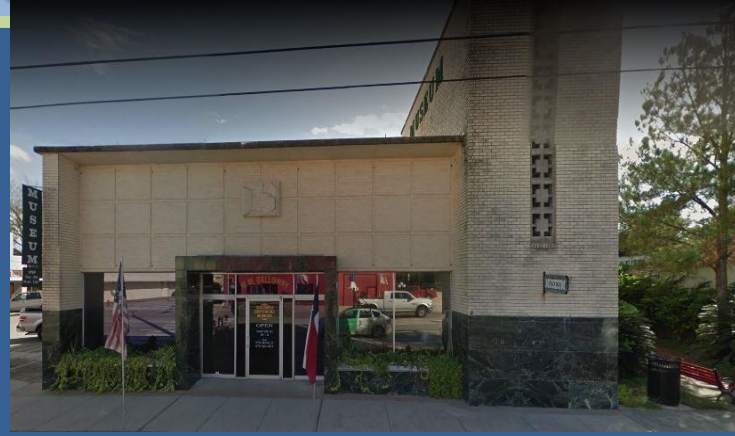
Della DuHart, Mary Green, Delma Hogan-Cotton, Deloris Baugh, Bernadine Dennis, Diane Murry, Jean Houston, Daruth Jones, Sylvia and Charles Slanina, Lawson and Kay Cook, Tu Le and Gi Ba Dang, Theresa Nguyen, Tom and Fermina Sutter, Tom and Cindy Croissant, Gurette Roep and her friend Patsy, Sarah and Wayne Kovar and sister Joyce, George Wolf and his favorite sister-in-law Ann, Brenda Moss and her friends Marilyn and Bill, Mary Brown and her friends Janet, Anne, Yvonne, Patty and Norma.

We had 3 last minute cancelations (Jeanette, Jeanne and Lila) we hope they are feeling better soon!

Please join us for the next Day Trip Tuesday, April 25, 2017 to Historical West Columbia, the first Capital of the State of Texas.



# TIHAA Day Trip to *Historical West Columbia, Texas* Tuesday, April 25, 2017



Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

Pecan orchards, magnolia trees, and generations of Texas history and commerce encapsulate Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site. The home tells the story of its three owners: Austin colonist Martin Varner, sugarcane mogul Columbus Patton, and Texas Gov. James S. Hogg. This property hosted sugarcane production, rum distilling, and oil drilling as it transitioned through families.



**We will dine at**



**"Where we learn to cook like Grandma"**

**Cost: \$12.00 per person  
Plus Dinner out-of-pocket**

**We Leave Bayland Park at 9:30am**

**(please be there at 9:15am)**

**Guest welcome!**

**For more information call or email:  
Mary Brown  
832-498-5980 c  
Maryv.brown@sbcglobal.net**

**To secure your reservation send your check before 4/12/2017 to:  
Mary Brown  
234 Cattle Ranch Dr.  
Richmond, TX 77469**

# TIHAA Day Trip to Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Monday, May 22, 2017



**Cost: \$23.00 per person**

## Highlights of the Trip

- **Guided Tour of the 1871 St. Paul Lutheran Church-one of the painted churches**
- **Guided Tour of Museum complex. Outdoor exhibits and historic cemetery**
- **Gift shop with beautiful hand-painted Wendish Easter eggs**
- **Wendish Luncheon included**

We Leave Bayland Park at 8:15am

(please be there at 8am)

## Guest welcome!

For more information call or email:

Mary Brown

832-498-5980 c

Maryv.brown@sbcglobal.net

To secure your reservation by calling and sending your check before 5/10/2017 to:

Mary Brown

234 Cattle Ranch Dr.

Richmond, TX 77469



# SPRING FLING PARTY

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017

12:00 – 3:30 PM

AT TI'S NEW BUILDING IN SUGAR LAND

MEMBERS - YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS LOW COST PARTY TO EAT, GAB, AND PLAY WHITE ELEPHANT (FUN) BINGO. JUST ENJOY YOURSELF WITH FRIENDS - AND IT WILL BE DURING DAYTIME TOO.

## TO PARTICIPATE

ALL YOU MUST DO IS REGISTER AND THEN PAY THE \$3<sup>00</sup> PER PERSON (FOOD&DRINK) BY MAY 1. THEN, THE DAY OF, BRING ONLY **ONE** WHITE ELEPHANT PRIZE (PER PERSON) – VERY CASUALLY BAGGED/WRAPPED/BOXED , e.g., A GAG GIFT, REGIFT, FUNNY, i.e., SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT. TRADE OFF WITH ANYBODY.

**MORE!** AFTER WHITE ELEPHANT IS DONE, IF YOU WANT, STAY AND BUY 1 OR MORE \$5<sup>00</sup> BINGO CARDS IN ORDER TO TRY TO WIN A NICE CASH OR CARD PRIZE. ONE FREE TIHAA DAYTRIP INCLUDED, TOO.

**SO! REGISTER – PAY – COME – EAT – PLAY – WIN**

**BUT,** WE HAVE A ROOM CAPACITY LIMIT OF 70 SO REGISTER ASAP VIA THE TIHAA 24/7 VOICEMAIL NUMBER 832/551-8025 OR CALL GARY LUCKETT (281-658-5047) or LOLA McMANN (281-665-1125), THEN **PRE-PAY** Lola AT THE NEXT MEETING OR MAIL A CHECK:

2207 Snowy Egret Dr.

Katy, TX 77494

**MEMBERS – YOUR GUESTS (LIMIT 2)  
ARE WELCOME, TOO**



What: TIHAA Spring Fling - Bingo

When: SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017 noon

Where: TI Sugar Land 13905 University



**US 59 North towards Houston:**

Exit on University Blvd, stay on feeder to University (light), turn right, ¼ mi to Lexington (light), turn left & circle left back into side parking lot.

**US 59 South towards Richmond/Rosenberg:**

Exit on University Blvd, take feeder up to University (light), turn left beneath freeway, ¼ mi to Lexington (light), turn left and circle left back into side parking lot.

