

We collect, preserve and share the practices and customs of the people of Texas and the Southwest.



A Note From the Director



Kristina Downs, Ph.D.

Hey there, Paisanos!

Wow, this summer has been toasty! I hope you're all staying safe and cool.

Time has flown in my first year with the Texas Folklore Society, and a lot has happened! Amanda Jenkins started with us on April 1st, and is doing amazing things! Amanda wears many hats, but a lot of her work has been with our communications whether that's crafting Facebook posts or sending press releases around the state. She's also the one to reach out to with any membership questions.

This is a really exciting time for TFS as we resume some of our old traditions—annual meeting and publishing member research—and begin new programs. For example, we're really excited about our new partnership with the Legends & Lore roadside marker program, which will help to celebrate Texas's traditions.

I would like to pass along my personal thanks to all of our outgoing board members and officers and welcome those who have just started their terms. (You can read a bit more about them on the next page.) And I'd like to give a general thanks to all of our members for making my first year such a great one!

Kristina

GATHERINGS Bring us together

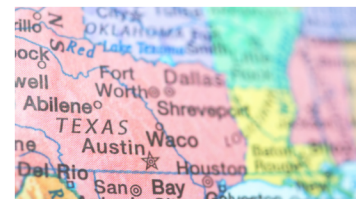
Maybe it's because of being shut in during the pandemic or maybe we just like getting together, but "gatherings" has been a hot topic at TFS over the last few months. The subject has culminated in dozens of submissions for our 2023 book, as well as an upcoming panel that will offer a sneak peek of the work of a few Texas Folklore Society members.

Robert "Jack" Duncan and Elizabeth Duncan, both past presidents and members for more than 50 years from McKinney, and Lareatha Clay, a newcomer from Dallas, will share their gatherings papers during East Texas Historical Association's Fall Conference. The event will be held Oct. 13–15 at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. TFS board member Richard Orton, of Nacogdoches, will serve as moderator and provide panel commentary.

See **GATHERINGS**, page 11

SAVE THE DATE!

104th Annual Meeting set for April 6–8, 2023 at the Hilton Waco Downtown



Planning is underway for our **104th Annual Meeting**, which will be held in Waco on **April 6–8, 2023**. The host hotel, Hilton Waco Downtown, has been secured and planning is underway.

Rich with history and full of traditions, there's a lot to love about Waco; staff, board members, and other volunteers will be working to ensure our first in-person meeting since 2019 is one for the books!

TFS members can reserve their rooms at Hilton Waco **online now**; the block will remain open through early 2023.

LEADERSHIP



WELCOME ABOARD!



Donna Ingham



Meredith Abarca

Thank you FOR YOUR SERVICE

TFS welcomes incoming officers and directors and sends many thanks to all members who voted in the virtual election.

Recently elected officers include President **Donna Ingham**, Bertram; Vice President **Meredith Abarca**, El Paso; Secretary-Editor/Executive Director **Kristina Downs**, Stephenville; and Treasurer **Amanda Jenkins**, Stephenville.

Newly seated directors are **MaryAnn Blue**, San Antonio; **Lucy Fischer West**, El Paso; **Dina Lopez**, Lubbock; and **Linda Spetter**, Eastland, who was elected to the one-year unexpired term of Dr. Phyllis Bridges, who passed away on April 26.

"These nominations reflect our ideas of diversity, both geographically and in terms of affinity groups," outgoing President Kay Reed Arnold said when presenting the ballot to the Board of Directors in late June.

Newly-elected board members will serve alongside the existing directors, **Jim Bridges**, San Antonio; **Mary Harris**, Hobbs, NM; **Blaine Williams**, Dripping Springs; **Steve Davis**, Castroville; **John Pelham**, Granbury; and **Richard Orton**, Nacogdoches.



Kay Reed Arnold



Lori Najvar

Kay Reed Arnold has transitioned into the role of past president, which allows her to continue work on our strategic plan, Regional Wranglers program, and other initiatives aimed at sustaining and expanding membership.

The past president role has proved vital, with **Lori Najvar**—**2020–21 president**—serving in the role over the past year.

"Lori is responsible for our new look that has emerged over the past few years on our website, social media, brochure, and our other collateral," Kay said. "Despite not having an Annual Meeting in 2021 to preside over, she still made innumerable contributions and did so with great cheer."

Thanks, Lori!

Texas Folklore Society staff, board of directors, and members would also like to thank outgoing directors **Scott Bumgardner**, **Acayla Haile**, and **Carol Hanson** for their service. We look forward to properly recognizing your dedication and contributions at our 2023 Annual Meeting!

MEMBERSHIP

Sponsor program benefits libraries, students, and others

To ensure annual dues are not a barrier to TFS membership and our books can be enjoyed throughout the state, donations are currently being accepted for new membership sponsorships for those in need of financial assistance, students, and libraries.

Donations can be made for as little as \$15 to sponsor a student or \$25 for individual, organization, and library memberships. Benefactors may also choose to sponsor a lifetime membership for new and existing members.

For more information or to pledge a donation, please contact Amanda at TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com.

Check it out!



We've added a new feature to TexasFolkloreSociety.com. Under the **EDUCATION** tab and **RESEARCH** subheading, website visitors can view a complete inventory of all the books in our library's various collections. Here's a [quick link](#) that will allow you to log on and explore the titles.



FAREWELL *Paisanos*

"You meet people who forget you. You forget people you meet. But sometimes you meet those people you can't forget. Those are your friends." -Mark Twain

Saying goodbye is never easy, and in 2022, we've said farewell to true friends of the Texas Folklore Society, please join us in honoring the memories of **Charles Rodenberger**; who passed away on April 2; **Phyllis Bridges**, April 26; and **Ross Vick, Jr.**, June 1.

TFS also recognizes that we had *Paisanos* who passed away in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic who we've not mentioned, including **Jerry Hunt**, date unknown; **Ouida Dean**, May 27, 2020; **Herb Arbuckle**, Aug. 15, 2020; **Wallace McKee**, April 21, 2021; and **David Moffitt**, Oct. 16, 2021, who included a bequest to TFS in his will. We are honored that David remembered TFS in his estate planning.

TFS shares information about the passing of our beloved *Paisanos* when information is known or provided. If you have information to share, please send it to TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com or call home office at (254) 459-5445.

MEMBERSHIP



Regional Wranglers

The customs, traditions, and folkways of your community are unique; preserving and sharing them is at the heart of what we as Paisanos do best. With a membership of about 300 individuals, organizing outreach, being represented at key events, and ensuring we preserve true (and first-hand) accounts of the all of the people of Texas and the Southwest can be a bit like herding cats.

TFS membership is on the rise, and the Board of Directors believes it's time to mobilize a focused and intentional outreach effort. The **Regional Wranglers** program is built on the idea that those living within communities have established connections and experiences that are key to our mission. As TFS aims toward growth, diversity, and outreach goals outlined in our strategic plan, identifying individuals with the connections and commitment to serve as Regional Wranglers in their communities is vital.

An ideal candidate should be aware of the various organizations, groups, cultures, events, and traditions in their community.

If you have a passion for your community and want to be a part of organizing outreach and events, please contact Amanda, office manager, at 254-459-5447.

Did you know?

TexasFolkloreSociety.org is a portal to all things TFS, and a complete list of all TFS publications can be found under the **PUBLICATIONS** tab after selecting **OUR BOOKS**, where a link to the downloadable list can be found under past publications.

You will also find a link to the **digitized versions of most of our books, 1916–2017**, through [The Portal to Texas History online](#).

Have you paid your annual dues?

There are two ways to pay:

Make an online payment through the [member portal](#) or send a check, payable to:

Texas Folklore Society
Box T-0295 Stephenville, TX 76402

Annual Dues

Student - \$15; Individual or Nonprofit Organization - \$25; Family - \$30; and Paisano Grande - \$50

Lifetime Dues

\$500 for individuals and \$750 for families.

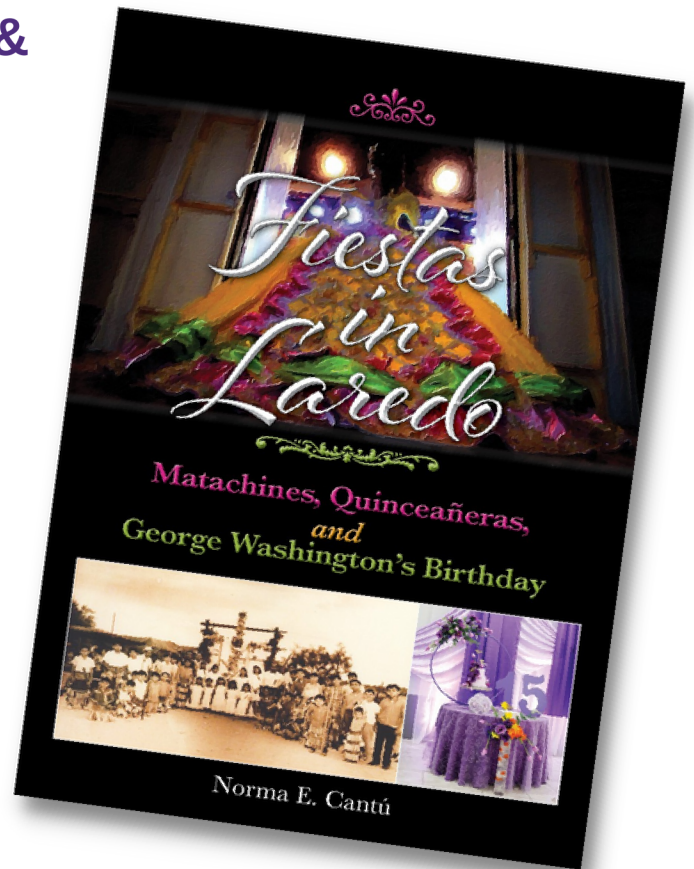
MEMBERSHIP

2022 Book, Norma E. Cantú SHARES RICH TRADITIONS & COLORFUL CELEBRATIONS

Members unable to attend our virtual gathering in April missed the unveiling of the cover art for our 2022 publication, *Fiestas in Laredo: Matachines, Quinceañeras, and George Washington's Birthday*, by Dr. Norma E. Cantú. Now, everyone can get excited about the colorful cover art (right) and the rich culture and traditions Dr. Cantú has collected to share through the Texas Folklore Society. Members' copies will be sent out later this year.

If you recently moved, please update your mailing address through [MemberClicks](#) to ensure you receive your copy of Dr. Cantú's book.

Amanda, TFS office manager, will update your information if you prefer. You can reach her at **254-459-5447** or TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com



 **Let's Get Social!**
Like. Follow. Share.

 [/TexasFolkloreSociety](#)

 [/Texas_Folklore](#)

Did you know?

You can increase our reach by interacting with TFS on social media.

Don't be shy; it's quick, free, easy, and effective marketing! Share, like, and comment on our posts!

MEMBERSHIP

JEAN SCHNITZ Defines Folklore



It's easy to share your excitement about the Society and folklore, but explaining folklore can be more difficult. **Jean Schnitz**, 2022 TFS Fellow shared the following during her TFS board presidency in 2006–2007:

Sometimes people don't realize that **folklore is all around us...** Many don't realize that folklore is much more than traditional folk tales. Folklore can include stories, legends, and tall tales; poetry, songs, and music; customs, dances, and festivals; art, crafts, and traditional architecture; toys, games, and riddles; and superstitions, beliefs, and home remedies.

It is easy to confuse history with folklore. My favorite description of the difference is that **history is what happened at a particular time in the past. Folklore describes how people coped with the events of history.** For example, during the Great Depression beginning in 1929 and running through the early 1930s, history describes the conditions and events that happened during that time. Folklore includes how people managed to get through those times—the things they ate when food was scarce, the way they dealt with lack of money and jobs, the ways they entertained themselves with music and song to keep their spirits raised, and the stories that are told about those events.



Bienvenidos NEW MEMBERS

K. Brough, Driftwood
N. Nair, Garland
P. Young, Austin
M.D. Cooper, Emory
H. Richey, Austin
S. Robb
L. Kemp, Austin
K. Koch, Grapevine
T. Kurtz, Somerville
L. Smart, Denton
S. Crane, Blanco
G. Walker, Laredo

J. Lewis, Austin
B. Nason, Austin
J. Barnes, Pflugerville
C. MacDermott, Weatherford
J. Swink, Watauga
M. Payne Allmond, Seguin
S. Crane, Blanco
Lietz Family, Stephenville
B. Ingram, Arkansas
R. McDonald, New Mexico
G. Whitaker, Haltom
B. Jenkins, Marshall

Robitaille Family, Stephenville
East Texas Baptist University
Samples Family, Round Rock
Thompson Family, Dublin
Proffitt Family, Stephenville
I. Brodie, Nova Scotia
Stephenville Music Club
J. Compton, San Antonio
Reed Family, Stephenville
P. Marks, Vermont



YOU'RE INVITED!

Tour home office, attend oral history workshop

The College of Liberal & Fine Arts (COLFA) at Tarleton State University has made a mantra of integrating itself into its community, and TFS is happy to join in that mission!

At a recent meeting with members of the Palo Pinto Historical Commission (PPHC), TFS staff and COLFA leaders took another step in solidifying that commitment. Mike Lewis, PPHC Chair, said the most significant issue facing historical preservationists is the need to document oral histories before they're lost in time. He also said despite the proximity of local historical commissions and museums, many have yet to realize their opportunities for collaborating to share their adjoining histories.

In response, COLFA, including TFS and the Department of History and Geography/GIS, are planning a regional oral history workshop, which is slated from 3 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19 at the Tarleton campus in Stephenville. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Sloan, Director of the Institute for Oral History at Baylor University.

In addition to sharing tools and techniques for retaining oral history, the event will also help establish a regional network, weaving together our communities' history and folklore.

Email colfa@tarleton.edu or call 254-968-9141 to reserve your seat.

OUTREACH

BLAZING TRAILS— TFS hits the road



Spreading the word about the Society, its mission, and its history has recently taken TFS to a few unexpected locations.

Kristina made fast friends at the Dublin Rodeo Heritage Museum and the Billy the Kid Museum in Hico, where she learned about area folklore and history and shared information about membership, our publications, and the Legends & Lore program. Earlier last spring, she also spoke in Grapevine at the annual meeting of Kannada Sahitya Ranga—an international organization dedicated to studying literature in the Kannada language from southwestern India.

"This was a really fun opportunity to share some Texas legends with an audience that hadn't heard them before," Kristina said.

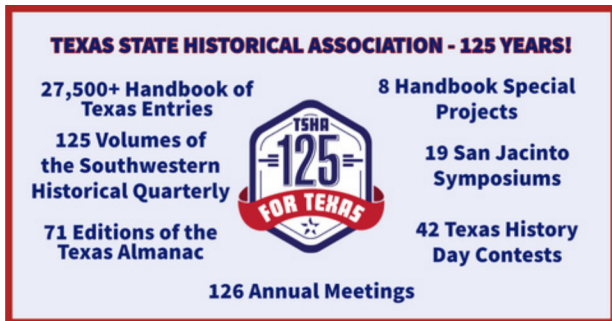
Kristina attended the annual meeting of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research in Quebec from July 11–15, where she presented a paper on legends of not-quite-dead Texas outlaws and was elected to the organization's Council as Member at Large, Early Career Scholar, North American.

Kristina travels to Austin August 5–7 for ArmadilloCon, a science fiction and fantasy convention, and will appear for the second time on Folkwise Live on April 9. **Folkwise Live** is a Twitch channel that features folklorists playing video games and talking about folklore. You can catch their live broadcasts every Tuesday from 6–10 p.m. (Central) or watch replays on their YouTube channel.

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

TSHA Celebrates 125th Year

This year has been full of successes for the **Texas State Historical Association**, including a welcome return to in-person events—its 126th Annual Meeting, 42nd Texas History Day, and 20th San Jacinto Symposium. TSHA launched a redesigned MyTSHA/Digital Library portal and website, rebooted the Texas Talks program, added the highest number of new Handbook of Texas entries ever in a single year, and produced a special anniversary issue of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, the oldest continuously published historical journal in the United States.



TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - 125 YEARS!

- 27,500+ Handbook of Texas Entries
- 125 Volumes of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly
- 71 Editions of the Texas Almanac
- 126 Annual Meetings
- 8 Handbook Special Projects
- 19 San Jacinto Symposiums
- 42 Texas History Day Contests

Central logo: TSHA 125 FOR TEXAS

Looking ahead, **TSHA** is delighted to announce a new partnership providing an audio dimension to TSHA's Handbook of Texas! TSHA will partner with Autio (formerly HearHere), a history-focused, location-based storytelling App. Founded by Kevin Costner and William Sears, Autio uses geolocation technology to automatically play stories—many narrated by celebrities—of landmarks, cities, or towns nearby. Autio makes a fantastic road-trip companion and is an engaging learning tool. An Autio subscription costs just \$36 annually and is available to all iPhone users.

Soon, select Handbook of Texas entries will include a link to a corresponding Autio story. Autio has already recorded a story called The Texas Polio Epidemic, referencing the research of our Executive Director, Dr. Heather Green Wooten. In this way, TSHA's written Handbook entries will be enhanced by free audio content from Autio.

Learn more about TSHA at tshaonline.org



SaddleUP
Texas Ranching Tradition
VIRTUAL EXHIBIT
HOSTED BY
TEXAS FOLKLIFE

SaddleUp—Texas Ranching Tradition! features photography by Joe Vitone and a film by **Lori Najvar**, a Texas Folklore Society past president and the Director for **PolkaWorks**.

The exhibit is a celebratory examination that honors hard-working Texas family ranchers, instrumental in shaping American ranch practices.

You can view the virtual exhibit through **Texas Folklife** or visit the exhibit in-person at the **National Ranching Heritage Center** in the Red McCombs Main Gallery on the Texas Tech University campus in Lubbock. The exhibit runs through Sept. 4.

PolkaWorks, polkaworks.org, is a multimedia nonprofit creating films and exhibits that celebrate contemporary folklore and "untold" cultural stories.

“Folklife is often hidden in full view, lodged in the various ways we have of discovering and expressing who we are and how we fit into the world.”
— Mary Hufford

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Legends & Lore®

Roadside Marker Grant Program



Promoting Cultural Tourism

Is your community home to a great piece of folklore that should be shared?

Folklore is the stories, customs, traditions, and expressive arts and crafts passed on from one person to another, often from generation to generation. Folklore is the knowledge that people share as members of a group or community; our shared identities and sense of belonging are the results of shared traditions, stories, customs, and activities.

Legends & Lore® roadside marker grants are available to nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and government entities.

Commemorating Legends & Folklore

A partnership with Texas Folklore Society and William G. Pomeroy Foundation



Making a Mark

News of Legends & Lore (R) Roadside Marker Grant Program has been published by media outlets and is generating interest from preservationists and folklorists across the state.

Secretary-Editor/Executive Director Kristina Downs, Ph.D., brought the program to the Lone Star State through an agreement with the **William G. Pomeroy Foundation**. TFS staff will evaluate grant applications and promote the program statewide, and each marker in the state will bear the Texas Folklore Society's name.

In addition to increasing awareness and understanding of folklore, encouraging cultural tourism, and highlighting customs and traditions across the state, **Legends & Lore (R)** is an excellent outreach opportunity. TFS members are encouraged to share information on the program with other organizations and like-minded individuals.

There are two marker application periods each year, and the next Legends & Lore grant **application deadline is Monday, Oct. 17.**

Find more [information online](#) or scan the QR Code



Next Application Deadline: Oct. 17

Legends & Lore marker grants cover the entire cost of the marker, pole, and shipping.

ROAD TRIPPIN'

UPCOMING EVENTS

While touring Texas and the Southwest, take the Texas Folklore Society with you! The events and venues you visit offer opportunities for outreach. Share general information about folklore, our books, our annual meeting, and Legends & Lore.

***Send your favorite events to
TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com***

Viva El Paso Fri. & Sat. through Aug. 6, El Paso

Texas Outdoor Musical until Aug. 13, Palo Duro Canyon

Peach & Melon Festival Aug. 3–6, De Leon

North Texas Book Festival Aug. 20, Denton

Westfest Sept 2–4, West

National Cowboy Celebration Sept. 9–11, Lubbock

Oral History Workshop Sept. 19, see page 7

34th Annual Wendish Fest Sept. 25, Serbin

State Fair of Texas Sept. 30–Oct. 23, Dallas Fair Park

RipFest Oct. 1, Eastland

East Texas Historical Assn. Fall Conference

Oct. 13–15, Nacogdoches

Women Writing in the West Conference

Oct. 20–22, Okla. City

Texas Country Reporter Festival Oct. 29, Waxahachie

WurstFest Nov. 4–13, New Braunfels

Dobie Dichos Nov. 4, Oakville

Texas Book Festival Nov. 5–6, Austin



Dobie Dichos™ **Marks 12th Year
Plan to attend Nov. 4**

Campfires, Chili con Carne, and the Words of J. Frank Dobie

Dobie Dichos honors Live Oak County's most famous son, **J. Frank Dobie**, and celebrates his works and contributions to literature, folklore, and storytelling.

Invited Texas writers/authors and storytellers read from, discuss, debate, and/or tell stories from the works of J. Frank Dobie on the grounds of the Historic Oakville Jail, located in Oakville, TX on IH37 in Live Oak County (between Three Rivers and George West).

TFS past president **Mary Margaret Campbell** has served as the executive director of the event since its inception; throughout its history, many TFS members (writers, authors, musicians, and storytellers) have been invited to share their interpretations of Dobie's works. This year, **2022 TFS Fellow Jean Schnitz** is on the participant list.

Called the "Storyteller of the Southwest," Dobie served as secretary of the Texas Folklore Society for 21 years, beginning in 1923.



J. Frank Dobie, 1924.
Southwestern Writers Collection,
The Wittliff Collections, Albert B.
Alkek Library at Texas State
University.

TFS remains a proud sponsor of Dobie Dichos. Join us **Fri., Nov. 4** for the "Best Little Literary Event in Texas." Get your tickets at **DobieDichos.com**.
See y'all in Oakville!



It's a great time to be a Texan! Tarleton State University, our host institution, is growing leaps and bounds and celebrating a slew of successes! Check out these headlines! You can [read the full stories online](#).

Texan Tidbits

- Regents Approve Tarleton Convocation and Event Center
- Tarleton Rodeo Team Claims Fourth National Championship
- Tarleton Announces Creation of \$881,000 Henry Hohenberger Endowment
- Gordon Center Joins Blue Star Museums Program
- Tarleton State University Creates \$5.4 Million Band Endowment

Don't miss the latest edition of [COLFA Quarterly](#), the official newsletter of the College of Liberal & Fine Arts.



TAMIU Students Share Culture & Traditions

Students from a summer session of World Folklore at [Texas A&M International University](#) in Laredo are sharing their legends, customs, and folklore with TFS.

Assistant professor **Dr. Kaitlyn Culliton** presented our call for papers to her class, and more than half of them responded with rich tales honoring their families and communities.

Folk medicine, Chicano tattooing, tamale making, acts of remembrance, and carne asada are among the topics covered in the papers submitted for consideration for our upcoming book on gatherings.

GATHERINGS, continued from page 1

Jack will present his paper on the State Fair of Texas, which his family attended regularly when he was a boy in the late 1940s and 1950s. It's a story alive with vivid memories of traveling from the family farm to Fair Park and the intriguing folks encountered by a farm boy visiting the big city for the state's grandest fete.

Elizabeth will share her paper about our annual meetings, which she and Jack have attended since 1970. Through her writing, Elizabeth weaves together TFS history and the connections that keep TFS, an organization of almost 115 years, stitched together. She likens the meetings to family reunions that "all the good cousins" attend.

While Lareatha is new to TFS, she has worked for years to preserve history in East Texas. She is a founder of the **AYA Symposium**, which has an "overarching purpose is to serve as a vehicle for the 'multidisciplinary exploration of Texas Freedom Colonies.'" She also founded the [Texas Purple Hull Pea Festival](#) in Shankleville in 2014, paying homage to deep-seated traditions.

Purple hull peas were brought from Africa by enslaved people and later became an essential commodity in post-emancipation Texas and remain rooted in Southern history and celebrations. Lareatha's paper will focus on the Clay Family Homecoming.

"Through Lareatha's extensive work and through Richard's upcoming documentary on freedom colonies, both have stressed the importance of encouraging descendants of these freedom colony communities to tell their own stories," Past President Kay Reed Arnold said. "Like [A Biscuit for Your Shoe](#), written by TFS member Beatrice Upshaw in 2020, our 2023 gatherings book and our annual meetings provide examples of the ways we can help folks preserve and collect these important stories."

TFS member Debbie Liles—who is also Tarleton's WK Gordon Endowed Chair in Texas History—will be sworn in as ETHA president during the ETHA conference in October. You can register for the event through the [ETHA website](#).