

The Texas Folklore Society collects, preserves, and shares the practices and customs of the people of Texas and the Southwest.



From the Director

Kristina Downs, PhD

Hey there, **Paisanos!**

I'm not sure how all of you feel, but I'm enjoying the cooler weather. I hope this holiday season many of you will get to spend some time with loved ones and get some rest and relaxation.

I enjoyed meeting several of you at the Texas Book Festival last month and appreciate all the volunteers that represented our organization at the Book Festival, Dobie Dichos, and the East Texas Historical Association. I also want to welcome all of our new members, many of whom learned about TFS at one of those events.

We've been busy here in the home office, continuing to organize the TFS collections and planning for upcoming events. In September, I presented at an Oral History Symposium here at Tarleton State, which we hope will be the start of an ongoing project to help preserve the stories of Texans in our region. Hopefully, some of you caught my appearance

on the History Channel's *The UnXplained* in early December where I got to speak about the folklore of the Wild West.

As we wrap up 2022, the Texas Folklore Society has some exciting things on the horizon: I can't wait for you all to read our 2022 book, *Fiestas in Laredo* by **Norma Cantú**, which will be shipping early next year. It's going to make an excellent addition to our storied catalog. I imagine many of you are eager for our first in-person meeting since 2019 this April—I know we are!

As always I want to thank all of you for the work you do to collect and preserve Texas Folklore. You all are the ones that make the TFS such a fun organization. I look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best!

Kristina

AUTUMN EVENTS & VOLUNTEERS Boost Membership



Photo Courtesy of Michael Baxter

ABOVE: Dobie Dichos participants (above) lined up on November 4 to honor the legacy of **J. Frank Dobie**. Pictured (back row) are: event participants Rodney Nance, Wes Ferguson, Ken Wise, Luke Reed, and Wes Weber; in middle row: TFS members **Mary Margaret Campbell**, also an event organizer, and **Jean Schnitz**, who presented this year, and participant David Bowles; in front is musician Rick Sowell. *Read more about the event on page 2.*



ABOVE: TFS newcomer **Rose Potter** (far left) wasted no time volunteering to promote TFS at the Texas Book Festival on Nov. 5 and 6 in Austin. She is pictured with (left to right) TFS member **Jo Virgil** and Executive Director/Secretary-Editor **Kristina Downs**. *Read more on page 3.*

DOBIE DICHOS: *A Grand Evening*

by Mary Margaret Campbell,
with help from her friends

For the twelfth consecutive year, on the first Friday of November, folks gathered on the town square in historic Oakville, Texas, to listen to the words of **J. Frank Dobie** or words inspired by him, eat a bowl of chili and a piece of pan de campo, and enjoy the fellowship of people who share a love of folklore, stories, and Texas history. Every year TFS members can be found among the folks gathered at Oakville to celebrate Dobie.

Not only are TFS members annually among the event's attendees, but many have participated on the [Dobie Dichos](#) stage--among them **Jean Schnitz**, **Donna Ingham**, **Fran Vick**, **Lucy Fischer-West**, **Scott Bumgardner**, **Lee Haile**, **Steve Davis**, **Bernadette Nason**, and others. TFS 2010 President Mary Margaret Campbell has served as the event's emcee these past two years. She and her fellow Dobie Dichos, Inc. board members produce the event.

The Texas Folklore Society has been a Heritage Sponsor of Dobie Dichos for a number of years and sets up a table at the event to spread the word about TFS and encourage attendees to become members. Jean Schnitz noted, "The event has been good for the Texas Folklore Society. It is fitting that we should celebrate J. Frank Dobie, who contributed much to the preservation of Texas folklore."

Current TFS President Donna Ingham, her husband **Jerry Ingham**, and Bernadette Nason set up and manned this year's booth and reported they signed up at least a dozen new members.



ABOVE: Lee Haile, Donna Ingham, Maria Bumgardner, Scott Bumgardner, Jean Schnitz, Sylvia Newsom, Rollo Newsom, Jerry Ingham, Elaine Davenport & Blaine Williams. RIGHT: Bernadette Nason, Donna Ingham, and Jerry Ingham.



Scott Bumgardner, 2014 TFS President, and wife, **Maria Bumgardner**, who have attended and supported the event over the years, said of Dobie Dichos, "It is always a fun and informative evening gathered together with many other like-minded lovers of Texas lore. The stars are high in the sky, and the fire pit is blazin' away...while the words and tales of J. Frank Dobie embrace the best of the romance of Texas."

Rollo Newsom, 1997 President, and his wife **Sylvia Newsom** regularly attend and commented on the "warm, easy-going camaraderie" among the attendees and the "modern perspectives and ruminations on Dobie's work and influences." Rollo also complimented the chili, which he described as, "purely authentic and [some of the] best chili you will ever get." This year, he overheard Sylvia tell someone that Dobie Dichos "is just great old-fashioned fun!"

TFS President, 2006, and Fellow, 2022, Jean Schnitz, and her husband **Lew Schnitz** have attended all twelve years

of the event. Jean observed, "The setting on the old Oakville courthouse grounds adds a distinctive touch to the relaxed atmosphere...People want to talk about Dobie and the area's rich history. Where I have sat in my lawn chair has varied each year but always has resulted in meeting new people... and those Oakville sunsets are always amazing."

Donna and Jerry Ingham have also "not missed a Dobie Dichos yet...and have seen and heard some marvelous authors and storytellers paying homage to J. Frank Dobie. Dobie once said, 'Great literature transcends its native land, but none that I know of ignores its soil.' The annual event in Oakville brings words by and about Dobie back to the soil, his Live Oak County soil, and it makes for a grand evening."

Book Festival Fun

by **Lori Najvar and Rose Potter**

The Texas Folklore Society volunteers who staffed our Texas Book Festival booth in Austin, Texas quickly learned the veracity of the old adage, “Sell what you love and love what you sell.” The annual event, one of the largest and most prestigious literary festivals in the country, celebrates diverse literature with everything from picture books for infants to young adult fiction to nonfiction celebrations of history, flora and fauna. This festival, the 27th, offered opportunities for over 40,000 attendees to meet over 275 nationally and critically recognized authors at over 20 venues, including the State Capitol, visit over 80 exhibitors, snack at local food trucks, participate in family activities, and exchange ideas with fellow book lovers.

After two years of COVID restrictions, a festive mood dominated the event. Everyone appreciated the smiles revealed, the in-person communication, and the chance to sit down to listen to an author’s presentation in real time rather than on a cell phone or monitor.

TFS volunteers **Jo Virgil, Elaine Davenport, Blaine Williams, Lori Najvar, Rollo Newsom, and Rose Potter** joined TFS Executive Director **Kristina Downs** for the November 5–6 event. What a fulfilling experience! Together, we shared our enthusiasm for our community’s work. We met authors, educators, historians,

and over 200 curious folks stopped by our exhibit eager to learn about the Texas Folklore Society. Even more exciting? A good number of attendees were moved by the enthusiasm and joined the Society!

At any such event, each exhibit creates its own energy. The TFS team made a special effort to attract the attention of passers-by, searching out commonalities. Lori Najvar broke out in warmhearted laughter when she noticed a woman wearing a t-shirt that read, “Books are just Word Tacos” prompting a lively conversation. Jo Virgil spotted an Astros fan. Together they exchanged celebratory thoughts about the team’s recent World Series win. Rose Potter tried out her limited Arabic, calling out “Salaam alaikum” to a small group of women wearing hijabs. Three high school educators lingered to learn about Texas Folklore and discuss folklore education in the classroom. There are many more stories to share, but, importantly, we leave you with our best discovery: what first seemed like work, was fun! The volunteer commitment flew by leaving the volunteers with a positive, memorable experience promoting the Texas Folklore Society. We encourage you to join us for future volunteer opportunities!



ABOVE: Newcomers **Susan Moore** and **Holly Vinella**, fellow bibliophiles, mingle with new friends and meet up with old ones at the Texas Book Festival. BELOW: **Bernadette Nason** and **Lori Najvar**, TFS members, worked double duty promoting Texas Folklore Society during the first weekend in November.



SAVE THE DATE

104th Annual Meeting

April 6–8, 2023

WACO HILTON



Bridging the Gap Between Folklore & History

Many thanks go out to longtime Paisanos **Richard Orton**, **Elizabeth Duncan**, and **Jack Duncan**, as well as **Lareatha Clay**, of Clay History & Education for their presentations for the Texas Folklore Society session at the East Texas Historical Association Fall Conference this past October.

Richard facilitated the session and Jack and Elizabeth gave their papers entitled “Did I Stay Too Long at the Fair” and “Where All the Good Cousins Come,” respectively. Jack entertained with reflections about his childhood experiences going to early State Fairs of Texas with his family. Elizabeth delved into the broad history of TFS while including the personal experiences she and Jack have had attending get-togethers beginning with our 1970 annual meeting in Wimberley.

Lareatha gave her paper, “Family Reunions” sharing memories of a family homecoming years ago in the Shankleville Community in Newton County. Lareatha is no stranger to the folklore and history of East Texas, particularly the Shankleville Community as well as other freedom colonies. She hosts an annual conference on the subject to educate teachers and others interested in the topic and is the founder and organizer of the [Texas Purple Hull Pea Festival](#). TFS hopes to be involved in these events in the future.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Lareatha Clay from Authentic Texas Magazine or click [here](#).

“We enjoyed attending the ETHA meeting at the Fredonia in Nacogdoches,” Elizabeth said. “The program was well received by the audience. Lareatha made an interesting presentation about her family’s biennial reunion, and

chair Richard Orton was a wonderful host throughout the meeting.”

These three papers were initially submitted in response to a call for papers for an upcoming publication of the Texas Folklore Society on the subject of gatherings, which is expected to be delivered to members in late 2023.

“Many thanks to these four and to all our members active in other organizations that recognize the relevance and importance of folklore.” **Donna Ingham**, TFS President, said. “Certainly, expanding our outreach to regional history groups and others results in mutually beneficial partnerships. Well done!”

FALL 2023 Call for Abstracts

TFS plans to organize a panel for the ETHA Fall 2023 Conference, which will be held on October 5–7, 2023, in Nacogdoches. To be considered for the TFS panel, members are asked to submit a summary of about 100 words of their proposed papers to TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com.

TFS leaders will review these submissions and organize a panel that will be submitted to ETHA for consideration. The deadline for submission to the Texas Folklore Society home office is February 1, 2023. If selected to represent TFS, presenters will be notified by March 1.

BAH! HUMBUG!

By **Jean G. Schnitz**, TFS Fellow
December, 1983

One evening in 1983 after a very bad day at the office and in general, I arrived home in time to grab my guitar and tell Lew I had to go to the Wesley Community Center in Robstown to sing "O, Holy Night" at the Christmas program there. As I walked out the door, I said, "I don't feel like singing 'O, Holy Night.' I feel more like singing, 'Bah! Humbug!'" As I drove off down the road, I started saying, "Bah! Humbug!" until it seemed to become rhythmical. Soon it became a tune and soon I added more words.

By the time I got to Robstown, I grabbed a pencil and wrote the chorus and a couple of verses of this song. For the next several days I thought of more verses until the song ended up like this:

I wish that I had lots of money,
I wish that I had lots of time,
But after I go Christmas shopping,
I'm lucky to still have a dime.

CHORUS: (End every verse with ---OH--)
Bah! Humbug! Bah! Humbug!
I'm gonna be like ol' Scrooge!
Bah! Humbug! Bah! Humbug!
That would make you Scrooge, too!

I wanted to go Christmas shopping,
But I got in a big traffic jam.
I thought that those cars were still moving.
I stopped fast, but something went
"Wham!"

I wanted to go Christmas shopping,
So I made up a long shopping list.
When I couldn't find anything on it.
That's when I really got . . . Mad!

Ol' Santa sits there in his woolies,
With a scratchy white beard and red suit,
And listens to kids' Christmas wishes,
With his foot itching inside his boot.

I like to hear Christmas carols,
Their sweet sounds make me feel inspired,
But after I've heard them since August,
The sound of them just makes me tired!



Jean G. Schnitz



Holiday Schedule

The Home Office will be closed for the Holidays December 22–January 2 so we can recharge our batteries and enjoy time with our friends and families. We hope you do the same!

We'll respond to voicemails and emails upon our return to campus.

HELP WANTED

Wondering how you can get in on the fun of helping the Texas Folklore Society reach its fullest potential? Have a lot of time or just a little? Have a special skillset? Here are some ideas:

- Watch for calls for papers for various events across the state. Not only are papers given at our Annual Meeting, but we often have panels at regional and state historical association meetings.
- Watch for calls for volunteers to work at a booth in your community. No one can talk up TFS to potential new members better than you can!
- Watch for local outreach opportunities that TFS might make good use of in your area. We're strategically looking for a few good festivals and options for acting as a sponsor.
- We need help on the Membership, Marketing, and Communication Committee, so we can plan ahead for recruiting events and for the regional wrangler program. No experience is required!
- We are always looking for folks to serve on our Board of Directors. We're aiming to add members from communities, affinity groups, and geographic regions currently underrepresented. Board members serve one three-year term and are often asked to serve a second term. With the exception of our meeting the weekend of the Annual Meeting, we tend to host our meetings via Zoom to ensure ease of access.

Questions? Call Amanda Jenkins at the Home Office at (254) 459-5445 or shoot her an email at TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com

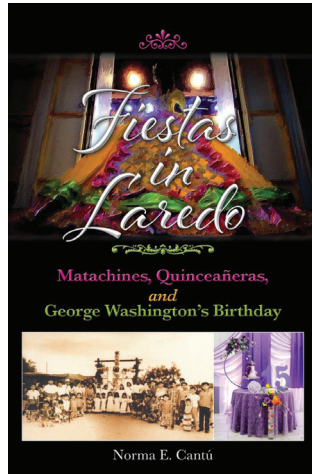
HAPPENINGS

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Good things take time, and such is the case with our 2022 publication, *Fiestas in Laredo: Matachines, Quinceañeras, and George Washington's Birthday*, by **Dr. Norma E. Cantú**. Members who have paid their 2022 dues will receive the publication in early 2023. If you're unsure if you've paid your 2022 dues, log in or call the home office to check. We'll be closing out the 2022 list at the end of December.

At this time, our 2023 book, which will be an anthology of member submissions on the subject of gatherings, remains on schedule and should be distributed next fall. Almost 40 submissions were received for the book.

Meanwhile, a coffee-table-style book on the art of TFS, which is being researched and written by longtime member **Jack Duncan**, is slated for late 2024.



BIENVENIDOS NEW MEMBERS!>>

Barbara Judkins, Marshall
LaDonna Archer, Buna
Kenneth Rucker, Bastrop
Rose Potter, Dripping Springs
Susan Moore, Austin
Bob Shipman, Austin
Alston Beinhorn, San Antonio
Patsy Light, San Antonio
Heath Dollar, Fort Worth
Holly Vinella, Cedar Park
Looper Family, League City
David Rodriguez, Corpus Christi
William Allison, Houston
Patterson Family, Austin
Linda Lopez de Roman, Worldwide Languages, San Antonio
Raymond Depew, National Authors & Grocery Stores Program, Houston
Margaret Hoogstra, Authentic Texas Magazine, Abilene



TEXAS FOLKLIFE

Like the Texas Folklore Society, **Texas Folklife** is a statewide non-profit organization. While our groups have similar missions, our organizations have different projects and opportunities in preserving folklore across the state.

The Folklorist Next-Door, a podcast produced by Texas Folklife, follows the organization's 2022 Community Folklife Fellows as they explore traditional arts, community practices, values, and ritual celebrations in their communities. Fellows participated in a six-month program where they received mentorship, training workshops, and project support from Texas Folklife. Topics include foodways, labor, music, and celebrations.

The Folklorist Next-Door can be streamed through Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts. Episodes will be released each Friday. The inaugural episode examines the experiences and cultural shifts of communities impacted by climate and disaster in the Texas Panhandle. Episode Two explores Ukrainian Folk Music in North Texas.

Debuts Podcast





ROAD TRIPPIN'

Upcoming Events

Have an event to share? Please submit to:
TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com

- [Western Music & Cowboy Poetry at Fort Worth Stock Show](#) • Jan. 23–25
- [Real Places 2023 Conference](#) • Feb. 1–3 • Austin
- [Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering](#) • Feb. 15–18 • Alpine
- [Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day](#) • Feb. 26 • Fort Concho • San Angelo
- [Texas State Historical Assoc. 127th Annual Meeting](#) • March 2–4 • El Paso
- [38th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival](#) • March 9–12 • Denton
- [Ranching Heritage Day](#) • March 25 • Hill Country State Natural Area • Bandera
- [Cowboy True Art & Culture Fair](#) • March 31–April 1 • 111 N Burnett, Wichita Falls
- [Texas Folklore Society 104th Annual Meeting](#) • April 6–8 • Waco
- [Texas Library Association Annual Conference](#) • April 19–22 • Austin

Did You Know?

The roadrunner, Paisano in border Spanish, has been the official mascot of the Texas Folklore Society since 1932. J. Frank Dobie and society members chose this bird because it epitomizes the free spirit of the brush country. Paisano is also a common moniker used when greeting fellow TFS members & friends.



Prefer Print?

We're all coexisting in the digital age, but we're not all digital natives—and we understand some members prefer to get their news delivered to their mailbox rather than their inbox. We get it, and we're happy to oblige! If you prefer to receive a print copy, give us a call at (254) 459-5445 or shoot us an email at TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com to request a print copy of our quarterly newsletter.

Promoting Folklore Through Cultural Tourism



Just in time for the next round of Legends & Lore applications, TFS returns to Austin to promote the roadside marker grant program at the Texas Historical Commission's Real Places 2023 conference. The event will be held virtually and in person from February 1–3.

Real Places, presented by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, is heralded as the premier historic preservation and heritage tourism event in the state, where anyone interested in protecting our past can work directly with industry-leading professionals. The packed schedule features about

forty-five workshops and sessions, one hundred expert speakers from across Texas and the U.S., five keynote sessions, and several fun networking events. Learn more and register for the event at www.realplaces.us

Learn more about the Legends & Lore Roadside Marker grant program, a partnership between TFS and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, at www.wgpfoundation.org/history/legends-lore/