



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

Howdy, Paisanos!

Our 105th annual meeting wrapped up just over a month ago, and what a great meeting it was! You can read all about the meeting in the following pages, but I want to take a moment and thank all of paisanos on the program committee, particularly MaryAnn Blue, for putting together such a memorable event. Y'all set a high bar for all future meetings! By Saturday afternoon I was exhausted, but my cup was definitely full. It was so much fun to see familiar faces and to meet a lot of TFS members—both old timers and newcomers—that I hadn't met before. As you may have noticed, a large contingent of my colleagues from Tarleton State were able to join us and I'm excited to say they all had a wonderful time and have been talking TFS up here on campus.

While we're already looking forward to next year's meeting in Fort Worth, TFS will be involved with a host of other activities between

now and then. Keep an eye on our social media and your email for upcoming opportunities to hang out with fellow paisanos and help get the word out about TFS. And if you hear about festivals or other events in your own area you think TFS should be involved with, reach out to the home office.

I want to say a quick word of personal thanks: Bernadette Nason has rotated off the Board of Directors; Bernadette's energy has been such an asset to us for the past year. Donna Ingham has finished her year as immediate past president and thereby ended her term on our Executive Council. Donna was one of the first paisanos I met after starting as director and I have been so grateful for her help and encouragement over the past three years. We look forward to Bernadette and Donna continuing to be part of TFS, even without official positions.

An organization like ours is nothing without its members, and we truly have some of the best!

## We're headed to **Cowtown!**



With San Antonio in our rearview mirror, planning is already underway for our **106th Annual Meeting**, slated for **April 17–19, 2025**, at The Radisson Fort Worth North at Fossil Creek.

Fort Worth is the 13th largest city in the nation, with an estimated population of almost 960,000. And with an estimated 9.4 million visitors annually, it's easy to see there's a lot to do in Fort Worth.

The Stockyards National Historic District features Fort Worth's western heritage, including daily cattle drives, year-round rodeo, and the world's largest honky-tonk. Four museums—The Cowgirl Museum, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Cattle

Raisers Museum, and the Cattleman's Museum—celebrate Fort Worth's cattle industry heritage.

Also known as the "Cultural Capital of the Southwest," Fort Worth is home to a world-renowned Cultural District with five world-class art museums, featuring works by masters like El Greco, Cezanne, Rembrandt, Picasso, and Matisse.

In 1909, the Fort Worth Zoo opened as the first zoo in Texas and was more recently ranked as the second-best zoo in the United States. The city is also in proximity to major-league attractions like Texas Motor Speedway, Rangers Ballpark, Cowboys Stadium, and Six Flags.

## 105th Annual Meeting a ‘smashing success’

By Donna Ingham

If the social media buzz following the 105th Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society in San Antonio is any indication, the program was a smashing success. As TFS board member **John Pelham** said, “It was a great gathering. So many excellent presentations and such a wide variety of topics.” He’s right about that.

From the first session on Friday morning, March 29, to the last session on Saturday morning, March 30, those in attendance heard presentations ranging from a treatise on the folkloric values of family letters, examples of poems as “little pockets of folklore,” papers exploring the paradoxes and challenges of preserving cultural heritage, musical and storytelling tributes to TFS co-founder **John Lomax** and past president **Américo Paredes**, illustrations of historical costumed interpretation in theory and in practice, explanations of development and vision of places like La Bahia and the Alamo, visual representations of folk art and architecture, and an examination of the thematic interplay between cowboy folklore and Star Wars. Of special interest was the session provided by “New Voices: The Next Generation,” featuring offerings from two students and a recent university graduate exploring cultural, campus, and family folklore.

In addition to the formal presentations, of course, there were the evening hoote-nannies with music, poetry, and stories shared post-reception on Thursday and post-banquet dinner on Friday. Sounds of fiddle, guitar, harmonica, spoons, autoharp, accordion, and hammered dulcimer accompanied singers and the occasional impromptu dancers. The combination of enlightening papers and entertaining afterglow made for a near-perfect balance. As TFS member **Lori Najvar** summed up, “The best ever

and everyone needs to check it out . . . Serious Fun!”

Presenters included long-time TFS members such as **Jean Schnitz** and **Jim and Mary Harris** and those new to the Society such as **Kim Lehman**, **Jill Davis**, **Scott McMahan**, and **Andrew Gray**. Originally scheduled to present in 2020, the year the world shut down for the pandemic, newspaper columnist **Cary Clack** and poet **Naomi Shihab Nye** accepted the invitation to present this year.

Other San Antonio residents invited to share their knowledge and expertise were **Kate Rogers**, CEO of the Alamo Trust, and **Graciela Sánchez**, director of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Rogers not only offered our members a complimentary private tour of the Alamo on Thursday afternoon but also presented a paper on the plans for the Alamo as they continue forward with preservation and the building of the museum area.

Graciela Sánchez’s paper focused on the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center’s work to nurture the folk artistry of the women of the historic West Side and to preserve the stories of the elders of their community through their programs, “Mujerartes,” and the work of the “Corazones de Esperanza,” the wise ones who are the keepers of community stories and memories. She brought to us an awareness of the important cultural and folkloric work being done by the Esperanza Center.

One out-of-stater, **Darci Tucker**, appeared in costume as Jane Long, the Mother of Texas. Representing Texas A&M International University in the New Voices session were student **Kelly Olson** and recent graduate **Gabby Walker**. **Tali Russell** came from Texas Tech in Lubbock. Gabby’s response to the

weekend: “It was amazing! Everyone was so welcoming!”

Of special note was a presentation during the Celebration Luncheon on Friday. **Mary Fogel** read a paper written by her late husband **David Orton**, a paper David was scheduled to present last year before he fell ill.

Appearing both as the entertainment for the Friday night banquet and as a presenter in the final session on Saturday was singer/songwriter **Tish Hinojosa**, the headliner of sorts and deserving of her standing ovation. But, in truth, every participant on the program rose to the occasion. As board member Dina Lopez said, “It was over the top!”

The one most deserving of the accolades about the quality of programming at the 2024 meeting is **MaryAnn Blue**, immediate past vice president and newly elected president of TFS. A resident of San Antonio, she also did double duty as part of the local arrangements committee. She had a vision.

“I wanted the program of the 105th Annual Meeting to reflect the culture and folklore of San Antonio,” MaryAnn said, “and I am very pleased with how it turned out. We were off to a great start when Dr. Robert Flynn reached out to both Cary Clack and Naomi Shihab Nye, and they agreed to present papers. Then I reached out to Tish Hinojosa, who not only agreed to sing at the banquet but agreed to deliver a paper on her mentor and past TFS president, Dr. Américo Paredes. From the welcome on Thursday evening by the young musicians from the San Antonio Mariachi Academy to the closing session anchored by Tish’s moving tribute to Dr. Paredes, our city and its rich cultural heritage were well represented.”

# Two women artists, one better world— *Tish Hinojosa and Naomi Shihab Nye*

By Jim Harris, Fellow of TFS

On Easter weekend, Mary and I came home late Saturday night from three days in the bustling big city of San Antonio, the heart of the almost 200-year-old Texas Revolution that changed everything in the growing and developing American Southwest.

When we woke up Easter Sunday back in our southeastern corner of New Mexico, we awakened from dreaming of messages and lessons from two contemporary American women with ties to the Alamo City and who carry in their words and performances strong, positive messages for growth, not just in Texas, but for the world.

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve Saturday, we heard the pure, gentle, and sagacious voices of singer-song writer **Tish Hinojosa** and of poet **Naomi Shihab Nye**.

Tish was born and grew up in the city. After having been born in Missouri and having lived one year in Palestine, Naomi had to wait until she was 16 until her family moved to San Antonio. They both adore the town of their making, especially their unique neighborhoods within the big city.

What words and messages did we hear from Hinojosa and Nye that lifted our spirits and made us feel better about the divided and war-ravaged world of which we daily read?

There was much fine art and many good ideas from both of them in the few hours Mary and I listened, but we decided one of the most powerful is the one message found in the following familiar expressions:

In unity there is strength. We should be building bridges together. Collaboration

creates a setting for fellowship and fine art. We're all in this together. Success happens only when we are surrounded by support. It takes a community.

Both Tish and Naomi have received numerous awards from many organizations, but they both told their audiences, you don't win awards alone.

When they were children and teens in San Antonio, family and neighbors were their emotional and intellectual props.

History tells us that the geographic spot that would become the city of San Antonio was not always a loving neighborhood. Visited by Spanish explorers in 1691, it was founded as a Spanish mission in 1718. Initially the town was born in battles between Native Americans and Spanish-speaking explorers. A century later, it grew during a war between Spanish-speaking soldiers and English-speaking American settlers. However, despite that past, it is home to these two women, and its neighborhoods within the larger community have been supportive and collaborative places.

One of Tish's popular songs from decades ago is titled "The West Side of Town." With slash marks separating lines, here are the last two verses of a narrative song about her immigrant mother and father, Maria and Felipe, who crossed the Rio Grande into Texas:

"Daddy never owned a house but built a strong foundation / Mama bought her own damn house with self determination / They're both gone but I know that they're listening to this song / 'Neath the San Fernando ground on the west side of town. / She was proud and lived on faith / He was strong in his own way / They were pilgrims that made / A good life the hard way."

She has recorded this song and dozens of others in both English and Spanish. Hearing Tish sing and speak, in English and Spanish, in San Antonio last weekend was especially enjoyable for me because in 2009, and with the help of the J.



**Tish Hinojosa**

F. Maddox Foundation and the Texas music producer, Rusty Hudelson, the Lea County Museum brought Tish to the small town of Lovington for a concert and street dance on the east side of the county courthouse.

As a child she lived downtown in the King William neighborhood of San Antonio. She was the youngest of 13 children in her family. She learned to play the guitar when she was 15. Her first paying jobs were as a folk singer in a few of the clubs along the city's River Walk.

After that she traveled to Northern New Mexico to sing and play the guitar, and then to Nashville. Later on after marriage and children she moved to Austin, a city that had become a musical

**Continued on pg. 3**

# REFLECTIONS

## Two women artists, Continued from pg. 2

gold mine of performing venues. Now on Easter weekend, she was back home in the Mission City.

Mary and I brought four books by Naomi Shihab Nye home with us from San Antonio. The first of those books I read was published in 2018, but the poetry and lessons found in it sound like they were written just last week. In addition, the themes in it are found all along the lines of her poems and her prose talks and public readings.

For instance, one of her poems in "Voices in the Air" is titled "More Worlds," and here is one of the lines in the short work:

"The more worlds you live in the better it is." In other words, life is much better when you are not caged in only one place, when your neighbors are folks from all over the world.

Another of her poems has as its title a question asked by an Englishman when Naomi was giving presentations in the Lake District in the northern part of his country: "What do Palestinians want?"

In her answer, Naomi writes,

"Not to dominate. Never to say we are the only / people who count / or to be the only victims / the chosen, more holy or precious. / No. Just to be ones who matter."

And one final passage in a series of poems about "Unbelievable Things" that have happened to her in her travels around the world:

"I had lunch with the president of Finland while wearing a gray linen shift dress I had purchased for fifty cents in a thrift shop in Rock Springs, Wyoming."

Tish's parents were Mexican immigrants. Naomi's father was a Palestinian who immigrated to America and married her mother.

To conclude, this year the 112-year-old Texas Folklore Society met for its 105th Annual Meeting on March 28–30. It was a fiesta folklórica, a gathering in which speakers and performers delivered presentations on such topics as "Telling the Story of La Bahia Through Myths and Legends" and "Alamo Plan: Update on the Vision for One of Our State's Most Revered Sites" and "Folk Art and Folk Architecture of the Big Bend." That last

presentation was delivered by Mary Harris, who is a Professor of Education at University of the Southwest.

There was much for the 250 men, women, and children attending the conference to enjoy, value, and take home with them, but the loudest standing ovations and the longest clapping for encores were for Tish Hinajosa and Naomi Nye.

Tish's formal talk was titled "Un Collar de Perlas and a Most Memorable Mentor," which was about Tish's teacher Dr. Americo Parades, the folklorist and Brownsville author of the 1958 book *With His Pistol in His Hand*, which is about the historical and mythical hero of South Texas Gregorio Cortez.

Naomi's talk was titled "Poems are Little Pockets of the Folklore of Our Lives." At the conference she read from several of her 21 books.

Mary and I have been attending the annual meetings of the TFS since 1973. We are planning on traveling all over Texas to more annual meetings.

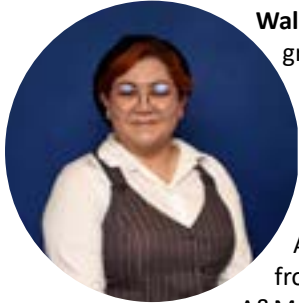
However, we have already decided that there's no way the TFS family gatherings could be any better than the 2024 one in San Antonio.

*This article was published in the April 5, 2024 edition of the Hobbs (NM) News Sun.*



**Session One Presenters (l-r): TFS Fellow Jean Granberry Schnitz, Cary Clack, and Naomi Shihab Nye.** Jim Harris photos

## Spotlight shines on family folklore



**Gabriella "Gabby" Walker** (Laredo) graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Art History from Texas

A&M International University. More recently, she was recognized for her efforts to collect, preserve, and share familial folklore.

A newcomer to the Texas Folklore Society, Gabby was introduced to the organization by folklore instructor Dr. Kaitlyn Chacon, who serves on the TFS board of directors. Kaitlyn encouraged her students to submit their scholarly works in response to our annual call for program papers, and Gabby was excited to complete the assignment while at the same time paying homage to her mother who passed away in 2013.

Paisanos who attended our recent Annual Meeting might recall Gabby's presentation, "One within the Same."

The paper focused on traditions and folklore passed on by her mother, the Mal De Ojo (Evil Eye) folk belief and the antidotal barrida de huevo (egg cleansing) ritual. At our 105th Annual Meeting, Gabby was recognized for her New Voices Student Session submission, receiving a \$200 stipend that was funded by an anonymous supporter.

Gabby was just 19 when her mother passed away and remembers the tragedy turning her entire life on its head. Now that she's older, Gabby works to keep her mother's memory alive in as many ways as she can. She feels that family traditions are a very important part of folklore, as those traditions are something passed down through generations that help to memorialize family and ancestors.

And folklore has played a large part in Gabby's life. Her mother introduced her to many family traditions, and her Catholic upbringing inspired many more. She recalls many of the traditions her family keeps, such as leaving jars of water with egg and lime by entrances to ward off negativity and how to prepare

time-honored family recipes.

As her mother was, and her grandmother before her, Gabby is sharing her family's traditions knowing they will remain even when she is gone.

As for her immediate future, Gabby is working toward becoming a high school English teacher, with a particular interest in literature. She plans to eventually earn her Master's Degree and is considering a Doctorate as well. She also has plans to write and publish books, such as a book on her family's folklore that will include her paper, "On Within the Same," and more of her works. Gabby said her mother was an aspiring writer and following in those footsteps is just one more way she can keep her mother's legacy alive.

Congratulations, Gabby, and welcome to TFS!



**New Voices Student Session Spotlight honoree Gabby Walker, left, is pictured with session chair Blanca Jenkins and fellow student participants Kelly Olson and Tali Russell.**

Lori Najvar photo

# Three receive **Fellows honors**

For many of us, when we think about TFS, we think about our fellow Paisanos. We are a family, and the three longtimers who were recently inducted as Fellows of the Texas Folklore Society are at the heart of it.

## **Jack and Elizabeth Duncan**

Hooked on the Society since 1970, Jack and Elizabeth Duncan (McKinney) have only missed a couple of Annual Meetings in the last 55 years—and that's just a small part of their involvement.

They are selfless volunteers, taking the lead in various capacities. Jack and Elizabeth have both served as board members, vice presidents, and program chairs, which anyone with experience will tell you takes a lot of time, work, and dedication. They have also hosted two annual meetings in Collin County, and their love of folklore and the Texas Folklore Society is something they have shared countless times, leading many new members to join.

When it comes to our books, Texas Folklore Society owes a lot to Jack and Elizabeth. They are contributors in every sense of the word and living the mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing folklore. TFS has published 16 of Jack's articles. Our 2025 book, on the artists and illustrators who have contributed to our publications, has been researched by Jack.

For a wider audience, Jack has also written about three dozen entries for the Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas*, including pieces on TFS members José Cisneros, book illustrator, and Al Lowman, bibliophile. He also penned *Handbook of Texas* entries on author Larry McMurtry, child film star Spanky McFarland, journalist Bill Porterfield, and sculptor Luis Jimenez, who, tragically and ironically, was killed by one of his pieces of art.

Stories and memories abound when



**Jack & Elizabeth Duncan**

chatting with Elizabeth and Jack. He once had the pleasure of meeting Stith Thompson, who edited our first publication, *Round the Levee*, in 1916. While on a business trip, Jack visited Stith, who was about 90 years old and living in a nursing home in Ohio. Jack and Elizabeth are the type of people who will go out of their way to bring a piece of Texas and TFS to fellow Paisanos and everyone they meet.

## **Lee Haile**

It takes a pretty special, fun-loving, and dedicated individual to receive back-to-back honors, and such is the case with Lee Haile, a performer and folklorist in every sense of the words.

In 2022, we congratulated Lee Haile as the first recipient of the Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award. This year, Lee was honored as a Fellow of the Texas Folklore Society. At our last meeting, he was awarded the inaugural Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award, and this year Lee's honors go beyond his contributions to music and merriment. He has led our hoots for decades, plays just about every instrument, sings just about every song, and wrangles everyone including his family—Karen, Acayla, and Sierra—into joining in the fun, but Lee has done much more for the Texas Folklore Society and folklore as a whole.

Lee served as President of the TFS in 2017–18 and has been leading and participating in annual meeting hootenannies for more than thirty years. He makes appearances at schools, festivals, and plenty of other places singing and entertaining—sometimes several times a week. He participated in the Texas Heritage Music Festival in Kerrville for many years. Lee is also a talented writer who has written poems and many original songs that some predict will someday be sung by more people. He is a storyteller, who often performs original skits. Both Lee and his wife, Karen, have been honored by inclusion in the Bandera Music Hall of Fame.

Lee is a botanist who also leads groups in exploring the beautiful Hill Country, as well as a photographer and woodworker who built his beautiful home piece by piece with the help of his family. More recently, with the help of his family, Lee planned and constructed a camp house and getaway near Terlingua at Big Bend—hauling each board and nail from Tarpley to Big Bend.

Kudos Jack, Elizabeth, and Lee for all they have done for TFS and folklore in the Lone Star State.



**Kristina Downs & Lee Haile**  
Lori Najvar photos

# New president, VP elected

At our annual business meeting, TFS membership confirmed the appointment of new leaders, including president MaryAnn Blue and vice-president Jo Virgil, who will serve on the Executive Committee alongside Treasurer Blaine Williams, Immediate Past President Meredith Abarca, Secretary-Editor/ Executive Director Kristina Downs, and Office Manager Amanda Jenkins.

TFS President **MaryAnn Blue** (San Antonio) is a retired Spanish teacher, spending the last dozen years of a more than forty-year career teaching at Saint Mary's Hall in San Antonio. MaryAnn is



also a storyteller and a storytelling teacher of youth tellers. She has given keynotes and workshops at language conferences on using storytelling in language acquisition. She has been a featured teller at the Texas Storytelling Festival, the George West Storyfest, and Dobie Dichos in Oakville, Texas. She was also a visiting storyteller on the PBS television show *Barney and Friends*. MaryAnn served as Storyteller-in-Residence for the National Endowment for the Arts and Columbia University Summer Folklore Symposium for K-8 Spanish Teachers, "La realidad mágica de Oaxaca", teaching teachers how to create a unit of study in the Spanish-language classroom based on folklore.

MaryAnn is a former board member of the Tejas Storytelling Association, as well as its past vice president, and has served that organization a number of times as Assistant Director of the Texas Storytelling Festival, Artistic Director of the Festival, Director of the Texas

Storytelling Conference, and Program Chair for both Conference and Festival. She is a recipient of two awards from the Tejas Storytelling Association, the John Henry Faulk Award for her outstanding contribution to the art of storytelling in the Southwest and the Colson-Herndon Educators' Award in appreciation for her advancement of storytelling in education.

In her retirement, MaryAnn continues to work as a storyteller, a storytelling and public-speaking coach, and consultant. She is married to David Coffman, and together they have nine grandchildren, ranging in age from four to twenty-three.

Vice-President **Jo Virgil** (Austin) joined the Texas Folklore Society several years ago, being introduced to the organization by Paisano Donna Ingham.

Jo, who grew up in West Texas, is a third-generation Texan whose father worked as a highway patrolman. She grew up with two siblings, a younger brother and an older sister. Jo's love for her native state started when she was young and her father would explore Texas and share stories of its rich history.

She has degrees in English, journalism, and environmental science and when asked more about her schooling, Jo is guided by a quote from a favorite professor, "Stories are what make us matter." Jo's love of stories is what keeps her connected to TFS and the study of folklore. Jo says stories can help us better understand things that have happened that we didn't personally

experience and better understand each other. She also enjoys learning about folklore research and the history of communities.

Jo's community affiliations include involvement in organizations such as the University of Texas Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), the UT Forum, the Story Circle Network, for which she is an editor and board member, and several discussion and book groups. Jo enjoys hiking, spending time in nature, and writing. She has two adult children and two grandchildren. She is also a regular TFS volunteer, assisting with promotion and outreach at the Texas Book Festival.

The vice-president's role is a one-year appointment that includes the responsibility of serving as program chair for the annual meeting and being an active participant on the Executive Committee.

The vice president has voting power on the Executive Committee and also votes on matters considered by the full board of directors. After a one-year term, the vice-president shall succeed to the office of President.



**If you're interested in volunteering to serve in a leadership capacity, please email the Home Office at [TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com)**

## Two new directors take office

New to the TFS board of directors are Jim Matthews and Heath Dollar, who will join existing directors **Dina Lopez** (Lubbock), 2025; **Gayle Modrall** (Lubbock), 2025; **Lucy Fischer West** (El Paso), 2025; **Kaitlyn Chacon** (Laredo), 2026; **Linda Spetter** (Eastland), 2026; and **Justin Swink** (Watauga), 2026. **Richard Orton** (Nacogdoches) and **John Pelham** (Granbury) both agreed to serve another term, through 2027. Directors serve a three-year term and are charged with TFS oversight and management.



**Jim Matthews** (San Antonio), a TFS member since the early 1990s, returned from a decade-long hiatus from activity about two years ago. He has since volunteered with the Society's Marketing and Communications Subcommittee by proofreading

newsletter content and serving as a local arranger for our 105th Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

While Jim considers himself a historian, he was led to TFS by his wife Becky, a folklorist. His long-time interest in folklore is, perhaps unsurprisingly, how it intersects with history. Jim recently published a book, *Always in the Vanguard: The Buffalo Soldiers of Company H, Tenth U. S. Cavalry*. In addition to being elected to serve as a TFS director, Jim has been the editor for the West Texas Historical Association for more than 20 years.

He enjoys oral history interviews and traveling. Jim has visited every state in the United States. He and Becky have five children.

**Heath Dollar** (Fort Worth) is the author of *Waylon County: Texas Stories* and *Old Country Fiddle*, which won the Texas Institute of Letters (TIL) 2021 Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Book of

Fiction and was named the March 2022 Read of the Month by *Southern Literary Review*. He has won the *Texas Observer* Short Story Contest and the Gary Wilson Short Fiction Award as well as been named a finalist for the Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story. He was inducted into the TIL in 2023.

Heath, a Texas native and former Yellowstone National Park employee, was also once the lyricist and frontman for a European rock band signed with a Prague record label. He now serves as a World Language/ESL coordinator for a public school district. He and his wife, Martina, live in Fort Worth.



*"To be a folklorist is to be entrusted with a diverse body of critical cultural knowledge, art, and practice and to be just ornery enough to believe the world is better off if we share it out in teaching, researching, writing, consulting, public programming, advocating, archiving, and engaging with each other as members of our Society."*

- Kay Turner



## ROAD TRIPPIN'

Have an event to share? Please submit to:

TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com

[East Texas Historical Association Fall Conference](#) • Sept. 26–28 • Nacogdoches

[Dobie Dichos](#) • Nov. 1 • Oakville

[Billy the Kid Film Festival](#) • Nov. 1–3 • Hico

[American Folklore Society Annual Meeting](#) • Nov. 6–9 • Albuquerque, NM

[Texas Book Festival](#) • Nov. 16–17 • Austin

[Texas Folklore Society 106th Annual Meeting](#) • April 17–19, 2025 • Fort Worth





**Students from San Antonio Mariachi Academy set a celebratory tone for our 105th Annual Meeting.**  
Donna Ingham photos



**Kim Lehman, Shirley Johnson, and Lori Najvar**



**Jimmie Sue Frances, Mary Fogel, Richard Orton, and Linda Lees**



## ***Bienvenidos* NEW MEMBERS**

**Andrew Gray**, Georgetown  
**Jackson V. Ward**, Leakey  
**Linda Kirkpatrick**, Leakey  
**Dr. Julianne Graper**, Bloomington, IN  
**Jim Gramon**, Austin  
**Avrel Seale**, Austin  
**Shelby Criswell**, San Antonio  
**Aaron Haley**, Austin  
**Eva Morales**, Laredo  
**Tali Russell**, Lubbock  
**Kim Lehman**, Smithville  
**Allan Chapman**, Decatur  
**Michael Pharaoh**, Pecos  
**Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

**Anton B. Ullrich**, Houston  
**Landry Bearden**  
**Roccie Hill**, Culpeper, VA  
**Dayja Palma**, Glen Rose  
**Justiss Burry**, Stephenville  
**Pamela Bailey**, Dallas  
**Jim Green**, Rowlett  
**Diane Dismukes**, Kerrville  
**Shawna Prather**, Post  
**Laurie Lowrance**, Albuquerque, NM  
**Robin Jarman**, Austin  
**Wade Cavitt**, Hobbs, NM  
**Jeri Martin**, Stephenville  
**Amy Wright**, Brooklyn, NY

**Ann Stetson**, Fort Worth  
**Powers Family**, Dallas  
**Catherine Keller**, Houston  
**John Lomax III**, Nashville, TN  
**Nadia Botello**, San Antonio  
**Gabriel Goff**, Mesquite  
**David Claunch**, Kingwood  
**Jill Davis**, Glen Rose  
**Tim Tingle**, Canyon Lake  
**Delfeld Family**, Austin

# MEMBERSHIP

## SAVE THE DATE

106th Annual Meeting

April 17-19, 2025

Radisson Fort Worth North - Fossil Creek



## HELP WANTED

Wondering how you can get in on the fun of helping the Texas Folklore Society reach its full 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 members better than you!
- Watch for local outreach opportunities in your area. We're strategically looking for a few good festivals and sponsorship opportunities.
- We have several committees forming and we need your help. Watch your inbox for more information.
- 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 a 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 host our meetings via Zoom.

Questions? Call the Home Office at (254) 459-5445 or email [TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com)

## Thank You, 105th Annual Meeting Sponsors!



John & Rita Pelham



Texas Folklore Society  
Past Presidents Club

