

BHA Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

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July 2021

The Smithsonian Comes to Brownsville

The Brownsville Historical Association is proud to present *Water/Ways*, a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street Program, which will be on display from September 21 - November 6, 2021 at the Historic Alonso Building.

Water/Ways features a selection of photographs, objects, film audio and interactives to explore the endless motion of the water

The BHA will be the only organization to receive the Smithsonian traveling exhibition in South Texas. Before arriving at the BHA's Alonso Building, it will have traveled to the Brazos Valley African American Museum in Bryan, Texas and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero, Texas. After its time at the Association, it will later be installed at Midland College in Midland, Texas; University of Texas--Permian Basin in Odessa,

Texas and the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens in El Paso, Texas.

"This exhibit has been at least three years in the making!" said Collections Manager for the BHA, Aubrey Nielsen. "We are very thrilled to have this opportunity here in Brownsville. I really view this as a launch pad for bigger, expansive, and creative-thinking exhibitions for our museum."

The BHA will develop complementary exhibits, create public programs and facilitate education initiatives to deepen people's understanding of what water means culturally, socially and spiritually in South Texas.



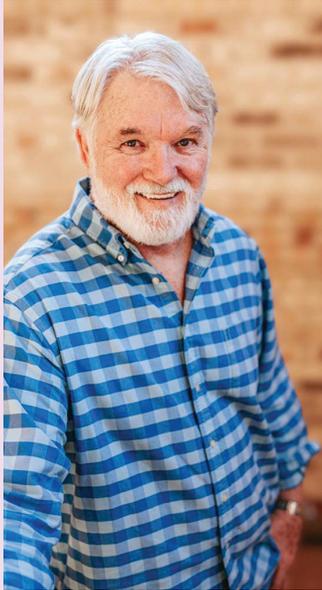
Photo courtesy of The Smithsonian

cycle, water's effect on landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. The exhibition looks at how political and economic planning have been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, *Water/Ways* will serve as a community catalyst to spur conversations about water's impact on American culture. The exhibition will travel to six sites across the state of Texas over a one-year period.

During the month of September, you will have the opportunity to attend a "Sip N' Paint" scheduled for the 23rd at the Alonso Building. At this event, you can socialize and sip on your drink of choice while you follow along step-by-step with a local artist as you create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. We are excited and working to program events in conjunction with *Water/Ways* for the months

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UPCOMING EVENTS



**Stories from Texas:
Some of them are
true. Vol II**

**By W.F. Strong
(book signing
and lecture)**

**Saturday, July 24, 2021
2 p.m.**

**Mary Yturria
Education Center
641 E Madison Street,
Brownsville, TX 78520
Free and open to the
public**

UTRGV Communication Professor, author and Texas storyteller Dr. William F. Strong will visit the Brownsville Historical Association at the Mary Yturria Education Center to discuss and sign his latest book, *Stories from Texas: Some of them are true. Vol II*. Don't have a copy? Books will be available for purchase at the Historic Brownsville Museum. Follow us on our social media platforms for more information, updates and more.

Cocktails With A Curator

**Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021
5 to 7 p.m.**

**Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street,
Brownsville, TX 78520**

**Individual tickets are \$20 for members
& \$30 for non-members. Or \$30 per
couple with membership and \$40 per
couple if non-members. Sorry, no refunds.**

RSVP by calling: (956) 548-1313

Let's mix things up! Join us for "Cocktails With A Curator," a program that toasts amazing works of art and historical artifacts with deliciously themed cocktails. Price includes admission and three drink tickets per person. Space is limited so be sure and register early- spots will fill up fast! Thank you to L&F Distributors for making this program possible.



The Smithsonian Comes to Brownsville, *cont'd*

of September, October and November. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates and details.

We hope that you can visit this wonderful exhibit and attend the opening reception and fundraiser on September 18. The fundraiser will help support programs and costs associated with transporting the exhibit, exhibit rental fees, design and printing costs of marketing materials, public programs, and more. With your support, we will be able to provide Brownsville residents with access to this high quality educational and cultural experience.

For more information about Water/Ways, please visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

Victor G. Ramirez

Programs and Events Coordinator

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

In this issue we introduce to you Scout, the unofficial Director of Museum Guest Services at the Heritage Museum. He was an unexpected addition to the team who quickly captured the hearts of staff the day he wandered into the museum. Scout started his work with the Brownsville Historical



Association staff in September 2020 as a Maintenance Assistant at the Historic Brownsville Museum before moving onto the Heritage Museum in October. At the end of November 2020, he began to manage museum guest services and was promoted to his current position.

Scout enjoys greeting visitors and guiding them through the exhibit displays. In his leisure time, he loves receiving treats from his co-workers and playing with bouncy balls. You can

often find him lounging in the front desk area, awaiting visitors. He is definitely a unique part of the experience at the Heritage Museum and an interesting tour guide. Stop by Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4PM, during museum hours to say "hi" to Scout!

Welcome! **NEW BHA MEMBERS**

Allan Thomas
Jules & Phyllis Frapart
Amy Penn
Meredith Dalton
Victor De Los Santos
David Combe

Donna Clanton
Nubia Reyna
Emily Alpert & Betha Janis
Teresa & Mark Roberts
Olivia Rodriguez

Sponsorships help make this newsletter possible!

Please call us at 956-372-1515, to inquire about newsletter sponsorship opportunities, or visit our website at www.brownsvillehistory.org for more information.

In Memoriam: Dr. Theodora S. Budnik



Dr. Theodora Stillman Budnik (nee Mary Theodora Stillman), 75, succumbed to the effects of ALS on June 8, 2021 at her home in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Theodora, known as Theo all of her life, was born on December 15, 1945 in Manhattan, NYC, to

Theodora Moran Stillman (nee Jay) and Chauncey Devereux Stillman. Theo was raised in Manhattan and attended Miss Hewitt's and Chapin girls' schools, where she developed her love for music, art, and science. Theo graduated from Radcliffe College in 1968. Her great compassion for others, however, turned her scientific pursuits to the field of Medicine, and she completed pre-med coursework at Columbia University, began her training at Albany Medical Center, and graduated from UCLA with her medical degree in 1974. Theo and Roy were married on September 16, 1972 in the chapel at Wethersfield, her father's estate in Stanfordville, NY.

Theo was a dedicated and caring doctor concerned for the best interests of those who sought her help, guidance, or advice on medical matters. While balancing her busy career, Theo also took seriously her role as mother and wife, ensuring she was home for dinner and bedtimes most nights, even if it meant having to go back to the hospital late into the night. Theo specialized in General Surgery, with an emphasis on breast cancer.

Theo's love for Brownsville history and the Stillman family was apparent through her annual visits to Brownsville and her devotion to the proper maintenance of the Stillman House Museum. It was Theo's father, Chauncey, who saw to it that the Stillman House open as a museum under the management of the BHA. We, at the BHA, are grateful for Theo's consistent participation in Brownsville preservation efforts over the years and we express our sincere condolences to the family.

For the complete obituary, please visit www.legacy.com

Historical Happenings



Sip N' Paint



Preservation Month

Los Ebanos
Neighborhood Forum and
Architectural Tour



*Memorial Day at the
Old City Cemetery*



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www.brownsvillehistory.org

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Permit No. 47
Brownsville, TX

September 21 - November 6, 2021

On display at the Historic Alonso Building
510 E. Saint Charles Street

Smithsonian 

A traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian
Institution's Museum on Main Street Program.



WATER | WAYS

PRESENTS

The Brownsville Historical Association