

museum musings

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Happy New Year!

1968 in America opens in April

1968 in America opens on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Bell County Museum in Belton. This exhibition traces the tumultuous events of 1968, a single year in history that rocked the foundations of American society. From the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and the Vietnam War, the extraordinary events of 1968 witnessed profound change in social and political systems and confirmed to citizens of all ages that fundamental change was both possible and necessary.

1968 in America features four major themes, including the "Power of Idealism," the "Power of Music," the "Power of the Bullet," and the "Power of the Press." Visitors to the museum will experience a variety of artifacts including photographs, magazine covers, political memorabilia, textiles, record albums, and other objects that explore this pivotal moment in American history.

The opening day will feature activities such as making tie-dyed handkerchiefs, refreshments and presentations on the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the Democratic Convention and student movement.

"This exhibition documents a pivotal year in American history," says Dee Harris, director of visual arts and humanities at Mid-America Arts Alliance. "It's much more than a history lesson. It's a message about how the power of idealism, music, press, and the bullet made fundamental changes in our nation in 1968, setting the stage for current events that affect America today."

The exhibition is organized and toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than 20 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the United States. More information is available at www.maaa.org.

Christmas at Twelve Oaks

We are thrilled to announce that *Christmas at Twelve Oaks* was not only lovely and fun, it also cleared \$8,931.75 for museum programs! We are grateful to Mr. Morris Foster for opening up his home for the occasion, to those who attended and donated to the fundraiser, and to the following for underwriting the event: Mary Jean & Paul Boston; Madelon & Jimmy Carroll; Maryette Clifton; Janet & Roger Daniel; Extraco Banks; First Texas Bank, Belton; Kathy & Griff Lord; Sue Mayborn; and JoAn Dillard. *Thank you!*



Kay & John Roberts



Joelle Bedwell, Roger & Pat Davis, Mary Jean Boston



Ann Faber, Barton & Jeanie Jones, Nancy Healey

A New Year, New Board Members

A new year always brings changes, and for the museum, the changes include the rotation of Board members. It is a time of goodbyes and hellos. We first had to say goodbye and thank-you for the hard work and dedication of those whose Board term ended – Dorothy Ann Aldrich, Maryette Clifton, JoAn Dillard, Griff Lord, and Sue Mayborn. Boy, are we going to miss them! However, we are thrilled to welcome Becky Ann Garth, Ann Messer, Stephanie O'Banion, John Odom, and Amy Thomas to the Board. They are going to be great, and we look forward to working with them as well. Board members can serve two consecutive three-year terms. *Welcome!*

Mark your calendar! Save the date! Put a string on your finger! The annual

BIG BELL COUNTY GARAGE SALE!

is fast approaching!

Saturday, March 13, 2009

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Booth spaces are now available to vendors and area non-profits. Visitors will be able to find everything from collectibles to electronic equipment, fabulous antiques, vintage jewelry and textiles, furniture, house wares, and just great all-American junk. "The Garage Sale is really a giant, wonderful flea market, and has been characterized as one of the great people-watching events of the year," Museum Director Stephanie Turnham said. "It is also a great opportunity to get out with friends and family members, do something fun, and find some real deals. There's plenty of parking, food will be available, and children under twelve get in free. Admission is only \$2.00 for adults," Turnham added, "so it's a great bargain that offers the opportunity to discover hidden treasures offered by the many vendors. Plus, every family member can find something here that they just cannot live without." The garage sale also needs volunteers, Turnham said. "We need people to help us for a couple of hours on Saturday selling tickets and troubleshooting, or for setting up on Friday. It's really lots of fun because you get to talk to so many interesting people, and you get to shop as much as you want to!" Call the museum for more information.

Please join us! Take part in preserving the rich history of the Bell County region by joining the Friends of the Museum Association. Your membership allows us to continue award-winning programming through exhibits and educational activities that enhance our county-wide community. Benefits of membership include discounts in the museum bookstore, invitations to special events, and the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are an important part of the preservation of Bell County and Central Texas history. Together, we make our community great!

Yes! I want to support the Bell County Museum by becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum Association.

- | | |
|--|---|
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Sandra Oliver

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Lucinda & Robert Stinson

From *The Unknown Bell County*, by Jim Bowmer: After Governor Jim Ferguson's impeachment: ". . . the Fergusons were so short of cash that Ferguson had to travel by chair car on the railroad and have some friend in one town stake him with railroad fare to the next. It was after one of these trips that daddy and his partner, looking out of their second floor office window one day, saw Jim Ferguson in front of the post office carrying his suit case and walking home from the Katy station. It was a long walk of a couple of miles. He didn't even take the street car that ran by his house. It made daddy sad. 'A couple of years ago,' he told his partner, 'and a brass band would have been meeting him at the station.'"



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¿Qué Pasa?

Now through March 13, 2010 - *Meet the Fergusons: Two Governors for the Price of One*

January 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – guided tour of the Gault Site; limited to 30 participants; FULL.

January 23, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Heather Wooten, author of *The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown*

February 20, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Clyde McQueen, author of *The Black Army Officer*

March 13, 2010, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – the annual *Big Bell County Garage Sale!* Bell County Expo Center

March 20, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Amy Wink, author of *Tandem Lives: The Frontier Texas Diaries of Henrietta Baker Embree and Tennessee Keys Embree, 1856-1884*

April 10, 2010 – *1968 in America* opens