

Summer 2020  
Vol. 36/No. 3

# McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



The McFaddin-Ward Museum was honored to assist our community by providing an alternative venue for the 72nd Neches River Festival — a beautiful day embracing the youth of our area.

*Photo courtesy of Tim Sudela*

# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*“As ‘History’s Keepers’ we know that our museums can provide opportunities for our communities, and our nation, to heal. Indeed, history is the lens through which we understand the past, see the present, and find hope for the future.”*

Karen Daly  
Dumbarton House, Washington D.C.

Dear McFaddin-Ward House family:

As President, I wanted to address our museum community during these unsettling times. The events that have unfolded over the past few months surrounding the COVID-19 virus outbreak and recently the impassioned protests and civil unrest for equality in cities across the globe, has created a restlessness not felt by our country in decades. We at the museum stand committed to continue our efforts of striving for stronger connectiveness and relevance to our broader community through school education programming, special exhibits and lecture series.

A different type of change has been felt close to home as well.

The McFaddin-Ward House has recently accepted the resignation of our executive director, Allen Lea. With the COVID shutdown of operations at the Visitor Center, the team of Becky Fertitta and Bonnie McDaniel have both chosen to take early retirement.

The front office assistant, Sandy Rostrom, is on extended vacation before her scheduled retirement and public relations director, Karen Chapman, has moved to Cypress, Texas, with her husband for their retirement. While we can't socially gather to celebrate their years of accomplishments and service, I know we wish them all well in their future endeavors and retirement years.

I am very excited about the direction we will be taking in the months and years ahead. We are delighted to have a new interim director in place and with our creative team and Board of Directors we are coordinating a new Strategic Plan, a vision statement, a national search for an executive director, the reprogramming of our Visitor Center, an elevated education initiative for online learning and more. This is, indeed, a time of reimagining and new direction for our museum and surrounding community.

In this newsletter, we recognize those that have come before and introduce some of those that will be a part of building our future.

With great anticipation,

Leslie Wilson  
President,  
McFaddin-Ward House Museum



Leslie Wilson and NRF Queen Julia Phelan



Lane Wilson

## MWH welcomes new board member

Lane Wilson is the president of the Bar C Ranch Company, a real estate and investment company. Prior to joining the Bar C, she held management positions in the corporate dining and hotel industries. She is a Beaumont native and Lamar graduate.

She is currently serving as the president of the Beaumont Heritage Society and is on the Board of other community organizations, including Beaumont Community Players,

Slow Food Beaumont, and the Lamar Culinary Arts Advisory Board. She is involved with the Symphony League of Beaumont, SETX YPO, Family and Nutrition Services for Seniors, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She served as a junior interpreter of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum in younger years and was a participant in the recent docent training program when interrupted by Covid-19. She also happens to be the great-great

granddaughter of Ida Caldwell McFaddin.

When she is not working or volunteering, Lane enjoys creating encaustic art pieces, gardening, cooking in the kitchen or outside with her family over an open fire, and spending time with her dogs.

We welcome Lane to the board and anticipate that she will bring a new and fresh perspective to the development of our Strategic Plan and future leadership of our museum.

# Appreciation for Years of Dedication



Allen Lea — 10 years



Sandy Rostrom — 13 years



Becky Fertitta — 31 years



Bonnie McDaniel — 34 years



Karen Chapman — 5 years

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## Introducing interim director Bel Morian

It is with great pleasure we introduce our new interim director, Bel Morian. She is a life long resident of Beaumont, holds a BBA from Lamar University and has served multiple board of director appointments in our community, including the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Symphony League of Beaumont, Magnolia Garden Club, Humane Society of Southeast Texas, the NSCDA-Texas, All Saints Episcopal School and, most important, our own McFaddin-Ward House Museum.

Her years as executive director of Anayat House, CASA and recently as director of event and external relations oversight at Lamar more than qualifies her for stepping into the role of interim. She quickly put her event planning and management skills to work with details surrounding the Neches River Festival Coronation held on the grounds of the museum, June 6. Her strong, even-keel approach will guide us

through our important planning stages ahead.

Bel enjoys her garden, creating floral designs, time with her two grown children Isabel and Nick, her puppy dogs and all god's critters! Welcome Bel, you are indeed a delight.



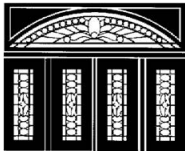
Bel Morian

### A Note from Bel

It is a great honor and pleasure to be a part of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum family. I look forward to the re-opening of this beautiful museum in the near future and with great enthusiasm announce that the museum will have our inaugural Museum Moment on Facebook on July 7. These short videos will be a fun, entertaining, educational glimpse into interesting museum artifacts, arts and crafts from the time period, gardening tips utilized on the McFaddin-Ward grounds, architectural component features, and tips on care of family treasures. The videos will be archived on the McFaddin-Ward website following each Facebook posting. Please join us July 7!!

To find the videos, visit our Facebook page, or the McFaddin-Ward House museum website at [www.mcfaddin-ward.org](http://www.mcfaddin-ward.org).

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Published quarterly for volunteers of the  
McFaddin-Ward House and others  
interested in cultural and  
educational aspects of the museum.

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## Summertime Delights

*A few recipes from the McFaddin-Ward Cookbook. Enjoy!!*

### Jean McNeer's Rum Punch

2 ounces dark rum  
Juice of 1 small lemon  
Juice of ½ medium orange  
½ ounce grenadine

Mix ingredients in tall glass. Add crushed ice.

### Okra and Tomatoes

5 strips bacon, chopped  
2 medium onions, chopped  
9 medium okra pods, thinly sliced  
1 ½ cups cooked tomatoes  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper

Cook bacon and onion in skillet until onion is yellow. Add okra and cook for 2 minutes.

Add tomatoes, salt and pepper and bring to boiling.

Cook on medium for about 25 minutes.



### Lemon Sauce

1 cup of sugar  
2 tablespoons corn starch  
½ cup boiling water  
Juice of one lemon  
Juice of one orange  
2 teaspoons lemon rind  
1 tablespoon butter

Combine sugar and cornstarch, add water and cook until clear about 1 minute.  
Add strained juices and lemon rind, boil 3 minutes.  
Add butter and serve over cake, brownies or ice cream.