

Austin Friends of Folk Art 2005: The Year That Was

Brains on, hands on, soup's on!

Sixteen events fueled members' brains, bellies and imaginations in 2005. Did you miss any?

◆ A visit to Austin Museum of Art for a docent-guided tour of the work of British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. Nobody does with rocks, leaves, ice and grass what Goldsworthy does!

◆ The annual membership party! Food, prizes, and the music of Catavento in Dagmar and Terry Grieder's wonderful new home.

◆ Easter egg painting. A tradition and a great way to get to know other members!

◆ A driving trip to Santa Fe for a long weekend. Martha Egan of Pachamama spoke about her book, *Clearing Customs*, and Mr. and Mrs. David Mathers hosted a cocktail party and showed their folk art collection—and their wine cellar, which is in a centuries old portion of their house. Plus the regular Santa Fe activities!

◆ Jennifer Myers invited us to explore and relax in her central Austin garden, which has been featured in articles and books.

◆ Wild Wood Art Cafe was the scene of a demonstration and talk by Andrew Small about his fascinating collection of Tonka art from Nepal. Joan Griffith served dinner and drinks.

◆ Demetrio Aguilar created stunning clay figures before our eyes while telling folk tales like how the marigold got its smell. Meanwhile we oohed and aahed and enjoyed potluck. Soup's on! The event was sponsored by Terry Hennessey of Turquoise Door and hosted by Priscilla Murr.

◆ Arnold Lopez shared a video about his many trips to India.

◆ Historian, Patrick Hughes, gave a talk "Celebrity Politics: W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel and the Power of Radio Entertainment." He also performed songs from that time in Texas history on his guitar.

◆ Beading with Barb Jackson guided members in making bracelets or necklaces, some of which were auctioned at the holiday party.

◆ "What Is This Thing?" Experts came to identify folk art items members and the public brought in. Hurricane Rita kept participation low, but experts—Nancy Fullerton of the San Antonio Museum of Art, Hank Lee of San Antonio, Mary Ann Walborg of Interweavers, Terry Hennessey of Turquoise Door, Marcia Lucas of El Interior, Donna Endres of Istanbul to Samarkand, Terry Grieder and Juan Isart—still saw interesting jewelry, textiles, wood carvings and grass skirts!

◆ Day of the Dead altar-building, complete with tamales and more! Susan Frost spoke about the history of the San Jose pottery and tile tradition, showed pieces from her large collection, and explained work underway to install tiles on the San Antonio River Walk.

◆ A day trip to Smithville. Mary Ann Walborg spoke at Interweavers about MaXimon, an important Guatemalan religious folk figure. Lunch followed, then a "tourist train" tour of Smithville's historic homes.

◆ "Hooked on Rugs: the women of Agustin Gonzalez and their hooked rug project." This North American craft became a profitable enterprise for 21 women in a village near San Miguel de Allende. Susan White has been helping the women market their rugs since 2000, and this event sold more than any other. The rugs are charming and 100% of the purchase price went directly to the women in Mexico.

◆ Demetrio Aguilar returned, this time to the home of Anna and Bill Prothro, where he fashioned clay figures and talked about folk lore and history, his sources of inspiration and his methods.

◆ The annual holiday party at Mary and Larry Craddock's home drew 100 people for good food,

music by the Bells of Joy and a terrific silent auction. The whole affair netted a record \$2,760.

What we do and how

AFFA works through education to promote folk art and an appreciation of the cultures that create it. Our success depends on three things: good ideas, volunteer effort and money. We always need the first two, but we do have money in the bank!

Our funds are designated for:

◆ **routine programs** like the 16 just listed. The standard honorarium is \$100, but it can be higher with board approval.

◆ **grants and donations**, like those listed below, that support folk art in the larger community. With board approval, grants of up to \$500 for an individual and \$1,000 for an organization may be made. A brief, standardized grant application form is available from board members.

◆ **visionary funds** for unusual and significant undertakings, like bringing well-known artists or experts to Austin, sponsoring seminars, partnering with other organizations to underwrite special exhibits, or giving institutions items that would become permanent additions to the preservation of a culture.

AFFA funds at work

In 2005 AFFA disbursed \$1,013 in honorariums to program presenters, \$900 to musicians for the holiday and membership parties, and \$1,600 in donations and grants to the following:

Jean Graham, artist of record, for the "Wall of Welcome" mosaic mural project, \$1,000 to help fund installation of the mural which combines tiles made by Crestview neighbors with others made by Jean that tell the history of the neighborhood. The mural will cover a block-long wall between Woodrow Ave. and the Crestview Shopping Center.

San Antonio River Foundation, \$500 toward the installation of a 120-tile San Jose mural, as part of a major project to convert 13 miles of overgrown private land along the San Antonio River into public parkland.

The hand-crafted mural featuring colorful scenes of Mexican village life will, in fact, be going home. Rescued seven years ago from a Maverick family home that was being demolished, the mural will be installed very near the site where it was made in the 1930s—in Ethel Harris' first workshop, Mexican Arts and Crafts.

Susan Toomey Frost, who purchased and donated the mural, says, "This is the perfect home for this mural! It will be where the public can enjoy it, and a historical marker nearby will tell about the important work that the WPA did in the workshop that once stood there."

Hospice Austin, \$100 in memory of Clara Noordenbos Hartung, mother of board member Terry Tannert. A non-profit organization, Hospice Austin provides family-centered end of life care. Every summer its Camp Brave Heart gives children who have experienced the death of a loved one a chance to explore their loss through creative activities.

AFFA online

At austinfriendsoffolkart.org you'll find program information and links to business members:

El Interior
Indigena Imports
Interweavers
La Loba Design
Mexic-Arte Museum
Mexico's Lake Chapala & Ajijic
Pieces of the Past
Tesoros Trading Co.
Texas Folklife Resources
Turquoise Door
Turquoise Trading Post
Una Tierra Distante
Uncommon Objects
Wild Wood Art Cafe

Our history 1987-2004

In 2004 retired journalist Robert Hollingsworth interviewed past presidents and dug through piles of papers to write an informal and nicely illustrated history of AFFA's founding, its goals and programs, and its struggles for solvency.

"The original printing is sold out but I'll happily print more copies on demand. We want people to know the organization better, so call me if you want a copy!" says Trevoris Morgan. Cost is \$5 to cover printing.

Join! Be new or renew!

Curiosity and enthusiasm for different cultures and their art—that's what members have in common. Otherwise they're a diverse bunch, including individuals young and old from many walks of life, as well as shops, galleries and organizations.

AFFA ended 2005 with nearly 200 members. YOU can put us over the top! To join, please call Terry Tannert at 512/477-7363. To renew for 2006, please send \$20-individual, \$15-student/senior, \$30-couple, \$50-business to Dagmar Grieder, 502 West Live Oak, Austin, TX 78704.



**We know you've got 'em!
So share 'em!**

Ideas for programs & events

**Suggestions about folk art
projects worthy of funding**

**Dream trips you'd like
AFFA to organize**

**Don't keep your board
members in the dark.**

Call 'em!

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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2005

We started the year with	CHECKING	20,422.27
	CD	6,123.18
For a total of		\$26,545.45
We shifted from checking to CD		\$10,000.00
We had income of	MEMBERSHIP DUES	3,075.00
	EVENT GATES	5,495.00
	TRIPS	710.00
	HOLIDAY PARTY/SILENT AUCTION	2,760.50
	INVESTMENT INTEREST	296.25
	TOTAL INCOME	\$12,336.75
We spent	GIFTS AND GRANTS	1,600.00
	EVENT SPEAKERS	1,013.43
	MUSIC	900.00
	FOOD & FOOD SERVICE	2,893.34
	MAILING AND ADMINISTRATION	3,419.08
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 9,825.85
We finished the year with	CHECKING	12,636.92
	CD	6,193.42
	CD	10,226.01
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,056.35
We increased AFFA's treasury		\$ 2,510.90
AFFA's CASH IN BANK EQUALS TOTAL ASSETS		\$29,056.35
AFFA HAS NO LIABILITIES		0
AFFA's NET WORTH IS		\$29,056.35