

*There's no place like home
for the Holidays!!!*



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
from the San Jacinto Chapter
of the Daughters of the
Republic of Texas*

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



December 2024

From the President

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!!!

Happy New Year!!

Dear Members,

What a Joyous Season!!!

San Jacinto Chapter members have had fun being together getting the log house ready for Christmas. Heather Henderson has been in charge of setting up the Christmas tree for several years – she is now chair of the Holiday Tree and Log House Decorating Committee! By Tuesday afternoon Heather, Clarlyn Bhatti, Carla Brown, Adrian Danke, Carolyn Gilbert, Gwen Koch, Jan Norman, Patti Randolph, Diane Stool, Roni Thelen, Eron Tynes, and Sharolyn Wood had the tree decorated, and greenery hung inside and out. The next day Rachel Berte, Luisa Feagin, and crew of Carla Brown, Heather Henderson, Gwen Koch, Beth McCarty, Jaimie Moran, Susan Stormer and Luanne Zacek got the tables set and poinsettias arranged for the luncheon.

Our glorious log house was filled with beautiful ladies for our annual and sold-out Holiday luncheon. J-Bar-M Barbeque catered a delicious lunch, and Rachel Berte made yummy individual pecan pies for dessert. Each guest received a DRT tote bag as a party favor. Everyone enjoyed visiting with each other – voices and laughter filled the room! Martha Jorgensen and Clarissa Grayson led us in singing our favorite holiday songs after lunch.

Trudi Becht - Registrar, Luanne Zacek – Chaplain, and I installed 20 new members with 16 of them in attendance. They were presented with bags of DRT, San Jacinto Chapter and Texas related gifts including a yellow rose. I loved the Mother, Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister group of descendants of James Francis Walker Sr. What a treasure to have seven descendants to join our chapter together. And another group of relatives who joined together were Elizabeth Galtney and her 2 daughters, and Elizabeth's sister Laura Wheless joining to honor their mother/grandmother Karen McKinney Moore who passed away in 2023. They are descendants of Robert O. Lusk.

Santa and Mrs. Claus entertained us at the Christmas Open House. Children and “grownups” alike, told Santa their Christmas wishes. Despite the drizzly weather, we had many San Jacinto members, CRT, SRT and San Jacinto Descendants in attendance. Children dressed in their holiday finery visited with Santa, worked on activities, enjoyed cookies and punch. We presented Randy Pollard, past President General SRT, a check for over \$1,100 for their portion of proceeds from the Road to Independence Chili Cookoff. This will go toward college scholarships to be presented on San Jacinto Day at the monument.

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for children in CPS care– you were very generous.

Please note that our January meeting will be on the second Thursday, January 9, 2025.

I hope you can enjoy this festive Christmas season with decorating, shopping for the perfect gift, parties, Christmas Eve fellowship, cooking family recipes, entertaining, and visiting with family & friends. Or maybe just getting caught up with holiday movies. Don't stress if the above activities aren't on your “list” – enjoy what makes You happy.

May your holidays be merry and bright.

*Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!
Happy New Year!*

Gwen Sorsby Koch
President
San Jacinto Chapter DRT



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The San Jacinto Dispatch

Calendar December 25th – January 9th



2024

December 25, 2024

*Merry Christmas and
Happy Hanukkah!*

January 1, 2025

Happy New Year!

January 9, 2025

San Jacinto Chapter meeting

February 1, 2025

4th and 7th grade Essays due

2025



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Decorating Day

Thank you to everyone that came out to help decorate the Log House for the holidays!!





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Holiday Luncheon





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Open House



Daughters of the Republic of Texas San Jacinto Chapter

Friends of The Log House

November 2024

Season's Greetings to you and yours! We hope this letter finds you well and finally cooling off with Fall weather arriving! If you have not been to the log house in a while you should try to come by. Holiday decorations are going up soon and it is always beautiful! Come and shop for unique Texas gifts at the country store for those special people on your gift list too.

As you may know, we experienced significant damage from Hurricane Beryl this year. Thanks to you and a grant from the Native Texas License Plate Fund we were able to meet the financial needs for the clean-up. Most of the grounds are now back in order but we did have to postpone other slated projects.

Priority Projects we hope to address are:

French drains to alleviate the extensive water pooling \$40,000.00.

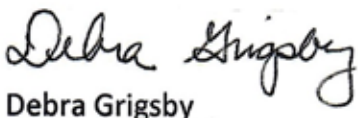
New fencing around the property \$15,000.00.

Meet the annual expenses of operating and maintaining the Log House \$25,000.

Any heart felt gift you can give is appreciated. All gifts are tax deductible and can be made as a tribute to friends, family or co-workers. Many of you work for (or are retired from) an employer that supports matching gifts. This means that if you donate \$10 through your employer's matching gifts program the Log House will receive \$20. Carla Brown, our treasurer, is happy to assist you in any way to take advantage of your employer's matching gift set-up. You may reach out to her via her email, Treasurer@sjcdrt.org; she will help you with this. Let's reap the benefits of this wonderful opportunity! Simply mail a check to San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, 1510 Cambridge Street, Houston, Tx. 77030 or scan the QR code on this letter.

Above all, we wish you a Joyful Holiday Season!

God Bless Texas,



Debra Grigsby

4th Vice President, SJC-DRT





Women and Children of the Alamo

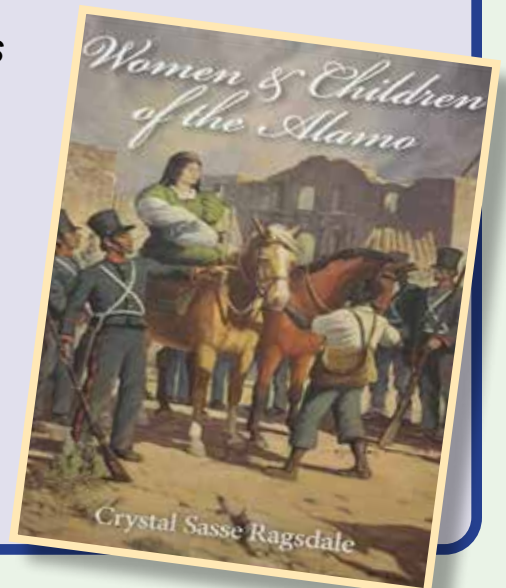
*In preparing to read essays for our DRT Essay Contest, I picked up the book called *Women and Children of the Alamo* by Crystal Sasse Ragsdale from our Country Store. There are chapters on several of the women and children who survived the 13-Day Battle at the Alamo in 1836 and who shared their memories of those days. One of the chapters is on JUANA NAVARRO PÉREZ ALSBURY, the topic for our 4th grade essay this year.*

Juana Navarro was the oldest of three daughters of Tejanos living in San Antonio de Béxar, Ángel and Concepción Navarro. After the girls' birth, their mother became unable to care for them and each went to live with various relatives. Juana lived with her dad's sister Josefa and her husband Juan Martín Veramendi, the governor of the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas! Juana and her cousin Ursula grew up as sisters in the Veramendi Palace. Ursula married the famous Jim Bowie in 1831 and Juana married Ramigio Alejo Pérez.

Within three years, Juana's husband Alejo and daughter Encarnación, as well as Ursula and her two small Bowie children, had all died of a cholera epidemic. Jim Bowie kept an eye out for Juana, her baby son, Alejo, and her sister Gertrudís. So when the Mexican army approached San Antonio, Bowie brought the three of them into the Alamo for their protection. They stayed in the Officers' Quarters near Bowie who was ill with typhoid fever. The story of their stay in the Alamo, their encounters with Mexican soldiers and even Santa Anna, and how they escaped with their lives is all told. Juana died at the age of 78 in 1888.

This book has several fascinating chapters by survivors including the remembrances of Madame Candelaria, Susanna Dickinson, and Enrique Esparza. It also includes the history of the Alamo along with old photos, maps and drawings of the mission. It is a book well worth reading for all ages from teens to adults. I look forward to reading the student essays about Juana Navarro!

Beth Garrett McCarty





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CRT at the Open House

The SJC CRT had a fun time at our Christmas Open House! We installed our new chapter officers and worked on several projects from the National BOM Project Book. Our new officers are Lorien Wolter (President), Anthony Thelen (Chaplain), Anthony Klementich (Treasurer), Annie Wallace (Historian), and Morgan Wolter (Recording Secretary). We are so proud of them for stepping into these leadership roles! Our group project for the National Custodian General was to create a Texas flag using something other than a coloring page. Our members worked so hard to complete our Texas flag using red, white, and blue tissue paper! We also brainstormed ideas for the CRT Convention in June (National 2nd VP project), and several of our members worked on drawings of Texas heroes and landscapes (National Corresponding Secretary project). We have such a great group of young people in our CRT!





Welcome New Members!

<u>Member</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Ella Rose Arnold	Robert O. Lusk
Ruby Elizabeth Moore	Robert O. Lusk
Mary Ellen Cuzela	Alexander Roberts
Adrienne Danke	Green B. L. Dunkley
Tammy Lynn Dodds	Henry Porter Cleveland
Elizabeth Moore Galtney	Robert O. Lusk
Alexis Thornton Goodson	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Emma Alexis Goodson	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Mary Catherine Hudgins	Elijah B. Reed
Audrey Hudson	Frederick Schmidt
Claire Kollar	James Rezin Pleasant Bowie
Katherine Kollar	James Rezin Pleasant Bowie
Wilna Ellen Warren Lee	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Grayson Margaret Mills	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Shannon Thornton Mills	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Kimberly Perez	Samuel M. Loggins Sr.
Becky Lee Reese	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Laura Kay Richard	James McKim
Suzanne Warren Todd	James Francis Walker, Sr.
Laura Anne Wheless	Robert O. Lusk

Associate Members

Caroline Hassell

Special thanks to Rachel Berte, Clarlyn Bhatti, Carla Brown, Adrienne Danke, Mary DiStefano, Luisa Feagin, Heather Henderson, Gwen Koch, Beth McCarty, Jamie Moran, Jan Norman, Patti Randolph, Diane Stool, Susan Stormer, Roni Thelen, Lindsi Toomey, Eron Tynes, Sharolyn Wood, and Luanne Zacek for helping us prepare the Log House for the holiday season.



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New Members December 2024



New Members December 2024



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Travis Ring



The Legend of the Ring

Legend has it that on February 23, 1836, Almaron Dickinson caught up his wife, Susannah and baby daughter Angelina Elizabeth behind his saddle and galloped to the Alamo, just before the Mexican Army started firing. In the Alamo, Legend continues that William B. Travis tied his cat's-eye ring around baby Angelina's neck.

Susannah and Baby Angelina survived the final Mexican Assault on March 6, 1836. Though Santa Anna wanted to adopt the baby, her mother refused. A few days after the battle, mother and child were released as messengers to General Sam Houston, carrying the ring out of the Alamo.

This cat's-eye ring is a copy of the ring displayed in the Long Barracks that was tied around Angelina's neck by Travis. It was created by Max Lang, Houston silversmith.



William Barret Travis Ring

The hammered gold ring set with cat's-eye agate is one of a few artifacts to survive the 1836 siege of the Alamo.

In late February 1836, William Barret Travis was in command at the Alamo. Knowing his death was imminent, Travis placed a string carrying his ring around the neck of 15 month old Angelina Dickinson, daughter of Alamo defender Almaron Dickinson, in hopes that the ring would be given to his son someday. Angelina was one of the non-combatants who survived the Alamo siege.

More than 100 years after Travis placed his cat's eye ring around Angelina's neck, it was returned to the Alamo where you can now see the original on display.

Max Lang, well known Houston jeweler, meticulously studied the original ring on display at the Alamo to recreate an authentic reproduction. If you would like to order this handcrafted replica piece of Texas history, please complete this order form with your size and setting choice and return with your check made to San Jacinto Chapter DRT or credit card information to Carla Brown, San Jacinto Chapter DRT, 5220 Wesleyan, C103, Houston, Texas 77005-1079. For questions, email Carla at treasurer@sjcdrt.org or call 713/489-6277.

Please choose your setting and indicate your Size:

- Sterling Silver: \$375 plus shipping & sales tax SIZE: _____
- Gold Plated: \$475 plus shipping & sales tax SIZE: _____
- Solid Gold: Market Price plus shipping & sales tax SIZE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD NO.: _____

EXP. DATE: _____ CCV: _____





Thelma Maresh Medallion Ceremony

There was a break in the stormy weather for our Thelma Maresh Medallion Ceremony November 17 at Forest Park Lawndale.

We were honored to have President General Carol Mayo Steakley; Recording Secretary General Jan Rich; Historic Sites Committee members Lanel Smesny and Lois Lacy; District VI Representative Patti Johnson; Bluebonnet Branch Chapter Chaplain Sarah Musick; San Jacinto Chapter past presidents Carolyn Lightfoot, Beth McCarty, Eron Tynes and Luanne Zacek; Roni Thelen and her CRT children who participated in the ceremony; Clarissa Grayson who led us in singing "Texas Our Texas"; and other guests Gwen Kunz, Susan Stormer, Carl Hill and Barry McCarty. We enjoyed hearing stories about Mrs. Maresh life, and thankful for her generous gifts enabling our chapter to give scholarships to Houston area high school seniors each year at the San Jacinto Day Ceremony at the monument.





- Thank you for helping us prepare the Log house for the holiday season.
- Gwen Kunz' Historic Preservation Committee has several big projects for the new year - if you are interested, contact Gwen Kunz.
- Great holiday activities for children: CRT projects, 4th and 7th grade essays. These activities can keep children busy during their holiday break and help them learn more about Texas!
- Check out our website for scholarship information /application in early January.
- Thank you, Boy Scout Troup 511 and Girl Scout Troop 1511, Trinity Episcopal Church, for helping to set up and take down tables and chairs at the chili cookoff, and for volunteering each month to pick up trash on our grounds. We appreciate these young people.
- Congratulations Martha and Bill Jorgensen on the marriage of their son Will to Joy Wilson in Bellville on Thanksgiving!
- Nominating Committee meeting in January - if you are interested in serving on the board or a committee, contact Debra Grigsby to tell her your interest.
- Member Delinda Holland's 6-year-old granddaughter Layla has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. Delinda and her husband have gone to Virginia to care for the other children so the parents can stay at the hospital with Layla. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- Past president Laura-Hill Taylor has had recent hospitalizations but is now home and doing well.
- We have a new log house brochure - pick up one to share with friends and family for rentals.
- A nice group attended the San Jacinto "Under the Star" lecture to hear our Eron Tynes speak about San Jacinto.





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CRT Corner

"Many thanks to all our generous donors, we were able to donate 81 items for a total value of \$1,300 to B.E.A.R. (BE A Resource) which is a non-profit organization improving lives by providing hope and help for at-risk and CPS-involved children and their caretakers in the greater Houston area."

Thanks,
Carla Brown, Treasurer



We have many "between events" activities happening for our San Jacinto CRT! We encourage all of our 4th and 7th grade members to participate in the DRT Essay Contests and the DRT Art Contest. Don't forget to visit www.crttexas.com to take a look at the Project Book. Each officer has a project, and we want to support as many as we can. Our own Anthony Kementich is serving as National 3rd VP. We've already supported one of his project ideas as a chapter by planting bluebonnet seeds at Brooks Cottage during the chili cook off. Anyone under the age of nine can support his project individually by coloring a picture of a Republic of Texas hero and writing three sentences about him or her. Members aged 10+ can write an essay about Ben Milam to support Anthony's project. Leah Young is our Chaplain General. If you are aged 9 or younger, you can visit a historical cemetery, find the oldest headstone, and take a picture of it. If you are 10+, visit a historical cemetery and do a bit of cleanup. Take before and after pics. There are many great projects to participate in! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2025 CRT Convention. It will be June 21st-22nd in Clear Lake - right in our own backyard! Thank you all for supporting our CRT!

Tish Wolter





**The Nominating Committee
of the San Jacinto Chapter
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
has formed and are accepting Officer Nominations!**

Members are Debra Grigsby, Nancy Burch, April Townsend, Lindsi Toomey and Heather Henderson. Some Nominations have already been received and will be published in March. After one year membership you or someone you know is eligible to hold office! Please contact anyone on the committee or email the name of your nominee, including yourself to dgrig1@comcast.net for consideration.

The following are Position descriptions (paraphrased from our By-Laws) to give you an idea of what the responsibilities for each position are. **Comprehensive duties can be found in the yearbook under By-Laws and we encourage those interested to familiarize themselves with it:**

President Presides over all meetings, enforces all rules, signs legal documents on behalf of the chapter. Serves as spokesman. Generates reports, appoints committees.

1st Vice President Responsible for year book development and publishing/distribution.

2nd Vice President Responsible for scheduling chapter programs and outings.

3rd Vice President Responsible for San Jacinto Chapter Children of the Republic of Texas.

4th Vice President Responsible for grant writing and fund raising.

5th Vice President Responsible for the Log House and the Log House Committee. Serves as the facility manager for the Log House.

Recording Secretary Records chapter and executive board minutes.

Corresponding Secretary Conducts all correspondence and conveys official decisions of the chapter. Sends acknowledgement cards of thanks and sympathy. Maintains chapter data base.

Treasurer Responsible for maintaining financial records for the chapter. Includes collecting dues, paying bills and record audits.

Historian Responsible for the preservation of early chapter/historical records. Maintains the chapter library.

Chaplain Opens all meetings with prayer and presides over memorial programs.

Registrar Responsible for processing new member and supplemental applications. Maintains chapter archives of membership applications.

CRT Registrar processes and maintains CRT membership applications.

Directors (2) Provide guidance, advice and support.



The San Jacinto Dispatch

How You Can Help

Double Your Donation (at no cost to you)

Ladies, does your employer have a matching gift program? You can double your donation to our Chapter or the *Friends of the Log House* through Employer's Matching Gifts. And retirees can often do the same through their previous Employer's Matching Gifts. Help our chapter and the loghouse increase our donations through this free program. Please contact Carla Brown, Treasurer at treasurer.sjcdrt@gmail.com for assistance in setting up your matching gift.

Did You Know???

Kroger and Randall's both offer a 1% Rebate to us for all money you spend on groceries. Simply sign up to link your account to us; here's how:

Kroger:

Go to HOgrogerCommunityRewards@kroger.com. Our account is DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE, Account number is RF149. Ask them in the email to link your Kroger Rewards Account to us. You will need to provide your Kroger Rewards number *OR* go to the courtesy counter and ask them to help you. Kroger has a number of affiliate stores including City Market, Dillon's, King Super and Fry's (grocery).

Randall's:

Set up a Randalls for U account through the smart phone app or the website at www.randalls.com. Then, send an email to GoodNeighbor@Randalls.com and ask them to link your account to the non-profit by providing the organization's Good Neighbor number in your message, along with the phone number used to set up your Randalls for U account. (This is the same phone number you use at the register when shopping.) Our Good Neighbor account number is 14197. Affiliates include Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, Acme, Tom Thumb, United Supermarkets, Pavilions, Star Market, Haggen, Carrs, Kings Food Markets, and Balducci's Food Lovers Market. Be sure to ask the courtesy booth if you need other help.

If you are aware of other stores that offer rebates to non-profits please let me know so that we can apply. My email is dgrig1@comcast.net.

Thanks,
Debra Grigsby, 4th VP Ways and Means





Pioneer Memorial Log House



Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2024-2025

To help preserve the house and grounds

- Texas Star \$ 25
- Silver Star \$ 50
- Shining Star \$ 100
- Gold Star \$ 250
- Lone Star \$ 500
- Platinum Star \$1,000 and higher

A gift of any amount is appreciated, and you will be recognized as a *Friend of the Log House*

Name _____
(as you wish to be printed)

Address _____
Street City, State, Zip

Phone _____ Email _____

General Contribution \$ _____

Contribution in Memory / Honor of _____ \$ _____

Send card to: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Gift \$ _____

San Jacinto Chapter DRT

You can make your donations by check, credit card, or Venmo:

To pay by check, make your check payable to San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, note Log House in the memo line of your check, and mail donations to:

Pioneer Memorial Log House
1510 Cambridge Street
Houston, Texas 77030-1732



To pay with credit card or Venmo, please access and complete our online form by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. San Jacinto Chapter DRT is a 501 (c)(3) organization.