



FRIENDS
of
VILLA FINALE

THE BEE LINE

Friends of Villa Finale Quarterly Newsletter

November 2022 www.VillaFinale.org
Vol. 1 Issue 4

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of another year, our thoughts often turn to those things which we cherish and hold dear. Preserving San Antonio's unique heritage and built environment has long been important for its residents. At Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens, we focus on preserving our history by stewarding the legacy and vision of King William Historic District preservation pioneer Walter Nold Mathis and by following the mission of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

You can help us achieve this purpose by becoming a Friend of Villa Finale.

Friends of Villa Finale enable the enrichment of educational and outreach offerings at Villa Finale, the only National Trust Historic Site in the State of Texas. Through this magnificent house museum, its collections and gardens, we tell the story of San Antonio; we advocate for historic preservation and cultural appreciation; and we inspire all who visit to understand the immense power of one person's dream.

Advantages of being a Friend of Villa Finale include membership discounts or free admission to tours, programs, and events. And a special benefit is a personal invitation to our annual "Members Retreat" during the King William Fair and to private "Friends" events throughout the year.

Please join us and add your name to those helping us to preserve this remarkable and vital place of San Antonio history for generations to come.

Thank you for your support, and warmest wishes for a happy holiday season.

With sincere regards,
Jane Lewis
Executive Director

Operational Updates

December

1 - Closing at 2:00pm for special event.
23 - Jan. 5 - Closed for Christmas and New Year's break.

January

6 - Villa Finale reopens to the public.
14 - Closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

February

18 - Closed in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.



Upcoming Program Highlights

DECEMBER

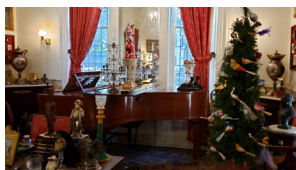
1st - Thursday

Merry Friendsmas Holiday Party!

6:00pm - 8:00pm

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

Join us on December 1st for our *Merry Friendsmas Holiday Party!* This members-only celebration will welcome the Christmas season with drinks, delicious food, and festive music. Call us at (210) 223-9800 to check your membership or to join the Friends of Villa Finale!



7th & 14th - Wednesdays

Music for Your Eyes - Holiday!

\$20 member / \$25 non-member

6:30pm - 8:00pm

This holiday evening experience highlights the music machines in the museum's collection with demonstrations of unique music boxes, antique turntables, and more. Guests will be treated to a glass of champagne as they enjoy a fifteen-minute concert of traditional holiday songs played on our automated 1921 Bechstein-Welte reproducing piano.



9th - Friday

Dear Santa: A Musical Journey to Christmas Past

\$20 member / \$25 non-member

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Experience this magical concert in our Napoleon Parlors featuring pianist & vocalist Chris Guerrero as he performs holiday favorites. Intermingled within the performance will be readings of letters to Santa written over 100 years ago!

15th - Thursday

Villa Finale's Holiday Open House

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Featuring a Performance by the Beethoven Männerchor

(6:00pm - 7:00pm)

FREE ADMISSION

The holiday season means holiday décor at Villa Finale, and we want to share the spirit of the season! Join us for our second annual free holiday open house and enjoy first floor access to this beautiful historic home and its festive holiday finery.

FEBRUARY

10th- Friday

"Isn't It Romantic?"

Parlor Concert Featuring the Vocal Talents of Ken Slavin

6:30pm - 8:30pm

(Gates open at 6:00pm)

\$25 member / \$30 non-member

Experience the romance of Villa Finale with an intimate Valentine's concert performed by Ken Slavin, with live piano accompaniment by Barry Brake, in our elegant Napoleon Parlors. Mr. Slavin will perform an array of popular love songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Cole Porter, and more. Enjoy Valentine-inspired refreshments prior to the concert.



Visit our website www.villafinale.org for additional programs and updates.

Program Highlights Cont.
FEBRUARY



25th - Saturday
Getting to Know...
ARCHITECTURE
With Architect and University of Texas at San Antonio Professor of Practice, Rick Lewis
10:00am - 12:00pm
\$10 students / \$15 member / \$20 non-member
Join us for this insightful tour of Villa Finale's unique architectural details with noted architect and academic, Rick Lewis. Learn about the construction, rehabilitation, and on-going preservation of this grand historic home - the only site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Texas.

MARCH

11th – Saturday
COLLECTIONS FOCUS:
An Introduction to Victorian Silverware
10:00am - 12:00pm
Meusebach House: 414 King William
\$10 member / \$15 non-member
Villa Finale invites novice silver aficionados for a casual introductory course on Victorian silverware. Hear about what and how Victorians ate for their meals and get to see some of Villa Finale's silver up close! Coffee and light breakfast pastries will be served. This is the perfect workshop for those seeking a beginner-level education on the art and application of Victorian silver!



31st – Friday
Hello From the Other Side:
Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the First Séance
7:30pm – 9:30pm
\$30 member / \$40 non-member
This incredible spring evening will feature a presentation and live seance by The Austin Séance inside historic Villa Finale, built in 1876. Enjoy a cocktail, learn about the history of spiritualism in America, and commune with a spirit or two on the 175th anniversary of the first séance in the United States. Light snacks and adult beverages included. 13+ only please. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

“Trust” In the News
Updates from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Sacred Places Grant Winners Announced

The National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is pleased to announce its 2022 grantees, totaling \$2,165,000 in funds awarded. Sixteen historically significant congregations have been admitted into the prestigious program, which provides capital grants of up to \$250,000 and hands-on technical assistance to congregations undertaking significant preservation projects.

The only initiative of its kind in the U.S., the National Fund for Sacred Places is a highly competitive program that supports vibrant congregations that have buildings of historical significance and architectural character, and that play an essential role in meeting the larger spiritual, social, and economic needs of the communities they serve. This year's grantees represent some of the most important and impactful congregations in the country.

Please visit the National Fund for Sacred Places' website at <https://fundforsacredplaces.org/> to learn more about the grantees and the program, eligibility, participants, and the value of sacred places in communities across the country.



First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre (Wilkes-Barre, PA)

“Bee” An Insider

Behind-the-Scenes at Villa Finale



Villa Finale is Pleased to Announce the Construction of a New Visitor Center!



Located in the historic King William district, the new Villa Finale Visitor Center will reflect the vernacular style and stately architectural traditions of the neighborhood. To help accomplish our vision, we have engaged the services of noted local firm Michael G. Imber, Architects to design the new visitor center.



Michael G. Imber, Architects is a nationally recognized San Antonio design firm in business for nearly thirty years. The firm is dedicated to building architecture with historical significance and a sense of place distinguished by an unwavering commitment to excellence. Their work is both rooted in historical and cultural sentiment and modern in its execution. Their design principles are centered on the goal of building projects that are not only aesthetically and culturally appropriate to their context, but also timeless, lasting, and real.

It is an honor to work with Villa Finale Museum & Gardens on their new Visitor Center. This organization has long been a force for the conservation of King William, and we find that the values of our office and Villa Finale are very much aligned.

Projects by Michael Imber,
Architects.

Our goal is to create a seamless addition to the property that reflects and is informed by the legacy and cultural history of this great home, the neighborhood, and San Antonio as a whole, while also providing a modern facility that better supports Villa Finale's operations and highlights the work and collection of Walter Mathis.

Architecturally, we are intrigued and excited by the existing material palette and the opportunity both to respectfully interpret these historic influences through this new building and to reframe the rear lawn and gardens overlooking the San Antonio River.

Mac White, AIA
Partner, Michael G. Imber, Architects



This sensitive new design will yield a fresh neighborhood resource that will enhance not only Villa Finale but the King William Historic District. The new structure will provide the necessary space for educational programming, for rotating exhibitions, and for a strengthened connection between Villa Finale and its increasingly diverse audience.

**We Look Forward to Sharing
This Exciting New Space With
You!**



A Year of Friendship

The financial support of our Friends of Villa Finale means so much to us, but never more than it has in recent years. We are so grateful for all the amazing programs, events, and special projects that our Friends help make happen. Here are just a few of the incredible moments that were made possible by our Friends of Villa Finale...



If you are not currently a Friend of Villa Finale, we can help! See the full benefits of Friendship in the next pages and contact us to join this extraordinary group of people.



Benefits of Friendship



Friend of Villa Finale -- \$100

Free admission for Friend Member to:

- Exclusive “Friends” events: *Chill Out* and *Merry Friendsmas* receptions
- Villa Finale’s exclusive *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- One programming event of your choice at Villa Finale in 2020-21, with advance reservation
- General tours of Villa Finale (advance reservation encouraged)

One guest pass to the following:

- Villa Finale’s annual *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- General tours of Villa Finale, with advance reservation

Discounted member rate on workshops and other programs at Villa Finale (advance reservation required)

Monthly e-newsletter with program updates and Villa Finale news

Membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation



Friend of Villa Finale -- Plus One! -- \$150

Includes all the benefits of “Friend of Villa Finale” membership for two, with the following upgrades:

Two passes to:

- Villa Finale’s annual *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- General tours of Villa Finale, with advance reservation



Contributing Friend of Villa Finale -- \$250

Includes all the benefits of “Friend of Villa Finale” membership for two, with the following upgrades:

Four guest passes to:

- Villa Finale’s annual *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- General tours of Villa Finale, with advance reservation

Supporting Friend of Villa Finale -- \$500

Includes all the benefits of “Friend of Villa Finale” membership for two, with the following upgrades:

Six guest passes to:

- Villa Finale’s annual *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- General tours of Villa Finale, with advance reservation



Sustaining Friend of Villa Finale -- \$1,000

Includes all the benefits of “Friend of Villa Finale” membership for two, with the following upgrades/additions:

Six guest passes to:

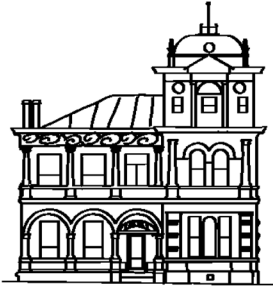
- Villa Finale’s annual *Members Retreat at the King William Fair*
- General tours of Villa Finale, with advance reservation

Two admissions to annual celebration at Villa Finale in 2021 (TBD) with advance reservation

Support the legacy and vision of King William Historic District pioneer Walter Nold Mathis and Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens. Pay with a credit card by calling Villa Finale Visitor Services at (210) 223-9800. Or make checks payable to “Villa Finale” and mail to: Villa Finale | 401 King William Street | San Antonio, TX 78204.

VILLA FINALE:

MUSEUM & GARDENS



Our Mission

The mission of Villa Finale is to interpret and steward its collections and site in order to foster an appreciation of the value of cultural heritage and historic preservation.

Our Vision

Villa Finale will interpret the past, inspire the present and influence the future through its architecture, programming and collections.

Our Values

Integrity, education, stewardship, preservation, diversity, advocacy

Villa Finale Board of Directors

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Emeritus

Chris Carson

Edward Schroeder

Romanita Matta-Barrera

Merribell Parsons

Elizabeth Reed

Al Rendon

Jeff Schmidt

Olin B. Strauss

Beth Wells

Rick Wilson

Executive Director

Jane Lewis

In Memoriam

Agnes Bain

Maggie Saunders Block

Nancy Smith Hurd

Edith McAllister

Patsy Galt Steves



VILLA FINALE: MUSEUM & GARDENS
401 King William Street
San Antonio, TX 78204

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 1701

Special Moments at Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens



Planning a small wedding ceremony? Looking for a beautiful spot for a garden photoshoot? Or maybe even the perfect place for a proposal? Consider Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens, located in the beautiful and historic King William neighborhood.

Our gardens provide the perfect botanical backdrop for small events and intimate photography sessions. Give us a call at (210) 223-9800 or email us at villafinale@villafinale.org for our rates and celebrate your special moment with Villa Finale!

The Bee

Napoleon Bonaparte chose the bee to represent his status as emperor due to the creature's industrious habits. The bee symbolizes hard work, diligence, industriousness, and orderliness.



A Site of the
**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**