

Antiques Club of Greater Lakeway

We have had such wonderful speakers this year on various topics ranging from china and porcelain care and restoration presented by Debra Broz from Science of Art Restoration to Mark Van Gelder of Art Conservative Services of Austin and Kevin MacDonald, an expert in the field of rare books..

Our February meeting proves to be equally informative and lots of fun. It will be held in the home of Maryleeann Bryan on February 20 at 10:00 A.M. Do you have a collection you would like to share with membership? Please bring examples to show and be prepared to tell some interesting facts about the collection and why you chose to collect these items. Call Carolyn Lowrimore at 261-8876 to tell her what you will be bringing so you can be placed on the program agenda. This type of show and share program is one of our members' favorites!!

Hope to see you on **February 20th**!

Mark your calendar for **March 20th** and put on your traveling clothes and as the Antiques Club boards a charter bus and journeys to Schulenburg, Texas to view four historic Painted Churches of Fayette County. We will leave the Lakeway Activity Center at 7:00 a.m. and return about 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. A docent will join us from the Chamber of Commerce and ride with us as we visit each church.

Schulenburg is the official home of the Painted Churches. As we travel through the rolling hills of southeast Fayette County, we will visit Ammannsville, Dubina, Praha and High Hill churches. These churches have some of the most beautiful painted artwork and stained glass you will ever see. They are truly amazing.

Ammannville's St. John the Baptist Church - In 1890, the cornerstone of the first church was laid and it was dedicated St. John the Baptist. Eleven and one quarter acres were donated for the church, school and future rectory near an existing cemetery, which held a number of graves.

In 1909, the church, school and some businesses were destroyed by a storm. The parishioners immediately decided to build a new church.

Eight years after the completion of the second church, the parishioners; faith was tested again. The church burned to the foundation, with even the bell melting. In the midst of the fire, villagers rushed inside the church to carry out some of the statues which now stand and grace the beauty of the present church.

In 1917, a third and present church was started on the same site. Inside the church is a purely ornamental painting with stenciling, infill, freehand and marbling techniques. It is said that the wondrous painting was done by a European drifter.

Dubina's Parish Church – Before the coming of the Czech pioneers, Dubina's locality was known as Navidad, but after the immigrants from Europe appeared, it became Dubina by the Czechs because of the many oak trees. The Czech word for "oak tree" is "Dub".

The immigrants held fast to their faith with masses being held in a log cabin until the Dubina Parish Church was built in 1877. The church was enlarged in 1890. Unfortunately, on July 21, 1909, a tropical storm wrecked the Dubina Parish Church. Construction of a new church began that same year.

The present church, completed in 1912, is beautifully decorated with frescoes and stenciling. In 1952, the church was modernized and paint covered this beautiful work. Later, the parishioners removed some of the top paint and stenciled around the designs so a professional painter could paint beige and blue in the backgrounds to retain the original artwork. The parishioners proved those endowed with a love of freedom, willingness to work and faith in God can overcome great odds and reap the good fruits of their toil.

Praha's Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Praha is a small community first named Mulberry by the Czech-Moravian families that settled the Mulberry Creek area in 1854. Thirty years later, the name was changed to Praha.

In 1855, St. Mary's Parish was established and a small hut was first constructed to offer mass. In 1895, the present stone church was built and dedicated. The architecture is nineteenth century and the stone used to build the church was bought by oxen from a nearby village. The beautiful vaulted ceiling was painted by a famous Swiss artist and has never been repainted. The Praha church still stands today and holds with it the beauty, hard work and memories put forth by its ancestors.

High Hill's St. Mary's Catholic Church – In 1860 immigrants from Neudeck, Austria traveled to Texas and settled in an area called "Blum Hill", known today as High Hill.

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There was no Catholic church in this area at this time as High Hill was more or less wild unimproved prairie land. St. Mary's Catholic Church, as it stands today, is the third church to be built on the original nine acres deeded to the church in 1868. It is a classic example of the Gothic Revival style, displaying not only late Victorian features, but also the European background of the German and Czech-Moravian settlers as well. The St. Mary's church has been placed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Won't you join the Antiques Club on this first day of spring as we travel through this beautiful area? We even hope to see many of our Texas Bluebonnets along the way.

Lunch will be at Frank's Restaurant in Schulenburg. Lunch will include an 8 oz grilled chicken breast served with a dinner salad, baked potato and drink. The cost of the meal, tip and tax are included in the package price.

The cost for the trip is \$45. Antiques Club members can reserve a spot by sending a check to our treasurer, Ann Walker, at 41 Wingreen in The Hills. This fee will cover the cost of the bus, the fee for the tour of the churches, docent fee and lunch. Contact Chairman Betty Ann Courtney at 608-6759, if you have questions.

After March 1, we will offer this trip to members of the Lakeway Women's Club if space is available. Space is limited, so get your money in early. Women's Club members will be considered on the waiting list in the order in which our treasurer receives checks. Checks will be returned if space does not become available.

Betty Ann Courtney, Chairman