

**Editor: Henny van Dijk**

**[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)**

**December, 2023**

## The December Event

***Assemble your crew for a celestial holiday experience!***



On Friday December 8 we embark on a holiday adventure that transcends Earth's boundaries and transports you to the edge of the universe. **Galaxy Lights**, presented by Reliant, is a space-themed holiday light show that defies gravity!

Create out-of-this-world memories with a holiday experience beyond imagination. Space Center Houston leaves you starry-eyed as you experience space in a new light. The bus will pick us up at 4 PM at OCB. The cost of the show is **\$15.95** to be paid before **Dec.4**. You need to do 2 things—first let Janice Thomas know that you will attend by email or phone

**832-515-0280** [flyte99@yahoo.com](mailto:flyte99@yahoo.com)

and second to pay the \$15.95 to Margaret Zambrano either by check in name of UTHRO, to her address 20903 Imperial Ridge Ln., Spring, TX, 77379 or Zelle sent to: [zambrano1123@gmail.com](mailto:zambrano1123@gmail.com) (Name that will pop up will be UTHRO) In description please put reason for payment Galaxy Lights

Do not send cash please



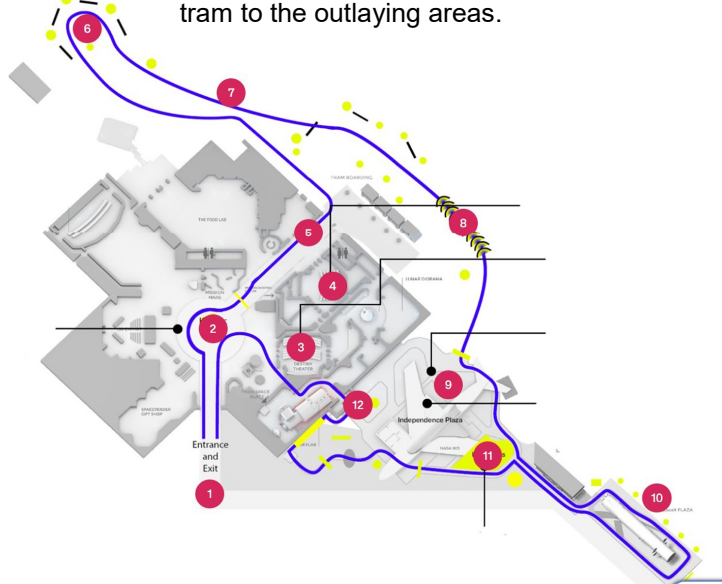
### ***But before you get to NASA let's have some food before the tour***

We will have dinner at Mom Alone; I have not been able to find a pricelist for their menu, but it does have all the traditional items. Of course the dinner is on your dime.

Oh and Parking at OCB is covered.



**Map of the 12 major displays stations**  
Have not been able to find out how much transportation is available for those with walking difficulties, wheelchairs are available but at some point they must have use of the tram to the outlying areas.



## A "L & L" on January 24



UTHRO member Liliana Craft will be the speaker at our January Lunch & Learn speaking on a topic few are familiar with **"The Use of Medicinal Herbs in PreHispanic and Traditional Mexican Medicine."**

The Aztecs did document in the 16th Century their methods of treating and healing injuries and Liliana has lectured on this as well as the healing properties of plants such as cacti. More info in the January newsletter, but for now reserve Wed. January 24, have some lunch on us and again parking is free at OCB.

### *In this Issue*

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## UTHRO Members in the News



As I reported in July Mary Frances Fabrizio has received this year's Faithful Citizenship Award for her exceptional post-retirement volunteerism with many Catholic organizations including the Catholic Chaplains Corps, Catholic Charity Guild as archivist and historian for its 2022 centennial celebration, and serving as Dame Commander in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.



Dr. Anna Steinberger made headlines in the Houston Chronicle for her many years of contributions to the Houston Holocaust Museum. We, her UTHRO family, were the recipient of several of her docent leading tours of the museum and her excellent and deep knowledge of the horrors of that part of history. She and her husband Emil were financial supporters of the museum and she proudly showed us the new and improved additions to the museum.

Anna will turn 96 on January 1.

## Remembering Clara Welsh



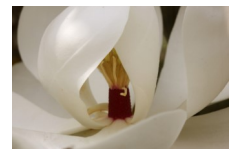
Clara Welsh passed away in August according to her son Michael. She was just shy of 100. Clara was my colleague at the Med School in the Department of Otolaryncology and the assistant to Dr. R. Jahrsdoerfer. Today there are no people who, remember her from that time, however I did and I also knew that she was an important part of the fledgling organization called UTHRO. She was a pioneering member of that organization and I found an image from 1995, 2 years after

the inaugural establishment of the UT Houston Retiree Organization. None of the 7 people in the image (on page 4) are still with us but I like to share this image with you as you might remember several from your own UT experiences.

Henny van Dijk

*Her son Michael send me this:*

Clara Welsh retired in 1988. Although she enjoyed working at UT, she looked forward to retirement at age 65. In retirement she enjoyed walking, reading, socializing with friends and traveling. She went to Hawaii several times to visit two of her grandchildren, Jeremy and Matthew, sons of her older son Chris. She traveled to Michigan periodically to visit her younger son, Michael and his two children, Daniel and Catherine. On a number of occasions the grandchildren traveled to Houston to visit Clara. Clara enjoyed the social interactions and concerts she would go to with friends from the Presbyterian Church. Clara loved cats and worked with others to get the feral cats in the neighborhood neutered. She also took many of the cats into her home over the years, seducing them with food and comfort. In 2003, Clara traveled to Michigan to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 2013, her sons and grandchildren met in Houston to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 2017 Clara moved to Savannah, with two cats, to be close to Michael. She was active and involved with friends until the last few months of her life. She died August 11, 2023, less than 3 months short of her one hundredth birthday. Her remains are at rest along the banks of the Wilmington River among azaleas and large magnolia trees in Greenwich Cemetery in Savannah.



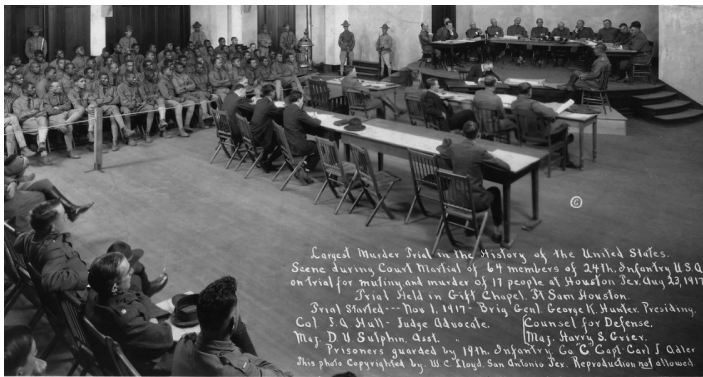
## UTHRO OFFICERS 2024

<b>President</b>	Barbara Kelly
<b>Vice-Pres</b>	Efren Pena
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Frances Fabrizio
<b>Treasurer</b>	Margaret Zambrano
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Henny van Dijk
<b>Web Administrators</b>	Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efren Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.



## Some Updates ...



*The Court Martial Hearing in 1917*

In January 2019 speakers Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski gave us a glimpse of that time as one of the most interesting chapters in Houston's history in what is now Memorial Park along the banks of Buffalo Bayou. For it was here that the U.S. Army's sprawling Camp Logan was built in the middle of the First World War to train soldiers for combat. But... on August 23 1917 156 soldiers from the all-black 24th infantry rioted also known as the Camp Logan Mutiny. The incident occurred within a climate of overt hostility from members of the all-white HPD against members of the local black community and black soldiers stationed at Camp Logan. Many of the black soldiers mutinied and marched to Houston, where they opened fire and killed eleven civilians and five policemen. In accordance with policies of the time, the soldiers were tried at a court martial—thirteen were executed, and 41 were sentenced to life imprisonment.

**Updated: Nov. 12, 2023 10:47 a.m.** More than a century has passed since 110 Black soldiers stationed at Camp Logan were convicted of mutiny, murder and assault in the 1917 Houston Riot, with 19 of them executed at Fort Sam Houston. **Now those convictions have been overturned.**

## Proposition 9 ...

On November 7 Voters approved to pass Proposition 9 (Prop 9) in the 2023 Election with 2,141,913 (83.73%) votes to approve and 416,191 (16.27%) votes to reject. The amendment of Prop 9 to the Texas Constitution would create \$3.45 billion to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to provide a cost-of-living-adjustment to eligible annuitants within TRS. Prop 9 will provide a pay increase, a COLA (cost of living adjustment) of up to 6% for nearly half a million annuitants in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). It will not only benefit teachers but other school staff members such as bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers. Retired teachers in Texas have not received a cost-of-living adjustment since 2013, with only teachers who retired by 2004 were eligible for.

Those who retired before Aug. 31, 2001, would receive a 6% increase, while those who retired between Aug. 31, 2001 and Aug. 31, 2013 would receive a 4% increase. Teachers and employees who retired between Aug. 31, 2013 and Aug. 31, 2020 would receive a 2% increase. Another TSHL victory, thanks Viola et al.

## A Local Christmas Story...

The two children wearing shabby clothes and long faces gazed at the lavish Christmas display in a downtown Houston store window.

They shook their heads when a kindly stranger asked them a question.

"No, Santa Claus never comes to our house," said the girl, shivering in the cold.

Her little brother chimed in, "I wish he would come this time and bring Sister that doll in there - and bring me something, too."

The year was 1911, and the young brother and sister vanished into the December night. They would never know they were the inspiration for a toy drive that has helped millions of needy children and continues with gusto 100 years later.

The man who saw the children staring longingly at the gifts was the Chronicle city editor George Kepple. He was so moved by their plight that the next year, 1912, he unveiled what would become his pride and joy - the toy program Goodfellows.

Over the years the true story of the children in front of the store window, based on a speech Kepple made in 1936, has become a legend. The tale that began to evolve in the 1950s had Kepple helping a poor shoeshine boy outside the Chronicle building on Christmas Eve.

If the facts blurred over time, the truth is that charitable Houstonians have helped Goodfellows grow despite two world wars, the Great Depression and multiple recessions. The Chronicle pays the program's administrative costs and uses readers' donations to buy toys. In the past 20 years alone, readers have donated almost \$12.8 million, buying more than 4 million toys for nearly 2 million children.

In honor of the centennial, some readers have been moved to explain what the program means to them.

"We knew our first Christmas together was going to be bleak, especially for our 1-year-old baby girl," Ms. Martinez said. She and her little family had just moved into their first apartment, but didn't have enough money to pay the bills and buy gifts. Then Martinez read about Goodfellows in the paper.

"On Christmas morning, not only was my baby girl surprised but my husband was as well. I hadn't told him that I had written in because I was afraid he would have gotten angry due to his pride. But the look on his face, seeing his girlie opening all those gifts, was priceless.

In the Chronicle story that launched the first Goodfellows campaign, Kepple wrote: "The Christmas season is at hand. Let us link our hands in warm friendship. Let us seek out the less blessed. Let us be brothers of brothers. Let us be Goodfellows."

*Claudia Feldman, The Houston Chronicle*

## UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization  
1851 Crosspoint, Suite 1.204,  
Houston, TX 77054

*To update your address or phone number  
please contact us at 281-655-1983*

### **And Now For Something Completely Different...** **Clara reminded me of the start of UTHRO**



The image from 1995 which I found in the archives:

None of the 7 people in this image are still with us but I like to share this image with you as you might remember several from your own UT experiences.

This executive group from 1995 .

Back Row fltr: Don Macon (UTTV), member at large Jeanette White (DB) Vice President, Dot Cowan (MS) President, the second in the history of UTHRO and Danny D'Anton, editor and First President.

The Bottom row fltr: Margaret Roerig—secretary, Clara Welsh (MS) treasurer and Bill Montgomery, HSC General, member at large