

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

January 27, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration this month was deferred to allow for discussion of the By-laws revisions after the regular meeting is completed.

Jan called the meeting to order at 1007 AM. There were 15 members present.

Introductions were made.

Jan reminded everyone to feel free to help themselves to drinks from the refrigerator but to make sure to pour out any leftover before putting the bottle/can in the trash.

Bonnell Templet presented the November 2014 minutes for club approval. Kathy Brinkley moved to accept the minutes as presented and Susie Jahn seconded the motion and motion passed.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for November 2014. Income was \$2,075 and expenses were \$2,113.07 with an ending balance of \$9,554.56. The line item expense for \$612 was for the club's storage unit for the year. There was also a payment to The Bridge for \$625 for the club's yearly charity donation. Kathy Brinkley made a motion to accept the report and Bonnell Templet seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Demo / refreshment sheet sign up sheet was passed around. Gina Rios will be doing our demonstration in February. February is also when we will be doing the Appreciation Lunch for Larry's Arts and Crafts staff. Everyone needs to bring in a covered dish to share

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Debbie Brown class – Lori Gust spoke with Debbie about doing a class in February 2016. Debbie is unable to be here in February but can be in March 2016.

Christmas Charity - \$625 was donated to The Bridge and food and toys were donated to the Ronald McDonald House. The director at the RMH asked if any club members would be interested in making a cake to raffle at their events. Let Jan know if you are interested. He also inquired about cookie and / or cupcake decorating with the kids at the RMH. Sandra Hughes volunteered to do the cupcake and cookie classes later in the year.

Sidney Galpern Classes – need volunteers to provide breakfast and lunch for each day of Sidney's classes. Guadalupe Ochoa is the only member present at today's meeting that is enrolled in both classes. Kathy reminded everyone that Sidney is a vegetarian. She suggested pizza as that option worked well last time Sidney was here for classes. Guadalupe volunteered to provide breakfast on Friday and will order pizza for lunch that day as well. Helen will e-mail the members not present that are signed up for the classes to ask for volunteers for Saturday. Eunice Estrada volunteered to bring food up on Saturday, even though she is not taking the class, if no one else volunteers.

Texas ICES DOS – will be February 1, 2015 from 9 AM to 5 PM at the KOA camp in Conroe. The presenters: Sidney Galpern, James Roselle, Wayne Steinkopf, and Yvette Humbert.

Upcoming Classes – Kathy Brinkley's Cake Studio – Wayne Steinkopf will teach Cake Lace. Cake Craft Shop – James Roselle will teach a chocolate rose, a rannaculus, and a Cinderella carriage.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Larry's appreciation luncheon is next month (February). Everyone needs to bring a covered dish to share.

CDE - September 13, 2015. Several committees will be needed.

Raffle – Susan Shannon

Vendors – Kathy Brinkley

Caterer – Bonnell Templet

Demos – Kathy Brinkley to chair and Susan Shannon will help. Sheila Brooks stated she will ask Jorge Amsler if he is available to do a demo.

Raffle Budget – We need to allocate the budget for raffles for the meetings and the CDE for this year. Helen Osteen suggested that there be separate budgets for meetings and the CDE. Kathy Brinkley made a motion to allocate up to \$50 per month for the purchase of raffle items for meetings and to budget \$1,400 for the purchase of CDE raffle items.

Discussion – Sandra Hughes inquired if members were allowed to purchase items on behalf of the club if they run across something that would be appropriate for one of the raffles. Jan stated that she and Helen normally purchase the raffle items because they have the club debit card. She went on to state that if a member sees a really good deal they could contact her via e-mail, text, or phone call to get the approval to purchase the item.

Susan Shannon seconded the Kathy's motion and it passed on club vote.

Last call for raffle tickets. Elma Vega won the raffle which was for a purse kit.

Discussion of Draft of Revised By-Laws:

Supplemental minutes – January 27, 2015

Article 1 –

Section 1 – accepted, it is hoped that each section can be voted on individually, but after some discussion it is decided the entire new draft document must be brought again to the members for approval.

Section 2 – Issues with the last sentence, after discussion it was decided a sentence will be added.

Section 3 – accepted

Section 4 – accepted but the original Section 4 will be added as Section 5.

Article 2 –

Section 1 – accepted

Section 2 – accepted

Article 3 –

Section 1 – accepted

Section 2 & 3 – Issues with the wording “Annual meeting”, some want to change 2 with 3, changes will be made.

Section 4 – accepted

Section 5 – accepted

Article 4 –

Section 1 – accepted

Section 2 – accepted

Section 3 – accepted

Section 4 – discussion revolved around whether to allow a month for the process, others think a week is sufficient, the wording will be changed.

Section 5 – accepted

Article 5 –

Section 1 – discussion on making the parliamentarian an elected position, it will stay an appointed position, but will include – “club member in good standing”.

Section 2 – accepted

Section 3 – accepted

Section 4 – members had concerns with the wording concerning audits, much discussion on how changes can be made, and different methods of reporting to the club, the section will be rewritten.

Section 5 – a clarification statement will be added.

Article 6 – skipped, will be addressed last.

Article 7 – will remove “10%”

Article 8 – accepted

Article 9 – accepted

Members voted to extend the meeting 30 minutes

Article 6 –

Section 1 – accepted

Section 2 – accepted

Section 3 – discussion to remove the wording “headed by the Parliamentarian”.

- a) Accepted
- b) Add “active member”, add that the committee will pick the chair.
- c) Change to committee
- d) Accepted
- e) Accepted
- f) Take out last sentence.
- g) Accepted
- h) Accepted

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

The supplementary minutes were recorded by Susan Shannon

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

February 24, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration this month was given by Gina Rios. She showed us how to make meringue baskets, mushrooms, nests and cookies and how to decorate them for a beautiful dessert presentation.

Refreshments this month were provided by all the members present as it was our annual Larry's Appreciation luncheon and everyone brought a delicious food item to share.

Jan Hutto called the meeting to order at 11:25 AM. Nineteen members and two guests were present.

Jan welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Bonnell Templet presented the January minutes for club approval. Corrections to be made: (1) the demo/refreshment sheet was not passed around last month (2) under new business Susie Jahn will be helping Kathy with the demo committee, not Susan Shannon. Susan Shannon moved to accept the corrected minutes, Pat Weiner seconded the motion and the minutes passed with noted corrections.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for January. She let the members know that in the past the report covered the time period from meeting to meeting but she will now be presenting the report for the calendar month instead. As was decided in the January meeting, she will not be printing copies of the Treasurer's Report to distribute at the meeting but will provide one copy to be passed around during the meeting for members to review. This will save paper and save on printing costs. She will also be providing a copy of the bank statement with the report to be given to the secretary for inclusion with the minutes. Any member interested in viewing the full report (including bank statement) can contact Bonnell and she will have the minutes binder available at the next meeting after the request is made. Beginning balance was \$9,203.23, income for January was \$896, expenses were \$1,758.99, for an ending balance of \$8,340.24. Judy Francois made a motion to accept the report, Pat Weiner seconded and the motion passed on vote.

The demo / refreshment sheet was passed around. There are still a few months that need a demonstrator and also refreshments. Guadalupe Ochoa will give the demonstration next month and Sue Blume will provide refreshments. Kathy Brinkley will give each of those ladies a reminder call prior to the next meeting.

Jan thanked Gina Rios for her demonstration today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jan – everyone please remember to empty your bottles and/or cans before putting in the trash.

Gina Rios – attended the *That Takes The Cake Show* in Austin last weekend and entered a couple of cakes in the competition. She won 1st place in the Carved Cake category and 2nd place in the Special Technique category. She will post pictures of her cakes on the club Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

Debbie Brown Class – Lori stated there is no new information regarding the classes that we are trying to arrange for March 2016.

CDE Committees:

Caterer – Bonnell had volunteered to head the committee but requested to withdraw due to family obligations that have arisen. Jan asked if anyone else was interested in heading this committee. Helen suggested we ask Susie Jahn to serve as head because she has done so in the past. Kathy will talk with Susie about serving. It was mentioned that we've used Gaby's in the past and were quite satisfied with their food. Kathy will ask Susie to talk with Gaby's and the caterer that Susie knows and that we have used in the past. Susan Shannon stated that The Gardens has a couple of expos each year and their caterer of choice attends and brings samples of their food. She suggested that whoever heads the committee might want to attend the next expo to sample the food from their caterer.

Vendors – Kathy states we usually have around 12 vendors. At the Austin cake show last week-end she spoke with several vendors about coming to our event in September. Several expressed an interest: Icing Images, Dallas Foam, the Swank Guys, and Yvette Humbert but no definite commitments yet.

Demos – Kathy asked the members if anyone had reached out to any instructors regarding demos or if they had any instructors in mind to invite. Jan suggested Karen Vasquez from Kakes by Karen in Naples, FL. Ronnie Bochat suggested Tim Timbo. Jan reminded everyone the members of the problems we encountered last year with Tim. Lori asked if we had a contract with Tim. Jan stated we did not. Jan told Ronnie we could have Tim if that is what the club members want but we would need a very strict contract. She also told Ronnie to feel free to contact Tim to ascertain if he would be willing to come teach a class. Casey Marchan brought up that Tim likes to keep very tight control of his class financial arrangements. Jan reminded everyone that we would like to have classes throughout the year, not just at the CDE. There was further discussion regarding other instructors.

Raffles – Susan Shannon stated she felt it was too early to start contacting potential donors. Casey stated she should probably start now because companies will be adopting their budgets for the year.

By-Laws Revisions – the changes agreed upon during January's meeting were incorporated and the new draft was sent out with the monthly newsletter. Jan asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Kathy made a motion to accept the revised by-laws as presented. Diane McCoy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Charity – Jan asked members to start thinking about what charity we should designate for our yearly donation. It is not necessary to vote today but we should start thinking about it. Helen said she would like to see us give our full annual donation to the Ronald McDonald House this year instead of splitting it between two different charities.

Classes for 2015 – Helen received a message letting her know that Stephen Benson and Lorraine McKay are interested in coming to the US to teach classes this year. She inquired if the members would be interested in taking classes from either one of these instructors. There was discussion regarding what type of techniques they teach and their teaching styles. Lori stated if interested we need to act fast before they get booked elsewhere. Susan inquired about enlisting either Stephen or Lorraine as a headliner at the CDE rather than Karen Vasquez. Kathy will contact Karen Vasquez to check her availability and Helen will contact Stephen and Lorraine to ascertain their availability and pricing.

Future Meetings – Jan asked everyone to be thinking about what they want the meetings to look like in the future in an attempt to bring the fun back into the club. There was discussion and some suggestions. Some of the suggestions put forth:

Shorter business meeting, hands-on demos, post more pictures on Facebook of meetings and club activities, post demo pictures on FB, post on FB what the upcoming demos will be, have a tips and techniques discussion, bring back play days, and spend less time talking about the CDE.

Jan requested that members think about this and be prepared to discuss the topic next month. She stated members could also call her, text her, or e-mail her with suggestions. Gina stated she would like to do a non-cake related hands-on demo in the near future featuring a pastry item.

Jan thanked everyone that brought a food item today.

Last call for raffle tickets. Today's raffle item was a gumpaste baby shoe kit. Ronnie Bochat won the raffle.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:17 PM

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet.

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

March 24, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

President Jan Hutto was not present so Vice President Kathy Brinkley called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM. There were 18 members and 2 guests present.

Guadalupe Ochoa demonstrated an easy chocolate wrap for cakes and chocolate roses using strawberries as the rose center. Great demo!

Refreshments this month were provided by Sue Blume.

Introductions were made around the room.

Bonnell Templet presented the February minutes for club approval. Casey Marchan moved to accept the minutes as presented. Sue Blume seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for February and passed it around for members to review. The beginning balance was \$8,340 and the ending balance was \$8,646. Bonnell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion was seconded by Susan Shannon and passed on member vote.

The Demo / refreshment sheet was reviewed. Eunice Estrada has asked to switch her demo from April to September. Lori Gust moved from July to April which leaves July, October, and November open months.

OLD BUSINESS

CDE:

Raffles – no new information available

Vendors – Confirmed vendors are: Swank, Icing Images, Magic Chocolate, Yvette Humbert (Simi Cakes). Others are pending commitment.

Caterer – Susie Jahn will chair this committee. She has no info to share yet.

Demos – Susie Jahn will be working with Kathy Brinkley on this committee and states she will be contacting a cookie decorator she knows. Kathy says the Swank guys are definitely coming. She showed a picture of a previous class they taught using Cake Dress lace butterfly mats. The cost of the class included the mat. Kathy will talk with them and see what deal they will be willing to offer the Club.

Classes - Karen Vasquez has a stained glass cake with a wafer paper flower two day class for \$200. Kathy will talk with her and obtain more information on the class.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lorraine McKay classes – Helen states that Lorraine has a contract that has to be signed before she will even tell us what she will teach. Her minimum per day is 1,000 pds and has a three day class minimum plus she requires her hotel to be paid. Lorraine also requires payment seven days prior to

her leaving Scotland for the US. Helen also pointed out that she has taught a lot of classes around the Austin area lately which makes Helen wonder if we can fill 60 spaces. Helen estimated the class price would be \$185 for non-members and \$125 for members. The Club's expense to host Lorraine for a three day class will be \$6,780.

Susan Shannon made a motion that the Club not host a Lorraine McKay class this year. Bonnell Templet seconded the motion. The motion passed on member vote. Lori Gust suggested Helen give Lorraine feedback on why the Club passed on the class, i.e., having to sign contract without class details, being unsure if we could cancel a month prior if the classes didn't fill.

Susie Jahn suggested we ask Rocio Gonzalez to teach a class.

Stephen Benison classes – Helen presented Stephen's requirements; three class minimum, \$100 / day minimum, 10 students / class minimum, hotel paid. He uses his line of cutters which are expensive but are very well made. Helen stated based on 15 students per day the estimated cost would be \$150 non-members and \$100 members. Helen is basing the hotel cost on the Drury at \$150 night. Casey Marchan suggested that the Hampton Inn on the Beltway at Crenshaw is cheaper. Helen states one of the reasons we have used the Drury in the past is because the price includes a very nice breakfast which saves the Club money and time. Casey says the Hampton has a very nice breakfast also.

Helen states Stephen is available August 7, 8, 9. Lori Gust expressed her opinion that hosting Stephen for classes will be very good for HCC since he is so well known and he is an excellent teacher. She states his cutters are expensive but are very versatile and can be used for multiple different flowers. Also, he doesn't come to the US very often.

Lori made a motion that the Club invite Stephen Benison to teach three days of classes and accept his financial requirements of three class minimum, 10 student minimum, and hotel paid for by Club. Susan Shannon seconded the motion. Discussion – Kathy asked for a show of hands of those present who might be interested in the classes. There were five positive responses. Lori felt like the way Stephen has his three days structured it would force the students to take all three days of classes. She wondered if Helen would talk with him to see if he would consider teaching three single day classes instead. Lori made an amended motion to invite Stephen Benison to teach three one-day classes at Houston Cake Club on August 7, 8, and 9 with a \$100/day minimum, minimum of 10 students per class, his hotel paid for and with a 31 day cancellation option. Susan Shannon seconded the motion and the motion passed without dissention.

Lori asked if we could put a "Coming Events" promo on our FaceBook page and she will put it on the website also. Helen will put it on the FB page.

Kathy asked how this will impact our being able to fill Karen's class and the Swank Guys class in September. Casey feels like it won't make much of a difference since people have differing interests.

NEW BUSINESS

Lori stated that in the By-Laws it states the Secretary should be sending minutes to her to be posted on the website. The question that has come up is whether to post them before or after they are approved by the Club. All the Club members present agree that after approval is the appropriate time to post the minutes. Bonnell stated she would send the past minutes she has taken to Lori to post on the website.

Meeting structure – any ideas since Jan posed this question at the last meeting? No one had any comments so it was decided to table the discussion until next month's meeting.

CDE Comments – Casey states she has heard a lot of feedback regarding how people are impressed at the numbers we are able to pull in. Casey is disappointed at how few cakes people

bring in for display. She feels it could be due to lack of prize money. Helen states the difference is a Day of Sharing versus a cake show.

2015 Charity – Bonnell wanted to add the Wounded Warrior Project to the list of possible choices.

Play Days – no suggestions offered at this time.

Thank you to Guadalupe for her demo and to Sue Blume for the delicious refreshments.

Last call for raffle tickets. The raffle prize this month is a gumpaste high heel shoe kit and was won by Elma Vega.

Kathy adjourned the meeting at 12:07 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Temple

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

April 28, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

A very informative demonstration of buttercream basics was given by Lori Gust.

Jan called the meeting to order at 10:56 AM and thanked Lori for her demonstration. There were 18 members and no guests present.

Jan had everyone introduce themselves.

Bonnell Templet presented the March minutes for club approval. Casey Marchan moved to accept the minutes as presented. Helen Osteen seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for March. Starting balance was \$8,646.67 and ending balance of \$8,779.63. The treasurer's report [full bank statement](#) was circulated around the room for member review. Susan Shannon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sue Blume seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

The demo / refreshment sheet was reviewed. Demonstrators are needed for July and November. May refreshments will be provided by Eunice, Lupita, and Hermelanda and the May demonstration will be given by Pat Weiner.

Jan reminded everyone that June is our annual garage sale in place of a demonstration. She encouraged everyone to begin getting their items together.

TIPS & TRICKS

Susan Shannon – cake dummies can be cleaned in the dishwasher even if covered in fondant.

Cellia Diaz – she recently used Magic Chocolate for the first time and states she was very pleased with the result and ease of use. She stated she used it over whipped frosting without any problems. Jan states it tastes great and doesn't get elephant skin.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE Committees:

Catering – Jan passed around a menu from Gabby's BBQ. Also Susie contacted Kelley's Country Kitchen. Susie attended the recent open house at *The Gardens* and tasted their food. She reported that the food was very rich and heavy and the prices were expensive. Helen stated that Gabby's is very easy to deal with and is very flexible about adding

people at the last minute. Susie will check with *The Gardens* to see about any discounts they may offer and if they have any lighter options.

Raffles – no update

Vendors – no update

Demos – the demonstrators that have committed are: Karen Vazquez, Wayne Steinkopf (Swank Cake Design), Miquel Guerrero and Sidney Galpern. Kathy met Miquel at and ICES DOS. He is out of Austin and is available to do classes anytime during the year. This year Sidney will be doing a chocolate demonstration.

Lori stated she felt most of the demonstrators last year were mostly doing infomercials. She stated that in the past demonstrators had been talked to ahead of time to make sure they would not be doing infomercials. Jan stated that this has been addressed but reminded everyone that once the demonstrators gets up to the podium there is no way to control what they say.

Classes – Updated class information:

1. Stephen Benison's updated restrictions – he will not work with a 30 day cancellation clause, he cannot do three 1-day classes but wants to do one 2-day class and one 1-day class, he will not be bringing cutters for purchase in class but will offer a 10% discount if ordered ahead of time. He also has no cancellation policy if classes do not fill so the club would still have to pay him.
2. Estimated class costs: 2-day class would be \$300 for non-members and \$200 for members. The 1-day class would be \$150 for non-members and \$100 for members.

Lori suggested the club buy several sets of cutters for people to share at class and/or be available for purchase or raffle at a later date.

Jan's concern is if we commit to these classes and they don't fill, we will still be responsible for the full amount to Stephen. Helen reminded everyone that the club has a very liberal cancellation policy. The question was asked if we could make an exception for this class and have a no refund policy up front.

Susan Shannon made a motion to rescind the motion to invite Stephen Benison to teach classes at Houston Cake Club August 7, 8, and 9. Jan asked if anyone is interested in the class. Lori stated she felt time is too short now and possible we could do the class at a later time. Celia Diaz agreed with trying for a later time. Bonnell seconded Susan's motion. The motion passed on vote. Helen Kathy will ask Stephen when he will be in the US again.

Play Days – Casey stated she would be interested in wafer paper flowers. Kathy reminded everyone that Karen Vazquez will be teaching a wafer paper flower in her class. There were no other suggestions offered.

NEW BUSINESS

The May meeting will be the day after Memorial Day. Does anyone see any problems with the date? No concerns were raised.

Jan asked if there were any further suggestions or comments regarding the Tips and Tricks segment. No suggestions.

Texas ICES DOS – Casey asked if there were any updates. The DOS will be June 14 in Corpus. Peggy Tucker and Susan Carberry will be demonstrators.

CDE Vendors – Kathy stated we need to set the fees for table rentals for the vendors as she already has vendors ready to pay. Kathy made a motion to charge \$50 for the 1st table and \$25 for each additional table. Lori suggested the price be raised since it includes one admission and lunch. Her suggestion was \$75 for the first table and \$25 for each additional table. Kathy amended her **motion to be \$75 for the first table and \$25 for each additional table.** Susan Shannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

CDE Registration Fee – Jan asked if we were ready to set our CDE fees. Last year's rate was \$35 early registration and \$45 at the door. Susie feels like we get such a good turn out because our rates are reasonable. Jan reminded everyone that the food rates are higher this year. Casey made a **motion to set the registration at \$40 for early registration and \$50 at the door with a September 1st deadline.** Sue Blume seconded the motion which then passed on vote.

Karen Portaleo – Susie stated she is a very talented cake artist. Casey stated her class rates are very high (close to \$1,000). Susie will send her an e-mail to ask about her rates.

Karen Vazquez Classes – Stained glass 2 tier cake with a wafer paper flower. This is a 2-day class. Cost would be \$250 non-members, \$170 members. Bonnell made a **motion to host the Karen Vazquez classes at the stated rates of \$250 non-members and \$170 members.** The motion passed on vote. Lori states she needs a picture for the website. Helen will post the information on the club Facebook page.

Wayne Steinkopf (Swank) Class – he will be doing two 1-day classes. Lori asked if we can check on what he is teaching in our area so we don't duplicate any classes he has done in the area. This will be tabled until the May meeting.

Last call for raffle tickets. The raffle prize this month was a Designer Boot kit, a cake magazine, and piping gel. The raffle was won by Gina Rios.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

May 26, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration this month was given by Pat Weiner who showed us how to make a woven basket utilizing chocolate clay as the medium.

Hermelanda and Eunice provided this month's refreshments.

Due to the inclement weather and widespread flooding Jan Hutto (President) and Kathy Brinkley (Vice President) were not in attendance at this month's meeting. Helen Osteen (Treasurer) led our meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:14 AM. There were nine members and no guests present.

Bonnell Templet presented the April minutes for club approval. Susan Shannon moved to accept the minutes as presented. Pat Weiner seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for April. Beginning balance was \$8,779.63. Total income was \$699. Helen stated five people have registered for the Karen Vazquez class and one vendor has rented two tables for the CDE. The expenses last month were \$25.66 resulting in an ending balance of \$9,452.97. Bonnell moved to accept the treasurer's report, Susan seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Demo / refreshment sheet was not passed around since Kathy has that and she was not present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wayne Steinkopf Classes – Wayne has offered us three options for classes and we need to choose two from that list. His cost is \$125 for a one day class and \$99 for the ½ day class. The available options are a Halloween pumpkin cake (two from which to choose) and a Valentine's Day flower box. The pumpkin cake is a sculpted cake and the Valentine's Day flower box involves icing a square cake utilizing acrylic discs, using icing lace and learning how to do supports for the lid. The flowers to go in the box will be pre-made flowers furnished by Wayne as this is not a flower class. None of these cakes have been taught in this area, that will help us to fill the classes.

The members present discussed the cakes we would be interested in learning and the majority favored the Halloween pumpkin cake with the cat on top. This is a full day class and would be offered on Tuesday, September 15th. The member rate would be \$105 and the non-member rate would be \$155. Bonnell made a motion to ask Wayne to teach the Halloween pumpkin cake with the cat on Tuesday, September 15th at the rates listed above. Susan seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Sandra Hughes made a motion that for the Monday, September 14th class we have Wayne teach the Valentine's Day flower box cake at a rate of \$85 for members and \$125 for non-members. Sue Blume seconded the motion and it passed on vote.

Helen will send out an email to all members with this information included. She will also post it on our Facebook page.

CDE – The only committee chair present today was Susan Shannon (Raffles) and she stated it is going well with no new information to report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed today due to limited attendance.

There was no raffle today because Jan was not in attendance and she has the raffle prizes.

Helen reminded everyone that next month is our garage sale (no demonstration). Everyone needs to come through the back door of Larry's. If you have any new items still in packages that do not sell at the garage sale, Susan asked that you consider donating them to the CDE raffle.

Helen adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

June 23, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

There was no demonstration this month because of the annual garage sale which appeared to be a success.

Thank you to Judy Francois, Yolanda Diaz, and Gina Rios for providing this month's refreshments.

Jan called the meeting to order at 11:02AM. There were 21 members and 2 guests present.

Introductions were made around the room.

Bonnell Templet presented the May minutes for club approval. Helen moved to accept the minutes as presented. Pat Weiner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for May. Beginning balance was \$9,452.97, income for the month was \$480, expenses were \$37.84 leaving an ending balance of \$9,895.13. Pat Weiner moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Kathy Brinkley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The demo / refreshment sheet was reviewed with the members. A demonstrator is needed for the July meeting. Refreshments next month are to be provided by Elma Vega, Susie Araya, and Celia Diaz. Retta Pryor volunteered to do the demonstration in July with the subject matter to be determined later. Retta will send the information to Helen for the July newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE

Caterer – Susie Jahn was not present today but Kathy stated she had spoken with her regarding the catering. The caterer (Gabby's BBQ) is requesting an estimated head count. It was decided to start at 125 and increase from there as we see how registration is going. Susie needs to stress with Gabby's that we need to have the ability to add onto the head count at the last minute.

Raffle – Susan reported that donations are slow in coming but states that is not unusual as companies don't want to send items or commit to send items this far in advance. The Winbeckler's have sent one item and at today's meeting she received some donated items from club members (Bonnell Templet and Eunice Estrada). There was some discussion regarding the timetable for assembling the raffle items as we will not have access to the venue until the morning of the CDE which means the raffle items will need to be assembled at another location, probably Larry's. Members were reminded that many items do not arrive until days before the CDE so we will not be able to do this too far in advance. Jan stated this topic will be discussed more extensively next month.

Vendors – Kathy stated that we have seven confirmed vendors at this point with several more potentials.

Demos – Kathy reported that the confirmed demonstrators will be The Swank Guys, Karen Vazquez, Sidney Galpern, and Miquel Guerrero.

Jan took this opportunity to remind everyone that all club members need to participate and help in order to make our CDE a success instead of the same group of people each year. She feels that in order for our CDE to stay fresh and improve every year we need more members bringing their ideas to the table.

Classes – Helen stated that there are spaces available in all of the classes. Jan reminded everyone that both of the instructors (Karen and Wayne) are extremely talented instructors and past classes with these instructors have been very enjoyable. Helen stated that payment can now be made through the club website, PayPal invoice, cash or check.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

July meeting - scheduled for July 28th. The ICES convention is July 30-August 2nd. Twelve members are registered to attend (four of which are board members). These members will probably be leaving on July 28th to attend the convention.

Kathy Brinkley made a motion that the July meeting be moved to July 21st. Retta Pryor seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote. Helen will need to send the newsletter out by July 13th or 14th so items for the newsletter will need to be sent to her prior to that time.

Website - Kathy stated that we have a problem with the club website. She states items are not updated in a timely manner and even the meeting dates are not updated. She feels that the delay in posting information about our events results in a lower participation. She questioned what needed to be done to correct this situation. Lori Gust (webmaster) replied that the website has now been updated and explained that there had been a problem with her computer "synching" with the website when she updated information. It appeared the information had been updated on her end. She has resolved the problem. She went on to state that she has not been receiving the meeting minutes on a regular basis. She also stated she has asked members in the past to let her know if they were aware of any problems on the website. Kathy wondered if Lori could go back and check the website after making changes to make sure they had "synched" correctly. Rocio asked if we could have either two members with the ability to make changes. Lori stated she has no problems with that but in the past when members have volunteered to help they would soon withdraw their assistance.

Susan Shannon voiced her opinion that the website is not very pretty or interesting and suggested the format needs updating. Lori agreed with this statement and went on to explain that the software used to build the website had been purchased several years ago at her own expense and was \$1,000 at that time. She feels a new package could probably be purchased for significantly less now. She let the members know that building the website is very time consuming. Retta stated that her son-in-law works in the computer field and recently rebuilt her website and did a very good job. Jan asked if anyone was interested in volunteering for the job. Gina Rios stated her son is also adept at this type of computer work. Bonnell suggested the club pay to have a professional rebuild our website from the ground up and then have one or two club members maintain the site from that point.

Jan stated that we need to think about this issue and do some research into costs and ways to accomplish our purpose. If you have any comments please make sure you get those comments to Jan either in person or by email. Jan requested that Retta and Gina find out what their family members would charge to help the club. Lori stated it is important to ask the right questions of anyone the club enlists to build the website. An example of the questions that need to be asked are: who would own the website, what software package would be used, and would our website remain our proprietary property.

Meeting demonstrations - Rocio stated she had talked with some members of the Frosting Creators club in San Antonio at their DOS recently and was told by them that if one of their members takes a class and returns to the club and uses the newly learned technique for a meeting demonstration, that the club would then reimburse them a portion of the cost of their class. Rocio wondered what our club felt about that. Bonnell stated she thought that could be a copyright issue and it would certainly lead to some ill will toward our club by instructors whose techniques were taught in that manner. Jan agreed that is was a hot topic right now in the cake community, specifically people taking classes and then turning around and teaching the same techniques/cakes in their own classes.

Last call for raffle tickets. The raffle items this month were a Sugar Veil lace mat, dusting powder, and a Cake Decorating magazine. Sue Blume won the drawing.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 11:56 AM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

Houston Cake Club minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting

Larry's Arts and Crafts

Retta Pryor demonstrated chocolate wraps and flowers.

Meeting called to order at 11am, 14 members were present, introductions were made and all were welcomed.

The minutes were handed out and read and Susan Shannon moved to accept and Kathy Brinkley seconded, motion passed.

The treasurer's report was passed around and explained, Pat Wiener moved to accept and Retta Pryor seconded, motion passed.

August: Susan Shannon – Demo, Sandra Hughes – refreshments
Thanks made to today's refreshments and demo.

Unfinished business – CDE – classes have their minimums, Karen – 13, Swank day 1 – 13, Swank day 2 – 10. Kathy will be getting the supply list from Karen.

So far we have the Swanks, Sidney, Karen and Miguel for our demonstrators. Kathy is also getting the vendors all set up and so far there are 7.

Raffle – slow, some items have come in.

Catering – Susie is getting a quote from Gabby's for 185 plates. We will get more info about the meal.

Next month we will sign up for CDE committees.

Website – some updates have been made, we need to gather information for a new one, looking for low cost or free. Stephanie Williams suggested a school might want to design a site.

Casey Marchan wonders if the new website designer would have access to the old information.

Jan Hutto states that our goal is for the club to own and maintain our own website and Celia Diaz wants to have a website committee to maintain the site and not just one person.

New Business – Christmas Party – bring ideas and we will discuss, last year's prices were \$23.00 each. We would like a private room for approximately 30-35 people for 11am – 1 or 2pm. Everyone should go out and look for a spot and it doesn't have to be on the south side of town.

Guadalupe Ochoa stated she really enjoyed the hands-on demonstration.

Raffle – Susie Araya won the raffle.

Fliers for the CDE were distributed.

Minutes recorded by Susan Shannon.

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

August 25, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration today was presented by Susan Shannon. She demonstrated her "poof" or "billow" technique and also ruffles using gumpaste and buttercream.

Refreshments this month were provided by Kathy Brinkley.

Jan called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM. There were 19 members and 4 guests present.

Introductions were made and Jan welcomed everyone.

Bonnell Templet presented the July minutes for club approval. Last month's minutes were recorded by Susan Shannon. Lori Gust had a couple of questions about the minutes. First was about an entry under "New Business". She asked if the \$23 per person for the Christmas luncheon last year included taxes. Helen stated the total price with tax last year was \$23.27 per person. Lori also asked if there were any other updates that needed to be made to the website. Jan stated none at this time to her knowledge. Bonnell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Susan Shannon seconded the motion and motion passed.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report. The balance at the end of July was \$13,695.46. This includes \$100 in registration and vendor fees for CDE and \$3,895.00 in class registration fees. Susan Shannon made a motion to accept the report as presented and PJ Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion passed on vote.

Demo / refreshment sheet was not passed around because it is full for the rest of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE:

Raffles – Susan stated that she has received quite a few items for the raffle including some big ticket items and she has commitments for several more things for raffle and goodie bags. Kathy also stated she has been given some items for raffle as well. Jan informed the members that we will be meeting the Saturday before the CDE (9/12/15) at The Gardens to assemble the raffle items and stuff goodie bags. She encouraged everyone not taking classes to please come and help. The time is 10A – 4P.

Vendors – Kathy states there are nine paid vendors thus far and asked everyone to let her know if there was anyone they knew of that might be interested in being a vendor. The confirmed vendors are:

Irma Arenivar, Heather Campbell, Tammela Colitti, LeeAnn's Cake Supplies, Rocio's Cake Supplies, Simi Cakes, Swank Cake Design, Fiesta Baking Supplies, and Tessy Booker.

Catering – Susie states she has no further updates but the club needs to decide if they want to include drinks with the lunch at \$1.00/pp extra. The lunch is \$9.75/pp without drinks. Also, Gaby's has not given a deadline yet for plate count.

Options for drinks for CDE:

1. The Gardens will provide unlimited drinks for \$1.95/pp and \$95 for hostess to serve (comes to around \$400-500)
2. Gaby's for \$1.00/pp for lunch only
3. Club members bring drinks, ice, and coolers

Bonnell made a motion that club members bring drinks, ice, and coolers. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote. Jan stated we have dispensers for the tea and a large coffee maker. Jan asked everyone to bring their coolers on Saturday during set-up. Hermelinda volunteered to monitor the drink supplies during the CDE.

Demos – Confirmed demonstrators will be: Karen Vazquez, Miguel Guerrero, Wayne Steinkopf (Swank Cake Design), and Sidney Galpern.

Classes – Kathy states most of the classes are full with one spot remaining in Wayne's Jack O'Lantern class. The supply list for Karen's class has been sent by e-mail to those registered for the class. Helen reminded everyone to bring their dummy cakes already covered in fondant but not stacked. Kathy was notified this morning by Wayne that refrigeration is needed for his Valentine Box class. This class has 17 registered and the cakes will be 10" by 6" squares on a board. She asks if the club might want to buy it's own refrigerator. Celia Diaz has a contact at Rent-A-Center who she contacted during the meeting. The person contacted told Celia that RAC would donate a large refrigerator for our use. They will deliver and pick up.

Breakfast and lunch need to be provided for the classes. The club will reimburse up to \$5.00/pp.

- Fri, 9/11 – Bonnell & Susan will provide both
- Sat, 9/12 – PJ Jenkins will provide both
- Mon, 9/14 – Joanne Renteria will provide both
- Tues, 9/15 – Sue Blume will provide both

Dinner for teachers:

- Karen – Kathy
- Swank, Monday – Kathy
- Swank, Tuesday – Helen

Registration – Jan encouraged everyone to go ahead and register if they are planning to attend as only 10 people have registered so far. September 1st is the deadline for early registration at \$40. After that it is \$50. Retta Pryor asked about the "special gift" in the goodie bags for people registering early. Jan stated there are not many items for goodie bags so that isn't really an option. It was suggested that the early registrants receive an extra raffle ticket. Bonnell made a motion that people registering early would receive a free raffle ticket. Retta seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

Breakfast and Dessert – Jan reminded everyone to bring a breakfast item and a dessert item for the CDE so we can have a bountiful offering for our guests.

Sharing Table – do we still want to have this as a feature. The group felt it was not necessary.

People's Choice Table – Do we still want this? PJ stated she thought we should still have it. Casey Marchan volunteered by phone to monitor this table. It was decided to keep this feature.

Tables – 16 tables are going to vendors. Jan asked if anyone had extra tables if needed as she really does not want to rent more. PJ, Celia, Bonnell, and Susan all stated they have tables they can bring if needed. Jan will know if they are needed after her meeting with The Gardens today and will notify those who offered tables.

Volunteers –

Breakfast & Dessert table – PJ Jenkins

Raffles – Rocio Gonzalez

Signs & banners – Joanne Renteria

Vendor Liason – Bonnell Templet

Clean demo table between demos – PJ Jenkins

Set-up & take down – all club members are encouraged to participate

Gifts – traditionally gifts are given to demonstrators and teachers. Any suggestions for this year. Sue Blume volunteered to make the embroidered aprons again this year for the demonstrators. How many and what color? Members voted on black and Jan stated four aprons would be needed. For teacher gifts Kathy suggested a couple of dish towels for each teacher with the club logo embroidered on them. Sue volunteered to make these also and stated she would also make and donate four aprons for the raffle baskets.

Travel Expense – in the past the club has given \$100 to demonstrators that have traveled over 100 miles to come to our CDE. Do we want to do this again? Kathy made a motion that demonstrators traveling more than 100 miles be given \$100. Helen seconded the motion and it passed on vote.

Miscellaneous - Jan informed everyone that the door will be open early for us on the Sunday of the CDE and to please come early to help with final set-up. She also encouraged members that have a CDE shirt to wear it on that day. She stated club members may be asked to perform certain functions that day as needed.

Lori stated that in years past she has brought a cheap, dark colored shower curtain to cover the demonstrator table for ease of clean up between demonstrators. PJ stated she would take care of this.

Kathy stated cellophane bags would be needed for the raffle items. PJ stated she would obtain these. Kathy made a motion that up to \$125 of club money could be spent to obtain cellophane bags and bows to wrap raffle items. Bonnell seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Lori Gust had brought a couple of prototypes of a new product (acrylic scrapers for icing cakes) she wants to offer through her business and she asked the members to handle the items and give her their feedback.

Jan stated Pat had sent her a message asking everyone to please place their empty soda cans in the cardboard box next to the food table rather than in the trash can.

The raffle item this month is a package containing several pairs of specialty edge scissors, some cutters/embossers and a small rolling cutter. Jan issued the last call for raffle tickets. Retta Pryor won the raffle drawing.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:29 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

September 22, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration today was a new stenciling technique presented by Joanne Renteria.

Refreshments this month were provided by Nancy Olivares.

Jan called the meeting to order at 10:55 AM. There were 18 members and 0 guests present.

Introductions were done around the room.

Bonnell Templet submitted the August minutes for club approval. Susan Shannon moved to accept the minutes as presented. Joanne Renteria seconded the motion and motion passed.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for August. The beginning balance was \$13,790.30 and the ending balance was \$17,743.22. A payment made to the instructors of our CDE classes will be reflected on next month's statement. That amount was about \$7,000.00.

Helen stated that we had 152 registrants (including vendors and helpers) for the CDE. She also reviewed some of the statistics from this year's CDE and compared them to previous years.

Comparison of net profit for the last three years was as follows:

| | |
|------|------------|
| 2015 | \$3,007.16 |
| 2014 | \$1,758.12 |
| 2013 | \$1,576.45 |

Lori Gust asked if Helen would be able to provide the club with a breakdown of costs and profits from our CDE at next month's meeting. Helen agreed to do that.

Bonnell Templet made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Susan Shannon seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

Demo / refreshment sheet for 2016 will be passed around. Next month's demonstrator will be Gina Rios and refreshments will be provided by Roxanna Sharp and Migdalia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE Feedback – Jan asked if anyone had any comments or suggestions. Comments received were that it flowed smoothly, the food was good and the demonstrators were interesting. Jan stated that if anyone has any ideas about a venue for next year we would need to discuss it and make a decision in the next couple of months. She asked for feedback specific to our venue this year, The Gardens.

Positive – good flow to the layout, vendors had convenient access for loading and unloading their wares, the handicap parking was right in front of the entrance, it wasn't necessary to provide security or insurance, we did not have to rent the tables and chairs, and the rental rate for the venue was reasonable.

Negative – poor lighting, promised platform for demonstration table was not present, club members ended up having to set up the tables and chairs, no one from venue was present for support during the CDE, and the WiFi access for vendors was not available at the beginning of the day.

Helen stated she was very disappointed at the turnout to help set up on Saturday. There was discussion surrounding this issue with some feeling that Saturday classes were a problem while others felt that Saturday classes were necessary in order to have different instructors hold classes and for people that have trouble getting off work during the week. Jan inquired of Helen if she knew how many CDE attendees were our own members. Helen did not have that information but stated she can provide it next month. Kathy commented that perhaps we could leave early registration open longer next year.

CDE Classes – Jan asked for feedback regarding the classes that were offered. The comments were overwhelmingly positive. A special thank-you to Celia Diaz for obtaining the refrigerator needed for the classes.

Debbie Brown Classes – Lori Gust has been communicating with Debbie Brown regarding dates she is available to come to our club to do classes. Lori stated that after looking at Debbie's schedule and holidays on the calendar that the best time is going to be late March to early April, specifically March 31st and April 1st – 5th for a total of 6 days. She would be teaching three one-day classes and repeating them once. She would offer us the same daily rate as the last time she was here. Helen has figured the rates to be:

Member - \$110 per class
Non-member - \$165 per class

Debbie's new book was supposed to be released in September but will not be released until early October and it will be all new content. Lori suggested that we vote on having Debbie come to teach classes, the class dates and the rates and then next month vote on which classes we want her to do. Jan asked if we did a discount for people that signed up for multiple classes last time Debbie was here. Helen confirmed that we did. There was discussion regarding how much the discount should be with \$295 for members for all three classes and \$475 for three classes for non-members being the most popular option. There was a question voiced about our ability to fill six classes and Lori stated that Debbie will be teaching brand new content that has not been taught anywhere else and that her prices here are significantly lower than anywhere else she teaches which gives us an advantage.

Lori made a motion that we invite Debbie Brown to teach three one-day classes and repeat the series one time from March 31, 2016 through April 5, 2016 at a rate of \$110 for members and \$165 for non-members and a discounted rate of \$295 for members taking all three classes and \$475 for non-members taking all three classes. Susan Shannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

There was further discussion about our usual practice of requiring a 50% deposit to hold a spot with the balance being due one month prior to class date and also the deadline for refunds. Some members felt 30 days prior for refunds did not leave the club enough time to fill the vacated spot unless there is a waiting list. Lori suggested 60 days. Some members felt that might be too long and maybe we could compromise with 45 days.

Lori made a motion that we require a 50% deposit to hold a spot for a class with the balance due one month prior to class date and that we allow a full refund for any reason up to 45 days prior to class date after which there will be no refunds. Helen seconded this motion and it passed on vote.

An announcement will be posted on social media regarding Debbie coming to teach classes and the dates and prices. Content will be announced after our October meeting.

Lori made a suggestion that the club reinstitute the practice of having the instructors sign a contract with us to prevent them cancelling at the last minute.

Christmas Party – Susie Araya has contacted a restaurant by the name of Los Amerigas and they would charge \$18.95 per person with dessert included in that price. Lori suggested a place in Clear Lake called Villa Capri. She stated we would be in a separate building from the restaurant and it

overlooks the lake. She does not have prices today but states it would be similar as Los Amerigas. Jan stated that the club will be voting on this next month if anyone else has any suggestions to bring the information to next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Sue Blume has had members ask her about club shirts. If anyone is interested in a club shirt please contact her so she can order in bulk rather than one or two shirts at a time because it affects the cost of the shirts. She can also do aprons.

NEW BUSINESS

Charity – we need to decide on our charity for this year. We have voted in the past to donate 10% of the CDE registration fees to a charity of our choice each year. The total for this year would be \$513. Helen suggested that rather than splitting our donation between two charities as we did last year that we donate the full amount to Ronald McDonald House as they have shown the most appreciation for our contributions in the past. There was a suggestion that we not wait until Christmas to give them the money but do it before. Lori suggested that we round up the amount to be given to \$600.

Helen made a motion that we donate \$600 to Ronald McDonald House and that the donation should be presented prior to Christmas. Kathy Brinkley seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

Kathy asked if we should also include a collection for their pantry as we did last year. There was a suggestion that the club purchase a nice item to raffle off at our Christmas party and the proceeds from that also go to RMH.

Helen made a motion that we also take up a collection for the Ronald McDonald House pantry and that the club purchase a nice item to raffle off at our Christmas party with the proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House. Pat Weiner seconded the motion and motion passed on vote.

Jan asked for some suggestions on a raffle item. They were:

- Edible printer
- Agbay, Jr. cake leveler
- \$100 Visa Card
- \$100 cash
- Certificate for \$100 discount on Debbie Brown classes

Lori asked if Helen could include this information in next month's newsletter and Helen agreed.

Lori asked if it would be possible to plan a Play Day on using the mobile app "Periscope" to be presented by PJ Jenkins. PJ stated she would be willing but only with assistance from Joanne Renteria and Rocio Gonzalez. They will confer as a group and decide if this is feasible and when they would be able to do it.

Last call for raffle tickets was issued. The raffle this month includes Pisces cutters from NY Cake, a graduated heart cutter set, a large bottle of gold disco dust, a large plastic fondant knife, a Ruth Rickey fleur-de-lis silicone mold, a trinket box and assorted magazines. Kathy Brinkley won the raffle.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

October 27, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration this month was presented by Gina Rios who showed us how to make candied apples in different colors and designs.

Migdalia Nunez provided the delicious refreshments for the meeting.

President, Jan Hutto, called the meeting to order at 11:11 AM. There were 27 members and 0 guests present.

Introductions were made around the room.

Bonnell Templet presented the September minutes for club approval. Casey Marchan moved to accept the minutes as presented. Susan Shannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for September. The beginning balance was \$17,743.22. Income was \$6,001.69 and expenses were \$11,891.87, with an ending balance of \$11,853.04. Helen also presented a spread sheet comparing CDE expenses and income for the years 2010 to 2015. Lori Gust questioned the percentage amounts listed on the spreadsheet. Helen agreed that the calculations are incorrect. She will recalculate and bring the corrected numbers to the October meeting. Helen also stated that a check for \$600 has been mailed to Ronald McDonald House.

Bonnell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Pat Weiner seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

The demo and refreshment sheet for 2016 was passed around for members to sign. The demonstration in November will be done by Susie Araya and refreshments will be provided by Susan Shannon and Ronnie Bochat.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE - Jan asked if anyone had any outstanding CDE receipts they have yet to submit. No members raised their hand.

Play Day - The "Periscope" play day didn't make. Jan asked if we wanted to set another date and present it at the next meeting. PJ Jenkins explained what the Periscope app is capable of doing. Several potential dates were presented and November 22nd was the date that seemed to work the best for the instructors and members. Lori made a motion to have a Periscope Play Day on November 22nd to be held at Larry's Arts and Crafts and starting at 1:00 PM. The cost would be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. JoAnne Renteria seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Christmas Party – four different restaurants have been suggested

1. Susie Araya suggested The Americas in the River Oaks area. She states it is a very nice restaurant with prices that work with the club's budget. The price would be \$18.95 per person excluding drinks and dessert. Having a separate room would not cost extra but the restaurant requires a \$900 deposit to hold the date.
2. Susie also suggested the Braeburn Country Club whose prices are comparable to The Americas. They also would provide a separate room. She did state she felt it is probably too late to get our date reserved.
3. Kathy Brinkley suggested we return to the Monument Inn. We have used this restaurant in the past with positive reviews from the members. They have several price packages from which to choose and we would have our own room. The cost will be approximately \$26 per person including taxes and gratuity. They will allow us to bring our own desserts for \$1 per person extra.
4. Lori suggested the Villa Capri in Clear Lake. This restaurant offers Italian food. We would have our own separate building that over looks the lake. They offer buffet or a la carte service. The price would be \$26.95 per person including a drink but excluding a dessert.

It was suggested that Susie call The Americas to get more information. The venue part of the discussion was put on hold while she was making the call.

Kathy made a motion to hold the Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8th. Casey seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

November meeting – our next scheduled meeting will fall during Thanksgiving week. In years past the club has voted to move the meeting to the week before Thanksgiving. Casey made a motion to move the meeting to November 17th, Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Christmas Party Raffle Prizes – how much money do we want to spend on a raffle prize? Sandra Hughes made a motion to have a \$200 Visa Gift Card as the prize. Lori seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Kathy suggests we have two prizes, one for \$200 and a second one for \$100. Sandra amended her motion to state that there will be two raffle prizes offered at the Christmas party. A first prize of \$200 cash or Visa Gift Card and a second prize of \$100 cash or card. Margo questioned adding a third prize of \$50. It was decided to not have a third prize. The motion was voted on and passed.

The discussion regarding the Christmas party venue was resumed after Susie returned with updated information from The Americas. She stated that she does not believe that venue will work. She was told they would charge \$1,800 for a separate room and that their main dining room could not accommodate our group.

Kathy made a motion to have the Christmas party at the Monument Inn. Sue Blume seconded the motion. Jan decided to take a straw vote to determine which of the two remaining venues, Monument Inn or Villa Capri, the members present favored. The majority of the members (10) raised their hands for Villa Capri and for Monument Inn there were eight (8) votes. Kathy rescinded her motion.

Casey made a motion that we hold our Christmas party at Villa Capri. Nancy Olivares seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

The address of Villa Capri is 3713 Nasa Parkway.

We need to decide between a buffet or a la carte. Jan asked people to state their preference with a show of hands. There was one vote for buffet and the rest of the members present voted for a la carte. Next we need to chose the four entrees available for our luncheon. After the choices were presented Bonnell made a motion that we choose lasagna, egg plant parmesan, chicken picata, and seafood crepes as our entrees. Helen seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Debbie Brown Classes – there is no time left this month for discussion regarding the class content. Lori did show pictures from Debbie’s latest book. Next month we will discuss which three we would like Debbie to teach in 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Bronwen Weber classes – Kathy stated Bronwen will be teaching a mounted deer head class on November 8 at Cake Craft Shop for \$350.

There was no raffle this month.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:41 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet

HOUSTON CAKE CLUB

November 18, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

Held at Larry's Arts and Crafts
Pasadena, Texas

The demonstration was done by Kathy Brinkley and Helen Osteen. They demonstrated

Refreshments this month were provided by Susan Shannon.

Jan called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM. There were 12 members and guests present.

Introductions were made around the room.

Bonnell Templet presented the October minutes for club approval. Kathy Brinley moved to accept the minutes as presented, Helen Osteen seconded the motion and motion passed.

Helen Osteen presented the Treasurer's report for October. Beginning balance was \$11,853.04, income was \$487.50 and expenses were \$625.35, with an ending balance of \$11,715.19. The expense was for the donation to Ronald McDonald House.

Jan reminded the members that in February 2015 the club agreed on a single copy of the treasurer's report being passed around for review but recently there have been requests for copies of past reports going back to 2010. She asked if the members feel that we need to go back to printing copies to pass out to all those present at the meetings. Bonnell made a motion to begin making copies of the monthly treasurer's report to pass out to members present at the meetings. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CDE – All of the receipts should have been turned in at this point.

Play Day – the Periscope play day was cancelled due to lack of interest. Money has been refunded to the three people that had signed up. The minimum number to hold the class is six.

Christmas Party – no time has yet been voted on. Helen made a motion to have the party start at 11:00 AM and go until 1:00 PM. Kathy seconded the motion and

the motion passed on vote. The deadline for a head count is one week prior to the party.

Lori stated she had spoken with a Villa Capri representative that told her we would be able to choose our entrée the day of the luncheon. There will be no charge for dessert as Lori has volunteered to provide the dessert.

The members at the meeting agreed to having our usual gift exchange with a \$15 limit.

Our charity is Ronald McDonald House and there will be a list in the newsletter of needed items. The raffle prizes will be as follows: 1st place \$200 cash, 2nd place \$100 cash.

Debbie Brown classes – Lori presented the options we have for classes. Some of the options are cakes and some are figurines only. Pictures of the different options were passed around and everyone present voted on their top three choices. The options chosen were Dinosaur, Grandpa, and Pirate Ship. The class dates and content will be as follows:

Thurs, 3/31 – Pirate Ship

Fri, 4/1 – Grandpa

Sat, 4/2 – Dinosaur

Sun, 4/3 – Pirate Ship

Mon, 4/4 – Grandpa

Tue, 4/5 – Dinosaur

The class rates will be: Members \$110 per class / \$295 for three. Non-members \$165 per class / \$475 for three. A deposit of one-half the cost is required for enrollment with the balance being due by 2/15/16.

Susie Jahn made a motion that we host Debbie Brown classes in March/April with the above listed dates, content, and cost. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Helen will send e-vites to all club members and Lori will post the information on the club website.

NEW BUSINESS

Website – Lori stated that the HCC website is up for renewal in December. The rate is \$54/yr or \$250/5 yr through Network Solutions. Helen stated she feels this company is the best company to use. Kathy made a motion to renew the website for one year and Bonnell seconded the motion.

Lori questioned why we would not renew for five years. The cost is charged to Lori's credit card the club reimburses her. Jan asked if the club can pay directly.

Lori stated that she owns the website and she allows the club to use it. The question was asked why the club doesn't own the website. There was discussion regarding the logistics of transferring the website to the club's ownership. Bonnell made a motion to start the process of changing the website from individual ownership to club ownership. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion passed on vote.

Lori stated that the club domain name also expires in January 2018 and that is also owned by Lori. The question was asked if we could explore changing the ownership on the domain name as well as the website. Lori states she will get the information we would need to accomplish this and present it at the next meeting.

Kathy reminded everyone about the Texas ICES DOS coming up on February 7, 2016 in Conroe.

There was no further new business.

Last call for raffle tickets. The raffle prize this month was a set of alphabet cutters, ivy leaf cutters, a mold, butterfly cutters, and leaf veinners.

Raffle won by Susan Shannon.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:04 PM.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Bonnell Templet