

June 2004

# UPDATE



ALAMO HEIGHTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Chamber rolls out fast, user-friendly Website

[www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org](http://www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org)

The Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our new website. It was rolled out at the mixer held May 20 at Alamo Heights Office Supply. (If you missed it, the food was great).

A projector was set up (thanks to Lara Thompson) and offered members their first look at the new site.

Visit [www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org](http://www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org)

and see the directories. Every member is listed by name and by service category. Go to the calendar, and plan on attending the next events.

Each member listing has a link to a member page with more than the usual contact information.

Your listing not only has the standard address and phone number, but also an email address, a website address, a tollfree number,

a mobile number, a fax number, and the best part of all - a short description of your business.

Some members have done a great job of describing their businesses and we look forward to everyone taking advantage of this unique membership benefit. Even if you don't use email, the listing makes business sense.

The project was spearheaded by website committee chair Ed Zuzula of Alamo Heights Office Supply, and developed by Don Rathbun of Rathbun Web Design.

Making the website easy to use and fast was



*Rick Berchin, website designer Don Rathbun and Terry Negley at the roll-out/mixer*

a priority, and this fits the bill. The interactive map (from the home page) takes a good internet connection, but the 'bread and butter' parts of the website are rocket fast.

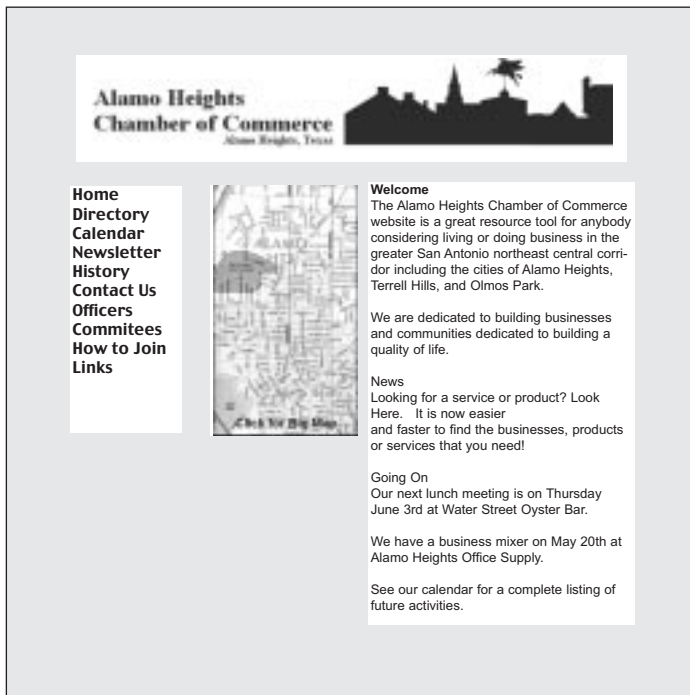
Another great feature setting our website apart is the complete member listing. Instead of choosing a letter and seeing a few entries, visitors get a quick list of everyone (almost 100 members).

The directory by service is also fast and easy to use. It's an alphabetical list by service category, and members can be listed by more than one category. No more hunting for the proper service category, as a quick scroll down the page will let you and our online visitors find what they are looking for.

At the kickoff mixer at Ed Zuzula's store, several members commented on how much they liked the new site. Visit our new website at [www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org](http://www.AlamoHeightsChamber.org) and try out the online directory and calendar.

Introduce your associates to the Chamber. Prospective members will find the business listing valuable, and can print an application right from the internet.

Kudos to Ed Zuzula, Ruth Chislett, Jeff Carrell, and Deborah Myers for their work on this project.



*A facsimile of the Chamber's home page*

## Graphic content

### Designer to address Chamber at luncheon

A Chicagoan who had built a successful San Antonio design firm in just five years will reveal some of the secrets of her success at the Chamber's June luncheon.

Lara August will address the Chamber at its "one-time-only" Thursday luncheon scheduled for June 3 at the Water Street Oyster Bar.

Lara August, owner not only of ROBOT Design Studio but also of ROBOT Art Gallery, has long believed that her life is equally governed by the right and left sides of her brain.

"It's either a blessing or a curse," she says. "They tend to compete."

This duality of thought is a major inspiration behind the development of ROBOT Design Studio. Lara is simultaneously a smart and persistent businesswoman as well as a talented artist. A thorough perfectionist, Lara has rigorous standards for the designs she presents to clients. In addition to her aptitude as a designer, ROBOT clients have also started seeking Lara's expertise as a consultant on the business and financial issues pertaining to the creative process.

A native of Chicago, Lara came to San Antonio seven years ago as a total stranger to

the city. With a couple years of freelance experience under her belt at the age of 23, Lara decided to start her own business. The growth of ROBOT Design Studio is a testament to the phrase, "slow and steady wins the race." ROBOT has grown steadily over the past five years. From its early days of operating out of an apartment, ROBOT Design Studio has grown to a staff of 4 employees and 4 contributing freelancers located in the Southtown Art District. This year marks the studio's fifth anniversary.

In 2002 Lara combined her business acumen with her appreciation for contemporary art to form the ROBOT Art Gallery. Since its inception, ROBOT Art Gallery has featured the works of fifteen emerging artists, and has recently begun partnering with businesses throughout the city to display multiple shows at these remote locations. The gallery is even starting to attract overseas attention—this fall "The Toyists", a renowned group of Dutch artists, will also be displaying their unique works at the ROBOT Art Gallery between October and December.

The achievements of ROBOT Design Studio and the expansion of the ROBOT



Lara August

Art Gallery have led to a number of accolades from the San Antonio business community. Awards include the Small Business Association's Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2003 and the North Chamber's Outstanding New Small Business Leader of the Year Award in 2002. Lara is the youngest member of The Alternative Board to date. ROBOT designs have also won numerous Addies, including Best of Show in Print Design in 2001.

### Mayor offers snapshot of A.H. developments

*Alamo Heights Mayor Bob Biechlin, in left photo, provides a synopsis of recent developments in and near Alamo Heights at the June luncheon. He briefed Chamber members on Broadway traffic, increasing the water supply and other projects in the works or under consideration at City Hall.*

*In center photo, Ed Zuzula encourages members to attend the Alamo Heights Office Supply mixer at which the Website was unveiled.*

*At right, Chamber Treasurer Ruth Chislett and President Debbie Myers strike a pose.*



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# Mixer helps launch AHCC Website



## Roll-Out Revelry

Attending the mixer at which the Chamber's Website was rolled out were, far left, Larry Stewart, Sandra Carrell and Jeff Carrell; near left, Bruce Fried, Debbie Myers, Lara Thompson and Alice Ewing. Below, a group from Aggie Chimney Sweeps joins in the fun.



Alamo Heights Branch  
401 Austin Highway  
283-6500

Member FDIC

Ed Zuzula and his group at Alamo Heights Office Supply deserve a big round of applause for their efforts on the June mixer.

Not only was the launch of the Website a major success, the snacks, beverages and hospitality were outstanding, as well.

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(210) 821-5005 (Fax)  
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SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209

## Five firms join Chamber

The Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that five firms have recently joined the Chamber.

Please welcome them.

Contact information:

Massage Heights  
7959 Broadway, Suite 508  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
Contact: James P. Blend  
Phone: (210) 822-8889  
Fax: (210) 822-8820  
Email: [service@massageheights.com](mailto:service@massageheights.com)  
Website: [www.massageheights.com](http://www.massageheights.com)

Rick Cantara State Farm  
Rick Cantara  
4408 Rittiman Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78218  
210-824-0359 office  
210-824-2084 fax  
[rick.cantara.nyva@statefarm.com](mailto:rick.cantara.nyva@statefarm.com) email  
[www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com) website

Nautical Adventures  
Cecily Macdonald  
6338 N. New Braunfels Suite 100  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
210-521-9207 office  
210-682-9440 fax  
[cmac442@earthlink.net](mailto:cmac442@earthlink.net) email  
[www.nautical-adventures.com](http://www.nautical-adventures.com) website

Hunteleigh at Home  
Michael Flores  
5024 Broadway  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
210-826-6969 office  
210-826-6967 fax  
[hunteleighathome@hunteleigh.biz](mailto:hunteleighathome@hunteleigh.biz) email

Rennert Travel  
Bruce Fried  
6217 Broadway  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
210-805-9559 office  
210-829-7223 fax  
[brucefried@ctpi.org](mailto:brucefried@ctpi.org) email  
[www.rennerttravel.com](http://www.rennerttravel.com) website

## Grand opening set at Rennert Travel

Rennert Travel will host the grand opening of its Alamo Heights office on June 29.

The grand opening celebration will include various activities. Those in attendance will be eligible for door prizes.

The time of the event, at Rennert's 6217 Broadway office, will be announced later.

For more information, contact Bruce Fried at 805-9559

# — AHCC Calendar —

— June 2004 —

## Monthly Luncheon

### Thursday, June 3rd

Water Street Oyster Bar  
Networking at 11:30 a.m.;  
Lunch at noon  
RSVPs requested by 5 p.m.  
Monday, June 1 @ 822-7027 or  
[info2004@alamoheightschamber.org](mailto:info2004@alamoheightschamber.org)  
This is the only time the  
luncheon will fall on a Thursday

## Board Meeting

AHCC Board Meeting at  
Debbie Myers' house  
5:30 p.m. • Wednesday, June 9

## June Mixer

Thursday, June 17  
Picante Grill  
3810 Broadway  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

— July 2004 —

## Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, July 7  
Water Street Oyster Bar  
Networking at 11:30am;  
Lunch at noon  
RSVPs requested by 5 p.m.  
Monday, July 5 @ 822-7027 or  
[info2004@alamoheightschamber.org](mailto:info2004@alamoheightschamber.org)

## Board Meeting

AHCC Board Meeting at  
Debbie Myers' house  
5:30 p.m. • Wednesday, July 14

## July Mixer

Thursday, July 22  
To Be Announced  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce

### OFFICERS

Deborah Myers	President	821-6441
Jeff Carrell	President-Elect	828-9211
Ruth Chislett	Treasurer	862-2711
Phyllis Trager	Immediate Past President	731-5701
	Jefferson Bank	

### BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Cox	PrimeTime Newspapers	453-3359
Sandra Murphy	Infinity Broadcasting	528-5160
Robert Moseley	Expressions Printing	930-2679
Larry Stewart	Tradeshow-Handouts.com	333-6422
Carol Phelps	P & V Enterprises	737-3057
Terry Negley	Car Search America	697-9180
Lara Thompson	Commerce Title	829-8991
Vivian Seyfarth	Bank of America	283-6111
Ed Zuzula	AH Office Supply	822-9671
Diane Thomas	Diane Thomas, CPA	824-8483

Chamber Coordinator • Birdie Sanchez 822-7027



P.O. Box 6141  
San Antonio, Texas 78209