



# What's Cooking

## HOURS

**Mon - Thurs** 11:00 am to 10:00 pm

**Friday** 11:00 am to 11:00 pm

**Saturday** 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm

**Sunday** 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

### Mother's Day

Open 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

### Father's Day

Open 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14th

Open 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

### Grandparents & Grandchildren Texas History Tour

Tuesday, June 6th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### Father's Day

Sunday, June 18th

Open 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

### Steak School

Saturday, June 24th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### Adult History Tour

Saturday, September 9th

9:00 am - 11:00 am

### Wine Dinner

Monday, September 18th

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### Adult History Tour

Saturday, October 14th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### 40th Anniversary

#### "Customer Thank You Party!"

Saturday, October 21st

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

No reservation needed

### Former Employee Reunion

Saturday, October 21st

Sam Houston Room

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### 40th Anniversary Gala at San Jacinto Monument

Sunday, October 22nd

Special Events must be reserved  
online at [tasteoftexas.com/events](http://tasteoftexas.com/events)

## Coming Soon

# TASTE OF TEXAS COOKBOOK

## Celebrating 40 Years!



Our entire family has been busy chronicling 40 years of the Taste of Texas Recipes and History from "our table to yours." Our cookbook is a family labor of love and includes favorite recipes by Nina and Edd as well as Chef Lisa Blackard, while Kristin and Corbin Blackford write treasured family memories. The Taste of Texas Cookbook is crafted to be an inspiration for you to bring genuine Texas hospitality to your table. We have been working with an amazing team led by Roni Atnipp, Deborah Smail, and the creative force of Limb Design. These are the top "cookbook people" in the industry and the Taste of Texas Cookbook is going to be a must have for your home. There will be a fantastic section on Certified Angus Beef and "How to pick and grill a Great Steak!"

Pre-order this month - visit [tasteoftexascookbook.com](http://tasteoftexascookbook.com) to reserve your signed copy. Cookbooks will be available in October just in time for the 40th Anniversary and early Christmas Shopping! Order your cookbook today!

PRE-ORDER AT [TASTEOFTEXASCOOKBOOK.COM](http://TASTEOFTEXASCOOKBOOK.COM)

## Taste of Texas 40th Anniversary Events:

### "Customer Thank You Party" and Former Employee Reunion:

Come join us for a fun morning right on our parking lot with food and entertainment for all on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10 am to 12 noon. This event is complimentary; no ticket is required.

We will have food trucks, kettle corn, a climbing rock wall, 2 live Long Horn Steers with saddles for pictures and many other fun activities. Also

benefitting the employee scholarship fund will be a dunk tank featuring Manager Norm & others with 3 balls for \$5.

Calling all former Taste of Texas employees! Join us in the Sam Houston room on Oct 21 at 12pm for a fun reunion. We look forward to catching up with you and hearing what the Lord has done in your life!

### Taste of Texas 40th Anniversary Gala at the San Jacinto Monument:

On Sunday, October 22, 2017, Taste of Texas will host a VERY Special Evening of great food, wine, entertainment, and Texas History at the site where Texas won its Independence 181 years ago. This unforgettable event will benefit Memorial Hermann Trauma Center and Life Flight. Mark your calendar today! Tickets and tables are available at [www.tasteoftexas.com/events](http://www.tasteoftexas.com/events). Looking forward to celebrating with you at San Jacinto!



# FAMILY NEWS

Edd and Nina are busy planning the restaurant’s 40th anniversary celebrations and expansion. Edd has joined the board of the Memorial Hermann Foundation and serves on the Heart of Texas Prison Seminary Board as well. Edd is in his 4th season of coaching grandsons with son-in-law David Hartland in the West University Little League Program. This spring’s team is the Threshers with 11 year old grandson Campbell. Go Threshers!

Nina was recently honored with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo’s Speaker of the Year award. We have always been impressed with the “Big Mouth” and “Mega Mouth” pins she has brought home, and we are so proud of her work promoting this incredible Houston institution and scholarship program. Nina is in her 32nd year of hosting Texas History School Tours at the Taste of Texas and has had about 400,000 children come through the restaurant so far. Now she is getting the children of former school tour kids come through! This year she has planned the expansion of the kitchen and dining room and is planning the Taste of Texas 40th Anniversary Celebration & Gala. She stays fit with early morning workouts and completed the Disney Princess half marathon in February.

This Christmas Nina gave Edd a new Golden-Doodle puppy and asked our customers to help select a name by posting a picture on the Taste Facebook page! Out of 844 suggestions, they picked NEDD (Nina & Edd combined). Second place was T-Bone. Nedd is doing well after spending 5 weeks in “training.”

**Lisa & Chris Blackard:**  
Our daughters Lisa and Kristin have been focusing on the Taste of Texas cookbook and enjoying raising their children. The Blackard family moved into a new house late last year and the girls are enjoying school. Hannah (6) is loving her t-ball team. Elizabeth a.k.a. “Lizzie”



(4) is a ray of sunshine helping her “Honey” with school tours at the restaurant. Chris is loving coaching the t-ball team and stays busy with his career at Shell Oil.

**Kristin & Corbin Blackford:**  
Kristin and Corbin are very much enjoying working on the 40th Anniversary Cookbook and the Taste of Texas online business. Baby Henry turned 1 year old in April and is growing up fast! They are loving playing with their happy toddler and watching him grow and change every day. Corbin has followed in Nina’s footsteps volunteering on the International Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and also enjoys volunteering with Project Healing Waters, a fly fishing program for wounded veterans.

**Claudine & David Hartland:**  
The Hartland house is always busy with 5 growing children: Sam- 13; Campbell - 11; Hudson - 9; Reagan - 7; and Conrad - 3. Sam has been playing lacrosse while Campbell and Hudson are playing Little League baseball. Reagan is enjoying her first year of softball while Conrad goes to all the games to cheer on his siblings. Claudine recently co-chaired the Freedom Place Luncheon to raise funds for a center that helps victims of “human trafficking” recover from that lifestyle. David recently took a new position at Tulcan Management and is enjoying that new challenge while balancing his schedule to coach with Edd.



## TEXAS TRIVIA

THE MOTHER & FATHER OF TEXAS



### Jane Long: The Mother of Texas

- When was Jane Long born?
- How many children did Jane and her husband have?
- Jane Long is called the “Mother of Texas” because she was the first English speaking woman to give birth on Texas soil. What peninsula did she give birth on?
- What Texas town was the first place Jane and her husband, James, settled in?
- What city in Texas did Jane open a boarding house and develop a plantation in?

Answers: 1. July 23, 1798 2. 3 daughters 3. Bolivar 4. Nacogdoches 5. Richmond, TX

### Stephen F. Austin: The Father of Texas

- Who persuaded Stephen F. Austin to take his dad’s empresario and pursue the colonization of Texas after his father’s death?
- What is the name given to the first settlers Stephen F. Austin brought to Texas?
- President Sam Houston appointed Stephen F. Austin to what seat in government in the new republic of Texas?
- Why is Stephen F. Austin called the “Father of Texas”?
- What does the “F” in Stephen F. Austin stand for?

Answers: 1. His mother, Mary Brown Austin 2. The Old Three Hundred 3. Secretary of State 4. He was the founder of Texas 5. Fuller

## Looking Back at 1977

On November 19, 1977, Taste of Texas opened its doors on the back side of Town and Country Village in a location that had been 4 restaurants previously. Our original place included the “Lone Star Saloon”, Chicken Fried Steak, and a much more casual dining theme. Over the years we found our place as a great Steakhouse and the rest is history.

Here’s a look back at the world of 1977:

- Jimmy Carter had just been elected President of the United States and urged a 55 mph national speed limit to save gas.
- Dolph Briscoe was the Governor of Texas.
- Fred Hofheinz was the Mayor of Houston.
- The price of oil was \$14.40 per barrel (\$57.20 in 2017 dollars).
- A gallon of gas was about 65 cents.
- The Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline open on May 31, 1977.
- Houston had a population of between 1.2 and 1.5 million residents.
- Kenny Rogers, Loretta Lynn, and Waylon Jennings topped the Country music charts.
- Elvis Presley released his last album, “Welcome to My World.” He passed away in August 1977.
- The first Apple II computers went on sale for \$1300 with 4KB or RAM

## MOTHER’S AND FATHER’S DAY at the TASTE OF TEXAS

**Mother’s Day:** Bring your family and join us to celebrate Mom on Sunday May 14th at Taste of Texas. We will open at 10:00am and serve continuously till 10:00pm. We love giving each Mom a rose and a complimentary family picture as a gift from our family to yours. Her children will arise and call her Blessed! Proverbs 31:28

**Father’s Day:** There is no better way to celebrate Father’s Day than to treat Dad with a great steak dinner surrounded by family. We open at 10:00 am and serve continuously to 10:00 pm. Each Dad will receive a complimentary Taste of Texas “Come and Steak It” Grilling Apron and a photo with his family.



### Taste of Texas by the Numbers:

- 6 million pounds of Certified Angus Beef® sold
- 200 current employees
- 400,000 4th graders have come through on school tours.
- 978 combined years at Taste of Texas in our current staff.
- 7,000 customers per week, 363,000 customers last year.
- 40 years in business, 13 at Town and Country Village, 27 years on the Katy Freeway.

## NEW Texas Wine

The Taste of Texas would like to introduce you to authentic, 100% Texas-grown wines by William Chris Vineyards of Hye Texas in the Hill Country. We are adding four of their wines:

- 2015 Hunter Texas High Plains
- 2015 Mourvèdre
- 2016 Malbec Rosè
- 2016 Mary Ruth

## Supplier Spotlight: Tramontina



For nearly three decades, our dear friends and suppliers Antonio Galafasi & his wife Regina of Tramontina USA have been supplying our steak knives. It’s been such fun to watch Tramontina go from a small showroom in our old neighborhood to now over ONE MILLION SQ FT of manufacturing and distribution facilities located in Stafford. We recently toured this facility and were so proud to learn they are among the leading manufacturers of these products in the world. Our customers loved the knives so much, Tramontina began supplying us engraved box sets to sell online and in our gift store. Congratulations Tramontina for your success!

“My family’s relationship with the Hendee family and Taste of Texas has evolved beyond a business relationship, as we consider Edd, Nina and their entire family to be dear and treasured friends. After all these years, Tramontina remains

extremely proud to be aligned with this great restaurant. Taste of Texas is not only a preferred destination for me to entertain both our domestic and international business associates and customers, but remains a preferred dining destination for my family and friends.”

## Staff Updates

Jay Fox and Ben Duckett completed their respective 10th and 11th Texas Water Safari race. This 265 mile human powered boat race runs from the San Marcos river to the Guadalupe river, and is completed over 2-3 days.

Jamie Tatum passed her EC-6 generalist test and is pursuing a career in teaching.

Carlos Dias is graduating from University of Houston.

Danny Nguyen is graduating on May 13 from Houston Community College with a degree in Associate of Applied Science in the field of Physical Therapy Assistant. In the meantime, he will be studying and preparing for his state board exam on July 6.

Jennifer Paniagua is graduating from the University of Houston on May 14 with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology.

## Staff Feature

Brad Thomas started working for the Taste of Texas as a high school student in 1992. His first job in the butcher shop began his career at the Taste, but his relationship with the Hendee family goes further back. Edd coached Brad in soccer when Brad was 7, and he has remained close with the family for all these years. Besides working in the butcher shop, Brad also worked as a waiter before going on to work in restaurant management for another company.



After 9/11 Brad joined the Marine Corps and served as a sniper for four years, participating in the Battle of Fallujah and during Operation Iraqi Freedom. While he was deployed, Edd visited

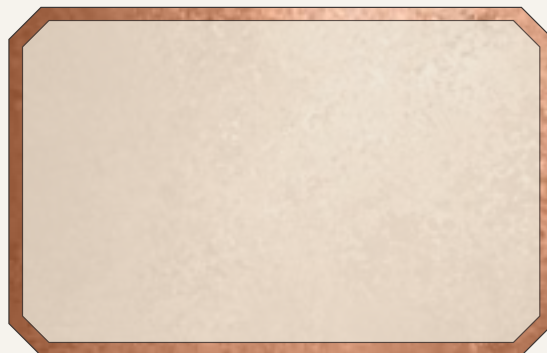
Brad in Al Asad Iraq, had a meal together, and connected Brad on a satellite phone call to his wife Diana. Brad says that visit encouraged him at a time when he hadn’t seen home in a while. Brad re-joined us in November 2016 and has become an integral part of the Taste of Texas team once again.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
EST. 1977  
**TASTE OF TEXAS®**  
*Restaurant*

10505 Katy Freeway  
Houston, Tx 77024

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## *Building Expansion Plans*

After a year of painstaking planning and permitting, our building expansion plans are under way! Changes will include a retail area in the front to pick up meals you can prepare at home and a general expansion of the kitchen and retail areas.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check our website for details and register online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com)

### September 9th & October 14th

**Adult History Tour with Nina:** Please join Nina for a morning of exciting stories about Texas History and Legends of our beloved state. Lunch is included. Cost is \$40 plus tax per person.

### June 6th

**Grandparent and Grandchildren History Tour with Nina:** Grandparents, bring your grandchildren to Nina's wonderful Texas history tour and lunch on Tuesday, June 6th! Nina will entertain everyone with true stories from our state's colorful past. Lunch is included. Space is limited and cost is \$25 per adult and \$25 per child.

### June 24th

**Steak School:** You'll learn about USDA grading, trim specifications, the aging process and how to grill a perfect steak every time. This makes a wonderful gift for any steak lover or grill master in your life. Cost is \$75 plus tax per person and includes a steak lunch. Come hungry!

### September 18th

**Taste of Texas Wine Dinner:** Please join us for our next Taste of Texas Wine Dinner. This will be another amazing 5 course dinner and wine pairing. Cost is \$149.95 per person plus tax and gratuity. Space is limited.

### October 21st

**40th Anniversary Customer Appreciation Party and Former Employee Reunion:** The Taste of Texas turns 40 this year and we cannot wait to celebrate with you! Please join us at the restaurant on Saturday, October 21 from 10am-12pm for a fun parking lot party. Immediately following will be a former employee reunion. We cannot wait to catch up with you all!

### October 22nd

**40th Anniversary Gala at the San Jacinto Monument:** Join us for an unbelievable evening of food, fun and entertainment on the hallowed ground where Texas won her independence 181 years ago celebrating our 40th year! Benefitting Memorial Hermann Life Flight.

*Proceeds from these events benefit our employee scholarship program at the Taste of Texas.  
Space is limited, so please reserve early. Thank you for your support!*