



WOMEN'S COUNCIL

OF THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



May 2023

A Successful Year for the Women's Council

Dorothea Meltzer receives the Founder's Award

The Women's Council was honored and thrilled to present the 2023 Founder's Award to **Dorothea Meltzer** for her infamous longtime dedication the Women's Council. Dorothea has been a role model for many blooming new volunteers. She continues to create new ways to support the Women's Council. We are especially appreciative of her many years of leadership for work on A Writer's Garden and the creation and development of the Lisianthus Society. Congratulations and Thank You, Dorothea!



At the Annual Meeting, 3rd Vice President of Communications **Sandy Ammons** was recognized as the 2023 Leadership Awardee for her consistent and outstanding leadership. Her congenial personality, creativity, technical talent, perseverance, and flexibility were invaluable this year as she performed her many tasks for the Women's Council. Also at the Annual Meeting, Website Manager **Connie Rhoades** was recognized as the 2023 Service Awardee for her unending gifts of time and talent over MANY YEARS (more than she can remember) keeping the Women's Council website up to date. Her dedication to our organization amazes me. Congratulations and thank you to Sandy and Connie.



Gail Vesledahl, Sarah Jo Hardin, Women's Council president; Chef Toby Archibald and Chef Ricardo Sanchez, Kimberly Yamanouchi, MD and Lisa Meyer. Bottom left: Karen Sargent Women's Council President-Elect, Sarah Hardin. Right: Linda Spina, Dorothea Meltzer and Sarah Jo Hardin.

Lisa Meyer was also recognized at the Annual Meeting for her "Above and Beyond" dedication to the Women's Council. Her perpetual devotion to the Women's Council is legendary. The Women's Council would

not have been as financially successful without the benefit and blessing of Lisa's guidance and ongoing commitment in furtherance of its important mission. Thank You, Lisa!
by Sarah Hardin

President's Letter



It is hard to believe our 40th Anniversary Year has come to an end. Not only has it been my honor to serve as President, but I have truly enjoyed my time in this position because it has allowed me the opportunity to develop new friendships and have deeper fellowships with long-time friends. It has been great fun sharing experiences with you this year. A heartfelt thank you goes to my Board for doing an outstanding job in their assignments. I am also grateful for so many Women's Council members and volunteers who have supported my efforts and the WCDABG. It has been a record-breaking year!

Because of your dedicated partnership and enthusiastic participation, we have continued our membership growth with 583 members to date under 4th VP of Membership **Barbara Averitt's** talented oversight; increased participation in member activities; both in attendance and financially and enjoyed the largest increase in the number of Lisianthus Society Patrons since its inception - 340 Lisianthus Patrons! Thank you to **Dorothea Meltzer**, our Lisianthus Society Chair, for planning a very enjoyable event for the Gold and Silver Level Lisianthus Society Patrons at Valley House in March. Thank you also to Dorothea and her committee for planning the annual Lisianthus Society Tea.

Due to the success of our fundraisers, generous donor gifts and the foresight of the Endowment Trust Committee, the Women's Council Board voted this spring to create a new Capital Garden Projects Funding Account within our Endowment Trust. We were able to contribute \$600,000 to this new account.

Thanks to our Fall events, approximately \$208,758.71 was the net from our 40th Anniversary Noble Celebration Week including A Writer's Garden and the Ruby Red Gala – under the talented, experienced leadership of AWG Chairs **Therese Rourk** and **Dyann Skelton** and RRG Chair **Sharon Ballew**, THANK YOU. You and your committees have set the bar high, exceeding budget and expectations for our 40th year celebrations! AWG was a remarkable success with a very special author **Lady Fiona Carnarvon**, the Right Honorable Countess of Carnarvon. AWG had all the bells and whistles of a Royal Regal Affair. The Ruby Red Gala was a magical, memorable, and beautifully executed evening. I could not have asked for more for our 40th Anniversary Celebration! Thank you also to **Holly** and **Phillip Huffines** for hosting our "A Noble Celebration Week" Patron Party at their exquisite home. Our very special Honorary Chairs, **Donna** and **Herb Weitzman** for AWG and **Dr. Linda Burk** and her husband **Dr. John Gilmore** for the RRG and each person on the 40th Anniversary "A Noble Celebration Week" committees deserve a big bouquet from us all!

For the 35th Annual Majestic Mad Hatter's, approximately \$ 346,000.00 was the net from our largest fundraiser of the year. This is a historical "largest ever" amount for this event, making the Majestic Mad Hatters 2023 a record-breaking success! Co-Chairs **Anne Stodghill** and **Kristina Wrenn**, our outstanding, experienced, and talented fundraising leaders brought forth their team of friends to achieve this milestone, and I am truly grateful and amazed by their achievements. Our "Celebration of English Elegance" theme offered a creative, fun, and majestic opportunity for members and patrons to support A Woman's Garden. As guests and members waltzed by the Hat Judging area, the 35th Annual Majestic Mad Hatter's bloomed with beauty on April 20th. A record-breaking number of guests were present to ENJOY a spectacular silent auction, candle sales with unique scents created for Mad Hatter's by **Lady Primrose**, a gorgeous evening gown fashion display by fashion design team and judges **Sachin & Babi**, lovely floral swings, a floral British phone booth and a floral bicycle for photo opportunities and a lovely British themed luncheon. Thank you to the gracious **Kim Hext**, the Honorary Mad Hatter's Chair who even helped arrange the MH floral centerpieces on set up day! Also, thank you to **Cindy** and **Michael Rosenthal** for opening their beautiful home and garden for the MH patron party and MH Patron Party Chair **Joni Krieg**. A very special thank you to our technical wizard, Carolyn Tobin, for her guidance and leadership as we started as new payment platform-GiveSmart.

Other income this year included Membership dues and extra dollars, Newsletter income, Donor Naming, Circle of Honor payments, Memorials Honorariums, North Texas Giving Day, the End of the Year Fiesta, Interest, Miscellaneous donations, and other income. WHICH ALL IN ALL totaled a large gross amount of \$998,467.77 flowing through our checking account. This is just shy of A MILLION DOLLARS!! After paying our operating expenses and all our A Woman's Garden expenses obligated to the Arboretum at \$324,958.59, we still netted \$673,509.18 This has been a very successful financial year for the Women's Council.

Our Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by **Kay Weeks**, will continue to refine recommendations going into

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Please send articles and photographs to **Sandy Secor**, Editor; sandrasecor@icloud.com

the next fiscal year and beyond. The Endowment Trust and Oversight Committees and the Finance Committee have diligently helped manage our financial position and money in the Endowment Trust. Thank You for your wise fiscal management and recommendations. Each of you are the heartbeat of the Women's Council.

Like all aging gardens, extensive refurbishing and replanting becomes necessary. This has been a stellar year for A Woman's Garden as renewal, refurbishment, reimagined and revitalization projects were completed. Thank you to 8th Vice Presidents **Pier Burgess** and **Sarah Andry** and Garden Ambassador **Susan Banks** for their careful care in overseeing A Woman's Garden.

What a wonderful year full of activities we have had! You have been a membership group like no other with your participation. From last May's very first function, the "A Noble Celebration Week" Announcement Downton Abbey Movie Watching Party with the video message from Lady Carnarvon to today's event—it has been a year beyond my wildest dreams.

The uplifting New Member's party at OKA, chaired by **Colby Baer** and **Nikki Turner** and their committee and all the super FUN Fun Fridays planned by Colby and Nikki- the Kips Bay Show House, the Tea Party at Forget Me Not, the Central Market Wine and Cheese Tasting, the North Haven Gardens Spring Planting Lunch and Learn Workshop and the Gardenuity Succulent Workshop - were great ways for our membership to be engaged and to meet new friends. Thank you to Colby and Niki for setting the tone for a spectacular year of activities.

Birthdays in the Garden were also a HUGE success under the leadership of **Michelle Mew** and **Pepsi Windland** and their committee - all sponsored by the generous Preston of the Park Cities.

Another engaging member opportunity was our couples' event in March. Thank you to **Jill Goldberg** and **Emily Maduro** for planning a delightful and delicious evening with a cooking demonstration and dinner at Central Market. The chefs, food and wine were outstanding! Everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

The festive end of the year FIESTA was chaired by Joni Krieg and enjoyed by many members, their husbands and friends. Thank you, Joni for a festive celebration. Congratulations on a successful event which surprisingly raised over \$4,000!

Our day trips to Highland Park private gardens and McKinney in the fall and Glen Rose and Rough Creek Lodge in the Spring were so much fun and masterfully planned by **Janet Sue Rush**, **Suzanne Caruso** and **Eleanor Casey**. Thank you, Ladies for two fabulously fun day trips!

Speaking of trips, I so much enjoyed working with our Overseas trip Chair, **Nancy Connor** to plan our trip to England to visit the Chelsea Flower Show, London, Kent and the Cotswolds including Highclere Castle with the **Countess of Carnarvon**, Blenheim Palace with the **Duchess of Marlboro** and **King Charles III's** home-Highgrove. What a trip to remember! I am fortunate to travel with these wonderful Women's Council friends.

Our Volunteer Days to work in our own garden were a delight and planned by **Susan Banks** and **Kim Kotrla**. There's no better way to feel A PART of the Women's Council than this experience. Thank you, Ladies, for your detailed planning and the fun for all! Thank you to **Susan Fisk**, our VP of Education for overseeing these trip and volunteering opportunities chairs.

Three General meetings were championed by 5th VP of Programs **Kimberly Yamanouchi** and Event Day Chairs: **Mari Epperson** and **Marcy Jones** in September, **Paige Elliot**, **Patty Ken**, **Cindy Williams** and **Karen Yaguchi** in December and **Lisa Meyer** and **Gail Vesledahl** for the Annual Meeting in May. My heartfelt thanks for General Meetings which were beautiful, entertaining, and engaging. You hit it out of the ballpark.

The Fall General Meeting included **Lindsey Abernathy**, sharing pertinent information about the Trinity Park Conservancy. It was the special Kickoff to our 40th year, aptly entitled "The Crown Jewel Luncheon". Mari and Marcy surprised us all with glittering Tiaras so we could celebrate our 40th Anniversary as royalty all year! Past Presidents, Past Fundraising Chairs and Past Award Winners were all recognized as well as a huge group photo of all present in our Tiaras. It is my favorite photo of the year. We all enjoyed the day – a treasured memory for the history books.

The December Meeting brought us talented Women's Council member **Pam Musgrove** and her band entertaining and enchanting us with their uplifting and fanciful musical program for the holidays "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"! The **Bob Crandall family** members were our special guests as we recognized their gift to the Vitex Allee refurbishment in memory of **Jan Crandall**. The lunch, the head table décor and the gingerbread house accents and favors were delightful, and the venue of 7000 Park Lane was a special treat! Thank you to my team of longtime dear friends-**Paige**, **Patty**, **Cindy** and **Karen** for working together on this event and saying "yes" when I asked them to chair it.

The Annual Meeting in May was a vision of sweet and dedicated friends together in the perfect setting...our beloved Dallas Arboretum. HOW FUN and what a blessing to be at A Tasteful Place and celebrate a "Tasteful Ending" to the year. We learned delicious tips of the trade from renowned Chefs **Toby Archibald** of Quarter Acre Restaurant and **Ricardo Sanchez** of Bullion Restaurant. A huge hug and thank you to the Annual Meeting Chairs **Lisa Meyer** (who hand made the little favor boxes) and **Gail Vesledahl** and their special assistants **Susan Scullin**, **Vicki Peterson**, **Sandy Ammons**, **Dixie Marshall**, **Connie Rhoades**, **Linda Spina**, **Mary Ellen Winborn** and **Kimberly Yamanouchi**.

A very special thank you to 5th VP of Programs, **Kimberly Yamanouchi** for her leadership and guidance all year to ensure all the meetings were executed first rate. My words are truly insufficient in expressing the gratefulness I feel for

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each General Meeting volunteer for your heartfelt gifts of time, talent and treasure as the meetings were planned and produced with everyone's individual and collaborative efforts throughout this year.

Our organization runs efficiently due to the quiet angels working in the background. Thank you to EVERY Board member for your serving hands, empathizing hearts, listening ears, and encouraging words. I am so glad we were able to grow our friendships. The Women's Council's 40th Year will live in our shared memories forever.

Sarah Hardin
WCDABG Presidet 2022 - 2023



Mad Hatter's Tea:

Top left: **Sarah Jo Hardin**, President, Women's Council, Honorary Chair **Kim Hext**, Mad Hatter's Co-Chairs **Anne Stodghill** and **Kristina Wrenn**. top right: **Venise Stuart**, **Kathy King**. Middle left: **Kathy Cothrum**, **David Forehand**, **Linda Spina**, **Nancy Connor**. Middle right: **Karen Sargent**, President-elect, Women's Council, **Michelle Hagood**, **Melissa Cook**. Bottom left: **Susan Scullin**, **Betsy Simpson**. Bottom right: **Ellie Kairis**, **Susan Kairis**, **Grace Kairis**.



Mad Hatter's Tea:

Top left: **Kunthear Mam-Douglas, Elizabeth Smith**. Top middle: **Angie Kadesky, Linda Burke, MD**. Top right: **Tanya Zielinski, Andreanna Lisa Myers**. Middle left: **Piper Young Rivera, Amber Nardo, Candace Flores, Katie Kennemer, Sharon Lee Clark, Kelly Weisz**, winners of The Royal Enclosure: Group that could attend Ascot Together. Middle right: Hat Judges **Ryan Ross**, President, Neiman Marcus, Judge The Princess of Wales and **Barbara Bigham**, founding member of the WCDABG and Past Mad Hatter's Chair; Bottom left: **Christi Houser, Jennifer Tobin, Nikki Webb, Laura McCoy**. Bottom right: **Celia Walker, Arisha Smith, Marissa Horne, Annika Cail**.

Calendar 2023

June

Monday, June 19th, A Writer's Garden Sorree

September

Tuesday, September 19th, Fall General Meeting & New Member Reception Rosine Hall

Thursday, September 28th, New Member Welcome Party

October

Friday, October 6th, Sept./Oct./Nov. Birthdays Party

October 19th – 22nd, Fall Overnight Trip Southern Garden Symposium St. Francisville, Louisiana

Monday, October 23rd, Fall Volunteer Day

October TBA, Fall Day Trip

November

Monday, November 6th, A Writer's Garden Patron Party

Tuesday, November 7th, A Writer's Garden

November TBA, Mad Hatter's Theme Reveal Party

December

Friday, December 15th

Winter General Meeting, 7000 Park Lane

2 Sawgrass Ct.
Frisco, TX 75034



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