

Women's Council of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

History 1982 - 2023

We gratefully acknowledge
the contribution by the late Mrs. C. Jack Pruitt (Ruth) to
the preservation of the early history of
The Women's Council
of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Special thanks to those who studied archival material
to compile our history to the present time:

2001 - 2002 History Committee

Mrs. Kirtman C. Anton
Mrs. William K. Barnard
Mrs. Guillermo Borda
Mrs. Willis R. Cowlshaw

2002 - 2007 History Committee

Mrs. William K. Barnard
Mrs. James W. Clem
Mrs. Michael L. McCullough, Chairman

2007 - 2013 History Committee

Celebrating WCDABG's 30th Anniversary
Mrs. Willis R. Cowlshaw
Mrs. Michael L. McCullough, Chairman
Mrs. Frank Spina

2013 - 2020 History Committee

Mrs. Willis R. Cowlshaw
Mrs. Daniel Hennessy
Mrs. Michael L. McCullough, Chairman

2021 - 2023 Mrs. Daniel Hennessy

And

Past Presidents of the Women's Council of the
Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

A Woman's Garden - Mission Statement

The garden should be one of the major features of the entire Arboretum, in keeping with both the Women's Council's significant financial contribution and general support of the Society and its intended continuing presence and growth as a support organization.

The garden should be a living and growing entity with a strong feeling of beauty and energy. It should incorporate the Women's Council Presidents' Trees.

The garden should be attractive at all seasons. It should be capable of being enjoyed at night.

The intent is to conceive, design, develop and maintain a garden of formal grandeur and sweeping beauty, epitomizing the complexities of the essence of women with all their virtues and strengths. To build a terraced garden with its own special identity that is sensitive to the site and the views, and compatible with its surroundings; with a threshold vista that stuns visitors as it is entered. To this end, using

plants that are both sculptural and delicate... plants with foliage attractive when not in bloom, trees that give it romance and dignity...water used for both grandness and quietness. To delight the garden viewer with color and the fragrance of flowers and foliage. To create surprising intimate places (perhaps walled) for fantasy and charm. Garden sculpture used in appropriate spaces as part of the garden design...whether this be in the form of urns, seating designs, figurative or abstract form, small structure or fountains. The visitor should leave calm and satisfied, yet desiring to return again and again...a garden of love.

“A Woman’s Garden ... depicts the subtle complexity of the virtues and strengths of women manifested in the form of a garden. The success of the garden rests in the willingness of the visitor to permit herself or himself the freedom to receive its mystery and to travel beyond the shapes and symbols. It is the permission to enter a place of magic and fantasy.”

Morgan Wheelock, Designer

A HISTORY OF THE WOMEN’S COUNCIL OF THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN 1982 - 2023

1982 - 1983 Mrs. Kirtman C. Anton (Doris), president

In the summer of 1982, a group of Dallas-area women formed a support group to promote the interests of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Founders Mrs. Frank Nick (now deceased) and Mrs. Eugene McDermott organized civic-minded women to raise funds and increase community awareness for The Arboretum. Doris Anton was selected to be its first president.

During the first year the group concentrated on building their membership and attracted 313 charter members. An advisory board was established and the Women’s Council chose the bluebonnet as its official logo.

In November 1982, the Women’s Council held a reception at Lambert’s Garden Center honoring botanical artist Niki Goulandris whose work is on display in the Camp House. On December 14, 1982, these like-minded civic volunteers sponsored a Christmas Tea and a show of colored diamonds at the home of Doris Dixon. A Christmas party also was held at the Camp House that year. The Women’s Council decorated the near-empty house, sold miniature trees and Christmas decorations, and auctioned large, decorated trees.

All funds raised were given to The Arboretum for operational expenses.

1983 - 1984 Mrs. Kirtman C. Anton (Doris), president

The Women’s Council held its first membership meeting on June 9, 1983, electing officers and sponsoring a shower for the Camp House’s kitchen. The first Women’s Council directory also was printed that summer. The weather was perfect for the first Gatsby garden party, chaired by Mrs. Lawrence (Dorothy) Herkimer, held Sept. 15, 1983, in the un-renovated DeGolyer garden. This was the setting for the initial contact with Mimi Lay and sparked her interest in funding the Lay Ornamental Garden. Later in the fall, Helen Boehm was a guest speaker at a membership tea held at the home of Mrs. Lay. The group also sponsored a fundraising drawing for a trip to the Greek Isles that fall.

Christmas at The Arboretum again was celebrated at the Camp House. Funds were raised through auctions, sales of trees and decorations. The party also featured the humble beginning of the Women’s Council boutique.

On April 23, 1984, the group held an afternoon tea, chaired by Patricia Cowlshaw, at the Camp House to initiate “Friends of The

Arboretum” as an additional support group for The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society. The DABS board later cited the Women’s Council for its success in recruiting 211 new members to the “Friends of The Arboretum” organization. Other milestones of the organization were the establishment of a board of directors, by-laws, and its first yearbook.

All funds raised were given to The Arboretum for operational expenses.

1984 - December 1984 Mrs. Kirtman C. Anton (Doris), president

The Women’s Council again opened its boutique on Labor Day 1984, positioning it between the DeGolyer and Camp Houses. Later that month, the council was not as fortunate with the weather - two days before the second Great Gatsby fundraiser it became clear even to the most optimistic that the grounds would be too wet. The party was quickly and successfully moved to the Fairmont Hotel.

In November, the group held a membership tea. The boutique, held at the Camp House, reopened at a Christmas open house. The Women’s Council boutique began selling bulbs, decorated miniature Christmas trees and

other handmade Christmas ornaments. Cecil Green was so delighted with the event and the opportunity to see The Arboretum’s grounds that he announced a major contribution to the garden.

All funds raised were given to The Arboretum for operational expenses.

January 1985 - 1986 Mrs. Jim S. Lake (Barbara), president

Local wildflower expert Betty Brooks led the first Women’s Council wildflower tour in April 1985; the group went to Granbury with stops along the way to study the flora. Their appetites whetted the organization then laid the groundwork for a trip to the St. Louis Botanical Garden and a Mediterranean cruise with side trips to Greek wildflower fields. In 1986 an Alaskan cruise was organized.

Another major tradition, the Gift Shop at The Arboretum in the DeGolyer House, was founded during the President’s year and staffed initially by the Women’s Council members.

Council members helped DABS staff Dallas Blooms, began a newsletter and a historical scrapbook, and, at the request of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, planned receptions and hosted the Dodd Lecture Series.

The first fall general member meeting was held August 29. Later, the Council again tempted fate and planned the third Great Gatsby fundraiser as an outdoor event on the Camp House’s grounds for Sept. 14, 1985. At the last minute, the party once again was moved to the Fairmont Hotel because of rain. At the event’s first silent auction, Steve Ivy won an automobile that he donated back to the council. The car then was sold by live auction. A record 635 guests attended the black-tie event.

That fall and the following spring, the group carried out a major mailing, offering bulbs for sale. In November, a membership tea was held in the DeGolyer Library.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society signed a contract with the City of Dallas to manage the DeGolyer House. As a result, the Arboretum’s Board unexpectedly asked the Women’s Council to open the house for Christmas. With little time and no money set aside for the project, the Women’s Council quickly put together an opening party and a silent auction of large, decorated Christmas trees. The Council, with the help of staff and docents, also showed the home to the public December 3-8.

During the March 10-April 7 Dallas Blooms, the Women’s Council again operated its boutique, setting up shop in the Indian Room of the DeGolyer House. Mary Jane Hinnant was employed to stock and run the boutique and with a group of volunteers made the boutique a great success. This led to the opening of The Arboretum’s Gift Shop.

The fiscal highlight of the year came when the membership committed to build a Women's Council Garden and established a garden account with the first \$75,000 of a 3-year pledge of \$75,000 each year. The balance of funds was given to The Arboretum for operating expenses.

The President also appointed the Women's Council Garden Committee May 8, 1986. She served as the Chairman. The committee met with the DABS Garden Committee to view plans, location, size, and also to determine the concept and mission of the garden, to choose the designer to work through the design.

In late spring, The Arboretum and the Women's Council agreed that the organization would establish its own non-profit status.

1986 - 1987 Mrs. Willis R. Cowlshaw (Patricia), president

The fall general meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Bill Brice. The president of The Arboretum advised the Women's Council that the Board of Directors of The Arboretum would be responsible for Christmas at the DeGolyer House. However, the DABS project was not initiated. On short notice, The Women's Council was called on to decorate the house and hold the opening celebration entitled "Christmas Is for Children." The house was opened for two weeks. The staff and docents wore Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and Andy, and snowman costumes.

In February 1987, The Arboretum Board asked the Women's Council to assume responsibility for the decoration of the DeGolyer House each year at Christmas, beginning December 1987, with a related open house fundraiser.

At the suggestion of founder Mrs. Eugene McDermott, the Women's Council started a new service project, providing and maintaining baskets of live plants at eight locations in the Camp House. The spring and fall bulb sales program continued. The group sponsored its third wildflower trip to Granbury and West on April 22, 1987. Again, the event was sold out.

The fourth Great Gatsby garden party was moved to the spring and held May 2 at the Sheraton Hotel downtown. The evening's organizers held a silent auction, which was followed by a live auction of a vintage Nash Rambler.

From funds raised throughout the year, the second \$75,000 was set aside for the Women's Council Garden, and the balance of funds was given to The Arboretum for operating expenses.

DABS assumed responsibility for a full-time gift shop; the Women's Council donated its boutique inventory to DABS.

A by-laws committee was activated to apply for non-profit status for the Women's Council. Hosting of the Dodd Lecture Series continued.

1987 - 1988 Mrs. Buford P. Berry (Sally), president

During the fall, the Council continued its bulb sale. However, soon afterward the DABS Board asked the Council to discontinue bulb sales due to the fact that there were several members of the DABS Board who were in the business of selling gardening supplies, bulbs, etc. Reluctantly, the Council relinquished income of approximately \$20,000 annually from this project.

"Feliz Navidad" was the theme of 1987's Christmas at DeGolyer event. Press celebrities decorated miniature Christmas trees, which were offered during a silent auction. The Council ran a small boutique on the loggia where Christmas items were available for purchase. A crowd of 500, the maximum permitted, attended the opening night event. The docents and staff opened the DeGolyer House to the public for three weeks. That year established the format which the Council continued for Christmas at DeGolyer.

In the spring of 1988 a sold-out garden tour was held to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. Hosting of the Dodd Lecture Series continued. Also, that spring a committee was formed to choose a site for the Women's Council Garden. The International Garden, a long, narrow plot of about 2.2 acres running parallel with Garland Road, was chosen.

The fifth Great Gatsby event was held May 2 at the DoubleTree Hotel at Lincoln Centre. To broaden interest in the event, Jess Hay was named the first Mr. Gatsby. The evening again featured both silent and live auctions.

The third \$75,000 was designated for the Women's Council Garden with the balance of funds raised donated to The Arboretum for operating expenses. Application for status as a non-profit charitable organization was made.

1988 - 1989 Mrs. Martin S. Buehler (Scottie), president

The Women's Council informed The Arboretum that it was the desire and intent of the Council to fund an endowment for the garden so that once construction was completed, the maintenance of the garden would be assured.

Christmas at the DeGolyer House was celebrated as "An Old-Fashioned Texas Christmas," featuring a silent auction of designer-decorated miniature trees. The boutique, called The Texas Star Emporium, was set up on the loggia. On December 19, the first Children's Christmas Tea Party was held. This dress-up affair was established to introduce The Arboretum and the Women's Council to new families.

On March 29, the group sponsored a sold-out local garden tour of four homes. This was followed by another sold-out flower trip to Tyler on April 4.

Another new project held on March 16 at the Camp House was the first Mad Hatter's Tea Party, chaired by Carole Ann Brown. The party featured a hat style show by milliner Frank Olive. The event was established as an on-site promotion of The Arboretum.

The sixth Great Gatsby event was held at the Sheraton Park Central Hotel. Harold Simmons was chosen as the year's Jay Gatsby.

Non-profit status as a 501(c) (3) corporation was granted to the Women's Council on May 2, 1989 by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Women's Council gave The Arboretum \$50,000 in unrestricted funds, and the balance of funds raised was added to the Women's Council Garden Fund.

1989 - 1990 Mrs. Glen R. Brown (Patti), president

The Women's Council held its Membership Tea on November 10. "A Holiday of Angels" was the 1989 theme of Christmas at the DeGolyer House. The second Children's Christmas Tea followed. In addition to the opening night gala, the Women's Council sponsored four private patron parties for individuals and corporations with proceeds benefitting The Women's Council.

In the spring Council members took a local garden tour of the Harlan Crow estate, and another to The Arboretum's new Margaret Elizabeth Jonsson Garden and the Palmer Fern Dell. Both were sold out.

The second Mad Hatter's Tea Party was held at the DeGolyer House on April 2 and featured a hat show, again staged by milliner Frank Olive, as well as an auction of eggs decorated by celebrity designers.

The seventh Great Gatsby fundraiser was held May 10 at the Sheraton Hotel downtown. Lawrence Herkimer was named this year's Great Gatsby.

The Women's Council gave The Arboretum \$50,000 in unrestricted funds, and the balance raised during the year was added to the Garden Fund.

At this point of its history the Women's Council had raised over

\$1 million for DABS, and had been instrumental in introducing major donors and countless new friends to The Dallas Arboretum. The organization's activities had also been the focus of considerable media coverage over the years. As 1990 drew to a close, the vision of A Woman's Council Garden came into focus, promising more exciting history in the ensuing years.

1990 - 1991 Mrs. Charles R. Jackson (Linda), president

During the Autumn at The Arboretum event, the Women's Council sponsored a volunteer day on October 23. Members acted as garden guides, DeGolyer docents, and assisted with membership sales and the lemonade stand. Another volunteer day was held April 3 during Dallas Blooms.

With the help of national recognition in Southern Living's 1990 Christmas Book, this year's Christmas party, "A Season of Splendor," was a great success. The Women's Council decorated the Camp House, and The Arboretum held a Supper with Santa. Membership in the Women's Council grew to 505 members with 202 new members. As membership grew, a procedure manual was written. Harry Bullard, a retired floral designer, spoke at the October General Meeting. He began working for Mrs. DeGolyer in 1939 and spoke of the early years at the DeGolyer estate.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party was held March 25 at The Arboretum, with milliner Frank Olive returning with a style show. The event was underwritten by Neiman-Marcus and the Adolphus Hotel and featured a special display of hats.

Women's Council members made a field trip to Jefferson, Texas, April 9-10, touring historical homes and enjoying a cocktail party at the home of Carol

Randall. At the May general meeting, the group held a kitchen shower for the DeGolyer House. Members donated pots, pans, china, flatware and glasses to enable catered functions to be held without rental expense.

The Gatsby fund raiser was held May 18 in the Jonsson Color Garden. It featured a silent auction of member-donated items and a tent with a dance floor. Cecil Green was named Mr. Gatsby.

The site for the Women's Council Garden was changed to the more favorable current location. The plan for financing the garden was set to be 60% in City Bonds and 40% in Women's Council funds. At the conclusion of this fiscal year, the Women's Council had set aside \$600,000 representing its share of the estimated \$1.5 million cost for construction.

In addition, the Women's Council again gave \$50,000 in unrestricted funds to The Arboretum.

1991 - 1992 Mrs. Robert H. Holmes (Beverly), president

Membership rose to 546 members with 183 new recruits to the organization. The Women's Council toured four local showplace gardens on a Garden Tour Day October 15. The fall volunteer day took place October 23. A successful fall bulb sale was held for the Council.

The Christmas at DeGolyer event was themed "Peace on Earth." The Women's Council decorated the Camp House as well, and the Children's Christmas Tea was reinstated.

A spring tour of East Texas was held April 7-8. The April 13 Mad Hatter's Tea Party featured hats for sale, a musical hat review and a hat contest.

The Great Gatsby party was held May 16 at The Arboretum and included a silent auction; Ron W. Haddock was named Mr. Gatsby.

At the end of the fiscal year, The Women's Council gave The Arboretum \$50,000 in unrestricted funds, and the balance of funds raised during the year started the Garden Endowment Fund.

1992 - 1993 Mrs. Clarkson P. Moseley (Shirley), president

Work on the Women's Council Garden continued in earnest as over 100 designers were considered to plan and develop the project.

Fall and spring bulb sales rose nearly 20% this year. Membership reached 573 with 137 new members.

Over 400 attended the annual Christmas at DeGolyer event, themed "Ring the Bells of Christmas." The event was followed by the Children's Christmas Party.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party March 3 featured favors from Lady Primrose and Christi Harris Speer and contributions from Fitz and Floyd, Victor Costa, and Joe Bill Miller hats.

The spring garden tour took place April 13 with an overnight trip to the Hill Country.

After nearly two years of work, the DeGolyer House was designated a Texas Historical Landmark. The Women's Council funded the cost of the historical marker which was dedicated May 15, 1994, at a special ceremony and reception. At the Great Gatsby Party held at the Sheraton Park Central Hotel, Bill Brice was named Mr. Gatsby.

At the end of the fiscal year The Women's Council gave The Arboretum \$50,000 in unrestricted funds, the balance of funds raised was deposited in the Garden Endowment Fund.

1993 - 1994 Mrs. Jerry R. Klemow (Connie), president

Women's Council members enjoyed a day trip to Brenham's Antique Rose Emporium October 28 with a docent tour of the town's Fall Festival of Roses. Other fall projects included the annual bulb sale and a volunteer day at The Arboretum.

Work on the Women's Council garden continued with more planning and design sessions, as well as the sale of city bonds to finance the City's portion of construction costs.

The annual Christmas gala at the DeGolyer House was held as planned December 3 with 350 in attendance, despite flooding around the house following heavy afternoon rains. The Children's Tea Party followed on Sunday, December 5 and was very well attended. Women's Council members also decorated the Camp House with a "Winter Wonderland" theme.

A spring tour of the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and the private gardens of Anne Bass was held April 20.

The Mad Hatter's Tea on March 21 featured hats from Barney's New York. Patron and kick-off parties preceded that year's Gatsby. The Great Gatsby party was themed "Everything is Coming up Roses." Mr. Gatsby was Jim Lake.

At the end of the fiscal year, The Women's Council gave The Arboretum \$50,000 in unrestricted funds and the balance of funds raised were added to the Endowment Fund.

1994 - 1995 Mrs. Don V. Averitt (Beth), president

Council members took an October 25 bus trip to Tyler to tour the city's famous Rose Gardens.

On March 22, the spring tour took the group to Palestine, Texas to see the dogwood trails as well as to visit a private home, the Railroad Museum and lunch at the Camelia House.

The endowment fund for the Women's Council Garden reached \$300,000 and membership increased to 663 with 193 new members.

The tea honoring new members was held at the Sheraton Park Central Hotel.

The opening night gala for Christmas at DeGolyer was held December 2 followed by the Children's Tea Party on December 4. Attendance at the house for the month of December exceeded 13,000, the largest number of visitors to date.

On April 11 the annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party, with fashions and hats by Saks Fifth Avenue was presented with Women's Council members as models. The Great Gatsby party theme was "Red Hot Jazz" and was held April 29 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel in Las Colinas with Henry S. Miller, Jr. as Mr. Gatsby.

Highlight of the year was the groundbreaking ceremony for A Woman's Garden held on May 2.

All funds raised during the year were added to the Endowment Fund.

1995 - 1996 Mrs. Richard P. Jeffrey (Diane), president

This year began with a delightful "T-Shirt and Tennies" tea for new members and with a tour of The Arboretum's gardens.

The "Christmas in July" party for the designers decorating the DeGolyer House was July 13.

In keeping with the theme, "The Year of the Garden," Carl Neels, owner of Country Life Landscaping, was the speaker for the September General Meeting. His program, "The Garden In Winter," was so well received that he was invited back for another program.

Two interesting trips were held: a fall tour to Waco followed by our spring trip to Austin to see the Capitol Complex and a special tour of the Governor's Mansion. Bulb sales continued.

The theme for Christmas at The Arboretum was "The Peaceable Kingdom," held December 1, - a dinner party with a silent auction and drawings for special prizes.

A delightful Children's Tea was held December 10 at the Camp House.

This year, a third membership meeting was added in January to create more interest for our members and to start the second half of the year. Neil Sperry, publisher of Gardens and host of KRLD "Lawn and Garden" radio program, presented tips with his program, "Getting the Most Out of Your Garden."

At the March Board Meeting, the Endowment Trust Agreement with The Arboretum and Northern Trust Bank was signed, whereby the Women's Council agreed to raise \$1.5 million for the endowment of the Women's Council Garden, making it the first fully endowed garden within The Arboretum. R. H. "Bob" Holmes, Sr. and Robert L. Thornton III helped greatly to finalize this agreement, and The Women's Council began to fulfill the dream of donating a permanent garden to The Arboretum.

The Mad Hatter's Tea, "A Texas Affair," was held April 11 and featured hats by Eric Javits and models from Neiman Marcus Prestonwood.

At the Annual Meeting, May 16, Nan Mitchell, owner of Kiku Ikabana School, gave a presentation, "Bringing Beauty of the Garden into the Home."

The spring fundraising event, held on May 30, was the first Founders Awards Dinner, "Waltz of the Flowers," chaired by Doris Anton and the Advisory Board. Our first Founders honorees were Nell Denman and Jim Coker. Boehm Roses were presented to the Awardees by Margaret McDermott and Virginia Nick.

All funds raised during the year were added to the Endowment Fund.

1996 - 1997 Mrs. Michael L. McCullough (Jo Anne), president

Major construction and initial planting of A Woman's Garden highlighted the year. The garden's name, A Woman's Garden, chosen by committee, represented the essence of every woman. Transition, planning for opening events, and bylaws revision were in progress the entire year. New bylaws were approved giving the President and Board of Directors the power to oversee the day-to-day operation of the organization. The Advisory Board

became the immediate five past presidents, and the Honorary Advisors consisted of other past presidents and past gala chairmen.

Membership reached a record 769; fall and spring bulb sales were very successful.

Participants in travel and education trips during the fall smelled the roses in Tyler, Texas and in the spring enjoyed an airplane flight to Houston and took a chartered bus to a fantastic garden, Galveston's Moody Gardens, which housed a tropical rain forest display.

The November 23 "The Magic of Christmas," Christmas at the Arboretum event, allowed an extra week of revenue for The Arboretum to allow holiday visitors to enjoy the artistry of leading florists and businesses. A professional photographer took photos of the decorated DeGolyer House for coverage in a national magazine publication the following year. The Children's Holiday Party was held December 15.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party was held on April 16 at The Arboretum with 521 guests in attendance. Eric Javits of New York and Neiman Marcus Prestonwood presented fashions.

All funds raised during the year were added to the Endowment Fund.

1997 - 1998 Mrs. Claude R. Wilson, Jr. (Emily), president

On September 27 the gala evening, celebrating the long-awaited opening of A Woman's Garden, was chaired by Shelby Marcus. Women's Council members and guests enjoyed the evening's festivities under a huge, peaked white tent seemingly straight out of a magical Arabian Nights setting. The celebration ended with a spectacular display of fireworks.

A garden symposium with noted gardening experts was held the preceding day. Additional activities of the day, with attendance of 400, included an alfresco lunch, a display of works of 30 artists and a featured address by Morgan Wheelock, designer for A Woman's Garden.

On October 23, Ray Charles headlined a concert at the Myerson Symphony Center which benefitted The Arboretum and the Women's Council.

On November 7 members went to Lancaster and Waxahachie on a on a chartered bus trip for home tours and shopping. Sales of fall and spring bulbs continued.

The annual holiday gala, held November 28, was called "A Fabergé Christmas" with the DeGolyer House transformed into replicas. The auction consisted of items donated by local florists. The Children's Christmas Party was held December 13 at the DeGolyer House and featured cookie decorating, face painting and other entertainment.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, held April 21, featured a fashion show and hat designs by Lilly Dodson. Prize categories for the hat contest were most elegant, most botanical, most whimsical, most creative, most outlandish and most British.

All funds raised during the year were added to the Endowment Fund.

1998 - 1999 Mrs. William D. Cox, Jr. (Mary Lee), president

The Founders Award Dinner, entitled "A Garden Party Affair," was held October 2 with Mrs. Ralph Rogers (Mary Nell) and Mr. Ralph Pinkus as award recipients. The elegant event, originally planned to be held in the tented Jonsson Garden at The Arboretum, was moved to the Fairmont Hotel because of inclement weather.

A fall fundraiser, called "Happenstance" and hosted by Neiman-Marcus, benefitted the Women's Council and The Arboretum. Numerous Women's Council members and their husbands served on this committee.

Christmas at The Arboretum, held December 4, kept to the format already established. The theme was "Holiday in the Orient." The Children's Tea Party followed the next day.

Membership increased to 830. The endowment for Phase I of A Woman's Garden surpassed the halfway mark. A Woman's Garden was featured in the October issue of *Southern Living* and the fall issue of *Southern Accents*.

The April 20 Mad Hatter's Tea was themed "Royal Ascot." Del Ann's sponsored the fashion and hat show, which was choreographed by Dallas model Jan Strimple.

All funds raised during the year were added to the Endowment Fund.

1999 - 2000 Mrs. Charles T. Nixon Jr. (Helen), president

The fall of 1999 provided members an opportunity to participate in two educational seminars on cooking from the garden and holiday decorating tips. The Holiday at The Arboretum gala theme was "Starry Night in Spain." Held December 3, it offered reserved seating for the first time. The children's party, "The Nutcracker - Visions of Sugar Plums," followed the next day with over 350 in attendance.

The Women's Council began the process of a Long-Range Planning Committee to study the current and future goals of the Women's Council pertinent to fundraising, membership, and leadership issues. The membership enjoyed programs by Paula McClure, Howard Garrett, and Steven Leach, M.D. The Endowment Fund benefitted from a number of gifts during the year, most notable that of Mary Silverthorne who endowed the Reflective Basin.

During the spring the Mad Hatter's Tea, "Eggstravaganza," was held on April 18 with a style show by Del Ann's and Jan Strimple. Celebrities decorated eggs and donated hats for the silent auction. Over 700 attended the event. The spring trip took place April 25 to Chandor Gardens in Weatherford.

On May 19 the garden endowment dinner, "Celebrating the Good Life," was held at the Fairmont Hotel and the Founders Awards were presented

to Mary Silverthorne and Robert Hoffman. Dr. Dean Ornish was the guest speaker.

Funding of the \$1.5 million endowment for Phase I of A Woman's Garden was completed, and the fund for design and construction of Phase II was established.

2000 - 2001 Mrs. C. A. Rundell, Jr. (Sylvia), president

A successful membership campaign resulted in 837 members. On December 1 a festive Christmas at the Arboretum Gala, themed "Christmas Memories at The DeGolyer Mansion," featured musical entertainment, a silent auction and the opportunity to win a unique trip to Switzerland. The capacity crowd of 425 filled two tents on the DeGolyer grounds. The sold-out children's party followed on December 2 with crafts, games and prizes.

Country Club featured Governor Rick Perry with special honor paid to Founders Award recipients Mrs. William (Mimi Lay) Hodges and Barbara and Jim Lake. Song and dance lovers enjoyed the evening's musical entertainment by the Crayfish Band.

Most notable of the service and education events was a tour by sixty ladies to the Gene and Jerry Jones gardens, and Anne and Glenn Anderson's home and garden. The Andersons treated the group to a lovely afternoon tea. Fall and spring bulb sales continued to be a successful fund-raising project.

Culminating the spring activities, "Tea with Alice," the Mad Hatter's Tea Party for over 500, was held at the Fairmont Hotel. Members and guests, splendidly attired in spring fashions and extravagant chapeaux, enjoyed a fashion show staged by Del Ann's. Caroline Rose Hunt and Vivian Young were honorary chairs; Caroline autographed her hot-off-the-press book, *Primrose Past*. Proceeds from Caroline's book added to the net profits of the Mad Hatter's event.

All funds raised during the year were added to the fund for design and construction of Phase II of A Woman's Garden.

2001 - 2002 Mrs. William K. Barnard (Ruth), president

In its twentieth year the Women's Council began the process of implementing the recommendations of the Long-Range Planning Committee pertaining to fund raising, membership, leadership issues, creating an historical record of the Council, and initiating a website for the organization.

An aggressive membership drive resulted in a record membership of 900 members, 189 of them new recruits. The new member brunch, held October 10 at the Camp House, featured a "Gone with The Wind" theme. During the year special efforts were made to integrate new members into the activities of the group.

The spring tour of three private gardens conducted by landscape architect Warren Johnson was a special treat for 82 of the members.

Fall and spring volunteer days at The Arboretum continued. Enjoyable speakers at general meetings included Linda Askey's presentation of "Jewel Box Gardens," and Kathy Huber's talk on "Beautiful Gardens of Texas." Following another recommendation by the Long-Range Planning Committee, only two main fund-raising events were held. The Founders Awards Luncheon, held December 7 at the Dallas Country Club, honored recipients Trammell and Margaret Crow and Mr. Pat Spillman. Musical entertainment, a silent auction of miniature Christmas trees and wreaths, and informal modeling of holiday fashions from Lilly Dodson's added to the festivities.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party was hosted by the Galleria on March 27, amidst a 1930's garden party setting. Themed "A Salute to Hollywood Hats," the highly successful elegant afternoon tea, attended by over 640 members and guests, featured a fashion presentation by Saks Fifth Avenue, a silent auction of items from Galleria shops, and the traditional judging of hats. Tincy Miller was honorary chairman.

Fall and spring bulb sales were successful once again.

Of special importance, this year was the establishment of the Women's Council's presence on the internet. With the designing of its own web site by internet services chairman Deborah Brown, the Women's Council explored a new avenue for fund raising, an internet auction via eBay. The auction committee, headed by Pat Yanigan and Helen Nixon, set the ground work for future fund-raising endeavors, as well as for greater use of the internet as an effective mode of communication.

All funds raised during the year were added to the fund for design and construction of Phase II of A Woman's Garden.

2002 - 2003 Mrs. Oliver Gould (Faye), president

A very generous endowment grant, given in honor of the late Virginia Nick for Phase II of "A Woman's Garden" by The McDermott Foundation, created much excitement for the year. Membership reached 829 with 176 new members. The fall General Meeting, with Rick Cook of The Market presenting "Creative and Innovative Ideas for the Holidays," delighted 269 members. Ornaments were favors. Volunteers staffed two fall days and shopped a discount day at Jim Bagwell Design.

The fall trip to Denton, which visited museums and gardens, sold out. The Founders Award Dinner entitled "The Great Gatsby Gala," at Brook Hollow Golf Club, honored Naud Burnett II with the prestigious award. Jim Turner was Mr. Gatsby and his wife Julie was

“Miss Daisy.” Steve and Linda Ivy, as Honorary Chairs, danced the night away.

The winter General Meeting featured Nan Booth Simpson, a Dallas landscape architect whose lecture and slide show, “A World History of Gardens,” enlightened over 260 members. The 130 luncheon guests received a book as a favor. A Mad Hatter’s Tea Party celebrated “April in Paris” at the Westin Hotel. Sally Hoglund served as Honorary Chair for the 640 guests attending. Jan Strimple and celebrity judges conducted a chapeau contest while Dave Tanner’s Trio provided musical entertainment. A new project began offering an on-line auction for The Women’s Council’s website with Mad Hatter’s auction items also.

The sold-out spring educational trip toured The Crow Asian Art Center, ate at the DMA, and enjoyed two private gardens. Due to construction delays the May meeting could not be held in the new Trammell Crow Visitor Education Pavilion; however, members enjoyed lunch at The Arboretum and President Mary Brinegar’s talk “From a Dream to Reality: The Trammell Crow Visitor Education Pavilion.” The Women’s Council will have a permanent record storage vault in the VET’s basement.

After a very successful year, for the first time Phase II of A Woman’s Garden received endowment funds and the remaining funds raised during the year went into the design and construction fund.

2003 - 2004 Mrs. Dale E. Cunningham (Claire), president

A New Members’ Reception kicked off the year that allowed Morgan Wheelock to begin design work for Phase II of A Woman’s Garden. Bylaws revision, approved in May, streamlined officers’ duties, saving expenses, and a leadership forum developed a new survey for potential officer interest and advancement. Membership reached 853 with 160 being new.

October’s General Meeting featured Dave Forehand, VP Gardens of DABS, at the brand-new Trammell Crow VEP. Christine Allison, editor of D Home, presented “Behind Closed Doors: A Tour of Dallas’ Most Beautiful Gardens” at the winter General Meeting attended by 200. The May General Meeting featured Mr. Raymond Nasher and his concept on the development of the Nasher Sculpture Center. After lunch at the Belo Mansion guests viewed the sculpture and gardens.

Volunteers staffed a fall and spring day at The Arboretum and helped host a national meeting in June. Members journeyed to the 70th Rose Festival in Tyler and in the spring had two garden events. One toured a 30-acre home, icons, and a private garden in Dallas, and the other, Fort Worth’s Bass Hall and Japanese Garden. The Children’s Holiday Party, held for the first time in Rosine Hall, featured Barney, Santa and an auction. Bulb sales included sales of poinsettias.

The Great Gatsby Gala, honoring Charles Wyly, sold out the available 24 tables at The Mansion at Turtle Creek through underwriting. Christi Harris Makeover Center in the Galleria celebrated with a Gatsby patron party. The Founders Award honored John Watson at the spectacular event. The Adolphus entertained the Women’s Council at a special party for the Mad Hatter’s Tea Kick Off. Returning to The Arboretum, the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party attracted over 600 guests who enjoyed the film “Hats Off to Heritage,” featuring the history of the founding of the Women’s Council Board. The Women’s Council (Board) voted to approve DABS’ request to consider development of the Red Maple Rill upon completion of Phase II of A Woman’s Garden. All funds from the year went to the endowment fund and the design and construction fund of Phase II of A Woman’s Garden.

2004 - 2005 Mrs. Richard Respass (Liz), president

Planning for the future both with recommendations of the Long-Range Planning Committee for fund raising and a collaboration with DABS on funds to begin construction of Phase II of A Woman’s Garden, charted a year of fun with friends and events, responsible leadership, and finalization of construction plans. New members met the Board at The Camp House in a fair atmosphere of booths offering opportunities for service and information on events. New members (152) swelled the membership to 825.

Editors-in-Chief of magazines headlined General Meetings and brought new ideas, the joys of gardening, and insights into publications to mind. John A. Floyd, Jr. of *Southern Living* presented a talk and slides September 23 at Rosine Hall, C. Greg Speichert of *Water Gardens* entertained January 20 at Arlington Hall, and Phyllis Hoffman of *Southern Lady* spoke at Northwood Country Club May 19.

A stop at the Chanel Boutique, a tour of Valley House Gallery and Sculpture Garden and the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts in

McKinney intrigued members on the fall trip. Due to an itinerary cancellation, the spring trip did not take place. Bulb sales continued to bring in steady funds both fall and spring just as Volunteer Days biannually provided avenues for service. The website, unique among other volunteer organizations, featured members and special events.

“An Evening with the Lettermen” proved to be one of entertainment October 22 at Dallas Country Club with a garden theme design. Even the

audience sang. Robert L. Thornton III received the Founders Award. Emilyynn and Claude Wilson hosted the Patron Party.

The Children’s Christmas Party reinvigorated the holiday spirit Dec. 8 featuring Brownie Shytle’s musical group, Frosty, Santa, and a successful silent auction.

Walker Row hosted members in anticipation of The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party as well as did Fossee’s Shoes, and Betsy Whitson honored patrons at a party in her home. “Run for the Roses,” the chosen theme, came in a winner April 25 at Dallas Country Club.

The Long-Range Planning Committee evaluated existing events’ profitability and usefulness and recommended to the Board that members decorate the Camp House but discontinue as a budgeted item expenditure for materials and eliminate as a budgeted item any anticipated funds from The Lady Bug Society Tea. Both motions passed. A recommendation was made that the president could appoint a chairman for Volunteer Days. DABS Executive Board voted to loan interest free to the Women’s Council a portion of the funds necessary to begin construction of Phase II. For the first time, new members were invited to the Leadership Seminar.

All funds for the year were placed in the construction fund of Phase II of A Woman’s Garden.

2005 - 2006 Mrs. Michael Murphy (Nancy), president

In January of 2005 the Women’s Council was approached by DABS to begin construction on Phase II of A Woman’s Garden to coordinate with the renovations being done in adjacent garden areas.

The Board met, and the Gift and Maintenance agreement was drafted to outline the construction costs and contractual arrangements between DABS and the Women’s Council. This document included a loan agreement between the two parties as well as the funds in a money market account which had been accumulating for Phase II construction. This loan to the Women’s Council of \$300,000 interest free with a three-year time table for payback and the funds from the money market account allowed the Women’s Council to go forward and minimize the time that portions of the garden would be closed for construction. Ground breaking for the new garden area began on July 6, 2005. The total cost of the garden was \$1.7 million. This is the first public garden in the nation built and endowed by women and dedicated to all women.

Fall began with the New Members Coffee September 14 at the Camp House, a Patron Party for the Gala, “Gatsby Goes to Broadway,” at Banks Fine Arts September 29, and then the gala at Four Seasons November 5. A Broadway Show Tune Review, produced by Michael Murphy, and George Anderson’s Dance Band were featured entertainment. Hal Brierley was the honored Mr. Gatsby, and Orien Woolf received The Founders Award.

Membership rose to 749 with 134 new members who were invited to attend the Leadership Seminar in May. Warren Johnson, landscape architect and general contractor for Phase II of A Woman’s Garden, highlighted the September 22 Fall General Meeting in Rosine Hall. His film and architectural drawings of Phase II illustrated the original concepts of the garden designer, Morgan Wheelock of Boston, MA.

Bulb sales included poinsettias in the fall and continued with the spring bulb sales. A fall education trip November 29 included The Women’s Museum and Frontiers of Flight Museum. An April 18 coach trip to Ennis featured roadside views of bluebonnet and wildflowers, and on May 24, historical Dallas cemeteries and landmarks, such as the Federal Reserve Bank.

“A Candy Cane Christmas” December 10 featured a fabulous auction, and a capacity crowd of 300 children and parents filled Rosine Hall. Volunteer Days October 14 and March 14 were fully staffed. Staffers also relished a reward, a party at Margaret McDermott’s home.

Winter's General Meeting February 16 showcased Colonel Patrick Daniell whose presentation at Rosine Hall gave evidence of his love and hard work to re-create the garden at Abbey Cottage in Itchen Abbas near Winchester, England. Sari Hartzler, Event Director for Dr. Delphenium Designs, designed three arrangements and furnished table centerpieces at Royal Oaks Country Club for the General Meeting May 18.

Talented celebrity judges selected hat winners April 19 at The Arboretum during the French-themed "Lavender and Roses" Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The Mansion's and deBoullé's donations enhanced the auction. Linda Ivy was Honorary Chairman.

Hermes and Susan Chad hosted patrons May 1 at a party leading up to the opening gala of Phase II of A Woman's Garden May 17. Sunset tours and the tented loggia of the DeGolyer House afforded guests a delightful soiree with magnificent views of the garden and lake. The public opening was March 10 to coincide with the Dallas Blooms opening.

The Leadership Seminar May 8 featured Dr. Ann Stuart, President and Chancellor of TWU, and the Women's Council Advisory Board. For the first time, an annual Volunteer Leadership Award was awarded to Doris Anton, while Fran Clem received the first Volunteer Service Award. The Long-Range Planning Committee's thorough recommendations were approved by the Board and implemented. All funds raised were given to the construction of Phase II of A Woman's Garden.

2006 - 2007 Mrs. J. T. Rogers (Carolyn), president

The year's program themes about protocol, tea etiquette and its pleasures, table settings with designer touches for linens, dishes, and floral arrangements enriched the plan for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at The Arboretum.

Tiffany Divis, Sr. Gifts Officer, Office of Chief Protocol, The White House, explained October 19 how "Protocol is Super Etiquette" at the Dallas Country Club to 200 members and guests. March 19 Jane Pettigrew of Great Britain, a renowned tea expert, enlightened attendees at the Hilton Park Cities Hotel with "The Art and Etiquette of Tea." May 11 Charlotte Comer, interior designer (ASID), Jennifer Marcel of Dishes of the Past in Fort Worth, and Leslie Marsh of Pandora de Baltazar Linens, focused attention on creative table tops and floral designs at the Dallas Country Club.

The Camp House welcomed new members and the Board to a fall coffee party September 21. Some 89 new members joined to increase the total to 678. October 11 fifty members enjoyed touring six Dallas gardens of "Handsome Homes and Glorious Gardens Tour." Members staffed volunteer days October 12 and March 22. The Women's Council's newsletter spotlighted Garden Donor Features, and fall bulb sales included poinsettias and amaryllis. A new e-mail system sent "blasts" to members to highlight events and facilitate better communications.

December 9 the Children's Christmas Party, "Unwrap the Magic," proved very successful with delightful entertainment - Santa, crafts, contribution ticket and auction sales held at Rosine Hall. Scott and Linda Greer entertained patrons December 4 as did Escada, the committee and patrons November 15.

The Lumen Hotel hosted a January 25 kickoff party announcing the Mad Hatter's Tea Party theme "Behold the 8th Wonder of the World." A pre-party by Elements on March 21 as well as the March 28 Nordstrom's event and Trader Vic's Patron Party April 11 heralded the Mad Hatter's Tea Party for 620 guests April 25. Jan Strimple's retro hat review in Rosine Hall, hat judging and tea under tenting concluded a picture-perfect day with Barbara Daseke as Honorary Chairman.

Long Range Planning recommended a policy for insurance liability. In conjunction with the Leadership Seminar a motion passed to give the Leadership Awards and Service Award annually. On May 3 Dr. Ann Stuart, President of TWU and Maj Gen (Ret) Mary Saunders, Executive Director of the Leadership Institute of TWU, shared leadership strategy. Emily Lynn Wilson received the Leadership Award and Nell Broughton the Service Award.

The Board voted to pass extensive Bylaws revisions that involved liabilities, vacancies, Advisory Board and Board officers' positions, and fund raising. Logo revision went to an ad hoc committee.

The spring trip March 27 concluded the year's travels to Fort Worth Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) and private gardens.

Finishing the year was an evening soiree to present the Founders Award. A gala reception at the DeGolyer House honored dedicated, long-time garden fundraiser Patricia Cowlshaw on May 22.

All funds raised were given to the construction of Phase II of A Woman's Garden.

2007 - 2008 Mrs. Michael T. Bierman (Nancy), president

A new project, A Writer's Garden Symposium and Book Reviews created by the president, increased major fund raising. Ultimately, these funds were critical for construction of Phase II of A Woman's Garden (AWG).

As announced at the October 11 Board Meeting, WCDABG repaid to DABS, Inc. a year early the interest free loan negotiated in 2005 which allowed proceeding with the initial construction of Phase II of AWG. The Long-Range Planning Committee recommended a three-year plan to complete construction of Phase II, including planting of all garden areas and lighting for safety and enhancement. Landscape Architect Warren H. Johnson of Fall Creek Gardens, Inc. will implement the construction.

Fall brought a sold-out crowd of 24 tables for A Writers' Garden Symposium slated November 1 at Rosine Hall. Book Reviews and Luncheons were spaced September 5, October 3, and in January. A New Members' Party honored the newest who helped give us a total of 749 members. Volunteer Day saw service on October 4 and the fall trip Dallas Discovery Day included the Trinity River Audubon Center on October 18. Bulb and poinsettias sales traditionally reaped yearly income.

The Fall General Meeting, held at Arlington Hall September 25, featured Dr. Bill Welch, Professor and Landscape Horticulturist at Texas A & M University with slides on "A Salute to Southern Gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show of 2007." The Winter Meeting and Brunch December 3 at the DeGolyer House delighted members with holiday decorations of 10,000 dolls, music, and a program on Shakespeare. The Spring Annual Meeting's program May 6 at Dallas Country Club let Lisa Luby Ryan of Vintage Living reveal design secrets. Ruth Barnard was presented with the Service Award, and Jo Anne McCullough, was honored with the Leadership Award.

Spring brought a Kick Off Luncheon at chair Carol Huckin's home and the Mad Hatter's Garden Party 20th Anniversary Celebration April 10 with Rene van Rems, noted floral designer of Holland. He presented "The History of Floral Art: A Flemish Experience." Dee Wyly was the Honorary Chair.

Volunteer Day came March 27, and the Spring Home and Garden Tour sold out for April 24. On May 14, The Founders Award was celebrated with a reception and dinner at the DeGolyer House honoring Emilyynn and Claude Wilson for their years of service to the Arboretum.

At the April 17 Board Meeting, The Long-Range Planning Committee recommended that beginning with the current year and continuing until Phase II of AWG is complete, all gifts specifically designated for Donor Naming and Endowment Funding (less any expenses related to it) be distributed completely per donor request. In addition, the net profit at the end of each fiscal year is to be distributed 70% to the completion of Phase II and 30% to the endowment funding for Phase II. These recommendations were unanimously approved.

2008 - 2009 Mrs. John Seddelmeyer (Sarah), president

The new look of the Yearbook greeted members with graphic arts of various features of A Woman's Garden; it filled pages and separated sections artistically. Tabs for easy handling completed the redesign, created by the president's daughter. Membership rose to almost 800 with 140 of the group as new members who enjoyed a party at the DeGolyer House September 10. Dave Forehand VP Gardens of DABS led a tour afterwards.

The Logo Committee also was meeting to adopt a consistent new logo for WCDABG. The familiar urn with foliage and fruit and entry gates were later approved with brown ink as the color on cream colored stationary as the accepted use. The logo was used in black on other papers, depending on the event. Revision of the website was also in progress; photos from events now can be viewed. Bulb sales for fall added amaryllis bulbs to holiday sales and kept the traditional poinsettia plant sales. Caladium bulbs were added at the first of the year for spring/summer planting.

Brook Hollow Golf Club was the host site for the September 23 General Meeting which featured Tres Fromme, an Associate Designer, with MESA, a landscape architecture, planning and urban design firm. He spoke on master planning and garden design entitled "Forget Plants - Dream of Design." A Fall Trip to Tyler followed the topic Roses & the Queen's Tea while a Spring Trip was led by Warren Johnson to three of his recently designed gardens.

A busy fall ensued with Volunteer Day October 23, A Writer's Garden Symposium & Luncheon November 13, featuring speakers on France, its 17th century landscape design, the American Southern garden, and visual poetry. A December 8 General Meeting and brunch treated holiday guests to Chris Brown, a floral designer, who shared ideas for holiday decorations with "Home for the Holidays." A Mother Daughter Christmas Tea finished the season December 14.

A Winter Trip to the Crow Collection and Harlan Crow Library February 23 welcomed the New Year. Spring Volunteer Day came March 26 and "Under the Cherry Blossoms" at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party April 22 greeted spring. Gloria Campos was Master of Ceremonies. Boutiques of Highland Park Village presented the fashion show prior to hat judging. Mrs. Margaret Crow was Honorary Chairman. May 6 was the final General Meeting and Luncheon at 7000 Park Lane continuing a Japanese garden theme with specialist John Powell, whose topic was "Zen and Zen Inspired Gardens." Founders Award Dinner, held at the DeGolyer House, honored Mary Ann Cree, philanthropist and benefactor in Dallas, and to The Arboretum. Her gift of Rosine Hall in memory of her mother serves multipurpose events for WCDABG. Service Award recipient was Carole Boss, and Linda Spina earned the Leadership Award.

Net profit for the fiscal year was distributed 70% to completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II of A Woman's Garden.

2009 - 2010 Mrs. William Cothrum (Kathy), president

El Bosque, the WCDABG's newly completed project, greeted new members at a September 3 party at the DeGolyer House. Ultimately, 707 members rallied support for WCDABG and the next project which was Orchid Hollow in Phase II's plantings. The Fall General Meeting Sept. 29 at Brook Hollow Golf Club featured "The New Dallas Arts District and Woodall Rogers Park" with speakers, The Honorable Veletta Lill, Executive Director, the Dallas Arts District, and John Zogg of the Woodall Rogers Foundation.

A Writer's Garden Symposium and Book Reviews kicked off October 8 at Rosine Hall with lunch and a review of writings of Elizabeth Spencer's *Landscapes of the Heart* and *The Light in the Piazza*, followed on November 12 at The Symposium with authors, Jan Showers and her book *Glamorous Rooms*; Jim Yock and his book *Landscaping the American Dream: The Gardens and Film Sets of Florence Yoch 1890 - 1972*; and Francis Morrone and her book *The Breeze of Beauty: American Dreams of the Garden City*. These authors truly dazzled us. A January 27 lunch and review featured Ann Morrow Lindbergh's *A Twentieth Century Life*. Faye C. Briggs graciously served as Honorary Chairman of all these events. Other fall days witnessed fun times on a Fall Trip to New Orleans Oct 15-16 and Volunteer Day October 28. Spring Volunteer Day was slated for March 17.

Winter Meeting Program and Lunch at DeGolyer House and Rosine Hall December 8 entertained us with floral and event designer Todd Fiscus' "Creating New Holiday Traditions." A Children's Christmas Tea featured former First Lady Mrs. Laura W. Bush reading her and Jenna Bush's book to a sold-out crowd. Winter's Trip December 20 to the new Winspear Opera House let us enjoy the show "South Pacific."

No less than five event pre-parties led up to the Mad Hatter's Tea "Divas & Dahlias April 22 with D'Andra Simmons as Honorary Chairman. An enlarged online pre-auction and then regular auction and hat judging contest also highlighted the special day. A Spring Trip in April to the gardens of Annette and Harold Simmons and Gene and Jerry Jones were feasts of floral beauty. The Spring Annual Meeting and Luncheon set at 7000 Park Lane featured Michael Shoop, owner of Antique Rose Emporium, as the speaker. Presentation of the Leadership Award to Claire Cunningham and Service Award to Deborah Brown followed. A lovely Founders Award dinner gala at the Camp House May 19 celebrated honoree Mrs. Rory Myers and her family's lead donation and support to

the Rory Myers Children's Adventure Garden for The Arboretum.

At the final Board Meeting, The Long-Range Planning Committee presented two resolutions: (1) to continue distribution of net profits 70% to completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II; and (2) no new projects will be undertaken until the completion of Phase II. The two resolutions were adopted by the Board. As a result, net profits were distributed as directed: 70% to completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II.

2010 - 2011 Mrs. Linton E. Barbee (Sharon), president

A year of unusual foresight in financial planning and changes in technological advances assisted WCDABG at a critical time following a slowed economy. Several meetings of the Endowment Trust Trustee Committee and the Advisory Board determined it to be in WCDABG's best financial interest to change the trustee of the Endowment. Interviews locally resulted in moving the Endowment Trust for Phase I of AWG from Northern Trust to Westwood Trust. Also, the endowment funds for Phase II were moved from Comerica Bank account to Westwood after the Board of Directors made these approvals. PayPal's addition to the website saved funds from credit card service charges and facilitated membership and event payments.

A fall line-up began with the New Members Party at the Camp House September 9. Of 616 members 63 were new. *En Plein Air* artistic workshop under artist Judy Campbell was a first-time event September 29. Chip Calloway, noted landscape architect and storyteller, opened A Writer's Garden Series October 14 at Rosine Hall. Honorary Chairman was Shirley McIntyre. The Symposium and Luncheon November 11 featured authors Carolyn Rapp of McLean, VA, Kathy Patrick of Jefferson TX, and Rhys Bowen of San Francisco CA. Author Jennifer B. Pickens shared her book *Christmas at the White House* at a December 1 Brunch. The Series' finale was with grand dame and author Caroline Rose Hunt, daughter Laurie Sands Harrison, and four granddaughters for a Valentine Tea February 8.

Ambassador James K. Glassman enlightened us September 29 at Brook Hollow Golf Club about the vision for the George W. Bush Presidential Library. A bus trip to Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells and the Japanese Botanical Garden in Ft. Worth treated us to seasonal beauty. Poinsettias and amaryllis bulb sales boosted fall sales while caladium bulbs gained clout from flyers in The Arboretum Newsletter. Fall Volunteer Day was October 27 and March 16 was Spring Volunteer Day.

Dr. Elizabeth New Seitz romanticized France's gardens with a travelogue program January 25 at 7000 Park Lane for Winter Program and Luncheon. May 3 Spring Meeting's Program and Tea captured William Shakespeare's writings on the English countryside as Robert C. Brown impersonated him. Other seasonal events included a February 10 Culinary Arts Center event "Cooking with Flowers" with chef Sharon van Meter. The Mad Hatter's Tea, entitled "A Wonderland of Fashion" based on *Alice in Wonderland*, featured five clothing retailers, the usual auction, hat judging, and a private collection of Frank Olive hats. Yvonne Crum was Honorary Chair and honored by presenting sponsor Dee Wyly with a gift to WCDABG. A sold-out trip to Charleston, SC April 8-12 viewed the best of a southern spring. A redesigned and implemented Orchid Hollow, following delays, opened with many wedding bookings because of the incredible lake vista.

Linda Spina received the coveted Service Award and Patricia Cowlshaw was honored with the Leadership Award. Martha and Willard Baker were celebrated for their service with the Founders Award on May 11. Willard's service was on many of DABS' committees including the selection of the landscape architect for AWG. Martha served in many officer and committee chair positions for WCDABG.

Net profit for the fiscal year was distributed 70% to completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II of AWG.

2011 - 2012 Mrs. Maurice Ballew (Sharon), president

An exciting year well-planned and following the advice of the Finance and Long-Range Planning Committees produced less events, focused on the organization's goals, and earned good funds from each. Efforts to earn more with fewer activities paid off. The annual New Members Party, a dinner held at the home of Kathy Cothrum, had a format with more committee chairman and automatic links for involvement. Total membership was 528 for the year. Website updates over the summer helped finances with PayPal, particularly with the fall sale of poinsettias and spring bulbs. The Serpentine Path which adjoins The Red Maple Rill just to the north of Phase II

was completed and opened in the spring.

The Fall Meeting and Luncheon presented *The Language of Flowers*, a novel by author Vanessa Diffenbaugh, who shared how people used flowers to communicate to others. Bent Tree Country Club was a new meeting place. Fall Volunteer Day was October 26 while the spring date was slated for March 21. Also on October 26, WCDABG honored DABS President Stephen A. Coke with the Founders Award. He had served continuously since 1979 in many leadership positions. Patrons to A Writer's Garden Symposium attended the dinner buffet along with DABS' members and guests. Among those attending were Honorary Chairmen Dee Simmons and daughter D'Andra Simmons. On November 10 at Rosine Hall authors Dina Moore, Paula Lambert, and Hedda Dowd presented talks on their books: *Unstoppable Woman*, *Cheese, Glorious Cheese* and *The Cheese Lover's Cookbook and Guide*; and *Rise to the Occasion, A French Food Experience* respectively. Book sales added to the special occasion.

The Winter Meeting and Coffee at Rosine Hall January 24 gave us a glimpse of "Chihuly, The Making of an Exhibition" May - November 2012, as presented by Mary Brinegar. Talley Dunn spoke on "Dale Chihuly, the Artist," and Dave Forehand lectured on "The Support Plantings for the Chihuly." The popular Valentine's Tea February 7 showcased an interview by Jocelyn White with Dee and D'Andra Simmons about their respective businesses and viewpoints on life. Part of the day's fun was a Hat Auction for the Mad Hatter's Tea event. An announcement party at Escada in the fall kicked off this year's event entitled "The Art of Nature." Nancy Rogers was Honorary Chairman, and Connie and Denny Carreker hosted a patron party.

The Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon at 7000 Park Lane answered life questions on "What You Have Always Wanted to Know About Gardening." Panelists were Leslie Halleck of North Haven Gardens, Steve Huddleston of the Fort Worth Botanical Garden, Jenny Wegley, Sr. Greenhouse and Trials Manager at The Arboretum's Trial Gardens, and

Debbie Rothermel, CEO and owner of North Dallas Gardens. The Service Award honored Nancy Connor and Leadership Award, Helen Nixon.

Net profit for the fiscal year was distributed 70% to completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II of AWG.

2012 - 2013 Mrs. Brett Ringle (Sue), president

Chihuly at The Arboretum early in September brought national recognition to A Woman's Garden with several features there, especially the boat and glass sculpture, displayed in the Reflective Basin, which was captured in a photo by Scott Leen. The image graced our Yearbook. Fall Meeting and Luncheon at Dallas Country Club featured a virtual tour and update on progress for The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden by Maria Conroy and Program "Flowers, Beads, and Entertaining, Oh My" by Kate Juett. They entertained over 135 at Dallas Country Club. The New Member Party September 18 at Marcella Wildes' home provided an orientation with the Board. Membership grew to 625 with 104 new members. Membership paid online afforded new revenue from donations. Chihuly Night Garden Party September 30 allowed members and guests a private view of the exhibit of the contemporary and colorful glass sculpture.

Volunteer service to The Arboretum continued with Volunteer Days October 24 and March 27. A creative, educational trip highlighted McKinney, TX for shopping, garden viewing, and an appearance from Neil Sperry. December 28 - January 2 members of WCDABG traveled to Pasadena, CA for the Rose Parade, participating by adding decorating finesse to CA Poly Tech's "Penguins Taking Flight" float and visiting Huntington Botanical Gardens and Library. Dave Forehand led a spring tour of Belo Park and Dallas gardens, some designed by Warren Johnson.

A Writer's Garden Symposium and Luncheon November 14 examined a theme "Searching for Beauty" with three authors: Jennifer Pickens, Carolyn Westbrook and Cherie Burns whose book furnished the symposium's theme of beauty. Writer's Garden Winter Tea 2013 presented a mother daughter dynamic team and "A Conversation with Janine and Juliette Turner" February 24 at Rosine Hall.

Winter Meeting Coffee and Program January 22 featured Jim Kirk, CEO of Corporate Magic, the skill behind the Tournament of Roses Parade. Shelby Marcus was honored with the Founders Award for her artistic expertise from The Arboretum's genesis in selection and maintenance of art and for her leadership in chairing major WCDABG galas.

Besides WCDABG's 30th Anniversary during the year, the Mad Hatter's Tea celebrated its 25th Anniversary and adopted the theme "Adventures in Time" for April 11. Patty Dedman Nail served as Honorary Chair and her foundation, as the Presenting Sponsor. Fashions featured Oscar de la Renta and Roberto Cavalli whose NorthPark store gave the Judges Announcement Party. Drs. Rosemary and Medford McCoy's home was the Patron Party locale.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center hosted the May 7 Spring Annual Meeting. The program, "Landscaping the Grounds of the Bush Presidential Center," was presented by Herb Sweeny of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. The Leadership Award honored Jewel Williams, and Katherine Phillips garnered the Service Award.

During the year *Las Cedras* was redesigned to compliment the elements of the Red Maple Rill to the North of Phase II. The Treasurer recommended with the year's financial success that funds be replenished for Phase I Endowment. Thus, \$25,000 was added to the Endowment Trust of Phase I of AWG. Additionally, as in the past, net profit for the fiscal year was distributed 70% to the completion of Phase II and 30% to endowment funding for Phase II of AWG.

2013 - 2014 Mrs. Daniel Hennessy (Bettina), president

"The Dallas Arboretum and Our Homes/Inspiration from the Garden," a theme for the year, educated new and seasoned members about why WCDABG was founded and further promoted the garden through trips and general meeting programs. Over the summer DABS Board Chairman Brian Shivers presented a proposal to the WCDABG of a donor-based loan to produce and display The Twelve Days of Christmas. After careful consideration WCDABG Board declined the proposal as it was the responsibility of The Arboretum. Design began for the development of *Via del Lago* through A Woman's Garden. (AWG.)

A Welcome Party September 11 greeted some of 86 new members of the membership numbering close to 600. The Fall Meeting Program and Brunch September 24 at Rosine Hall featured a panel: Mary Brinegar, President and CEO of DABS, Maria Conroy, VP Education, and Dave Forehand, VP of the Garden and Visitor Services, discussing "An Insider's Peek with What's New and Exciting at The Arboretum."

October 22 the Fall Trip, a bus tour led by Historian Sally Rodriguez, explored "A History of White Rock Lake" and enjoyed private gardens. Volunteer Day on October 23 offered members a time to experience fall. Bulb sales now allowed easy ordering on the website.

"Hidden Treasures of Italy," A Writer's Garden Symposium, celebrated the rich history and diversity of Italian culture on November 19. Three authors: Chiara Lima, Debra N. Mancoff, and R. Terry Schnadelbach, FAAR. comprised the program. Honorary Chair, Astrid Merriman, a friend of Ms. Lima's mother, discussed Mamma Agata's Cooking School and recipes in *Simple and Delicious*. Ms. Mancoff traced the relationship between gardens across time and culture with specific themes in *The Garden in Art*. Mr. Schnadelbach focused on Renaissance aesthetics' revival and the new Italian garden's evolution in *Hidden Lives/Secret Gardens*.

Winter General Meeting and Luncheon January 14 at The Meadows Museum SMU presented Christy Rost PBS Chef with "Looking Forward to Spring Entertaining." Pamela Anderson of the DeGoyler Library SMU chronicled Mr. DeGoyler's gift of his books to SMU. A Valentine Tea February 9 in Rosine Hall featured Kathleen Cunningham who reviewed *Audrey Hepburn-An Elegant Spirit*, authored by Sean Hepburn Ferrer.

On March 26 members gave service hours on Volunteer Day during Dallas Blooms' 30th anniversary year. March 27 on the Spring Trip members walked among blooming cherry trees in the Japanese Garden at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden and toured Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). The final stop included a Japanese-inspired home and garden. A Mad Hatter's Tea themed "Serenade to Style" April 10 featured fashion from boutiques in HP Village Shopping Center and a hat judging contest. New this year were services of a videographer who recorded the event and produced a DVD. Honorary Chair Gina Ginsburg and husband Scott hosted a patron party in their home.

P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain Farm near Roland, Arkansas April 28-29 hosted almost 40 members for a tour of the homestead garden and lunch. The group also visited private gardens in Little Rock. The Spring General Meeting & Awards Luncheon May 6 presented Peter J. Hatch, renowned author and historian for the gardens of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. The Service Award honored Sandy Secor and Sue John. The Leadership Award recognized the first Mad Hatter's Tea Chairman and long-time Board member Carole Anne Brown. Tom and Phyllis McCasland, active DABS Board members and supporters of the arts in Dallas, were recognized with The Founders Award.

Net profit for the fiscal year was distributed with \$25,000 added to the Endowment Trust of Phase I of AWG, and 70% to the completion of Phase II and 30% to Phase II endowment funding.

2014 - 2015 Mrs. Roger C. Gault (Marena), president

Via del Lago, a major DABS project and a tramway for pedestrian and vehicular traffic around The Arboretum's perimeter, required an engineering survey for that portion which transverses AWG's at its lakeside edge. Issues on the periphery contiguous to the City's current roadway required additional studies, moving plans for construction until late 2015 or 2016. Revision of bylaws consumed many hours in their making and reviewing. An extremely successful fundraising year included fabulous events, trips, and entertaining programs.

The Welcome Party hosted some of 57 new members of over 600 members September 15 at The DeGolyer House. Dan Pierce, of Wild about Flowers and floral designer to Former First Lady Laura Bush, entertained with "Exotic Arrangements from Your Garden" at Bent Tree Country Club at the Fall Meeting and Luncheon September 24. Tom Spice or "Spiceman" educated members with his ability to till a vegetable garden and allowed members October 15 to forage for lunch and prepare it at FM 1410 in East Dallas. October 22's Volunteer Day celebrated autumn.

Upon recommendation of the Long-Range Planning Committee Bulb Sales was discontinued by a Board vote. A new fundraiser viewing The Twelve Days of Christmas gazebos, vignettes of the well-known song, allowed a private party for WCDABG members November 10, and 206 tickets sold. An Announcement Party was held on November 5 for Mad Hatter's Tea patrons honored Sherwood Wagner, Honorary Chairman.

The Eighth A Writer's Garden event, themed "Treasured Legacies," held on November 6 at Rosine Hall, sold out of books. Speakers were Kim Wilson, author of several books exploring Jane Austen's world through physical surroundings and her notion of home, the latest being *At Home with Jane Austen*; Kelsey Mullen, Director of Public Programming and Education for The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, based on the book *Edith Wharton at Home - Life at The Mount* by Richard Guy Wilson; and Greg Grant, co-author with Bill Welch of *Heirloom Gardening of the South*.

Winter Meeting Program and Luncheon January 21 in Rosine Hall presented orchid producer Gina Woods and a program, "The Wonderful World of Exotic Tropicals." Caroline Rose Hunt received the Founders Award for service on the DABS Board and her many philanthropic endeavors in Dallas. A Valentine Tea "Objects of Beauty" February 10 warmed hearts with Michael Devine, author, photographer, tablescape designer and culinary expert. His book *An Invitation to the Garden* reflected his own garden. Honorary Chairman Marilyn Hailey was highlighted in a video. Hats of Frank Olive were on display.

Spring Volunteer Day March 25 offered the best of spring to members. The Mad Hatter's Tea entitled "April in Paris" was a sell-out April 9. Eiffel Tower table décor echoed the theme. A highly successful live auction was included. Photographs from events are now in albums on WCDABG's website.

Spring Annual Meeting May 7 at Rosine Hall presented photographer, "Carolyn Brown-40 Years of Photography." She received the AIA Award for Excellence in 2013. *Dallas: Portrait of a City* depicts her resident city. The Leadership Award was given to Dorothea Meltzer. Patricia Cowlshaw and Marsha Dowler received the Service Award for their long years of dedication and work with planning and development of AWG. Biltmore Festival of Flowers in Asheville, NC April 20-23, the destination of 23 participants exploring the North Carolina Arboretum, the Biltmore House, Blue Ridge Parkway, and architectural structures of the Art Deco era, closed the year in style.

Net profit for the fiscal year was distributed with \$25,000 added to the Endowment Trust of Phase I of AWG, 70% to the completion of Phase II, and 30% to endowment funding of Phase II.

2015 - 2016 Mrs. John H. Farren, Jr. (Renée), president

The year spanned extensive, intensive reviews and revisions of bylaws and corporate documents to align them more closely with the purpose of the organization. Goals of the Long-Range Planning Committee focused on the objectives of maintaining a high bar for fundraising set from the prior year and on implementing more garden attendance. WCDABG's new fall events combined with DABS' Cool Thursday Concerts and Twelve Days of Christmas series. September 10, members enjoyed a Beatle's tribute band with dinner. December 2, *A Southern Christmas New Orleans Style* entertained guests at a Camp House dinner, with a jazz band and garden tour.

The Fall Meeting and Luncheon at The Mansion on Turtle Creek welcomed previous and new members alike; by spring, a total of 88 new ladies had joined. "Designing Sisters" demonstrating Viennese desserts and floral designs was presented by Dunia Borga and Metka Terselich. Volunteer Days October 6 and December 8 were gifts of service to The Arboretum. A delightful day trip to the Tyler Rose Festival October 16 allowed members to smell the roses, relax at tea, and view private gardens.

November 3 A Writer's Garden Literary Symposium at Rosine Hall with the theme "Designing Women/Artistic Vision" hosted noted authors Judith B. Tankard of Waban, MA; Diane Dorrans Sacks of San Francisco, CA; and Meryle Secrest, of Washington, D. C. Their books, *Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood*, *Anne Getty: Interior Style*, and *Elsa Schiaparelli* respectively are listed to the above authors. Shelby Marcus was Honorary Chair. The Symposium's Valentine Tea February 9 spotlighted Page Dickey, avid gardener, author, and magazine contributor. Sandra Estess was this event's Honorary Chair. A reveal party at TOOTSIES announced the theme "Steel Magnolias" for Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

The Founders Award Presentation was held at the Winter General Meeting and Luncheon at 7000 Park Lane December 7. WCDABG celebrated Kathleen Cunningham's years of service to The Arboretum as Founder and Director of the Speakers Bureau. Kathleen's hundreds of talks and emcee jobs earned her prestigious award. Joy Davis, book reviewer, presented "The Bells of Christmas," the stories of well-known Christmas carols. Winter pruning and revitalization projects began to restore A Woman's Garden. Areas finished included hedges at the fence line in Lower Meadow, and restoration of Bride's Walk hedge. Later work continued at Warren's Bridge, Fernwood Fold and the Rockery. The goal was to complete the work prior to Fall Blooms 2016.

Membership achieved its goal of over 600. February 25, "La Lune, des Etoiles, et des Amis" (The Moon, the Stars, and Friends), a new party began with guests gathered for cocktails then split into dinner groups at five other homes. The spring trip to Round Top Antique Fair proved enjoyable.

Mad Hatter's Tea on April 21 stressed the "can do" attitude of strong women working together to support one another. Joining Honorary Chair Connie Carreker were Honorary Celebrity Chairs, Janine Turner and Linda Gray. Guests were able to underwrite tributes to their personal Steel Magnolias. The Boston trip May 9-13 enjoyed spring with its historic visit to the past including touring The Mount, Edith Wharton's home and other private homes.

The Spring Annual Meeting May 19 in Rosine Hall featured speaker Professor Emeritus Neil G. Odenwald, of LSU's School of Landscape Architecture. Marsha Dowler received The Leadership Award for her years of work on AWG Garden. The Service Award was given both to Sharon Ballew for many years of work in major capacities and Nikki Beneke who recently co-chaired with Sharon the massive Bylaws Revision Committee.

Long Range Planning recommended the split of net profit funds from income be based on current financial status and needs of AWG. Thus, Phase II Endowment received 58% and the Garden Account for necessary redevelopment and revitalization received 42%.

2016 June Mrs. Ron Rhoades (Connie), president

The president as president-elect completely revised the Procedure Manual and distributed folders with new job descriptions to all officers and committee chairmen. Although she had planned and booked the year with dates for meetings and events, the president had to resign for personal reasons.

2016 - 2017 Mrs. Vernon B. Lewis III (Melissa), president

The new president as president-elect was voted into office August 2016, stepping up a year early. She exhibited strong leadership and financial skills while executing the office and planning the following year simultaneously. The year's focuses were Garden revitalization,

shoring up and maintaining the Endowment Trust balance, having, reviewing, and utilizing garden maintenance expense reports, provided by DABS, in order to manage effectively the earnings and maintenance of Phase I and Phase II of A Woman's Garden. The result was that the year was transformational, with funds raised to support needed garden renewal, and brought improved communication and a closer relationship between WCDABG and DABS. Refinement (revitalization) whether in life, an organization, or a garden, which is a living thing, means sometimes going through "fire" or stressful factors to bring beauty or a fresh, reshaped being to life.

WCDABG began working with some of DABS' Garden & Grounds Committee and staff Jenny Wigley and Mark Bullitt for pre-approval for any projects' documents before their final contract approval. Those projects underway are the Circle of Honor in the floor of Boxwood Niche and securing planters to flank the stone bench there.

A summer announcement party for A Writer's Garden publicized the theme "Women in the Garden" and the authors, Susan Holcomb, Jan Johnsen, and Virginia Grace Tuttle, whose books are respectively listed: *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place*, *Heaven Is a Garden: Designing Serene Space for Inspiration and Reflection*, and *The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and Garden Movement*. Honorary Chair was Phyllis McCasland. An evening Patron Party November 7 gave patrons personal time with the authors. The Tenth Anniversary of the signature event was held November 8 at Rosine Hall with a special Silent Auction. In conjunction with fundraising, the new Lisianthus Society, created in 2015, was in place for patrons of \$500 and above with different levels of recognition.

The Fall General Membership Meeting and Luncheon was held at Dallas Country Club on September 27. Business included the Board's approval to transfer \$250,000 from its Garden Account to the Endowment for Phase I account to increase earnings. A motion passed to do so. Bylaw revisions were presented to clarify the Purpose and adjust the Standing Committees, which motions also passed. Russ Whitlock, Superintendent of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, entertained members about the history of the National Park Services' History, its future, and its 100th Birthday celebration. WCDABG is slated to celebrate its 35th next year. New members were introduced and presented roses. Membership totaled 510.

Volunteer Day October 14 was a gift of service to The Arboretum, as was the spring date April 7. A Reveal Party for Mad Hatter's Tea Party at TOOTSIES November 17 increased the excitement for the event planned April 27. Honorary Chairs Amy Warren and her daughter Amanda Hill were joined by Celebrity Chair fashion icon Rachel Zoe.

The theme "Under the Tuscan Sun" was also announced. A winter event at Sharla's in historic downtown McKinney, Texas, was extra fun. Patrons to Mad Hatter's were invited to the Warrens' home in Preston Hollow.

Holiday Winter Meeting & Luncheon attendees enjoyed the program "A Swell Noel: Trimming Your World for Christmas and Beyond" given by Margot Shaw, Editor of *Flower Magazine*. The Founders Award was given to both Carole Ann Brown and Claire Cunningham in recognition of their long-time, outstanding leadership and service to WCDABG. The Directory was made accessible online this year on the website.

Revitalization began in the winter in these areas of Phase I: Sunset Oak Garden, the Wind Harp Terrace and Harmony Repose. Long Range Planning recommended a study to implement a three-year capital campaign, The Legacy Campaign, to complete Phase II of AWG before 2026 and after coordination with DABS.

The Annual Spring Meeting & Luncheon May 16 at Rosine Hall featured Dr. Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of Meadow Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. The speaker's topic was "The Drought Is Over So What's the Problem?" Bettina Hennessy received the Leadership Award and Mary Ellen Winborn deservedly was given the Service Award.

Net profit distribution from proceeds was 83% for the Garden Account and 17% for the Phase II Account.

2017 - 2018 Mrs. Vernon B. Lewis III (Melissa), president

WCDABG celebrated this year with anniversaries and milestones reflecting its purpose statement. Its founding occurred 35 years ago in 1982 beginning with the support to DABS along with dedicated interest and growth in A Woman's Garden since 1997 for 20 years. Proceeds from fundraisers have accomplished these objectives through events like Mad Hatter's Teas for almost 30 years since 1989.

In acknowledgement of WCDABG's 35th anniversary, the yearbook cover and media logo print material were printed in Jade green, the suggested symbol for the 35th anniversary. Membership was growing to over 400 with 10 new members. The Board of Directors passed a Membership Policy, and development of an Ethics and Conflict of Interest Statement was begun.

A Kick-Off Party August 28 for A Writer's Garden announced that Nancy Bierman, who founded the event 11 years ago, was the Honorary Chairman. *Edible Dallas and Fort Worth* magazine publisher Nanci Taylor and editor Terry Taylor spoke at the October 30th Patron Party, which led up to the Literary Symposium itself on November 2 at Rosine Hall. Authors Jessica Dupuy who penned *United Tastes of Texas: Authentic Recipes from All Corners of the Lone Star State*, and Pamela Walker who wrote *Growing Good Things to Eat in Texas*, joined speaker Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Director of Horticulture, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The event was appropriately themed "Authentic Texas Food and Garden."

The Fall General Meeting and Luncheon, held at The Mansion on Turtle Creek September 20 featured Nancy Nichols, Senior Editor *D Magazine Food and Dining*. A coffee prior to the meeting honored new members, who received a small orchid plant. Volunteer Days were announced as November 28 and again April 19. New this year was the Volunteer Day became an actual planting day in A Woman's Garden. Members wore casual clothes and brought their garden gloves. Social Media and Website Communication Committees announced that WCDABG was updated on Facebook and an Instagram account was added. Photographs were posted on the website from events and also Constant Contact provided all the latest news and newsletter.

During further business some Bylaw revisions to reorganize the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd VP's were presented and passed. In honor of DABS opening a Tasteful Place, a special cooking class event was planned for spring.

A Reveal Party November 16 at TOOTSIES announced the theme "A Garden by the Sea" for Mad Hatter's Tea, which paid tribute to a Gilded Age of American history and the beautiful gardens of the opulent homes in Newport, RI. Honorary Chairman for the event Linda L. Burk, MD, was celebrated during the evening, as well as past Mad Hatter's chairmen who were all recognized in the spring.

The Winter General Meeting and Luncheon December 5 at Lakewood Country Club presented "Holiday Entertaining" by Kathy Fielder, Lifestyle Blogger, and Interior Designer Terry Kennedy, along with emcee Jocelyn White of the TV Show DESIGNING TEXAS. Dave Forehand was honored with the Founders Award. Doris Anton was recognized and honored with the exclusive one-time only Lifetime Leadership Award.

A perfect day April 12 welcomed record numbers of guests to Mad Hatter's Tea at The Arboretum. As usual, Hat Judging began the event, followed by TOOTSIES Runway Show, staged by Jan Strimple Productions.

The Lisianthus Society's growth since its inception in 2015, with patron underwriting levels for our signature events and appropriate recognition also for membership, has significantly increased fundraising. A spring tea May 23 honored members.

At the Annual General Membership Meeting April 24 at Rosine Hall members were saddened to learn the news that co-founder of the Women's Council DABG Margaret McDermott had passed away. Margaret held many meetings and private gatherings in her home for the group and always was a strong supporter and endorser. She would have been pleased to know The Endowment Trust of \$1.5 M for maintenance of Phase I of AWG was again this year fully funded with raised funds and investment earnings. Dave Forehand presented "The Garden Report of the Awesome DABG." Kathleen Cunningham presented "Fashion Model Women-The Lives of Eileen Ford and Diana Vreeland." Kathy Cothrum was recognized to receive the Leadership Award and Jo Anne McCullough, the Service Award. Garden news was the completion of the Circle of Honor in Boxwood Niche.

Twenty-two travelers June 20-24 took a trip of a lifetime to Boston and on to Newport, RI. They enjoyed the Newport Flower Show, private museum homes of the Gilded Age icons, shopping, and private gardens.

Net profit distribution from proceeds raised was 70% for the Garden Account and 30% for The Endowment Trust Account for Phase II.

A carefully cultivated year of goals to increase membership, its outreach and retention, increase attendance at General Meetings, exceed fundraising targets while controlling costs, and review launching the silent phase of an endowment campaign, collectively produced a banner year. Membership increased to 470 including 50 new members. Fundraising exceeded the budgeted amounts with strategic financial planning. The Finance Committee implemented approved recommendations to manage and protect accounts better.

Barbara Hunt Crow, Honorary Chairman of A Writer's Garden, hosted a June 18 Kick-Off Reception in her beautiful home that entertained 100 people. September 13 Katherine Phillips hosted a coffee for new members in her lovely home. The Mansion on Turtle Creek Restaurant was the setting for the Fall General Meeting and Luncheon September 17. Lynn Rushton, Public Art Collection Manager for the City of Dallas, presented "Art and the Garden: The Outdoor Museum." Volunteer Day September 25 at The Arboretum allowed members the pleasure of working in the soil to plant mums and, as a bonus, a free T-shirt with WCDABG's logo. The fall tour October 25 educated members on three, significant, architecturally landscaped private gardens in Dallas; lunch at Sachet followed.

A Writer's Garden Literary Symposium and Luncheon's Patron Party November 13 afforded patrons a time to "Meet the Authors," in designer and author Betty Lou Phillips' home. International fashion and style icon and gardener Carlyne Roehm, spoke to the crowd and autographed her 13th book *Design & Style: A Constant Thread*. Colta Ives, also of New York City, NY, art historian and trained landscape designer greeted guests and signed her recent book *Public Parks, Private Gardens: Paris to Provence*. November 14 greeted a sold-out audience, of 320 at Rosine Hall at The Arboretum, who learned about "A Passion for Gardens" and also enjoyed a silent auction and garden tour of Boxwood Niche following lunch. Mike Rawlins Mayor of the City of Dallas signed a Proclamation recognizing WCDABG's 35th anniversary year, 30th year of opening A Woman's Garden, and 12th A Woman's Garden Literary Symposium and Luncheon.

A Reveal Party hosted by TOOTSIES November 28 announced the Honorary Chair Kristina Bush Whitcomb and the theme of Mad Hatter's Tea Party 2019, The Golden Age of Hollywood.

The Winter General Meeting December 4 was a decorative fantasy scene of Seven Swans A Swimming with table tops glistening at Brook Hollow Golf Club. A sold-out crowd was enlightened on current affairs by General Patrick Mordenta, Director of the Bush Presidential Library. The Founder's Award was presented to Jo Anne McCullough, who has held major offices and committee chairmanships for over 25 years for WCDABG and the Dallas community at large almost 50 years. A Girls Night Out event at Draper James January 24 raised some funds and fun.

Couples Cooking School held at Central Market proved a new, fun event February 12.

In March, Fallcreek Gardens with facilitator Warren Johnson was approved to oversee the repair of the basin and complete the cascading waterfall. Boxwood Niche's Circle of Honor floor was completed in the fall with donor recognition stones. Lead urns crafted in England were shipped for spring arrival and installation on the sides of the stone carved bench.

April 8 proved a marathon day for members with Volunteer Day at The Arboretum. Members not only planted mums in A Woman's Garden but also, could attend the Hat Judges Party. This was held with hat designer KOKIN first at L. Bartlett's at Snider Plaza April 8 and then April 9 at Sharla's on the Square in McKinney, TX, hosted by the Mad Hatter's Tea Co-chair who donated a percentage of sales to WCDABG. Tucker and Rich Enthoven hosted a Patron Party April 11 for Mad Hatter's Tea at their home. A fresh rain and then sunlight greeted the sold-out crowd for Mad Hatter's first, at a reception and hat judging at A Tasteful Place and then, at Rosine Hall for a Fashion Show by TOOTSIES, produced by Jan Strimple. Awards and auction prior to a fantastic lunch ended a perfect day.

The Lisianthus Society's annual tea and program April 18 treated members at the home of Claire Cheney. On May 8 at the first General Meeting for WCDABG at A Tasteful Place, Executive Chef John Tesar of Knife Restaurant presented his live "Cooking with John Tesar" program, providing samples with a luncheon that followed. During the meeting Dorothea Meltzer was recognized with the Service Award for serving in all aspects of the organization and Lisa Meyer was honored with the Leadership Award for her

expertise in financial management and planning.

For the year WCDABG contributed \$218,649 to DABS for the maintenance and development of A Woman's Garden. This included \$32,582 in capital improvements and \$186,067 in Phase I and Phase II Maintenance. A portion of year-end funds will be allocated to the

Endowment Savings account once the final cost of the Reflective Basin repair and water feature are known.

2019 - 2020 Mrs. Lawrence D. Stuart, Jr. (Venise), president

An exceptional year focused on long range planning, launching a five-year Endowment Campaign, and defining versatile membership opportunities. These business plans proved valuable assets. Personalized communication in multiple media platforms wove WCDABG together. A pandemic virus that affected everyone globally tested the organization's resilience, creativity, versatility, and leadership ability to meet challenges.

The fall calendar moved quickly after summer, full of intense heat and exhaustion, was spent planning the year. Events and meetings rewarded members with the chance to refresh friendships and welcome new members. Total membership reached 519 with 115 new. Fifty-six members joined at patron levels to become Lisianthus Society members.

The September 16 Fall Meeting and Luncheon at The Mansion on Turtle Creek featured Tary Arterburn, cofounder of Studio Outside, who presented a program on landscape architecture. On Volunteer Day September 18, members got a chance to plant in AWG and received free tee shirts with WCDABG's logo.

Ginger Sager hosted the New Member Tea October 14 that was underwritten by City Café. A Fall Day trip toured the gorgeous home and gardens of Peggy Sewell on October 17, with a special lunch at Nosh. Major repairs for AWG's Infinity Pool were well underway with Warren Johnson's Fallcreek Gardens in charge. The Long Range Planning Committee used a survey canvassing the Board's opinions on strengths and weaknesses, and asking for ideas and suggestions.

A Writer's Garden Literary Symposium and Luncheon event's theme, *Celebrating SOUTHERN STYLE*, was officially announced at the home of Karen and Craig Goodman. Two internationally renowned speakers Bunny Williams, Interior Designer and Author, and Rebecca Wesson Darwin, Cofounder and CEO of *Garden and Gun*, entertained a sold-out crowd of 340 with their presentations. Carmen Hancock was Honorary Chair for the 13th annual event held November 19 at Rosine Hall. Skip Hollandsworth emceed. Five publications sponsored the event; *Garden and Gun* was national. Lucy Billingsley shared her fabulous home with patrons for "An Intimate Evening with the Speakers" on November 18.

TOOTSIES in Preston Center hosted The Reveal for Mad Hatters Tea 2020. The fun and elegant evening reception November 21 announced the theme, The Art of CHIC, with artwork by Lynn Townsend Dealey. Robin Carreker graciously accepted to be Honorary Chair. The gala event with Hat Judging, TOOTSIES Fashion Show produced by Jan Strimple Productions, Hat Awards and Live Auction with an outdoor seated luncheon was on track for April 16.

The Winter General Meeting and Founders Award Presentation became A Nutcracker Suite Celebration Luncheon on December 3 at Brook Hollow Golf Club. Giant wooden nutcracker men greeted 145 guests. The Dallas Strings Quartet thrilled members with music of the season. Barbara Bigham, one of the Women's Council's founding members, a major donor to The Arboretum, who has chaired many events both for WCDABG and other civic groups, received the Founders Award.

On December 9, a Couples Cooking Class of 22 learned how to cook steaks for a large crowd with Chef Michelle Rodort at Central Market. Restoration began on the Wind Harp, and the Harmony Repose will be the next project. The Long Range Planning Committee met to develop a plan for 3, 5, and 10 years and the Board's survey results. It plans to discuss with DABS to coordinate AWG to the DABS Master Plan. The Judges and Hat Category Reveal Party was held at Empressive Earth Gallery. TOOTSIES hosted a Tanya Taylor Trunk Show March 5-7 with percentages of purchases benefitting WCDABG.

On March 24 the Executive Committee met along with a few officers to discuss, according to the president, "the immediate and pressing details that would affect WCDABG for the next weeks and months" due to the city's mandate to close city parks March 18 because of the current Covid-19 virus pandemic. The president expressed, "the major concern was for the health and welfare of

members.” The Mad Hatters Tea decision would be announced on the website after a discussion with possible rescheduling, doing a virtual style show. A letter would be sent by email to donors with options for donations or refunds and a promise of appropriate recognition for donors. It was decided to handle the election of officers by email to the membership if the May meeting was to be cancelled. The Board had unanimously approved the slate at its March 3 Meeting. Since nothing like this had ever happened before, the true leadership of WCDABG guided the organization.

Ultimately, The Mad Hatters Tea and Patron Event were cancelled. A printed program with artwork that listed sponsors, donors, the menu, and credits, was mailed to each donor. The Arboretum had to cancel Volunteer Day April 22. The Girls’ Night Out Cooking Class, the Trip to Secret Gardens of Charleston May 11-15, the Annual Meeting and Luncheon May 19 at A Tasteful Place with Speaker Trammell S. Crow presenting an educational program on Earth X, formerly Earth Day Texas, and The Lisianthus Society Tea May 21 were all cancelled. Usually, the Leadership and Service Awards are given at the May General Meeting. However, these most deserving ladies Jessica Horn and Sarah Andry were honored at the September 23 General Meeting on Zoom. Jessica earned the Leadership and Sarah, the Service Award. An email was sent to the membership with the Officers’ Slate for 2020-2021 for approval; with no objections received, the slate was accepted by acclamation.

For the year, WCDABG contributed \$317,256 to DABS for the maintenance and development of A Woman’s Garden, including Maintenance in the amount of \$182,479 and Capital Improvement of \$134,777 for repair of the Reflective Basin. Funds were contributed through the Endowment Garden Fund and fundraising events.

What better mission than to support a garden, A Woman’s Garden, bound in trust agreement to support The Arboretum, can a non-profit have? A Woman’s Garden exists to enjoy a place of beauty outdoors in times of stress, challenges, reflection, and soul-searching, times as we are now experiencing in an unprecedented way.

2020-2021 Mrs. Peter Weeks (Kay), president

Creativity and perseverance characterized the fund-raising efforts of the Women’s Council during the year of 2020-21. While the COVID-19 virus forced many groups to cancel meetings, social gatherings, and charitable events, the Women’s Council, under the direction of President Kay Weeks, developed technical expertise for the management of Zoom meetings and virtually attended lecture programs. In addition, it restructured social gatherings around outdoor venues that provided members a way to congregate at safe distances while maintaining the customary atmosphere of congenial festivity. As a result, the year 2020-21 saw the Women’s Council successfully follow its calendar of scheduled activities with almost no postponements or cancellations and end the year in a fiscally sound position.

At her first board meeting, held June 17 via Zoom, President Kay Weeks stated goals for the year that were both optimistic and challenging. These goals included increasing the membership, initiating the Endowment Campaign, establishing a Planned Giving program, and providing members fun opportunities to socialize and become better acquainted with each other. In addition to these hopes for expanded outreach, she stated her expectations that our Long-Range Plan would be adopted and that our annual financial commitment to A Woman’s Garden would be met.

Thanks to the magic of Zoom, the month of September saw our calendar of activities open at its usual busy pace. Membership VP Mary Ellen Winborn, along with Kunthea Mam Douglas, welcomed new members with an ingeniously designed Zoom call orientation. In conjunction with Sarah Jo Hardin’s newly devised “Fun Fridays” program, Michelle Mew hosted our first-ever birthday gathering in A Woman’s Garden for members whose birthdays were during the summer or in September. Those attending were treated to a variety of beautiful activities from which to choose, including a tour of the Kip’s Bay Decorator Show House, a stroll through The Arboretum’s Pumpkin Patch with Sarah Andry and Pier Burgess, and lunch at the DeGolyer. Thanks to the hard work of Connie Rhoades and Deborah Brown, who put together our page for North Texas Giving Day, our proceeds raised that day were double the funds collected last year. For the Fall General Meeting on September 23, Zoom provided video conferencing for a program of panelists who addressed the topic Making a Difference: The Power and Role of Women in Philanthropy. A successful Volunteer Day arranged by Emily Jourdan and Sue John completed the activities of the month. The enthusiastic momentum created in September continued throughout the autumn months of October and November. Garden birthday parties and Fun Friday activities continued to give members a chance to celebrate and to connect with each other, our garden, and the community at large. October 21, a Fall Day Trip, arranged by Janet Sue Rush and Patti Mitchell, took a group of members to the Tom and Phyllis McCasland Horticulture Center, where the Arboretum greenhouse grows and nurtures plants from tiny seedlings. In November Suzanne Millet put together another Women’s Council first, a virtual Writer’s Garden Literary Symposium and Luncheon. With a technology Crew (Maurice Ballev/MCB Video Productions) to handle videotaping and airing the outstanding speakers and a team to deliver Preston Hollow Caterers’ wonderful box lunches to ticket purchasers, the Writer’s Garden committee produced an event of educational

excellence and delightful, engaging welcome 172 to the world of home and garden. Critically acclaimed Lisa Fine and James Farmer delivered lectures that were not to be missed, while our own Jocelyn White, as emcee, provided seamless continuity for the presentation. Diane Sealy was the supportive Honorary Chair.

Heading into winter, the Women's Council closed the month of November with a Mad Hatter's Reveal video that was both entertaining and informative. With a lion roaring in the background, Mad Hatter's chair Jolie Humphrey introduced the theme "Out of Africa, Into the Garden" and announced Carole Ann Brown as Honorary Chair. The following day, December 1, Zoom again allowed the Women's Council to maintain its meeting schedule with a virtual Winter Meeting. President Kay Weeks announced that our Founder's Day Award festivities had been deferred to the May meeting, when members could meet in person. Program VP Sarah Jo Hardin acknowledged the wonderful musical performer planned for the winter meeting, Pam Musgrove. Sarah Jo stated that Pam would perform for us at some other time, when she could properly showcase her talent.

With the exception of Fun Fridays, the months of January and February were quiet ones, due to continued COVID restrictions and February's unprecedented winter cold. Women's Council officers persevered in behind-the-scenes preparations for the spring months, which shook Council members out of their inactivity with an explosion of events. A successful Volunteer Day saw fifteen members plant approximately 100 Hellebores and clean out plants that did not survive the winter freeze. A beautiful Patron Party arranged by Dyann Skelton at the Northwood Country Club preceded our Mad Hatter's Tea, held April 15. Greeting tea-goers that day were life-size replicas of wild animals that transformed Ginsburg Plaza into a sanctuary for African safari enthusiasts. The signature event was itself transformed a bit this year, with a new afternoon timeframe, which celebrated the art of a lady-like tea in authentic style. A few days later, on April 20, members were feted with a Spring Social featuring an elegant wine-tasting party with French scholar Elizabeth New Seitz as presenter. The event was chaired by Mary MacRae.

Having postponed the annual New Member Welcome Party in the fall, Kunthea Mam Douglas resurrected the get-together with a New Member Garden Party on the evening of May 4. The cocktail party, held in A Woman's Garden, provided a gracious way to welcome and say "thank you" to those newly supporting our group. The closing meeting of the year, the Founder's Award Meeting and Luncheon, was a royal affair with speaker Chef Darren McGrady, the Royal Chef to Princess Diana, and to other Royals as well. The Founder's Award went to the most deserving Mary Brinegar, whose support and direction is in large part responsible for the continued success of The Dallas Arboretum. Leadership Award was presented to Sarah Jo Hardin, and the Service Award to Sharon Ballew. Mari Epperson and Marcy Jones were Day Chairs for the meeting. Festivities in May did not end with the meeting, however. A magnificent Lisianthus Tea, chaired by Kathy Cothrum and held at the stunning estate of Lisa and Clay Cooley, honored Women's Council members who had paid dues or patronized at least one event at the Lisianthus level. (\$500 or above for a single ticket.) Crowning the year was a much-anticipated, sold-out trip to the Berkshires and Hudson Valley, during which travelers were treated to hospitality by Bunny Williams at her Connecticut estate garden. Highlights also included a visit to Innisfree Garden, the home of painter Frederic Church, Edith Wharton's The Mount, and the Gilded Age estate of Naumkeag. Co-ordinated by Nancy Connor and Linda Spina in conjunction with ISDI Travel, this fabulous trip concluded a Women's Council year that was outstandingly successful despite remarkable challenges.

2021-2022 Mrs. Kendall Laughlin (Lisa), president

Exceptional financial success marked the presidency of Mrs. Kendall Laughlin (Lisa,) under whose leadership the Women's Council preserved, developed, and enlarged its strong economic foundation inherited from previous years. In addition, the talented oversight of Membership Vice President Barbara Averitt encouraged an expanded number of new members representing diverse age and interest groups. These new members joined and accepted leadership positions, thus enriching the Women's Council's relationships with a widening circle of volunteer organizations within the Dallas community.

At her board meeting in June, President Laughlin set the tone and focus for the year by announcing that the sixteen-year-old commitment to complete funding of the Phase II Endowment for A Woman's Garden had been achieved. She further noted that the completion was accomplished four years earlier than had been pledged to the Arboretum. She gave credit for the achievement of this milestone in part to the previous year's successful fundraisers, a generous donor gift, and a strong stock market. But President Laughlin also gave enormous credit to the finance committee and the Endowment Campaign Committee chaired by Sharon Ballew. Under the guidance of the Endowment Committee, donors contributing \$15,000 or more to its campaign are recognized with an engraved stone in the Circle of Honor. Though ongoing, the Endowment Campaign had reached 76% of its goal by the end of Lisa Laughlin's term in May 2022.

Completion of the Phase II Endowment commitment gave momentum to the fundraising efforts of the 2021-2022 year. The Lisianthus Society, composed of members who join or support Women's Council events at a patron level, claimed a record number of members – 250! A lovely tea, hosted by the Traditions, honored them in May. And, as A Woman's Garden celebrated its 25th Anniversary in September, a unique and fanciful fundraiser in the form of a "birthday party" delighted those attending on October 4. Barbara Bigham and her committee created a stand-alone event that was both elegant and whimsical, complete with birthday cake and a flurry of butterflies released to fly about the beautiful plantings in A Woman's Garden. Thanks to the creative strategy and careful planning of Barbara's team, this 25th Anniversary Birthday Party brought in welcome revenue to jump-start the fundraisers on our calendar. A stone in the Circle of Honor represents the financial success of the party.

November brought "A Writer's Garden Literary Symposium and Luncheon," chaired by a new participant on the Board, Sandy Ammons. With Sandy's enthusiastic direction, the event contributed a record amount for the support of A Woman's Garden. The exquisite appointments for the luncheon held in Rosine Hall brought the theme "Everything's Coming Up Roses" to life for all who were there. Further emphasizing the theme was Michael Shoup, founder of the Antique Rose Emporium, who brought with him his beautiful coffee table book *Empress of the Garden*. Completing the list of outstanding speakers for the symposium were Bettie Bearden Pardee, tastemaker from Newport, and Susan Sully, author and photographer from Charleston, South Carolina, whose presentation and book *Southern Hospitality at Home* champion the lifestyle of the South. Vivacious Calvert Collins Bratton presided as the gracious Mistress of Ceremonies. Members of the Women's Council had been treated in June to a beautiful and entertaining Announcement Party at the home of Donna Arp Weitzman, where Marilyn Weber was introduced as the Writer's Garden Honorary Chair. A gorgeous Patron Party was orchestrated by Susan Geyer prior to the symposium and luncheon.

The high level of enthusiastic participation among Women's Council members that was so evident in the fall continued throughout the spring. In April new member Claire Catrino and her talented group of friends produced a spectacular Mad Hatter's. With a DALLAS theme, the event offered members and guests an opportunity to "tip their hats" to our city in support of A Woman's Garden. The time-honored, signature fundraiser featured a Hat Judging arena, where participants walked the red carpet in hopes of winning recognition for their imaginative hat creations. In addition, guests were treated to professional informal modeling of exquisite fashions from Tootsies – all artistically choreographed by Jan Strimple, while they enjoyed a scrumptious serving of tea delicacies. A gracious patron party arranged by Jolie Humphrey and Mari Epperson had kicked off the festivities, but the highlight of the tea came from Honorary Chair Laurie Sands Harrison, a native Dallasite, who shared her love for our city and its heritage in a charming, personal account of Dallas history. The novel DALLAS theme inspired a record number of people to attend this year's Mad Hatter's, and it generated a record number of patrons as well, making it one of our most successful Mad Hatter's in support of our Garden.

Besides fundraising, a major purpose of the Women's Council is sharing with one another the joy we derive from the Garden itself. In addition to the fundraising events, this goal was further accomplished through three expertly planned General Meetings and a series of social gatherings, many held in A Woman's Garden. In September Mary Brinegar and Phil Huey gave us an update and pertinent information about the Arboretum and shared some history of A Woman's Garden. The December General Meeting featured a FRONTGATE design team that showed us creative ways to refresh our homes for the holidays. In May Junior Villanueva of The Garden Gate displayed the power of flowers and beautiful table settings with his presentation "Eye Appeal is Half the Meal." The May 2022 General Meeting was particularly significant, as President Lisa Laughlin elected to conclude with a special ceremony in which the Wind Harp Terrace, a gift of former president and deceased member Sue Ringle, was dedicated. The social gatherings that filled the 2021-22 calendar included a Fun Friday at Kip's Bay (Sarah Hardin, Chair,) Birthdays in the Garden (Michelle Mew and Pepsi Windland,) two Volunteer Days (Mari Epperson,) a spring couple's party "Fiesta" (Joni Kreig and Lilli Braniff,) and a spring trip to Palm Beach, led by Nancy Connor. These events and other informal, impromptu get-togethers provided Women's Council members excellent opportunities to be together and to reap the rewards of friendship earned from their genuine commitment to A Woman's Garden.

To bring such a full calendar of activities to successful completion requires dedicated hard work from the members of any organization. Women's Council members are legendary for their willingness to give of themselves for the cause they support. However, each year there are a few women whose generosity and long-term commitment deserve special recognition. President Laughlin chose the May meeting as the time and place for these individuals to receive their awards. Receiving the 2022 Founders Award was Sharon Ballew; the Leadership Award was given to Mary Ellen Winborn; the Service Award went to Lisa Meyer. Several other honors were given this year to members who have worked tirelessly for Women's Council over a long period of time. Recognizing them for their longtime service, President Lisa Laughlin presented Dorothea Meltzer and Emily Lynn Wilson the ABOVE AND BEYOND Award. The Legacy Leadership Award went to Carole Ann Brown. And for her lifetime of love and time commitment to the Women's Council, Patricia Cowlshaw was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The heartfelt desire of every Women's Council Member is to leave as a legacy to the Dallas community the joy and beauty that come from a visit to A Woman's Garden. Our members Pier Burgess and Sarah Andry, Eighth Vice Presidents in charge of Garden Projects, have left this beautiful commentary about the garden for our reflection and inspiration: "The garden has been rejuvenated! With the diligent and expert guidance from Dave Forehand and Warren Johnson, damaged and missing plants have been replaced and three major projects are well underway: The Poetry Garden, Vitex Alee, and The Sue RingleWind Harp Terrace.... AWG sparkled after the rains, as we guided our tour groups during the Fun Friday Birthday Party gatherings. It was really spectacular to see the transformation in the spring, when the shades of brown and gray colors and sleeping planting beds came to life with blossoming color. Many of us were treated to the songs of the newly refurbished wind harp, which put smiles on all our faces."

What greater reward for sacrifice great or small can anyone desire than to know the positive influence A Woman's Garden leaves in the lives of others?

2022-2023 Mrs. Mark A. Hardin (Sarah Jo), president
Fortieth Anniversary Year

The 40th Anniversary Year of The Women's Council, with the inviting theme "Growing Friendships for 40 Years," proved to be both royal and record-setting! Members' enthusiastic participation and membership enrollment at 583 ensured ardent support for member activity, both in attendance and in financial contribution. The largest increase in Patrons joining the Lisianthus Society since the honor group's inception inspired celebrations with two planned events: a party for Gold and Silver Level Lisianthus Patrons at Valley House in March and the traditional Lisianthus Society Tea in May at the historic Aldredge House.

Highlighting fall events, the 40th Anniversary Noble Celebration Week included an extraordinary Writer's Garden and a magnificent Ruby Red Gala. These events exceeded expectations in their display of creative planning and in their success at motivating members to attend, even furnishing tiaras for those who came. A Writer's Garden (AWG) was a remarkable occasion that featured a personal presentation "Tales of Highclere Castle" by very special author Lady Fiona Carnarvon, the Right Honorable Countess of Carnarvon. Accordingly, AWG had all the bells and whistles of a royal literary gala. The 40th Anniversary Ruby Red Gala was a magical, beautifully executed event, and a festive Patron Party initiated "A Noble Celebration Week" in the exquisitely appointed home of Holly and Phillip Huffines. Honorary Chairs for A Writer's Garden were Donna and Herb Weitzman, while Dr. Linda Burk and her husband Dr. John Gilmore were the Ruby Red Gala Honorary Chairs.

On April 20, the 35th Annual Mad Hatter's, our largest fundraiser of the year, continued the regal theme that characterized events of 2022-2023. With the title of "Majestic Mad Hatter's: A Celebration of English Elegance," the event, a long-established tradition for Women's Council members, netted a record amount of profit, thanks to the efforts of a talented team of fundraising leaders who inspired members and non-member friends alike to take part in the spectacular fun of the occasion. Fashion and artistic craft displays, a floral swing and mock British phone booth for photo opportunities, and an enticing silent auction were combined with a lovely British-themed luncheon to make the fundraiser truly memorable. Honorary Chair Kim Hext oversaw the festivities, while Cindy and Michael Rosenthal hosted the Patron Party.

The overall success of the year's fundraisers, generous donor gifts that were further enhanced by Circle of Honor Patrons and North Texas Giving Day contributions, and the foresight of the Endowment Trust Committee allowed the Women's Council Board to create a new Capital Garden Projects Funding Account within the WCDABG Endowment Trust. The Women's Council was able to contribute \$600,000 to this new account. A Woman's Garden benefitted greatly from the year's financial success, and combined with judicial planning by the Council, enabled refurbishment and renewal of garden areas that had been damaged due to cold, inclement weather.

Besides raising money to maintain the existence and beauty of A Woman's Garden, a major responsibility of the Women's Council is developing a sense of appreciation and commitment to the garden among the members of the organization. To fulfill this responsibility, social gatherings and general meetings cemented member friendships and their experiences within A Woman's Garden itself.

The uplifting New Member party at OKA and the creative Fun Friday events that included 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 meet new friends and to become engaged with our organization.

Birthdays in the Garden provided entertaining ways for members to congregate throughout the year, while a couples' event at Central Market in March allowed members to share the fun with husbands or friends. Volunteer Days encouraged contact with the actual work of planting and nurturing A Woman's Garden, and FIESTA crowned the end of the social calendar with a delightful gathering for members, husbands, and friends.

Fabulous day trips - one to private Highland Park gardens and McKinney, and one to Rough Creek Lodge and Glen Rose - gave participants the opportunity to broaden their garden experiences. As a special climax to the calendar of trips, members were offered the opportunity to attend the Chelsea Flower Show. In addition to the flower show they visited English gardens, manor houses, and the royal estates of Highgrove, Blenheim Palace, and Highclere Castle, where private tours gave them insiders' views of the historic residences. At Highclere, Lady Carnarvon herself treated Women's Council visitors to tea and a personal tour of the renowned Egyptian antiquities that are housed at Highclere.

In a more serious vein, three expertly planned General Meetings informed members about the business of the Women's Council while they provided them with educational programs and luncheon. On September 14 the fall meeting "A Crown Jewel Luncheon" provided a program where Lindsey Abernathy shared the goals and upcoming plans of the Trinity Park Conservancy. In December a fanciful musical program for the holidays "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" proved both uplifting and relaxing, as Pam Musgrove's band played music for the season. At the Annual "Bee-utiful" Meeting in May, two renowned chefs, Toby Archibald and Ricardo Sanchez, divulged tips from the food and restaurant trade to create "A Tasteful Ending" to the year. In addition, four outstanding members were recognized for exceptional volunteer commitment: Sandy Ammons with the 2023 Leadership Award, Connie Rhoades with the 2023 Service Award, Lisa Meyer for "Above and Beyond" dedication, and Dorothea Meltzer with the Founder's Award for her tireless efforts on behalf of A Woman's Garden.

The achievements for the 40th Anniversary Year of the Women's Council are noteworthy, and its success exceeded expectations. While records are made to be broken, the year will set the bar high for a while! The President graciously credited all volunteers as angels with serving hands and generous hearts who made 2022-2023 an especially remarkable 40th year.