MAD HATTERS TEA – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th

A signature event for our Women’s Council and one of Dallas’ most anticipated spring happenings is our annual Mad Hatters Tea. This year’s theme, Lavender and Roses, is executed amidst the spectacular floral backdrop of the Arboretum’s Spring Dallas Blooms (March 10th – April 17th). Our Mad Hatters Tea incorporates this year’s Dallas Bloom’s French festival theme as well – Eiffel Flower – featuring a 15-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower atop a festive topiary filled with thousands of flowers. To borrow a French superlative, the 2006 Mad Hatters Tea will be a “nonpareil” event – without equal – as our guests enjoy champagne cocktails, the exciting spring lines selected from Walker-Row in Highland Park, all beautifully modeled in a fashion show produced by Dallas’ own Jan Strimple, and afternoon tea on the terrace shared with our festive, floral and fashionable-hatted ladies. And what a treat to finish your afternoon with a stroll through our very own, newly opened expansion to “A Woman’s Garden.”

Donna Miller, chairwoman for the 2006 Mad Hatter’s Tea, Mrs. Linda Ivy, honorary chairwoman, and this year’s committee invite you to share in what promises to be one of the seasons most memorable and enjoyable social occasions. Do not miss this opportunity to explore your millinery creativity, and appreciate that of our guests. Each year we award special recognition to those ladies whose fabulous hats stand out and this year is no exception. Our categories this year are: “Botanical,” “Whimsical,” “Elegant,” “Vintage” and “Ensemble of Friends” for those ladies who join together to present a common theme in their millinery masterpieces. Several lucky winners will leave with wonderful mementos of the day, glad that they purchased raffle tickets from our raffle committee co-chairs, Kim Matthews and Sarah Seddelmeyer.

The Mad Hatters Tea will begin at 12 noon on Wednesday, April 19th at the Dallas Arboretum, with complementary valet parking provided. Individual ticket prices are $130 each, or donors underwriting a table of ten may do so at a $1,750 level or greater. Don’t forget that as well as enjoying a wonderful afternoon, the Mad Hatters Tea is an important fund-raiser in our on-going efforts to fund the construction and endowment of “A Woman’s Garden.” We are currently soliciting underwriting at six different levels and invite your support. Look for your invitation in early March. Should you have any questions or wish to participate in our underwriting efforts, please contact Donna Miller at (972) 378-3976. (Photo collage of WC members and supporters of Mad Hatters Tea.)
Presidents Corner

Wow! My year as president is half over – where has the time gone? Our eagerly awaited completion of Phase II of A Woman’s Garden will be in time for the Spring Dallas Blooms (March 10th – April 17th) at the Arboretum. I recently toured Phase II and it is going to be an absolutely beautiful addition to our garden. The WC has a March 16th Volunteer Day during Blooms (contact Beverly Morrison or Marilyn Schmidt for details) which would be a great opportunity to see the garden.

Though Phase II construction on our Garden is all but complete, we are not done! There is still more money to be raised to fund the endowment as well as future enhancements, which means our fund raising projects are still VERY important. Speaking of which, coming up is the Mad Hatters Tea. Donna Miller and her committee have been working very hard to make this an important event in Dallas and to raise awareness of the Women’s Council efforts in support of the Arboretum. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is truly a special place, not only in Dallas, but in the country. This year’s tea will be an event you will not want to miss, believe me. It will be a sellout event and invitations are going out soon, so be sure to make your reservations early.

I want to offer a very special thank you to Nancy Rothacker, Linda Lynn and their wonderful committee for a fabulous Children’s Christmas Party. It was a tremendous success, fun and festive for young and “old”. Cheryl Brown, VP, Service and Education, organized a wonderful trip to the Woman’s Museum and Flight Museum with a delicious lunch at Angela’s Bistro. The next trip on April 18th is to Ennis, Texas for a docent-guided excursion through the Wildflowers & Blue Bonnets, then back to Dallas to tour the Federal Reserve Bank (lunch included).

Carol Murphy and Beth Wood are co-hostesses of the May 18th Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Royal Oaks County Club. Our speaker, Tom Kelley, Creative Director for “dr delphinium designs & events” will share some great ideas on floral arrangement. Additionally, the Nominating Committee will present its slate for the 2006 - 2007 officers at this meeting. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Thanks, Nancy

Service and Education

November 29th Cheryl Brown and our WC members enjoyed a guided tour of The Women’s Museum at Fair Park and the Frontiers of Flight museum. Tuesday, April 18th Cheryl has a trip planned to Ennis, TX to see the Bluebonnets and wild flowers, lunch at a local café, and then on to a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank. The next trip, Wednesday, May 24th is a guided tour of Dallas historical city sites and old cemeteries. Uncover the lives of famous outlaws Bonnie & Clyde and more. Lunch is at a restaurant en route. A $60 check forwarded to Cheryl is your reservation for a trip. Check your calendars, as the cost is non-refundable. Mail checks to: Cheryl Brown * 7623 Meadow Rd * Dallas 75230 Questions: 214-739-4343

Spring Volunteer Day

The Women’s Council Dallas Blooms Volunteer Day is Thursday, March 16th. Spring Dallas Blooms is March 10th to April 17th, and will showcase 400,000 spring-blooming bulbs, 80,000 pansies, violas, delphiniums, poppies and more, 20,000 azaleas in 2,400 cultivars and thousands of other spring-blooming annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. Volunteer Day is a great opportunity to see the Arboretum, so if you wish to volunteer call the Volunteer Co-chairs: Marilyn Schmidt: 214-363-5488 or Beverly Morrison: 214-373-4263 or e-mail: bwattsm@swbell.net

Membership

Carolyn Robbins announced that as of the end of 2005 our Women’s Council has 749 members. All members are encouraged to attend the wonderfully planned general meetings, and as a reminder, members have the option of enjoying lunch and the meeting, OR simply attending the meeting only. A table(s) will be provided at all general meetings for those attending the meeting only, and new and renewing members who chose not to dine are always welcome! Carolyn would like to extend a special thanks to the membership for joining and renewing their memberships, and the privilege of serving as the VP, Membership this 2005 – 2006 year. Directory updates below:

1. (New) Beverly Ann Hayes * 5931 Bent Creek Trail * Dallas, TX 75252 * (214) 653-1110
2. (New) Gaye Kaiser * 7700 Greenway Blvd, Box 159 * Dallas, TX 75209 * (214) 558-8295
3. (New) Teresa J. Smith * 5325 Tate Avenue * Plano, TX 75093 * (972) 608-8718
4. (New) Jewel M. Williams * P.O. box 801623 * Dallas, TX 75380 * (972) 960-2942
5. Directory address change: Mrs. Paul Pettit (Elizabeth Paige) * 7145 Pasadena Avenue * Dallas, TX 5214 * (214-660-0494)

Note, the annual WC–DABG membership dues will increase from $40 to $50 next year.
This is such an exciting year for our Women’s Council. The photos below, taken after the February 16th winter meeting at the Arboretum show how near completion is the 1.7 acre Phase II expansion of “A Woman's Garden.” Most of the hardscape and walkways are done, and much of the planting is complete. We invite every one of our members to come experience the beauty of this garden!

**The Acequia Garden:** Water plunges into the Acequia from a boulderstock just below the Grotto or Genesis Garden, flowing along a serpentine channel through native woodlands, down a water stair into a round stone cistern.

**The Rockery:** Bounded on the north by Phase I and the western lakeside boundary, the Rockery marks the terminus of a series of five distinct garden spaces situated along the stream. It includes the tallest creek side cliff face, a stone wellhead and a stepped terrace of aged limestone boulders inner planted with shade loving perennials.

**The Brides Walk:** Leading north from the Genesis Garden to the Gazebo through a grove of Dawn Redwoods the Brides Walk is bordered on the east by an evergreen oakleaf holly hedge and on the west by a maple/ginkgo woodland.

With grateful appreciation, the Women’s Council recognizes those members who have financially supported Phase II. ✪ Carole Ann & Dick Brown (East Entrance) ✪ Martha & Willard Baker (Fernwood Fold) ✪ Joyce McClellan (Engraved Stone); Benches: ✪ Doris Anton ✪ Linda & Allen Huffhines ✪ Claire Cunningham ✪ Pat Yanigan-Eigen

**A Woman’s Garden, Phase II Opening Gala**

Co-chairs Emilynn Wilson, Shelby Marcus and Patricia Cowlishaw are planning the black tie gala celebrating the completion and opening of Phase II of *A Woman’s Garden*. Enjoy cocktails, an opportunity to view the garden,
A Woman's Garden, Phase II Opening Gala (continued)
and a seated dinner on the DeGolyer Verandah and tented terrace. Doris Anton, Underwriting Chairman, will mail letters and underwriting contracts soon. Mark your calendar and plan to enjoy this festive evening as we celebrate the realization of our dream, the completion of A Woman's Garden.

Annual Leadership Conference

All members of the Women's Council are invited, and incoming board members in particular are urged to attend, the annual leadership conference. The conference provides an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and information, designed to promote effective leadership within the Women’s Council. This year for the first time, two Women’s Council members will be honored with special awards recognizing service dedication. (Luncheon served)

Highlighting the program are three dynamic speakers, Dr. Ann Stuart, Mr. Roger Gault and Dr. Jeannine Sandstrom. Dr. Stuart is Chancellor and President of Texas Woman’s University (Denton) and previously served as president of Rensselaer at Hartford, a graduate school associated with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, NY.

Mr. Roger Gault, founder of the Gault Company, is Chairman of the DABS Board, and has spent over 25 years in real estate acquisition, investment and development. Dr. Jeannine Sandstrom is the Founder and CEO of CoachWorks, International and is an internationally known Executive Leader Coach. (Door prizes for seminar participants.) Your $25 check is your reservation; mail to: Ruth Barnard/9530 Covemeadow Drive/Dallas, TX 75205

Spring Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the spring annual meeting at the Royal Oaks Country club, located at 7915 Greenville Avenue, near 75 Central Expressway and Royal Lane in Dallas. Our speaker, Tom Kelley, Creative Director for Dr. Delphinium Designs & Events, will share some creative ideas in floral design. Carol Murphy and Beth Wood are the meeting co-hostesses. Invitations will be mailed to membership.

(www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org) 2005–2006 Newsletters posted & archived on the website)

Nancy Murphy
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