Mad Hatter’s Tea: **Wednesday, April 22nd, 11am – 2pm**

Women’s Council members and guests may look forward to a very special Mad Hatter’s Tea Party at the Dallas Arboretum this year. Mad Hatter’s co-chairmen, **Connie Rhoades** and **Jewel Williams**, *(photo by DaVinci)* and their committee members have planned a number of events for the day – all in keeping with the _Under The Cherry Blossoms_ Japanese theme. We are pleased to have **Mrs. Margaret Crow** as our honorary chairman, who with her husband, Trammell Crow shared a life-long interest in Asian art, culminating in the founding of **The Trammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art** located in the Dallas Arts District. 

Upon entering the garden, the softly expressive tones of the Japanese koto, a centuries old 13-string instrument will welcome guests as they begin the day with a sparkling glass of champagne. Passing by a beautifully designed Japanese Zen garden, created by our spring meeting speaker, John Powell, guests may mingle and admire the demonstration of a Japanese Tea Ceremony, Japanese calligraphy, the intricate and whimsical paper folding art of Origami, or simply admire the Ikebana Japanese style of floral arrangement presented for our guests’ enjoyment. Students of Stephen Dubberly, Associate Professor and Music Director of the Opera Theatre at the University of North Texas, will perform arias from Madame Butterfly. The centerpiece of the day’s program will be a runway fashion show featuring the fashions of Highland Park Village boutiques: St. John, Tory Burch and Anne Fontaine – produced by Dallas’ own Jan Strimple. Afterwards, attendees will enjoy a tented luncheon served on the plaza by Gil’s Elegant Catering.

As in years past, the program will include recognition of our attendees millinery creativity in the following hat judging categories: thematic, creative, whimsical, elegant/vintage and previous winners circle. Guests may support event fundraising goals for **A Woman’s Garden** with bids on the silent auction items on the day of the event. Mad Hatter’s Tea invitations will be mailed with an RSVP for individual tickets @ $150 each or patron/table sponsorships as well as the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets @ $25 each or five for $100; raffle tickets will NOT be sold the day of the event. On-line ticket sales at: [www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org](http://www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org)

**six lucky raffle winners (need not be present to win) will go home with one of the following:**

- **$5,000 gift certificate from William Noble boutique in Highland Park Village**
- **Three-night getaway at CordeValle, A Rosewood Resort (San Martin, California Spa & Golf retreat) with two roundtrip tickets from Southwest Airlines (valued @ $2,600)**
- **$2,000 gift certificate from Highland Park Village; use in any of 60 fine retailers & 5 restaurants**
- **Ann Cushing Gantz oil painting, valued @ $1,200**
- **$1,000 gift certificate from Carolina Herrera Boutique in Highland Park Village**
- **Private Champagne Party at St. John Boutique in Highland Park Village for winner and four of her friends. Each guest receives a $100 gift card and a special gift to take home; valued @ $1,000**

Questions/Reservations: Please contact Lynda Willis • 214-766-2314 • lcw0116@verizon.net
President’s Letter

Dear friends, as I look around town I see unmistakable signs that Spring is arriving. That means it is almost time for our 21st Mad Hatter’s Tea Party on April 22nd! It will be a very special one due to the creativity of Co-Chairmen Connie Rhoades and Jewel Williams and their hard-working committee. You won’t want to miss it!

Since our last newsletter, we have enjoyed many entertaining and educational events. For our winter general meeting, Harriett Gibbs, Misty Smathers, Missy MacNaughton and Michelle Weisfeld treated us to a bountiful southern holiday breakfast followed by Chris Brown’s holiday decoration demonstration. Several lucky members took home his creations! Our lovely Mother - Daughter Christmas Tea filled Rosine Hall to capacity, thanks to the efforts of Event Chairman Therese Rourk, Marylee Cox and the rest of the committee.

The January 28th Penny Terk Book Review concluded A Writer’s Garden. The icy morning was unpromising, but the roads cleared sufficiently for most to attend. Those unable to attend due to the weather, received two free Arboretum passes, courtesy of Mary Brinegar, President of the Arboretum. I cannot thank enough Co-Chairmen Marsha Dowler and Bettina Hennessy and Honorary Chairman Kathleen Cunningham for delighting us with the four events comprising A Writer’s Garden.

Alison Pearl led a group in February to the Crow Collection of Asian Art for a lecture by Curator Shiyuan Yuan, ending the day with a tour of the Harlan Crow Library, by head librarian Sam Fore. We are having a lot of fun this year, while raising funds for A Woman’s Garden. See you at Mad Hatter’s! Sarah Seddelmeyer

Spring Volunteer Day – Thursday, March 26th
Volunteer Day co-chairs, Mary Lysaught and Michelle Stone, invite members to join in the Spring Volunteer Day. Volunteers meet at the Arboretum DeGolyer house just prior to their shift for assignments: docent duties at the DeGolyer house or visitor aid in the gardens. Spring Volunteer Day is during the 25th Anniversary of Dallas Blooms: (March 7th – April 12th) when the Arboretum is planted with over 450,000 spring bulbs and 3,000 azaleas. Morning shift: 9am – 1pm; afternoon shift: 1pm – 4:30pm. To volunteer, contact Mary Lysaught: 214-252-0863 or Michelle Stone: 214-358-4284.

Spring Meeting / Luncheon – Wednesday, May 6th, 10:30 am
The Spring meeting will be hosted at 7000 Park Lane, Dallas, 75225. Speaker John Powell is a Japanese style garden builder from Weatherford, Texas and the co-owner of Weatherford Gardens Nursery and Landscaping. A 1993 visit to Japan prompted an intensive study of Japanese garden design, construction and maintenance. In 1997, John attended the first Japanese Garden seminar conducted by the Kyoto University of Art & Design, followed by internships with Suzuki Zoen in Niigata, and later at the Adachi Museum of Art in Shimane, Prefecture. For info contact Claire Cunningham: 214-826-1853 or claireanddale@sbcglobal.net Your check @ $45 to WC-DABG is your reservation, mailed to: Liz Respess, 3309 Lovers Lane, Dallas, 75225

Spring Trip to Gardens in Dallas – Thursday, May 7th, 10am
The spring trip is guided by Warren Johnson, landscape architect for A Woman’s Garden and designer of the three gardens we will visit: the gardens of Jan Hegi, Connie Carreker and Betsy Fijolek. Call Nancy Rothacker 972-771-3389 for trip price; mail check to WC-DABG: 689 Kentwood Dr, Rockwall 75032

2009 Founders’ Award Celebration – Wednesday, May 13th, 6pm – 8pm
Established in 1996 by the Women’s Council, the Founders’ Award annually recognizes those who have made a significant impact in the growth and prominence of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Co-chairs Jo Anne McCullough and Anne Martin are pleased to announce this year’s recipient, Mary Anne Cree, a native Dallasite, who is well-known for her contributions to the arts, education, healthcare, and natural and wildlife preservation both on the local and national levels. Rosine Hall at Trammell Crow Visitor Education Center at The Dallas Arboretum is Mary Anne’s generous gift in memory of her mother Rosine Smith Sammons through the Rosine Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas. Invitations to the Founders’ Award cocktail buffet will be mailed; individual or patron tickets @ $75 or $150 each. For more information, contact Jo Anne McCullough at: 214-522-6975 or Anne Martin at 972-387-8848.
Attendees of the recent winter trip enjoyed a wonderful day planned by Alison Pearl and WC president, Sarah Seddelmeyer. Shiyan Yuan, head curator of the Crow Collection of Asian Art, began the day with a presentation on imperial porcelain and Chinese ceramics, introducing the evolution of craftsmanship, ceramic design motif, glaze and color variations associated with Chinese dynastic history. After luncheon at the Seventeen Seventeen Dallas Museum of Art restaurant, attendees met at the home of Harlan and Kathy Crow. Originally built in 1917, the Crow’s purchased the home in the early 1990’s and in 2004 finished an addition to accommodate the Harlan Crow Library. This library is a private, independent library housing a collection of nearly 5,000 books and 3,500 manuscripts concentrating on American History, as well as an enviable private art collection of original oil paintings by American and European artists. Head librarian, Sam Fore, and associates gave an informal tour enlivened by anecdotes and the historical context of the collection. Guests were invited to tour the grounds, home to what might best be referred to as a “Garden of Evil,” populated by busts and statuary depicting deposed dictators of communist regimes.
From The Editor  The Women’s Council – Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden (WC-DABG) newsletter is a quarterly publication forwarded to 800 Women’s Council members. To contact editor: (214) 533-7033 or email cherylbuckles@tx.rr.com

A Writer’s Garden / Book Review – Wednesday, January 28th

Penny Terk’s book review of “The Last Mrs. Astor – A New York Story” was the final event in A Writers Garden Literary Symposium and Book Review Series. Those that braved the daunting icy weather conditions enjoyed an entertaining presentation on the late Brooke Astor, socialite, philanthropist and advocate of her favored city, New York. The Women’s Council would like to thank those tireless co-chairs, Bettina Hennessy, Marsha Dowler and honorary chair, Kathleen Cunningham, their committee and all of the attendees for making A Writers Garden an outstanding success.

Elizabeth New of French Affaires, one of the speakers at last fall’s Literary Symposium will be guiding an Oct. 2009 trip to Provence, France. Women’s Council members may refer to the website below for details: http://www.frenchaffaires.com/2009_best_of_provence_trip.htm

2008 – 2009 Women’s Council Calendar Remaining Events

Thursday, March 5th, 10am – 12 noon  Board Meeting, 4343 West Lawther Drive, Dallas 75214
Thursday, March 26th, various shifts Spring Volunteer Day at the Arboretum
Thursday, April 2nd, 11am – 1pm Board Meeting/Luncheon, 4502 Wildwood Road, 75209
Wednesday, April 22nd, 11am – 2pm Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, Dallas Arboretum
Wednesday, May 6th, 10:30am Spring Annual Meeting/Luncheon, 7000 Park Lane, Dallas
Thursday, May 7th, 10am Spring Trip with Warren Johnson to Dallas Gardens
Wednesday, May 13th, 6pm – 8pm Founders Award Celebration, The Dallas Arboretum

Sarah Seddelmeyer
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