My dear friends, it has been such an honor to serve as your Women’s Council President for the 2010 – 2011 year. Your trust, confidence and support throughout this year have meant so much to me. As my term comes to an end, I reflect on all of the outstanding events of the past year, including A Writer’s Garden Literary Series, the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, Charleston, SC trip, Founder’s Award dinner and the wonderful general meetings and programs. The Women’s Council Board, committee chairs and members worked very hard to provide our membership a fabulous selection of entertaining events and successful fundraisers. Together, we supported A Woman’s Garden – through our fundraising activities, in our fall and spring volunteer days, and our bulb sales. My deepest thanks go to our membership for their appreciation and support of A Woman’s Garden and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Sharon Ballew, your incoming President, is already hard at work preparing for a wonderful year. Best wishes to the upcoming 2011-2012 Women’s Council Board. Have a safe and happy summer.  Sharon

In the final event of this year, Sharon Barbee, Women’s Council President, greeted Women’s Council members, guests, the family and friends of the 2011 Founder’s Award recipients, Martha and Willard Baker, and welcomed all to the wine reception and dinner hosted at the historic DeGolyer House. Special thanks go to Jewel Williams, the event chairwoman, who so capably arranged a truly lovely evening. Though inclement weather moved the reception indoors as opposed to the original dining al fresco planned on the loggia, the evening was most enjoyable. Hosted in the intimate setting of the historic DeGolyer library, warmed by the fire, guests conversed and dined on a delicious buffet dinner catered by Blue Mesa and were serenaded by the soft jazz instrumentals of a piano and saxophone duo. After accepting the Founder’s Award, Martha Baker offered a heartfelt and touching thank you, as she reminisced about the couple’s long-time involvement with the Women’s Council and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, as well as the changes that they had witnessed over the years and their appreciation of those with whom they had worked along the way.
Women’s Council President Sharon Barbee, Mad Hatter’s Tea Chair, Susan Walker, Honorary Chair, Yvonne Crum and Presenting Sponsor, Dee Wyly welcomed Women’s Council members and guests to the 2011 Mad Hatter’s Tea. Despite the overcast “damp” day, this year’s Mad Hater’s Tea Party was memorable in every way. “A Wonderland of Fashion” kicked off with a champagne reception on the Ginsberg Family Plaza, in the company of Alice, the White Rabbit and Mad Hatter who helped set the stage for an afternoon luncheon in the garden. Also on the plaza was the Frank Olive hat collection of Women’s Council member and former model, Marilyn Hailey. Everyone enjoyed the traditional and always exciting runway fashion show produced by Jan Strimple, showcasing the fashions of Anne Fontaine, Betty Reiter, Karen Millen, Tootsies and Tory Burch boutiques.
Charlotte Kimberlin led the Spring trip to Charleston, South Carolina’s 64th annual Festival of Homes & Gardens, visiting: Middleton Place Plantation Garden (1741), Nathaniel Russell House (1808) the Aiken Rhett House (1820) and other historic sites.

Women’s Council President, Sharon Barbee, welcomed members and guests to the Spring meeting at the DeGolyer House. After expressing her thanks and appreciation to the board members who had so generously given of their time and talents to make our 2010 - 2011 year a success, Sharon offered special recognition for two of our board members, Patricia Cowlishaw, who received the Leadership Award, and Linda Spina, who received the Service Award. Sharon then introduced president elect, Sharon Ballew and the slate of officers for the upcoming 2011 – 2012 year. (See page 4 of newsletter for the new board members.) Adjourning the short business meeting, VP Programs, Bettina Hennessy, then introduced program speaker Robert Clover-Brown, Shakespeare Man, who performing in the role of William Shakespeare, Transformative Poet of the Elizabethan Countryside, sharing the abundant, vivid and evocative use of the English countryside and floral images in Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets, and his home of Stratford-upon-Avon, England. The program was followed by an afternoon English Tea outdoors on the DeGolyer loggia. Jewel Williams offered a reminder and invitation to the upcoming Founders Award reception and dinner honoring Martha and Willard Baker, long time Arboretum supporters.
From The Editor: Cheryl Buckles / 214-533-7033 / cheryl.buckles@att.net

As our 2010 – 2011 year comes to a close, I would like to thank the board and members of The Women’s Council for the pleasure of sharing another wonderful year together. Our board and committee members dedicate many hundreds of hours to the stewardship and fundraising efforts on behalf of A Woman’s Garden and I am so appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of this rewarding effort. The result is a garden that represents and celebrates the very best qualities within women: their generosity and nurturing spirit, their creative genius and insistence that the beauty in nature is always relevant, always important. In the midst of lives that demand much, we are all in need of a respite, which we have created in A Woman’s Garden.

2011 – 2012 Board Women’s Council – Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

President .......................................................... Sharon Ballew
President-Elect .................................................. Sue Ringle
1st VP, Leadership ................................................. Renee Farren
2nd VP, A Writer’s Garden .................................... Sherry Sivils
3rd VP, Mad Hatter’s Tea Party ............................... Carmaleta Whiteley / Barbara Daseke
4th VP, Membership ............................................ Sue John
5th VP, Programs .................................................. Glenda Cotner
6th VP, Service and Education .............................. Sharron / Bunny O’Neill
7th VP, Donor Naming & Garden Projects ............... Patricia Cowlishaw / Marsha Dowler
Recording Secretary ............................................ Sydney Reid-Hedge
Corresponding Secretary ..................................... Jill Goldberg
Asst. Corresponding Secretary .............................. Jewel Williams
Treasurer ............................................................ Melissa Lewis
Treasurer – Elect .................................................. Elaine Belcher
Historian ............................................................ Judy Birchfield
Parliamentarian .................................................... Sharon Barbee

( www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org  Newsletters posted & archived on website. )

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