As another wonderful year of the Women’s Council comes to a close, we can look back on the many meetings, exciting speakers, trips to new places and the thrill of planning and enjoying all of our traditional fund-raising events like A Writer’s Garden, our Valentine Tea and Mad Hatter’s and more. Thank you to everyone for your hard work, your creative energies and your fellowship as we continue to develop and support A Woman’s Garden. Rather than close our 2013 – 2014 year with a President’s letter, I thought I would take this opportunity to review a bit of the history of the Women’s Council – Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden (WC-DABG), the genesis of A Woman’s Garden and what it has become.

It was in 1979 that a group of ladies, calling themselves “Friends of DeGolyer, got together with the intention of securing the future of the DeGolyer home on what is now The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. That initial organization and mission was transformed in 1982 with the establishment of the WC-DABG, and their new mission to develop in A Woman’s Garden, a symbol and legacy – to conceive, develop and fund a garden representative of the many aspects of a woman. That nascent vision has become a reality as A Woman’s Garden is a work of art, an inspired composite of elegance and rustic strength, of water features and landscape, of refuge and renewal.

Bettina Hennessy

A WOMAN’S GARDEN

21. The Paper Bark Loop 27. Maidenhair Falls
The WC-DABG embarked on a 12 year journey leading up to the opening of *A Woman’s Garden*. Selecting Morgan Wheelock as the landscape architect and local landscape architect, Warren Johnson for implementation/plant design, the 3.5 acre garden was built in two phases at an estimated cost of over $4 million. The 1.8 acre Phase I of *A Woman’s Garden* opened in September 1997 and the 1.7 acre Phase II opened in May of 2006. The ensuing years fund-raising events have been dedicated to funding the initial garden completion costs, endowment of the garden maintenance and expansion projects. *A Woman’s Garden* is made up of a number of “features,” including:

**The Grand Entrance:** the formal entrance to *A Woman’s Garden* it is marked by cut limestone columns presented by the Historic Preservation League of Dallas, topped by decorative urns. The entrance plantings were given by Neiman Marcus in honor of the store’s 90th anniversary in 1997 and dedicated to Carrie Marcus Neiman.

**The Stepped Fountain:** Just inside the Grand Entrance, this feature has four water bubbling fountains and water flow to a series of still reflective pools. Copper, silver and gold mosaics in the pool beds symbolize the highlights of life & contrasting nature of woman. (Endowed by Sherry Crow)

**The Reflective Basin:** A large shallow rectangular pool of water with cut lime-stone portals on the north and south sides, symbolizing the spirit and essence of woman flowing from one generation to another. (Endowed by Mary Silverthorne) On the south edge of the basin is artist Joe Rosenthal’s bronze sculpture, entitled “Nude.” (Endowed by Doris Anton).

**The Poetry Garden:** An elegant four-sided limestone and stucco structure reminiscent of a romantic ruin. (Endowed by Sarah and John Seddelmeyer) The focal point of The Poetry Garden is William Francis Duffy’s “The Trumpeters,” a bronze sculpture extending 24 feet into the air. (Endowed by Dee Cass)

**The Rockery:** A cliff faced strata of natural patina limestone extends 140 feet; its blooming wetland plants and rugged limestone boulders lie in the shade of tall oak trees and Japanese maples extending west toward **The Antique Stone Cistern.** Made of rough old stone, the Cistern receives and recirculates the water flowing beneath The Bridge and along The Rockery. (Endowed by Anne and Thomas Barton)
26th Annual Mad Hatter’s Tea Party – April 10th

“Hats off” to our 2014 Mad Hatter’s Tea Chair, Lisa Loy Laughlin, Honorary Chair, Gina Ginsburg, Women’s Council President, Bettina Hennessy, and committee members for creating an exciting and entertaining day. And we would like to offer a special thanks to Jocelyn White, who so graciously and capably filled in for our scheduled Emcee, Ron Corning. And we would like to again thank our hat judges for the day: Gary Riggs, Maxine Trowbridge, Patti Flowers, Michael Faircloth, Heidi Dillon, Clarice Tinsley and Sam Ratcliffe.

For those who are unaware of the history of our Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, what follows is an overview of how this favorite Women’s Council fundraiser came into being. (Portions of this write-up are excerpted from a 2011 Mad Hatter’s article written for the magazine “GrandLuxe,” now called “Beverly Drive” by your newsletter editor for the last ten years – Cheryl Buckles)

The first Mad Hatter’s Tea Party was in 1989, chaired by Women’s Council long-time member, Carole Ann Brown, on the grounds of the Camp House, one of the two estates comprising the Dallas Arboretum (The DeGolyer Estate being the other). At that time, Carole Ann Brown said that it was not just about raising funds for the garden. The Women’s Council was also interested in hosting entertaining events designed to entice Dallas ladies to visit the Dallas Arboretum, which had opened to the public only five years prior.

Times have changed – Dallas has grown astronomically (adding over 400,000 people, from 1990’s 988,000 to 2014’s estimated 1.28 million population) and the Arboretum has kept pace with the continued development of the garden. In 2013 the Arboretum welcomed over 730,000 visitors and certainly for most, a tour of A Woman’s Garden, on the west side of the Arboretum bordering White Rock Lake, has been a much enjoyed part of the visit.

The Women’s Council spirit of philanthropy combined with a dedication to the Dallas Arboretum inspired the chairwomen for the early Mad Hatter’s Tea Parties – Carole Ann Brown (1989), Shelby Marcus (1990), Sharon Adams (1991), Linda Ivy (1993), Yvonne Crum and Dee Wyly (2002). They recall the early collaboration with milliner, Frank Olive, out of New York City who attended and helped emcee the millinery fashion events showcasing his hat designs at the first three Mad Hatter’s Tea Parties. Before he passed away in 1995, Frank Olive designed hats for Hilary Clinton, Barbara Bush, Peggy Lee, Lucille Ball, Claudette Colbert, Joan Collins, Anne Bancroft, Diahann Carroll, Diana Ross and even Miss Piggy! And perhaps some of you may know that our own Women’s Council member, Marilyn Hailey, was a long-time Neiman Marcus hat model for Frank Olive.

On a Dallas visit in the early 1990’s to the downtown Neiman Marcus store, Olive remarked that Texas was his biggest market and how extraordinary it was that the women of Dallas were so fashion conscious, and he admitted some of the most “chic” women of his acquaintance. But we already knew that! Olive’s long-time successful association with Neiman Marcus probably had a lot to do with his popularity here according to Shelby Marcus (Shelby Marcus’ late husband, Lawrence Marcus, and brother, Stanley Marcus, were scions of the Neiman Marcus fashion empire).

Whether it was a millinery themed fashion show featuring NYC designer, Frank Olive, local Dallas millinery designer, Joe Bill Miller, showcased by Linda Ivy (1993 Mad Hatter’s), or NYC millinery designer Eric Javits, brought in by Dyann Skelton (1996 Mad Hatter’s) – Mad Hatter’s has always promised a fabulous array of hats both on and off the runway. And what better way to top off the day than to applaud the millinery selections of the attendees themselves: stylishly elegant hats, extravagantly embellished with floral botanicals or sweeping feathers, or simply fantastically creative. In recent years a panel of celebrity hat judges have assembled to give the “nod” to a winner in each of the millinery categories. For many years now, Dallas fashion diva, Jan Strimple, has masterfully produced the fashion show, the centerpiece of our Mad Hatter’s event, working with each year’s Mad Hatter’s chairwomen to ensure a fun, memorable day at the Dallas Arboretum – and raising funds for A Woman’s Garden. Our hats are off to the many women who have worked so hard and so brilliantly for 26 years to deliver an always exciting, always entertaining and always memorable – Mad Hatter’s Tea Party!

(Thank you to Sharon Adams & photographer Dana Driensky for providing some of the photos for this photo collage)
Spring General Meeting & Founders Award Luncheon – May 6th

Many thanks to our programs VP, Sue John, and Spring meeting program co-chairs, Susan Scullin and Vicki Petersen for their hard work coordinating the many details required to host the day. They secured our outstanding speaker, Peter Hatch, developed the table decorations and menu in keeping with our Thomas Jefferson and Monticello gardens theme for the day and helped welcome our members and guests.

Also at the meeting, Tom and Phyllis McCasland were honored as the 2014 Founder's Award recipients. Inaugurated in 1996, this annual award recognizes individuals whose dedication and volunteer contributions have made a significant impact in the growth and prominence of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Women’s Council President, Bettina Hennessy, presented the Founder’s Award Boehm porcelain rose to the McCaslands in recognition of their contributions to the Arboretum.

Originally from small towns in Oklahoma, Tom and Phyllis are Oklahoma University graduates, he in Petroleum Engineering and she in Marketing and Business Law. Tom enjoyed a 40+ year career in drilling, oilfield services and oil & gas exploration. Phyllis became a master gardener, was in real estate, and elected to the Oklahoma University Business School Hall of Fame. Since retiring to Dallas in 1998, Tom and Phyllis have been avid supporters of the arts. Tom currently serves on the Executive Committees of the Dallas Opera and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Long-time supporters of the Dallas Arboretum, the McCaslands were instrumental in developing The McCasland Sunken Garden. Tom also purchased and held for years, land across Garland Road for the later purchase and development of a parking garage by the city of Dallas, fulfilling a critical aspect of the Arboretum master plan.

1) Kathleen Cunningham with husband, Randy Willis & Peter Hatch (center) 2) Tom & Phyllis McCasland 3) Bettina Hennessy, Dave Forehand 4) Betsy Simpson, Susan Scullin 5) Kayla Marzolino 6) Spring Meeting Table Settings 7) (L-R) Sherri Higson, Liz Respess, Melissa Lewis 8) Patrizia Pelfrey, Lori Alexander 9) Katherine Phillips, Katie Blair, Patricia Keene 10) Peter Hatch, Dave Forehand
Thank you to Sue John, our Vice-President of Programs, for planning the Spring Trip to P. Allen Smith’s Moss Mountain Farms, situated an hour west of Little Rock, Arkansas. Smith is an author of best-selling garden and cookbooks, hosts two public television programs, has a radio show and syndicated TV program. P. Allen Smith personally welcomed the group, who enjoyed a luncheon at the 1840’s Greek Revival brick house over-looking the 650 acre property. Photos: 1) Linda Spina at Smith’s cottage in Little Rock 2) In north Little Rock, this historic re-creation of an 1880’s water-powered grist mill was seen in the opening scenes of David Selznick’s 1937 movie classic “Gone With The Wind” 3) Tulips in garden 4) Julie Badger, Sue John, Renee Farren 5) Bettina Hennessy, Allen Smith 6) Group Photo 7) Moss Mountain Farms
A Woman’s Garden – Update on Donor Naming and Garden Projects

Donor Naming

We are pleased to announce the naming of a Japanese Maple in A Woman’s Garden by Elaine Speckmann. This gift has been made by Mrs. Speckmann in honor of her grandson Andrew Robert Spina. We are grateful for this generous contribution to A Woman’s Garden.

If you would be interested in further information regarding gifts to A Woman’s Garden, please contact Patricia Cowlishaw – patriciacowlishaw@sbcglobal.net; telephone 972.239.1702.

Garden Projects

The long awaited engineering survey for the Dallas Arboretum's tramway, "Via del Lago," has been completed at last! After detailed review and approval of a hardscape plan, a preliminary cost estimate for the section of the roadway traversing through A Woman’s Garden will be developed. Pending adequate garden funds to cover construction, a start date will then be announced!

The anticipated garden design along the tramway will create the experience of timeless passage through our transformative landscape. Stunning views of White Rock Lake with the Dallas skyline on the horizon will provide serene focal points for reflection and contemplation. A number of significant Donor Naming opportunities will be incorporated within a design that celebrates the beauty of our world-renowned garden against the backdrop of our great city along Via del Lago.

A Tree Goblin?

From The Editor

The Women’s Council newsletter is mailed to those members who have requested paper copies as part of their membership subscription. Additionally, it is archived on-line at our website noted below. Should you have newsletter submissions or questions, please contact via email: cheryl.buckles@att.net or by phone at: (214) 533-7033

www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org

We welcome our incoming 2014 – 2015 Women’s Council President, Marena Gault
Memorials and Honoraria

Honorarium notices given in support of the Spring Mad Hatter’s & other Honoraria were as follows: • Carole Ann & Dick Brown honor: Todd, Robin & John Todd and Caleb Skidmore • Bettina Hennessy honors: Golden Ware, Elise Hay Golden, Mary Randall Hay • Bettina Hennessy honors: Lisa Loy Laughlin, Deborah Brown, The Mad Hatter’s Committee 2014 • Rita Klein honors: Charlotte Kimberlin • Lisa Loy Laughlin honors: The Mad Hatter’s Committee 2014, Bettina Hennessy – 2014 Women’s Council President & Friend, • Dorothea Meltzer honors: Bettina Hennessy • Mary Elise Hennessy McGowan honors: Bettina Hennessy • Margaret LaRocca In Memory of: Hayden Wall • Sandy Secor honors: Sharon Ballew, Sharon Barbee, Bettina Hennessy, Susan Scullin, Jill Goldberg, Susan Vaughan, Jaclyn Brady • Linda Spina honors: The Women’s Council Board of Directors • Jocelyn White honors: Lisa Loy Laughlin, Jacque Kennedy • Sue Ringle In Memory of: Joe Mathews and honors: Shay Geyer and Maggie Kipp • Sharon Popham honors: Lisa Loy Laughlin, The 2014 Mad Hatter’s Committee and 2015 President-Elect, Marena Gault • Bettina Hennessy would like to thank and honor: The 2014 Women’s Council Board of Directors (BD), Advisory Board (AB), Members at Large (ML), Finance Committee (F), Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee, Trustee Boards (TB), names noted below:

| Susan Adzick (BD) | Patricia Cowlishaw (BD) | Margaret LaRocca (BD) | Carolynn Robbins (BD) |
| Sharon Ballew (LRP/AB) | Kathleen Cunningham (BD) | Lisa Loy Laughlin (BD/F) | Carolyn Rogers (ML/TB) |
| Sharon Barbee (AB) | Claire Cunningham (TB) | Melissa Lewis (BD/F/LRP) | Lori Routh (BD) |
| Elaine Belcher (BD/LRP) | Giana DePaul (BD) | Dixie Marshall (BD) | Susan Scullin (BD) |
| Nancy Bierman (TB) | Marsha Dowler (BD) | Kim Mathews (BD) | Carol Seay (ML) |
| Judy Birchfield (BD) | Renee Farren (BD) | Jo Anne McCullough (TB) | Sandy Secor (BD) |
| Kathryn Bond (BD) | Shelby Fuqua (BD) | Dorothea Meltzer (BD/F) | Sarah Seddelmeyer (BD/LRP) |
| Carole Boss (BD) | Marena Gault (BD/F) | Michelle Mew (BD) | Linda Spina (BD/TB) |
| Jaclyn Braddy (BD) | Shay Geyer (BD) | Jennifer Mira (BD) | Markita Thompson (BD) |
| Faye Briggs (ML) | Jill Goldberg (BD) | Nancy Murphy (BD/LRP/TB) | Sharon Walker (BD) |
| Mary Brinegar (BD) | Marilyn Hailey (BD) | Helen Nixon (BD/F) | Beth Walthall (BD) |
| Nell Broughton (ML) | Linda Huffhines (BD) | Vicki Peterson (BD) | Kay Weeks (BD) |
| Carole Ann Brown (BD) | Linda Ivy (ML) | Katherine Phillips (BD) | Jocelyn White (BD) |
| Deborah Brown (BD) | Sue John (BD) | Sue Prather (BD) | Carmaleta Whiteley (ML) |
| Cheryl Buckles (BD) | Ramona Jones (BD) | Miriam Pugliese (BD) | Jewel Williams (BD) |
| Susan Center (ML) | Patricia Keene (BD) | Sydney Reid-Hedge (ML) | Emilynn Wilson (BD) |
| Nancy Connor (BD) | Maggie Kipp (BD) | Liz Respess (BD/LRP) | Beth Yablon (BD) |
| Kathy Cothrum (AB) | Glenda Krottinger Cotner (BD) | Connie Rhoades (BD/LRP) | Brook Zrno Grisham (BD) |
| & | Patty Langdale (ML) | Sue Ringle (BD/AB/LRP) | |