Mad Hatter’s Tea - The Golden Age of Hollywood

Celebrating its 31st Year benefiting the Women’s Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and A Woman’s Garden

Mad Hatter’s Tea. The Golden Age of Hollywood is celebrating its 31st Year benefiting the Women’s Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and A Woman’s Garden. Please join us on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. with a champagne reception in Ginsburg Plaza. At 11:30 the Program and Fashion Show will begin in Rosine Hall.

The Honorary Chair is Kristina Bush Whitcomb. Co-Chairs are Sharla Bush and Terry Irby. Monies raised grow and maintain A Woman’s Garden, a major garden at the Dallas Arboretum.

Over 500 guests travel from all over the United States, planning their trips to Dallas not only to take part in the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party – many in wild and wonderful over-the-top hats - but to view the glorious springtime azalea displays and flowers that grace the Dallas Arboretum. Fashion presentation produced by the inimitable Jan Strimple featuring fashions sponsored by TOOTSIES.

The Hat categories are: Best Picture: The Most “True to Theme”. The best of “The Golden Age of Hollywood” Best Actress in a Leading Role: People’s Choice, as voted on by the attendees; Best Art Direction: The Best Botanical using Fresh Florals; Best Short Film: Most Beautiful Fascinator Best Foreign Language Film: Most Dramatic; Best Director: Best Themed Group of Hats (Men may participate in this category); Best Costume Design: Most Elegant Best Visual Effects: Most Creative (Men may participate in this category).

Since its inception in 1982, the Women’s Council has funded the world-renowned A Woman’s Garden. A Woman’s Garden is the only public garden in the nation conceived by women, funded by the efforts of women, and dedicated to the universal spirit of women.

The Mad Hatter’s Tea is sold out. Please contact Joanie Stephens, if you wish to be placed on a wait list. jstephens@stephens-associates.com. The Media Sponsors are PaperCity, The Park Cities News/The Waters Family, and MySweetCharity.
It’s hard to believe that we are in the 4th quarter of our fiscal year! Time does fly. Our signature fundraising event, Mad Hatter’s Tea, is less than a month away. Hats off to Sharla Bush and Terry Irby and their committee for all their hard work in creating what will be a fabulous, fun-filled event. Thanks to Sharla for hosting famed milliner Steven Kokin for us at both L. Bartlett in Snider Plaza and Sharla’s in McKinney with a portion of hat sales benefiting the Women’s Council. Nikki Beneke is chairing the Patron Party at Tucker and Rich Enthoven’s home where patrons will enjoy a magical evening with some very special entertainment. Tomas Auto Group is underwriting the Patron Party food and beverages with Gold Crown underwriting valet. We are lucky to have Jessica Horn and her banking skills serving as our event treasurer. Joanie Stephens has very capably taken charge of reservations. Thanks to Joni Kreig, we have Park Place Motorcars underwriting our Mad Hatter’s valet parking. Jan Strimple is working with TOOTSIES on another dazzling production. Paper Affair created a fabulous invitation which so creatively expresses “The Golden Age of Hollywood” theme. Even before invitations were mailed out we had a strong response, so purchase your tickets as soon as you can. As always, we expect a sell-out.

Patty Langdale, Nancy Cates, and Susan Fisk are busy with our May 8th Annual Meeting planning. I know that first week in May also includes a DMA League meeting and the Salvation Army’s annual luncheon, so pace yourselves ladies and join us at the last meeting of our year. We’ll vote on next year’s elected officers and present the Leadership and Service Awards. We’ll be at the Arboretum in A Tasteful Place.

As a personal favor to me, if you shop on Amazon and are not already shopping on Amazon Smile in support of a nonprofit, would you consider designating the Women’s Council as your designated charity? It costs you nothing extra, but raises money for us. Dorothea Meltzer, Susan Center, and Carol Nelson hosted our gathering at Draper James where we received a percentage of sales – and Betsy Simpson got a beautiful black coat on sale!

In closing, I want you to know that our dear friend Sue Ringle left a generous gift to the Women’s Council in her will. Sue joined the Women’s Council in 2005. She served in many capacities including VP of Membership for two terms, President in 2012-2013, and Advisory Board member. Fond memories of her year as president include traveling to Pasadena to put flowers on a float for the Rose Parade, celebrating our 25th Mad Hatter’s, and being one of the first groups at the Bush Center, where we learned about the Bush’s intent for the landscape design and its implementation. Sue was a dear, dear friend and leader who will be missed. She will always be remembered and always loved.

Linda Spina

Linda Spina, Women’s Council President 2018-2019
News and Notes
Get well wishes to Lisa Meyer, on a complete recovery. Please send news to Care and Concern Chair Carole Ann Brown, 972-733-8833, or caroleannbrown@sbcglobal.net.

Mad Hatter’s Honorary Chair
Kristina Bush Whitcomb is a dedicated philanthropist, who devotes her many talents to numerous charitable organizations that benefit the lives of children.

She currently serves as the Crystal Charity Ball Foundation Chairman and is also on the Treasure Street Board of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. She is deeply committed to Equest where she has served as Auxiliary President and Executive to the Board of Directors, Gala Chairman, and served as the Luncheon Treasurer for 8 years.

Her chairmanships also include the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Presentation Ball, the Junior League of Dallas Ball, Dallas CASA Cherish the Children Luncheon, the Interfaith Housing Walk on the Wild Side event, the St. Valentine’s Day Luncheon benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Highland Park Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee.

Kristina is retired from a professional life which included consulting for Ernst & Young and serving as the VP of Financial Development and Interim CIO for Centex Homes. Kristina and her husband Phil reside in Dallas. They have 4 grown children and 3 grandchildren.

Volunteer Day
Join us Thursday, April 18 for Volunteer Day, a wonderful way to support our garden and get to know other members. You can really appreciate all the work that goes into making our Garden so lovely throughout each season. Fall volunteers were Jessica Horn, Mary Ellen Winborn, Linda Spina, Bettina Hennessy, and Sarah Andry. Contact Sarah Andry if you would like to volunteer, sarahwilsonandry@yahoo.com.

The Lisianthus Society
The Lisianthus Society was created in 2015 to recognize Members and Friends for their generosity, dedication and support of the Women’s Council’s annual fundraising events.

The Lisianthus flower is an elegant beauty grown in the southern United States and a descendent of the North American wildflower. Also known as a Texas Bluebell, it is native to Texas and is similar in appearance to a rose with double varieties resembling peonies. It is the perfect symbol for the beauty, grace, strength and spirit of women so wonderfully celebrated in A Woman’s Garden.

With a yearly contribution of $500 and above, one may become a member of the Society. These are ways you may do so:
Yearly Membership Dues at the $500 Level or above, A Writer’s Garden Ticket at the $500 Level or above, A Mad Hatter’s Tea Ticket at the $500 Level Ticket or above, Event Underwriter or Table Sponsor. As a Lisianthus Society member, you will receive an Invitation to an exclusive Spring Tea honoring you as a member of The Lisianthus Society. You can join online at www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. at A Tasteful Place at the Arboretum with Chef John Tesar. Invitations will be mailed.

Chef John Tesar’s a four-time James Beard “Best Southwest Chef” semifinalist and “Top Chef” contestant specializing in modern American cuisine prepared with authentic European techniques. He has a Dallas-based steakhouse – Knife. Tesar opened Knife, located at the Highland Dallas hotel, in May 2014. It has been named ” D Magazine’s “Best Steakhouse in Dallas” 2015 and 2016. Prior to Knife, Tesar opened Spoon Bar & Kitchen, receiving recognition as “Best New Restaurants in the World,” Tesar continues to be a visionary, making Dallas a true culinary destination.
Ready for Mad Hatters!
Left: Windharp Terrace is to be named for the late Sue Ringle. Right: Sue Ringle and Brett Ringle. Below left: WCDABG member Judy Birchfield on a movie set.
Calendar 2019

April

Thursday, April 4th - Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th - Mad Hatter’s Patron Party

Thursday, April 11th - Mad Hatter’s Tea, *The Golden Age of Hollywood*

Monday, April 18 - Volunteer Day at the Arboretum

May

Wednesday, May 8, Annual Meeting - Chef John Tesar
A Tasteful Place at the Arboretum

Thursday, May 16 - Lisianthus Tea