Celebrate the Art of Chic at Mad Hatters April 16

Celebrating its 32nd Year benefiting the Women’s Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and A Woman’s Garden

The Mad Hatter’s Tea will celebrate The Art of Chic while celebrating the 32nd year benefiting the Women’s Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and “A Woman’s Garden”. Please join us on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. with a champagne reception in A Tasteful Place Plaza. At 11:00 the Program and Fashion Show will begin in Rosine Hall.

Monies raised grow and maintain “A Woman’s Garden”, at the Dallas Arboretum. One of the principal gardens of the Arboretum, it is the only public garden in the country that was built by women and dedicated to the universal spirit of a woman.

Over 500 guests travel from all over the United States, to take part in the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party to view the glorious springtime azalea displays and flowers that grace the Dallas Arboretum. The fashion presentation will be produced by Jan Strimple featuring fashions sponsored by TOOTSIES. TOOTSIES is presenting fashions by Tanya Taylor, this year’s guest designer, at a trunk show in their store on March 5, 6, 7. A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Women’s Council. On March 4, from 3-5 pm, the Judge’s Reveal Party will be at Empressive Geodesigns.

Chairman Patti Flowers is a native Texan who spent her career in the luxury fashion industry. She began designing over 35 years ago. The Honorary Chairman is Robin Carreker. Lynn Dealey designed the Art of Chic logo.

Underwriting Opportunities, Table Reservations and Single tickets

Single tickets can be purchased starting at $1,000 for a Priority Luncheon Seat, Priority Reserved Fashion Show Seat, invitation to Patron Party, and Membership in The Lisianthus Society. The $500 ticket includes a luncheon seat, Reserved Fashion Show Seat, invitation to the Patron Party, and Membership in The Lisianthus Society. The $350 Tickets have limited seating. Underwriting opportunities are available from the Art Connoisseur $50,000; Chic Chapeau $25,000; Garden of Music $15,000; Garden of Dance $10,000; Garden of Art $5,000; Garden of Stories $3,500. For more information, please contact Patti at 214-356-3178 or pattiflowersdallas@gmail.com or go to womenscouncildallasarboretum.org

Patti Flowers, Mad Hatters Chairman; Robin Carreker, Honorary Chairman of Mad Hatters; and Venise Stuart, Women’s Council President;
We have had a busy and hugely successful fall. Now we are into winter and things have not slowed down. In late September Sarah Andry organized a Volunteer Day at the Dallas Arboretum where we planted mums in A Woman’s Garden. Dorothea Meltzer provided Women’s Council mint green t-shirts for those that participated. A Dutch treat lunch at the DeGolyer Café was enjoyed by those that were able to stay. The next Volunteer Day will be April 22. Come out and ‘dig’ with us!

Glenda Cotner and Sarah Andry led our group of over 30 members on a wonderful day trip to private gardens in Dallas. Paul Fields of Lambert’s and John Armstrong of Armstrong Berger met us on a cool sunny day. The first stop was to visit the Highland Park Flippen Park where John Armstrong walked us through the four seasons garden. Next we were off to Peggy and Carl Sewell’s home where Paul Fields designed and installed the beautiful landscaping for this most generous Dallas family. Thank you to Diane Sealy for getting this arranged for us to see. Off to the next two homes – the Greens and the Engstroms – both so gorgeous you forget you are in Dallas. A big thanks to Avner Samuel of NOSH for having us into their new garden terrace at the restaurant. After lunch, we were off to the Valley House where Tary Arterburn, Studio Outside, led us on a tour of the gardens with the most spectacular yard art in Dallas.

Many thanks to those who made A Writer’s Garden a success, starting with Chairman, Nikki Beneke, along with her dedicated committee, AWG was resounding and memorable event in November. Thanks to Carmen Hancock for being this year’s Honorary Chairman, and many thanks to Bunny Williams and Rebecca Wesson Darwin. Skip Hollingsworth couldn’t believe how many garden lovers we have in Dallas, and was quite complimentary on our success!

Two days after A Writer’s Garden, we gathered at TOOTSIES with Mad Hatter Chair Patti Flowers who introduced Honorary Chair Robin Carreker, and to learn the theme “Art of Chic.” Dream of art of the garden, art of music, art of fashion, art of dance, “Art of Chic.” With April 16th coming up soon, you better get those beautiful hats ready to be judged.

December 3rd was our winter Nutcracker Suite luncheon, chaired by Lisa Laughlin. The room was magical with nutcrackers and other magical sweets. Lisa’s committee was creative with the design, menu and music entertainment by the Dallas String Quartet. The Founders Award was presented to Barbara Bigham. Barbara took the podium and shared delightful stories of her years as a Women’s Council member and what A Woman’s Garden means to her personally. Melissa Lewis presented the award with funny ‘antidotes’ to Barbara. Congratulations to Barbara Bigham, the 2019 Founders Award Recipient.

Thanks for Susan Vaughn Bayley for organizing a fun cooking event at Central Market. Everyone had so much fun and are looking forward to the next one! I heard a list may already be created – so get on the list today! Details are in the planning stages but surely an evening not to be missed.

New members were welcomed by President Venise Stuart, VP Membership Susan Fisk, and New Member Committee members Kuntheam Mam-Douglas and Regina Bruce at the home of Ginger Sager. Over 30 New Members learned the history of WCDABG from Patricia Cowlishaw. It was a delightful afternoon! We would like to thank City Cafe for their donation of the food to the New Member event.

Lastly, Linda Spina and I were honored to have presented to son Brett Ringle the Sue Ringle Great Contributor Award at the DABS Contributors Gala chaired by Sharon Ballew and Mari Epperson.

With spring around the corner, I look forward to seeing you all very soon! Mad Hatter’s Tea, trip to Charleston and the Annual May Luncheon – put on your calendars! See you all there!

Venise Stuart, Women’s Council President 2019-2020
Mad Hatter’s Announcement Party at Tootsies  Top left: Emilynn Wilson and Kay Weeks, WCDABG President-Elect. Top right: Venise Stuart, WCDABG President; Nerissa Helpenstill and Dustin Holcomb from Tootsies; Patti Flowers, Mad Hatter’s Chairman. Center right: Lisa Laughlin, Kunthear Mam-Douglass and Jolie Humphrey; Far right: Melissa Lewis and Jocelyn White. Center left: Jill Goldberg and Nancy Connor. Bottom left: Lisa Loy Laughlin, Bettina Hennessy and Renee Farren. Bottom right: Patti Flowers, Mad Hatters Chair and Lynn Dealy, Mad Hatters logo illustrator.
Winter Meeting and Founder’s Award Luncheon
Top left: Melissa Lewis, Venise Stuart, WC DABG President and Barbara Bigham, Founder’s Award Recipient. Top right: Recipients of the Founder’s Award, Joanne McCullough, Barbara Bigham, Emilynn Wilson, Carole Ann Brown; Patricia Cowlishaw.
Center: Cooking Class at Central Market: left to right: Frank Spina, Jim Scofield, Al Bayley, Linda Spina, Susan Vaughan Bayley, Chairman, Sarah Hardin, John Secor, Sandy Secor, Jill Goldberg, Rose Gault, Jeff Gault, Paula Scofield, Tom Stephens, Joanie Stephens, Catherine Dean, Maurice Ballew, Katherine Smethie, Stephen Smethie, Thomas Dean.
Bottom left: Venise Stuart Women’s Council President and Lisa Loy Laughlin, Chairman of the Winter Meeting.
**Charleston Spring Trip**

*We just had some cancellations for this trip.*

WCDABG members will travel to Charleston, SC from May 11-15 to visit Charleston’s most historic sites including private garden tours and a day with the Charleston Horticultural Society.

Contact **Nancy Connor**, nancyconnor9218@gmail.com, or **Kathy Cothrum**, wkcothrum@gmail.com if you are interested in this trip.

**Winter Meeting**

**Highlights**

**December 3, 2019 Winter Meeting Wrap Up**

A lovely gathering took place on December 3, 2019 at Brook Hollow Golf Club honoring the Founder’s Day recipient, **Barbara Bigham**. 145 members and guests attended and enjoyed Sugar Plum Fairy Prosecco Punch, Russian Spiced Tea and a festively decorated land of sweets and lighted tree forest. Attendees were entertained by **The Dallas String Quartet**.

The Founder’s Award recipient, Barbara Bigham was introduced by **Melissa Lewis**. Barbara talked about her involvement at the Arboretum and hoped it will inspire others to become involved in what she calls “the crown jewel of Dallas”. Barbara is a founding member of the Woman’s Council, and remembers when you could not see the Camp House because it was surrounded by tall cane. She has chaired Mad Hatter’s Tea, Christmas Holiday at the Arboretum, the Children’s Christmas party, the opening gala for A Tasteful Place, and recently the first Vintner’s Dinner. The Bigham’s love for the Arboretum was evident when they donated a million dollars to benefit the newest garden, “A Tasteful Place” to fund the scenic overlook that is named for them.

Established in 1996 by the Women’s Council, the Founders Award annually recognizes individuals whose dedication and volunteer contributions have made a monumental impact in the growth and prominence of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

The Chairman was **Lisa Loy Laughlin** and committee members were **Venise Stuart**, **Sandy Secor**, **Barbara Averitt**, **Kendra Averitt**, **Michelle Mew**, **Martha Archibald**, **Jill Goldberg**, **Jessica Horn**, and **Wendy Hansen**. They made the event memorable.
Calendar 2020

March
March 3rd – Board Meeting @ Stacey Angel, 3200 Southwestern
March 4, 3-5 pm – Judge’s Reveal Party, Empressive Geodesigns
March 5,6, & 7, TOOTSIES Trunk Show

April
April 8th – Potluck Board Meeting @ Marilyn Weber, 4332 Arcady
TBD – Mad Hatter’s Patron Party
April 16th – Mad Hatter’s Tea & Luncheon
April 22 – Spring Volunteer Day planting in AWG, followed by Dutch Treat lunch

May
May 11-15th – WCDABG Charleston Trip
May 19th – Annual Membership Meeting/A Tasteful Place
May 21th – Lisianthus Tea