



Behind the Scenes

Dallas Theater Center Guild Newsletter

First Edition 2009

Dallas Theater Center Guild Calendar

General Meeting
March 2, 2009 6:30 pm

General Meeting
April 13, 2009 6:30 pm
Sarah & Don Warnecke's

TACA Neiman Marcus Silver Cup Luncheon
March 6, 2009

Garage Sale
March, 2009
awriter@swbell.net
972.980.6979

Season Ticket Renewal
Feb/March 2009

Spring Off-Stage Outing
Long Center, Austin, TX
Spring 2009

Spring Tea & Gen. Mtg.
Spring, 2009

Please visit the Dallas Theater Center Guild's website at www.dtcguild.org for membership information, events and Guild functions, committees and other information.

Dallas Theater Center
Jan 21 - Feb 22, 2009
In the Beginning

Mar 11 - April 5, 2009
Back Back Back

Apr 22 - May 24, 2009
Sarah Plain and Tall

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Dallas Theater Center box office at 214-522-8499 or visit dallastheatercenter.org

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Dallas Theater Center Guild presented the annual Dickens Gala on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Dickens was created 22 years ago and in that time has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of the Dallas Theater Center. 21 of those years Dickens has been held at the Hotel Adolphus, Dickens has a rich history of ushering in the holiday season. A special thank you is extended to, **Terri Hahn** the Catering Manager at The Adolphus, Terri has served as our very own support person for all 21 years.

Last year when I served as Dickens chairman my breath was taken away when I first entered the ballroom, I did not think that Delene Bell and her staff at Lilands under the direction of Sherry Sivils our decorations chair could possibly match the wonderment of Judy Mathis's Dickens last year, but they did, and the room was simply magical.

And that brings me to Judy Mathis, in May I asked the nominating committee to ask Judy Mathis and two other committed talented and passionate ladies to chair Dickens, I did not get an official yes from Judy then but fortunately for the guild she stepped forward and with friends and family and in six short weeks made sure the TRADITION and GRANDURE of Dickens continued. Thank you Judy and friends and family. Vicki, Sarah Judy, Sue, Deborah, Glenda, As a volunteer organization we work in harmony with the DTC Board of Directors. I would like to recognize

two of the Guilds strongest supporters **Mr. Frank Risch, Chairman of the Board and Larry Angelilli, President**, for their ongoing support of the guild.

Susan Falvo again served as our Live Auction chair and **Mark Hadley** our Managing Director and **Kevin Moriarty** our Artistic Director served as our Auctioneers. Scrooge was not able to scare any of our guests out of bidding, we reached record bids this year, thank you **Scrooge (Ron Bolton)** for being with us again this year.

To the staff of the DTC thank you for all you do every day for the theater and still find time to support the guilds efforts. We are so appreciative to you for handling our registration and live auction this year.

Karol Omlor and **Amy Lacy** created a very special program that took many years to come together 50 to be exact, Karol and Amy created a wonderful memory book for us, this year we honored all of our past presidents who brought us to where we are today.

Thank you to the volunteers and donors I did not name personally. I hope each of you enjoyed Dickens, you made Dickens 2008 possible.

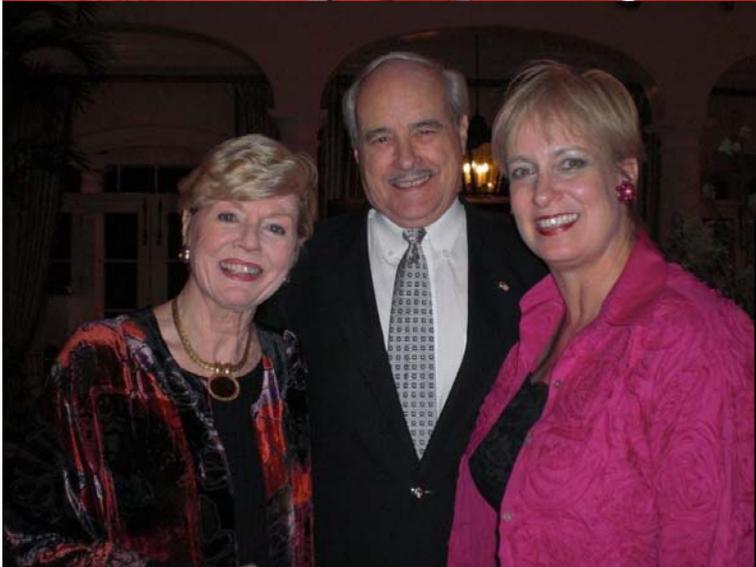
Michelle Mew

- taken from remarks made at Dickens 2008

More Guild Activities!

A new service project for DTC Guild members are MEET and GREETs. These are 90 minute social opportunities to meet the DTC acting company, cast, creative teams, guest actors, staff and board members. A recent meet and greet was held December 30, 2008, guild members who attended enjoyed opening remarks and a brief presentation of the upcoming production, In the Beginning and were given insights into the design and concept of the play. Admittance to this one of a kind is event is providing a tasty finger food. For more information and to RSVP - email rmm1959tx@gmail.com.

Upcoming meet and Greet: BACK, BACK BACK - February 13, 2009 @ 11:00 AM; Sara Plain and Tall - March 20, 2009 @ 11:00 AM



Photos are from the Guild's New Member Party and the Fall Outing

If you have photos that you'd like to submit for the newsletter, please send them to sfalvo@diamondlevel.net. (Please be sure to include the names of those photographed)

DONNA M. WILHELM – Dickens Honorary Chair

Donna M. Wilhelm is a philanthropist and concerned citizen; she pursues a mission to promote global connection and learning through education, the arts, cultural exchange civil society initiatives and to conserve and protect the environment and the world's natural resources. Donna serves Dallas Theater Center as a Trustee, member of the Executive Committee, Capital Funds Campaign Committee, Trustee Development Committee and as Chair of the Education Committee. She also serves on the board North Texas Public Broadcasting (KERA) and is the network's founding donor of Art Seek, a multimedia regional arts awareness initiative. She supports The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation as member of the President's Advisory Council and Advisory Board of the Brinker International Forum and Lecture Series and as initiating donor of a strategic technology network for resident organizations. Her international focus involves advocacy, leadership and capacity building for women and girls in majority Muslim countries, most recently Pakistan and Iran. She further sponsors global understanding and education initiatives through the World Affairs Council of DFW and the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations. Donna's international donor education was achieved through completion of The Philanthropy Workshop (TPW), a program of studies developed by the Rockefeller Foundation, now affiliated with The Philanthropy Institute of London, where she actively participates in alumni seminars, global initiatives and major funding. Donna holds a B.A. degree, magna cum laude from Hunter College, CUNY and a specialty in jewelry design from Parsons School of Design. For 20 years she worked as an independent jewelry designer, now semi-retired. A passionate advocate for conservation, she is currently building a green home, as is her daughter and son-in-law, contiguous efforts and a website, dallasbuildsgreen.com, launched to promote community awareness of innovative sustainable design and building practices.

Reprinted from "A Christmas Carol" Playbill Interview with Jill & Al Anderson, DTC trustee

How long have you been subscribers, and what's the first DTC production you saw? We became season ticket holders in 1960, DTC's second season, after seeing the world premiere production of *The Cross-Eyed Bear* by Eugene McKinney and directed by Paul Baker.

What have been your favorite DTC productions over the years? Memorable productions include the world premiere of Paddy Chayefsky's *The Latest Heterosexual* (1967-68) starring Zero Mostel and directed by Burgess Meredith. Over the top, our favorite was the world premiere of Preston Jones' *Texas Trilogy* directed by Paul Baker. A forever highlight was The Salzburg Marionette Theatre's *The Sound of Music* (2007-2008) directed by Richard Hamburger.

What has DTC meant to you and how has it affected your lives? To us DTC is family and it has had a major influence on our family life. Inviting family and friends to share the theater is the way we entertain. Our oldest daughter Joslyn has an undergraduate degree from Trinity University with Paul Baker and an MFA from DTC ('77). Our children and grandchildren have taken numerous classes here.

What do you enjoy doing most as members of the DTC Guild? The DTC Guild has been the source of some of our closest and dearest friends. The many activities are productive and enriching for everyone.

What are your hopes for DTC in the future as an organization and as a member of the Dallas community? We are excited to see that the foundation of Paul Baker's dreams will carry on, aided by the other outstanding directors, especially during the 15-year tenure of the creative and innovative Richard Hamburger. Now we have the young and enthusiastic visionary Kevin Moriarty to carry his own dreams into the future.

Guild members DISCOVER YOUR THEATER 50/50 50 yr anniversary 50% ticket prices!

Our 50th year, 2008-2009 anniversary season kickoff special: The Dallas Theater Center Guild is providing guild members with a special 50% ticket pricing for members and their guests for this upcoming season. Sign-up now, mark your calendar and enjoy the following DTC productions at greatly reduced rates.

Back Back Back
March 18th
Sarah, Plain and Tall
April 29th

Take advantage of this special opportunity by reserving your tickets and calling the DTC box office at 214.522.8499 or order online at www.dallastheatercenter.org

DTC Guild Endowment Fund –

The Dallas Theater Center Guild has an established endowment fund and members may add to it throughout the year. We'd like to acknowledge some recent contributions from Guild members; Judy Mathis has made contributions in honor of Claire Cunningham and Rocky Ford's birthdays. Diane Brierley contributed in honor of Claire Cunningham's birthday and Rocky Ford contributed in honor of Judy Mathis for her outstanding work on the Dickens Celebration.

In the Beginning Years of the Dickens Gala (by Karol Omlor)

Over the years since the inaugural Dickens Gala in 1986, many talented, dedicated volunteers from the Guild (formerly called the Women's Committee) have worked countless hours in fundraising efforts for the Dallas Theater Center. As with all traditions the gala has changed and evolved over the years.

The Dickens of a Christmas Gala originated to coincide with the Theater's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The maiden gala was held the first Sunday in December, 1986 at The Adolphus Hotel. Chairman Marilyn Hubble remembers the magical evening being highlighted by a silent auction sponsored by Bloomingdale's who then had a store in Dallas. The following year is remembered for its world-class gala entirely underwritten by Tiffany & Co. in honor of Tiffany's 150th anniversary. The event was held at the Anatole Hotel on December 13, 1987, and over 650 people attended according to Chairman Shirley Moseley. Shirley remembers hearing *Moon River* from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* playing as guests entered the beautiful ballroom, having Martin Jurow, the producer of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and his wife in attendance, AND raising over \$85,000 for the DTC. In 1991 Chair Sharon Spalding made many creative changes to the gala. The Guild could not have a silent auction that year, so Sharon originated *The Olde Curiosity Shoppe* and invited the street performers from Scarborough Faire to entertain. Judy Hamilton, Chair of the 1992 Gala visualizes a traditional Victorian evening with lovely gauzy angel centerpieces which were auctioned to the highest bidders—some went for more than \$100 each. Chair Debbie Stack carried the Victorian theme forward into the 1993 gala. David Charles Dickens, great grandson of Charles Dickens, attended the gala in honor of the 150th anniversary of the publication of *A Christmas Carol*. Barbara Bigham incorporated change and new traditions into the 1994 gala. For the second time in the history of the Dickens Gala, the event was not held at the Adolphus. The Southland Center Hotel was the setting; red was the color of choice; November was the month; Friday, not Sunday, was the day when over 500 began celebrating Christmas early. The pre-party for gathering items to sell/auction at the gala was initiated this year. The preparations for the 1994 gala were covered in the November/December issue of *Southern Accents* magazine. In 1996, past Women's Committee President Claire Cunningham chaired Dickens. Claire began another unique aspect of Dickens galas to follow...the program book featuring photographs of Guild members, families or special groups. Ten years ago, 1998, Diane Brierley, former Lady Mayor of Dickens, chaired the gala. With Diane at the helm, the gala exploded out of the Adolphus ballroom into the garden-designed lobby. Diane remembers working hard with many dear friends to create a magical evening. In the last ten years the gala has both changed and stayed the same with the creative inspiration and leadership of the chairs and their committees. Several of the more recent Dickens Chairs have lead Dickens either prior to or following their term as President of the Guild. Thanks go to Nancy Ritter, Judy Mathis, Susan Falvo and current Guild President Michelle Mew for their double commitment to the Guild and DTC.

The DTC Guild recruits members to join year round. The DTC Guild is given the privilege of volunteering for the Dallas Theater Center. together we provide service to our theater: we step forward when asked to serve as greeters or season ticket-campaigners; we raise funds for our Education and Community Outreach programs; we provide delicious tech dinners six times a season; we adopt visiting artists in need visiting and working in Dallas; we are always available to lend a hand. There is much more to come in 2009 encourage your friends to join us as members. Here's our contact information: Sherry Sivils - scsivils@att.net, 972-335-4723, or online application - www.dtcguild.org

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