

On Cue

Hang on tight, we're reporting on Dallas Theater Center and DTC Guild happenings that make them exciting and valuable!

Hello All,

The DTC Guild is on your screen with information, entertainment and pizzazz!! Yes, the famous Guild newsletter, operating under the oh so theatrical moniker of *On Cue*, will inform you and assault your sensibilities (the editor grew up on *Mad* magazine). If you think you can handle it, sit back with a libation (white or red?) and enjoy!

Let's start with the important stuff – members!

AT DTC: *The Sound of Music*

Wonderful music for a wonderful story featuring a singing family of seven children, a naval captain, and - Maria! And there were many children in the audience, some dancing their way out of the Wyly! "Wonderful" can be a worn-out word but it is so appropriate for this version of *The Sound of Music*, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Even the Nazis in the story could not dampen the joy of singing – or the nonstop smile of this audience member. In his opinion, this *Sound of Music* was one of the best DTC productions - ever! Keep those hills alive!

NEW GUILD MEMBERS!

The Guild has been gaining new members, much to the credit of President-Elect JB Nehlich and her team as they planned and held all-member events! As of March 1 the Guild has 147 members. **These members joined during the current fiscal year:**

- Tina Marie Baalman
- Jay Bradford & Stephany Fraser
- Anna Cabeca, MD
- Kristen Davis
- Jennifer & Hal Elrod
- Brian Evans
- Joey Folsom
- Andrew Gray
- Deserae Herring & Travis McBride
- Sarah Howell
- Kathryn Howlett
- Storm Lineberger
- Jean Lyons
- Kristina Russell
- Anna Sanders & David Hall
- Ana Tucker

We are so happy to have them in the Guild!

What's inside!

New Members
"Betting It All"

The Salon – *The Sound of Music*
"The Roaring 20s"



Betting It All!

I hope you were among the Guild members and guests, including Frank (Sinatra?) who attended the latest clever Guild event designed by President-Elect JB Nehlich – “Betting It All”. And I hope you won really BIG!!

This casino-themed event at Bella Luna was FUN! Some classy people dressed up, Las Vegas style! It featured brisket, pulled pork and mixed beans (a unique South Dakota recipe), all personally crafted by Chef Todd (Nehlich), with several sides, a full bar, and guest tables a-plenty! And speaking of tables, there were dealers offering blackjack, roulette and craps. They were continually attended by fortune-seeking party-people wanting to fund an expensive vacation on some tropical isle. And dee-jay Brian Evans sang, played keyboards and ran a few recordings with age-appropriate hits. All of that for a paltry \$10!

These lucky people attended

- Adam Armstrong
- Tina Baalman
- Judy Birchfield and Belinda Birchfield
- Amy Brunelle (guest)
- Wendy Coyle (guest)
- Ebony Davis & Thomas Hodnett
- Dorothy & Steve Davis
- Claudia & Scott Davis
- Allison Epstein (guest)
- Mike Fitzpatrick
- Julie Goldfarb
- Pat Hastings and Sarah Hastings
- Deserae Herring (guest, now a member and bringing husband)

- Angela & John Howell
- Kathryn Howlett
- Marla & Howard Janco
- Donna & Steve Marino
- Robert Martin
- Judy & J.C. Mathis
- Barbara & Sam McKenney
- Allison Morris
- JB & Todd Nehlich
- Vicki & Kent Newsom
- Suzanne Palmlund & Joseph Manes
- Hal Schneider
- Sarah & Don Warnecke
- Jerry Zvonecek

And after seeing the fun being had, some others are interested in joining. Thanks to all!
If you were not there, you should reconsider whatever your reason was and work on that before receiving your invitation to the next Guild event!

Ebony Davis & Thomas Hodnett



Kathryn Howlett



Hal Schneider, Steve & Donna Marino, Barbara McKenney, Jerry Zvonecek



L>R: Angela & John Howell, Claudia Davis, Marla Janco, Scott Davis

Vicki Newsom & Sarah Warnecke



Belinda Birchfield



The Salon

Each year the Dallas Theater Center Guild presents “**Salon**,” a multifaceted evening offering conversation among Dallas Theater Center patrons and friends, dining and an in-depth discussion of a Dallas Theater Center production. Salon 2022 was the first since Covid disrupted the world, including the theater community. It focused on DTC’s production of ***The Sound of Music***, and was held at the **Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum**, on April 18. Guild Vice-Presidents—Events **Claudia and Scott Davis designed and orchestrated Salon 2022, which was masterfully done!** The Museum is dedicated to teaching the history of the Holocaust and to advancing human rights in order to combat prejudice, hatred and indifference. The play touches lightly on those themes before the heroes escape to the freedom and safety of Switzerland.

Over 60 theater aficionados gathered at the Museum, enjoying **wine, champagne, four delightful hors d’oeuvres** and a bounty of conversation! Some gained from an intriguing, sometimes chilling **guided tour** of several Museum exhibits, and others from a **self-guided tour**. Photos of Hitler, Himmler and other **infamous Nazis** stare from the walls, along with photos of the grim facilities and guards. **Equipment on display** testifies to the cruel, unrelenting prisoner abuse before facing the Nazis’ goal of ethnic extinction.

A full-course dinner and conversation followed, and lively it was! Then **Scott Davis, who did skillful research at the Museum and of the play, led an insightful, in-depth discussion** of the dynamics and motivations with the perspective of these panelists:

- **Kevin Moriarty**, Enloe-Rose Artistic Director of Dallas Theater Center
- **Sara Abosch-Jacobson, PhD**, the Barbara Rabin **Chief Education Officer** for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum

Dr. Abosch-Jacobson is an experienced educator who has researched, taught and written on **Jewish culture and history**. She holds a PhD in modern European and Jewish history, an MA in modern British and Jewish history, and an MA in Political Science with a concentration in Civil/Military Relations. At the Museum, she is responsible for all content-related matters. She regularly speaks on the Holocaust, topics in Jewish history and culture, and the history covered in the Museum’s core and special exhibitions.

- **Charlotte Decoster, PhD**, the Ackerman Family **Director of Education** for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum

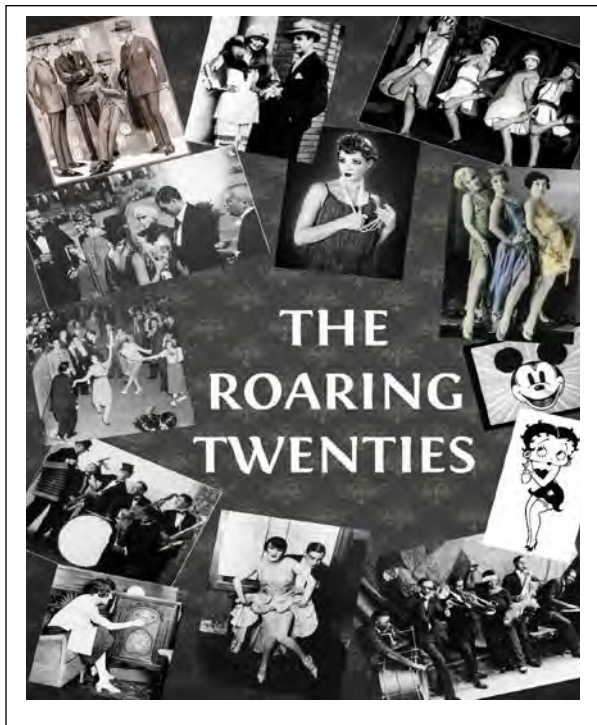
Dr. Decoster is also an experienced educator who has researched, taught, and written on **Holocaust history**. She holds a PhD in History from the University of North Texas. She regularly speaks on the Holocaust, **children and child rescue** during the Holocaust, and in Nazi Germany. She has travelled throughout the U.S. to give talks on Anne Frank and child rescue during the Holocaust.

She and Dr. Abosch-Jacobson described the historical context of the real-life events behind *The Sound of Music*.

Kevin told us that all productions of *The Sound of Music* must stay true to the Rodgers and Hammerstein music and lyrics, but productions can incorporate creative approaches. He did so by emphasizing the moral culpability of bystanders like the character Max.

All three panelists discussed the thematic connection between the Trap family's opposition to the *Anschluss* and current events in Ukraine.

It was a fascinating, insightful discussion about the dynamics of that era of horror, the motivations of the participants, the forces enabling and constraining them, and the way in which it was brought to a conclusion.



Here in this two-littered year of 2022, two things are roaring back: the **Guild and the Roaring Twenties!** Wow, it's been over 100 years ago since that swingin' age, but it did swing again on **March 3**. The Guild thanks **42 Guild members** and guests who gathered at The Alexander Mansion in downtown Dallas to enjoy each other's company at this first Guild event of 2022! And to enjoy the fascinating comments by award-winning **author Jim Dent**, a hearty meal, a full-service bar, and the high-spirited **pianistics of Brian Evans!!** If you couldn't join the festivities, know that we missed you. (And if you just flat wouldn't join the festivities, too bad, your loss. Get it in gear for the next Guild event.)

Dallas-size thanks go to **JB Nehlich** and **April Bosworth** for arranging it all, for tasteful decorations, and for keeping spirits high! And to **Marla Janco** for getting the word out, to **Sarah Warnecke** for expert reservations work, and to The Alexander Mansion for services and security (photo below).

The stars of this show were those members and guests who came costumed with Roaring 20's regalia! Their dresses, feathered headbands, strings of beads, fishnet stockings and cigarette holders stepped right out of a period film - with color added. And the guys' jackets, white ties on black shirts, and hats roared with the ladies. Thanks big time to those who illustrated the theme! The photos by **Kathryn Howlett** tell the story better than these words.

Kathryn Howlett



Another star of the show was **author Jim Dent**. **JB Nehlich** has known Jim for 35 years and arranged for his participation in the Guild event. He is a sports writer with nearly ten books to his credit, including *The Junction Boys*, a NY Times best-seller! **Kent Newsom** read *The Mighty Orphans*. It tells the story of Abner McCall, who was left at an orphanage; he joined the winning football team. Kent **told of McCall's rise to the Texas Supreme Court, Dean of the Baylor Law School and President of Baylor University!**



Dent covered the Dallas Cowboys for the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and the Dallas Times Herald, and **got to know Jerry Jones quite well**. In *King of the Cowboys*, Dent published material that annoyed Jones. **Jones bought all 22,000 copies** printed and **warehoused them** for many years, leaving **Dent to wonder why the book sold so well but he couldn't find anyone who had read it!**

Dent has had a long time problem with alcohol, and was sentenced to 10 years in the slammer for DWIs in several states. According to Dent, booze flows freely in that sports environment and good intentions were no match for that access.

Jim told **interesting stories about gangsters** that he is now building into a book, particularly a girl called "Little Sister". She grew up in a bordello, hung out with the bad guys, and in a fascinating twist used her high intelligence to graduate from Harvard Law School!

The Alexander Mansion



Ebony Davis & JB Nehlich



Vicki & Kent Newsom



Let's recap the event in 1920s slang. At this *speakeasy* there were many *skirts* in *glad rags*, and *spiffy* looking guys who each paid a *sawbuck* to get in to this *hotsy-totsy* affair. One guy seemed like a *drugstore cowboy*. There was plenty of *giggle water* but no *foot juice*. The speaker was the *bee's knees* and the *cat's meow*. He *knew his onions*, with no *horsefeathers*.

Sarah Hastings, Pat Hastings, Don Warnecke



Tina Baalman & Kathryn Howlett



Jim Dent & audience



Sarah Warnecke



Cindy Cummings & Mac McGinnis



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Hey Guild members,

This ol' fart just passed the 8-0 mark – a definite turning point. Like turning over the *On Cue* editorial pen to a successor. I may still contribute an occasional article.

It has been a great deal of fun serving as the *On Cue* editor and writer! The objective has always been to inform and entertain, and my teenage indoctrination with *Mad* magazine was a good basis.

So here's the deal. I'll step around to your side of the page, enjoying the content, and will join you in supporting the next editor. Let's celebrate his/her contributions to the Dallas Theater Center Guild!

Don Warnecke