

ON CUE

This year's BIG event was the Salon Series, featuring *The Trials of Sam Houston*. Many Guild members and other Dallas luminaries attended. In order to include many photos, this issue of *On Cue* is packaged into two volumes. **This is Volume 1.**



Upcoming Events: June - August

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| IMPORTANT! | PUT THESE IN YOUR CALENDAR!! RIGHT NOW!!! |
| May 30 – July 1 | <i>White Rabbit, Red Rabbit</i> (Wily Studio Theatre) |
| June 11 6:00 – 7:30 | General Meeting (Kristie Konstans home, 11107 Edgemere) |
| June 16 4:00 – 6:00 | Guild & Guitar: Van Darien (Warnecke home, 6515 Lakehurst) |
| June 23 11:00 | Meet & Greet: <i>Hairspray</i> (Wily) |
| TBA | Tech Dinner: <i>Hairspray</i> (Wily) |
| July 7 – 15 | <i>Hairspray (The Broadway Musical)</i> (At Winspear Opera House) (Directed by Joel Ferrell) |

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| July 8 12:30 – 3:30 | Guild Matinee at DTC: <i>Hairspray</i> , at Winspear) |
| July 24 (Time TBA) | Meet & Greet: Public Works (Wily) |

Make sure to enjoy the Come Early and Stay Late sessions for each play! (Note: there are none for *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit*)

The passing of Ken Latimer. The Dallas theater community and the DTC Guild have lost a dear and honored member and friend. Ken began his career with Paul Baker at Baylor and in the Kalita Humphreys Theater. He acted in plays that toured internationally and directed over 200 plays around the country. In recent years he directed our own Guild Players and advised the Guild.

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- > DTC Education Department

Don Warnecke, Editor and Writer * Photos by Don, Julian Noel, or as noted

TACA Silver Cup Awards Luncheon Salutes Julie Hersh!

Dallas Theater Center Board Chair **Julie Hersh** was celebrated at the 40th annual TACA Silver Cup Awards Luncheon. Julie is a superstar to DTC and to the Guild! She has brought energy, insight and elan to DTC, and has been an active member of the Guild, often joining the action at Meet & Greets, Tech Dinners, and Guild special events. At this year's CenterStage Gala, she demonstrated her vocal chops by singing a duet with Broadway and television star Don Domenech!

The Luncheon program included this quote by Julie. "For me, the arts open a pathway to new worlds, self-expression and healing. As a child and young adult I wrote poetry, plays and puppet shows, played clarinet and guitar and sang in the choir, sang Broadway show tunes with my mom and my own tunes of heartbreak on the back porch. The arts have made Dallas my home, intertwined with my work in mental health."

Julie is President of the Hersh Foundation, a board member of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, a former board member of the Dallas Museum of Art and the Dallas Children's Theater, and a board member of other arts, educational and medical organizations. Julie is a marathoner, a hiker and a published author. She holds a BBA degree from Northwestern University. Husband Ken is CEO of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the venue for the Guild's 2018 Salon Series.

Since 1967, TACA has been a leading supporter of the arts of Dallas. In 2018 it provided significant financial support for Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Dallas Opera and 38 other Dallas area performing and visual arts



Photo by Judy Birchfield

organizations. Each year TACA hosts its Silver Cup Awards Luncheon to honor two people for their volunteer leadership and outstanding contributions to the arts. For this 40th annual event, TACA and sponsors JP Morgan Chase and Neiman Marcus saluted Julie Hersh and Don Stone. The luncheon was held at the Hilton Anatole on March 20.

Nominating Committee – 2018-2019 Guild Officers

One of the toughest Guild jobs is to select officers for the next year. A Nominating Committee has undertaken that task with a target of presenting a proposed slate of officers at the June 19 Board meeting. The slate will include President(s), President(s)-elect, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Historian. The President(s) will appoint the Parliamentarian and may appoint At Large members. Those new officers will then recruit leaders for Theater Services, Member Events, and administrative functions.

Currently there are about 50 jobs in the whole organization and about 40 people covering those jobs. Sounds like a village! Pages 11 – 12 in the Yearbook list the whole crew. **So start thinking now about the job you would like for next year and volunteer for it right away!**

An Afternoon of Jerome Kern Music!

On May 20, The Dallas Theater Center Guild, The Dallas Opera Guild and The Puccini Society of Dallas jointly sponsored their third annual Afternoon of American Music. This year's concert featured Dallas-based singer and actor Diana Sheehan. Diana did a wonderful program of Jerome Kern music in the inviting home of Dallas Opera Guild Co-Presidents Jan and James Clay. Diana starred in a DTC Reading several years ago, which was directed by Ken Latimer. A sumptuous buffet of desserts and beverages added to the afternoon's delight.

Fifty-four members of the three organizations attended, including DTC Guild members Eleanor Casey, Suzanne Caruso, Patti & John Cody, Marilyn Halla, Angela & John Howell, Marla & Howard Janco, Larry Lee Johnson, Vicki Newsom, Pat Pace & Rodolfo Salas, Peggy Shuman, Karen Urie, Marion Ward-Dunton, Sarah & Don Warnecke, Karen & Jerry Zvonecek.

This year's Nominating Committee includes three members appointed by President Lance Hancock (Judy Birchfield, April Bosworth and Jerry Zvonecek) and two elected by the membership (Suzanne Caruso and Judy Mathis). There are four advisors to the Committee: Eleanor Casey, Lance Hancock, Craig Haynes and Michelle Mew.

On Cue has been told that the Committee is exercising extra scrutiny to prevent Russian meddling in this electoral process!

Wait! Why are you still reading this? You should be on the phone or keyboard, volunteering for a Guild job!



The Guild Salon Series 2018

The Trials of Sam Houston

The common understanding that “everything is BIG in Texas” was dramatized in this year’s Salon Series, featuring *The Trials of Sam Houston* – BIG story, BIG venue, BIG guest list, BIG enjoyment! The first of the Guild’s Salon Series was held in a private home; about 60 guests attended that 2011 event which focused on *Cabaret*, DTC’s major play of that year. The Salon continued for several years in private homes until moving to The Sixth Floor Museum in 2016, then to The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and this year to the George W. Bush Presidential Center, with attendance of over 250!

Sam Houston was a BIG, complex character, who during his 70 years was a controversial Governor of Tennessee (for six months), a citizen of the Cherokee Tribe, a fugitive in Mexico after being convicted of assaulting a US Congressman, the Commander-In-Chief of the Texas Army, President of the newly independent Republic of Texas, a US Senator representing the newly established State of Texas, Governor of Texas, a slave owner and emancipator, and for much of this time, a raging drunkard.

Playwright Aaron Loeb studied that history in depth, was captivated, and proposed writing *The Trials of Sam Houston* for DTC, which commissioned the work. He set the play in 1832, in the middle of Sam’s legal, political, moral and personal trials and in the middle of really BIG American political schisms.

For its world premiere, Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty brought the work to the Kalita Humphreys stage in this season that also included the BIG political story of Lyndon Johnson’s trials in DTC’s *The Great Society* and America’s current political trials on both national and international stages. In *The Trials*, eight actors play 22 roles!

Stephanie and Robert Haley served as Co-Chairs of this spectacular Salon. They arranged for the historians in the panel discussion and orchestrated many other aspects. Here is their perspective. “We were attracted to this project by the idea of a new play reexamining the life of a Texas hero, but in reading the advance script we found a far more profound drama of a time of an existential threat to the American experiment, not too far from our present political situation. In the details of the Salon we could transport our guests back to the 1830s to more vividly feel the complex peril of the time.” The event was widely praised by those guests.



Stephanie & Robert Haley

Stephanie and Robert led a Salon Committee that included these Guild leaders:

Judy Birchfield – table sales

Judy Mathis – decorations & favors

April Bosworth – decorations

Vicki Newsom – online payments

Mary Lee Cox – press

Kersten Rettig – underwriting chair

Lance Hancock – President

Sarah Warnecke – reservations

Kaki Hopkins – concepts & invitation, program design

Diana Winkelmann – mailing

John Howell – contracts

Karen & Jerry Zvonecek – check-in

DTC Staff members Rhealyn Carter and Amy Lacy assisted with underwriting and publicity, and Morgana Wilborn handled community outreach, including bringing Mary Hamilton, a great, great granddaughter of Houston’s assistant Jeff Hamilton. The Salon organization also included Patrons, Table Hosts, and a Host Committee.

Sarah Warnecke handled reservations, seating, and overall event operations. “The Salon committee executed this year’s event with new vision, complete commitment to success and great teamwork! Robert and Stephanie Haley, our calm, brilliant and devoted chairs, discovered more about the drama of working with Guild members and enjoyed the infectious optimism of its leaders and members. The play selection, the venue, and the highly esteemed and entertaining panel appealed to the 252 guests.

Both Jeff Woodward and Kevin Moriarty recognized the ‘Salon effect’ on increasing ticket sales 30% above goal.” Sarah continued: “A special thanks from the Committee to all the guests who supported Salon, who brought new community leaders to the event and who expressed their personal appreciation through social media well beyond the evening’s immediate impact.”



Sarah Warnecke Vicki Newsom Patricia Crocker

Guild Vice President **Kaki Hopkins** formulated the overall concept for this Salon and designed the very clever invitation and event program. For the first time, the Salon included underwriters (Jennifer & Peter Altabef, Lisa & Clay Cooley, Bess & Ted Enloe with Deedie Rose, Mona & Bill Graue, Melinda & Jim Johnson, Sarah & Don Warnecke).



Jerry & Karen Zvonecek Kersten Rettig & Clark Knippers

Diana & Bill Winkelmann



Bess & Ted Enloe

Shannon & Ted Skokos Deedie Rose



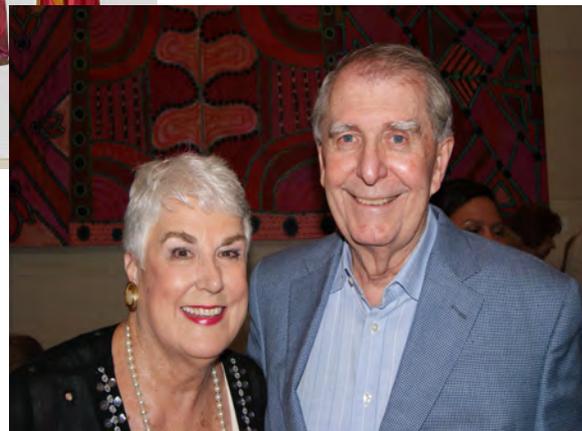
The Salon progressed through three areas of the Bush Presidential Center for the reception, the dinner, and the program. The reception and dinner featured “early Texas cuisine” that was tasty and filling – and appropriately named. Here are a few of the menu items: Deviled Quail Eggs; Cherokee Sweet Corn Soup; Huntsville Triple Dipped Fried Chicken with Cream Gravy; Mary Houston’s White Cake with Lemon Curd. No dainty French-sounding grub for these rugged folks of the frontier!



The table decorations were spectacular, and added elegance to tables that were filled by an energetic table sales effort. The décor was symbolically reminiscent of the 1800s. The blue motif of the table linens and hydrangeas reflected the blue in our flag. Centerpieces of varying heights incorporated lanterns, indigenous greenery and lichen-covered branches, and were accompanied by horns and other period pieces.



Marilyn Wedell Don Warnecke April Bosworth



Judy & JC Mathis

Two musicians provided authentic music of 19th century Texas. Actors Charlie Robinson and Steven Walters joined in the festivities. As you have concluded by now, all of this was BIG!

The highlight of the evening was the panel discussion moderated by Kevin Moriarty. The panelists were (left to right, below)

- Charlie Robinson – actor, playing old Jeff Hamilton, old Sam Houston, Andrew Jackson.
- Aaron Loeb – *The Trials* playwright and video game developer
- University of North Texas history professor Dr. Mike Campbell, a widely recognized expert on Sam Houston, the Civil War, Reconstruction and Texas history.
- Summerlee Foundation President John Crain. The Foundation supports the preservation of Texas history.



Volume 2 of this issue of *On Cue* will have more photos!
Look for it in the next two weeks.



Mary Lee Cox Kent & Vicki Newsom



JoAnn Dealey Mary & Roger Cunningham Angela & John Howell



Diane & Hal Brienley, Arlissa Hunter, Charlie Robinson, Mary Hamilton, Aaron Loeb, Morgana Wilborn



Lance Hancock & daughter Caitlin



Don Hicks Gwendolyn Lawe



Jim & Melinda Johnson Mona & Bill Graue



Theater Backstage! The Education Department

Yes, you probably do know a little bit about the DTC Education Department. They produce those valuable and fun *COME EARLY* and *STAY LATE* sessions led by cast members before and after most DTC plays. There are many educational services provided to children and teens – perhaps your children or grandchildren – so read on.

Each year, Director of Education **Morgana Wilborn** and Manager of Education Programs **Gloria Benavides** have a positive impact on the lives of over 4,000 Metroplex students by bringing them to the Wyly or the Kalita. The Education Department's flagship program is PROJECT DISCOVERY, which brings (meaning by free bus transportation) 720 students from 30 area high schools to five DTC main stage productions. To boost their understanding and enjoyment of the performances, the

students attend workshop discussions focused on the meaning and content of the plays, along with a bit theater insiders' information. Their teachers participate in professional development workshops. Some of those students will continue in theater – and others may become CEOs.

The Education Department also establishes PARTNERSHIPS with arts and civic organizations to enrich citizens' experience. The Education Department partnered with the **DTC Guild** during *The Trials of Sam Houston* in order to provide historical resources for this year's fabulous Salon Series. The Education Department had also assisted with arranging the panelists for the Salon on *Inherit the Wind*. Outside of the Guild, Education has partnered with The Sixth Floor Museum, Holocaust Museum, DMA and Faith Forward Dallas - Thanksgiving Square.

Intense theater instruction goes on stage in the Ted and Shannon SKOKOS LEARNING LAB! Twenty Booker T. Washington (BTW) students take a college-level acting class taught by BTW faculty and Brierley Resident Acting Company (BRAC) members, including Master Teacher Alex Organ. This year's graduating class, along with BRAC members, recently staged their annual Showcase.

SUMMERSTAGE takes students ages 9 to 17 with a passion for theater arts to a new level through three-week intensive courses in acting, musical theater, or playwriting. DTC's objective is to refine student talents and to help foster their confidence and cooperation. This year, DTC has raised funds to support scholarships for 10 students. And those 4,000 students from around the Metroplex? They enjoy STUDENT MATINEES at reduced prices. That is a lot of theater experience!