



# WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



May 2021

## Mad Hatter's Tea *Out of Africa Into the Garden* Was a Sold-Out Crowd

*Mad Hatter's Tea is Celebrating its 33rd Year benefiting the Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and A Woman's Garden*

**Jolie Humphrey**, chair of Mad Hatter's Tea "Out of Africa Into the Garden", along with **Kay Weeks**, president of the Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and honorary chair, **Carole Ann Brown**, celebrated the spring season and A Woman's Garden among the glorious floral displays at the Dallas Arboretum.

There was a stirring of excitement as patrons gathered at one of the very first full-of-fun events to be outdoors this year. Guests were chatting about the Safari Surprise Boxes and Silent Auction as many purchased the limited-edition custom silk scarf created by **Barbara Elam**, a nationally renowned artist who also created the poster for the Mad Hatter's theme. Kay thanked Jolie for her relentless tenacity on keeping the experience an in-person celebration and her boundless creativity and style incorporating the theme into all aspects of the event. She thanked sponsors including Presenting Sponsor **Park Place Motorcars**, **TOOTSIES**, who sponsored the informal modeling and **Linda and Frank Spina**



Left to right: **Kay Weeks**, WCDABG President, **Carole Ann Brown**, Honorary Chair and **Jolie Humphrey**, Mad Hatters Chair.

as underwriters for the Judges Reveal and Patron Party chaired by **Therese Rourk** and **Dyann Skelton**. Out of Africa sponsor was **Carole Ann Brown**. Jardim Tundura sponsors were **Dr. Linda Burk** and **Sherwood Wagner**. Aburi Botanic sponsors were **Suzanne Caruso**, **Robin Carreker**, **Jolie Humphrey**, **Lindsay Loughlin**, **Jackie Ondracek**, **SIDLEY**, **Lisa Troutt** and **Kay Weeks**. Contributing sponsors included **TOOTSIES**, **Westwood Management**, **Veritex Community Bank** and **Mary MacRae**. Media sponsors were **People Newspapers** and **My Sweet Charity**.

Jolie gave special recognition to honorary chair **Carole Ann Brown** as the first Mad Hatter's Tea chair in 1989. Hat winners were **Jennifer Bell**, **Tatiana Graham**. **Jordi Bostock**, **Elizabeth Smith Theis**, **Yvonne Evans**, **Kimble Wooten**, and **Sherwood's Chapeaux Safari**: **Sherwood Wagner**, **Marena Gault**, **Sharon Popham** and **Lisa Evert**. Guests enjoyed a lovely, seated afternoon tea by **Gil's Elegant Catering** featuring traditional scones, tea sandwiches, sweet desserts, animal cookie favors by **Sweets by Belinda** and a spring fashion promenade presented by **TOOTSIES** produced by **Jan Strimple**.

## President's Letter



As we close this year, I want to thank all of you, members and board alike, for your steadfast support of the Women's Council and our mission. It has been a year like none other and I am so grateful for the creativity, flexibility, patience, resilience and "can do attitude" of our members. We did it!

Spring brought with it "the light at the end of the tunnel". Thanks to the vaccine and lightened gathering restrictions, we were able to hold an in-person Mad Hatter's Tea. Out of Africa Into the Garden was a stunning success! My thanks to Chairman, **Jolie Humphrey**, Honorary Chair, **Carole Ann Brown** and their team for a beautiful and fun event!

In early May we were able to hold an in-person garden party in A Woman's Garden for our new members. Special thanks to **Kunthea Mam-Douglas**, New Member Chairman; **Mary Ellen Winborn**, VP Membership and **The Magnolias** for their sponsorship.

Our Annual Meeting was at capacity in A Tasteful Place as we honored **Mary Brinegar** with the Founders Award. She has brought world acclaim to the Arboretum and has served as such a positive role model for us all. **Sarah Jo Hardin** received the Leadership Award and **Sharon Ballew** was the recipient of the Service Award. The program featured **Darren McGrady**, former royal chef for **Princess Diana**, **Queen Elizabeth II** and Five U.S. Presidents. Our thanks to Sarah Jo Hardin for securing our dynamic speaker and to **Mari Epperson** and **Marcy Jones** for creating such a beautiful luncheon!

The Lisianthus Tea was held May 26th at the home and gardens of **Lisa Cooley**. It was a lovely event honoring our Lisianthus and Circle of Honor donors. Thank you to **Kathy Cothrum**, Chairman and Lisa Cooley for such an elegant event.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president this pandemic-ridden year. I hope to see you in A Woman's Garden this next year!!

Warm regards,

Kay Weeks, Women's Council President 2020-2021

The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum newsletter is printed 3 times per year by the WCDABG. The next deadline is: September 1. Please send articles and photographs to **Sandy Secor**, Editor; sandrasecor@icloud.com

## Mary Brinegar Receives Founders Award

The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society announced **Mary Brinegar** as the 25th recipient of the Women's Council's Founders Award. Mary, whose career with the Arboretum began 25 years ago, is our Silver Anniversary recipient of this coveted award. Mary joined the Arboretum in 1996 as President and CEO. A graduate of SMU, she came to the Arboretum after nine years at KERA/Channel 13 and the nine years before that with the Dallas Opera.

Over the years, she has won many awards for her accomplishments. Since joining the Arboretum she, together with the board and the Arboretum staff, has raised over \$100 million dollars for capital improvements including new buildings, gardens and the renovation of the DeGolyer and Camp homes on the property. The Arboretum currently has over 40,000 members and is expected to draw over a million guests this year alone.

Mary has been a loyal supporter of and cheerleader for the Women's Council since 1996 when she joined the Arboretum. She has also been an excellent role model and mentor to the leaders of the Women's Council and its members. Thanks to Mary and her incredible talents, the Arboretum is consistently ranked among the top public gardens in the country. We are eternally grateful for her exceptional vision and ability to make it all happen!!!

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**Annual Meeting:** Top left: **Sarah Jo Hardin**, Leadership Award recipient and **Kay Weeks**, WCDABG President. Top right: Speaker Chef **Darren McGrady**. Center: 2020-2021 Board. Left center: **Lisa Laughlin** 2021-2022 WCDABG President and **Kay Weeks** 2020-2021 WCDABG President. Right center: **Kay Weeks** 2020-2021 WCDABG President, **Brinegar**, Founders Award recipient and **Sharon Ballew**, Service Award recipient. Below left: **Mari Epperson** and **Marcy Jones**, event chairs.



### **Mad Hatter's Tea, Out of Africa Into the Garden**

Top left: **Jolie Humphrey**, Chair, Mad Hatter's Tea Chairman 2021 and **Kay Weeks**, Women's Council president. Top right: **Judges and Hat Category Winners.**

Middle left: **Dustin Holcomb** and **Nerissa Von Helpenstill**, TOOTSIES, Contributing Sponsor. Middle Right: **Claire Catrino**, **Allison Brodnax** and **Kim Brannon**. Bottom left: Mad Hatter's guests.



**Mad Hatter's Tea:** Top left: African Queen: Most "True to Africa." Winner: **Jordi Bostock**. Top middle: **Prasche Shah**. Top right: Hat Judges **C'Mone Wingo**, and **Nick Wingo**. Top far right: **Carole Ann Brown**, Honorary Chair. Middle left: **Jill Goldberg**, **Linda Spina**, **Kathy Cothrum** and **Nancy Connor**. Center right: Hat Judges **Kim Noltemy** and **Patti Flowers**. Bottom left: **Elizabeth Smith Theis**, Hat Winner. Bottom right: **Tootsies** fashions.

# Calendar Spring 2021

## May

May 1 through August 8, 2021, Zimsculpt Zimbabwean stone sculptures

Wednesday, May 26 - Lisianthus Society Spring Tea

Monday, May 31 – June 4 - Spring Trip

## June

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, A Writer's Garden Announcement Party

## September

Wednesday, September 8, 2021, Board Meeting

September 18 through Nov. 23, Autumn at the Arboretum  
"Bugtopia" Oversized bugs in the pumpkin village

Wednesday, September 22, 2021, Fall General Meeting  
Rosine Hall, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

[www.WomensCouncilDallasArboretum.org](http://www.WomensCouncilDallasArboretum.org)

2 Sawgrass Ct.  
Frisco, TX 75034

