WOMEN'S COUNCIL
OF THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

September 2026

Fall General Meeting "The Living Masterpiece" September 29

Fall General Meeting

"The Living Masterpiece", **Tres Fromme** will be held on September 29, 2026 at Rosine Hall at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

The morning will begin with 9:45 AM Coffee and New Member Welcome, then 10:30 AM Meeting and Program followed by a Luncheon. Chairs of the Fall meeting are **Sasha Ortiz** and **Sonia Santos**. Fifth Vice President – Programs is **Joni Krieg.**

The guest speaker is **Tres Fromme,** a nationally respected landscape designer whose work includes the Dallas Arboretum, Longwood Gardens, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Desert Botanical Garden, and The Morton Arboretum. He is known for shaping gardens as living masterpieces that connect people to place. In 2027, he will serve as the Arboretum's first Designer in Residence.

3 fromme DESIGN has a rich knowledge of the unique environments – possibilities, opportunities, and challenges - in which gardens for the public operate. Principal and founder Tres Fromme has over twenty-five years of creating projects of diverse scope, budget, time frame and specialization. Every project mandates

exceptional levels of horticultural artistry, pragmatic creativity, multi-disciplinary collaboration, extensive group participation, and concern for functionality.

Fromme is known for his expertise with facilitating team-based creative group process to create compelling and memorable places that invest participants in the outcomes. He is equally known for his wide-ranging plant knowledge; creative and rich planting designs; and spectacular floricultural displays.

His master plans and designs all creatively innovate within garden design traditions and the diverse contexts of each project. A proponent of experiential design, he choreographs relationships among people, spaces, and plants. Fromme communicates eloquently through graphics, writing, and verbal formats.

Fromme founded 3 fromme DESIGN in 2011 to focus on collaborations with mission-driven organizations offering public garden experiences for diverse visitors. Previously Fromme led the Public Garden Studios for MESA and StudioOutside, acting as lead planner and designer on all but a few projects. His experience includes a full range of project scales, budgets, and scopes – master planning, garden design, planting design, gardens for children and learning, floricultural exhibits, and Holiday light shows.

Important Parking Info

The Dallas Arboretum has a new parking program, operated by Parking Systems of America. As a current member, your registered vehicle will enjoy complimentary parking as long as your membership is active. Registered vehicles will be recognized automatically for complimentary parking. Unregistered vehicles will pay a daily non-member parking rate.

President's Letter

Dear Women's Council Members,
As we begin our exciting new year of the Tulip, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has joined or renewed their membership. If you have not yet done so, there is still time, and we would be delighted to welcome you and your friends or neighbors back to the Women's Council.

Our membership drive would not be possible without the dedication of our Membership Chairs, **Marilyn Cline** and **Debbie Myres**, and **Giana dePaul** and her telephone committee. Thank you all for your tremendous efforts.

I am also delighted to recognize **Michelle Mew** and **Shirley Zwinggi** for establishing *Feet in the Garden*, a brand-new program that places docents in A Woman's Garden. These volunteers will share the garden's history with visitors while introducing them to the important work of the Women's Council.

We have a wonderful schedule of fall activities ahead:

- On September 23, **LaurieGrace Roberts** has planned a special New Member Event.
- Our Fall General Membership Meeting will follow on September 29 at Rosine Hall. **Dr. Sasha Ortiz** and **Sonia Santos** are hard at work preparing a memorable program featuring **Tres Fromme**, renowned landscape designer and horticultural expert.
- Our Fall Day Trip will take place on October 8, organized by **Letisa McKenzie** and **Debbie Miller**. We will enjoy a fun day at Bonton Farms.
- We will celebrate our fall birthdays on October 16 at the DeGolyer House, thanks to **Michelle Mew**, **Shirley Zwinggi** and their committee volunteers.
- Our Volunteer Day at the Arboretum will be held on October 19. Get ready to get your hands dirty!

Please be on the lookout for more information about each of these opportunities.

As always, a highlight of our fall season will be *A Writer's Garden*, the first of our major fundraisers, held at Rosine Hall in our beautiful Dallas Arboretum. **Dorothea Meltzer** is hard at work making this 20th-anniversary celebration truly unforgettable.

We are honored to welcome **Edmund Hollander** and **Melissa Reavis** of Hollander Design Landscape Architects in New York and Chicago, along with **Ngoc Minh Ngo**, a celebrated author and speaker regarded as one of the world's most poetic landscape and botanical photographers. Please watch for event details, make your reservations, and give generously. The cultivation, improvement, and maintenance of A Woman's Garden depend upon the generosity of our members, sponsors, underwriters, and supporters. Your participation makes everything we do possible.

As you know, Pecan Parterre has been finished and was dedicated earlier this year, and we are happy to report that the work on the Burgess Serenity Garden and the Mother Daughter Water Garden Walkway are progressing rapidly. Most definitely worth a visit!

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your president this year. I am enjoying it tremendously and am deeply grateful for your continued encouragement and support. It is truly an honor to serve this remarkable organization.

Finally, many thanks to **Sandy Secor** for putting together this newsletter and to **Tanya Vittitow** for keeping us informed with timely details about all our upcoming events.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly,
Rose Gault, President, WCDABG, 2026-2027

The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum newsletter is printed 3 times per year by the WCDABG. The next deadline is: October 19, 2026.
Please send articles and photographs to **Sandy Secor**, Editor; sandrasecor@icloud.com

Spring Overnight Trip 2027

Save the Date — March 30 to April 9, 2027, we're taking an international journey, this time to the Netherlands and Belgium, timed perfectly for peak tulip season.

Picture it: seven million hand-planted tulips unfurling at Keukenhof, the world's largest spring garden. A ribbon of color across the Bollenstreek. The astonishing energy of the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, where flowers from fifty countries change hands before your eyes. And access most travelers never get — private visits to gardens like Calluna Rosa, the storybook Bonem Hoeve estate, and an intimate garden designed by a landscape architect whose work has graced the pages of House & Garden.

Beyond the blooms, we'll lose ourselves in the art and history that shaped it all — Vermeer's Delft, the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, and the medieval magic of UNESCO-listed Bruges, with its canals, guild halls, and Michelangelo's Madonna and Child — the only sculpture of his that ever left Italy.

Eleven days. Two countries. Extraordinary gardens, five-star stays, and the company of your favorite Council friends. This is the trip you plan your calendar around.

Enjoy fine European cuisine, 5 star hotels, time for shopping and fun-filled companionship with fellow WC members.

Space is limited to 18-20 WC members.

Visit the Women's Council website, *www.wcdabg.org* to see the full itinerary, schedule and travel details. Chair, **Nancy Connor.**

FALL DAY TRIP

The fall trip is to Bonton Farms: *A Day of Flavor, Fun, and Purpose* is on Thursday, October 8, 2026 The Chairs are **Letisa McKenzie** and **Debbie Miller.**

Join us for a delightful autumn escape as we trade city streets for fresh air, open skies, and the welcoming charm of Bonton Farms—an urban oasis rooted in community, hope, and hands-on joy.

Our day at Bonton Farms will begin with stepping into the heart of the farm for a guided tour through flourishing gardens and lively animal spaces. We'll then shift into creative, hands-on fun as we roll up our sleeves for a sugar scrub-making session, then savor a delicious farm-to-table lunch, prepared with some of the freshest ingredients grown right on the farm. In the afternoon, we'll have precious photo opportunities during our goat walk. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a delicious seasonal dessert. We'll also have a chance to browse the market together.

We'll meet at 9:00am and carpool together to Bonton Farms (~12 miles). Back at our meeting point by 4:00pm. Skip the denim overalls — just wear comfy shoes! $110 per person.

Questions? Reach out to your chairs: Letisa McKenzie (972.679.6417) or Debbie Miller (972.345.8818).

The Lisianthus Society

The Lisianthus Society was created in 2015 to recognize Members and Friends for their generosity, dedication and support of the Women's Council through its annual membership dues and fundraising events and projects. The Lisianthus flower, a descendant of the North American wildflower, is an elegant beauty grown in the southern United States. Also known as a Texas Bluebell, it is native to Texas and is similar in appearance to a rose or peony.

The Lisianthus flower is the perfect symbol for the beauty, grace, strength and spirit of women who are so wonderfully celebrated in A Woman's Garden.

We invite you to become a Lisianthus Society Patron by supporting the Women's Council in one or more ways:

❁ *Yearly Membership Dues*
❁ *Membership Opportunities throughout the year*
❁ *Participation as a Fundraising Event Underwriter or Table Sponsor*
❁ *Donations of Named Features in A Woman's Garden*

The Minimum Yearly Contribution is $750.

As a Lisianthus Society Patron, you will receive an invitation to an exclusive event held in your honor.

For further information about The Lisianthus Society, please contact:
Dorothea Meltzer, admnj@msn.com

Like us on Facebook!

Top left: ***Dorothea Meltzer****, Chair, A Writer's Garden;* ***Renee Farren****, Chair, Announcement Party;* ***Suzanne Caruso****, hostess;* ***Rose Gault****, President, Women's Council. Top right:* ***Kay Weeks****,* ***Karen Sargent****,* ***Susan Geyer****. Middle Left:* ***Anne Seanor****,* ***Linda Spina.*** *Middle:* ***Annette LaRue****,* ***Tanya Vittitow. Middle right: Joni Krieg****,* ***Nancy Hiles****,* ***Renee Deering*** *Bottom left: Former A Writer's Garden chairs at the 2026 Announcement Party at* ***Suzanne Caruso's****: Front row:* ***Michelle Mew, Nancy Bierman, Bettina Hennesy, Kay Weeks.*** *Back row:* ***Sandy Ammons, Renee Querbes Farren, Nikki Beneke, Dorothea Meltzer*** *(2026 chair),* ***Dyann Skelton, Mari Epperson, Christy Doramus****. Bottom right:* ***Kathy Cothrum****,* ***Betsy Simpson.***

Membership Engagements

Member Celebrations
"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."
Emily Dickinson

Join us for a small, festive gathering of our members! Learn about the Women's Council's creation and endowment of A Woman's Garden, then enjoy a guided tour. Connect with friends and embrace the beauty of our philanthropic vision.

Attend a Member Celebration during the season of your birthday: Friday, October 16, 2026
August, September & October birthdays. Gather at the DeGolyer House— rain or shine.

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & Chat
10:00 a.m. - Program & Refreshments
11:30 a.m. - Optional Garden Tour (ends at noon)

If we don't have your birthday contact:
Michelle Mew, mmew1111@aol.com. For questions please contact: **Shirley Zwinggi**, szwing1@yahoo.com.

Fall Volunteer Day

Fall Volunteer Day will be on Monday, October19, 2026 at 9:30 AM. We will be planting annuals in A Woman's Garden. Planters will need a Women's Council green t-shirt, which will be provided if you need it.

After we finish planting, a tour of A Woman's Garden will be provided and will include updates for future plans for our garden. Dress for planting! Bring your favorite gloves and wear comfortable shoes. Long pants are recommended, as we are frequently on our knees when we dig. Small shovels will be provided.

After the tour, we will gather for a delightful self hosted lunch on the Restaurant DeGolyer Terrace. This event provides a lovely opportunity to visit and get to know fellow volunteers.

Chairs contact information: **Debbie Miller** - ds2miller@gmail.com or Text 972-345-8818. **Melanie Brigante** -Melanie@delahn.com or Text 214-499-6236

Upon contacting us please provide your cell # and email and let us know your t-shirt size – S-M-L-XL if you need a shirt.

News and Notes

Condolences to **Shirley Tallis** on the death of her husband; to **Mary Ellen Winborn** on the loss of her brother; to **Connie Rhoades** on the loss of her Father-in-law who died after being very ill. Congratulations to **Karen Keith**, she became the grandmother of a baby boy.

Please send news about WCDABG members to Care and Concern Chair, **Judy Martin,** 214-681-6037, juju8martin@gmail.com.

A Writer's Garden Symposium and Luncheon

A Writer's Garden Symposium and Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Rosine Hall.

The Theme is *Autumn's golden glow offers a radiant setting for the 20th Anniversary of A Writer's Garden Symposium and Luncheon.* Join us for this milestone celebration as our distinguished speakers explore the enduring beauty, artistry, and inspiration of Gardens and Design.

Honorary Chairs are **Linda** and **Frank Spina**, Event Chair is **Dorothea Meltzer,** Vice-President - Fundraising is **Reagan Pace**, and Founder is Nancy **Bierman.** Distinguished Speakers are **Edmund Hollander** and **Melissa Reavi**s, Partners in Hollander Design Landscape Architects, New York, NY & Chicago, authors of *The Landscape of Home: In the Country, By the Sea, In the City*, and **Ngoc Minh Ngo**, New York, NY author, photographer, and speaker widely regarded as one of the world's most poetic landscape and botanical photographers, authoring seven books, including *Roses in the Garden*.

2026 - 2027 Calendar

September

Wednesday, September 23 - New Member Welcome Party
Thursday, September 29 - Fall General Membership Meeting

October

Wednesday, October 7 - Board Meeting
Thursday, October 8 - Fall Day Trip
Friday, October 16 - Sept./Oct./Nov. Birthdays Party
Tuesday, October 19 - Fall Volunteer Day

November

Monday, November 9 - Patron Party, A Writer's Garden
Tuesday, November 10 - A Writer's Garden Symposium & Luncheon

December

Tuesday, December 15- Winter General Membership Meeting
& Founders Award

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