



WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



Spring 2026

The 38th Annual Mad Hatter's Tea: The Art of the Garden

The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and A Woman's Garden announce the 38th annual Mad Hatter's Tea to be held Friday, April 24. The day begins at 10AM with registration, followed by a reception, Fashion Show, and a luncheon, which will be served at noon. The Mad Hatter's Tea is held at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 8525 Garland Road.

Anne Stodghill is the Honorary Chair; **Reagan Pace** and **Sheridan Reeder**, are the Event Chairs; **Paige Elliott** is President, Women's Council.

The Mad Hatter's Tea is celebrating its 38th year, this fabulous party has been an ongoing fundraising event sponsored by the Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Monies raised assist with the development, growth and maintenance of A Woman's Garden, a major garden at the Dallas Arboretum, and the only public garden in the nation conceived, constructed and maintained by the funding efforts of women.

The morning includes a Welcome Reception, Fashion Show produced by **Jan**



Anne Stodghill, Honorary Chair, Reagan Pace, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair, Paige Elliott, President, Women's Council and Sheridan Reeder, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair.

Strimble featuring fashions by by **Esé Azénabor**, a stroll in the gardens and luncheon. Hat Contest winners will be announced.

The Hat Categories are:
Masters of the Renaissance: The big three: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael. **Cubism:** Pablo Picasso, George Braque. Fragmented, geometric forms such as cubes, cones and spheres. **Rococo:** Fresh Flower Category: Fragonard, Watteau and Boucher. **Surrealism:** Salvador Dali, Joan Miro and Rene Magritte. Explores the subconscious and dreams, using illogical or bizarre imagery. **"The Impressionists":** Group Category: Claude

Monet's waterlilies and garden scenes, Renoir's famous scenes of people enjoying leisurely activities. Degas' beautiful ballerinas. **Pop Art:** Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg. Use of imagery and techniques drawn from popular and commercial culture.

Underwriting/Individual tickets are available online. Patron tickets are available at \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500 with varying benefits.

Sponsorships begin at \$5,000. Special Naming Opportunities start at \$2,500.

Visit the website for details:
www.wcdabg.org

President's Letter



Hello Ladies,

Now that it actually feels like Spring, there is no stopping us now. So many people have been working behind the scenes to bring you many, many events with your friends in the Women's Council.

Many were able to enjoy Dallas Blooms while at the Blooming Spring Tea- thank you to **Patty Ken, Cindy Williams, and Karen Yaguchi** for such a nice & tasty Tea at the Arboretum- always a treat!! Of courses Mad Hatter's season in full swing under the leadership of Co-chairs **Reagan Pace and Sheridan Reeder**. Get your hats ready and your tickets early so you are ready for FUN. Thank you to **Emily Maduo & Jill Goldberg** for planning a fun night with an

amazing menu at the Cooking School.

This spring we have two trips. Those on the Overnight Trip should have a great time in South Carolina- we can't wait to hear all about what **Nancy Connor** has put in place The Day Trip sounds fun and **Katie Kennemer** has been hard at work with a fun trip planned in and around Waco. Special thank you to **Kathryn Iklé** for our new website for **Tanya Vittitow** and **Ananda Boardman** for keeping up with all our communications online and with our members.

More fun to come as we wrap at the end of the year with our Membership Meeting in May. **Kim McBride** has created a delightful menu, and **Renee Ferrin** has been behind the scenes working on our awards. You don't want to miss the Fiesta in May! This is the 5th year for **Joni Kreig** to work her magic. This year we have the added pleasure of a ribbon cutting for the Grand Opening of Pecan Parterre- thank you to **Linda Spina & Lisa Meyer** for their continued efforts with these garden projects.

Special thanks to **Sandy Secor** for stepping in and taking over our Yearbook in addition to her role of the Newsletter. Be on the look out for it in your mail in the next few weeks.

It takes a village and I have loved working the amazing women who make up the WC village!

See you in the garden,

Paige Elliott

Paige Elliott

WCDABG President 2025 - 2026



The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum newsletter is printed 3 times per year by the WCDABG. The next deadline is: May 20, 2026.

Please send articles and photographs to **Sandy Secor**, Editor; sandrasecor@icloud.com



Mad Hatter's Tea Reveal: Top left: **Reagan Pace**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair, **Sheridan Reeder**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair and **Sara Friedman**. Bottom left: **Kristen Kocis**, **Reagan Pace**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair, **Sheridan Reeder**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair and **Rosie Shahkarami**. Bottom right: **Anne Stodghill**, Honorary Chair, **Reagan Pace**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair, and **Sheridan Reeder**, Mad Hatter's Tea Chair.



Lisa Meyer Received the Founders Award

Established by the Women's Council in 1996, the Founders Award annually recognizes an individual whose dedication and volunteer contributions have made a monumental impact on the growth and prominence of the Dallas Arboretum.

Since moving to Dallas in 1998, the Dallas Arboretum has held a special place in **Lisa Meyer's** heart. After retiring from a career in finance with Exxon Mobil Corporation in 2016, Lisa became involved in volunteer opportunities that built on her love for art and gardening, including the Women's Council.

Among her many accomplishments, Lisa has played an important role in the Women's Council finance activities serving as Treasurer, a long-standing member of the Finance Committee and advisor to the Endowment Trust Oversight Committee and Trust Trustee Committee. She has focused her efforts on effectively structuring the Endowment Trust to ensure that the Women's Council can meet its commitments to fund A Woman's Garden annual maintenance costs and capital costs for years to come,

including the creation of a new Garden Capital account to set aside funds for future major capital projects like Pecan Parterre. Lisa is also a Dallas County Master Gardener and a member of the Jesuit Dallas Museum Board of Trustees. Her wonderful husband Steve and her son Scott have been her biggest supporters in her corporate career and volunteer activities.

5th Annual Fiesta In The Garden

Fiesta in the Garden will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from

6-9p.m. at The Degolyer House at The Dallas Arboretum. Starting at 5:30 p.m. there will be a special ribbon cutting for the unveiling of the Pecan Parterre.

Celebrate Fiesta in the Garden plus extra magic to celebrate the 5th year! Live Music * Dinner & Dancing * Complimentary Margaritas * Wine & Beer

Chair: **Joni Krieg**
Questions: Call/Text 214.668.7205
\$85.00 per person
parking at gate entrance #1

Magnolias vi Spring Blooms

A SPRING DAY IN WACO
Thursday, April 9, 2026

Join your fellow WCDABG Members for a delightful spring excursion to Waco, Texas featuring Magnolia Market at the Silos, rooftop lunch at Hotel 1928, boutique shopping, and a scenic stop along the Brazos River.

The Schedule

Bus leaves from **NORTHWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

7202 W Northwest Hwy
(across from Sparkman Hillcrest)

The bus will depart promptly at 8:00 AM.

Please park your car in the southeast corner of the parking lot facing Northwest Highway.

☕ Coffee and pastries will be available beginning at 7:45 AM before we board the bus.

There is **NO BATHROOM** on the bus, so plan accordingly!

An optional restroom stop will be available along the way in Hillsboro if needed.

Our First Stop

Our first stop in Waco will be the famous

Magnolia Market at the Silos

We should arrive around 9:45 AM, giving everyone time to explore the Magnolia grounds before the guided tours begin.

While wandering the Silos you may wish to visit:

- Magnolia Press (coffee)
- Silos Baking Co. (cupcakes)
- Magnolia Seed & Supply garden shop
- Magnolia Market shops and lawn

Membership Engagements

Rooted in Friendship is our Women's Council theme of purpose for 2025-2026 year which a perfect description of your Membership Engagements Committees mission. If you have attended a celebration we encourage you to come again, our garden changes every year as does our membership who spend the morning with us. If you cannot attend when you are invited please come to any other simply let us know you are coming, we welcome you. The March and April Birthdays will be on Friday, March 27.

As a reminder the timeline is Coffee and Chat 9:30 am, Program, Brunch and Celebration 10:00, Our Woman's Garden Tour 11:30 – 12:00.

Questions? Please contact **Shirley Zwinggi**, szwing1@yahoo.com. Brunch is generously hosted by **Melanie Brigante** with **Delahn Realty**. Free Parking & Admission at Gate 1 Members Entranc, (No need to stand in line). Walk to The DeGolyer House. Comfortable footwear is encouraged – Rain or Shine.

Spring Overnight Trip 2026

Garden Wonders of Charleston, South Carolina

March 30 - April 3, 2026

Nancy Connor is the Chair of the Spring Overnight Trip. Join the Women's Council for four nights in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina which stands out among America's historic cities with antebellum architecture and

an immaculately maintained Colonial-era urban center. Stay in the charming Emeline Hotel located 2 blocks from the historic center.

Garden and Historic highlights include:

Middleton Place
Magnolia Plantation and Gardens
Nathaniel Russell House
Edmondston-Alston House
Heyward-Washington House
2 private Charlston gardens
Gibbes Art Museum
Sunset Cruise along the Charleston Bay

Enjoy fine Southern cuisine and the antebellum charm of Charleston. Space is limited to 20-24 members. Visit the website to see the full itinerary and schedule.

News and Notes

Briana and Ed Pearson welcomed **Gabrielle Christine** in February.

Condolences to **Richard L. Brown**, husband of **Carole Ann Brown**, who passed away on January 22, 2026. Memorial services will be on Tuesday, April 28 at 11:00 AM at Sparkman Hillcrest Chapel on Northwest Highway. Condolences to **Dorothea Meltzer** on the loss of her husband **Allan Meltzer**, who passed away on February 14, 2026. A celebration of life in Plano, Texas, to follow at a date to be announced. Donations in honor of Allan's memory may be made to the Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. **John Alan Gibbs**, son of **Judy Gibbs**, passed away on February 20, 2026. Condolences to **Susan**

Geyer on the loss of her husband, **Dr. Mark Geyer**. Please send news about WCDABG members to Care and Concern Chair, **Nikki Beneke** 214-697-6690, njbenpt@aol.com.

Annual May Meeting

Herbs in History, Herbs in the Garden, and Herbs in the Kitchen

Join us on Wednesday, May 13th, in Rosine Hall at the Dallas Arboretum for our Annual May Meeting. Our speaker, **Nancy Pierce**, will take us on a journey to learn about a handful of our favorite herbs. Her talk will teach us about their history, how to best grow them in container gardens, and some of the many pollinators they attract! She will also share fun ways to use them in the kitchen. Each attendee will take home a souvenir booklet filled with some of her favorite herb-infused recipes!

We will gather for check-in, a reception and social time beginning at 9:45. Our meeting will begin at 10:30 and will include Award Recognition of some outstanding Women's Council Volunteers and our Election of the 2026-2027 Officers. Once our business concludes, we will welcome Nancy Pierce to the stage. A seated spring-time lunch will follow at 12 noon.

The invitation will be emailed in early April that includes information on how to register for the meeting and program, and how to pay for the luncheon. Herb-filled table centerpieces will be available for sale. If you have any questions, please contact our Day Chair, **Kim McBride** kim@elvecinotexmex.com or 214-215-7220.

Calendar Spring - 2026

March

Tuesday, March 3 - BLOOMING Spring Tea

Wednesday, March 4- Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 23 - Volunteer Day

Friday, March 27 - March and April Birthdays Celebration

April

Wednesday, April 8- Board Meeting

Friday, April 24 - Mad Hatter's Tea

May

Wednesday, May 6- Fiesta in the Garden

Wednesday, May 13 - Annual General Meeting

2 Sawgrass Ct.
Frisco, TX 75034

