

The Guild

Houston Baptist University

2016-2017 • VOL. I

Greetings from the PRESIDENT



We've had a wonderful beginning to our year and have more exciting Guild activities scheduled for 2017. As your President, I would like to tell you how thankful I am for each and every one of you and how honored I am to take this position, as well as being very nervous!

My heartfelt thanks go to co-chairs Jane Ann Bickham and Judy Childress and their committee members for an outstanding job making last May's Board Installation a very beautiful and memorable event. Our facilitator for the Installation was Janet McGuire who wove together, in an incredible way, the life cycle of a butterfly with the teachings from Romans 12:11-13. She challenged each of us to always serve the Lord, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, helping God's people who are in need, and to always practice hospitality.

It's evident that The Guild meets this challenge of practicing hospitality each year when we honor our new members at our annual Fall Coffee. In October we were delighted to hold this event at the beautiful new home of Dena and Jay Williams. And just recently we shared joy and fellowship as we celebrated the beginning of the Christmas Season at our annual Christmas Luncheon.

I encourage you to continue supporting President and Mrs. Robert B. Sloan and Sharon Saunders by raising scholarship dollars for those who teach and preach the Word of God and by promoting Christian families. Because of these scholarships, graduate students in our education and theology programs can receive an excellent education at a Christian university of the highest quality.

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

For His Glory,

Ruth Alford

Save the Dates!

MARCH 2, 2017

Taste of Texas Restaurant

Cost - \$35

Special Event Co-chairs Shirley Asel and Peggy Hicks have planned another great event for all Guild members and their guests.

We will meet at the restaurant for a tasty lunch and fellowship as Nina Hendee, Texas historian, gives us a tour and tells about the many antiques and memorabilia that adorn this special place. A wonderful way to celebrate Texas Independence Day! Reservations and payment are required by **February 16th**.

Silver Tea

APRIL 6, 2017

Honoring Sue Sloan

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT 9:30 a.m.
Texas Independence Day Tour of Texas History
Thursday, March 2, 2017
Chairmen: Shirley Asel & Peggy Hicks
Taste of Texas Restaurant

SILVER TEA 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 6, 2017
Chairmen: Kandy Brittain, Judy Craig & Debra Perich
Home of Jan Duncan

INSTALLATION 10:00 a.m.
Friday, May 12, 2017
Chairmen: Jeanne Walker & Betty Vernon
President's Home

Fall Coffee 2016



Fall Coffee Committee

*Kandy Brittain
and Dena Williams*



*Lynn Tyger, Tommie Lejeune,
Dena Williams, Ruth Alford*



Scholarship recipient Joshua Jones (r)

Being a committed and active group of Christian woman, we did not wait for Fall weather to arrive before gathering to enjoy our annual Fall Coffee to honor all new and returning Guild members. On Thursday, October 13, Jay and Dena Williams opened their beautiful new home as hosts for this event.

Traditionally this Coffee begins The Guild season of activities and is usually a festive occasion to embrace friends not seen during summer months, and it sets the tone of excitement and anticipation for the coming events. Anne Roper delivered the opening prayer, followed by Guild President Ruth Alford who welcomed guests and recognized new members before introducing Kandy Brittain. Kandy gave an overview of campus activities and noted several records had been broken with high enrollment. She also noted that Dr. and Mrs. Sloan and Guild Executive Director, Sharon Saunders, were unable to attend because of travelling to honor funeral services for Dr. Doug Hodo, second president of HBU.

Members listened to Guild Committee Chairs who gave informative updates on events planned throughout the year, with a special emphasis on The Guild's mission of raising funds for student scholarships. The importance of this focus was reinforced by the words of the Sue Sloan Endowed Scholarship recipient, Joshua Jones, who gave a moving testimony of how The Guild scholarship enabled God's grace in his life. In a very touching gesture, he closed his remarks by praying over all our Guild members.

A framed page of the 1610 Geneva Bible from the HBU Museum was presented to Dena Williams as a sincere "thank you" for sharing their fabulous home with The Guild for our Fall Coffee. Co-chairs Tommie Lejeune and Lynn Tyger, along with their committee, provided another wonderful and tempting selection of refreshments, while also serving as hostesses for this annual event.

In Memorium

Many longtime Guild members have a special place in their heart for Dr. Doug Hodo. As second president of HBU, Dr. Hodo was an adroit manager serving from June 1, 1987, until his retirement July 2006.

His tenure was presented with serious financial challenges and his wise conservative leadership was a match for those times. He exercised grace and dignity and was of strong principle. He was an excellent example, demonstrating strong leadership skills for students and those he worked with daily. In a recent announcement, the University noted Dr. Hodo's "partnership in the Gospel." Doug was a true partner/leader in the efforts of The Guild, and his legacy is one in which we all celebrate. Please remember Sadie and the Hodo family with your prayers, especially during this holiday season.



Celebrating Founders Day

The Fall season was packed with activities on the HBU campus that included The Guild. This year was no exception as The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies joined HBU's Office of Events to celebrate Founders Day and to honor HBU's founder, Dr. Stewart Morris, on his 97th birthday. Dr. Morris, who continues to be actively involved and has been instrumental in helping the University evolve into the dynamic Christian University we see today, enjoyed Convocation speakers and longtime friends of the Morris family, Edd & Nina Hendee, as they shared rich moments about Texas history with students, faculty and friends. The Hendees then participated in an informative Q&A discussion with the audience. Following Convocation, the celebration continued with a luncheon in McNair Hall welcoming HBU faculty as guests of The Guild, highlighted by a dialogue with Dr. Sloan and the Morris family. Our own members Cyndi Jacobson and Pat Bertotti helped to make attendees feel welcomed.

Convocation, a weekly event on the HBU campus, is designed to give the students the opportunity to hear speakers who reinforce Christian values.



Cheryl Kaminski, Ruth Alford, Dr. Robert Sloan, Sharon Saunders, Pat Bertotti and Cyndi Jacobson congratulate Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.



HBU SPIRIT
of
Excellence
GALA

Nearly 700 guests gathered for HBU's recent Spirit of Excellence Gala that honored several Guild members in addition to other University supporters. The glittering event raised nearly \$715K to support the University Center for Law and Liberty, plus the expansion of the University's online academic initiatives. Peggy Noonan, former speechwriter to Ronald Reagan (and currently, best-selling author) delivered a humorous, insightful keynote address launching a highly successful event. The Guild's own Linda Higginbotham and Mary Ann Belin received the President's Award while Robert and Sue Sloan were given the Spirit of Excellence Award.

Other fundraising initiatives were updated by Underwriting Chairs Jennifer and Tadd Tellepsen. Archie Dunham was recognized for the largest single gift ever given to the University; Pinky Pampell was recognized for a catalyst gift designated to expand the University's online program; and Dr. Sloan announced that the University is nearing the halfway mark of achieving its capital campaign goal of \$136.5 Million.

Gala Chairs Beth and Greg Looser did a spectacular job to ensure that a first class evening was enjoyed by all.



Tadd Tellepsen, Sue and President Sloan



President Sloan presents the President's Award to Linda Higginbotham and Mary Ann Belin (l).

2016 GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



*Nancy Guthrie and
President Sloan*



Sharon Saunders, Grace Gandy, President Sloan



*Scholarship recipient
Ashley Wright*



Guild Presidents gather at the luncheon.



Cookie Peeler, Kathleen Evans, Colleen Fellows

This season's annual Guild Christmas Luncheon was held in the ballroom of the incomparable River Oaks Country Club which was beautifully adorned in Christmas splendor. Elegantly lit Christmas trees and wreaths were the table centerpieces representing Jesus as "light of the world."

Guild President Ruth Alford opened the event by warmly welcoming the nearly 300 guests. HBU students Jakora Frazier and Kevin Punnaackal, vocalists, accompanied by pianist Jessamine Sikes and trumpeter Everardo Chavez, performed the spirited song "Angels We have Heard on High."

Ashley Wright, Director of College Guidance at Second Baptist School and recipient of the Sharon Saunders Endowed Scholarship, continued the program by sharing remarks of appreciation to HBU and The Guild.

Dr. Sloan enthusiastically reported on the many history-making milestones which occurred at the University during the year and provided a glimpse into exciting developments still to come. Dr. Sloan also announced the naming of the Grace Gandy Endowed Scholarship. Following the invocation by Guild Chaplain Peg Harman, guests enjoyed a beautifully presented,

delicious holiday meal topped off with a milk chocolate and dulce de leche tart dessert.

A rendition of "It Wasn't His Child" was performed by Jakora Frazier and Kevin Punnaackal accompanied by Jessamine Sikes, pianist, preceding the introduction by Guild Vice President Cheryl Kaminski of guest speaker Mrs. Nancy Guthrie. Mrs. Guthrie led us on Ruth's journey of grace and redemption from the Old Testament Book of Ruth.

Dr. Sloan delighted Mrs. Guthrie by presenting her with a framed, rare Bible page from The Dunham Bible Museum which contained a page from the Third Chapter of the Book of Ruth.

In her closing remarks, Christmas Luncheon Co-chair Kathleen Evans thanked her hard-working committee members and recognized her fellow Co-chairs Cookie Peeler and Colleen Fellows. Their combined efforts produced not only a fabulous event, but also demonstrated true examples of Guild teamwork, hospitality and joy of celebrating the birth of Christ!

Jakora Frazier and Kevin Punnaackal concluded this unforgettable afternoon by leading all in song with a very fitting selection of "Joy to the World."



Houston Baptist University
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, TX 77074-3298

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON TX
PERMIT #8634

We welcomed seven new Guild members during the New Member Coffee in October. This annual fall event marks the beginning of Guild activities of which friends of members are also always invited to attend. It takes many hands to facilitate our various activities during the year so the best way to welcome our new members is to invite them to join one of the many committees. Working side by side with someone is a good way to get to know them.

The Christmas Luncheon is another opportunity to introduce friends to The Guild so they can see what our organization is all about. The Special Event scheduled for March 2 will be just for fun. We will enjoy a wonderful lunch at Taste of Texas followed by a tour

and explanation of the many antiques and memorabilia Nina Hendee has collected over the years, all centered around Texas' great history. This is a more casual setting and allows for guests to enjoy socializing. Our Silver Tea slated for April 6 is a culmination of fundraising efforts for our scholarship fund, and the venue always offers a beautiful home to tour. This year will be no exception.

The Guild is a special group of ladies, all advocates for HBU and we would like to share our sisterhood with other dedicated, Christian woman. Invite guests to future Guild events and we think they will be glad you did!

Linda Higginbotham, *Membership Chair*

