

# TAKE NOTE



Women's Symphony League of Austin



Karey Nalle Oddo  
WSL President

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### MISSION

The mission of the Women's Symphony League of Austin is to provide service and financial support for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs, and offer educational opportunities for the children and the community to further develop an appreciation of music.

## A message from our President...

Welcome to the first edition of **Take Note** for the 2019-2020 year! We are days away from the much-anticipated **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jewel Ball** and **Fashion Luncheon with Brooke Shields**. We look forward to seeing all our members at both events to celebrate our storied organization. In order to bring these events to life, it takes all of our members doing their part to host upwards of 600 women at the luncheon and over 1,000 guests at the gala. Thank you for doing your part to make our events successful. *(continued on page 4)*

### Suzon Spiller Kemp, 2019 WSL Honorary Fashion Luncheon Chair

joined the Women's Symphony League in 1965 when her grandmother, **Myrtle Caldwell**, one of WSL's founding members, sponsored her for membership, along with WSL President, **Betty Adams**. Suzon would also join her mother, **Frances Spiller**, in membership, making her a third generation member of the Women's Symphony League. Suzon was deeply inspired by her grandmother's commitment to community service and support of the arts, which led Suzon to dive right in to serve first as Decorations Chair for the *(continued on page 7)*



Suzon Spiller Kemp,  
Honorary Fashion Luncheon Chair

## Austin Symphony Youth Leadership Council

The Austin Symphony Youth Leadership Council kicked off the 2019/20 year with our annual **Summer Social** on Sunday, August 18 at the beautiful lakeside home of WSL member, **Laurèe Moffett**. **Evan Smith**, the **CEO** of the **Texas Tribune** and host of the weekly interview program "**Overheard with Evan Smith**" had a lively conversation with **Representative Gina Hinojosa**. The Summer Social was open to all Austin area high school students to come and mingle with peers and learn more about the Youth Leadership Council program. The formal YLC year kicked off with the first speaker series on September 15 at **Abel's on the Lake**. In addition to the four speaker series meetings, YLC members have the opportunity to volunteer at various WSL events to earn community service hours and also have the opportunity to take on leadership roles at the meetings. Membership applications are still being accepted and interested parties may register on the WSL website.



Returning YLC members, **Bremond Robinson**, **Olivia Tudor**, **Amelia McConnico**, **Ireland Rose**, **Max Corbett**, and **Mary Russell Keene**.



YLC Chairs, **Lisa Tully** and **Elizabeth Rose**



**Representative Gina Hinojosa** with YLC Committee Member **Ruth Adams**

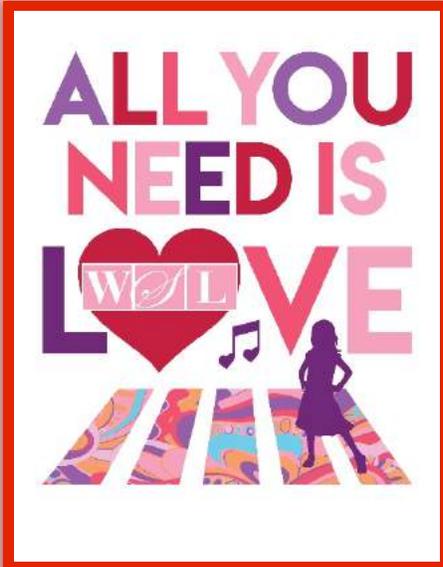


Freshman and Sophomore YLC members, **Audrey and Abby Martin**, **Rachel Barkoff**, **Kate Tully**, and **Katelyn Thompson**

# Maidens and Squires Social



On September 8th, an Ice Cream Social was held for the **Maidens and Squires** at the home of **Meredith & Ethan Wood**. A great time was had by all as **Amy's Ice Cream** was on hand to scoop everyone's favorites.



Red Haute Valentine Party and  
Style Show  
Sunday, February 9, 2020  
The Line Austin



Don't forget to order your  
WSL 65th Anniversary Jewel Ball Ornament  
while supplies last  
[WSLAUSTIN.ORG](http://WSLAUSTIN.ORG)

***(President's Message Continued from Page 1)***

While we cannot wait for WSL's busiest month, we must take a minute to reflect on the terrific job our members did this summer. **Lisa Irvin, Amanda Pettit** and **Anne Wheat** served as chairs of the renowned **Children's Day Art Park**. They reported another huge success and lots of happy, musical children. Different genres of music were played each Wednesday for most of June and July. Children were able to try various instruments, meet musicians, dance and sing and enjoy all that the Austin Public Library has to offer. Thanks to our chairs and members who came weekly to lend a hand.

The June Pops Concert was very popular this year because it featured the music of **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Louis Armstrong**. **Christian Wells** and **Emily Avila** created darling centerpieces with their committee for all the tables at pops. It was a fun and fulfilling placement and all the Pops attendees loved it!

Gratitude goes out to **Julie Baselice** for creating and printing the WSL directory this summer. Yours was mailed to your home in August. Thanks also to **Mary Dickerson** who graciously hosted our first general meeting in her lovely home with the help of meeting co-chair **Ellen Burt**.

**Elizabeth Rose** and **Lisa Tully** kicked-off the award-winning **YLC** program with an eye-opening presentation at **Laurée Moffet's** gorgeous lakeside home. **Evan Smith**, CEO of **The Texas Tribune**, interviewed **Texas House Representative, Gina Hinajosa** from **District 49**. YLC is packed this year with thought-provoking speakers. Please encourage high schoolers you know to participate. The application is on the website.

**Nancy Buchsbaum** and **Natalie Brown** launched the new WSL website and it is not only easy to use, but beautiful to look at. They spent countless hours designing the user-friendly links and the selecting each of the photos from WSL events. Please know that this job was monumental and these ladies have stars in their crowns for taking on this difficult task for all of us.

Labor Day boasted the coolest semi-formal dance in town, the WSL **Soirée Dansante** at **Brodie Homestead**, for freshmen and sophomore high schoolers. Thank you to all of the amazing sponsors and volunteers that made this party such a memorable night! Guests enjoyed poker and blackjack and when the time was right, they moved en masse to the dance floor for hours of dancing. They enjoyed snacks and photo booth selfies. **Yoli Arriaga** and **Marilyn Willson**, new members, saw to every detail and they were the evening's rock stars.

At the time this newsletter is going to print, 97 of **100 Golden tickets** have been sold to the **Jewel Ball Auction**. Trying something new this year, auction chairs **Erin Donoghue** and **Pam Curry** are offering Golden Tickets for \$50 each at the chance to win any one item on the auction list. The excitement is building! Days before the ball, the winner will be notified and will pull their item of choice from the auction. I hope YOU win!

Be sure to pick up your Mystery Box at the Fashion Luncheon. This year, be awed by treats from **Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Prada, Tory Burch, Burberry, Tiffany**, and more exquisite fashion brands. For \$100, enjoy your own take-away from an extraordinary afternoon with the WSL.

At the gala, check out the **Grub Grab** for a gift certificate to one of Austin's most beloved restaurants. Take home your commemorative Jewel Ball holiday ornament to remind you of the magical **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jewel Ball**. Enjoy reading the gorgeous program this year too!

Thanks goes to **Lisa Irvin** and **Linda van Bavel** and all the members of the **Jewel Committee** who spent their summer preparing to host our senior royalty in style. **Christy Merritt** and **Christy Werner** and their extended **Jewel Ball Committee** deserve major praise for seeing to all the details of the WSL's Jewel Ball events! See you at **Palmer Events Center** soon. Thank you for your time and effort to make each event fun and successful.

## Meet our newest Members



**Tricia Moose**

*Birthday - May 7th*

*Sponsor: **Erin Geisler***

*Where did you grow up? Northwest Suburbs of Houston*

*Where did you go to school? Westfield HS, University of Texas, Austin*

*What are your hobbies? Shopping, reading, and playing tennis.*

*Do you work outside the home? I'm a full time mom and volunteer.*

*Favorite WSL activity or event so far? The Veronica Beard Fashion Show.*



**Jessica Karlsruher**

*Birthday - Aug 21st*

*Sponsors: **Laura Matz & Natasa Valocchi***

*Where did you grow up? Kerrville & Houston*

*What is your favorite travel destination? South Padre, the South of France*

*What are your hobbies? Cooking with my husband. Running and tennis.*

*What is your favorite Austin tradition? Longhorn games, Visiting the Capitol*

*Fun fact about me.. I can guess most pop songs within seconds.*



**Kristen Campbell**

*Birthday - Aug 3rd*

*Sponsors: **Debbie Esterak & Erin Geisler***

*Where did you grow up? San Antonio, & Northern Virginia*

*Where did you go to college? Texas A&M Health Science Ctr - San Antonio*

*What is your favorite restaurant? Tiny Boxwood & Uckiko.*

*Fun fact about me.. I lived in Australia for 16 years.*



**Aimee Gordon**

*Birthday - Sep 20th*

*Sponsors: **Karey Oddo & Christy Merritt***

*Where did you grow up? Austin*

*What are your hobbies? Traveling, reading and being outdoors*

*What is your favorite restaurant? Clark's Oyster Bar.*

*Fun fact about me.. I am dyslexic and I have three dyslexic kids. I have always told my kids that their dyslexia is their secret power, and it has really helped me in my career and life. I am a great resource if anyone needs help with a dyslexic kiddo.*

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## WSL Member Spotlight

Throughout this year we are featuring members who are the heart and soul of our organization. These special people hold positions that are so very important, but may not receive recognition that is associated with larger committee work.

**Dede Woodman** is our featured member for this edition. She has been our **Placement Chair** for the last three years. Simply put, Dede works with WSL Chairs to make sure that information concerning placements is accurate and listed correctly in Neon (WSL's database management tool), the WSL Directory, and Sign up Genius.



**Dede Woodman**

Dede accepted the Placement Chair role when **Eledith Falk, former WSL President** asked that she consider the position. Eledith recognized that Dede's computer and database background would be a perfect fit for such a job.

Since taking on the role, Dede has streamlined the placement process reducing the amount of documentation required to make placement operations run more smoothly; she also plans to make additional improvements in the future.

Dede has been a member of WSL since 2013. She and her husband, Symphony Knight, **Pat Woodman** have a son, **Mac** who is a freshman at **Austin High School** and a daughter, **Annie** who is in the 7th grade at **O'Henry Middle School**. This year, Mac is participating in **YLC** and Annie is a **Junior Royalty Maiden**. In addition to being a wife, mother, and a volunteer, Dede is also an inventor and entrepreneur. WSL is truly lucky to have such a talented person among us! We are grateful for all of the work that Dede has done to improve WSL. Thank you Dede!

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***(Suzan Spiller Kemp Continued from Page 1)***

for the Jewel Ball in 1967 and then as Jewel Ball Chair in 1968. She figured since she was newly married and without children yet, she might as well lead! In 1967, the ball was Cinderella themed. Suzon created wooden clocks with candles on top for table centerpieces. Since there was not a designated decorations budget for the ball in those days, all decorations were the generous donations of the Austin community. With **Mary Alexander** as Ball Chair and Suzon as Decorations Chair, **The Cinderella Ball** was such a success that Suzon was asked to chair the Jewel Ball the following year. At age 24, Suzon accepted the challenge of chairing the ball with long-time family friend **Gray Hawn** as Decorations Chair. The 1968 Jewel Ball was **The Oriental Ball** and Gray had a giant Buddha created for the stage that would serve as the throne for **King Brio** and the Jewel Ball Diamond. The only problem was that the oversized Buddha was too large for the stage and Gray and Suzon had to figure out how to scale it down to make it work! It all worked out in the end and the Oriental Ball was another success for the Women's Symphony League and a memorable one for Suzon.

Not only did Suzon serve in prominent leadership roles early on, she also helped bring to life the vision of **Betty Adams** to add some levity and fun to Women's Symphony League through the **Knights of the Symphony**. In 1966, with just one year of active service, Suzon helped create **KOS**. The vision of KOS was to involve the men in service, but also to add some lightheartedness and humor to complement the formality. Suzon's mother spent hours lovingly creating the coat of arms, which Suzon then had hand-beaded on **King Brio's** robe. At one time, there was also a lavish velvet tablecloth with the crest in the center, but it mysteriously disappeared after an event and never turned up. The robe, however, is still used today.

Suzon continued in service through the years and served in just about every role in every committee, never saying no to an assignment. Three of her daughters were Princesses in the Jewel Ball and one was a Diamond, while her son served as an escort several times. Two of Suzon's daughters, **Louise DeJong** and **Elizabeth Rose**, eventually joined Women's Symphony League and continue to carry on their family's legacy of service through their involvement. Suzon noted that she was careful not to pressure her daughters into joining, and in fact, was told by **Jane Sibley** that she was sponsoring one of her daughters for membership! Of course **Suzon** was delighted!

It is women like Suzon, her grandmother, mother, and daughters that enrich the Women's Symphony League and continue its legacy of service to the Austin community.



*New Member Event at Adelante - September 9th, 2019*



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