



ASO July Fourth Fireworks and Concert, July 4, 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the fall edition of the Women's Symphony League's Newsletter, **Take Note**, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year! This is my first Newsletter as President of the Women's Symphony League of Austin and it is

truly my honor to serve in this capacity. One of the reasons why I accepted this position is because I very much admire and respect the women who have served as President before me. WSL is positioned to have an outstanding year in large part because of the hard work and dedication of **Past-President Jenn Bell**, her **Executive Committee** and the **2021-22 Board of Directors**. A huge thank you to the amazing group of ladies that worked extra hard to plan and organize our many events, outreach programs, and educational programs throughout the year. Many of the 2021-22 Board of Directors members are continuing on in their service as members of the **2022-23 Board** and I feel so fortunate to have their expertise to lead us.

Fundraising and music education are the heart and spirit of the Women's Symphony League of Austin. The WSL is the single largest contributor to the **Austin Symphony Orchestra** annually. During the 2021-22 fiscal year alone we gave nearly **\$422,000** to the ASO, which is truly remarkable given the ever-changing Covid concerns during that time. Every dollar raised by the WSL through

our fundraising efforts is donated to the ASO. I hope you will each take a moment to reflect on what an achievement that donation represents.

Summer is a time of transition in WSL. Our League year officially runs from July 1 through June 30, but there are several committees that start their work early. The **2022 New Member Committee and Coordinators**, Mary-Ellen King and Kam McCoy have been hard at work planning a wonderful calendar of events and connections for our 2022 New Member Class. Appreciation goes out to Dede Woodman, our experienced **Service and Education Placement Chair**, for her efforts to get all of our active members signed up for a volunteer placement. **Tuneful Tales** (formerly Children's Day Art Park) kicked off after a two-year break in June and July at a new venue, the Central Library, and with three fabulous new chairs: Emily Avila, Karin Foster, and Alexis Simon Moore. Thank you, Tuneful Tales Chairs! Special thanks also goes out to our **Done in a Day Chair**, Stephanie Wilson, who led her committee in volunteering at the annual ASO Fourth of July Outdoor Concert and Fireworks. Our new **Communications Chairs** sent their first monthly email newsletter to your inboxes; thanks so much Brooke Grabato and Marissa Hogan! WSL member Carol Evanicky is our new **Directory/Yearbook Chair** and she has been busy creating a gorgeous and informative yearbook for all our members to enjoy. Check your mailboxes in September for your copy.

For quite a few years I have had the honor of volunteering with both the Jewel

Ball Committee and the Jewel Committee so I have come to think of this time of year as "The Eve of Jewel Ball Events." It truly takes a village to create our much anticipated celebrations and I would like to send my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the **Jewel Ball Committee and Chairs**, Leslie Pardue and Carrie Semple; the **Jewel Committee and Chair**, Karey Nalle Oddo; the **Soiree Committee and Chair**, Paige Richards; and the **Fashion Luncheon Committee and Chairs**, Melissa Billman and Ashley Nwonuma Olds. It should be noted that every event WSL hosts, the **Technology Team** lends their critical support. Thank you to VP Technology Belen Benavides, Technology Advisor Olivia Derr, and the entire Technology Committee for their hard work this summer to get WSL set up for a successful 2022-23 year!

Volunteer, connect, lead, and enjoy the music.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Kaighin
President, 2022-2023

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High Notes

WSL SUMMER HAPPENINGS

2022-2023 Executive Board

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VP Membership
Regina Munson

VP-Elect Membership
Natalie Hudson

VP Technology
Belen Benavides

VP-Elect Technology
Michelle Lupton

Take Note Committee

Chair
Cat Mattingly

Writers
Belinda Perkins
Paige Richards
Laura Robinson
Amy Broline Sims
Susanne Tetzlaff

The Done-In-A Day committee had a great time helping the ASO at the H-E-B Austin Symphony Orchestra July 4 Concert + Fireworks. WSL volunteers and their family members braved the heat to work the VIP check-in station, serve cool watermelon slices and decorate the Kodosky Lounge for the after party. Pictured right - Symphony Done-In-A-Day chair Stephanie Wilson's daughter Sammy and her friend Evelyn. Don't they look so cute!



Tuneful Tales had five very successful gatherings this summer! There was a wide range of WSL volunteers - from WSL veterans who used to bring their now grown kids to Tuneful Tales (formerly Children's Day Art Park), to new moms discovering the world of "Austin with kids," to brand new members, volunteering on their very first WSL volunteer shifts.



New Member Coordinators Mary-Ellen King and Kam McCoy hosted a fun networking event for new members at Vaquero's on August 2. A great time was had by all! The new members introduced themselves and shared a few interesting facts. Word is, this new member class is amazing!

Meet Katie Kaighin

YOUR NEW WSL PRESIDENT



Katie and husband, Jim, with twins Lexi & Vivi, and sister Poppy



Hiking at The Wave in Arizona - February 2022

by Suzanne Tetzlaff

Katie Kaighin is a tour de force. She is a wife; a mother of three young daughters, including a set of twins; a geologist; a talented floral designer; an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast; a community volunteer; and our current WSL President!

By way of background, Katie graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in geology, and then earned a master's degree in geology from the University of Texas at Austin. It was during her graduate school days when she met her husband, Jim, who, like Katie, grew up in Austin. She currently works part-time as a hydrogeologist with a focus on contamination issues, including prevention and remediation.

Katie and Jim are proud parents to twins, Lexi and Vivi, who are entering the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders this fall, and to six-year-old Poppy, who is already

reading and looking forward to her first grade class at Mathews Elementary. Like their vivacious mom, all three girls love the outdoors, and you may frequently find them on a slalom ski on Lake Austin, or hiking just about anywhere.

Katie joined the WSL in 2015, and her first placement was with reservations and sponsorships for our Jewel Ball. She quickly established herself as a talented, organized and effective leader and went on to serve as Reservations Chair for three years. This important role allowed Katie to really get to know our members and their families - sometimes multiple generations - and to hear their stories about many years of involvement with the WSL, the ASO, and our ball.

Why did this talented, friendly, and dedicated woman choose to engage so deeply with the WSL? As Katie put it, "I think it is vitally important to model philanthropy,

leadership, and volunteerism for my young daughters." Katie went on to explain, "I love meeting and learning from the accomplished women of all ages and stripes who form the WSL," and she enjoys participating in the varied volunteer opportunities the WSL has to offer in our community. Finally, she expressed deep respect and admiration for prior WSL Presidents, who have become, in her words, "the best mentors and friends."

Of the many things to know about Katie, perhaps the most intriguing is that she is both a geologist, which seems rooted in academia, and a floral/wreath designer, which involves artistry. At first blush, these might seem very different. But as she explains, "to be a geologist, you must have a really good imagination, because you have to imagine the world as it once was, and what it will be in the future." This perspective serves Katie well as the leader to our venerable organization.

The Kemps

A MULTI-GENERATIONAL WSL FAMILY

by Amy Broline Sims

This Fall we are continuing to highlight one of the many multi-generational families of the Women's Symphony League. These families have given of their time, treasure, and hearts for decades and have carried forth a tradition of service and generosity that has enriched the culture of Austin and our community through their support of the Austin Symphony. The rich heritage and legacy passed on through the families of its members over the generations will undoubtedly contribute to the strength of the Women's Symphony League and will continue for generations to come. This article features the legacy of the Kemp family through mother, Suzon Kemp, daughters Elizabeth Kemp Rose and Louise Kemp de Jong, and their children.

Suzon Spiller Kemp joined WSL in 1965 when her grandmother, Myrtleline 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 WSL. 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 Jewel Ball in 1967 and then as Jewel Ball Chair in 1968. She figured since she was newly married and without children, she might as well lead!

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 with her husband Bill. 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.



Akira Endo - ASO Conductor - 1979
with William Franklin Kemp King Brio XIV
and Suzon Spiller Kemp

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 would then go on to be honored as 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 Kemp de Jong and Elizabeth Kemp Rose eventually joined WSL and have carried on their family's legacy of service through their involvement. Elizabeth joined in 2007 and has been active ever since. Like her mother, Elizabeth dove right in and began serving. Her first placement was with Simple Simon. Elizabeth fondly remembers her service and recalls that she absolutely loved singing and getting to know the late Joann

Holtzman and the late Lynn Remadna through her service with Simple Simon.

As a teacher with many years devoted to education, Elizabeth was honored when Tobie Funte asked her to be on the Executive Board as the VP of Education. Elizabeth loved being able to tie her education background to the Women's Symphony League. She then had the amazing opportunity to Co-Chair and create the first ever Red Haute Fashion Show with Elizabeth Sullivan. Through her involvement with planning this event, Elizabeth was able to draw several of her closest friends to WSL through the children's fashion show. From there, she served as co-chair for New Members, Youth Leadership Council and the Jewel Ball Fashion Luncheon with her good friends, Lisa Tully and Jennifer Johnson.

One of Elizabeth's highlights of the past year was co-chairing the Jewel Ball Fashion Luncheon with Carson Kressley, and getting to know the Honorary Chair, the amazing Mrs. Sarah Butler. Elizabeth was immediately taken by Mrs. Butler's gracious, energetic, kind, smart, and generous nature, and is honored to be able to call her a friend.

By far Elizabeth's favorite memories in WSL center on her family's involvement and on the many friendships that have been born or strengthened through WSL. From an early age, she can remember her parents romanticizing about all things related to the Symphony of Austin. Her family's involvement was a significant part of her upbringing, and she even recalls her parents' friends from the Symphony becoming friends with the whole family, and even traveling together to Mexico and Maine. Elizabeth has loved getting to pass down this love and respect for the Women's Symphony League of Austin to her daughter, Ireland Rose. Ireland has been looking forward to serving as a Princess since she was a Trainbearer



1989 Diamond Queen Louise Kemp,
with Trainbearers



Bill, Louise, Elizabeth and Suzon - 1989



Princess Elizabeth and her father - 1993

and hasn't missed a Jewel Ball since she was in 6th grade! It is finally her year, and Ireland will be presented as the Diamond for this year's 67th Jewel Ball. Elizabeth's most treasured memory is involving her children and continuing the family tradition to the 5th generation!

Louise de Jong joined her mother and sister in 2013 when she joined WSL as a member. Sponsored by her sister Elizabeth, Louise became very involved early on and served as Co-Chair for Youth Leadership Council for 2 years and then 1 year as Recruitment Chair. For the past 7 years Louise has served on the Jewel Ball Committee and for the past 6 years has served as "The Mistress/Keeper of the Robe." This role involves overseeing all things related to the Jewel Ball Diamond's Robe – storing it, transporting it, bringing it to every rehearsal, and helping put it on the Diamond in preparation for the Jewel Ball. In addition, she is also responsible for attending to the Diamond during the weekend of the Jewel Ball. This role has brought Louise a great deal of joy and has brought back many fond memories of her own experience when she served as Diamond in 1989. Last year's Jewel Ball with two Diamonds was quite an adventure when two robes were needed. The Diamond Robe that was worn until 2006 was brought out of retirement and had to be removed from its permanent display at the Long Center. Seeing the names of all the past Diamonds on the commemorative plaque that hangs next to it was a great reminder of the enduring legacy of WSL and the Jewel Ball. It turns out that the new Diamond Robe is much longer, heavier, and larger than the retired Diamond Robe, requiring more effort to properly adorn the Diamond for the presentation! Louise remembers her participation as the Diamond fondly and laughed when recalling her bow. She recollects that family and friends kept reminding her to savor the evening and "take it slow." When it came time for her to bow, she took their advice and went so slow that her mother told her later that she wondered if Louise was ever going to start!

Like Elizabeth's daughter Ireland,

Louise's daughter Avery has attended as many Jewel Balls as she can remember. Both girls also have the "Grand Slam" of involvement, serving as Trainbearers, Maidens, Belles, and will be honored in this year's Jewel Ball, Ireland as the Diamond, and Avery as a Princess. In addition, Avery has received the Book Scholarship Award for YLC, modeled in the Red Haute Fashion Show, and even helped alongside her mom with the Diamond's Robe.

The participation of the Kemp family is not just limited to the women! In 1966, Suzon's husband Bill helped found the Knights of the Symphony and served as Lord of the Privy Seal. He also served as Lord Chancellor IV in 1972, King Brio XIV in 1979, and has served as legal counsel for the Austin Symphony for 45 years. Louise's husband Alan de Jong has been a member of Knights of the Symphony since 2006, previously serving as Deputy Lord Chancellor, and as Lord Chancellor LVII this year. Elizabeth's husband Sean Rose has also been active in the The Knights of the Symphony since 2006.

Without a doubt, both Elizabeth and Louise's greatest influences are their parents. Their decades of joyful service and family participation made a lasting impression on them both and they are grateful to be able to continue their legacy of service to WSL and pass it on to their children. It is impossible for the Women's Symphony League to fully express our gratitude for the generations of service the Kemp family has given the Women's Symphony League and Austin Symphony. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!



2022 Diamond Queen Ireland Cassidy Rose and
Princess Avery Louise de Jong at the Jewel Tea

The Jewel Tea

ANNOUNCING THE ROYAL COURT

On May 22, 2022, dozens of enthusiastic WSL members gathered in the beautiful home of Stacey Toomey for the announcement of the 2022 Jewel Ball Diamond, Princesses, Visiting Jewels and Escorts. The Jewel Tea was hosted by the Past Presidents' Council. Prior to the presentation of these lovely and accomplished young women and their mothers, party guests feasted on tea sandwiches and fruit and a delectable showstopper of a cake generously donated by WSL past president Pamela Bell.



The 2022 Diamond Queen, Ireland Cassidy Rose and the Princesses of the Royal Court



The delectable cake!



2022 Jewel Ball Chairs Carrie Semple and Leslie Pardue with President Katie Kaighin



WSL Presidents past and present: Jené Bearse, Katie Kaighin, Jennifer Bell and Karey Oddo

New Member Spotlights

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Pam Bellin - Birthday: December 26

Sponsor: Carrie Conner

Where did you grow up? Salem, Oregon

Do you have children? Alex, 28 went to TCU and is a rising country singer (he's on Spotify under Bubba Bellin); Jarrett, 23 went to SMU and is an investment banking analyst at Guggenheim in NY.

What are your hobbies? I love to ski, hike, travel and have lots of fun!

What do you love about Austin? I love living downtown and being able to walk to everything.

Favorite restaurant in the world? The French Laundry in CA.

Fun fact about you? I had dinner with Pelé in London when I worked for UMBRO.



Mari Canizales Potolicchio - Birthday: September 12

Sponsor: Miami Symphony Orchestra (MISO)

Do you have children? Rafa, 21; Luise, 22; and Jay 26.

Where did you grow up? Caracas, Venezuela

What do you do for fun? Volunteering at animal shelters; tons of reading and travelling; recently the biggest fan of Austin FC, VERDE LISTOS!

Do you work outside the home? Owner/Manager: The UPS Store 2548/2330 St. Andrews Property Management

What do you love about Austin? Cars and Coffee at COTA/ The weirdness of Austin

Fun fact about you? I've been to 6 out of the 7 continents in the world and I was Rookie of the Year (2011) when I entered the Mazda Winter Series for the Skip Barber MAZDASPEED Challenge.



Jessica Rossman - Birthday: May 23

Sponsor: Mela Sarajane Dailey

Do you have children? Alexis, a two-year-old mini bernedoodle :)

Where did you grow up? Austin! Moved away for law school and life in general and just returned in 2020.

What are your hobbies? Travel; spend time with great friends; explore new restaurants and foods; read great books; host house parties.

Do you work outside the home? Just retired! I was Senior Managing Counsel and Managing Director – International for 19+ years at Continental Airlines and then United Airlines post merger.

Favorite Austin tradition? Summer days at Barton Springs; evenings at Summer Classic Films at Paramount Theatre.

Fun fact about you? Last week, I accidentally Door Dashed dumplings from London... and they ARRIVED. So heads up, ladies! Good news: they were delicious. Bad news: price per dumpling.

Anything else you'd like to tell us? I just got a baby grand piano for my bday and am starting piano lessons for the first time since I stopped taking them as a little girl thru college with Alegria Hibberts Arce (an ASO board member, Silver member of WSL, and my beloved piano teacher my whole life)!



Sarah Wideoff Williams - Birthday: May 9

Sponsor: Sinem Szygenda

Do you have children? Beck, 17 (LASA); Miller, 14 (LASA)

What are your hobbies? Spin classes; travel; reading, when I can stay awake!

Do you work outside the home? Yes – philanthropic consulting.

Favorite Austin tradition? I like the holiday traditions in Austin – Bob Schneider's show, lights at Mozart's, Trail of Lights – I grew up on the East Coast, so the holiday traditions are totally different, but I really enjoy them!

Favorite restaurant in the world? Nicola Pizza in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware – I grew up going, worked there for many summers and now take my kids. It is delicious, but also is just the epitome of summer, beach and carefree fun for me!

Fun fact about you? I'm a pretty organized, Type A person, but when we travel, I don't always do a lot of planning – to the point that we sometimes don't have hotel rooms booked! It has led to some wild adventures – the ones I hear my kids talk about most when they talk about our trips – so I don't think I'll start planning more anytime soon!





WOMEN'S SYMPHONY LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

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Final Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 23 Fashion Luncheon, Fairmont Austin
- 24 67th Annual Jewel Ball, JW Marriott
- 23-24 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Virtuosity*

October

- 1 Butler Pops Series: *A Tribute to Judy Garland*
- 17 General Membership Meeting - 6pm: home of Sullie Stephens
- 21-22 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Oktoberfest of Sound*
- 23 Halloween Children's Concert

November

- 18-19 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Masters of Music*

December

- TBD Holiday Couples Party/General Meeting - 6:30pm
- 6 ASO: *Handel's Messiah*
- 29-30 Butler Pops Series: *Elf in Concert (film)*

Our Mission

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