

TAKE NOTE



A message from our President...



Karey Nalle Oddo
WSL President

I adore that holiday television ad where we see people grateful for the things they already have instead of the presents they are given. Children appear wrapped in holiday paper as the family in the ad expresses love for one another – a reminder that our families are a gift every day. The light switch is wrapped too, as the dad shouts something like, “The power works! We can have it whenever we want.” The family rejoices over clean water from their faucets, the old shoes they wear and the mundane food on their table.

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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.

Red Haute Chairpersons **Tara Akins** and **Megan Haywood** along with their committee are putting the finishing touches on our much loved **Valentine's Day Party and Children's Style Show**. You will not want to miss this event which promises to be tons of fun for the girls and ladies alike! Sponsorships and modeling opportunities are limited and available online now.



Sun February 9th, 2020

The LINE Austin Hotel
VIP Reception 11:00 am
General Admission 11:30 am

WSL December Party



Eldarose Cardenas, Mary Dickerson,
Dale Van Sickle, & Carrie Conner

The WSL December Party and General Meeting was held on December 16th at the beautiful and festively decorated home of Wendy Lary with catering by Primizie. A lovely time was had by all.



Julia Null, Celeste Hubert, Wendy Lary,
Jenè Bearse & Sarah Sibley Cox



Shannon & Mike Meroney



Tricia Moose & Amanda Gay



Kelley Lightfoot & Cindy Johnson

A look back at the ball...



(President's Message continued from page 1)

So, as we welcome a new year, know that each of you, our members, are a gift to the soul of this organization and to the Austin community. Whether a new member or a gold member, a volunteer with a major leadership job or a relatively quick placement, you matter to **WSL**. It might not seem overwhelmingly significant to you – but raising money for **Austin's Symphony Orchestra** is a really big deal. This time of year, we see the **Messiah Concerts**, the free **Christmas in the Community** shows around town, and the holiday **Pops** performances which bring joy to so many. These musical *gifts* (and those throughout the year) would not be possible without the support of the **WSL** and **YOU!** Your work makes for memories and lifetime traditions for others.

Thank you for your membership, your participation, your time, talent and treasure. It is such a pleasure to see each WSL committee having such a wonderful year feeding the orchestra, planning **YLC** events, organizing our meetings, setting up for **Art Park**, writing thank you notes, and a lot more. Each task is undertaken with such delight. Women supporting women supporting our community – no matter the size of the task. This endeavor is what **WSL** is all about.

The **Jewel Ball** was successful beyond measure in that **WSL** raised more money than was budgeted and participants and guests alike had a fabulous evening celebrating WSL! We look forward to our next major fundraiser, **Red Haute** in February, with the same level of excitement! The committee is busy planning and it promises to be another hugely popular and FUN event. Please participate and support this fantastic **WSL** fundraiser. Special gratitude to chairs **Tara Akins** and **Megan Haywood** – total rock stars in their own right....

Thank you **Wendy & Trey Lary** for hosting the wonderful holiday party. What an evening to remember! Thanks to **Mia Ryes** and **Christian Wells** for another show-stopping **Pops Concert**. It was a fantastic way for WSL to close out 2019.

The WSL Board of Directors wishes to show their most sincere appreciation to

Christy Merritt & Christy Werner

for their time and dedication to making the events of the 65th annual
Jewel Ball an overwhelming success.

Meet our new members



Ruth Adams

Birthday - Sep 4th

*Sponsor: **Karen Leeke***

Where did you grow up? In the heart of Dallas

What are your hobbies? Randy and I enjoy traveling and supporting the arts.

Fun fact: My family helped form the Republic of Texas. I'm a 6th generation Texan.

Do you work outside the home? I retired early from the corporate world and then returned to creating abstract art concentrated on acrylic mixed media.



Karina Goulet

Birthday - Jun 13th

*Sponsors: **Jennifer Owens & Lisa Tully***

Where did you grow up? 1st 20 Years - Guadalajara, Mexico & the last 20, a few magical places all over the US, but mostly in Austin.

What is your favorite Austin tradition? ACL is our most loved family tradition.

Favorite Restaurant? Fonda San Miguel, ATX Cocina, Polvos, Tacodeli

Fun fact: I lived in Winnipeg while doing an internship for the Province of Manitoba.



Michelle Camacho

Birthday - Nov 26th

*Sponsors: **Michou Shell***

Where did you grow up? Toronto Canada

Tell us about your children: I have two daughters, Isabella (9), and Natasha (6).

Both attend St. Theresa's Catholic School.

What is your favorite restaurant? Olamaie

Fun fact: I speak four languages with varying levels of fluency.

Favorite travel destination: I love Europe. We tend toward beach destinations.



Amy Sims

Birthday - Apr 15th

*Sponsors: **Stacey Brewer & Kay Broline***

Where did you grow up? Austin

Do you have children? Yes, Preston (11), Abigail (9), Hallie (8)

What is your favorite restaurant? Sway

What do you love about Austin? The hills of Northwest Austin, the mix of creativity and ambition, and the open hearts of the people. I love that Austin opens its arms wide and lets you be whoever you want to be.

WSL Member Spotlight

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

Melanie Hirschfeld is our featured member for this edition. She has been our **ASO Fund Drive Coordinator** for the last six years after shadowing **Karen Leeke, (now ASO Board President)** for the three years prior. As **ASO Fund Drive Coordinator**, Melanie identifies 15 WSL volunteers (board members, active and new members) who will work the phone bank alongside ASO Board Members to contact Season Ticket Holders, BATS and Knights of the Symphony in order to raise funds for ASO. The fund drive occurs the last week of January at the Moody Tower.

After relocating to Austin in the early 2000's Melanie joined WSL, although she was engaged with our organization long before this time when she was presented at the **1985 Jewel Ball, "An Oriental Evening- The Pearl"** as the **Aquamarine from San Angelo**. In a Sept. 12, 1985 article, the Austin American Statesman notes that Melanie brought 37 relatives and friends with her to the ball!



Melanie Hirschfeld

Both of Melanie's children have participated in Jewel Ball activities as well. Jacy, Melanie's daughter, now 25 was a Princess in the 2013 Jewel Ball after having been both a Maiden and Belle. Miles, Melanie's son, who is 23 years old, participated as an Escort for both a Princess and a Visiting Jewel.

When she is not supporting WSL and the ASO, Melanie is a history teacher at **Bowie High School**. She enjoys hiking and traveling in her spare time. WSL is very lucky to have such an outstanding member of our community as a long time active member of our organization. Thank you for sharing your time and talent Melanie!

Melanie wants our members to know how much fun the **ASO Fund Drive** is. All calls are made to people who are friendly with ASO, so calling is easy. Refreshments are provided and the calling center is centrally located downtown. If you have questions about the upcoming **ASO Fund Drive** at the end of January, please reach out to Melanie via the online or printed directory.



Some facts about the Austin Symphony Orchestra

- Founded in 1911, ASO is the oldest performing group in Austin, Texas.
- Nearly 80 musicians form the ASO.
- The ASO provides approximately 90,000 children with an opportunity to learn about symphony music through various programs offered throughout the year.
- Bass Concert Hall at the University of Texas served as the ASO's longtime performance hall until the Long Center for Performing Arts was opened in 2008.
- Musicians who have performed with the ASO include Van Cliburn, Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Isaac Stern, and André Watts.
- Peter Bay is ASO's eighth and longest running conductor, now in his 22nd season.
- The ASO hosts an annual Young Composers competition. 2020 will be the 10th year for the competition which is held each spring and named for Sarah and Ernest Butler, longtime patrons of the Symphony.
- You can purchase gift certificates from the ASO which make lovely gifts!

Jan. 10-11th, 2020 "Rach Star"

Johannes Brahms/Schoenberg, Sergei Rachmaninoff

Feb. 7-8th, 2020 "Picture Perfect"

Antonio Vivaldi, Paul Hindemith, Modest Mussorgsky

Feb. 22nd, 2020 Indiana Jones - Raiders of the Lost Ark, John Williams



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