

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF  THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SPRING 2018

A Note From TSF Guild President Claudia Morgan-Gray

Happy 2018, Guild Members. As we begin a new year together, we want you to know that the wheels are already turning, and the work has already begun to prepare for the hospitality roll-out and the arrival of the 2018 TSF Company in May.

The TSF Guild Board is grateful for the current Guild members. We continue with our outreach to grow the TSF Guild membership. It is no secret that many hands make light work for all. And who

knows better than our members how much the Guild helps to ensure that TLC and Southern hospitality are given freely and in abundance to all those that come to be part of the TSF Festival during the summer?

To accommodate the level of participation of our Guild members, we provide different levels of membership. One level is geared toward those members that may be willing and able to also assist us with some volunteer activities.

We also have a membership level for those that prefer not to be called for volunteer activities but who still want to support the Guild in their own way.

You are a valuable part of the Guild success. So, if you have not renewed your TSF Guild Membership, we encourage you to do so. If you have friends, neighbors, or relatives that enjoy the arts and who you believe would want to be part of keeping this treasure in our area, please encourage or assist

them in joining the Guild too.

On behalf of the TSF Guild Board, we are looking forward to sharing another wonderful season with you. Thank you for your membership and your support.



TSF Intern Sponsors Still Needed

For the past three years, members of the TSF Guild and others have answered the call to “Sponsor an Intern” by donating \$250 to supplement their meager salary of \$1,250 for their 10-week contract with the Festival. The interns are the lowest-paid members of the Festival, receiving \$125 per week, which is considerably below the national minimum wage. They also do not receive any assistance with their travel, so in some cases, an intern may easily spend virtually all of his/her TSF salary just to get to Kilgore and back home again, depending on where

he or she lives. Last year, there were 23 interns in the Company, and within two weeks of the request, all of the interns had been sponsored by TSF patrons! Thank you all very much!

This summer, seven of the nineteen interns have already been sponsored, and it is our hope that soon after this newsletter is received and read by Guild members, those remaining interns will also find sponsors. If you are interested in helping this way, please send a check for \$250 to the following address: **Raymond Caldwell, TSF, 1100 Broadway Kilgore, TX 75662**

Please mark the check “TSF Intern,” and your donation will automatically be applied to an intern’s salary. Your name will be listed in the season’s playbill beside the photo and biography of your intern, as well as on the hallway display of his/her photograph and on a special page titled “Intern Sponsors.” You will be sent the name and contact information for the intern you are helping, and in turn, your intern will receive your name and information, unless you wish to remain anonymous. In that case, please indicate “Anonymous” on a note enclosed with the donation.

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Mark Your Calendars:
Tickets go on sale to Guild Members May 1st online only using the passcode “GUILD2018”

Thanks in advance for your generosity in providing this very meaningful help for our interns

Notes from the Festival Staff

TSF Roadshow at Odessa's Globe Theater

TSF's Roadshow Educational Tour completed its third year of touring this fall, which included multiple performances of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* for public schools in East Texas, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Houston, and San Antonio, among other Texas towns. However, the highlight of the company's five-week residency was an eight-day engagement in West Texas, where they had the privilege of performing at the Globe of the Great Southwest in Odessa for nearly 1,000 students. Randy Ham, Executive Director of Odessa Arts, invited the Roadshow to perform in Odessa and has already engaged the company to return in November 2018.

The Fall 2018 Roadshow Tour will offer in-school touring productions of *Macbeth* and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* throughout the months of October and November. If you would be interested in sponsoring a performance or helping to bring the Roadshow to a school in your community, contact *Matthew Simpson at Msimpson@texasshakespeare.com or 903-983-8610*.

The Lovely Step Sister—An Original Children's Play

Grace Abele, a member of TSF's 2016 and 2017 companies, will be returning in 2018, not only as an actor, but also as a director and playwright. Grace's original play, *The Lovely Step Sister*, will be the TSF children's production for the 2018 season. The play is a delightful twist on a number of familiar fairy tales and will star the members of TSF Acting Intern Company. TSF has offered a production for children every season since 1989, and 2018 will mark the seventh consecutive year that the production is a world premiere.

Audience members may remember Grace from her performances as Julie Jordan in 2016's *Carousel*, Lady Anne in 2017's *Richard III*, and Mary Hatch in the 2016 Christmas production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Along with directing and writing the children's production for the upcoming season, Grace will be acting in *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Tartuffe*. TSF is thrilled to have her back and to be the first professional theater to produce one of her plays!

So Rewarding To Be A Guild Member

Gem Meacham, President-Elect

We Guild members receive more than we give. For as little as \$20 per year, we are an integral part of the fabulous Texas Shakespeare Festival.

Your membership helps us feed and host 90+ summer season TSF company members, as well as the fall Roadshow company and the Christmas show guest artists.

Our East Texas hospitality, partnered with the amazing Festival artistry, attracts theater professionals from throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries. And, we have the opportunity to personally meet and host them through Guild volunteer efforts.

There are currently 925 Guild members who have joined during the current membership year which ends May 25 (just in time for inclusion in the summer season playbill). Would it not give us great bragging rights if we topped 1,000 before then? We could achieve that with only 75 more members. With your help, we can do it.

If you know someone who enjoys the Festival, but who has not joined the Guild, please reach out to him or her. Membership categories are listed on the webpage <http://www.texasshakespeare.com/join-guild>.

Support the Festival on "East Texas Giving Day"

East Texas Giving Day is an online event that allows Guild members to support TSF and it also provides critical funding for other area nonprofits. East Texas Communities Foundation is partnering with TSF and other area nonprofits to give thousands of donors from every community in East Texas a chance to raise funds for local needs. The purpose of an area-wide Giving Day is to bring the region together on one day and as one community, raising money and awareness for East Texas nonprofits.

The official day to give is Tuesday, April 24, 2018, from 6:00 a.m. to midnight; however, Giving Day is really a giving season that occurs now through Tuesday, April 24. You can simply write a check and put "East Texas Giving Day" in the memo line to have your donation be added to the cause.

Another way to give is to go online on Tuesday, April 24th, and visit the EastTexasGivingDay.org website. Once there, click DONATE and then ORGANIZATIONS. You will find the Texas Shakespeare Festival page listed as an organization, and you will be able to donate on East Texas Giving Day only. An added incentive: if we raise more money than any other East Texas nonprofit, we could win prize money!

Thank you for helping us in this cause, and for everything that the Guild does EVERY day to support the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

Our Chinese Friends Will Return

For the tenth consecutive year, Steve Zhang and Angelina Gaoya are coming back to Kilgore and to TSF with a group of Chinese university students for a three-week workshop, learning more about American regional theater production of Shakespeare. They will attend classes, attend rehearsals of the children's show, shadow TSF artists to learn what they do and how to do it, then rehearse and perform an original work. We are very happy to have our Chinese friends return, and we also appreciate the warm welcome the TSF family has shown them since 2009. The "Chinese Theater Night" performance is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, at 7:30 PM. There will be a light reception after the performance in the lobby of the theater. Admission is free, but reservations are required. The TSF Ticket Office telephone number is 903-983-8601.

Also, you can contact any board member, and we will extend an invitation to join.

We also hope to promote the Guild to your clubs and organizations. If you belong to a civic, business or social group that would welcome a program, let us know.

Finally, we encourage informal outreach events where hosts specifically invite friends who are not members to enjoy coffee, tea or other refreshments where they can learn more about the value of Guild membership in supporting the Festival. An outreach event is a great vehicle to build membership and to inspire enthusiasm and interaction with the Company. Let us know if you are interested in hosting an outreach event.

To echo our President Claudia Morgan-Gray: thank you, thank you for being a member.

Contact President-Elect *Gem Meacham, 903-983-2554 (voice/text) or gemmeacham@gmail.com*

Company Events 2018

Even though the weather is dark and gloomy here as winter hangs on, summer and the Company will be arriving in May before we know it. It is not too early to think about the many ways that Guild volunteers can create some sunshine for our wonderful cast and crew members while they are in Kilgore. The East Texas hospitality they enjoy is unique and a highlight of their TSF experience. Our Co-Vice Presidents for Company Events this year are Eileen Kosnik and Karen Peters. If you are planning to be a part of this hospitality team, please contact them. It is never too early!

Eileen Kosnik ekosnik@mac.com 903-330-1946

Karen Peters kspeters05@gmail.com 903-238-3742

Welcome Containers –May 10

In May, the containers will be stuffed and made ready for the Company's arrival. Each Company member will receive a TSF-branded container stuffed with items they use while living in the dorm. The Guild dues buy the containers, but we need help in providing the "stuffing." The Company especially appreciates toilet tissue and laundry pods. In fact, volunteers will stock the "Yorick's Closet" throughout the season with these items (since we will have already used up the budget by then).

Items Needed for Containers: highlighters, pens, laundry soap/pods, toilet tissue, travel size handy wipes, discount cards, movie passes.

Poor Yorick's Closet welcomes gifts throughout the summer and keeps travel-size toiletries of shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, and toothpaste donated by Guild members.

Adopt-an-Artist

This is your time for a one-on-one visit. Guild members can invite two or more company members to dinner or lunch. If you want to know the artists as individuals, this is a great way. Having them in your home or taking them out to a restaurant is equally appreciated. Call John Dodd, 903-983-8119.

Lunch Bunch, Festival Center, Kilgore

Volunteers are needed to bring "extras" for at least 20 people on each Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Your dues provide breakfast every day. For these three Guild lunches each week, your dues provide sandwich and salad basics (including green salad and fruits). But—we love to show our East Texas hospitality with extras provided by volunteers. You don't have to cook; extras can come from carry-out or the grocery store.

By extras we mean:

- hearty salads (such as potato, pasta, fruit, taco)
- dips/crackers/chips
- sides that do not have to be cooked or reheated since the TSF Center does not have an oven (such as pre-cooked casseroles, a pot of veggies, a pan of beans, cornbread, or something in a crock pot; use your imagination)
- desserts

Approximately 80 Company members come to lunch on Guild days. If 3-4 people volunteer to bring for 20, then no one Lunch Bunch volunteer has to provide everything. We keep up with the schedule and let you know what others are bringing—or you can recruit friends.

For information or to coordinate days and times; call, email or text Eileen or Karen.

Changeover Meals, Van Cliburn Auditorium, Kilgore

A crew of 30 Company members work the open set-changeovers between matinee and evening shows on Thur., Fri., Sat. and Sun. They don't have time to join the other Company members at the campus cafeteria for dinner. The Guild feeds them with specified donations of \$150 per day. If you want to contribute to this special fund, your help is needed and welcome. If you want to sponsor one or more days, we would be grateful. Or, if you'd like to bring home-cooked or carry-out meals to the hard-working crew around 6:00 p.m., that is also welcome. Call John Dodd, 903-983-8119.

Strike Dinner—July 30

Although it seems far away, saying goodbye always arrives before we are ready. You are invited to make the Strike Dinner a success by bringing a dish for the pot-luck event. The Guild provides the meat entrée. Be sure to mark it on your calendar!

And again—many, many thanks for all that your Guild membership contributes to the TSF season!

"Save the Date" Opportunities for Guild Members

Thank You Reception—Monday, April 23

An afternoon reception will be held at the East Texas Oil Museum, from 4:30 -6 PM. We would like to recognize those faithful people who have been a part of the "Lunch Bunch," providing salads, sides and dessert for the cast and crew on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays during the TSF season. Through the caring and love of these volunteers, our TSF family has had some special treats and special moments. Come celebrate Shakespeare's birthday!

Welcome Dinner for TSF Company—Tuesday, May 22

We will welcome the Company at a Texas-themed potluck at St. Luke's United Methodist Family Center. This is the same location we used for the Strike Dinner last summer, and it was such a success we decided to use it for both the Welcome Dinner and Strike Dinner this year. More information will follow, but please mark the date now! The design presentation will take place on **Saturday, May 26** at 7:30 PM in the Van Cliburn Auditorium.

The Lunch Bunch begins its work on **Wednesday, May 23** and will continue each Wednesday, Friday and Sunday until **July 29th!** Please contact *Eileen Kosnik*, ekosnik@mac.com or *Karen Peters*, kspeters05@gmail.com, if you would like to help feed the company!

Tyler Guild Event—Saturday, June 2

Invitations will be mailed to the Guild members in the Bullard, Flint, Hide-A-Way, Jacksonville, Lindale, and Tyler areas.

Behind the Scenes—June 10th, 3-5 PM

Come 'behind the scenes' with us as we explore this season's costumes, props, backdrops, and more! There will be a small reception following the tour.

TSF Festival Center

815 Houston St

Kilgore, Texas

RSVP: kimmacedo@netzero.net

Opening Night Receptions—June 28th, June 29th, June 30th, and July 1st

Enjoy dessert and punch before each opening night performance.

Join the Green Group—for Three Reasons

If you have not yet joined the “Green Group” by signing up to receive *The Stratford Tribune* newsletter via email rather than through regular postal service, please consider doing it today for three reasons: (1) it saves the Guild substantial cost in printing and postage; (2) it allows you to receive a greatly enhanced version of the newsletter, including full-color pictures; and (3) it includes you on the Festival’s email list, which lets you receive more timely notifications of many TSF activities. And there is a fourth reason, too: it saves trees!

We are dividing the TSF Green Group into two specific groups.

- **Green Group**—You will receive the TSF newsletters *only* via email.
- **Green Group Plus**—You will receive the TSF newsletters via email and occasional correspondence about Festival activities. Examples of these might be information about the Lunch Bunch, TSF Foundation, raffles, and special TSF events. These emails might be informative or request help with events, etc. and will not be excessive. *We do not share your email address with other entities.*

**When you join the Green Group, please let us know your choice—
Green Group or Green Group Plus.**

To join either Green Group, send an email to LoisKnouse@letu.edu. Please be sure to include your name. Sometimes it is difficult to identify you by your email address.



2017—2018 Executive Board

President	<i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>
President—Elect	<i>Gem Meacham</i>
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Co-VP’s—House Events	<i>Melinda Johnson</i> <i>Martha Rutherford</i>
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TSF Artistic Director	<i>Raymond Caldwell</i>
TSF Managing Director	<i>John Dodd</i>
TSF Artistic Associates	<i>Meaghan Simpson</i> <i>Matthew Simpson</i>

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