

Notes from the President

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Paramount Theatre,

2008 was a good year for the Paramount although we were not immune to the downturn in the economy either, as we've seen our audience numbers fall off.

We'd like your opinion and input which are so important to us as we work on building our audiences. Please check out the article elsewhere in this newsletter asking for your feedback.

2008 marked the passing of Evelyn Keifer, Betty Sperry, and Denny Maschka, dedicated Paramount friends and volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talent. Evelyn was a faithful volunteer when it came time to send out newsletters and other mailings. Betty enjoyed ushering and greeting patrons at many of our events. Denny could often be seen working behind the concession counter with his wife, Linda. Evelyn, Betty and Denny are sorely missed.

This past year we were the recipients of very generous donations from the estates of Florence Hogan and Lydia Lein, as well as from Abigail Johnson in memory of her husband, Art. These unexpected gifts will be used to fulfill our long-term objectives and for special projects. We are grateful for the far-sightedness of these wonderful supporters.

If you haven't been to an event at the Paramount lately, we invite you to take in one soon. If you're one of our regulars, thank you for your continued support. See you at the Paramount!

Milly Burroughs, AACA Board President

2008 Austin Area Commission for the Arts (AACA) Board Members

Milly Burroughs, President
Dick McIntosh, Vice-President

Lucy Gotz, Treasurer
Cindy Bellrichard, Secretary

Janet Anderson
Sally Kolb
Karen Schneider

Jim Burroughs
Monica Lonergan
Ian Shapinsky

Joann Stevens
Joel Nelson
Linda Sistik

Board Member Update

After serving on the AACA Board of Directors for quite a number of years as the Matchbox Children's Theatre representative, Cindy Bellrichard decided it was time for a break. During her tenure on the board Cindy served as Vice President and most recently as the Secretary. We thank Cindy for her many years of service, especially keeping excellent minutes of our monthly meetings. We hope she will return to our board some time in the future.

Replacing Cindy as Matchbox's representative is Lora Lee Bauer who is an Austin native, graduating from AHS in 1957. She retired from KAAL-TV after 34 years, working as a sales assistant and later as traffic manager. Lora Lee became involved with Matchbox Theatre when her daughter, Lia, was 9. A few years later she joined their board, and was initially involved with the idea of purchasing the Paramount as a permanent home for Matchbox. She now chairs their Play Reading Committee. Lora Lee said she's very happy to be a contributing member of the AACA Board.

Another recent addition to the AACA Board is Dave Sylte, who recently retired after 36 years working with the Social Security Administration at various locations around the Midwest. He was District Manager of the Austin Social Security Office for 4 ½ years. In moves with his employment, Dave has been part of several barbershop harmony choruses and quartets. Most recently he has been singing with the Forte' Milers Barbershop Chorus in Adams. He also is a member of the Austin Rotary Club, the United Way Community Assessment Committee, the Mower County Senior Center Board, the Age Wave Coalition and the Friends of the Library. A member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church, he sings with the choir and serves on the St. Olaf Foundation Board.