

Glam at Gilcrease

Nominations sought for Oklahoma Hall of Fame



people & places
Danna Sue Walker

Induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the single greatest honor any Oklahoman can receive.

The award honors the men and women who have played leading roles in shaping our past, present and future, those who have led the way to greatness and who inspire future generations of Oklahomans to live meaningful lives that contribute to our state's heritage.

Shannon Nance, the president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the group that sponsors the Hall of Fame, notes that individuals are only considered for this honor if they are nominated.

"We are gathering nominations from Oklahomans across the state who know of accomplished people who deserve this distinction during this special year — the Oklahoma Hall of Fame's 80th anniversary and our state's centennial," Nance said.

"There is no greater tribute you can pay to a fellow Oklahoman than a nomination to this group of exceptionally influential and talented individuals.

"When Anna B. Korn created the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1927, her goal was to honor and show appreciation for those who had given outstanding service to the state during their lifetime. The Oklahoma Heritage Association has remained true to the Hall of Fame's original mission for the last 80 years."

Since Fred S. Clinton, an oilman, and Frank Frazz, a public servant, became the first Tulsans to be inducted in 1927, 80 more have taken their place in the long march of history. The OHA has inducted more than 600 outstanding achievers since the Hall of Fame began.

Make sure that your heroes and heroines are among those considered at the Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony, set Nov. 8 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Tickets go on sale in September.

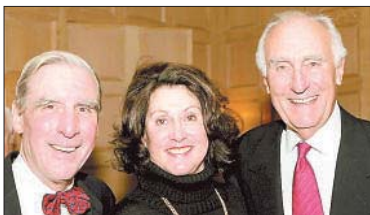
Tulsa inductees Roxana Lorton, King Kirchner, Milans Siegfried and Tom Brett all agree — being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame was the "greatest honor" of their lives.

Roxana Lorton, a noted civic leader, said receiving the award in Tulsa was icing on the cake



Jim Arens (left), Katie Arens, Trevor Tack, Randal Wightman and Fred Wightman enjoy the cuisine of the Chalkboard Restaurant, which will cater "Manuel: The Star-Spangled Thank You Tour" gala on March 30.

Courtesy



Phil Kistler (left), Roxana Lorton, and King Kirchner gather at last year's Oklahoma Hall of Fame reception.

"As an Oklahoman, to be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame was the greatest honor of my life. To represent Tulsa and to be part of such a wonderful and prestigious group — those who came before and those who will be honored in the future — is more than anyone can dream."

Roxana Lorton was inducted in 2001 and her husband, Bob Lorton, chairman of World Publishing Co., was an honoree in 1996. Kirchner, a 2006 honoree, said that the Hall of Fame honor was only exceeded by the occasion when his wife, Lee, said yes to his marriage proposal.

"To have this magnificent award is such a pleasure and for it to represent the great state of Oklahoma and city of Tulsa is beyond compare. It is a wonderful feeling to share this experience with others," he said.

Siegfried, a 2003 inductee, said that for both she and her late husband, Ray, to be considered as part of Oklahoma's history alongside such people as W.G. Skelly, W.H. Helmerich, W.K. Warren, T. Boone Pickens, Russ Perry and Woody Guthrie "was mind-boggling to us. It also shows that everyone has the ability to make a difference in his or her community."

Tom Brett, a 2000 inductee, called the honor "the experience of a lifetime" and a privilege to be shared.

Nominating a friend or colleague to be part of the Oklahoma Heritage Hall of Fame puts that person in the history books and recognizes his great achievements. Nominate those you feel are worthy of such an honor.

They should be recognized.

Anyone can make a Hall of Fame nomination — the nominator does not have to be related to or even know the individual. The Hall of Fame nomination form and posthumous nomination form can be downloaded at www.oklahomaheritage.com under the Hall of Fame tab. Nomination forms are due to the Oklahoma Heritage Association by Friday.

Nominees to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame may be either living or deceased. To be eligible, the individual must reside in Oklahoma or be a former resident of the state; have performed outstanding service to humanity, the state of Oklahoma and the country; and be known for his or her public service throughout the state.

Individuals who have never resided in Oklahoma may be nominated if they have been distinguished in their profession or if their public service has brought honor or distinction to Oklahoma or contributed to the state's heritage.

The Oklahoma Heritage Association preserves Oklahoma's history and inspires pride in the state by supporting education, celebrating the accomplishments of Oklahomans and leading the publishing industry in publishing books on Oklahoma history. The OHA is dedicated to promoting Oklahoma's living history through its people.

For more information about the Oklahoma Heritage Association or the 2007 Oklahoma Hall of Fame, call (405) 235-4458, toll-free at (888) 501-2059, or visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

Get ready for some glitz

Gilcrease Museum is bringing out a fantastic weekend of glitz, glamour, artistry and music as it presents "Manuel: The Star-Spangled Thank You Tour" and the Oak Ridge Boys, which gets underway March 30 and opens to the public April 1.

There are many facets to this Gilcrease jewel — opening night of the exhibit, which includes dinner and a fashion show, and the Oak Ridge Boys concert is set March 31 at the Brady Theater.

On March 30, guests will get a first look at the Manuel exhibit, see a fashion show featuring many of his stunning designs and have the chance to meet Manuel, who will be the guest of honor for the event.

The exhibition, co-organized by the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Manuel Exclusive (both headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.), will showcase the 50 U.S. state jackets that Manuel designed in gratitude to the United States for a highly successful career.

Also included in the exhibition are costumes worn by some of the stars that Manuel has designed for including Dolly Parton, Marty Stuart, and the band R.E.M.

Manuel dressed Johnny Cash in black. He created jumpsuits for Elvis and costumes for the band Aerosmith. Lyndon B. Johnson, Zipp Top and the Beatles. Even presidents and movie stars have proudly donned his couture.

Gilcrease Museum recently hosted a tasting at the Chalkboard Restaurant to make final selections for the gala dinner. Co-chairs Randal and Fred Wightman and Katie and Jim Arens were on hand to discuss the menu.

Also present was Trevor Tack, executive sous chef of the Chalkboard Restaurant.

Proceeds from the Oak Ridge Boys concert will help support educational programs at the museum. Tickets are \$40 and \$50 and may be reserved by calling 58-BRADY.

Individual tickets to the black-tie Nashville Glam Gala are \$850 per person. Gala sponsorship opportunities begin at \$1,500 and some levels include premium concert seating tickets to the Oak Ridge Boys, an invitation to attend a private pre-concert reception at Gilcrease with the Oak Ridge Boys, and BluBlocker sunglasses.

For gala tickets call 596-2758 or go to www.gilcrease.org for more information.

The "Star-Spangled Thank You Tour" is sponsored by the Ralph and Frances McGill Foundation, the Trust Co. of Oklahoma, Williams Cos., Cox Communications, Hot Ambassador, KVBL 99.5 FM, KYOO 98.5 FM, KFAQ 1170 AM and BluBlocker.

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RSU TV seeks focus group participants

RSU Public Television is looking for viewers to participate in a focus group.

RSU, which operates KRSC, channel 35 and cable channel 19, will hold a focus group session from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Innovation Center on the Rogers State College campus, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore.

Those interested in participating must be age 21 or older.

Women and minorities are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Dan Schiedel, general manager at (918) 343-7657 or by e-mail at dschiedel@rsu.edu.

PEACE:

Shields believes her use of TM methods helped her defeat cancer.

FROM D-1

practices an advanced technique called the TM-Sidhi Program, then that also has the same effect," she continued, "so you only need, like, 70-75 people in Tulsa to make things better."

OK, transcending thought to arrive at the source of thought, and affecting economies and war zones with TM is a lot to take in, so let's go smaller, to one person, Shields, to understand how a onetime flower child found a way to cope in a world far from at peace.

Power of one

Shields grew up in the small town of Cherryvale, Kan., as a "very shy" girl who did well in school but was active in the local Baptist church. Back then, Shields remembers having a firm belief that God had a purpose for all, and that He wanted his people to "treat each other with kindness."

In high school, Shields and her high school sweetheart and future husband, Don, "were known as the first hippies in Cherryvale."

As much as they could in conservative Kansas, they sported hippie garb — they both owned Nehru jackets — and held to the hippie ethos of peace and love.

After graduation in 1970, Shields didn't exactly know what to do with her life, so she took secretarial courses and got hitched to Don in 1972.

It was a small Baptist ceremony that found the bride wearing a crown of mixed spring flowers, and wearing a long, white wedding dress, complete with embroidered flowers, she made by hand.

"Very hippie," she said laughing. A baby boy, Christopher, soon followed, on Independence Day 1974.

Later, the couple moved to a rural area outside Pittsburg, Kan., where Don worked as grocery store produce manager.

Shields kidded it was the first time she had ever had fresh vegetables, because, after all, her family subsisted on meat, potatoes and canned veg-

gies. When Christopher was 6 months old, the pair discovered TM.

Don had been a huge Beatles fan who was curious about the meditation technique that so intrigued John, Paul, George but not Ringo.

However, it wasn't until a friend, who practiced TM, re-kindled Don's interest that he said, "You just have to learn."

After an introductory TM lecture at a nearby college, the couple learned TM from a clean-cut instructor named Sam Farmer, who wore a suit and tie and, as Shields recalled, "was so calm and had this glow about him." Shields admired those qualities, because she was once "so shy and nervous and anxious."

Farmer gave Shields her very own TM mantra, which is not to be revealed to others.

"We don't talk about our mantra, and we don't talk about the process," Shields said, "because we want people to have the same innocent start. Sometimes when people expect, 'Oh it's this way,' they

don't learn the proper way of doing it because they had it in their head ahead of time, 'Oh it's done this way.'"

The first time Shields meditated, she was nervous and didn't know what to expect, but it turned out to be a blissful experience. Her body felt so relaxed that her arms almost felt numb.

When she left the house that day, she recalled the colors around her seemed so vibrant.

Later, a miscarriage left the couple yearning for change. So they landed jobs at Maharishi's university in Fairfield, Iowa, for a time before ending up back in Kansas.

Then Hawaii, a place Don always wanted to live, beckoned. Unfortunately, paradise, as lovely as it was, couldn't keep the couple together. They divorced about a year later.

During that stressful, post-divorce stage in the mid-'80s, Shields became lax in her meditation regimen. She began drinking and doing drugs.

"The low point in her life left Shields thinking, 'I can't live like this. I'm miserable.'"

Once she began meditating regularly for two weeks, however, Shields realized she didn't have much to talk about in therapy anymore.

"It's not that I didn't have the same problems," she said, "it's just that they didn't bother me like they did before."

Shields became a TM instructor herself in 1998, and has gone on to teach about a dozen students.

So, finally, a woman who long ago believed God has a purpose for all, found hers.

But then, about three years ago, that purposeful life faced a possibly life-threatening obstacle — two different types of cancer. One is the typical form of Endometrial cancer cells, and the other was a rare aggressive form, which both affected the lining of the uterus.

Her prognosis seemed grim, so on the advice of a friend, Shields began taking two forms of Amrit, which she now sells at the enlightenment center, for three weeks, in between her diagnosis and her hysterectomy.

Shields explained that Amrit, "is a 1,000 times more powerful antioxidant than any other antioxidant on the market."

After the surgery, the pathology on the tissue showed no signs of the aggressive cancer. The typical form was still there but the hysterectomy removed it all. And because both forms of cancer hadn't spread outside the uterus, Shields didn't have to undergo chemotherapy or radiation.

It was "God's grace," Shields said.

In spring 2005, Shields volunteered to open a TM center in Tulsa.

There were other cities to choose from, but she liked Tulsa, and it's only about 90 miles to Cherryvale, where her father and other family members still live.

Now, some 30 years after a fella named Sam taught her to delve deeply into herself to cope with everyday challenges, Shields summed up her passion for the practice.

"It's just a feeling of bliss when you dive within and you bring that bliss out into your life," she said. "It just helps me to cope with life. When it's stressful, I'm able to see the broader picture. It gives me hope that I can cope with life when I need to, and hope that I can help others and hope that we can bring world peace."

"I'm still going with those principles from when I was in high school: peace, love and love your fellow man."

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