



THE NEW THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP GUILD

June 2026

Annual Benefit: An Evening at the New York Stork Club

The New Theatre Scholarship Guild's Annual Fundraiser, held on Sunday, April 19, at the Milburn Country Club, was an unforgettable evening. White feather plumes, long-strand pearls, orchids, and votives transformed the room into an era of elegance, style, and lively entertainment. Board member Richard "Buzz" Herman, portraying "Sherman Billingsley," owner of the famed Stork Club, welcomed guests with a glass of champagne as jazz filled the air. Guests enjoyed raffle opportunities for a luxurious stay at the Raphael Hotel and bid on an impressive selection of silent auction items. Adding to the evening's charm, UMKC Conservatory Theatre scholarship recipient Roslyn Richert appeared as a cigarette girl, offering guests logo-labeled mint boxes. Celebrities could drop by Table 50 in the hope that Walter Winchell would add them to his gossip chat.



Table Decor



Richard "Buzz" Sherman as Sherman Billingsley



Mary Lucille-Mantz and Annette Sherrow



Roslyn Richert and Barbara Wilson



Richard "Buzz" Herman and Walter Winchell alias Ron Mayer



Doug & Sally Burton and Gene & Mary Baldwin



Linda & Topper Johntz



Lora Smith, Jackie Stokes, Kelly Wilcox, Hank Rector and Nancy Greenlee



Melissa Cooper, Marilyn Thompson, Kathy Klosternmann and Pat Smithson

Annual Guild Membership Meeting: Officers' Installations and Student Scholarships Awards

After enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks hosted by the Guild, guests moved into the theater for a special program. Richard Carrothers, Co-owner of the New Theatre & Restaurant, shared how his and Dennis Hennessy's professional journeys led to the founding of the New Theatre & Restaurant, which USA Today recognized as the **Best Dinner Theater in the Country**. Joe Fox, Vice President of Production, shared memorable behind-the-scenes stories from past productions. Scholarship Chair Richard "Buzz" Herman presented scholarships to theatre department representatives from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the University of Central Missouri, Kansas State University, and the University of Kansas. In total, seventeen students received scholarships of \$3,500 each. The evening concluded with the election of the slate of officers: President, Marilyn Thompson, First Vice President, John Wittenborn, Second Vice President, Richard "Buzz" Herman, Treasurer, Kathy Klostermann, Recording Secretary, Kelly Wilcox, Corresponding Secretary, Margo Miller, Member-at-Large, Lora Smith, Immediate Past President, Seth McClintock.



Front Row: Cassey Kay Hoppas, Professor, UCM, Ashley Scully-Miller, Chair, Division Theatre & Dance, UCM, Dr. Aaron Scully, Professor, UCM, Claire Groos, Student, UCMU, Hannah Vath, Student, UCM, Everett Quiett, Student, KU, Sergio Alicea-Roman, Student, KU, Henry Bial, Chair, Department Theatre & Dance

Back Row: John Plasencia, Student, UCM, Rozlynn Richert, Student, UMKC, Sean Ingram, Student, KU, Collin Vorbeck, Interim Chair, Theatre & Dance, UMKC

Guild Members Attend Award Banquets

Members of the Board of Directors of The New Theatre Scholarship Guild attended the Scholarship and Awards Banquets at both the University of Central Missouri and the University of Kansas. During these special events, the Guild awarded five scholarships of \$3,500 each to outstanding theatre students at each university. Ashley Miller-Scully, Chair of the Division of Theatre & Dance at UCM, and Henry Bial, Professor and Chair of Theatre and Dance at KU, expressed their sincere appreciation for the Guild's continued generosity and commitment to supporting the next generation of theatre artists.



Front row: University of Central Missouri Front Row Marilyn Thompson, President, Emma Stevens, Student UCM, Brody LaFrentz, Student UCM, Audry Shepherd, Student UCM
Back row: Hank Rector, NTSG, Gary Krings, NTSG, Richard "Buzz" Herman, Nathalia Cordero, Anna Fletcher, Lora Smith NTSG



Front row: Marilyn Thompson, President, Pat Smithson, Scholarship chair, Natalie Loftus, Killian Genardo, Penny Gamm, Liaison
Back row: Zach Newkirk, Morgan Tate, Cade Nelson



Nathalia Cordero, Emma Stevens, Broody LaFrentz, Anna Fletcher, Audry Shepherd



Zach Newkirk & Penny Gamm



Cade Nelson & Penny Gamm

Goodbye and Hello!

Past President's Message

Serving two terms as President of this remarkable group has been a profound honor. Because of our collective dedication, the performing arts remain a thriving, essential dialogue that will inspire generations to come. Together, we have ensured that the transformative power of performance will continue to resonate as a vital force in our culture.

Thank you for your trust and your tireless support of our mission,

- Seth McClintock



Guard Dodie's Flame

The curtains rose in nineteen Ninety-four
As Maria's song rang through the mountain air
A troupe of friends, compelled by a common
core,
Saw talent bloom and felt the need to care.
Then Dodie's vision sparked a lasting flame
To light the path for those who seek the stage,
To give the dream a home, a host, a name,
And write a legacy on every page.

Through decades past, your kindness held the
line,
In present hands, the mission's heart beats
strong,
While future stars in distant spotlights shine,
Upheld by those who join this grateful song.
To all who were, who are, and yet shall be:

Guard the flame for all the world to see.
SDM

Presidents Message

Dear Guild Members,

I am honored to be President of The New Theatre Scholarship Guild.

I have been a Johnson County resident for over 50 years. I graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.F.A. in Drawing and Painting. My working career has been in newspaper advertising and as a personal shopper for many retail stores.

My passion for the Arts has involved me in leadership positions with the Kansas City Art Institute Auxiliaries, which support scholarships for students. The New Theatre Scholarship Guild continues to provide scholarships for students in Kansas and Missouri who are committed to Theatre. Your support has been much appreciated and needed.

I have a wonderful Executive Committee and Standing Committee of professionals. This year will be a good year, and I look forward to meeting you. All of us can make a difference.

Thank you for your contribution.

Marilyn Thompson



2026-27 Board Members

OFFICERS

President
Marilyn Thompson
Vice President
John Wittenborn
Second Vice President
Richard (Buzz) Herman
Recording Secretary
Kelly Wilcox
Treasurer
Kat Klostermann
Corresponding Secretary
Margo Miller
Member-at-Large
Lora Smith
Past President
Seth McClintock

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Jerry Ogden
Bylaws and
Parliamentarian
Andy Anderson
Culinary
Hank Rector
Dress Rehearsal
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Jackie Stokes
Hospitality
Penny Gamm
Meet and Greet
Nancy Greenlee
Membership
Melissa Cooper
Publications
Newsletter
Patty Bibler
Social Media/
Public Relations
Lora Smith
Scholarship
Pat Smithson
Scholarship Liaisons
KSU - Nancy Greenlee
KU - Penny Gamm
UCM - Ed See
UMKC - Caryn Hastings

COMING SOON

Legally Blonde Dress Rehearsal

Legally Blonde will be the next dress rehearsal for New Theater Guild members and guests.

The non-stop laughter begins when Malibu Sorority girl, Elle Woods, is dumped by her Harvard-bound-boyfriend. To win him back, Elle gains admission to Harvard. And guess what, the 'dumb blonde' turns out to be one smart cookie. If you enjoyed the movie, you'll love this musical! Catch Overland Park native, and Broadway powerhouse, Hayley Podschund lighting up the stage as Elle Woods this summer, only at New Theatre & Restaurant!

The NT Scholarship Guild Dress Rehearsal will be held on Thursday, July 2nd, at 1:30 p.m. Seating will begin at 1:00 p.m. Show up early ... no late seating!



Get your tickets here!



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