The voice of the Dallas Cowboys Brad Sham gave a moving tribute...
A sell-out crowd gathered Feb. 26 for the Headliners Foundation’s inaugural fundraiser honoring sports broadcasting legend Verne Lundquist. Proceeds support the Foundation’s new Verne Lundquist Sports Media Institute that will help open up opportunities for talented young Texans to follow in Verne’s footsteps.

Several of Texas’ leading sports figures and media stars attended the elegant dinner at the Headliners Club, along with event sponsors, club members and a number of Verne’s loyal fans. KLBJ-AM’s Ed Clements was the emcee.

James Brown, CBS commentator and host of the network’s “James Brown Show,” joined Verne on stage to reflect on some of their best moments in broadcasting. One of those, Brown recalled, was under sad circumstances in 1985 when his NBA broadcast partner, Frank Gieber, died shortly before a Trailblazers-Lakers game and Verne was called in to do the play-by-play. It marked the first time JB and Verne worked together and the start of a warm friendship based on mutual admiration.

“Right away Verne’s style made you comfortable working with him,” said JB. “It was about the game and working as a team—and not about Verne—and after that broadcast I tried to pattern myself after him.”

“You have chosen to honor someone who is more than one of the greatest broadcasters any of us will ever hear, more than a role model for every young person in our industry” said Brad Sham, long-time voice of the Dallas Cowboys. “He is the kind of human being you want your children and grandchildren to be.” When Sham was assigned to work with Verne at KRLD-Dallas, Verne didn’t like the idea because of Sham’s sometimes abrasive personality. Sham said he told Verne he had changed and asked for a chance to prove it. “Verne said, ‘you got it’ and he showed me every day what an open heart, an open mind, and a generous heart look like,” said Sham.

Foundation Chair Mark Morrison said the idea for a regular event honoring Verne that would benefit journalism education started well over a year ago with a conversation between Headliners Club CEO Sue Meller and former Austin news
anchor and longtime Headliners Foundation Governor Neal Spelce. “Verne and Nancy Lundquist immediately loved the idea, and we were off to the races,” said Morrison.

It is especially appropriate to note that Verne is a “home-grown” success. He graduated from Austin High School and got his sports broadcasting career start at Austin’s KTBC-TV. Additionally, he has been a longtime member of the Headliners Club and has been honored by the Club over the years for his contributions to sports journalism.

For 36 years the Foundation has supported journalism excellence in Texas. It has invested more than $2 million dollars in scholarships, professional awards, faculty education, grants and research.

The Lundquist Institute will build on that tradition. “We are going to encourage a new generation of young people to develop the passion for professionalism and expert storytelling that has brought so much respect for Verne from his peers in the industry and from sports fans who love to hear him call a game,” Morrison said.

He thanked Foundation Governors for their leadership in planning the event, including Amy Villarreal, Neal Spele, John Lumpkin, Elizabeth Christian and Patti Ohlendorf, as well as KLBJ’s Ed Clements, and Foundation executive director Araminta Sellers.

And he said the Foundation’s leadership deeply appreciates the event’s founding sponsors: Sharon Schweitzer and John Robinson, Sylvie and Gary Crum, Frost Bank, Jackson Walker, the Austin-American Statesman and its owner GateHouse Media, the UT Moody School Center for Sports Communication and Media, Ellen and Mark Morrison, Norton Rose Fullbright, Jane and Brian Greig, Monarch Midstream, CBS Austin, CBS Sports, Susan and John Fainter, Patti and Curtis Ohlendorf, and Ellen and Steve LeBlanc.

*Ed Small, Verne, John and Susan Fainter with James Brown

*Sue and Terry Tottenham from Norton Rose Fulbright

*Mary and Jerry Bell from Norton Rose Fulbright

*Tim Taylor from Jackson Walker taught James Brown how to Hook ‘Em Horns

*photos by Jim Innes

...continued on page 4
The Foundation has started discussions with the UT Moody School and other educators about opportunities to be an important catalyst. “As we expand from this great start, we plan to fund journalism camps, internships, online training materials, and grants to a diverse group of students across the state,” said Morrison. “We share Nancy’s and Verne’s commitment to creating a sustainable program that will impact students far into the future.”
An Evening with Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

March 7, 2019

What an incredible story Francis Gary Powers, Jr. had to talk about his father, the American pilot whose C.I.A.-U-2 plane was shot down over the Soviet Union.

For some the Cold War thriller Bridge of Spies starring Tom Hanks is more than “a movie inspired by true events.” It is a movie inspired by family history. That was the message from Gary Powers, Jr.

Powers is the son of Francis Gary and Claudia “Sue” Powers. His father was the pilot in the famous U-2 incident of 1960 which ended in the first “spy swap” between the United States and the Soviet Union. (Recall the plot of Bridge of Spies.)

Gary Powers, Jr. is the author of Letters from a Soviet Prison (2017) and Spy Pilot (2019) which both help to dispel the misinformation surrounding the U-2 Incident. He is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum, a charity located west of Washington, DC. He founded the museum in 1996 to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period.

Introduced by club member and former U-2 squadron commander Colonel Greg Gregory, Powers said he became curious about his father’s story while in college. Was he a hero or a traitor? Some believed the pilot had been ordered to commit suicide if captured. During his research Powers uncovered several conspiracy theories about the U-2 Incident: Sabotage? CIA plot to sabotage a summit? Pilot error? UFO involvement?

The truth is far simpler. The reconnaissance plane was shot down by a Soviet surface-to-air missile.

Colonel Gregory (center) introduced Francis Gary Powers, Jr. He is seen here with Forrest Preece, Mary Tally, Dan Jackson and Milton Guiberteau.

...continued on page 6
At that point in his career Francis Gary Powers was an experienced pilot having flown 26 or more such missions over the Soviet Union. The author shared details about the orange flash and shockwave his father experienced when shot down during the flight 70,000 feet in the air. The pilot was captured, tried, convicted and held in a Soviet prison until his release in 1962.

Francis Gary Powers died in 1977 when his helicopter ran out of gas and crashed while working for NBC news in Los Angeles. The pilot was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star among other honors.

Attendees’ questions and the author’s answers were fascinating:

What became of the poisonous needle supplied to each pilot flying the missions? It had been secreted in his clothing and was discovered by his captors.

Are these planes still in use? U-2 aircraft by Lockheed were used in operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

What does U-2 stand for? Utility-2. There was a U-1 but no U-3.

Gary Powers, Jr. truly brought his family history to life for members and guests. Prior to his exhaustive research the author said while growing up he thought “everybody’s dad had gone through something like this.”

—Jane Greig
Maybe it was the times, or maybe just the desire to hear the “creator of the field of geopolitical forecasting,” but there was a sell-out crowd on March 27, to welcome Dr. George Friedman. In his introduction, Brian Greig, Chairman of the Headliners Club, revealed that Dr. Friedman was born in Hungary. His parents emigrated to the US, thereby escaping the Holocaust. He was educated in NY public schools and City College, before receiving his doctorate at Cornell University.

In 2015 Friedman founded Geopolitical Futures, a geopolitical intelligence publishing and consulting firm, having previously begun and led Stratfor. Chairman Greig closed his introduction with the tantalizing statement that Dr. Friedman would give us a glimpse into his next book, *The Storm Before the Calm*. And therein lies the tale.

Friedman’s idea for the book came while he was in his 20s, at the Ginger Man, watching the drama surrounding Nixon. As he watched, he “saw patterns.” This germ of an idea grew into a view of the systemic nature of the American Republic. He notes that America was “consciously invented. No one had seen a nation like it.”

The pattern he saw evolved into what he views as three institutional shifts, or phases. The first was the American Revolution, founded on the notion of the relationship between the nation and the states. Phase Two was after the Civil War, when America discovered, “THIS is the relationship between the country and the states.” Phase Three was after World War II, when the economy essentially nationalized, and the federal government became “an agent of control…the governance of private life.”
Wayne Prescott was delighted to get one of George’s books autographed.

George and Meredith Friedman.

Erin and Boone Almanza were all set to learn about world politics.

A special date night for Sylvia and David Minton.

Amber Carden (right) and her friend Judge Brandy Mueller.

Each of these phases is about 80 years apart. Phase Three, according to Friedman, ends in 2025. He stated, “Each era creates a new problem. The new cycle begins when the political situation is not working well.”

Lest anyone think that Friedman was predicting Armageddon, he assured the audience that, while we are headed for a bad time, it will not be as bad as the Civil War or the Great Depression. He does predict that, in 2028, we will elect a president who is pivotal, like Rutherford B. Hayes or Franklin Roosevelt. Nonetheless, the US is going to have a bad time in the 2020s, much like the 1970s.

In closing, Friedman held out hope. “The fact that we are an artificial nation makes us able to change as needed. We are built to survive. We have the ability to recreate.”

There was almost an audible sigh of relief at this news, and the questions were far-ranging, from wondering who the new leaders were in our “artificial” country, and whether the next “thing” would be the energy sector, to “Can we look to history to see what the future holds?” Friedman reiterated what he had learned in the Nixon years – There are patterns, not mere details.

Friedman’s talk was probably one of the most complex in a long time, but one member, Connie Spelce, thought of a quote which seemed to sum it up for her. G. Michael Kopf, in Those Who Remain, stated: “Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. And, weak men create hard times.” Pattern? Enough said.

—Kay Allensworth
As the world of golf moved into high season in early spring, Austin was first to enjoy the spotlight, not just because of the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play at Austin Country Club but because of tales of great golf recounted by two favorite local story tellers, Ben Crenshaw and Verne Lundquist.

With the Dell Play at an end on Sunday, by the middle of that same week a very large crowd had gathered at Headliners to hear Judge Lee Yeakel introduce the speakers. And with everyone’s favorite, Ed Clements, moderating the discussion thereafter, it proved a very lively and laugh-filled lunch for all who were lucky to be in attendance.

A two-time Masters Golf Tournament winner — among his total of 30 professional wins and his status as a coveted Austin neighbor — Crenshaw was a perfect co-presenter. And Lundquist, a golf raconteur who seemingly remembers every notable play from his years of coverage on the national scene, was the perfect complement to both Crenshaw and Clements.

Clements noted that the event was a mission of love for him “because I’m with two of my favorite people.” His targets also traded praise of one another, with Crenshaw noting of Lundquist’s 35 years of national broadcasting, “Verne not only has a gifted voice, but he has a mind to go along with the
words. He’s just a treasure.” It also was noted that Crenshaw and Lundquist, who once again is an Austinite at least half of the year, are both proud members of the Austin High School Hall of Fame.

However, most of the luncheon’s praise was reserved for the Masters Golf Tournament held in April each year at Augusta National Golf Club. “You’re overwhelmed by the beauty of the course,” said Crenshaw, with Lundquist adding, “It is the best run event in the world.”

Many tales were told about the Masters by both speakers to much great laughter and applause. When Crenshaw was first welcomed to the course by its intimidating co-founder, Clifford Roberts noted Ben’s youthful, lengthy hair style and mentioned, “By the way, do you know that we have a barbershop on the grounds here?”

Augusta was to become almost a second home for Crenshaw after winning the Masters in 1984 and again in 1995, which was the difficult week following the death of his beloved mentor, Harvey Penick. Sometime later, Byron Nelson called Crenshaw to ask that he serve as host of the annual Tuesday night Champion’s Dinner for previous winners of the Masters. Crenshaw has been doing that job now for ten years.

The memories loomed large for Verne Lundquist, as well. He handled announcer duties from the 16th hole at the Masters for 20 times until giving up the duty in 2016, only to find himself there again this year. But one special memory for Lundquist came in 2015 as Crenshaw marked his final completion of the 16th hole on his own last Masters tour, when he turned to Verne in the announcer booth and saluted as he holed out. To which Lundquist says he replied, “Loyal Forever.”

—Howard Falkenberg
Jon Newton was pleased to have time with his sons Wade and Chris.

KOKE FM’s Bob Cole with Pam Madere.

It was a reunion of sorts for Chris Brandt, Peter Pincoffs, Charlie Crenshaw and Ben Crenshaw.

Ray Benson catches up with Ben Crenshaw.

More good friends gathered for the fun! Sonja and Joe Holt with Gary Farmer.

Corby Jastrow and Louis Granger.
The Cedar Choppers, Life on the Edge of Nothing
Ken Roberts
April 2, 2019

What inspired a professor retired from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where he held the Cullen Chair of Economics, to write a book about a colorful segment of Austinites? “It is always about the story,” noted Roberts during his Inside Track discussion of his book, The Cedar Choppers, Life on the Edge of Nothing. And what a story it is!

Migrating from Appalachia to Texas the Scotch-Irish folks who settled in what is now toney West Lake Hills were anything but. This nomadic group lived off the land simply - drawing water from creeks and surviving by making charcoal and cedar posts from the land. Selling these products along with the occasional moonshine, the cedar choppers as they came to be known used their cash and land to settle debts such as annual grocery bills and attorney’s fees incurred after various altercations.

Roberts described the group as the most independent people in America. No big revelation then when these settlers clashed with encroaching civilization.

Roberts experienced this personally on his first encounter with young boys from the west of (then) Town Lake, fishing at the low water bridge who were decidedly unlike any he had heretofore encountered in the wilds of west Austin. “. . . they looked hard—tanned, skinny, dirty. These were not kids you would see in Austin.” Clearly these folks trusted only others in their clans, not strangers. A simple refusal by Roberts and his friends to purchase the bluegills these scruffy boys had caught turned ominous. A quick retreat for Roberts et al was in order when one of these boys appeared with a club.

What Austinites viewed as a life that was primitive, the cedar choppers saw as proud. Despite any derogatory inference the term had to the
general public, Roberts noted, the cedar choppers themselves never saw it as such. It was simply what they did.

What ended this era of cedar as a cash crop and began the decline of the cedar choppers métier of living off the land? The T-post, a metal alternative to the cedar post for fencing.

Engaging the audience with a few select readings and captivating slides, Roberts explained life on the edge of nothing with aplomb.

—Jane Greig
After a triumphant luncheon at the Headliners in January, Andrew Roberts, the author of *Churchill Walking with Destiny*, found a small hole in his schedule and returned for a second luncheon in April. It was again a smash!

Andrew Roberts returns giving Headliners more history and proving there are, after 1,000 books written, still things to learn about Churchill.

A Churchill and UT Fan, DeLoss Dodds, enjoyed his luncheon with Professor Roberts.

World War II pilot, Colonel Gregory and World War II historian, Tom Hatfield, enjoyed lunch with Jolynn Free who is writing a book on her uncle who fought and died in World War II in Italy.

Introducing Dr. Roberts was former Texas Tech Chancellor, Kent Hance.

The Keels—Patrick and Tom—would agree that Churchill was the right man to lead the British Empire during World War II.

Bob and Anne Shepard with the author.

Charlie Betts, Steve Thomas and Andrew Roberts.
Our new fire chief Joel Baker is an imposing man with an outstanding background. He comes to us after 30 years in the Atlanta fire department, where he retired as Chief in 2018. He holds numerous professional degrees and was a leader in the Atlanta community, as noted in the introduction by Louis Granger, Headliners Club special events committee co-chair.

From the days of the Union Fire Company formed by Ben Franklin Dec. 7, 1736 until now, the fire service has come a long way. In the 1860s engines were horse-drawn wagons with the sole task of putting out fires. In the 1970s that mission expanded to include emergency services and the transportation of victims to either the hospital or the morgue. In the 1980s, responsibility for hazardous materials was added to the fireman’s duties; in the 1990s, technical rescue (which includes everything from getting cats out of trees to reassuring little old ladies that there are no gas leaks in their homes). In the 2000s—as if there were not enough on their plate—the fire service became homeland security respondents. In New York on 9/11, 343 firemen lost their lives.

Today Austin’s Fire Department (AFD) has a budget of $200 million, 1181 firefighters and 311 civilians. In 2018 it received 90,000 calls, 50,000 of which were medical emergencies. The response time goal for fire is five minutes, with an overall goal of eight minutes. Chief Baker acknowledges that traffic is a big problem, but so are personnel and funding. He notes that there isn’t a department in the country that has enough people. Need will always outrun resources. Chief Baker focuses on getting the best people; he rotates his leadership candidates within the department every three to five years. AFD has the highest pay and best benefits for firefighters in the state. They turn away 35,000 for every 100 people hired. Austin is surrounded by farms and ranches and that could be a...
problem for us. Currently, AFD is working with Travis County city leaders and external stakeholders to adopt the Wildland-Urban Interface Code for the region. Last year AFD sent 21 members of the department to California to aid in the wildfires there. To try to avoid that situation here, AFD is focused on prevention. It is one of the leading departments in the nation in the number of hours dedicated to wildfire prevention. People living in rural areas need to be sure all buildings conform to the fire code. For example, Chubb will not insure any residence that does not clear brush 50 feet from the home.

Chief Baker said repeatedly that his biggest surprise since he has been here has been the professionalism of the AFD, and that there is “no reason that the next chief should not come up through the ranks.”

—Donna Shipley
Taking time away from his Twitter haiku history of the United States, H. W. Brands joined us to discuss his fascinating portrait of the men at the center of American politics during the early 19th century in *The Heirs of the Founders: The Epic Rivalry of Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster, The Second Generation of American Giants*. According to H. W. Brands, the origins of his current book came from the end of his last book, a biography of Benjamin Franklin, in which he replies to the inquiry of a woman about what form of government was decided upon by the Constitutional Convention of 1787: “A republic, madam, if you can keep it!” *Heirs of the Founders* is the story of the struggle by the “Great Triumvirate” to maintain the young republic in the turbulent first half of the 18th century.

According to Brands, the central struggle of the young republic concerned two inherent design flaws baked into the young republic’s new constitution. First, there was no stated mechanism to resolve issues when states felt that the federal government had overstepped its bounds and exceeded its authority. The second, of course, was slavery. At the core of all of the issues was the balance of power and authority between the state and federal governments. Over the course of almost forty years, through controversies and crises that included the War of 1812, the Missouri Compromise, tariffs, the Nullification Crisis, the annexation of Texas, and finally the issue of slavery in the Mexican Cession after the Mexican War, Clay, Calhoun, and Webster bickered, debated, and compromised, frequently dismaying their constituents at home, but always managing to maintain the union enough to muddle through to the next crisis.

Each of the three had unique attributes that elevated them above their peers into celebrity status, although none of the three were ever able to gain a sufficient national following to ascend to the presidency. Henry Clay of Kentucky was an immensely appealing man who exuded confidence. He was elected Speaker of the House on the first day of his first term at age 34, the youngest ever at that time. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina was an intellectual giant of his day, although he sometimes did not recognize when it was time to let go of a fight that just couldn’t be resolved. Daniel Webster of New Hampshire and later, Massachusetts, was the most gifted orator of his time whose speeches have been memorized and studied by students to this day.

Although each of the three represented distinct regional interests and frequently disagreed on fundamental issues, they inevitably, time and again, put aside those differences in the interests of
maintaining the union. Once they were gone, the spirit of compromise in American politics also died. The Civil War started in the decade after the deaths of the Great Triumvirate.

We are hopeful that Dr. Brands will return next year to discuss his next book, Dreams of El Dorado: A History of the American West.

—Sam Greer
Mother's Day
May 12, 2019

The Keel Clan

The Contreras family

The latest Nash grandbaby Charlotte with her Grandmother Elizabeth

The Leonard Smiths

Bill Bryant and his mother

...continued on page 20
Mother's Day
May 12, 2019

Pat Munday with loved ones

Hugh Forrest and family

Lucy (Claire and Carl Stuart’s granddaughter) making cards for Mom and Grandma.

The Shepards with their grandkids

The Goehring family

Headliners Chairman Brian Grieg with Jane and the twins
## COMING EVENTS

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<td>Tuesday, June 11, 2019</td>
<td>Major League Soccer in Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 27, 2019</td>
<td>Summer Kids' Movie Night!</td>
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<td>Emoji Movie</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 27, 2019</td>
<td>Famous Austinites with Author Clay Risen</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 18, 2019</td>
<td>Famous Austinites with Author Laura Prescott</td>
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## SIDELINES

### Celebrations

Headliners was happy to help Mrs. Dee Massad celebrate her 90th birthday party with a dinner at the Club.

### Honors

Austin Technology Incubator celebrated its 30th anniversary and for the first time presented the George Kozmetsky Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was established to recognize people who have had a significant impact on the world of innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Austin, Texas, and beyond. The inaugural recipients of this award were **Admiral Bobby Inman** and **Pike Powers** for their important work in developing the Austin technology community and in their influence in helping Austin land the Microelectronics and Computer Cooperation (or MCC). MCC was an effort in the United States in the early 1980s to bring together semiconductor firms to compete with innovations happening in other countries, notably Japan. Pike Powers played a pivotal role in coordinating this recruitment effort and Admiral Inman served as the initial CEO of the project.
The annual HeartGift Foundation Gala honored Carolyn and Mike Maples, who are outstanding leaders of the Austin community and have been consistent, long-time donors since the inception of HeartGift. This nonprofit organization brings children from around the world for free surgery to correct life-threatening congenital heart defects. Established in 2000, HeartGift began its work in Austin, Texas and now has chapters in multiple cities. Since its founding, HeartGift has treated more than 400 children from over 34 countries. photo by: Tyler Schmitt The Mill Photography Studio

FAQ

How Do I Nominate Potential New Members?

1. We need two letters of recommendation from current members.
2. Include contact information.
3. After we receive the above, we will send the prospective member an application.

Did You Know You Can Pay Your Bill 3 Ways?

Option 1 - Credit Cards!!
Using Plastiq, a third-party service provider, you can pay with MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express.

Option 2 – Electronic Bank Transfer From Your Bank Account!!
If you have not yet set up bank drafting and would like to set up, please login to your Headliners Club account and go to Pay My Bill.

Option 3 – Pay by Check
You may send in a check to:
221 W. 6th Street Suite 2100 Austin, TX 78701.

Breakfast Service by Reservation

The Headliners Club offers breakfast Monday through Friday by reservation in the private rooms. Can accommodate 2 people to 200.

If I Reserve a Room, Is there a Room Charge?

No! Reservations need to be made through the catering office. There are food minimums (you must serve lunch at lunch time!) but there is no rental fee.

Headliners Club Dress Code

Coats and ties are not required. Business Attire recommended. (collared shirts, slacks or nice jeans for men) No athletic attire, shorts, or flip-flops.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Honors

The annual HeartGift Foundation Gala honored Carolyn and Mike Maples, who are outstanding leaders of the Austin community and have been consistent, long-time donors since the inception of HeartGift. This nonprofit organization brings children from around the world for free surgery to correct life-threatening congenital heart defects. Established in 2000, HeartGift began its work in Austin, Texas and now has chapters in multiple cities. Since its founding, HeartGift has treated more than 400 children from over 34 countries. photo by: Tyler Schmitt The Mill Photography Studio
On February 28, 2019, the Texas State History Museum Foundation honored Texas legend Charles Butt with the History-Making Texan Award. The award was presented at the Foundation’s annual Texas Independence Day Dinner held at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. This award recognizes living Texas legends whose contributions to the state and the nation have been truly historic and exceptional in scope and nature. Honorees are selected for extraordinary accomplishments within their field and community. *photo by: Chris Caselli*

Brian Manley  Austin Police Chief Brian Manley was ranked 49th on *Fortune’s* sixth annual “World’s Greatest Leaders” list. Manley’s appearance on the list, which includes 50 influential leaders, comes less than a year after he was officially sworn in as the chief of Austin police. *Fortune* cited Austin’s position as the city with the third-lowest violent crime rate among the nation’s 30 largest metropolitan areas.

Jack Martin  was recognized with this year’s SABRE award for Outstanding Individual Achievement at the 2019 North American SABRE Awards by the Holmes Report in New York City (SABRE stands for Superior Achievement in Branding, Reputation & Engagement). These awards recognize PR careers and campaigns that demonstrate the highest levels of strategic planning, creativity and business results.

Mindy Ellmer and Brian McCall  were honored at ZACH Theatre’s Red, Hot & Soul Gala for their remarkable commitment to ZACH, the education programs, and the Austin community at large. Mindy and Brian understand the power that theatre has to create conversation and debate, to educate and entertain, and to create a more empathetic world. Importantly, they know how to stand-up, roll-up their sleeves and make an inspiring difference. Mindy and Brian are long-serving members of the Executive Committee of ZACH’s Board of Trustees and have also greatly distinguished themselves as Past Presidents of the Board. Their leadership has made a significant and indelible impact on the health and vitality of the organization. Shown on stage with Dave Steakley, Producing Artistic Director at ZACH.
This inaugural edition is about Kevin Robinson, and I’m willing to bet you all know him and love him. Not only because he just marked 30 years on the staff of the Headliners Club on March 1st (March 2nd officially – ask him about it), but also because he’s always around, always smiling, always helping, always joking.

When I told Kevin I’d been looking for him for weeks to do this profile, he said “Well I’ve been hiding from you!” I think we’re going to find that none of our Headliner’s friends particularly want to be profiled – but we’re going to do it anyway.

Kevin grew up in East Austin – he’s the youngest of four, which explains his nickname “Lil’ Rob.” In every other sense “Lil” just doesn’t describe Kevin. He’s got one of the biggest personalities around. He started off as a busboy at the Club, wearing a white jacket in those days. He couldn’t wait to earn a black jacket by becoming a waiter. In the intervening three decades, Kevin has worn a lot of hats: maître d, “bouncer” – which is really just protecting Sue from her throngs of admirers, and now Assistant Manager, for which his duties include hiring, scheduling, discipline, accounting, IT, and negotiator in chief. I get the feeling you don’t want to be on the other end of a Kevin negotiation. Or discipline.

I remember Kevin from when I’d come to the Headliners with Lowell Lebermann when I was at UT in the 1990s. Kevin credits Lowell’s kindness and respect with paving the way for Kevin’s success at Headliners. Not to get sidetracked, but Lowell helped launch many a career. Lowell wasn’t above some good-natured ribbing either, as Kevin can attest. One-time Kevin was explaining to Lowell the location and contents of his dinner (he had lost his vision… do yourself a favor and look up Lowell Lebermann if you don’t know him). Kevin described a ramekin as being at 10 o’clock on the plate, to which Lowell responded – “you have ramekins in East Austin do you, Kevin?” Another time Lowell asked Kevin if he had enjoyed the view from some other, let’s say less-munificent, booster’s football seats. When Kevin respectfully indicated that Lowell’s seats were better, Lowell responded with “You are spoiled, and you intend to stay that way.”

Appreciation of the Headliners’ Professional Staff:

Kevin Robinson

New Feature

Because my office is on the 20th floor of Chase Tower, I’d still have the pleasure of daily interaction with the fine professionals of the Headliners Club even if I didn’t take the stairs nearly every day for lunch or a quick pop after work (or, ahem, both). It’s a pleasure getting to know the people who take such good care of us as they go about their business everyday of, well, taking good care of us, or preparing to take good care of us, or recovering from having taken such good care of us (e.g. cleaning up the popcorn that my kids and colleagues spill on the floor). So every newsletter or so, I’ll highlight one of the men or women whom I’ve come to admire so much. And if another member would like to contribute a profile of a Headliners professional, just let Sue know. I’d be happy to yield a column or two!
But even if Kevin does like good seats at football games (who doesn’t?) – Kevin is a giver of truly prodigious proportions. He currently has 10 mentees at Menchaca Elementary and he’s started a non-profit called Timely Early Age Mentoring to facilitate his work with these kiddos. Check it out on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/timelyearlyage. It will warm your heart. Kevin believes that you need to catch these kids and wrap your arms around them by 3rd or 4th grade, because “They are going to find someone who they identify with, for good or bad.” Thanks to Kevin, a lot of kids have a positive influence in their lives.

One of his kids once got in trouble at school and when Kevin asked what happened, the kid said he had been dared to do it. So one of the other kids said “I DOUBLE dare you to stay out of trouble.” And he has. Another kid got a C+ on his report card and Kevin asked what happened. The kid said, “Well a C+ is technically a B.” If only it were so! At least we can all agree that if we were giving Kevin a grade, it would be an A+, which is technically an A+.

Thank you, Kevin, for sharing your story and yourself with all of us. Here are a few things you probably didn’t know about Kevin.

Favorite Dish at Headliners: Jalapeno Chicken
Advice for Headliners’ Members: Relax and let us take care of you.
Where you might find Kevin if he’s not at Headliners: Truluck’s.

Something else you might not know about Kevin: He’s an avid Black Friday shopper. I myself think I saw him on a Wal-Mart security cam last Thanksgiving knocking down a little old lady in pursuit of a deeply discounted HDTV. Still, the Headliner’s dues are lower as a result of Kevin’s thrift (think state of the art TVs!).

Kevin is not only an integral part of what makes the Headliners Club unique and familiar, his role in making your experience at the Club fantastic, goes way beyond what you see. Spending much of his time at Headliners, he still manages to make a difference in a big way to the youth in Austin. We are lucky to have him at the Club and to call him our friend.

– Will Burnett

Kevin has created two programs. In addition to the mentoring program, in the spring of 2005 Robinson and longtime friend Ray Jackson formalized what Robinson had been doing for years. They created a non-profit basketball organization called the Rising Stars. The Rising Stars is an elite basketball program that travels and plays in competitive tournaments in Austin and around the country. In doing so it exposes the kids to a different aspect of life and broadens their level of awareness outside of basketball. The program also follows the UIL guidelines with no-pass no play and the coaches are active in schools the kids attend.

There have been many successes – large and small. One of the former Rising Stars is at the University of Hartford where he played and is now an assistant coach. Many of the Rising Stars have received four-year college scholarships, degrees and gone on to play professional basketball and football.

Some Club members caught a whiff of Robinson’s community work and support it. From holiday parties to unexpected gifts of team shirts or backpacks to encouragement, Club members help sustain the kids. Robinson is grateful for all of his sponsors who just want to help disadvantaged children. “He’s making a difference in kids’ lives!” Dick Rathgeber said. “Everybody wants to help and Kevin is doing it.”
These books by Headliners members were recently added to the Club's library.

**Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations** by William H. McRaven

*Sea Stories* begins in 1960 at the American Officers’ Club in France, where Allied officers and their wives gathered to have drinks and tell stories about their adventures during World War II — the place where a young Bill McRaven learned the value of a good story. *Sea Stories* is an unforgettable look back on one man’s incredible life, from childhood days sneaking into high-security military sites to a day job of hunting terrorists and rescuing hostages.

Action-packed, inspiring, and full of thrilling stories from life in the special operations world, *Sea Stories* is a remarkable memoir from one of America’s most accomplished leaders.

**American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race** by Douglas Brinkley

As the fiftieth anniversary of the first lunar landing approaches, the award winning historian and perennial *New York Times* bestselling author takes a fresh look at the space program, President John F. Kennedy’s inspiring challenge, and America’s race to the moon.

In this engrossing, fast-paced epic, Douglas Brinkley returns to the 1960s to recreate one of the most exciting and ambitious achievements in the history of humankind. *American Moonshot* brings together the extraordinary political, cultural, and scientific factors that fueled the birth and development of NASA and the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo projects, which shot the United States to victory in the space race against the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.

**Eagle 5x5** by Robert L. Richardson

Col. William Gregory’s life can be described from many perspectives, but is only fully characterized when considered as a whole, with each phase of his remarkable life building upon what came before, and in turn providing the foundation for what was to follow.

In a life that now encompasses nearly ten decades, Gregory experienced and overcame the poverty of 1920’s Tennessee, flew tense missions against fearsome adversaries in WWII, witnessed the gentle curve of Planet Earth from the blue-black depths of the stratosphere, and served brilliantly in that awesome period of world history known as the Cold War. An amazing life marked at every stage by a dedication to wife and family, and by a deeply-held personal faith.
An East Texas Family’s Civil War by Ted Whatley

During six months in 1862, William Jefferson Whatley and his wife, Nancy Falkaday Watkins Whatley, exchanged a series of letters that vividly demonstrate the quickly changing roles of women whose husbands left home to fight in the Civil War. When William Whatley enlisted with the Confederate Army in 1862, he left his young wife Nancy in charge of their cotton farm in East Texas, near the village of Caledonia in Rusk County. In letters to her husband, Nancy describes in elaborate detail how she dealt with and felt about her new role, which thrust her into an array of unfamiliar duties, including dealing with increasingly unruly slaves, overseeing the harvest of the cotton crop, and negotiating business transactions with unscrupulous neighbors. At the same time, she carried on her traditional family duties and tended to their four young children during frequent epidemics of measles and diphtheria. Stationed hundreds of miles away, her husband could only offer her advice, sympathy, and shared frustration.

An Anxious Peace, A Cold War Memoir by Hans Mark

By any measure, Hans Mark was a warrior of the Cold War. Born in Mannheim, Germany, in 1929, he spent his early childhood in Vienna before escaping the Nazi Anschluss in 1938 and eventually emigrating to the United States, settling in New York. He graduated from high school in 1947, went west to attend the University of California, Berkeley, and later earned a PhD in physics from MIT. His work in nuclear engineering soon set him on a path that would be shaped by aeronautics, space exploration, and national defense. It was through advanced technology that Mark believed the United States could win the Cold War.

In An Anxious Peace, Mark recounts in detail his life as a twentieth-century “rocket man.” Here is the inside story of one who—in a career spanning more than six decades—was on the technological front line, from long-range bombers to the space shuttle. Along the way, Mark reveals many never-before-told stories from life at NASA and more.

Save the Date

Please save the date of Saturday, September 28th for the Headliners Foundation’s annual Mike Quinn Awards Luncheon. The program will honor our professional contest winners and 2019-20 scholarship awardees, as well as feature a panel presentation with award-winning journalists.

The program will be held at the Club with a reception at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the program at 11:30. The cost is $50, and reservations can be made by emailing Foundation Executive Director Araminta Sellers at asellers@headlinersfoundation.org.
Since the very beginning of the Headliners in 1954, the Board of Trustees has been adding to the Club's art collection. These pieces not only enhance the ambiance, but several are significant representations of a period in art history. In that regard, our avocational collector/historian Marshall Meece put the spotlight on three significant Texas artists of the mid-twentieth century in the club's collection.

**Charles Umlauf, 1910-1994**

Born in South Haven, Michigan, Mr. Umlauf's 4th Grade Teacher recognized his talent and helped him earn summer scholarships at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1937, he married a fellow art institute student, Angeline "Angie" Allen. The young couple moved to Austin in 1941 when Charles became Life Drawing and Sculpture Professor in the University of Texas Art Department. He taught at UT for 40 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1981. Mr. Umlauf's work is in the Smithsonian, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Headliners Club. Our two statues are of St. John the Baptist and Farrah Fawcet (one of his students). Charles Umlauf died in 1994 and Angie in 2012.
William Lester, 1910-1991

Born in Graham, Texas, William Lester’s family moved to Dallas in 1924. William graduated from High School in 1929 and studied art at the Dallas Art Institute from 1930-1932. He worked for Dallas Power and Light as a draftsman and was an artist for the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1936, Mr. Lester, along with several other young Dallas artists, was invited to show at the Texas Centennial Exhibition at Fairpark in Dallas. The group became known, and is referred to today, as the Dallas Nine or Texas Regionalists; and they were featured again in 1986 at a Sesquicentennial Exhibition in Dallas. His teaching career began at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts where he taught from 1940-1942. Mr. and Mrs. (Sylvia) Lester moved to Austin in 1942 where he taught at the University of Texas until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1972. From 1952-1959, William was Chairman of the UT Art Department. William and Sylvia Lester and Frank (former Headliners Chairman) and Sue McBee were close neighbors and friends on Bluebonnet Street in South Austin as young couples. The Lester painting of 6th Street Alley, hangs in the reception area of the Club and came to the Headliners by way of the McBees. His art is in the collection of Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas, The Whitney Museum, the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, and the Dallas Museum of Art.

Michael Frary, 1919-2005

Mr. Frary was born in California, grew up in Florida and returned to California to accept a swimming scholarship at USC. There he attained a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degree. He served in the Navy in WW II; and after the war, he worked for Goldwyn, Paramount and Universal Studios as Art Director. Finally, in 1949, Mr. Frary came to Texas as Artist in Residence and Faculty Chairman for Marion Koogler at the McNay Museum in San Antonio. While in San Antonio, he met and married Peggy Mattewson, in 1951. In 1955, he came to the University of Texas as an Associate Professor and became a Professor in 1970. He retired in 1986 at which time, he was named Professor Emeritus of Art. His work is in the collection of the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas, The Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine, Madron Koogler McNay Museum in San Antonio, The University of Texas at Austin and the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.. His mural and oil painting are in the Caucus Room at the Headliners Club.
Credited with saving the Austin Symphony more than once, Jane Sibley who died on May 20, 2019 was a powerful force on behalf of Austin’s performing arts culture. Shown here with Jo Anne Christian (left) and Jare Smith (right) - the legendary “Three J’s” as they were known - worked tirelessly to see the Long Center become a reality. The Texas Historical Commission and Laguna Gloria Art Museum (now the Contemporary) are two more Austin institutions that have Jane Sibley to thank for their continued existence. Rather than one moment in history, Jane Sibley provided many moments in Austin’s history through her good works.

The year was 1991 and the Headliners Awards Luncheon honored Lonesome Dove screenwriter and photographer Bill Wittliff (right) who died on June 9, 2019 and Actor Tommy Lee Jones (left). They were photographed with Sally Wittliff and Governor Ann Richards.
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