

# THE HEADLINERS CLUB

SPRING

2024

## President's Party *Continued on page 3*



*Outgoing Headliners Club President  
Chuck Nash and Brian Greig*



*Former Headliners Club President  
Carl Stuart enjoying a Headliners  
favorite, "The Carl Stuart  
Manhattan"*



*General Manager Kevin Newbolt  
with Kyle and Catherine Parks*



*New board member Jimmy Balagia  
and Wick Alexander*



2 | Cover  
Story

8 | Mardi  
Gras!

35 | Headliners  
Foundation

42 | New!  
FAQs



# HEADLINERS WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT MINDY ELLMER

Headliners' incoming board president, Mindy Ellmer, a long-time governmental affairs professional, is a native Austinite, UT graduate, and second-generation member of The Headliners Club. She is active at the Club, enjoying regular business lunches, book club, sports talks, and other programs. A downtown resident, she considers the Club to be part of the fabric of downtown Austin. Because she has been coming to the Club with her parents for decades, she appreciates its heritage and traditions and is pleased by the opportunity to help bridge the Club's past and future as the next chapters unfold.



*Mindy Ellmer*

*by Sam Greer*

## Welcome New Board Member Jimmy Balagia

It would be hard to find any member, much less a new board member, with stronger family ties to Headliners than Jimmy Balagia.



*Jimmy Balagia*

Born and raised in Austin, Jimmy's father, Jack Balagia, was a long-time member of the Club. Jimmy is of course a Legacy member, as are siblings Suzy Balagia and S. Jack Balagia, Jr. And the Club roster includes next-generation Balagias — daughter Callie Balagia

McCown and nephew Michael Balagia. It's not hard to figure out that the Balagia family spends a lot of time at The Headliners Club.

Balagia received his Liberal Arts degree from UT. He credits his dad with putting him and his siblings through college by selling life insurance. After graduation, he joined his dad, who expanded into commercial insurance, and has been in insurance ever since, most recently as a senior executive advisor for the Marsh McLennan Agency's Austin office.

Balagia and his wife, Linda, a landscaper, have five children, four of whom live in Austin. They will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in July, so it's not hard to imagine that there have been plenty of fetes and family parties at the Club. As Balagia puts it, "any celebration, they all want to go." He believes that Headliners is a "magical" place, and his family obviously agrees.



Favorites at the Club are many, but Balagia considers himself “famous for ordering the Texas Pecan Ball with an extra scoop of chocolate.” (The extra scoop is essential.) He also thinks that the Redfish Pontchartrain is unsurpassed. One of his favorite memories involves his second-youngest son, Bo, a construction lawyer here in Austin. The family was attending the fourth of July fireworks party when Bo was only about a year old. Sue Meller, then general manager, took one look at him and said, “There’s something about Bo.” The two formed a friendship, and when Bo was in school, he

had an important video documentary project about the movie, *Charlie Wilson’s War*. Meller found out about it and made sure that Bo was introduced to Dan Rather and Charlie Wilson’s chief of staff to spice up his video. Balagia is looking forward to serving on the board and plans to wisely “sit and listen for a while.” It’s probably safe to say that having Jimmy Balagia on the board will bring a wealth of member experience and wise counsel to Headliners.

*by Kay Allensworth*

## President’s Party

*Continued from cover*



*Neel and Pam White, Brian Greig, Ann and Meade Bauer*



*(l to r) Jane and Brian Greig, Elizabeth Nash and former President Chuck Nash, president-elect Mindy Ellmer and Charlie Geren*



*Former Headliners Club presidents: (l to r) Elizabeth Christian, Mary Scott Nabers, JoLynn Free, Carolyn Lewis, Mindy Ellmer and Patti Ohlendorf*



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## New Year's Eve Kickoff



*Eve Michaels, Jerry Converse, Cheryl Picken and Amanda Picken*



*Justin and Courtney MacDonald*



*Lynnda Carter Mullen and Ron Mullen*



*Matt Kreisle, Brian Greig, Franklin Hall, Tom Granger and John Howe*



*Bennie Downing, Kaleigh Downing, Mary Lou Downing, Connor Downing, Judy Bland, David Bland, April Downing and Bryant Downing*



*Ann Mobley with Larry and Louann Temple*



*Jane Greig and Beth Granger*

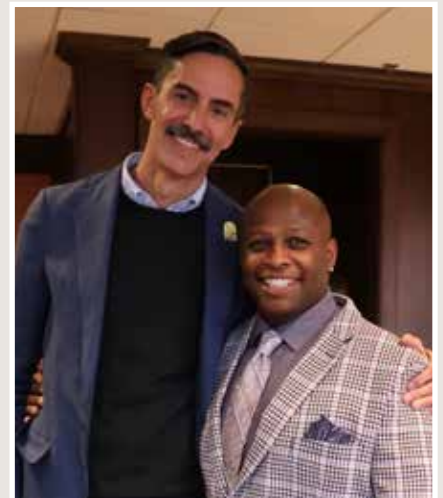
## Bourbon Club-Garrison Brothers



*Carl Stuart with Ian Turpin*



*Welcome drinks*



*Lee Clippard and the Headliners Club Assistant General Manager, Kevin A. Robinson*



*Wick Alexander and his son Walt Alexander*



*Luci Baines Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson  
Wildflower Center Executive Director Lee Clippard*



*Nancy Garrison and Luci Baines Johnson*



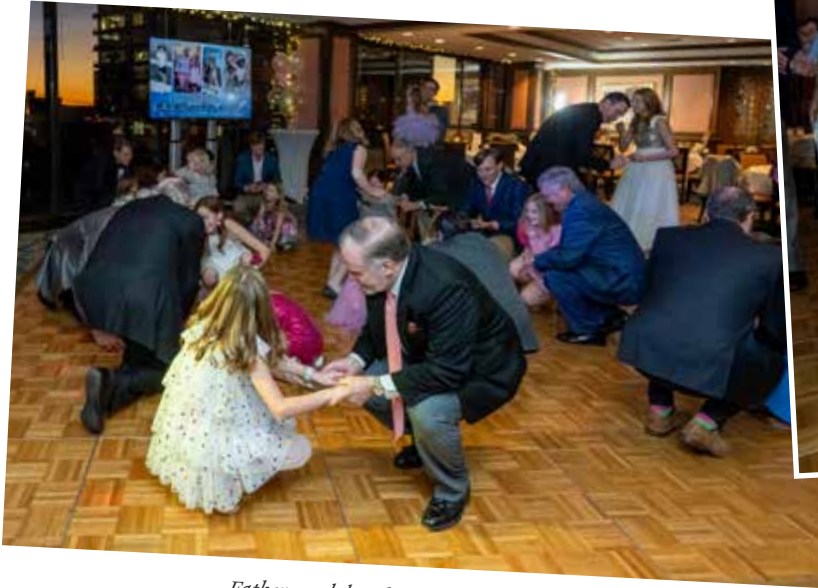
*Ted Heaton and Cody Todd*



*John Elliott, Jeff Simpler and Michael Klein*



# Father-Daughter Inaugural Ball



*Fathers and daughters hit the dance floor*



*Faith Ferguson leading the dance*



*David and Eliana Firestein*



*Brooklyn and Justin Garrett*



*Violet and Michael Friesch*



*Neely Ferguson's royal pose*



*Caroline and Thomas Zentner*



*Marcella, Charlotte and Charles Kruger*



*Eloise Jerk and her grandfather Fred Heldenfels*

## Mardi Gras



*The Mighty Pelicans drummer*



*Mardi Gras masked guests*



*Alma, Gordon and Pier King*





*Conor Byrne and Julie di Fiore*



*Clarke Heidrick, Catherine Heidrick, Mary Wilson, Beth Granger, Jane Greig, Brian Greig, Tom Granger and Will Wilson Jr.*



*Jane Greig, Headliners Club Director of Membership  
Pam Staulcup and Brian Greig*



*Michelle Brandl and Chrissy Compere*



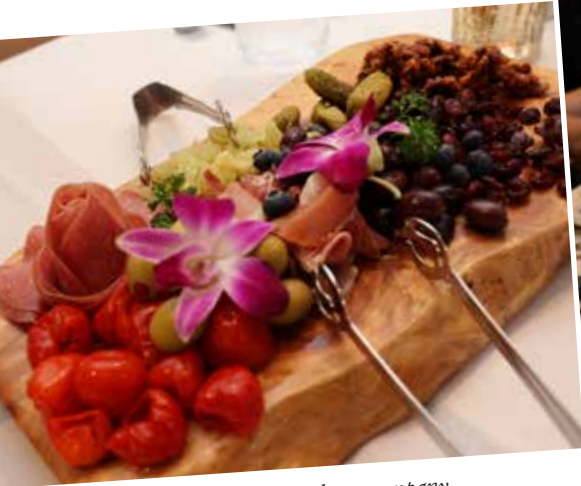
*Marci King*



*John and Vicki Sneed with Paul and Karen Miller and Lynette and Danny Caswell*



# Raclette Night with Antonelli's



*Charcuterie board to accompany the raclette cheese*



*The main event: delicious raclette cheese*



*Antonelli's Cheese lead events host and certified cheese professional Matt*



*Ken Mannas and Susan Dawson*



*Kelley and Gary McClure*



*Tyrrell Flawn and McKinnon Morton, facilitating the "cheese scrape"*



*Stephanie and Chad Wiley*



*Brittany Cockrell, Danae Kouwenhoven, Kendall Gerber, Melanie Murray, Emily Leach, Camille Ross, Gina Whittington, Wendee Sawran and Stacy Sodalak*

## Speaker Series Brian Spaly:

### An Entrepreneur's Journey

Brian Spaly has always been an unusual guy. The current chairman of Tecovas is a serial entrepreneur with a rare blend of talents, a charming personality, and a self-deprecating sense of humor.



*Jenn McKay, Caitlin Turner, Brian Spaly and Robbie McKay*



*Brian Spaly*

Raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Spaly studied business for his undergraduate degree at Princeton University. After college, he trekked across Asia for a year, an experience that he described as transformative. After Asia, he moved to California to pursue an MBA at Stanford University. As a grad student, he taught himself to sew his own clothes, then designed a better fitting pair of men's pants and sold them from the trunk of his car. This turned into his first company, Bonobos, a



clothing manufacturer that grew at an exponential rate until being acquired by Walmart after only five years. He and his co-founder had a falling out prior to the sale, but the story of Bonobos is still used as a case study by the Stanford MBA program. After briefly moping around after leaving Bonobos, Spaly developed Trunk Club, an online clothing merchandiser, in Chicago just to have something to do. Trunk Club was an even more successful venture, selling to Nordstrom's for \$350 million after only four and a half years in 2014.

Only in his mid-30s by this time, Spaly started investing in startups and assisting with initial public offerings. His travels and investing brought him to Texas, where he clicked with the founder of a small boot company named Tecovas. He eventually joined the board of directors and ultimately became the executive chairman. During this time, he got married, had children, and moved his primary residence to Austin. He has continued his entrepreneurial streak by continuing to invest and advise energetic young companies from his position as a general partner at Brand Foundry, a venture capital firm.

*by Sam Greer*



*Michael Friesch, Paul Wolfert and Curt Tekell*



*Andrew Mitchell, Ken Womack and Wesley Gottesman*



*Tina and Brent McCutchin*



*The Headliners Club food and beverage team:  
Eli, Juan and Jimmy*



*Satish Kadokula, Samuel Rettew  
and Tina Cannon*



*Susan and Nawaf Bitar*



*Mackenzie Becky, Carly Spaly, Caitlin Turner and Jenn McKay*

# Rodeo Roundup



*Samples from Allens Boots*



*Paul and Karen Miller*



*Pam Staulcup with Lloyd and Mary Easterling of L.M. Easterling Custom Boot Company*



*Jason Beers and Will Orme from Allens Boots*



*The Texas Cowboys*



Junior high friends Clark Wheatly and Greg Meserole



Bea Howe, Neil Husbey and Phil Howe



Alicia Lowe and Sheridan Binford



Matt and Amy Mackowiak with Mary and Lloyd Easterling and Eddie Lopez

## Speaker Series: Michael O'Brien and Evan Smith

You may not know his name, but you've *definitely* seen his work.

Michael O'Brien is a photographer whose keen eye and decades-long career have produced some of the most celebrated and recognizable photos published in magazines and books, as well as displayed at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University.

His portraits and documentary photographs have a distinctive style with a dose of humanity that's earned him awards. His images have been featured for years in *Texas Monthly*, *Life* and *National Geographic* magazines.

Although O'Brien is a Tennessee native, he arrived in Texas after stints in Miami and New York. He's been in awe of the state ever since.



Evan Smith and Michael O'Brien



Michael O'Brien



Deborah Yurco and Becky Heiser



Verne Lundquist



*Lee Yeakel, Alexandra Wilson Albright, Anne Yeakel and Brian Greig*



*J.B. Saucedo, Katerina Cotroneo, Michael O'Brien, Elizabeth O'Brien, Emily Allen and Emily Kimbro*



*Deborah Yurco, Becky Heiser, Vicki Eidman, Aida Dieck and Carole Pearce*



*Emily Allen and Emily Kimbro*



*J.B. Saucedo, Sharon Jayson and Ken Herman*



*Margaret and Douglas Danforth*

“It’s wonderful for a photographer because it’s so visually rich,” O’Brien said.

Headliners members got a rare treat and a peek into the stories behind many of these famous photos as O’Brien joined with Evan Smith for a photo presentation that included many of the photographs published in *Texas Monthly* when Smith was editor in chief.

The evening was touted as “The Story Behind the Photo.” And it didn’t disappoint as the duo talked about these photos that have captured subjects from small-town folks in rural Texas to celebrities and presidents.

“These ordinary people probably are my favorite subjects -- rather than celebrities,” O’Brien said.

Smith added that because the state is growing more urban and the rural population is on the decline, O’Brien’s work is “really a link to our heritage and our past that is fading as we go.”

Among the famous faces he’s captured on film are George W. Bush, Lady Bird Johnson, Willie Nelson, Earl Campbell, Ben Crenshaw, Beyoncé, Billy Gibbons, Larry McMurtry, Harvey Penick, Bud Shrake, Sissy Spacek, George Strait and Kelly Willis.

O’Brien said shooting film is much more difficult than digital photography, so “it was like going on a picnic” when he started taking some pictures with a digital camera. And sometimes, he says, takes pictures just like we all do – with our phones.

*by Sharon Jayson*



# Speaker Series Dr. Michael Belfort

## From Capetown to Austin: The Journey of a Fetal Surgeon

As members gathered in the Nash Room for Dr. Michael Belfort’s presentation, the first slide was on display and noted the following credentials: MBBCH, PhD, MD, MidCOG (SA), DA(SA), FRCOG, FRCS(C), FACOG. His lovely wife, Joanne, laughingly referred to it as his “alphabet.” She added that they came to Austin from Houston on their plane, for which Dr. Belfort is certified. He is also a certified helicopter pilot. After all this information the term that came to mind (and Dr. Belfort acknowledged) was quintessential overachiever.

Belfort started his talk with his early history and journey to Master of Surgery in OB/GYN. He grew up in Durban, South Africa, and during 1969-1975 attended a high school where “you got beaten if you made a mistake.” (This, perhaps, was a clue to the development of his amazing accomplishments.) He received his MBBCH (the U.S. equivalent of an M.D.) at the University of Witwatersrand. In 1983, he was conscripted into South Africa’s Special Forces for two years, where he learned parachuting and flying. Immediately after the military, he took OB/GYN training at Groote Shurr Hospital, University of Capetown, where Dr. Christian Barnard performed the first heart transplant. During this time, he met his future wife, a pediatrician.

Belfort wanted to stay in Capetown, which he described as a stunningly beautiful city, but in 1989, he was offered a residency and fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He stayed there until he moved on to the University of Utah in 1997. In 2010, he decided to return to Baylor, because he had some very ambitious goals:

- Build the leading OB/GYN department in the U.S.
- Build a fetal center, leading in innovation.
- Develop a Global Women’s Health Program.



*Dr. Michael Belfort and Joanne Belfort*



*Dr. Belfort*



*Kay and William Allensworth*

- Develop the world’s most sophisticated ICU for placenta percreta, a life-threatening condition in pregnant women.

These goals obviously impressed Baylor College of Medicine and Belfort is now the chair of the OB/Gyn department at the college and OB/GYN-in-chief at Houston’s Texas Children’s Hospital. In March 2010, the Pavilion for Women opened, reinforcing Belfort’s belief in the importance of combining children’s and women’s health care. He proudly announced that the Pavilion will soon have 10 ICU beds, making it the largest women’s ICU in the world.

Belfort then led attendees into a jaw-dropping saga of the things that he has addressed in his tenure at Baylor. The first was a description of spina bifida, a condition where the lower spinal column in the fetus grows outside the skin and occurs in about 1 in every 3,000 births. This condition usually results in the patient losing the use of their legs and other serious conditions. Trying to fix spina bifida in utero was previously so unsuccessful that it was banned for 20 years.





*Dr. Belfort with Melanie Belt and Demetrius McDaniel*

In 2014 Belfort went to Barcelona to learn a new technique, and he has now performed more than 180 fetoscopic spina bifida procedures at Texas Children's. He played a news video of a successful surgery – and then introduced the parents (who were in the room) of the patient, who is now 2 ½ years old and “running everywhere” taking delight in being a miracle baby.

Another condition receiving Belfort's attention was hypoplastic left heart syndrome. He told the story of baby Grace, whose in utero surgery involved laser treatment and the insertion of a stent. During the procedure her heart started failing, but Belfort did not give up, administering cardiac compression and multiple injections for 45 minutes. Now age 10, Grace is another success story.

Belfort addressed his Global Women's Health Program. In Malawi there is the first residency program in the country, with six trainees. The program now claims the lowest infant/women's mortality rate in the country, a rate lower than in Texas.

To add closure to the “Capetown to Austin” title of his talk, he announced, “Now in Austin!” This referred to the opening of the new Texas Children's Hospital in north Austin. It, too, offers women's services, and Belfort proudly revealed that he delivered the first baby there. While many people are involved in enterprises such as TCH, it is obvious that Dr. Michael Belfort is a major force in expanding women's and children's health care.

The back of his business card has the phrase “Giving Life to Possible,” on it. That brings to mind another apt phrase – quintessential hero.

*by Kay Allensworth*



*Kelley McClure, Katie Thurman and Sharon Gerhardt*



*Sueshai Perez and Byron Wilkinson*



*Christy and David Dauphin*



# MLB Preview



*Tim Taylor, Ross Oblendorf, Drew Stubbs, Todd Gilfillan and Justin Simmons*



*Clarke Heidrick and John McFarland*



*Kevin Ellington and Bill Netherton*



*Isabel Saralegui, Maggie Lodge, Grace Morris and Amy Updegrave*



*Ross Oblendorf with his daughter*



*Michael and Bremond MacDougall*



*Mike Allen, Cambell Kelly, Cynthia Allen, Jack Kelly and Christine Kelly*



*Drew Stubbs, Ross Oblendorf and Tim Taylor*



# Masters Preview



*Mark Brooks and Verne Lundquist*



*Sharon Schweitzer with Verne and Nancy Lundquist.*



*Kelly Kocurek, Derek Lewis, Will Coates and Lawrence Temple*



*Katerina Cotroneo, Sean Skellenger, Russ Williams, Joe Basham and Wick Alexander*



*John and Lorraine Wang*



*Jenna McEachern and Chuck Harris*



*Gregory Meserole*



*Bill Hawkins and Dale Wainwright*



*Julie Sayers, Ben Clements, Samantha Bernstein and Scott Sayers*



*Ed Clements, Rick Chambers and Ben Richards*

## Spring Football Preview



*Stephen and Lauren Jeffrey*



*Randy Howry and Barton Hammit*



*William Matthews and Jerry Frey*



*Ed Clements, Bob Ballou, Ced Golden and Erin Hogan*



*Mindy Ellmer and Erin Hogan*



*Susan and Michael Klein with Scott Incerto*



*Erin Hogan, Ced Golden, Ed Clements*

## Bourbon Club: Milam & Greene

*Milam & Greene  
swag bags*



*A perfect pairing*



*James Neblett, Clinton Culpepper, Will Cozzens and Matt Casey*



*Marlene Holmes and Marsha Milam*



*Fred Ellis, Kevin A. Robinson and Anne Wynne*



*Jan Leberman brought a couple of young bourbon lovers.*



*Jan Leberman, Marsha Milam and Nan McRaven*



*Zerek Kroll, Jared Pyka and Jeff Simpler*



*(left side of table, l to r) George Willeford, Carl Stuart, Carter King, Phil Barnes  
(right side of table, l to r) Natban Damweber and Chuck Nash*



## Frontliners Preview Cocktail



*Ayan Mitra and Jared Pyka*



*Amy Baird, Wroe Jackson and  
Jonatban Levy*



*Kat Cotroneo and Mary Alice Kaspar*



*Derek Lewis, Chad Wiley and Dan O'Meara*

*The Headliners Club announces a new club within The Club: The Frontliners*

**Frontliners** | [fruhnt-lihy-ners] *noun*

1. The next generation of Headliners Club members pressing forward.
2. A club within The Club focused on building connections and fostering engagement for members ages 50 and younger.
3. A select group guiding new programming and generating new Headliners Club members in this demographic.

## Speaker Series: View from the Bench

*An evening with  
Lee Yeakel and  
cross-examiner  
Ken Herman*



*Ken Herman and Lee Yeakel*



*Ulla Ljung and Susan Erickson*



*Mindy Ellmer, Andrea Giles, Katie Coleman and Nancy Pollard*



*Julie Schechter, Lottie Shapiro and Richard Schechter*



*Alex Campagna, Lee Yeakel and Ashley Little. Ashley and Alex are both second-year UT Law students.*



*Anne Yeakel and Joe Osborn*



*Joe Stafford, Melissa Segrest, Vance Nauman and Janet Wilson*



*Mindy Ellmer, Lee Yeakel and Ken Herman*



*Frances and George Ramsey*





# MONTHLY NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING

## Dr. Meg Reiss



*Dr. Meg Reiss*

*Lee Yeakel and Brian Greig*



*Diana and Sean Skellenger*



*Scott Sams and Derek Lewis*



*Jeff Dykes, Gary Zausmer and Wayne Prescott*



*Jeremy Stylestine, Tim Taylor, Elizabeth Doughtie, Dr. Meg Reiss and Mara Sherry*



*Sam Jeffrey and Stephen Jeffrey*

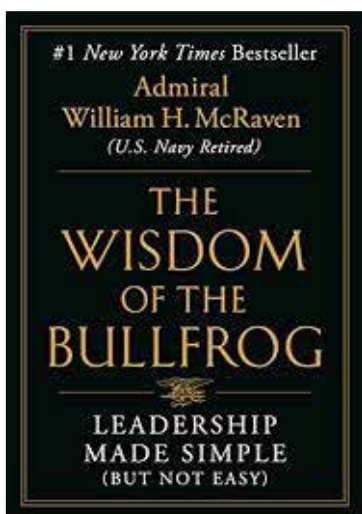


# BOOK CLUB: MEET THE AUTHOR

## Admiral William McRaven



*Meade Bauer and  
Admiral William McRaven*



*Rose Betty Williams  
and Admiral William  
McRaven*



*Admiral William McRaven signing  
books with Ford Smith, Chuck and  
Elizabeth Nash*



*Annie Jacobs, Lanette Smith,  
Bethany Perez, Georgeann McRaven,  
Marianna Jacobs and Melissa Jackson*



*Gigi Bryant, Steven and Mary Elizabeth Knebel*



*Griff Singer and Karl Schmitt*



*Michael Darrouzet and Georgeann McRaven*



*Morris Gottesman and John Gilluly*



*Sara Kalmeta and Michael Hansen*



*Kim and Walt Maciborski*

## Lawrence Wright



*Rudolph and Gabrielle Bekink*



*Dianna and Ace Pickens*



*Will Wilson with Kent Caperton and Thomas Forbes*



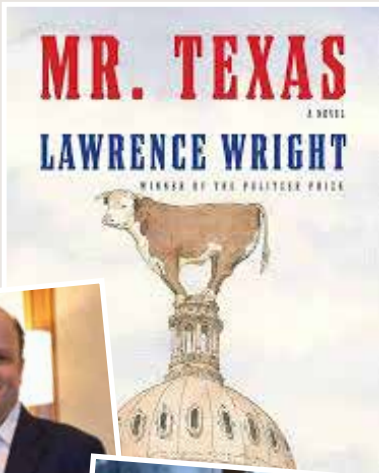
*Camille and John Hawkins*



*Cat Rainwater, Lawrence Wright and Linda McCoy*



*Deborah Peel and Harvey Kronberg*



*Abbey Archer with her dad William Archer*

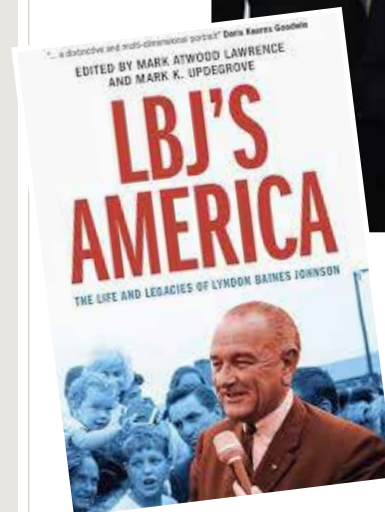


*Lawrence Wright and Marcial Ball*

## Mark Atwood Lawrence and Mark Updegrave



*Mark Updegrave, Rose Betty Williams and Mark Atwood Lawrence*





*Jeffery Dochen*



*Julia Howry and Amy Updegrove*



*Louann Temple and Randy Howry*



*Rose Betty Williams, Mark Atwood Lawrence and Jeffery Dochen*



*Sean Skellenger and Pam Staulcup*



*Don Carleton and Larry Faulkner*



*Christy and David Dauphin with Sharon Schweitzer*



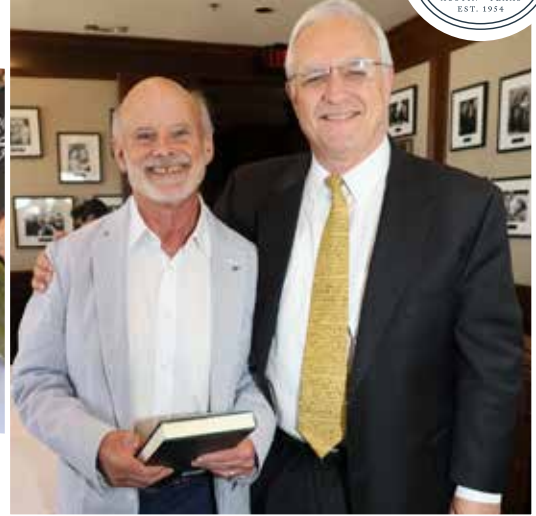
*Lisa Dow, Lawrence Temple and Matt Dow*



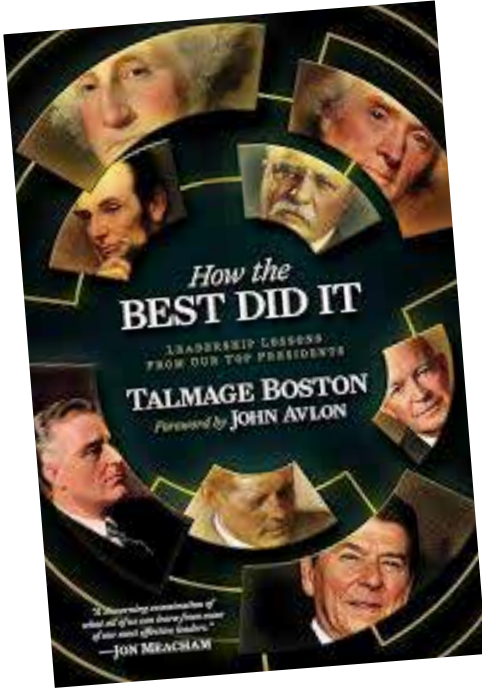
# Talmage Boston



*"How the Best Did it" by Talmage Boston*



*Benjamin Turner and Talmage Boston*



*Lee Yeakel with Talmage Boston and Karl Rove*



*Craig Hester and Baillie Milliken*



*Thomas Zentner and Adam Blum*



*Mark and Maureen Wheeler*



*Cliff Ernst, Claire Boston with Camille and Sandy Kress*

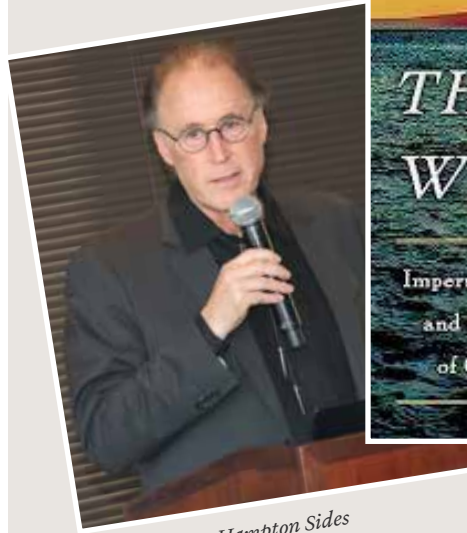
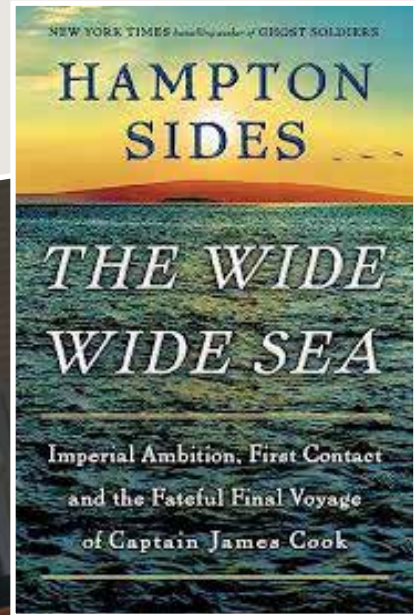


*Karl Rove welcoming our speaker*

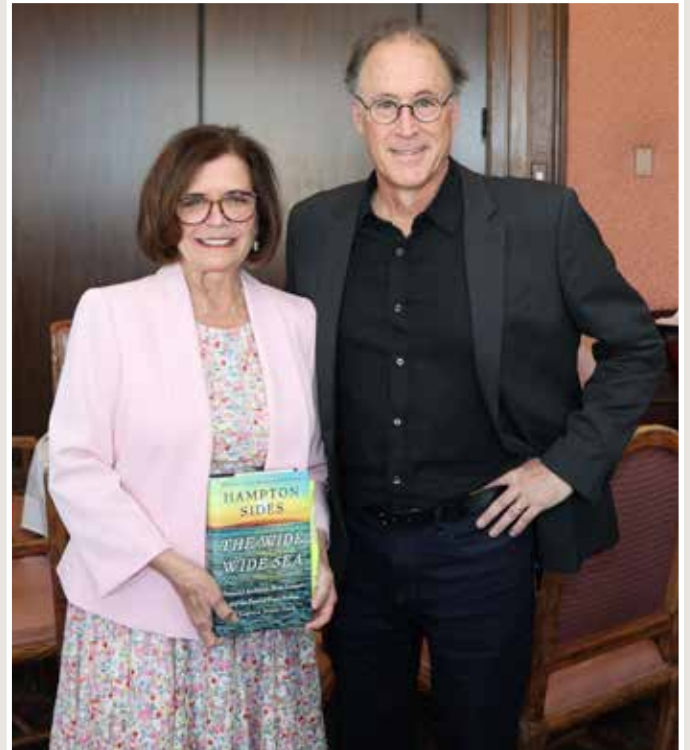


*Scott Neuendorf, Craig Hester and Jeremy Blackman*

# Hampton Sides



*Hampton Sides*



*Rose Betty Williams and Hampton Sides*



*Jerry Bell and Thomas Barton*



*Jeff Mibm, Steve LeBlanc and Hampton Sides*



*Jane Greig and Lydia Barton*



*John and Jennifer Hamlin with Hampton Sides*

## Requiescant In Pace

Dr. Louis Cannatti

Ms. Patti O'Meara

Mr. Rodney Varner





# NEW MEMBERS

## Kate & Michael Balagia

- Kate: Reporter, *The Texas Tribune*
- Michael: Web Developer, Storable
- Nominated by: Jack Balagia, Evan Smith

## Marvin Brittan

- Nominated by: Elena Goyanes, Eva Womack
- Katerina Cotroneo
- Editor in Chief, *Austin Way*
- Nominated by: Suzanne Erickson, Scott Sayers

## Jim & Missy Daywood

- Jim: President, Capitol Endeavors
- Nominated by: Matt Berry, Jr., Matt Berry, Sr.

## Mary Laurence “ML” Flynn

- Recently Retired Senior Producer, NBC Nightly News
- Nominated by: Jan Pickle, Mary Wilson

## Terry Foxx

- Director of Talk Programming, IHeart Media Radio
- Nominated by: Corrie MacLaggan, Luis Patiño

## Steven & Janel Gonzalez

- Regional President, PNC Bank
- Nominated by: Stephen Jeffrey, Gary Farmer

## Frank Ikard, Jr.

- President, Ikard Law PC
- Nominated by: Lee Yeakel, Wick Alexander

## Grant & Natalie Jenkins

- Grant: Manager, Sandera Land Holdings, LLC
- Nominated by: Morris Gottesman, Ford McTee

## Roxanne Jones

- President/CEO, United Ways of Texas
- Nominated by: David Parrish, Wick Alexander

## Rose & Robert Kirk

- Rose: SVP & Chief Corporate Social Responsibility Officer, Verizon Communications, Inc.
- Nominated by: Gay Gaddis, Melissa Jackson

## John & Barbara Koenig

- Nominated by: Brian Greig, Gary Pickle

## Mimie Li

- Principal, Waters at Barton Creek Real Estate Management
- Nominated by: Mark Osborne, Laura Pinto

## Carl & Tara Mica

- Carl: Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
- Tara: State Director for NRA-ILA
- Nominated by: Tim Taylor, Mindy Ellmer, Kerry Cammack

## Nancy & Mark Pollard

- Nancy - Executive Director/Co-Founder, Friends of the Children-Austin
- Mark - COO/President, Astute Electronics
- Nominated by: Milam Newby, Mindy Ellmer, Stephen Jeffrey

## Courtney & Lauren Powers

- Courtney: Managing Director, UTIMCO
- Nominated by: Sterling & Catherine Howry; Chrissy & Brad Compere

## J.B. & Priscilla Saucedo

- J.B.: Host, Texas Country Reporter, *Texas Monthly*
- Priscilla: VP of Operations, Veloway Threads
- Nominated by: Tim Taylor, Wick Alexander

## Andrea Sheridan

- Deputy to the President, University of Texas at Austin
- Nominated by: Mindy Ellmer, Tim Taylor, Suzy Balagia

## Stephen & Ginger Stewart

- Stephen: Attorney, The Stewart Law Firm
- Ginger: Administrator, The Stewart Law Firm
- Nominated by: Kevin Madison, Patrick Johnson

## Mark & Adrienne Thannisch

- Mark: Managing Director, Raymond James
- Nominated by: Greg Meserole, Wick Alexander

## John & Lorraine Wang

- John: Director, GI Partners
- Lorraine: Chief of Staff, Yondr Group
- Nominated by: Araminta Sellers, Eva Womack

## Byron & Sherry Wilkinson

- Byron: President/GM TEGNA/KVUE
- Sherry: Owner, Harmonized Home
- Nominated by: Amy Villarreal, Kristie Gonzales



# HONORS

**Tim Taylor** was awarded the **W. Neal Kocurek Special Achievement Award** at the 2024 Austin Business Journal Commercial Real Estate Awards. The distinguished accolade recognizes individuals who have had a lasting impact on the real estate sector and the Austin region as a whole. Tim's recognition at this event honors his vast contributions to the Austin community.



Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez gave out \$100 million at **Bezos Courage & Civility Awards** in Washington, D.C. The third annual Bezos Courage & Civility Awards brought together past and present honorees for a cocktail party and award ceremony. This year's winners were actor and activist Eva Longoria and **Admiral Bill McRaven**, a retired U.S. Navy four-star admiral and the former chancellor of the University of Texas System.



# AROUND THE CLUB

Tony Plohetski,  
Katie Couric and  
Wroe Jackson



The  
**Headliners**  
FOUNDATION

# CONTINUING THE TRADITION:

*Honoring the Best of the Best in Texas Journalism*

In 1957, The Headliners Club began recognizing excellence in Texas journalism, and the Headliners Foundation has proudly carried on that tradition since its inception in 1983. The Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of this year’s professional journalism awards for work produced in 2023. Please visit [www.headlinersfoundation.org](http://www.headlinersfoundation.org) to view all the winning entries.

## Charles E. Green Journalism Award

To honor the memory of the longtime editor of the *Austin American-Statesman* and Headliners Club founder, the Headliners Foundation presents the Charles E. Green Awards to recognize Texas journalists who produce the very best news reporting, photography, commentary, and digital reporting. Awardees are selected by a group of judges from across the nation and are presented in partnership with the Texas Association of Broadcasters (TAB) and the Texas Managing Editors (TME) in six select categories.

### Best Television Reporter

- Marcelino Benito, KHOU-11 News, Houston

### Best Investigative Report by a Television Station

- “Broken Trust”
- Tanya Eiserer, Mark Smith & Rick Rysso, WFAA-TV, Dallas

### Best Breaking News Report by a Television Station

- “Tornado Emergency”
- Staff, KHOU-11 News, Houston

### Best Radio Reporter

- Nathan Bernier, KUT, Austin

### Best Breaking News Report by a Radio Station

- “Two dead among numerous people found ‘suffocating’ in train car in Texas”
- Joey Palacios, KSTX Texas Public Radio, San Antonio

### Star Reporter of the Year

- Eleanor Klibanoff, *Texas Tribune*

### Star Investigative Report of the Year

- “Profiting from Missing Children”
- Kiah Collier, Jeremy Schwartz & Lexi Churchill, *Texas Tribune*

### Star Opinion Writer of the Year

- Nancy M. Preyer-Johnson, *San Antonio Express-News*

### Star Photojournalist of the Year

- Omar Ornelas, *El Paso Times*

### Star Breaking News Report of the Year

- “Texas two-city shooting rampage”
- Staff, *Austin American-Statesman*

### Overall Excellence Across TAB and TME Organizations

- “Pumped”
- Gabrielle Munoz, Raul Alonzo & Wells Dunbar, *Texas Standard*, Austin



## Showcase Award for Enterprise and Innovation in Journalism

The Showcase Award for Enterprise and Innovation in Journalism recognizes outstanding investigative and storytelling journalism. The quality and scope of work submitted for consideration this year was extraordinary, and the Foundation’s Professional Excellence Committee named one additional Silver award-winner in each category. Please join us in congratulating Texas’ top journalists of 2023. Please visit [www.headlinersfoundation.org](http://www.headlinersfoundation.org) to view all the winning entries.



### Investigative Category

#### GOLD AWARD

- “Coffee City Police”
- Jeremy Rogalski, John Gibson & Jennifer Cobb, KHOU-11 News, Houston

#### SILVER AWARD

- “TxTag Troubles: A Viewer-Diven Investigation”
- David Barer, Dalton Huey, Kelly Wiley, Avery Travis & Matt Grant, KXAN-TV, Austin

#### SILVER AWARD

- “Deadly Detention”
- Alex Stuckey & Marie D. De Jesús, Houston Landing

#### SILVER AWARD

- “Bleeding Out”
- Lauren Caruba, Ari Sen & Smiley Pool, *Dallas Morning News*, *San Antonio Express-News*

### Storytelling Category

#### GOLD AWARD

- “She was told her twin sons wouldn’t survive”
- Eleanor Klibanoff, *Texas Tribune*

#### SILVER AWARD

- “Uvalde: One Year In”
- Newsroom Staff, KSAT 12 News, San Antonio

#### SILVER AWARD

- “Stephenville”
- Bryan Burrough, Patrick Michels, Brian Standefer & J.K. Nickell, *Texas Monthly*

#### SILVER AWARD

- “Let Us Die”
- Jason Whitely, Taylor Lumsden & Tim Mallad, WFAA-TV, Dallas



# VERNE LUNDQUIST FUNDRAISER

*Yes, Sir! 2024 Lundquist Fundraiser is Another Big Success!*

On Tuesday, March 26, a full house of Headliners Club members, sports fans and Foundation supporters joined Lundquist and his special guest, golfer-turned-broadcaster David Feherty, to raise funds for the Lundquist Sports Media Institute, a program of the Headliners Foundation. At our most successful fundraiser to date, guests were treated to a celebration of Lundquist's 40th anniversary (and final year) broadcasting at the Masters Tournament, a moving tribute to Lundquist's legendary career, an intimate conversation between KLBJ Radio host Ed Clements and Lundquist about his final year at the Masters, and funny, behind-the-scenes stories from Lundquist and David Feherty about their days covering golf together.

A record crowd of more than 160 people, including PGA Tour Champion Mark Brooks, Ray Benson from *Asleep at the Wheel*, CBS Austin Sports Director Bob Ballou, and *Austin American-Statesman* sportswriter Cedric Golden enjoyed the dinner and program, led by Ed Clements, who served as the evening's emcee. Funds raised from this annual event will support scholarships and other programming of the Lundquist Institute.

Special thanks to Verne and Nancy Lundquist, David and Anita Feherty, Lundquist Institute Chair Mark Morrison, Foundation Board Chair Patti Ohlendorf, the Lundquist Institute leadership team, and our generous sponsors for another unforgettable evening!

Please visit [www.headlinersfoundation.org](http://www.headlinersfoundation.org) to view the full photo gallery and videos of the evening, along with CBS Austin Sports Director Bob Ballou's pre-event interview with David Feherty, and *Austin American-Statesman* sportswriter and Club member Cedric Golden's special tribute to Verne's legendary career.



*Old and New Friends: David Feherty, Verne Lundquist,  
Ray Benson, Scott Sayers & Ed Clements*



*Jack Nicklaus III, John Butler and Ed Clements enjoy the VIP reception with 1996 PGA Tour Champion Mark Brooks.*



*Scott and Julie Sayers enjoy the VIP reception with John Butler.*



*Celebrating Verne's legendary Masters call: Event Committee members Neal Spelce, Mark Morrison, Griff Singer, Tim Taylor and Patti Ohlendorf, with David Feberty, Verne Lundquist, Ed Clements and Nancy Lundquist*



*Emcee Ed Clements, Verne Lundquist and Event Chair Mark Morrison relax before the festivities begin.*



*Jody Ferguson & Bill Netherton with event sponsors  
Tim Taylor, Tony Dewar & Kent Lance*



*An unforgettable evening for Foundation scholarship  
recipients Emma Hutchinson and George Schroeder, with  
Verne Lundquist and David Feberty*



*Dale Summers, Tim Taylor, Bill  
Netherton, Lesa Netherton and Bill  
Summers kick off their evening in the  
lounge*



*Foundation Chair Patti Oblendorf welcomes a record  
crowd to the 2024 Lundquist fundraiser.*



*Verne and David Feberty give guests a peek behind the scenes  
with stories of their days covering pro golf together.*

*PHOTO CREDIT: Casey Chapman Ross Photography*



## Construction Timeline

2025

JANUARY

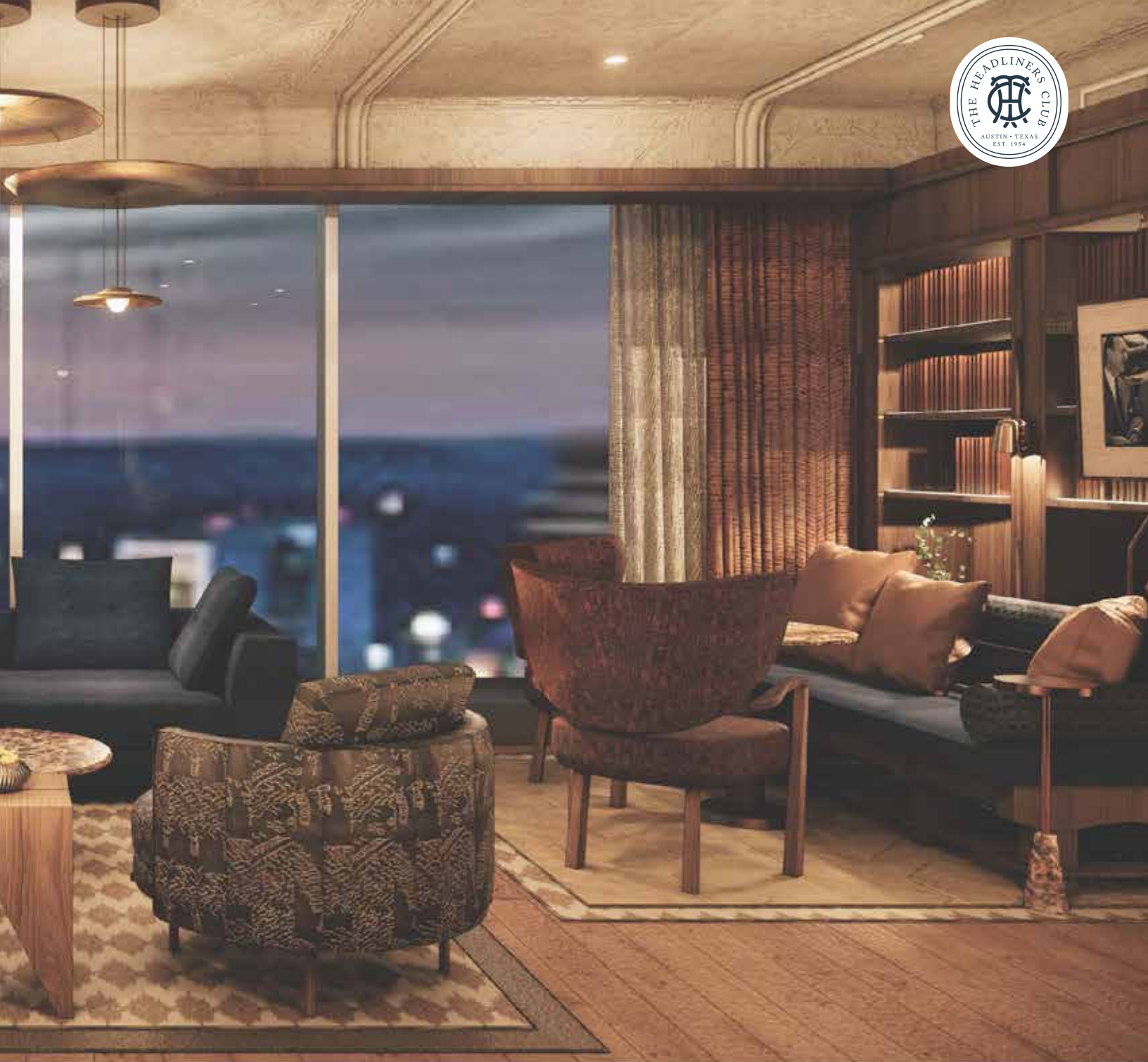
FEBRUARY

MARCH

Construction begins January in 2025 and is estimated to take nine months to complete. The Headliners Club is committed to remaining open in some capacity through the entire project. Events, outings and social gatherings will be ongoing throughout the project.

Construction begins. The Headliners Club will be open with limited service.





APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Phased reopening as final construction continues.

Estimated month of completion.



# RECIPROCAL CLUBS

*The Headliners Club has reciprocal agreements with the clubs below:*

## Texas

- Petroleum Club of Fort Worth
- Petroleum Club of Houston
- Petroleum Club of Midland
- Crescent Club, Dallas
- Park City Club, Dallas
- Centre Club, San Antonio
- The Fort Worth Club
- Commodore Perry Estate Austin - corporate rates for overnight accommodations available

## Northeast

- Metropolitan Club, New York City, New York
- University Club of Chicago, Illinois
- Harvard Club of Boston, Massachusetts
- The National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
- The Union League of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Southeast

- The City Club of Greenville, South Carolina
- Harbour Club, Charleston, South Carolina
- The Palmetto Club, Columbia, South Carolina
- The Tampa Club, Tampa, Florida
- The Crescent Club, Memphis, Tennessee

## Northwest

- Sutter Club, Sacramento, California
- University Club of Portland, Oregon

## International

- National Liberal Club, London, England
- City University Club, London, England

*Please call (512) 479-8080 to arrange your reciprocal club visit.*

# FAQS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. It's summer in Austin. What exactly is the dress code at the Club?

- Business attire is required. Slacks or nice jeans with collared shirts for men. Jackets and ties are not required. Similarly appropriate attire for women. No shorts or athletic attire are permitted for men or women.
- Please make sure your guests are aware of the dress code to avoid any embarrassment.

### 2. What are the preferred parking rates in the garage?

- Headliners Club members and guests are not subject to the standard parking rates.
  - Weekdays (Monday-Friday, before 6 p.m.) members and guests receive a special discounted rate and pay only \$10/car for up to three hours of parking.
  - Weeknights (Monday-Friday, after 6 p.m.) and any time on weekends, a flat rate of \$10/car is available.
  - Parking charges are paid by credit card as you exit the garage.
  - If you prefer to bill your account for your parking and that of your guests, you can arrange for parking validations, \$11.50 each.

### 3. What is the "house charge" or service fee on my bill?

- The service charge on all food and beverage transactions allows The Headliners Club to provide the level of service you have grown to expect.

### 4. Can I leave the Club with a drink?

- Please make sure not to take your drink onto the elevator when you leave. No alcoholic beverages can leave the 21st and 20th floors, and no glassware can be removed from the Club.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AUGUST 2024

### 8/2 Old Fitz First Friday

- Join us in the Press Box for friends, food & fun!
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 8/7 Movie Night: DC League of Super-Pets

- Stay tuned for more details!
- 5-8 p.m.

### 8/20 Ced & Ed: Football Preview

- Stay tuned for more details!
- 11:30 a.m. lunch | 12 p.m. program

## SEPTEMBER 2024

### 9/6 Old Fitz First Friday

- Join us in the Press Box for friends, food & fun!
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 9/9 Monthly National Security Briefing

- 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet | 12 p.m. program

### 9/11 BBQ Taste Test

- Details coming soon!
- 5-8 p.m.

### 9/12 Book Club-Don Carleton

- 5:45 p.m. cocktails | 6 p.m. program | dinner buffet to follow

### 9/17 Speaker Series-APD Chief Robin Henderson

- Details coming soon!
- 11:30 a.m. lunch | 12 p.m. program

## OCTOBER 2024

### 10/1 Shaking It Up: The Life & Times of Liz Carpenter

- Details coming soon!
- 5:45-8:30 p.m.

### 10/4 Old Fitz First Friday

- Join us in the Press Box for friends, food & fun!
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 10/10 Non-Partisan Journalism

- with Debbie Hoitt, Kathleen McElroy and Courtney Sebesta, moderated by Ken Herman
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 10/14 Monthly National Security Briefing

- 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet | 12 p.m. program

### 10/18 Book Club: Rob Wilder

- 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet | 12 p.m. program

### 10/22 Speaker Series-Samantha Shorey on A.I.

- Details coming soon!
- 5:45 p.m. cocktails | 6 p.m. program | dinner buffet to follow

### 10/26 UT vs. Vanderbilt Game Watching

- Details coming soon!

### 10/30 Headliners' Halloween

- Trick-or-Treat Party
- 5-8 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 2024

### 11/1 Old Fitz First Friday

- Join us in the Press Box for friends, food & fun!
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 11/11 Veterans' Day Appreciation Lunch

- 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet | 12 p.m. program

### 11/13 Book Club: Mallory Factor

- 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet | 12 p.m. program

### 11/16 UT vs. Arkansas Game Watching

- Details coming soon!

### 11/23 Breakfast with Santa

- 9-11 a.m.

## DECEMBER 2024

### 12/6 Old Fitz First Friday

- Join us in the Press Box for friends, food & fun!
- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch buffet

### 12/20 Members' Open House

- A Headliners holiday tradition
- 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

# HEADLINES

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 2169

## *Headliners Club*

(512) 479-8080  
221 W. Sixth St. Ste 2100  
Austin, TX 78701

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