



CELEBRATE.
INFORM. INSPIRE.

April 23-24, 2022

HONOR TRADITION AND FOCUS FORWARD.

Annual Membership Weekend

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts & The National Press Club



Dean's Notes

October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin yet another time of transformation in the arts and our society, I was reminded of an arts education lesson that I worked on with at-risk students and varied classroom teachers for several years. The lesson focused on “The Circle of Courage.” It is a model of positive youth development described in the book *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*, co-authored by Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern. The model “integrates **Native American** philosophies of child-rearing, the heritage of early pioneers in education and youth work, and contemporary resilience research.” There are four components to The Circle of Courage: **belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity**. Each component is equally vital to the sustenance of courage. I view the College of Fellows as mindfully embracing these attributes and thank each of you for your contributions to our field, serving high standards of excellence and constantly aspiring to pay it forward.

With this perspective in mind, I have much to share with you, logistically, philosophically, and practically.

LOGISTICS FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 23-24, 2022

Let me begin with a few logistics and then dig deeper. As you probably have noted in an email we sent out in September, all is set for our upcoming annual weekend in Washington, DC for the first face-to-face meeting in three years. Here’s to April 2022. Our website contains an outline for the weekend, and we will “tip our hat” to tradition and add a few innovative programs during our gathering. As always, the highlight of the weekend is the investiture of our new Fellows and the annual Roger L. Stevens address, to be presented in 2022 by Fellow Molly Smith, Artistic Director of Arena Stage. We all know how invaluable and inspiring our weekend dialogue with our colleagues is, and to that end, our schedule allows for both substantive and informal conversations, as well as our formal events. You will be receiving an invitation shortly with details for the RSVP for Saturday and Sunday events, April 23 and 24, 2022.

One item that I wanted to introduce to everyone is the importance of making reservations for the hotel as soon as you are able. The College of Fellows has reserved a block of rooms at two hotels near the Kennedy Center -The River Inn and The Hive. Our weekend is also the International Monetary Fund weekend in DC and hotels are at a premium. Fortunately, we were on top of this early enough to negotiate reasonable room rates (for DC that is!). However, I encourage you to reserve your rooms as soon as possible. You simply need to use either link provided herein and add your credit card number. You are not charged until you check in. After March 22, we can no longer guarantee any spaces.

[College of Fellows of the American Theatre The Hive block](#)

[College of Fellows of the American Theatre River Inn block](#)

You will receive a formal invitation and RSVP itemization for each event on the agenda. Some events have no costs, while others do. Please know that I have done my best to maintain the integrity of the weekend and tried diligently to make the events as affordable as possible. The formal invitation and RSVP will, as in the past, provide the cost of each event and ask you to reply with the number attending. We are working to enable both PayPal and Zelle for payment. Stay tuned. All of this will happen at the beginning of the year.

I also wanted to let you know that we are now operating with quarterly ZOOM meetings for the Board – a new and significant means of communication and connection. Our next Board ZOOM meeting is January 15, 2022, so please let me know if there is something that you would like for me to bring to the attention of the Board.



Itinerary for Membership Weekend

Saturday morning, April 23, 2022; 9 AM-12:30 PM

VIDEO INTERVIEWS of inductees for 2022 to the College of Fellows...individual interviews conducted by nominees of each candidate in The Reach: Skylight Room at the Kennedy Center. DETAILED SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED - There will be a designated time slot for each new Fellow and the nominator.

Saturday morning, April 23, 2022; 10-12 Noon

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING for all current Board members at Kennedy Center's The Reach: PT109

Saturday afternoon, April 23, 2022; 2-4 PM

DYNAMIC DIALOGUES...an exciting new addition to our weekend

We invite Fellows to become part of a unique conversation to help us use our collective insights, experience, and talents as part of Dynamic Dialogues for the greater good to contribute to what we as Fellows and the world need. Together, as a collection of



leaders, we will validate and celebrate our organization and make connections of consequence by sharing these resources with other theatrical communities. Topic Leaders: Dean Emeriti Karen Berman and Dan Carter in The Reach: Skylight Room and PT109 at the Kennedy Center. As Dean Emerita, Karen Berman notes, “We are looking forward to a creative, lively, and productive exchange of ideas from this group of leaders in the field.”

Saturday evening, April 23, 2022; 7-9 PM

**THE NATIONAL
PRESS CLUB**

GALA CELEBRATION...a salute to tradition honoring our new inductees and including the signing of our membership book for new Fellows. A wonderful opportunity to introduce new Fellows to our current membership to be held at The National Press Club 529 14th Street NW Washington, DC.

Sunday morning, April 24, 2022; 10-11:30 AM

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING for the College of Fellows... Board reports on the state of the Fellows and annual updates for our organization at the Kennedy Center’s The Reach: PT 109.

Sunday afternoon, April 24, 2022; 1-3 PM

ANNUAL INVESTITURE LUNCHEON to honor and invest the Fellows of 2022, followed by the Roger L. Stevens Address by Molly Smith, Artistic Director of Arena Stage, and new Fellow interviews at the Kennedy Center’s The Reach: Skylight Room.

Please note that the luncheon will be live streamed for members who cannot attend.

PHILOSOPHICAL and PRACTICAL DETAILS

In an effort to continue our reach with depth and breadth, there are several initiatives that are continuing, and few new ones are added this year.

1. **Our scholarships continue...**the Jane Alexander Acting Award, the John Cauble Producer’s Award, and the Charlene Gordon Arts Impact Award. Please do review the scholarship section of our website to note the vast array of awards and recipients from colleges and universities across the United States. All of our awards are presented through the American College Theatre Festival, and we are remarkably grateful to Gregg Henry at the Kennedy Center for all that he does to facilitate these awards. I also need to acknowledge the Board members who served in the selection process this year –Cheryl Black, Kathryn Irvin, David Leong, and Cindy Phaneuf.

We are continuing to explore options for faculty scholarships such as the Uta Hagen Award, to support outstanding theatre faculty with enrichment opportunities.

2. **New initiatives...**
Strategic Alliances

In an effort to reach out further to our august professional communities, two of our Board members are working with me to develop strategic alliances with other professional theatre organizations. Thank you to Michael Dinwiddie and Michael Hood for your efforts for this important new initiative. We hope that our endeavors will enhance our reach and further an understanding of who and what we are with our theatre colleagues.

Enhanced Giving

Our gratitude to all of you who have contributed so generously to the College. Our Lifetime Benefactors and Gold Medallion Fellows have ensured the stability of our operations. Brant Pope, our treasurer, and I are working on mechanisms for planned estate giving through wills and trusts. We will be in touch with all of you at the onset of 2022 to present possibilities for the future and to explain how you might generate a legacy gift for the College of Fellows.

Website Development

We are working on an enhancement of our website and will launch the new site at our April 2022 business meeting on Sunday morning. We are not changing content, but, rather, are responding to industry standards and hope to enhance our digital visibility.

Living History and Archives

The Board has selected seven Fellows who have passed, as part of the Living History and Legacy Project to be featured on our website. Henry Bial, our archivist, and Board member is working with the University of Texas Austin, where our archives are located, to develop this component for our website. The individuals selected for our first highlight include Edward Albee, Oscar Brockett, Moses Gunn, Ming Cho Lee, Kristin Linklater, William McGraw, and Lloyd Richards. Other Fellows will be added as we make progress with the project. The Board determined that only Fellows who had passed on would be included. As noted by our Board member and archivist, Dr. Henry Bial. Archivist Henry Bial reminded us that choices may be limited by availability of video, and that this is an iterative process. Please do send him suggestions for Board consideration to hbial@ku.edu.

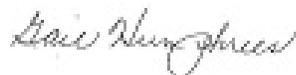
NOMINATION OF FELLOWS

The nomination form for new Fellows is available on our website. Please remain proactive as you consider nominating candidates for our fellowship.

Finally, I wanted to share an insightful interview with Deborah F. Rutter, President of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Her outlook in RESTART THE ARTS is such a terrific model for all of us - [Restart the Arts](#).

We truly do embody "The Circle of Courage." Live theatre is back, and I believe that we must approach 2022 with courage and tenacity, celebrating and furthering the significant impact of the arts in all our lives. WE ARE BACK AND IT IS GLORIOUS!

Best,



Dr. Gail Humphries

Dean