



November 2024 Volume 25, Issue 3

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lission Statement

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is deeply committed to the protection and preservation of Lew Wallace's legacy now and for generations to come.

Holiday Tea & Fashion Show Returns for 2024

Coming on Friday, December 6, we invite you to join us as we ring in the holidays and celebrate the 18th annual Holiday Tea & Fashion Show, graciously hosted at the Elston Homestead. This event allows guests a rare chance to see one of Crawfordsville's most prestigious historic homes, and enjoy holiday merriment while supporting the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum and Lane Place.

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is deeply committed to the protection and preservation of Lew Wallace's legacy now and for generations to come and this event is critical to our efforts. The Elston Homestead, located on Pike Street. was the childhood home of Susan Elston Wallace and Joanna Elston Lane. different outfits Now owned by Wabash College and known as the President's house, the Elston Homestead will be decorated for the holiday season by Milligan's Flowers & Gifts.



Holiday Tea Models

The theme for this year highlights St. Nicholas because December 6 is St. Nicholas Day! Event guests can enjoy a fashion show featuring

from local boutique heathcliff. Modelled by local ladies, the outfits will have a winter twist for every wardrobe.

Tea will be served, along with coffee, sweets, and savory snacks using the historic Elston family silver. Door prizes, generously provided by local merchants, will be awarded throughout the afternoon. Visitors can also enjoy live holiday music from the Wabash College Glee Club.

"In addition to our sponsors, the museum is fortunate to have such willing and generous organizations, including the **Montgomery County** Historical Society, Wabash College, Tea sponsors, and other local businesses, support our event," said Larry Paarlberg, Museum Director. "For

cont. on page 3

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Associate Director Thomas R. Meeks Jr. tmeeks@ben-hur.com

Grounds Manager

Deb King

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Notes From The Director



Is anyone else amazed at how fast 2024 has gone by? We opened the year with a fascinating look at how Montgomery

County and Lew Wallace prepared for the Civil War in our annual exhibit. We then began a full schedule of programs, projects, and activities. Between the Lew Wallace Book Club, the Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series, our summer architecture camp for students, and our two signature fund raising events, the museum has hosted an average of one program nearly every three weeks. Add to this the community activities and projects we have participed in, and the tours with visitors from across the country and around the world, you get one truly busy year.

And, it's about to get busier!!
Over the winter we hope
to initiate two restoration
projects—during what is
usually our down time. We
plan on doing some structural
renovation for the Lew Wallace
Carriage House (please see
the article in this newsletter)
and we hope to undertake
the restoration of two of Lew
Wallace's ornamental items.

Lew Wallace had a fascination for Victorian plants and he

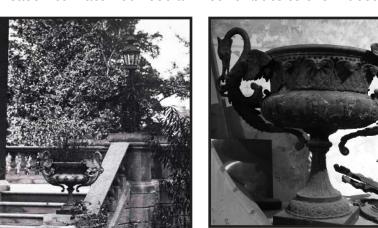
left us three ornamental cast iron urns. The largest of these has already been restored, and currently stands on the "island" in the reflecting pool. The smallest was a griffin urn that stood on the front porch of the Study. Sadly, it is too damaged to be restored. The middle urn, which we call the Heron urn because of its design, stood at the bottom of the back terrace flight of stairs. Thanks to a generous donor, we have secured sufficient funding to restore this urn, AND the elaborate cast iron gaslight fixture that stood at the top of the terrace stairs.

True to our experiences with General Wallace and his designs, he left us a complicated project when we decided to pursue restoration of the gaslight. It took us the better part of a year to figure out how it was mounted and secured to the limestone newel post. Thanks to the endless ingenuity and tenacity of our grounds manager, Deb King, the gaslight was freed from the terrace and will soon be shipped off for restoration with the Heron urn. It will be exciting to see these two signature features of the Study restored for future generations to enjoy. As these and other projects move forward, please remember to check our social media sites and website for updates.

I'd like to be able to share information about our 2025 exhibit—but we have not selected our theme for next year yet. Truthfully, the exhibit selection and installation is dependent on the Carriage House restoration—another good reason to watch our social

media and website. I do know one thing—2025 will probably go as fast as 2024!

Until then, take care and have a safe and happy holiday season. Our thanks to all the donors, sponsors, and members who contribute to the museum so that we can undertake the preservation and restoration work that we do, preserving the legacy of Lew Wallace for generations to come.





Heron Urn and Gaslight atop Newel Posts

Heron Urn

Gaslight



Holdiay Tea Continued...

so many, our Holiday Tea has become a popular way to gently welcome in the holiday season."

Reservations for the Holiday
Tea & Fashion Show are \$25 per
person and due November 30.
To reserve places for you and
your guests, call the Lew Wallace
Study & Museum at (765) 3625769 or visit www.ben-hur.
com/programs/ holiday-tea to
purchase tickets



Holiday Tea Smorgasbord

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Judge Not Lest Ye Be Judged

Thomas R. Meeks Jr. Associate Director

On the morning of January 11, 1910, the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol building buzzed with anticipation for the unveiling of General Lew Wallace's statue in Statuary Hall. Presiding chairman John P. Megrew called the gathering to order, opening with a prayer from Reverend George F. Dudley. The momentous unveiling was then performed by Wallace's grandson, Lew Wallace Jr., prompting a wave of heartfelt applause from family members, senators, and representatives in attendance.

Following the unveiling, Chairman Megrew invited a series of speakers to honor Wallace's remarkable life. William Allen Wood, a close friend of Wallace and a member of the Lew Wallace Statue Commission, reminisced about their conversations at a corner shop in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he listened to Wallace's life advice. Indiana Governor Thomas A. Marshall spoke passionately about Wallace's pivotal role in shaping Indiana's history and his influence on the nation's trajectory.

The event also featured a touching poem composed specifically for the occasion by James Whitcomb Riley, followed by remarks from Indiana Senator Albert Beveridge. As Beveridge stepped off the stage, Chairman Megrew introduced the next

speaker, Ahmet Rüstem Bey, Chargé d'Affaires of the Turkish Embassy. Feeling somewhat out of place having never met Wallace, Bey was invited to share insights about Wallace's tenure as a diplomat to the Ottoman Empire.

Ahmet Rüstem Bey, though not ethnically Turkish, was a fervent Turkish nationalist. Born Alfred Bilinski in 1862 to a Polish father and a British mother on the island of Lesbos, he was shaped by a rich and diverse heritage. His father had fled Poland after the Revolution of 1848 and went on to work in the Ottoman Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while his mother was the daughter of a British consul in Bursa and then Constantinople.

His priviledged and multicultural upbringing provided a quality education, leading to Bey becoming polyglot fluent in eight languages. At eighteen, he converted to Islam and adopted the name Ahmet Rüstem
Bey. Following in his father's
footsteps, he joined the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs, with his first
mission in 1881 as a French
translator in Bulgaria. Notably,
he served in this capacity
during the same period that
Lew Wallace was Minister
to Türkiye.

After his service in Bulgaria, Bey was assigned to diplomatic missions in Greece, Serbia, the United Kingdom, and Romania before being posted to Washington, D.C. as a secretary of the Turkish embassy. However, he resigned after a few weeks to join the Greco-Turkish War of 1897. The conflict lasted just thirty-two days, and Bey soon returned to diplomatic work. In 1901, Bey exposed financial mismanagement within the Ottoman Legation in Washington D.C., a revelation that led to his estrangement from Sultan Abdul Hamid II, who accused him of treason. Consequently, Bey resigned. A few years later, the Ottoman

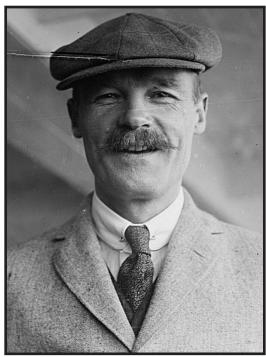


Lew Wallace Statue Dedication in Statuary Hall, Washington D.C. (LOC)

Empire was engulfed in political turmoil. The Young Turk Revolution of 1908, followed by the failed countercoup of 1909, resulted in the deposition of Abdul Hamid, and the beginning of the Second Constitutional Era. This period brought hopes for recovery and reform but also fueled radical nationalism and violence. Once a vibrant empire characterized by artistic expression, pragmatism, and tolerance, the Ottomans were now approaching their demise as partisan politics increasingly dominated the hearts and minds of its people. In April 1909, escalating tensions led to the massacre of 25,000 Christian Armenians in the Adana province. The atrocities in Adana sent shockwaves throughout the Christian world, prompting the American press to demand accountability from Ottoman authorities, including Bey.

Now, approaching the podium at the unveiling of Wallace's statue, Bey began by stating, "My remarks will be brief. After a comprehensive review of Lew Wallace's career which has been made by the preceding speakers, it would be entirely superfluous and almost presumptuous for me to embark upon the same subject. But the occasion is a fitting one to speak of Turco-American relations."

With numerous American political elites in attendance, the occasion provided Bey with the perfect opportunity



Ahmet Rüstem Bey

to defend his country amidst the growing fallout. Steering the conversation away from Wallace's tenure as diplomat, Bey continued, "I am happy to say that these relations have become friendly and cordial. The people of this country realize better every day that the misdeeds which marked the history of Turkey during the last thirty-five years are traceable to the wickedness and despotic authority of one man, the deposed Sultan... Every race has its dregs. The weakening of public authority... are immediately seized by unworthy members of every community to perpetrate outrage under the influence of religious, racial, or private passion. Knowing this, you cannot hold the whole Turkish people accountable for a tragedy...between two Ottoman elements...freed from all administrative control and stimulated by evil agents."

Ahmet Bey concluded his speech by addressing the American public's limited understanding of Türkiye, expressing optimism that the new regime would foster closer relations, allowing both nations to better appreciate and benefit from one another. His words seemed to resonate, as the audience responded with enthusiastic applause.

Despite his diplomatic effort, the American press remained critical. In June 1914, Bey was appointed as the Ottoman Empire's full Ambassador to the United States. Yet, he continued to face scrutiny over the massacres. In response to these accusations, Bey controversially likened the Armenian atrocities to the American history of racial violence—citing the lynching of Black Americans, the displacement of Native Americans, and the brutal torture of Filipinos during the Philippine-American War.

President Woodrow Wilson, outraged by the comparison, quickly condemned Bey's remarks. In a stern letter to the Ottoman government, Wilson declared that Bey's services were no longer needed in the United States. Though Bey attempted to defend his statements in a letter to Secretary of State Robert Lansing, the Ottoman government ultimately recalled him, bringing his diplomatic mission to an abrupt end.

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General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions Received July 1, 2024 through October 15, 2024

Every member and donor matters a great deal to us and we appreciate your support. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error in your listing, please contact us immediately.

Memberships

Ben-Hur

Elaine & Rick Chase

Ambassador

Wanda & Dan Bennett
Farzaneh & Phil Boots
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Vote For New Board Members

It's time again to approve the slate for the Society's board of trustees. This group governs the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum on behalf of the City of Crawfordsville, which owns the site. Each year, individuals are slated for election on a rotating basis. Once elected, the term is three years with eligibility for two consecutive terms. Below is the ballot that we ask you to complete, detach, and mail back to the museum by December 15, 2024. Your participation in this election is greatly appreciated!

Please mail your ballot to LWSPS, PO Box 662, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 by 12/15/2024

2024 Lew Wallace Hoosier Author Fair

Each year, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum hosts a gathering of regional authors for the Lew Wallace Hoosier Author Fair. The event is free and open to the public. Authors will have their books and related merchandise for sale and are happy to sign copies and chat with readers.

This year's Lew Wallace Hoosier Author Fair will be held in conjunction with Crawfordsville Main Street's Downtown Party Night Saturday, November 30, from 5 - 8 p.m. on the third floor of Fusion54, located at 101 W. Main Street.

Each author is responsible for taking payments, so readers should bring cash as well as credit cards.

2024 Authors as of Nov. 1

Attending authors represent several genres of writing, including science fiction, fantasy, romance, Indiana history, nonfiction, poetry, mystery, politics, and Christian living.

Laura VanArendonk Baugh is an award-winning writer of speculative fiction, mystery, and non-fiction. Her works have earned numerous accolades including praise from *Publishers Weekly*. Laura enjoys hiking, and chocolate.

Ray E. Boomhower is senior editor at the Indiana Historical Society Press, where he serves as editor of *Traces of Indiana*

and Midwestern History. He has written extensively about Indiana history. His books include Indiana Originals: Hoosier Heroes and Heroines; The Sword and the Pen: A Life of Lew Wallace; and To Be Hoosiers: Historic Stories of Character and Fortitude.

Agata Izabela Brewer was born and raised in Poland. A teacher, a mother, an activist for immigrant rights, she is Professor of English at Wabash College. Her creative writing has appeared in Guernica and Entropy. *The Hunger Book* is her first book of creative nonfiction set in communist Poland and contemporary Montgomery County, Indiana.

Josh A. Brewer studies part time with Harvard University (DCE) and currently serves as visiting faculty at Purdue University. He has taught writing at the University of Miami, University of South Carolina, Tennessee State, and Aquinas College. His work appears in Harvard Review, RHINO, Poetry Quarterly, Southeast Review, and Poets Against War, as well as other fine venues. He published a book, Writers Resist, with Chatter House Press (2017).

Tony Brewer is a poet and audio artist from Bloomington, Indiana. He is executive director of the Spoken Word Stage at the 4th Street Festival and coproducer of the Writers Guild Spoken Word Series. He has published 8 books, including *Homunculus*, and *Pity for Sale*. Tony has been offering Poetry on Demand at coffeehouses, museums, churches, bars, and festivals for over a decade, and is a frequent collaborator with experimental music & field recording collective Urban Deer.

David Brown is an Electrical Engineer by education, a software developer by profession, and an author by choice. David grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis, MN but moved to Indiana for college. He is a writer of Christian Fiction and Fantasy with his books *The Omega Gambit*, *En Passant*, and *The Paladin*.

Stephanie A. Cain writes epic & urban fantasy novels. She grew up in Indiana, where much of her urban fantasy is set. Her books include the Storms in Amethir series, the Circle City Magic urban fantasy set in Indianapolis, and several anthologies. She will also be selling copies of New Richmond, IN: A History of the Greatest Little Town on Earth, by her grandmother, Phyllis Waye Boone.

James Graham retired after thirty years working for an automobile manufacturer and began to chase his passion for writing. Active in his church, Graham has written two Christian historical fiction books McDougal's Glen and Parson Booker, and Riding the Circuit. His website

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Author Fair Continued

thehoosierwordsmith.com has nearly 500 of his poems and short stories available.

Jason Hendrickson has been a designer, art director, and illustrator for over thirty years. A rural Crawfordsville native, Jason grew up surrounded by books to keep him company. His art interests led to illustrating several children's books, as well as the creation of his own work, BOOK! and The Legacy Drawer.

Ethan Hollander is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Wabash College. He is the creator of the 24-lecture series on Wondrium (Formerly Great Courses) called *Democracy and Its Alternatives*, which looks at the future of democracy, not just in the United States, but globally. Ethan's work strives to bridge the gap between academic disciplines to better understand our world.

Shannon Sullivan Hudson

is a middle school by day, and a diligent historian by night. She is passionate about local Indiana history and has produced several books on Crawfordsville history including The Legend of the Legendary League:

A History of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and To Remember the Forgotten School: Lincoln School for Colored Children Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Garrett Hutson writes upmarket mysteries and historical spy fiction, driven by characters who are moving and unforgettable. He lives in Indianapolis with his husband, three adorable dogs, one oddball cat, and more fish than you can count. You can usually find him reading about history, and day-dreaming about being there.

Krystina K. Leganza uses her Ph. D. in mathematics from Notre Dame to teach the problem-solving skills to children with her book *M* is for *Math*. She has taught at the University level in Indiana for more than thirty years, living in Carmel with her husband and two rescue dogs.

David J. Marsh came to belief as a child and grew up steeped in biblical narratives. His mother read to him and his father was a pastor as well as a student of both theology and biblical languages. His debut novel, *The Confessions of Adam*, a re-telling of the universal and dramatic narrative that opens the book of Genesis, was a 2020 Oregon Christian Writers Cascade Award finalist and a 2021 Illumination Award medalist.

James Pauley Jr. has been jet-setting around the world as a flight attendant since 1978. His book *Bumpy Rides and Soft Landings* follows his life, one meaningful adventure at a time. His writing style is uniquely

humorous, poignant, sarcastic, self-deprecating, honest, and mildly outrageous, saying things exactly as he sees it.

Katie Andrews Potter is a poet and novelist. She writes for the young and young-at-heart, drawing from her inspiration from nature and the people of the past. Her books range from fairy tales to family history. A lifelong Hoosier, she has written a children's picture book about an Indiana Pioneer ancestor, as well as novels inspired by Indiana literary legends Gene Stratton-Porter and James Whitcomb Riley.

M. K. Scott is the husband and wife writing team behind the cozy mystery series, *The Painted Lady Inn Mysteries*, *The Talking Dog Detective Agency*, *The Way Over the Hill Gang*, and *The Tenacious Librarian* series. Morgan K. Wyatt is the wordsmith, while husband Scott is the grammar hammer and physics specialist.

Kelly O'Dell Stanley is a graphic designer who writes. Or maybe a writer who also designs. She is the author of *Praying Upside Down* and *Designed to Pray*. She's received awards from the NAHB, Public Relations Society of America, the Webby Competition, and Art Directors Club of Indiana. Kelly's writing awards include first place in Inspirational Writing in the 2013 Writer's Digest competition and a finalist in

Author Fair Continued

the Cascade Oregon Christian Writers Contest in 2017.

Sarah Styf is a high school English teacher who lives in Hancock County where she enjoys writing, running, and camping with her family. She is the author travel memoirs *Embracing the Journey*, and *The Life I Never Knew I Wanted*.

Larry Sweazy's is the author of nineteen novels and one short story collection, including *Lost Mountain Pass*, *The Broken*

Bow, and Where I Can See You. His western fiction and mystery thriller writing has earned him two Spur Awards, four Will Rogers Medallion Awards, and the West Willa Award. He Lives in Noblesville, Indiana.

Stephen Terrell is a retired Indiana attorney with a passion for writing. He has written three novels, numerous short stories, and is a columnist for the American Bar Association's Experience Magazine. His historical true crime book *The Madness of John Terrel:*

Revenge and Insanity on Trial in the Heartland was just released in late October.

Jamie Ward is the author behind Cornfields and High Heels, a travel and lifestyle site dedicated to sharing travel and adventures. Her books 100 Things to Do In Indiana Before You Die and Midwest Road Trip Adventures show her love of travel and experience, especially in Indiana.

General Lew Wallace deserves his place in history. Help us preserve that place.

Membership to the **Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society** begins with your annual contribution of \$25 or more. Membership offers discounts and complimentary admission and event tickets.

Lieutenant Level—\$25 (Individual)

- · Complimentary admission for 1
- Subscription to newsletter

Major General Level—\$50 (Family)

- Complimentary admission for family
- · Subscription to newsletter

Governor Level—\$100 (Sustainer)

- · Major General-level benefits, plus
- 10% discount in museum shop



Ambassador Level—\$250 (Benefactor)

- Governor-level benefits, plus
- 2 tickets to the annual Taste of Montgomery County

Ben-Hur Level-\$500+ (Patron)

- Ambassador Level benefits, plus
- 1 ticket to the annual Holiday Tea

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 I'm declining benefits, ma 	king my contribution	deductible to t	he full extent of IRS regulations.

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From The Garden

Deb King

Grounds Manager

Although the gardens were watered, a long summer drought had the gardens suffering. Zinnias, which thrive in Susan's garden, had their bright colors muted by the lack of rainfall. Mother Nature's rainfall is the best medicine for flowers and we didn't receive much in August and September.

The newly rejuvenated moat garden did surprisingly well. This garden is filled with zinnias, castor beans, daisies, bee balm, marigolds, coneflower, celosia, butterfly weed and milkweed. I believe the squirrels and birds splashing around in the birdbath kept the plants watered!

The trees have begun to show their fall foliage. Bright orange, yellow, gold are the first colors to appear. My hope is the drought won't affect one of the prettiest autumn-colored

trees, the Ginkgo biloba or maidenhair tree which turns to a beautiful bright golden yellow in the fall. This prehistoric tree has fan-shaped leaves and light grey-brown bark. It is a great urban tree being practically pest and disease free. The ginkgo is slow growing, with heights reaching up to 100 feet. The colorful fall foliage is long lasting and will drop all at once, making for easy cleanup.

Fall bulbs are waiting to be planted. A boxful (hundreds) of bulbs, mostly daffodils, were dug up during the Moat garden rehab and will be replanted. Additional dark red tulips and mixed color crocus will be planted by Thanksgiving. New to the gardens will be giant hyacinths and snowdrops.

Hyacinths, popular since the mid-1700s, have a great



Zinnia

fragrance and bright colored blooms. They will be planted in Tee's garden, named after General Wallace's grandson.

Early snowdrops will be planted throughout the grounds as well. Snowdrops make for a great naturalized carpet of white in the early spring, growing only 4 to 10 inches tall. A mass planting of the bulbs will give the best show. A few of the snowdrops will be combined with crocus to provide a beautiful prelude to spring.



Ginkgo biloba leaves



Snowdrops

18th Annual Taste a Major Success

Saturday, August 24, 2024, was a beautiful day for the TASTE of Montgomery County!

The Stampede String Band opened with engaging bluegrass and flat-picking. The Moon Cats had the place rocking with classic covers from the 1950s and 60s. Headlining was guitar savant Michael Kelsey and his band.

2024 vendors included: The Barefoot Restaurant & Bar, China Inn, Coal Creek Cellars, The Country Club, Four Seasons, Greek's Pizzeria, Jesús Kettle Corn, The Juniper Spoon, Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society, Klooz Brewz, Tacos el Pampano, Turnin' Leaves/Rollin' Dough, Sabores de Veracruz Bakery, and Zula's BBQ & Hawaiian Shave Ice.

The People's Choice awards went to: **The Juniper Spoon** for

best entrée; Four Seasons Local Market for best side dish, and Sabores de Veracruz Bakery for best dessert.

Thank you to the Title Sponsors:
Acuity Brands; Crossroads
Furniture; Hoosier Heartland State
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Jessica Bokhart; Dr. Howard
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Tourism Commission; Nucor Steel;
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and Tri-County Bank & Trust.

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TASTE Committee: Dale Petrie, Deb King, Elaine and Rick Chase, Rusty Carter; Tom Meeks, Erin Gobel; Heather Shirk; Larry Paarlberg; Lali Hess; and chair Jessica Bokhart.

Mark August 23, 2025, on your calendar for next TASTE!



Study Scrapbook





Photographs Clockwise:

Owen Bennett & Thomas Meeks as
Henry S. Lane & Lew Wallace at the
MCHS Trunk or Treat

Community Day Volunteers

Beth Swift Lecturing on 1850s Crawfordsville

Lew Wallace Impersonator Bernie O'Bryan at the Taste

Dolores Hydock & Bobby Horton Performace



GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Holiday Tea & Fashion Show

Friday, December 6, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m healthcliff Fashion Show 3:30-5:00 p.m

Wabash College Glee Club 5:15 p.m

Tea, Sweets, and Savories Served Door Prize Drawings Throughout the Afternoon

Holiday Tea Sponsors:

Chris Amidon
Patience Barnes
Diane Beemer
Jessica Bokhart
Farzaneh Boots
Joyce Burnette
Lucy Brooks

Catherine Caldwell remembering

Catherine Caldwell
Debra Stonebraker
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Carol Cook
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Sheila Evans honoring Helen Hudson

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Katherine H. Fox remembering

Ginny & Will Hays Erin Gobel

Diane Green honoring Chris Amidon

Sheridan Hadley

Sherry Harris honoring Naomi Mitchell Sandy Henthorn honoring Kathy Steele

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Carol Homann honoring Jean Williams

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Patty Sommer honoring Linda Kingry Molly Spillane honoring Cheryl Keim,

Gail Pebworth, & Sarah Lawrence

Kathy Steele Gail Stephens Marie Stocks

Beth Swift honoring Johanna Herring

Karen Thada Robyn Thompson Jan Vaughn-Horner Nancy Van Arendonk Beverly Wyatt

Jerilyn Yerkes