

BLACK TIE CLUB

An organization promoting Good Fellowship, Excellent Food and Superb Wine



30th Anniversary Commemorative Issue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY DOUGAN

Magazine Mailing Address

Black Tie Club International
c/o RE:Print Copy & Printing Ltd.
388 Parliament Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 2Z7

visit us online at

www.blacktieclubinternational.com

User Name: formalguy

Password: Gentlemen1

Editor-in-Chief Jim Boey

Contributing Editor Steve Gale

Founding Editor Bob Gregson

Chapters located in

Atlanta, GA; Baton Rouge, LA; Central Florida
(Daytona Beach, Orlando, Jacksonville); Dallas, TX;
Fort Lauderdale, FL; Laguna Beach, CA; Los Angeles,
CA; New Mexico, NM; New York/New Jersey;
Palm Beach, FL; Palm Springs, CA; Philadelphia, PA;
Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ; Rehoboth Beach/Lewes,
DE; Rochester/Finger Lakes, NY; San Diego, CA;
San Francisco, CA; Toronto, ON; Washington, DC

International President Gary Dougan

International President Emeritus Len Olds

Founder Bob Gregson

International Treasurer Mike Gin

V.P. Communications Jim Boey

International Secretary Charles Priest (Acting)

International Advisors

Richard Armstrong, Bill Bryan, John Herrick,
Bob O'Neal, Peter MacMillan, Andy Staton

Contacts

Club Rules & Regulations

International President, Gary Dougan
36558 Via Abeja, Cathedral City, CA 92234
510-381-8182 BTCIPrez@gmail.com

For Magazine Information,

E-mail or Upload Photography & Articles,

Contact:

Editor-in-Chief, Jim Boey
Blacktiesf@gmail.com

Front & Back Cover Design

Jim Boey

Contents Layout, Design & Format

Rama Luksiarto

Thirty Years of Black Tie! In April 1990, Mr. Bob Gregson put together a visionary group of 20 gentlemen to meet new people with similar interests: to have fun together experiencing good food and excellent wine in a black-tie setting. As you thumb through this issue, please enjoy what has developed from this vision – namely hundreds of like-minded gentlemen over 19 chapters and 2 nations. Mr. Bob Gregson, we continue to salute your vision! I'm happy to report that all chapters have participated in this issue!

Member Safety is of utmost importance. I support the decisions to cancel or postpone chapter and international events in compliance with national and local safety guidelines during this pandemic.

Full Dues Rollover from 2020 to 2021. Most chapters have had no formal in-person gatherings this year, so I am rolling all dues collected in 2020 over to 2021. There will be no Dues Renewal this Fall for 2021 for our members.

2021: The Year of Recruitment and Club expansion. Let's share the Black Tie experience with some new men. I ask that chapters (that are NOT already at capacity), **adopt a 10% expansion goal for 2021.** This means that for most chapters, bringing in a single man (or two) or a couple will help to achieve this goal of modest expansion. This takes the assistance of all of us talking to our friends to invite them into our club.

Virtual Happy Hours. Our members have been most pleased with our quarterly Virtual Happy Hours via Zoom. Our inaugural May call had over 70 screens with nearly 100 people in attendance. Our August call had 44 screens with over 60 people. **Please join us for our next quarterly Virtual Happy Hour on Wednesday, November 18th at 4:30 pm Pacific; 7:30 pm Eastern.** Club Presidents will circulate the Zoom coordinates.

ATLANTA Convergence 2020 – postponed to Spring 2022. All registrations will be (or already have been) refunded IN FULL. We hope you will join us for **Atlanta 2.0** in 2022. Exact dates will be announced soon. Convergences are grand events for members to travel again and enjoy each other's company.

Phoenix / Scottsdale Convergence 2021: Registration website is active. See the ad on the back cover. Get registered and get your hotel reservation at the delightful Doubletree Resort by Hilton without fear of penalty if event is postponed or cancelled. Check out the Convergence website for all the special events and excursions being planned at www.convergence2021.com. The Committee needs early registrations!

Go International with us. I look forward to opening up international travel again. We are finalizing our Cultural and Culinary adventure to **LUXEMBOURG**, including six nights of fine dining, June 2-6, 2021 (limited to 35 gents; see ad in this issue).

Black Tie Goes to PUERTO VALLARTA, Spring or Fall 2022 (limited to 45 gents). Contact me directly at btcpirez@gmail.com with your expression of interest.

Future International Convergences: 2022 Atlanta 2.0; 2023 Toronto; 2024 Dallas. Watch for 2025 and after – announcements forthcoming.

Thank You for 30 years of Black Tie Club International, with many more years to come.

In Fellowship,

Gary Dougan - President BTCI

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Black Tie Club International members,

Although these are difficult times, Black Tie Club International is flourishing.

So much has happened since I retired from being International President and Editor of the Magazine. Fourteen years ago, in 2006, Len Olds graciously accepted the responsibilities of International President. Seven years ago, in 2013, Dick Mangan bravely accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Magazine. Then in 2018, Gary Dougan became the Club's third International President and, just last year, Jim Boey our third Editor-in-Chief of the BTCI Magazine. Unfortunately my health hasn't allowed me the opportunity of meeting all the new Chapter Presidents and the many members who have joined since I retired. Although I do feel quite sad about that, who knows what will happen in the future.

I still love Black Tie and everything it stands for; "Good Friends ... Excellent Food ... Superb Wine", and the thousands of happy moments shared with one another over the past 30 years.

I have made many wonderful friends throughout our Club who I will not forget, and special thanks to the International Presidents and Editors-in-Chief who followed me (and their loving partners): Len Olds and Hugh Rouse; Dick Mangan; Gary Dougan and Charlie Priest; and Jim Boey and Bob Highsmith.

And also special thanks to Peter Erlendson, who served as International Treasurer for over 20 years.

All their hard work and the continuing efforts of each of our local chapters on behalf of Black Tie Club International have certainly helped make the Club the success it is today.

I wish all of you good health, continued success and above all... LOVE!

Bob Gregson, Founder, Black Tie Club International

AND AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS REGARDING BTCI EVENTS & COVID-19

Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our members, families and friends. Currently all Local Chapter and International events in 2020 have been postponed or cancelled. We are not publishing an Events List in this issue of the Magazine. Please check the Events schedule on-line and contact the Local Chapter to confirm whether any upcoming events have been rescheduled.

WWW.BLACKTIECLUBINTERNATIONAL.COM

A MESSAGE FROM BTCI INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT EMERITUS

When I started the Laguna Beach Black Tie Chapter in 1994, little did I dream that twelve years later I would become the second International President. Following our founder, Bob Gregson, seemed a daunting task, but I have never enjoyed leadership more than the next twelve years that I served in that capacity. How could you match the joy of fellowship among a wonderful group of gentlemen from all over the United States and Canada?

From 2006 until 2018, my partner Hugh Rouse and I spent the ensuing years flying around our two countries, sometimes 15 times a year, to attend our chapter Black Tie events. The highlight of each year was our International Event hosted by our individual clubs. What fun seeing everyone and sharing our lives on an ongoing basis, both the good times and those with problems. Making lifelong friends was the most enriching part of our travels and it has meant a great deal to the two of us.

From 2006 - 2018, Black Tie International grew from 12 chapters to 21, and a membership that topped out at just under 1,000 individuals. How fantastic it was to see our growth and to work with such terrific Chapter and International leaders. There are far too many people's names to mention, but they know who they are and how much I appreciated their time and effort. Congratulations on our Thirtieth Anniversary to you all.

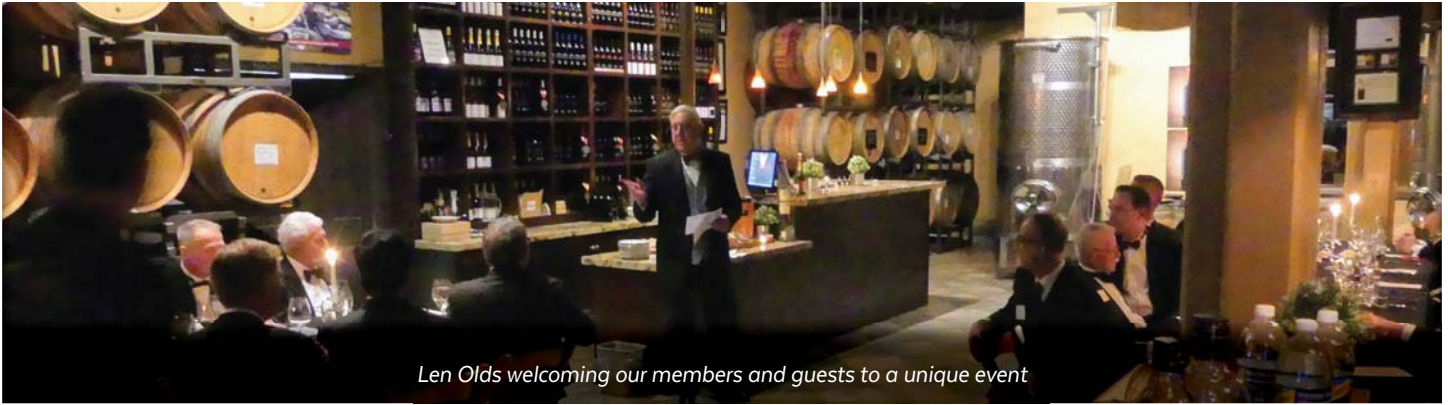
Len Olds
Laguna Beach, California



Bob Gregson, Len Olds, Peter MacMillan



Len Olds, Bob Gregson



Len Olds welcoming our members and guests to a unique event

WINEMAKERS DINNER



By Alan Miller
Chapter Member

On February 8th the Laguna Beach Black Tie Club held a winemakers dinner at the Laguna Canyon Winery—Orange County’s first urban winery. Situated in a unique Barrel Tasting Room with 62 working barrels of wine, wine press and bottling equipment, this award-winning winery produces limited quantities of high-quality wines with premium grapes sourced from select vineyards in Napa and Sonoma Valleys.

Hosted by *Tod Burnett* and *Pat Witting*, guests of the sold-out event were greeted with a glass of champagne and then had the opportunity to sample several barrel tastings. After a lively reception of wine, charcuterie and conversation, guests enjoyed a four-course gourmet dinner paired with select wines including a 2106 Napa Valley Semillon, 2016 Barrel Thief Red Blend (Zinfandel/Syrah), 2016 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc, 2016 Reserve Petite Sirah and 2017 California Pink Moscato.

Marlowe Joe Huber, winemaker and owner, gave a talk about the wines and history of the winery. Later, former Black Tie International President *Len Olds* provided enthusiastic welcome remarks and encouraged members to attend the upcoming Atlanta Convergence and Luxembourg Culinary Adventure. Remarks were also made by Los Angeles Black Tie Club President *Steven Katz* who took the opportunity to talk about his neighboring chapter inviting everyone to their upcoming event and thanking Laguna Beach for inviting him and his LA club members.

Laguna Beach Black Tie was thrilled to hold a successful event highlighting the organization’s motto of “Good Fellowship, Excellent Food and Superb Wine”.



Charles Priest, Steve Katz, Jan Donsbach, Joel Masotti, Jordan Budd



Hugh Rouse, Joe Carberry, Orson Dee



Our Hosts, Tod Burnett and Patrick Witting



Hugh Rouse, Len Olds



Jeff Butcher, Brad Davis



Kevin Le, Claus Dieckell



Pat Witting, Gabriel Nossovitch, Reuben Jimenez, Tod Burnett



Tod Burnett doing mandatory wine tasting

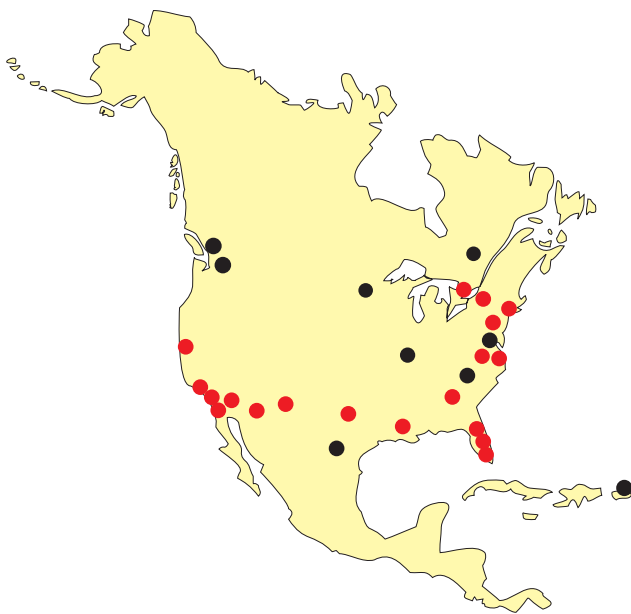


Wes Litzinger, Brian Smith



THE BEGINNINGS OF BLACK TIE INTERNATIONAL

by Peter MacMillan, President Emeritus, Toronto Chapter



Legend

- Active Chapter
- Defunct Chapter

Black Tie Club International (BTCI) Founder Bob Gregson established the first chapter in Toronto in 1990. This chapter has flourished and become one of the largest in the organization. While some chapters have not survived, there has been steady growth over 30 years and today, there are 19 active chapters in North America with a total of 753 members. Here are brief narratives from each chapter in chronological order, beginning with Toronto member Peter MacMillan, a charter member of BTCI.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1190 Toronto | 2002 Central Florida |
| 1993 Minneapolis - St.Paul | 2003 St. Louis |
| 1990 Laguna Beach | 2003 Ft. Lauderdale |
| 1996 San Juan, PR | 2003 San Francisco |
| 1996 New York/New Jersey | 2004 San Diego |
| 1997 Seattle | 2004 New Mexico |
| 1997 Palm Beach | 2004 Los Angeles |
| 1997 Washington, DC | 2007 San Antonio |
| 1997 Palm Springs | 2008 Asheville |
| 1999 Baton Rouge | 2008 Phoenix/Scottsdale |
| 2000 Baltimore | 2009 Atlanta |
| 2000 Dallas | 2011 Philadelphia |
| 2001 Rehoboth Beach/Lewes | 2012 Rochester/Fingerlakes |
| 2011 Montreal, Canada | 2017 Vancouver, BC |

Way back in 1990 long before there was any fear of a world wide pandemic *Bob Gregson* came up with the idea of starting a formal gentlemen's club. The idea was to have everyone dress in tuxedos (Bob, like most of us, looked good in a tuxedo) and have an evening of cocktails at someone's home followed by dinner at an upscale restaurant. In later years the Toronto chapter grew too large for most members to host at their home so cocktails were often held at the same location as the dinner.

Bob and I put together a list of about 20 friends to attend cocktails at Bob's on April 28, 1990 followed by dinner at a Bistro Bernard which was in walking distance of Bob's apartment. As a result of the success



Toronto Park Plaza March 1997 - John Lownsbrough, Micheal Young, Peter MacMillan, Bob Gregson



Black Tie in Quebec City Sept 1998 - Tim Bruns, Hugh Rouse, Peter Erlendson, Gaylon Sprimont



Toronto December 1997, Faculty Club - Peter Erlendson, John Herrick, Dan Pye, Frank DeFelice

of the first dinner *David Grisim* and *Neil Chang* decided to follow up with a dinner on October 27, 1990 at the Tuscan Club which consisted of two railway coaches located at 50 Station Road in Leaside. The coaches were opulent beyond belief as they were the private living space and dining room of the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Members enjoyed getting together so *Kerry Dawson* and I hosted a cocktail party at our townhouse for 38 members and potential members on Irwin Avenue followed by dinner at La Provence a nearby French Bistro on February 9, 1991. After dinner many members walked a very short distance to Colby's a bar which featured exotic dancers and lots of action. By this time the club seemed to be working well so Bob formalized things by creating an executive team consisting of Bob Gregson President, *Peter MacMillan* Vice President, *Kerry Dawson* Secretary and *Peter Erlendson* Treasurer. Although some members thought the club should have a charitable goal Bob insisted the club should be "An organization promoting good fellowship, excellent food and superb wine". Bob felt it would be too complicated to add a charitable aspect as there would always be disputes as to what charities should benefit and who should get the tax deduction. It was better to let members decide on their own charities and contribute as they saw fit.

As a result of the success of the Toronto Chapter Bob decided that the club should expand to other cities. The first attempt at such growth was hosted by *Bob Heacock* in the Twin Cities. Unfortunately this event did not go as planned as many of the proposed members misunderstood the dress code and showed up in drag at one of the finest restaurants in Minneapolis. This did not go over well with the International President but the Twin Cities Chapter carried on until Bob Heacock moved to Palm Springs.

Much more successful was the Laguna Beach chapter which was started by *Charles Brubaker* and *Pat Marley*. Charles and Pat had a cottage on Lake Muskoka north of Toronto and often attended the Toronto dinners. They agreed to start a

club in Laguna by hosting a cocktail party at their home on Friday January 19, 1994 and a dinner the following night in the Boom, Boom room of the Five Crowns restaurant. The timing of the dinner worked out well for me as I flew on two days later for Mardi Gras in Australia.

The first Black Tie Club Members Newsletter (Volume 1, No. 1) was written by Bob Gregson on January 22, 1995. The letter mainly consisted of gossip about what members were up to such as "just heard that *Glenn* and *Jens* have been down visiting *Richard Malone* and *Rodney Andreychuk* in Puerto Rico and will stop by New York on the way home (my these boys really get around)". Under the heading Important Note Bob added: "You will recall at our October dinner that we asked everyone present if they wanted a newsletter sent out keeping all advised of our events and those of other Black Tie Club dinners that take place in Minneapolis and Laguna Beach. Everyone agreed and it was voted on that a \$15.00 per address annual fee be set for membership in the Black Tie Club (this will cover printing and postage of the newsletter and other advisements)." I guess inflation has taken its toll on that fee. The first International event was hosted by the aforementioned *Richard Malone* and *Rodney Andreychuk* in San Juan Puerto Rico in March 1996. The event went on for several days with dinners, a cocktail parties at *Richard* and *Rodney's*, champagne and truffles in the rainforest and a wonderful party at *John Sebastian's* penthouse followed by the Black Tie dinner at *Zabo* on Saturday March 2, 1996.

I keep calendars of daily events going back to the early 70's and most of the Black Tie Newsletters since the beginning so I think the dates set forth above are correct. I guess you could call me an anal pack rat. It was fun for me over the years attending inaugural dinners in many chapters such as Laguna Beach, Palm Springs and Dallas and also attending Black Tie International gatherings in countless cities. Many thanks to Bob Gregson for starting the Club and may it continue for many more years to come.


Peter MacMillan
Toronto

26 years of LAGUNA BEACH CHAPTER



It was in the late winter of 1993 that *Bob Gregson*, Founder of Black Tie Club International, called *Len Olds* in Laguna Beach and explained that there was a Black Tie Chapter in Toronto and he wanted to know if Len thought there would be interest in forming a chapter in Laguna. Len assured him that he would have a list within 24 hours and did.

On Saturday, February 19, 1994 two of the soon to be charter members, *Pat Morley* and *Charles Brubaker* (who also had a home north of Toronto) sent out invitations to the first 35 potential names and hosted a Cocktail Party at their Laguna Beach home. The following day, Sunday, February 20, 1994, the Black Tie Club of Toronto hosted a dinner party at the Five Crowns restaurant in Corona Del Mar, California. That night, Black Tie Laguna was formed and Len Olds was the President for the next twelve years, until *Alan Miller* took over for him and Len went on to another 12 years as International President.

Since its beginning, the chapter has maintained a Waiting List and, as members passed away or relocated, new people were invited to join and our capacity went from 35 to 42 members which we still maintain. There are seven active members from the Charter List who are still partying with the newest people and we look forward to celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2024. It has been a joyous organization for both old and new



23 years of NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The New York / New Jersey Chapter was formed by Gary Meehan and his partner, Frank Silver after meeting Bob Gregson and Peter Erlendson on a cruise. Gary and Frank invited friends to a cocktail party at their home and then an inaugural dinner in South Orange, NJ in 1997. There was not a chapter in New York City and Bob Gregson asked Gary, chapter president, to include New York gentlemen in the chapter. A South Jersey Chapter was then formed under the leadership of David Dennin and Tony Curreri. David later became co-president with Gary Meehan of the NY/NJ Chapter when they merged.

Venues for chapter weekends and dinners alternated between New York and New Jersey with events at the Rhiga Royal Hotel, NJ's Park Avenue Club, Central Park's Boathouse, and weekend events in New Hope, PA and a co-sponsored Philadelphia weekend with the Baltimore Chapter. NJ members supported and attended the inaugural events of the Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Rehoboth Beach-Lewes chapters.

After Frank Silver passed away, Gary Meehan relocated to Ft. Lauderdale and resigned as president, as did David Dennin, and Fred Wahl who was president of the Ft. Lauderdale chapter when they hosted the 2016 convergence. Len Olds and John Herrick hosted several events in New York City to reinvigorate the chapter and Ian Danic and David Green became co-presidents. The inaugural members who have maintained their membership and support for the past twenty years are Richard Salerni, Robert Villanova, John Behre, and David Green.



Richard Salerni, Robert Villanova, David Hochberg, David Saylor



2016 Buffalo Club



Joe Conn leads conga NY-NJ BTC at Yale Club



September 2018 Papillon, NYC



Len Olds, John Manelas, Ian Danic, Rubens Penna at India House



Frank Silver, Gary Meehan, Robert Villanova, Richard Salerni



John Burger, Gary Meehan,
Frank Silver 2007



Charles Mulkeen and George
Wishart at Rochester
Convergence

23 years of PALM BEACH CHAPTER



One night in Toronto, in the early 1990's, *Bob Gregson* and *John Herrick* were having dinner with eight friends. At the end of their dinner, they decided they would like to "do this again in six months". The Black Tie Club was born that night. The participants of that dinner started Black Tie Chapter in cities around the country over the following years. John Herrick along with *Danny Pye* started the South Florida Chapter in 1997. In 2003, when the South Florida Chapter grew to over 100 members, it split in to two Chapters, Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale. Danny Pye moved to Ft. Lauderdale as President and *Sid Lesowitz* took over as President of the Palm Beach Chapter. The Club continues to grow and Sid remained President until May of 2011. *Charles Contessa* followed Sid as President of the Palm Beach Chapter until today. After our Club hosted the International Event in 2011, our chapter began hosting casual events in addition to our formal events. As soon as circumstances allow, we are anxious to return to days of socializing and the camaraderie that we have enjoyed over the years.



April 2012: Back: Mark Wise, Peter Rogers, Host - Tony Plakas, Don Todorich. Front: Mariano Morales, Rand Hoch, Fred Zrinscak, Sid Lesowitz, Host - Jamie Foreman



April 2016: Ray Collins, Gaylon Sprimont, Roland Saurage, Dean Bordelon, Richard Peterson



December 2015: Hosts of the preparty cocktail party Fred Zrinscak, Christopher Caneles, Steve Nesbitt



December 2015: Sid Lesowitz, Tim Harris, Auggie Venezia, Dennis Fitzkee, John Fariello



December 2014: Ted Chichak, Richard Peterson, Gaylon Sprimont, Pedro Sola, Dan Hall, Victor Barrett, Russ Robinson



December 2017: Charles Contessa, David Sarama, Roy Rodriguez, Richard Reed, Don Todorich



May 2011: The Palm Beach Board Members at the Black Tie International Event held in Palm Beach



February 2011 - Our 1st Casual Event. Top Row: David Sarama, Bill Perry, Charles Contessa, Rick Pollack, Howard Marcus Bottom Row: Ben Oshlack, Paul Friedman, Ed Sheenan



2019 Dinner Cruise: Wayne Raulin, Ricky Martin, Dennis Perry, Tom Balling



January 2020: Albert Kirchner, Wayne Lewis, Rob Scarborough, Christopher Caneles, Dennis Perry



March 25, 2018: Richard Reed, Chris Kron, Craig Mitchell, Dick Mangan, Fred Peck, Claude Rossi

23 years of PALM SPRINGS CHAPTER



Once upon a time, long, long ago (before 2002) and in a galaxy far, far away (called Palm Springs—the gay capital of the western universe), it was set forth on this continent a new social organization for a group of elegant, sophisticated, and physically attractive gay men.

OK. That's it. You guessed it, we don't have the records going back to the founding of the Palm Springs Black Tie Club, so we can't acknowledge those founding gentlemen by name (Hermes, Orpheus, Apollo?), but we are very grateful to them for getting the ball (or rock) rolling. Thanks, guys.

And, thanks to Founder *Bob Gregson's* archives for an article from the Spring, 1997 Black Tie Club Magazine about the Palm Springs BTC inaugural event on February 22nd, 1997. The elegant cocktail event was held at the former Gloria Swanson home of *Mark Allen Yarborough* and *Steve Daszuta*. Saturday dinner was held at Melvin's, and the event committee was *Jerry Robinson* (chair), *Gordon Wielenga*, and *Chuck Bisch*. Thanks guys for kicking things off!

Here are a few more photos of our group over the years gathering to celebrate and party like rock stars. Or, maybe like Black Tie Club members. And indeed, after we get through the current COVID unpleasantness, we will be together again. Party on boys! And Happy 30th Birthday!



Robert Heeman, Secretary Bob Walker, Bill Reeher, Tom Patrick, Vice President Ernie Phinney, Dennis Ramberg, Kreg Hill, Stephen Rulo



Seated: Treasurer Bill Bryan, Bill Lanese, Paul Bonness, Charlie Priest Standing: Bill Fisher, President Joe Taylor, International President Gary Dougan, Bob O'Neal



President Joe Taylor and Treasurer Bill Bryan



Bill Christensen, Bill Rupracht, Tony Murray



Gabriel Koh-Gale, Steve Gale



Committee Russ Gamble, Bill Rupracht, Director of Formal Dinner Events Jon Carter, Richard Weldon, Chuck Fleck

22 years of

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER



The District of Columbia Chapter, with 22 members, was inaugurated on Saturday, September 26, 1998 with Cocktails and Hors D'Oeuvres at the historic Morrison-Clark Inn on Massachusetts Avenue NW with the Black Tie Formal dinner across the avenue at the Coeur de Leon Room of the Henley Park Hotel. The Chapter continued to grow under the very capable leadership of *Patrick Bray* with the Chapter hosting the 2002 Black Tie International Weekend at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, steps from the White House. In 2003 *Charles Ray Flynn* assumed the presidency and in 2009 another original chapter member, *Robert Pullen* assumed the presidency. Under both presidencies the chapter continued to expand in membership and dining venues with events held at several embassies – Australia, Canada, New Zealand – and several prominent Washington clubs – The Army Navy Club, The University Club, The City Club, The National Press Club, – several weekend events – The Mimslyn Inn in Luray, LAuberge Provençale in White Post, The Virginia Square in Winchester – as well as some of the major hotels in DC such as the Hotel Madison, and the Renaissance Mayflower. In 2010 the Chapter's Executive Committee decided that the chapter's name would better reflect the breadth of membership by adding the term 'Metropolitan' to the Chapter's name reflecting Members from Maryland and Virginia. After 2013 under the leadership of *Robert Jamroz* the Chapter continued expanding its venues including The Cosmos Club, The Army Navy Country Club, The Tower Club, The Ritz Carlton, and the St. Regis as well as hosting the 2017 Black Tie International Weekend. With the St. Regis and Capitol Hilton as the headquarters hotels and attended by more than 250 Black Tie members, the highlight was the formal dinner at the St. Regis Ballroom under sponsorships from Capitol Pride and The Washington and Los Angeles Blade. The Chapter was highly honored in 2008 and in 2018 with the presence of Black Tie Club International President Len Olds to celebrate the tenth and twentieth anniversary of the Chapter with both celebrations held at the National Press Club. The Metropolitan Washington DC Black Tie Chapter has more than 70 members, and still has 6 original members. The peripatetic nature of Black Tie Club International Members is evidenced by the fact that many DC Chapter members are now found in many other chapters such as Atlanta, Fort Lauderdale, New York/New Jersey, Palm Beach, Palm Springs, Rehoboth Beach-Lewes, and San Diego. The Metropolitan Washington DC Chapter has been significantly enhanced by Members from other Chapters, such as Atlanta, Baton-Rouge, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, and Toronto. Additional Chapter History and Information at dcbtci.org



Overlooking the Capitol from Canada at the 2017 International



American Diplomats at the St. Regis



Long-Time Friends at The City Club



Canadian Diplomats at The National Press Club



Fun and Games at The Army Navy Country Club



A Laugh at The Ritz Carlton



A Laugh at the Hotel Madison



Army Navy Club Cocktails



Cocktails at the Mayflower



Cocktails at the Tower Club



Dressing for The Cosmos Club



21 years of BATON ROUGE CHAPTER



Celebrating 21 years this fall, the Baton Rouge chapter of Black Tie Club International is proud to be as vibrant today as it was the day it was chartered by *Bob Gregson* on October 2, 1999. Baton Rouge founding members, *Joe Possa*, *Roland Saurage*, and *Dean Bordelon* were originally introduced to Black Tie by *Sid Lesowitz* of Palm Beach and prior to organizing the Baton Rouge chapter had the opportunity to travel to many BTC dinners in Toronto, Palm Beach, San Juan, Washington, D.C., and San Miguel. It was at the International Event in San Miguel where Bob Gregson announced Baton Rouge would be the next chapter and appointed Joe Possa as president.

The presidency changed in 2007 to *Dickie Howze* and First Gentleman *Andy Plaisance* and continues under his leadership today, although from the very beginning the club operated on a committee basis including Joe, Dickie, as well as other enthusiastic members. The club has a rich history with access to some of the finest dining establishments and best cuisine in the world, and while Baton Rouge has much to boast of its own as the capital city, it's only a short hour drive to New Orleans with its own famed history. In fact the Baton Rouge chapter has hosted two International Events and chose New Orleans as the base of operations in both 2004 and 2014 for the events. Living up to its reputation of the "Deep South" chapter, dinners have attracted members from many other clubs, especially Ft. Lauderdale and Toronto, utilizing unique venues such as some of the state's finest plantation homes as Nottaway, Houma's House and Parlange; "the mansions weekend," featuring the current operating governor's mansion as well as the historic governor's mansion built by Huey Long; Mardi Gras, particularly the Apollo Baton Rouge ball; Napoleon's House using the renowned "Halloween's in New Orleans" costume party as an anchor event. BTR and FLL co-hosted the Puerto Vallarta dinner in 2005 as well.



20 years of DALLAS CHAPTER

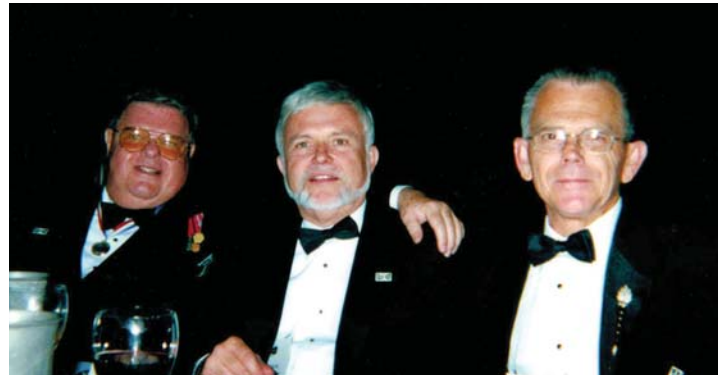


The Dallas Chapter celebrates a major milestone in 2020 by turning TWENTY! We have dipped into the BTCI Archives to find photos commemorating the events, depending heavily on an original article published at that time.

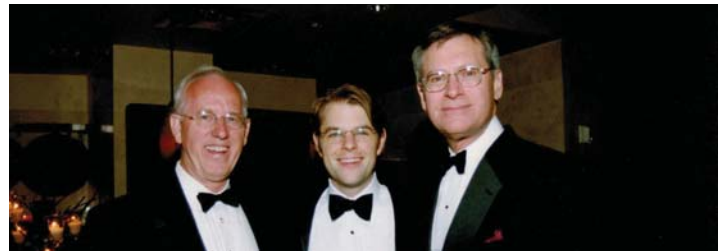
Beginning on Friday night, Bill Bryan, Founder of the Dallas Chapter, hosted a Texas “Hoe Down” themed Cocktail Party. Everyone dressed in western attire and there were some really good looking cowpokes.

That weekend, participants who came from other BTCI Chapters, toured the JFK Sixth Floor Museum. The Saturday evening Black Tie Dinner was held at “Marie Gabrielle’s” restaurant. Dallas BTCI Hosts were seventeen in number. *Jay Phillips* and *Andy Slipher* remain in the Dallas Chapter and in fact, these two gentlemen are the Co-Hosts of the upcoming Twenty-First Anniversary celebration, in September 2021.

The original weekend wrapped up with a Sunday Brunch at “Cuba Libre” restaurant where everyone enjoyed a “Tropical Affair.” The food and entertaining hosts made for a wonderful finale for a really BIG “D” Inaugural.



Bob Gregson, Bob O'Neal, Paul Bonness



David Hood, Andy Slipher, Jay Phillips



Lynn O'Daniel, John Martinez, Bob Clark, Bill Herndon



Bill Bryan, Tony Hayes



Jack Lewis, Alan Colvin



Fred York, Ron Stephens



Harold Spiegel, Larry Parsons



Joe Traigle, Carey Long, Joe Possa, David Hood, Roland Saurage, Chris Oetjens



Joe Possa, Pat Bray, Bill Bryan, Peter MacMillan, Peter Erlendson

20 years of REHOBOTH BEACH - LEWES CHAPTER

This year is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Rehoboth Beach - Lewes Chapter. In honor, we've dug up pictures from the 10th anniversary celebration in May 2010 which was in conjunction with the 2010 International Event. All members shown in the pictures are still members today (as are many others). These pictures were from the Friday casual gathering prior to the Saturday formal event.

The chapter was founded in the Fall of 2000 by Co-Presidents *Bruce Uliss* and *Steve Malcom*. Its operating format has been the holding of two 3-day weekend events each year – one in the Spring and the other in the Fall – each with six hosts from the membership. Following Bruce Uliss' untimely passing in 2004, *Steve Malcom* was joined by *George Coscia* as Co-President. In 2007, *Terry Colli* joined George as Co-President, replacing Steve Malcom. In 2012, *Glenn Reighart* became Vice President with George Coscia serving as President. *Joe Smith* assumed the presidency in 2015.

Chapter membership is limited to 100.



Bill Roeder & John Overton



Glenn Reighart & Duncan MacLellan



Gordon Tanner & Robert Patlan



Gregory Mullen & Kevin Sweeney



Howard Bevard & John Padden



Jay Chalmers & John Potthast

18 years of CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER



The Central Florida Chapter of Black Tie Club International was established in 2002. The event was held at the eminent French restaurant La Crepe en Haut. International President *Bob Gregson* presented the charter to our first president, *John Yeomans*.

John led the club for two years and then handed the presidency to *Chris Wickersham, Esq.* who was president until the undersigned assumed the presidency in 2018. Chris's leadership was an example to all and led the club through ebbs and flows of membership for those many years. The club had many parties and dinners during those years throughout Central Florida from Jacksonville to St. Augustine and even Disney World.

In the last several years, as with many chapters, our membership has dwindled but the diehards remain and have in the last two years had fun formal Christmas dinners at the Halifax River Yacht Club and cocktails and brunches at our members' homes.

We are blessed to have many members throughout the years, many have passed, but we have at least two charter members still active in the club—Chris Wickersham and *Lloyd Bowers*.

With Covid we have delayed our usual summer functions and are planning our annual Christmas formal at the Halifax River Yacht Club December 4th 2020.

- B. Thomas Brown



Al Adams and Tom Brown



Steve Crow, Shawn Cherry, Lloyd Bowers, Len Olds, Ernie Murphy



Lloyd Bowers, Vincent Ruisi, Brian Hopkins, Ernie Murphy



Ernie Murphy, Chris Wickersham

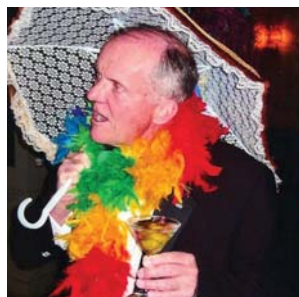
17 years of

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER



The San Francisco Black Tie Club Chapter was formed in 2003 by *Bob Highsmith* and *Jim Boey*. The inaugural dinner was held in October, 2003, in the Penthouse atop the newly constructed Avalon Apartments in the South of Market area of San Francisco.

Over the past 17 years, as a result of President Highsmith's iron-clad ruling hand, 28 original members remain in the BTC fraternity and have had to endure formal dinners and numerous casual events, scattered throughout the year. Included are Chinese banquets, champagne brunches, wine tastings, and many other well-attended events.



Our fearless leader



Bob Gregson presents Charter to Bob Highsmith



Lifeguard on Duty



Bow tie school dropouts



Just got Lei'ed



Boa Boys



Gentlemen prefer blondes



Putting on the Ritz



Souls at Sea



16 years of

FT. LAUDERDALE CHAPTER



The Ft. Lauderdale Chapter of Black Tie Club International was part of an original group called the South Florida Chapter that encompassed Ft. Lauderdale, Miami and the Keys and cities north to Palm Beach. In 2001, the South Florida chapter hosted the International Event, a splendid four days of parties and fellowship.

On July 10, 2003, then International President *Bob Gregson* sent a letter to all members of the South Florida Chapter explaining that it had grown so large, there would, starting on January 1, 2004, be two new chapters formed: Ft. Lauderdale

and Palm Beach. Each of the members would be given their choice of which one to join.

Dan Pye, original President of the South Florida Chapter remained the head of Ft. Lauderdale, while *Sid Lesowitz* became head of the Palm Beach Chapter. From then on, Ft. Lauderdale began a series of Black Tie events that encompassed their area along with Miami and the Keys.

Dean Williams, our International Treasurer Emeritus and member of the Board of Advisors, is the latest President and he has done a wonderful job in encouraging both regular Black Tie events and looking at new leadership possibilities. Ft. Lauderdale looks to the future by remaining a beautiful place to reside, entertain and host Black Tie events.



2016 Annual Event Host Committee (Seated L to R) *Dick Mangan, Rob Russo*
(Standing) *Jim McGrath, Fred Wahl, Dean Williams, Peter Genovese* (not pictured *Mark Brown*)

16 years of SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



Black Tie came to San Diego through Hal Hitchens, who was a Dallas member before retiring to San Diego. Hal has so enjoyed the friendships he formed through the club in Dallas that he knew the same would hold true in San Diego. So, on December 2, 2003 the committee for the proposed San Diego chapter asked for an invitation to join BTCL.



Hal Hitchens

Bob and Lee hosted numerous "wine and cheese" gatherings at their home in order to reacquaint themselves with chapter members. During the following years there were many unique formal dinners and one of the most interesting was held at the San Diego Zoo where members were surprised to find live animals with trainers who entertained the group. Photo ops were also taken and stuffed animals were at each place setting. A great evening!!



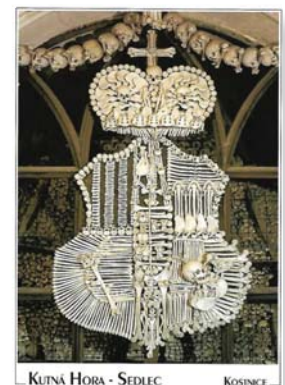
Presentation of T-shirts and of Charter to Hal Hitchens

On February 14, 2004, the San Diego chapter was officially welcomed into BTCL, with Hal Hitchens as our first President. To make the event even more profound, International President Bob Gregson attended our first dinner on that date, and personally presented the Proclamation.

Fast forward: In the Spring of 2008 Bob Betzer and Lee Polk (members of the Laguna Beach Black Tie) moved their residence to San Diego and shortly thereafter became members of the San Diego Chapter. Bob and Lee had attended several San Diego events in the prior years so they were acquainted with some of the chapter members. Shortly after their move to San Diego the International President, Len Olds, and Hugh Rouse motored down to San Diego to join Bob and Lee for what turned out to be a memorable lunch. Len was talking to Bob about the San Diego Chapter being without a President and informed Bob that he was being "volunteered" to be President of the chapter!! There was no discussion allowed so Bob left the luncheon as the new President!!!

The year 2012 brought the Black Tie International Event to San Diego. Co hosting with the Laguna Beach Chapter, the hosts welcomed over 140 members from the US and Canada to the elegant Westgate Hotel in San Diego. Guests were entertained with San Diego tours, a cocktail cruise in the Bay and several gatherings at the hotel. The formal evening in the majestic ballroom was a tremendous success with a live combo and female vocalist---and dancing well into the wee hours!! Bob will be resigning as President during the year 2020 and his place will be taken by Lee Galloway who has expressed great interest in providing the San Diego Chapter with new ideas and a great future."

There were over 75 guests at our first dinner, and of those forty-one became members of the chapter. In 2005, our membership had grown to 63 members. In September of 2006, BTCL organized a Danube River cruise from Prague to Budapest, through Friends of Dorothy. Of the 75 passengers, seven on that trip were from San Diego. One memorable tour was to Kutna Hora's "Bone Church", the Sedlec Ossuary, where the bones of the deceased are used to form chandeliers, noble crests, bells, or just stacked like cordwood. Not the place for a Black Tie Dinner!



16 years of LOS ANGELES CHAPTER



By Steve Katz, Chapter President

With assistance from Terry William Hamilton (founder) and Charlie Priest (past President)

Terry William Hamilton: When Len Olds asked me to form a new Black Tie Club in Pasadena / Los Angeles in the early 2000s, I was honored to do so. My husband, John, and I knew that if Len and Hugh were involved, this organization would be a good fit for us. I remember a function in Laguna Beach. In chatting about running volunteer organizations with one of their members during cocktails, John commented to him, “Well, it’s not rocket science”, and the gentleman replied, “Well, as a matter of fact, I am a rocket scientist.” I knew then and there that Black Tie is a fabulous venue to meet many interesting and accomplished gentlemen. We held our first event with cocktails at the home of Brad Hanson and Rhett Judice. Dinner followed with twenty plus in attendance. Our next meeting was at Delacey’s Club 41 in old Pasadena, where I was presented with the official charter document by President Len Olds.

Charlie Priest: I was happy to carry on Terry’s strong beginning from 2011 on, but with a new name, the LA Black Tie Club. Some of my favorite memories are events at the homes of our members over the years. My reign started in the Hollywood Hills home of Lionel Levin (‘11). Other member homes were offered by Jan Donsbach, Sam Warner, Jordan Budd, Steve Sorenson (rooftop high rise), Rick Sickler & Tom Devine, Bill Barden, Robby Gordon (& his art museum), Kevin Kuettel & Chris Moen (on the canals), Rob Coli, Chris Hogan, Greg Vaccaro & Keith Tunison, John Faubion & Warren Thomas, Stewart Hoke and on and on. We have had memorable events all over LA County. I especially loved the Royal Weekend aboard the Queen Mary (‘15), Culver Hotel (‘17), West Hollywood & Long Beach Pride events, holidays at the San Antonio Winery (‘17 & ‘19), Springtime at the Santa Anita Race Track and more.

Steve Katz: I followed Rick and Tom after Charlie and Gary stepped down. My favorite memory is the LA Convergence in 2018, which we called *Lights! Cameras! Action!* It featured Club 33 at Disneyland, the Peckerwood party at Joe Carberry and Tim Turner’s with those [ahem] “talented” dancing boys, Paramount Studios, Catalina Island and many downtown restaurants, hotels and clubs. It was a knockout. Recently I discovered a real prohibition Speakeasy that was perfect for one of our recent successes. I hope our Black Tie friends from other chapters will visit Los Angeles once travel opens back up.



San Antonio Winery Barrel Room Dec '19



A group of fine looking men!



Bistro Gardens Studio City, Fall Formal '16



The Seamen of Los Angeles Black Tie Club



Convergence '19 - Marilyn



Hogan, Bozarth, Cage, Vaccaro, Coli, Tunison



Santa Anita Spring '17

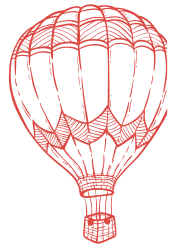


Lyon, Katz, Brewster, Ayers (RIP)



Flattery, Zanetta, Donsback, Katsky (RIP), Warner & Mead

16 years of NEW MEXICO CHAPTER



Our club was started by Co-Presidents *Bob O'Neal* and *Paul Bonness* in 2003 with the assistance of a 17 member Advisory Board. The Tri-Cultural Inaugural Dinner was on March 27, 2004 at the Los Poblamos Historical Cultural Center and was attended by *Bob Gregson*, International President, 54 NM members and guests and 36 members from 8 other chapters. Highlights have included dinner at the top of the Tram in 2007 and buses to the International Balloon Fiesta attended by 165 members and guests from many other chapters; a 3 day weekend in Santa Fe in May 2013 with guests from half of our International chapters; the 25th International Event in ABQ, Aug 2015 with a patio buffet and a White Party dancing and entertainment; formal dinner with entertainment by a fabulous opera singer from Santa Fe, and buses to Santa Fe for an "al fresco" dinner before the opera *Salome* with attendance of 265 members and guests from almost every chapter in the USA and Canada. *Dennis Alexander* and *Bill Cox* were then persuaded to become Co-Presidents following the 12 year leadership of Bob and Paul. After a successful 4 year term, *Joseph Samora* and *Paul Garson* became Co-Presidents in 2019 only to have Covid-19 bring a halt to large gatherings. We eagerly await the time when we can again enjoy Excellent Food, Fine Wine and Good Fellowship together.



25th BTC International Event Dinner



Balloon Fiesta Weekend & Dinner



ABQ International Event Host Hotel



Dinner at Castle



Dinner via Tram at Sandia Peak



Santa Fe Opera & Dinner



16 years of New Mexico Co-Presidents



New Mexico Charter Members

12 years of PHOENIX/ SCOTTSDALE CHAPTER



The Phoenix/Scottsdale Black Tie Club was established in 2008 with *Azroy Salim* as President and *Chuck Thatcher* as Treasurer with *Bill Preschlack* as Advisor.

Our Presidents, in order:

- *Azroy Salim*, 2008-2010
- *Eric Fox*, 2010-2014
- *Vincent Volturo*, 2014-2017
- *Ken Hunt*, 2017-2020
- *Larry Kimmel*, 2020

We are fortunate to have five of our founding members as current members of BTCI; *Eric Fox*, *Raymond Hebert*, *Ed Ferrie*, and *Daryl Roche*, and *Chuck Thatcher*, who has moved from Phoenix/Scottsdale, but remains a BTCI member.

While we hold one or two formal dinners per year, we try to hold an additional eight or nine informal get-togethers in months without a formal dinner. Our formal dinners have been held at resorts, country clubs, and restaurants, with the 2015 formal dinner outside on the 15th floor at the Orange Sky Restaurant of the Talking Stick Resort being the most memorable.



2015 Formal Dinner: *Gary Dougan*



2010 Formal Dinner:
Chuck Thatcher, Bill Preschlack



Formal Dinner



2020 Robert Burns Dinner Informal: *Mark Barrett, Winston Nguyen, David Riach, John Preston, Dan Bolen*



2009 Formal Dinner: *Raymond Hebert & Eric Fox*



2009 Formal Dinner: *Bill Preschlack, Azroy Salim, Ed Ferrie, Michael Mascali, Larry Rubino*



2019 Informal Dinner: *Russ Yelton, Ed Ferrie, Jack Watson, Raymond Heber, Eric Fox, Daryl Roche*



11 years of ATLANTA CHAPTER



The Atlanta chapter was founded by *Bill Denton* on January 18, 2009. We were pleased to have *Len Olds* join us with our chapter proclamation as well as San Francisco members *Bob Highsmith* and *Jim Boey*.

The chapter has enjoyed many formal events at venues ranging from swank steak houses, to historic homes in Macon, to private country clubs, usually augmented by cocktail parties at members' homes. Prior to the Pandemic, we had monthly social hours at local bars, which regularly attracted over half our membership.

Following Bill's reign, the chapter was headed by a "trifecta" of *Owen Halpern*, *Tommy Trotter*, and *Gary Zweifel*, all of whom passed away within a year. *Paul Donahue* and *Lewis Jeffries* are current co-presidents, as they were apparently the last ones standing after an event.

The Atlanta Chapter was scheduled to host the 2020 International Convergence and of course Covid-19 has derailed those plans! Atlanta is looking forward to hosting all of you in the Spring of 2022!



Bill Wilson, Bill Denton



Paul Donahue, Lewis Jeffries



Lewis Jeffries, Paul Donahue, Guest, Frank Buda



Bill Wilson, Steve (Asheville Chapter)



Bill Wilson, Jim Connor, Michael Dunkelberger, Paul Donahue, Bill Denton



Gerard Lozano, Newton Galloway



Joe Nail, Joseph Stabile, Roger Thompson



Joseph Stabile, unknown, Michael Dunkelberger



Frank Buda, Gary Zweifel

9 years of PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER



The Philadelphia Chapter was formed in 2011 and we have had two black tie events each year until this year, I have hosted two casual cocktail parties in addition to the formal dinners. I thought sending some photos of four events would give other chapters a taste of what we have done. The dinners are identified as to the locations.



George Hollingsworth, Chris Arnett, Howard Silverman, Thom Nickels and Will Jordan



Mark Cowell, Steve Kwaszkiewicz, Thom Nickels, Mark Sandberg, Will Jordan, Chuck Lentz, Matt Lentz, Jon Ventura, George Hollingsworth, Don Scott



Len Olds, Michael Lindlau, Chris Bartlett, Parke Rouse



Steve Kwaszkiewicz, Mark Cowell



Howard Silverman, Will Jordan,



John Ventura, Chuck Lentz

8 years of ROCHESTER/FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

By Tom Wahl, Jr. - RFL BT President

The Rochester Finger Lakes Club was a vision that *Glen Skalny*, my partner of 30 years, and I had after attending a BT dinner in 2004 in Ft Lauderdale. We had maintained a home there since 1994 and enjoyed meeting fellow gay residents of our adopted town. We had also heard of the organization through our dear friends *Len Olds* and *Hugh Rouse* through other organizations we were mutually involved in. The future was cast. We continued to attend South Florida events in Palm Beach, Miami and of course Ft Lauderdale. After 7 years of attending other clubs and also participating in International Events, I decided we should establish a club in our area. Our first and only President has been yours truly since day one in 2012. Glen has been a big part of all we do in keeping the club moving forward. Our original members are *David Carpenter*, *Bill Valenti* and *Jim Wolk*, *Greg Rosinski* and *Jim Antonevich*, *Al Jones* and *Djusmin Adi*, *Tom Cassada*, *Roy Tompkins* and *George Lord*, *Ron Pawelczak* and *Nino Vitale*, and *Tom Smith*. They have been there from the start and helped make last year's Convergence



in the Rochester Finger Lake area a wonderful success. Our first dinner was held at the Memorial Art Gallery in May of 2012, and Glen and I hosted the first cocktail party at our home. Attending were Chairman *Len Olds* and 'First Gentleman' *Hugh Rouse*. It was a great weekend! We have since grown to where we now have 22 members in our club. The newer members have been a big part in keeping our club engaged and vital. The biggest memory for the Club members was our opportunity to host and celebrate all that we enjoy here in Upstate NY by welcoming you to the 2019 BTCI Annual Convergence. To those who joined us, I think you were duly impressed.

Wishing Black Tie many more anniversaries to come.



Rochester 2019 Annual Convergence Committee: Back row Tom Wahl, Jeff Diduch, Greg Rosinski, Jim Antonevich, Don Simonetti, Bill Valenti, David Carpenter, Jim Wolk, Al Jones, Djusmin Adi, Tom Crawford Front row: Glen Skalny, Tom Cassada, Ron Pawelczak, Nino Vitale, Richard Sarkis

A ROBERT BURNS NIGHT



A Robert Burns Night was hosted by *David Riach* at his home in Scottsdale and attended by 41 members and guests, some in traditional Scottish attire. The evening began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Scotch whiskey tasting of Monkey Shoulder, Aberlour, and Talisker. Next, came dinner beginning with David reading Mr. Burns' poem To the Haggis and then on to Smoked Salmon/Cheese soup; Haggis, Beef Brisket, and Tarragon Chicken with Tatties and Neeps, and asparagus; and finishing with a Raspberry Parfait. A most enjoyable Scottish evening.



Mark Barrett, Winston Nguyen, David Riach, John Preston, Dan Bolen



President Larry Kimmel and Host David Riach



Bob Russo and Brad Cutler



Alec Trentler and Ed Ferrie

Interested in Attending?
To help us plan, we need to hear from you NOW



BLACK TIE CLUB INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS



Luxembourg

An Intimate & Exclusive
Culinary & Cultural Adventure

June 2-6, 2021

Similar to past BTCL dining trips to London and Paris, we present a tour with superb men and locations hosted by Luxembourg resident & Washington DC Black Tie members, Mr. Phillip Anderson & Mr. Paul Lindell

Important Details

- An array of Dining Experiences – from **Michelin** rated to local rustic locations
- Up to Six Days & Nights of Touring & Fine Dining in and around Luxembourg City
- Guided Wine Tasting Overnight Extension Option in the Champagne region of France
 - Limited to 35 gents -- Exact Dates & Schedule Finalized in March
 - **Commission-free pricing. Costs vary based on options chosen**
 - **Your choice: Group Host Hotel TBD, or on-your-own lodging**
- Plan on ~\$200 pp/day for group meals & activities only; lodging & air extra

Reply swiftly with your expression of interest

To hold your place, a \$250 Deposit is due prior to Feb 1

Reply to Gary Dougan, BTCL Int'l President btci prez@gmail.com; 510-381-8182



In Memoriam

New York/New Jersey Chapter

GARY MEEHAN

Gary C. Meehan passed away after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer in arms of his loving husband Joseph Skarzynski. Gary is pre deceased by his mother Ann Muller Meehan, his father Alex Meehan, his partner of over 43 years Frank Silver, and is survived by brothers Howard of Santa Fe New Mexico , and Glenn from Portland Oregon . Gary grew up in Long Island, before moving to Fort Lee New Jersey, and later to Rehoboth Beach . He was a sought after interior designer, working for some of the leaders in the entertainment and business world in and around the greater New York area .Gary was President of The Black Tie Club International New York/New Jersey Chapter for over ten years. In 2012 he met the love of his life and husband, Joseph and they moved to Fort Lauderdale and joined the local Black Tie Club chapter. Gary loved life and enjoyed both attending parties as well as hosting.

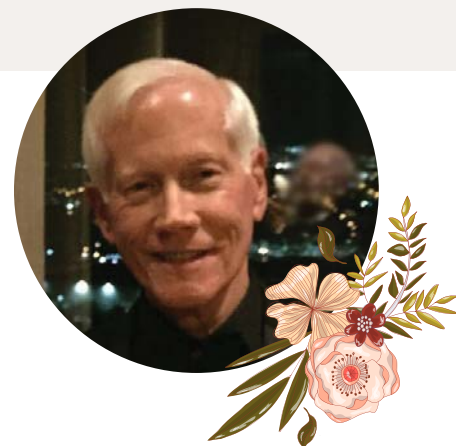


Dallas Chapter

CHARLES LONGCOPE, JR.

Charles Longcope, Jr., 82, passed away after a short, but valiant battle with gastrointestinal cancer. He was a fourth generation native Texan and active his entire life in numerous athletic, artistic, educational and social activities. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity; he received his degree and secondary teaching accreditation from Sam Houston University in Huntsville, TX.

In his professional life, Charles was a devoted high school English teacher. He taught for thirty five years. Even after being retired for over twenty years, when the word of his medical challenges were posted, Charles received hundreds of tributes from former students. The phrase: "Best teacher I ever had" was repeated often. Charles was delighted by the outpouring of kindness shared by so many.



Charles was deservedly proud of his service to the Texas Air National Guard. He was an excellent ballroom dancer and duplicate bridge player. As well as socializing with friends in Black Tie Club International for nearly a decade, Charles belonged to many other social organizations and enjoyed attending live theatrical and musical performances.

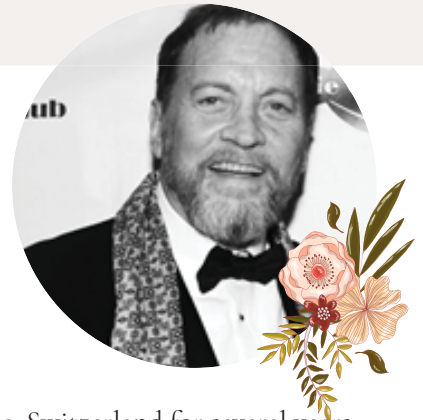
Curiosity led Charles to travel extensively. He visited museums and saw beautiful scenery in Europe, Canada, Mexico and throughout the United States. His home was always open for giving elegant dinner parties for his close friends.

Charles is survived by his life partner of 46 years, *James Williams* of Dallas. Jim Williams serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Dallas BTCI Chapter. Jim has been a ROCK of strength throughout this transition. Jim was able to facilitate Charles' wishes to be at home during his final days. They had delightful conversations and remarkably, Charles seemed to be mostly comfortable and gently passed away on July 27, 2020. A private internment took place on August 1, 2020. A celebration of life is planned for a future date when social distancing permits.

On behalf of the entire Dallas BTCI Chapter, we send our condolences to Jim Williams. We will miss Charles and we celebrate his 'life well lived' as well as his consistent contributions to the Dallas Chapter.

STANLEY E. "SKIP" AYERS

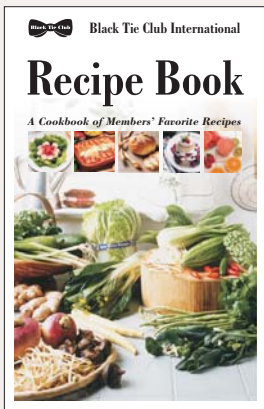
On June 26th, Stanley "Skip" Ayers was discovered as having passed away in his home. Skip had a history of back surgery and had broken all 4 limbs in recent years due to a bone condition. He was recently excited about his move from Long Beach to Palm Springs and had just rehabbed a lovely condo. He had great taste in art, antiques and design, surrounding himself with delightful artifacts and collectibles from all over the world. He was 62 years old. He is survived by one sister who resides in Arkansas.



Skip grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He attended California State University, Northridge, and the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry, where he attained his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. He provided care as a dental intern in Lausanne, Switzerland for several years following graduation. He opened a practice in San Francisco and was very successful there for many years, until he could no longer practice dentistry.

Skip was always a lot of fun and he added so much frivolity and class to our Los Angeles chapter events. His sense of humor, quick wit and uproarious laughter will be missed.

BTCI MEMORIES...



The BTCI Recipe Book, published and sent to members in 2009.



The first colour cover December 2001



The first Issue of BTCI News January 1995



One of Dick Mangan's inimitable Christmas cards



One of John "Hollywood" Lockington's Critic's Corner columns - June 1998

"Ask the Grapevine"



Red Wine Drinkers Are Smarter, Wealthier and More Stable

Tom Poor

A new study by a team of Danish researchers has found that wine drinkers tend to be smarter, wealthier and more stable psychologically than nondrinkers and beer drinkers. These factors are associated with better health, and may help explain the connection between drinking wine and having lower health risk.

"Wine drinking was significantly associated with higher IQ, higher parental educational levels and higher socioeconomic status," wrote the authors of the study reported in Archives of Internal Medicine. "Beer drinking was significantly associated with lower scores on the same variables." Many studies now find that moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages may reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and other diseases.

Even more studies show that red wine provides more health benefits than beer or liquor. The researchers examined 363 men and 330 women with ages between 29 and 34 years old. They took intelligence test and personality exams and tracked their personal alcohol consumption. They were categorized as wine drinkers, wine and beer drinkers or abstainers. The researchers found that the average IQ of the beer drinkers was 97 points while that of wine drinkers was 108, an 11 point difference. Those who drank both beer and wine scored an average of 104, abstainers averaged 101.

The study also found that wine drinkers are less neurotic, less anxious, less depressed and less delusional, and even have fewer psychotic thoughts than their beer drinking counterparts.

So let us all toast to Black Tie, for promoting *Good Fellowship, Excellent Food and Superb Wine!*

While we are on the subject of superb wine, I would like to announce that my partner Tom Bachmann and I have retired from Wall Street and have opened a dedicated fine wine shop in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. It is named *BIN 66* and is located in Rehoboth Beach Plaza at route 1 across from Gold's Gym. Come see us when you are in the area. Black Tie members will get a selection discount on all wine purchases. We will also have the best selection of fine wine at the beach!

See you soon

Tom Poor

17

One of Tom Poor's "Ask the Grapevine" columns - March 2003



Black Tie Club

PH☀ENIX / SC☀TTSDALE

CONVERGENCE 2021

April 8 - 11
FUN IN THE SUN!

Located next to Historic Old Town Scottsdale
Featuring great shopping, art galleries,
spas, and world class dining
Many exciting experiences being planned
Register at www.convergence2021.com

Host hotel Hilton Doubletree Resort
AAA 4-diamond resort
Reserve your hotel room by calling
(480) 947-5400 Group Code BTC or go to
www.convergence2021.com/hotel
to book online

