

epiphany

A Publication of HSPVA FRIENDS

Spring 2012



 HSPVA**FRIENDS**

SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

C O M M E N T A R Y

t o all our alumni, supporters, and faithful HSPVA FRIENDS,

It is with mixed emotions that we are announcing the retirement of our HSPVA FRIENDS Founder and Executive Director, Mary Martha Lappe. Her devotion to both excellence and fun has made her a fearless leader for our school and the friends who support it!

In 1971, Mary Martha left the faculty at University of Houston to help start Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts where she authored and implemented the State of Texas' first dance curriculum. After chairing the HSPVA Dance Department for 25 years, she became Executive Director of HSPVA FRIENDS in 1997. Under her direction, HSPVA FRIENDS has raised nearly \$8 million in private support for the needs of the school and its students, including \$1.6 million in scholarships. Mary Martha has the rare combined gifts of being able to both set "big picture" goals and execute her plans with precision. Her accolades are plentiful, and include: The National Distinguished Teacher of the Arts, The Coca-Cola Foundation Outstanding Teacher, the Arts Schools Network Founders Award, The Denney Teaching Award, The Presidential Distinguished Teacher Award, Outstanding High School Teacher in Texas, HSPVA's Distinguished Artist, and The Texas Woman's University Distinguished Alumna.

Herb Pasternak, Chairman of HSPVA FRIENDS, notes, "Mary Martha approaches every challenge with an unrivaled vitality. It has been my honor to watch her passion for arts education become the innovative public-private partnership that is HSPVA FRIENDS. I have been inspired not only in that professional arena, but also in my own life...after all, it was Mary Martha who made sure I knew how to dance at my daughter's wedding! There is no doubt in my mind that the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts would not be the success it is today without her forty years of dedicated service."

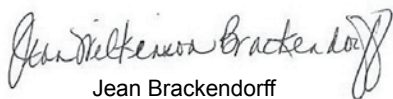
We can't think of anyone more deserving of a joyful retirement than Mary Martha! Whether traveling the world or throwing an intimate get-together in her beautiful backyard garden, she is a tour de force who charms everyone in her company. Please join us in thanking Mary Martha for her commitment to this remarkable school and wishing her all the best as she takes her bow at HSPVA FRIENDS and begins her new dance!

With gratitude, **The HSPVA FRIENDS Board of Trustees**


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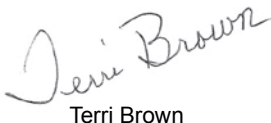

Agelia Perez Marquez

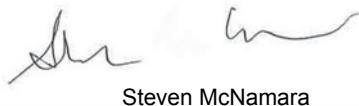

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Howard Speight

Cover Artist, Emily Fens

“My artwork revolves around revealing the hidden beauty of mushrooms. Fascinated with the beautiful gills hidden beneath the surface of the mushroom's cap, I recreate this pattern in multiple ways, including embroidery, printmaking, and mixed media collages.”



Alene Haehl Named New Executive Director of HSPVA Friends

As an alumna of the HSPVA Theatre Department, Alene has a long-standing appreciation for the caliber of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She graduated magna cum laude from Boston University with a cross-disciplinary degree in the Management and Development of Non-Profit Organizations. Alene honed her skills while working as a consultant with AndrisinAbbey, LLC, a local consulting firm, where she guided non-profit organizations through strategic growth of their development programs. In her spare time, Alene serves as a docent for the Bayou Bend Collection.

The Re-Evolution

by **Cage Sebastian Pierre**, 12th grade Theatre student

New place new people no one that I know.
It's my first day of school and I don't know where to go.
I'm in a boat alone with no one to help row,
But I guess its all good I'll just go with the flow.

It's 7:55 and I walk through the door.
I open my eyes and my jaw hits the floor.
Her hair is green, his shirt is ripped,
There's six people in the commons and one of them just flipped.
There's trumpets on the balcony, flutes in the hall,
And during lunch on the courtyard a game of basketball?
Hold up, wait a minute, wait a cotton pickin' second.
Into what crazy school body was I just injected.
So I move through the motions learning and making friends.
I look up check the clock and watch the day end.
Then an epiphany hits, its the last day of class,
And I'm tripping because Freshman year passed by so fast

It's the end of the summer sophomore year I'm so ready,
Next thing I know I'm saying seeya next year already.
It's junior year now college nipping at my heels.
I'm steady sinking under water praying to grow gills.
I have 2 tests 3 quizzes 5 homework assignments.
A scene a monologue wheres my script i cant find it.
A test in French Je ne sais pas ce que je fait.
Just to make it home sane means I did OK.

Summer comes its a blessing, I don't have to think.
Going to Nebraska and France, pack everything but the kitchen sink.
Senior year, now things are supposed to be easy.
Just chill, apply, then relax in the breeze-ey.
But no I still have ten quizzes and twenty tests.
Woa woa woa what happened to the year of no stress?
Fly to Chicago be prepared and audition.
Be ready stay focused be committed to the mission.
Stay on my toes don't know what to be expected,
And well as of now everywhere I've applied I've been accepted.
It's getting toward that time when I leave the nest.
Going out into the real world now, try and do my best.
Say goodbye to my city, my teachers and peers.
Goodbye Mom and Dad...seeya in four years.

New place new people no one that I know.
It's my first day of college and I don't know where to go.
I'm in a boat alone with no one to help row.
but I guess it's all good I'll just go with the flow.



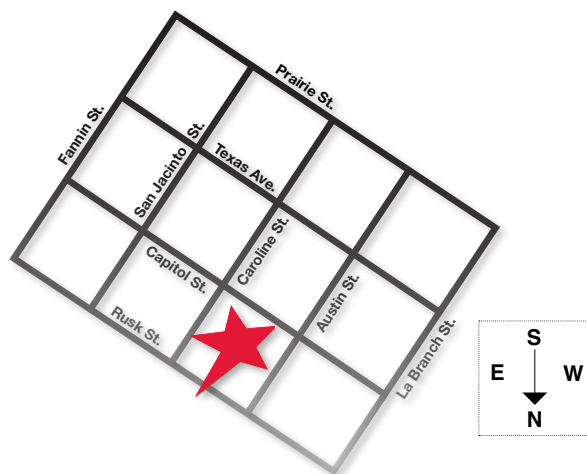
HISD Announces Downtown Site for New HSPVA Facility

In October, the Houston Independent School District Board of Education announced that a downtown site owned by HISD for over eighty years will be the location for a much-needed new facility for Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The city block is bordered by Austin, Capitol, Caroline, and Rusk streets and was once the home of Houston's old Central High School and then the HISD Administration Building in the mid-1900's. For the past forty years, it has been a surface parking lot. The announcement about the site was made by HISD Trustee Anna Eastman at the school's anniversary celebration at the George R. Brown Convention Center on October 15 and was greeted with a standing ovation.



Over its forty-year history, HSPVA's well-documented reputation for excellence in both academics and the arts has made it a consistent source of pride to HISD and City of Houston officials. In 1971, HSPVA first opened its doors in what was formerly the old Temple Beth Israel Synagogue at the corner of Austin and Holman streets, and a school for the arts for the Houston Independent School District was created. HSPVA's early successes made it the impetus for the "magnet school movement" in public education, and its reputation in arts education has made it a model for subsequent arts schools across the nation and abroad.

In January 1982, HSPVA moved into a newly constructed building on the 3.4 acres site of HISD's old Montrose Elementary School. The school had been planned in the late 70's for 550 students in grades 10,11, and 12. However, by the time the construction was complete, the school had to accommodate four grades, not three, and more than 650 students. Even with the addition of temporary buildings, the school has had to endure constant space problems affecting



and limiting HSPVA's curricular offerings. Several attempts in the past decade by HISD to locate a suitable site in different parts of Houston have been unsuccessful.

According to Mary Martha Lappe, Executive Director of HSPVA FRIENDS and a founding HSPVA faculty member, the news of this designated downtown site for a new facility is very welcome. Lappe, who is also a Founding Director of the 200-member international organization, the Arts Schools Network, states: "When contrasting HSPVA's outdated, over-crowded facility with other urban arts schools, it is clear that Houston's respected arts school needs a new facility. Space is needed to provide more classrooms, larger performance venues, a recording studio, creative writing program, musical theatre program, and a media arts technology program. The site's proximity to the Theatre District and to Discovery Green makes it a very desirable location. We are grateful to HISD for this important first step in making a new facility possible."

Noteworthy Achievements

- Among the top three schools in the United States with the most *Presidential Scholars in the Arts*
- Named *2011 Exemplary School of the Arts*
- Listed as one the top high schools in academic excellence in the Houston area since its inception in 1971.
- More *White House Distinguished Teachers* than any school in the nation.
- Winner of *The 1998 Coca-Cola Distinguished Arts School Award*
- Recipient of five *GRAMMY Awards*
- Named once again in 2011 by *Newsweek* as one of *The Top American Schools*.
- Presented the Gold Medal by *U.S News and World Report* for being one of the top 33 schools in the nation
- Named once again by the Texas Education Agency as a *2011 Exemplary School*

Departure Gate B-14

By Alicja Zapalska



The small specifics are all
that I can remember anymore:
a polka-dotted shirt,
plaid luggage,
and a smiling face
that I followed past rolling wheels
and hurrying bodies.
Ausgang was painted
on every door,
and the chairs had
yellow dots.
Most of all,
I remember that
I cried.



"High Seas"
Laurel Thornberg
11th grade
Visual Arts

For a Soldier

By Claudia Heymach

The grass has grown wild, tangled & forbidden,
interspersed with weeds so that when some
Of it is crushed by a falling body it is hardly noticed.
Darkness and fragmented shadows shed no tears;
Two months went by until grief was shown
For his memory, a photograph crumbling
Around the edges & glass reflected in a darkened eye.



"Untitled"
Ruth Lin Ginger
12th grade
Visual Arts

HSPVA's 40th Year!



Above: Joan and Craig Murrin



Above right: Mary Martha Lappe, Rich and Nancy Kinder, and Barry Mandel at Discovery Green



Right: Three Tenors playing with HSPVA Jazz Ensemble

In addition to over 300 performances and art exhibits that typify an average HSPVA school year, this anniversary year had several additional highlights in connection with its celebration of the school's 40 year anniversary. In the fall, three of HSPVA's stellar jazz alumni tenor saxophonists, Walter Smith III, Shelley Carol, and Geof Bradfield, were featured in a concert at Discovery Green with the HSPVA Jazz Ensemble directed by Warren Sneed, Director of HSPVA Jazz Studies. The "Three Tenors Concert" in the downtown park was made possible by the Kinder Foundation. In April, Discovery Green and the Kinder Foundation sponsored a second HSPVA Jazz Concert with guest artist, Ellis Marsalis. Both jazz performances were emceed by Dr. Robert (Doc) Morgan, former head of the HSPVA Jazz Studies program.

On October 15 HSPVA's ENCORE 40 was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This anniversary gala celebration showcased performances and art work by the school's talented students and nationally renowned alumni: Chandra Wilson, Lisa DeBerardino Hassler, Michelle DeJean, Ashley Tamara Davis, Eduardo Tercero, Timothy Browning, Matthew Fowler, Andre Hayward, and Rodolfo Morales. Three receptions were sponsored by HSPVA FRIENDS: one was held at HSPVA's first location at Austin at Holman streets, one was held at the present HSPVA site in the Montrose area, and one was also hosted at the beautiful Hilton Americas prior to the big event.



Clockwise from top left: Alumni Margaret Elledge Simons, Jinx Hayden and Alicia Church hosted the ENCORE 40 reception at the school's first campus.

HISD Board of Education Trustee Anna Eastman presents Emcee Chandra Wilson the proclamation regarding the newly designated downtown site for a new HSPVA facility.

HSPVA's Patricia Bonner with Chandra Wilson

Alumni soloists Eduardo Tercero and Michelle DeJean



HSPVA Dancers Named National Finalists



Victor Lozano and Christian Warner have been named national finalists in the YoungArts program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts held in Miami, Florida each January. The two HSPVA senior dance majors were among only twenty dancers selected as national finalists.

Victor holds dual Mexican and American citizenship. During his first two years of high school he was president of the Houston Swim Club, part of the USA Swimming League. He has worked in a community garden for food for the homeless and organizes activities for residents in nursing homes. He plans to train in New York City during his college years, get a bachelor's degree in dance, and possibly a physical therapy degree.



Dancers with HSPVA dance faculty, Janie Carothers and LuAnne Carter

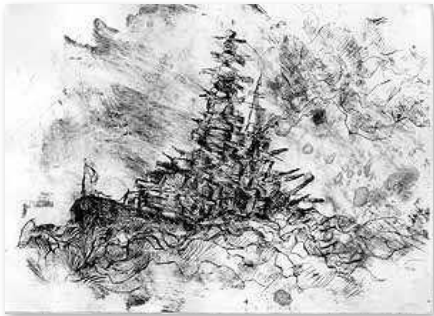


Christian's passion is in dance for musical theatre. He won a choreography award at the 2011 Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta run by Music Theatre International. He also was a featured character in a film called *Church* on BET.



"Sphere"
Zac Bolubasz
11th grade
Visual Arts

HSPVA in the News!



Justine Ditto, a current HSPVA senior in the Visual Art Department, received the Silver Key Award through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her portfolio. Justine was the only HSD art student to win a national award. Miss Ditto will be honored alongside the other winners at a ceremony on June 1st at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and the Empire State Building will be lit in gold on May 31st in their honor. The 2012 winners join the ranks of some of America's most famous artists and writers, including Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, and Sylvia Plath.

Robert Glasper, an alumnus of the Jazz Department, recently released his latest chart-topping project, *Black Radio*, to critical acclaim. *Black Radio* explores and blends multiple genres—jazz, hip-hop, soul, R&B, and rock. In an interview for the April 2, 2012 issue of *The Washington Informer*, the pianist talks about the crucial impact that the education and support he received at HSPVA had on his career: "Music wouldn't be where it was today, especially jazz, if it wasn't for arts high schools...without the camaraderie of the students."



Eileen Montgomery, the current Chair of HSPVA's Visual Arts Department, was named 2011 Teacher of the Year by the Arts Schools Network. Ms. Montgomery began teaching full-time at HSPVA in 1989. Her careers as an art therapist, professional sculptor, master ceramist, and master lithographer eventually led to a full commitment to teaching. The National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts has recognized her many times as an "Influential Teacher in the Arts" and in 2005 she was honored as the "NFAA Coca-Cola Company Distinguished Teacher in the Arts."



Jason Moran, an alumnus of the Jazz Department, was named the Kennedy Center's Artistic Advisor for Jazz. As an accomplished jazz pianist, Moran's debut album in 1999 was called the best album of the year by *The New York Times*. The following year, Moran established *The Bandwagon* trio with bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits. Moran's most recent release, *TEN*, his 10th anniversary album with *The Bandwagon*, was released in 2010 to rave reviews.



Dr. Simon B. Rowe, DMA, an alumnus of the Jazz Department, was appointed Director of The Brubeck Institute of the University of the Pacific. As Director, Dr. Rowe, an



accomplished jazz pianist, manages the Brubeck Fellowship program, the annual Brubeck Festival, the Summer Jazz Colony for high school musicians, an outreach program, and the Brubeck Collection. The Brubeck Institute was founded in 2000 to build on Dave Brubeck's artistic legacy and lifelong dedication to the advancement of music.

Karen Stokes, an alumna of the Dance Department, created *Gallery Construction 1*, a dance video that was selected by *Dance Magazine* as the December 2011 Video of the Month Editors' Choice Winner. In the piece, Karen Stokes Dance interacts with a colorful installation of string by artist Gabriel Dawe at Houston's Peel Gallery. Ms. Stokes has been choreographing contemporary dance for over 20 years and founded Karen Stokes Dance (formerly Travesty Dance Group). She is the Head of the Dance Division in the School of Theatre & Dance at the University of Houston.



Continued on page 14



HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future

2011-2012

HSPVA FRIENDS supports a wide array of needs at **HSPVA**. Over the past ten years, **HSPVA FRIENDS** and the **HSPVA** Office of Development have generated almost 7 million dollars to assist the school with a variety of projects including:

- Electronic marquee for front of school
- Theatre sound and lighting equipment
- Computers, art supplies, and specialized equipment
- Support for school radio station equipment
- Alumni art exhibits and alumni relations
- Support for tours to Toronto, Boston, New York, and China
- Art publications, newsletters, and event mail-outs
- Summer arts workshops for underclassmen
- Annual college scholarships
- Master classes by professional artists
- Support for musical theatre productions
- The Office of Development to raise and coordinate private support
- Support for school and faculty participation in national programs
- Faculty seminar on art facility design and construction

*Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that have provided support for the unique needs of Houston's internationally renowned **High School For The Performing And Visual Arts** from March 1, 2011 to our publication deadline, March 31, 2012.*

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(\$100,000 - \$400,000)

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In memory of Mozart Hammond

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*In honor of all my students
through the years*
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In honor of Carol and Ed Young
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Anita M. Hickman
 Michael C. Hoover

Holly Hope/Bikram Yoga Katy
*In memory of Constance Webb-
 Brown*

Julie Adam and Denise R.
 Horowitz

In memory of Bertha Kaplan

Continued on page 15



Encore for Excellence!

Sixth Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon Honors HSPVA's 2012 Distinguished Alumna Sara Hickman and the George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation

On February 2, 2012, 300 friends of HSPVA gathered at the 6th Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club to celebrate Arts Day in Houston and the many successes of Houston's respected arts school, The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The 2010 State Musician of Texas, Sara Hickman, was honored as the HSPVA 2012 Distinguished Alumna. Also honored at the event was the George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation for its extraordinary philanthropy and support of the arts. Proceeds of the luncheon enhance HSPVA programs and provide unprecedented opportunities for its students. Thank you to all who participated!

Save the Date! The Seventh Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon will take place on February 7, 2013 at River Oaks Country Club.



11



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16



15

1. Luncheon Co-Chairs Arturo and Anne Barragan 2. Hamman Foundation's Troy D. Derouen, Mary Milby, and Charles Milby, Jr.
3. George Lancaster, Cindy Crane Garbs, Jerry Simon, and Cason White 4. Mike Lunceford with Jean and Bo Brackendorff 5. Carolyn and Walter Allen with HSPVA principal Dr. R. Scott Allen 6. Karen Ostrum George, Dr. William Monroe, Becky and Ralph O'Connor, and Dr. Holli Ryan 7. Dr. Jack Lappe and Lou Gregory 8. Barbara and Jonathan Day with David Calkins 9. Janie and Richard Alderman 10. James Nelson, Joe Nelson, Janette Cosley, Steve McNamara, Cissy Segall Davis and Frank Hood 11. Mistress of Ceremonies Linda Lorelle 12. Rickey Campbell, Honoree Sara Hickman, Patricia Bonner, and Julie Campbell 13. Alene Haehl, Emilie Priestly, and Vicki Pasternak 14. Herb Pasternak and Mary Martha Lappe 15. 2012 Distinguished Alumna Sara Hickman with HSPVA vocalists 16. Alumna Julie Robinson Campbell and David DeHoyos. David, a NASA archivist, produced the historical slide show for the ENCORE 40 celebration. We love that he wore his HSPVA ID tag from the 70's to the luncheon!

Encore for Excellence Luncheon Underwriters

Directors

The Boblitt Family
The Sermoonjoy Foundation

Musicians

Janie Alderman Design
Anne and Arturo Barragán
Gensler
Ralph S. O'Connor and
Associates
The Immanuel and Helen B.
Olshan Foundation

Composers

Lorelle Media
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP and
Steve McNamara

Northern Trust
Lisa and Jerry Simon
Patrice McKinney; Howard
Speight; Marty Thompson

Sculptors

Jean and Bo Brackendorff
William Graham and Family
Mary Martha and Dr. Jack Lappe
Legacy Community Health
Services
*In honor of the George and
Mary Josephine Hamman
Foundation*
HSPVA Parents
HSPVA Theatre Department and
Theatre Guild

Terri and Barry Brown
*In honor of Sharon and Steven
Brown*

Vicki and Herb Pasternak
Agelia M. Pérez Marquez
Samantha Barlow Martinez
Joan and Craig Murrin
A Musically Theatrical, Vocally-
Visual Group of Parents and
Friends
Bobbi and Vic Samuels
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Rosa Stupel
University of St. Thomas
Monica and Carl Walker
Linda Walter

HSPVA In the News!

Continued from page 9

Ashley Traughber, a current HSPVA senior in the Vocal Music Department, was selected as the On Your Way Student Winner for 2011 in classical voice by the Arts Schools Network. Miss



Traughber has also been invited to join Houston Grand Opera's prestigious High School Voice Studio, a scholarship program for eight high school seniors. She most recently was selected as a Merit Award winner for YoungArts, a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. She is one of only 64 vocalists to receive this designation out of the more than 5,000 who auditioned.

Current HSPVA students **Michelle Garcia** (Dance), **Reagan Lukefahr** (Theatre), **Shilpa Sadagopan** (Voice), and **Laurel Thornburg** (Visual Arts) have been named to the 2012 class of Young Masters, a joint initiative between the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust. Only 15 students were selected from applicants across the state for this highly competitive arts grant. Each of HSPVA's four Young Masters will receive grants of \$2,500 per year for two years to pursue advanced study in their artistic discipline.

Mireille Enos, an alumna of the Theatre Department, was nominated for a 2012 Golden Globe for Best Actress in a TV Series-Drama as well as a 2011 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Detective Sarah Linden in AMC's chilling series *The Killing*. Mireille is also well known for her roles as Kathy and Jodeen Marquart (twins) on the HBO series *Big Love*. In 2005, she was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play for her performance in the Broadway production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.



"Untitled"
Teresa Chen
12th grade
Visual Arts

HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future

Continued from page 11

Carol Hunter
JP Morgan Chase
Robert E. Jackson
Beth Alfredson and Richard Jenkins
Mary Lynn Jones
In honor of Vonna Jones Knapp and Vicki Lynn Jones Sellers
Peter Johnston
In honor of Cole Johnston and Carter Johnston
Michele E. Joy and Tom Shahriari
Doty and Lawrence Kagan
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Joyce Ivy Kamla
Gloria Pepper and Bernard Katz
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Ann and Stephen M. Kaufman
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
June Keller
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Mark D. Kelley
Kayoko and Jozef Keselman
Edith and Phillip Kligman
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
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In honor of Aileen Krebs
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In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Dr. Lary R. and Mrs. Lois Kupor
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Stephanie Land
In memory of Robert Berger
Eastman Landry
Maxine and Herman Lapin
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Mary Martha and Dr. Jack Lappe
In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Mary Martha and Dr. Jack Lappe
In memory of William "Bill" White
Lisa Latendresse
In memory of Beverly Latendresse
Julia Laskowski
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In honor of Travis Springfield
William D. Lovejoy
In honor of Patrick D. Lovejoy
Andrew Lucas
Sandra Lusk
In memory of Bertha Kaplan

Lucille Maes
Mary Jane and Taghi Manshour
Roslyn Wolfert Markman
In honor of my HSPVA teachers
Teresa A. Matlock
Toby Mattox
John McDaniel
Celina L. McKeithen
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In memory of Andrea Guenther
Vickie and Bryan McMicken
Donald Meidinger
Helen Mintz and Aaron Marks
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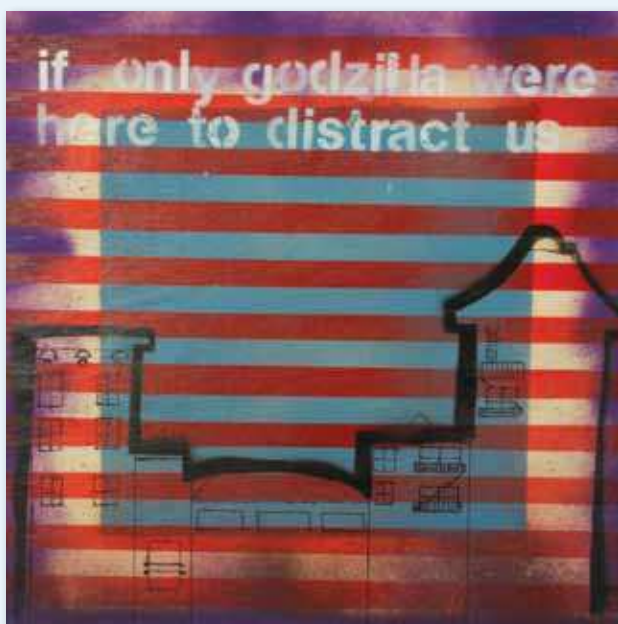
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"Godzilla"
Aphtan Mellado
12th grade
Visual Arts

"Untitled"
Alicia Garza
12th grade
Visual Arts



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