

Joan Spieler Lifetime Achievement Award

Aubrey and Virginia Richards were honored with the Spieler Lifetime Achievement Award at the BAC's Big Event on Saturday, April 10. Given to individuals who have gone above and beyond in volunteering at the BAC over the course of many years, the award is named after our founder, Joan Spieler, who received the first lifetime achievement award shortly before her death.

The Richards have been ardent supporters of the BAC and several sub-groups since their first involvement with our organization in 2005. Virginia has served on the BAC Board of Directors for several years, including terms as vice-president and president. She has also served as president of the Culinary Club and has served many years on the Big



[Virginia & Aubrey react when they realize they are Spieler recipients]

Event Committee. She currently is head of the Nominating Committee. Virginia was also an active participant in the Capital Campaign effort which brought to fruition the

completion of the Frazier Performance Hall and the second elevator. The two are long-time patrons of the Tin Building Theatre as well as Art Patrons. Virginia has served two terms on the Art Council board, while Aubrey has served as treasurer of the Art Council and "official painting hanger" for the annual Art Classic. Aubrey is also actively involved with the Troubadour concert committee. Aubrey's entry to that committee derived from happenstance: In the parking lot of Sam's, he came upon Troubadour originator Judi Boston and Kristye Fehler, who had

purchased more event supplies than they could fit into a suburban. Aubrey loaded up his vehicle and the rest was history.

Blake Holman - with the help of the Richards' daughter, Megan Belknap - presented the award. Holman listed their endeavors, noting his participation in variety shows with Aubrey: "From tutus, to line dancing to rabbit / bunny outfits - HE is pure fun." Blake also added that he and his wife, Joan, "consider ourselves so blessed and are ever so thankful that we had the chance to meet this couple



[The Richards are given a standing ovation by the Big Event crowd.]

who are beacons of and have introduced us to the most welcoming community in the world."

Accepting the award, Virginia and Aubrey spoke of how they love Bosque

County and the various groups with which they are involved. Virginia emphasized the importance of volunteering or supporting organizations, likening it to tossing a pebble into a pond. "The ripples flow outward and affect the community at large," she said.

We at the BAC feel fortunate to have this wonderful couple contributing to life in our little "pond." 🌿



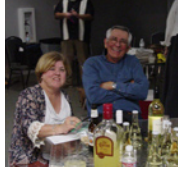
**39th Annual
Big Event**



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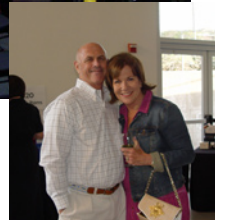


Thank You!



Giraffe

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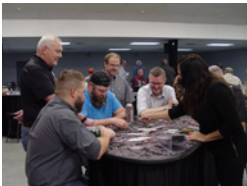
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Kathy Tate • Texas Safari - Jack & Nancy Harvard
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Big Event Committee

Leanne Donner • Betty Murdoch • Karen Hughes (co-chairs)
Joanne Blossom • Karen Cornett • Susan Frazier • Nancy Harvard
Blake Holman • Janet Jackson • Jan Kieta • Punky Penberthy
Linda Pfeiffer • Virginia Richards • Heather Willmann

Volunteers Friday & Saturday Nights

Tejal Bhakta • Don Boysen • Julie Conley • Blake Holman
Jimmie & Karen Hughes • Linda Lowrance • Glenn & Linda Pfeiffer
Aubrey & Virginia Richards



Gun Raffle

Blake Holman & Jimmie Hughes



Raffle Item Donors

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BAC Gift Shop • Steve & Kathy Harr • Blake Holman
Horny Toad Bar & Grill • The Lash Room (Bree Robertson)
Vickie Mitchell



I survived my first Safari at the BAC. The journey was led by Leanne Donner. The Caravan included a huge crew of volunteers that transformed the Arts Center into the African wilderness. An evening of rich cultures, cuisine, music and socializing was enjoyed by all our sponsors that attended. -Paige Sibila, New Managing Director