

# ALLEY THEATRE

## NINA VANCE LEGACY SOCIETY



# Applause



Alley Theatre's Financial, Estate and Gift Planning Newsletter

Spring 2016

## Celebrating with the Alley

Kim Feazle and Rick Diaz recently celebrated their anniversary as first-year Nina Vance Legacy Society members. We asked them to share the story of their involvement with theatre and in particular the Alley.

### How did you first become interested in theatre?

"We've been attending live plays since we were in college, so we've always been fans of the theatre." Kim, a native Houstonian, has a BA from Texas A&M and an MBA from the University of Arkansas. Rick, who was born and raised in Maryland, moved to Texas to attend graduate school. He has a BA from Centre College and a Ph.D from the University of Texas at Austin.

### Tell us about your personal involvement with the Alley.

"Since Kim is originally from Houston, she was very familiar with the Alley Theatre. When we moved to Houston as a couple in 1983, we began to attend plays on a regular basis. Work took us to California from 1989 to 1998, but when we returned we began to visit the Alley again. In addition to attending the plays,



Legacy Society members Rick Diaz and Kim Feazle

we became regular donors, and continued to participate as associate patrons the last few years. Last year, we decided to support the Alley by naming a seat in the Alley's newly renovated theatre."

### What do you enjoy most about the Alley?

"Obviously we enjoy attending the plays on both stages, but as patrons we've really enjoyed the many donor events. In particular, we've found the working rehearsals and the Q&As with both the actors and technicians to be wonderful

*(continued on next page)*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Annual Appreciation Event Acknowledges Our Valued Members
- What Would Happen If You Died without a Will?
- Did You Know?
- Free Booklet

## Celebrating with the Alley *(continued from front page)*

experiences. The directors and playwrights, the resident actors, and all of the behind-the-scenes support have given us an even deeper appreciation of the Alley.”

### **What led you to make this particular gift?**

“When we were putting together our estate plan and wills, we wanted to recognize those non-profit organizations that we have supported over the years. Our love of the Alley Theatre, and our commitment to support it, made the Alley an easy choice for a legacy gift.”

### **What would you like your gift to accomplish?**

“We’d like to see the Alley continue to provide a regional theatre that is recognized as one of the leading not-for-profit theatres in the nation, and

continue to provide a home to a resident company of actors. We know that this makes the Alley unique among American theatre companies and allows a deeper connection between the regular patrons and the Alley.”

### **What are some of your other interests?**

“We both enjoy travel; we recently returned from a trip to Aruba. Our other interests are golf, music, swimming and fitness.”

If you have included the Alley Theatre in your estate plan, we welcome you to join the Nina Vance Legacy Society as Kim and Rick did. We hope others are inspired to follow their lead by providing a legacy of support to an institution that has played an important role in their lives.

## Annual Appreciation Event Acknowledges Our Valued Members

One of the benefits of membership in the Nina Vance Legacy Society is an invitation to an exclusive event. On Saturday, April 30, Legacy Society members and guests were treated to a special in-depth tour of the building renovation with the Alley’s Managing Director, Dean Gladden. The tour

ended with lunch in the Texas Room. At the luncheon, the Alley’s new Literary Manager, Skyler Gray, discussed the theatre’s new works process and programming. Also welcoming members and guests was Gina Eandi, Alley Board Member and Planned Giving Chair.



**Dean Gladden leading a backstage tour for Legacy Society members**



**Skyler Gray discussing the Alley’s new works program**

Photos by Wilson Parish

## What Would Happen If You Died without a Will?

If you haven't made a will, the state has technically made one for you. This means that your estate may pass to beneficiaries according to the "intestacy" laws of the state in which you reside at death. These impersonal, inflexible laws allow the court-appointed administrators to distribute all of your property to certain relatives – if they can be found – or to the state itself.

Generally, your spouse and children are first in line to inherit. But what happens if there is no surviving spouse and no children? For example, Sam, age 85, has neither a surviving spouse nor living children, but he does have two surviving sisters, Ann, age 87, and Joan, age 91. He also has two deceased sisters who left behind surviving children; neither of his deceased sisters' children talk to their Uncle Sam. Sam, however, is very close to his sister Ann's two children, Liz and Paul. They take him grocery shopping and to his doctor appointments. According to some general intestate rules, his real and personal property would be distributed in four equal shares to his two surviving sisters and his two deceased sisters. The four living children of the two deceased sisters will inherit the portion which the deceased sisters would have taken if they were still alive, even though Sam does not speak to any of them. Ann and Joan's children would inherit nothing from Sam's estate because their mothers are still living. These general intestate rules vary from state to state.



To make the situation even more complicated, Ann and Joan do not get along and haven't spoken to one another in years. Because he had no will, Sam has left his two elderly sisters with the task of filing a petition for probate or estate administration and nominating a person to act as the administrator of Sam's estate. The administrator's duties involve serious legal and financial responsibilities, which could put a great deal of undue stress on his two elderly sisters. Most people don't realize that when they fail to make a valid will they are often leaving a complicated legal and financial mess for their loved ones.

It's also important to note that intestacy laws cannot provide for worthwhile institutions such as the Alley Theatre. Please call us if you would like more information on will planning, including how to make a gift to the Alley Theatre.

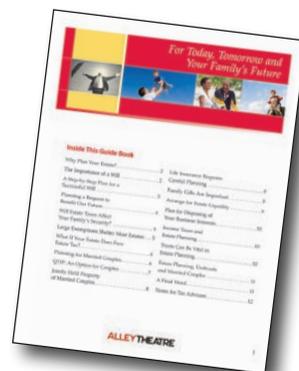


## DID YOU KNOW?

This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. Did you know that Mr. Shakespeare had a last will and testament? Per researchers, it appears that Mr. Shakespeare began his will in January 1616 with the help of his attorney, Francis Collins of Warwick. The official version was ultimately signed in March 1616 by five witnesses. A highlight of the will was, "I give unto my wife my second best bed with the furniture."

## Free Booklet

The Alley Theatre is offering a **FREE** publication entitled *For Today, Tomorrow and Your Family's Future*, which offers some estate planning ideas to discuss with your advisers. It's a resource that can be read now or kept for the future. The publication is available by mail or e-mail and there is, of course, no obligation. Simply return the enclosed card in the envelope provided.



If you would like to make a gift for the future of the Alley Theatre, our legal name is Alley Theatre and our Tax ID number is 74-1143076.

Masthead photos: Jeffrey Bean in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (photo by Michal Daniel). Jennifer Laporte and John Felch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (photo by T. Charles Erickson).



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