

Summer, 2016



Sharon Watkins always enjoys spending any holiday with her daughter Sarah.

Kyndel and Laura Bennett were happy to share the holiday.





Suzanne and Steve Ravel really enjoyed the fun casual party.



Steve and Carolyn Mobley were about to have a delightful evening.

## Headliners 4th of July 2016

The Fourth of July is a tradition with the King Family. Seated: Pier, Alma, and Gordon. Standing: Joel Citty, Marci and Gil.





The best face painting ever is on Liam Metschan with his mom Shelly.

... continued on page 2

Patti Stone with one of the youngest Miss Firecrackers (her granddaughter).









Carol and Ken Nelson had the most fun sharing the evening with their family

Brent Metschan was tickled to be with his daughter Margot.



Robert Shoop with his star spangled grandchildren Annabelle and Hunter Kuehl.

4th of July family affair: Clifton and Cindy Lind with daughter and son-in-law Shannon & James McNamara and their son Logan.

Nathan Thornhill with the Farmers<del>: Katherine,</del> Susan and Gary.

Graham and Clark Simpler and their parents Melissa and Jeff have been a tradition at Headliners Fourth of July celebrations for years. Brent Metschan quickly figured out that dancing with his daughter Adaire was great fun

Bass

*2* ... continued on page 3

## 



5.7

Lynn Davis and Amelia Bullock light up the night just like the fireworks.



Reenie and Kent Collins enjoyed the company of their family and friends.



Henry Bell III admitted he really likes hugging his wife Pam.

### SPEAKER EVENTS +

## The UT Tower Sniper Story at 50

August 2, 2016

Headliners' Chairman Brian Greig introduced the evening with a special tribute to Neal Spelce for all he has done for the club during five decades.



Austin experienced a long weekend remembrance of the deadly Tower event as July turned to August this summer. Special coverage of the anniversary in a variety of media, a screening of the documentary film "Tower" for those lucky enough to obtain tickets quickly, the unveiling of a privately financed memorial on the UT campus to those killed by Charles Whitman, and a special presentation for Headliners Club members and their guests – all immersed the community once again in thinking about "the nation's first mass murder in a public place."

Neal Spelce, the man who first told the story of Whitman's deadly assault in live radio broadcasts from the scene, moderated the presentation and provided perspective on those affected – victims dead and wounded, students and townspeople stunned by what happened, and the police officers who brought it to an end.

Spelce was joined in the Headliners presentation by four others:

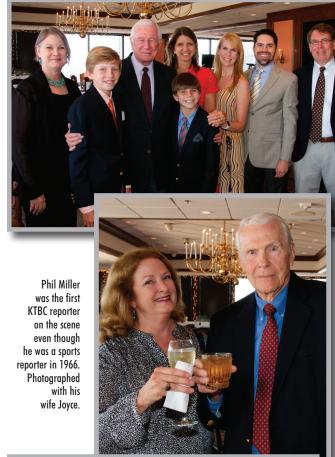
• Former club president and former Headliners Foundation chairman Gary Pickle, then a cameraman for KTBC-TV, who covered the carnage that day;

• Former *American-Statesman* reporter Brenda Bell, a UT student at the time who observed the terrifying scene on campus 50 years ago;

• Phil Miller, a longtime Austin sports reporter who "epitomized the all hands on deck" response by jumping into action to help Pickle and Spelce provide coverage to a national audience; and ....*continued on page 4 3* 

#### Speaker Events - The UT Tower Sniper Story at 50

Neal Spelce was thrilled to be surrounded by his family: I to right - Connie, Zach, Neal, Carson, Kit, Cile, Chris and Allen.





Excerpts from Keith Maitland's documentary added depth to the discussion.



• Keith Maitland, the documentary filmmaker who worked 10 years to get "Tower" produced after reading *Texas Monthly* editor Pam Colloff's 2006 story "96 Minutes." Maitland created a film Spelce called "the definitive piece on what happened that day." (Much of the film was itself wrapped around what Spelce saw and the story he broadcasted on August 1, 1966.)

Miller told the Headliners audience that at the time it was difficult to believe that someone was really shooting people from the Tower. "Maybe kids had gotten on the Tower and were throwing cherry bombs down," he thought.

Bell and others said a common reaction from those who experienced the trauma of the sniper attack was that they could not believe it only lasted 96 minutes because it seemed longer. When it was over, hundreds of students and others came onto the plaza in front of the UT Tower and stood speechless, trying to process what had happened. "It was like we were zombies. And then we began to see the bodies carried out," said Bell.

Pickle, who recalled "there was a lot of bravery that day," described feeling strange looking at bodies on the ground. He also noted the general silence after reports the sniper had been killed.

Spelce said that KTBC had never before shown a dead body on television, "but because of the enormity of this, we did." Why? Events that day were so powerful and so important for Austin. He also noted breaking a standard rule against reporting names of victims on-air before relatives could be notified. That caused grief for Spelce's predecessor, former KTBC news director Paul Bolton. He had come into the station to help, only to learn of his own grandson's death as reporter Joe Roddy read the sniper victim's names on-air from Brackenridge Hospital.

Citizens rushed to UT with scoped deer rifles to help police, who carried only side arms and shotguns. It's Spelce's opinion those people saved lives by curtailing Whitman's free-wheeling shoot-



Brenda Bell was a co-ed at UT in 1966 and witnessed the shootings. Photographed with her daughter Anna Bell Gall.

ing, adding that "most of the people who were shot were in the early moments of the attack."

Police communications in 1966 were primitive by today's standards. As a result, there was no coordination and no direction given to the officers who responded

#### Speaker Events - The UT Tower Sniper Story at 50

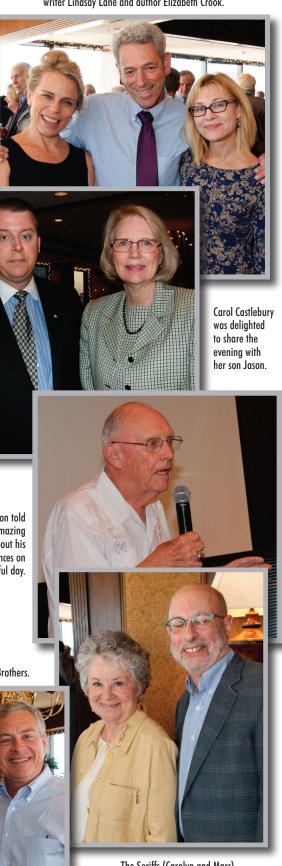
to the scene at UT. "The four guys who went up the tower did it at their own initiative without any guidance or direction on how to handle such a problem," Spelce added.

Those four – three police officers and a staffer from The Co-Op who was quickly deputized on the way to the top of the tower – ended Whitman's terror with gunfire under the clocks on the tower faces. The Headliners audience, a capacity crowd, included many members old enough to recall what it was like in Austin in the middle 60s - a town of about 200,000 people at the time. For them it was an opportunity to once again try to come to grips with what happened and why it remains prominent in our minds after so many other mass killings at schools and elsewhere. Spelce believes that is because later events have no visual records, as opposed to KLRN's camera pointed at the tower and broadcasting live while the shooting was underway. This was perhaps the first live national broadcast of a crisis event as it unfolded.

And the tower itself is the second reason: "it's such a dominant visual reminder of the event," said Spelce.

- Howard Falkenberg

Nationally recognized documentary filmmaker Paul Stekler with writer Lindsay Lane and author Elizabeth Crook.



The Seriffs (Carolyn and Marc) are happy to have moved back into Austin.

Jenny and Brian Gaston attended with their daughter Paige.



Jo Anne and Randy Molitor were pleased to have been a part of UT's tribute to the Tower Shooting victims. Sam Wilson told an amazing story about his experiences on that fateful day.

The Hale Brothers

## • A MOMENT IN HISTORY •

It was February 1967 and the Headliners journalism awards were being presented at the annual Headliners Club gala. The honorees that year were Cyd Charisse, Walter Cronkite and Jack Valenti.

However, the major news of the evening was that eleven staff members of the *American Statesman* - nine reporters and two editors - who were honored for their superior team effort in covering the Tragedy of the Tower. These writers and editors were cited by the Headliners Club for superb organization, labor beyond the call of normal duty and high quality of writing that portrayed not only the event itself, but the personalities, the emotions and reactions attending it.

In addition, Neal Spelce was honored with a Headliners Club special citation for excellence beyond the regular scope of news reporting (see citation).



# SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF Well Done, Robert Pedersen!

What would you do if 30 plus guests arrived for dinner with no notice? Panic is the normal response unless you are Rob Pedersen, assistant general manager at the Headliners Club. Celebrating his 30th anniversary as an employee, Pedersen is the poster boy for the can-do spirit that makes the Club great.

The 30 plus dinner guests? Pedersen and the superb staff took care of the member's guests in fine fashion. It was admittedly a bit of a team scramble, Pedersen says. (Footnote: The member mistakenly made a reservation at

the Headliners East, a restaurant on Sixth Street, not the Headliners Club.)

That attitude and commitment to service is matched by Pedersen's calm demeanor. What else would you expect of a man who keeps track of the 1600 food items on the Club's shelves on any given day?

Hired as a line cook while still in culinary school, Pedersen had plans to move to a coast (east or west) but became enamored with the Club and the culinary arts. Wistfully mentioning he wished he had kept a journal along the way, Pedersen recalled a few of the famous people he encountered at the Club: Candice Bergen ("You got to

be kidding me!" he mused) and President George W. Bush ("Jovial. What a personality!") to name two. He also recalled unusual requests such as the Club president who wanted the lunch menu to include peanut butter and jelly sandwiches - not on the children's menu, the adult menu. (Yes, it was included for a bit.) Or the member who came to the Club with turkey fries which the kitchen prepared and served on a silver platter. Of course!

All in a day's work for a man as talented as Pedersen. Born in North Carolina at Camp Lejeune, Pedersen has an impressive Austin pedigree: "I'm fourth generation Texan (Austin). My father's great uncle moved to Austin from Denmark in about 1880 and some time there after joined the banking industry. He was a vice president of American Bank and also developed an area in Travis Heights. This great uncle sponsored his nephew, my grandfather, and



Jennifer and Rob Pedersen

his family to include my father here in Austin. They all moved to Austin in 1926. My grandfather opened a bakery, Pedersen Bakery, next to Sholtz's Beer Garden. My father grew up here in Austin eventually graduating from Austin High School." After joining the Marine Corps, his father saw action in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam retiring as a full colonel in Austin, Texas.

The assistant general manager position presents challenges and joys. "It is fun to bring people up in the business like Kevin Robinson, whose smile and personality make him a

natural." Trying to manage costs and staff and members' needs finds him in the middle of some issues. "Every day is different here and I solve a lot of problems . . . some of which Sue Meller does not know about," he adds conspiratorially. "Sue and I try to recognize talent and make sure the staff is taken care of. I'm very proud of our staff!"

Members benefit from Pedersen's calming energy and attention to detail. Hard to believe this talented assistant general manager passed up a college football scholarship to study finance. But Pedersen is full of surprises and insider information. For example, the Club's famous crab cakes were inspired by a downtown seafood restaurant. He feels

lucky to work with Sue Meller who is such a good leader. She is "stern, giving and understanding," he says.

Pedersen and wife Jennifer attended the University of Texas while daughter Lindsey is a Texas A&M grad. Time off finds the couple at their retreat in Wimberley floating on the Blanco River. And yes, they love to cook together. (Pedersen considers Bolognese their signature dish.)

When you spy Pedersen at the Club congratulate him on his 30-year anniversary and his personal commitment to the Club, which he sums up in his philosophy: "Members get what they want."

Thanks, Rob!

## • EVENTS •

## KIDS MOVIE NIGHTS



Katie Hackerman with Lyla Logue, Scarlett Logue, Westyn Owen, Aidan Logue, Shana Logue and Shannon Owen.





Jonathan and Bridgette Osborne with their son Harry.



Brother and sister duo Thomas and Katie Inman.

Grayson always brings his mom and dad, Sterling and Catherine Howry, with him to movie nights.





The Ruckels: Grant and Mari with their son Felix.

#### Events - Kids Movie Nights



Tiffany Willet brought I to r: a family friend, and kids Jacob, Shane-David and Genevieve.





Deborah Peel and her charming granddaughter Louisa Peel Gordon.



The De Leons: Anna, Winslow and Henry, with mom Shannon and dad Ben.

George and Peggy Melton spent a special evening with their grandkids.



Bobby and Jan Jenkins with their darling granddaughters.



#### Events - Kids Movie Nights

It was fun for the entire family (adults I to r): Trey & Laura Phillips, Jason & Elizabeth Pitts, Mary Lou Fitzpatrick, (children I to r): Curt Pitts, Anna Phillips, Lee Phillips and Wynn Pitts.

DISNEP



Felicia and Craig Hester really enjoyed sharing movie night with Emma Lewis, Abby Teel, Karys Lopez and Alan Lewis.

• SIDELINES •

Honors

**Kirk Watson** 

Watson, Hector DeLeon and Jim Schwertner. The pur-

pose of this award is to recognize men who have made

family a priority while balancing demanding careers and

The American Diabetes Association's Father of the Year

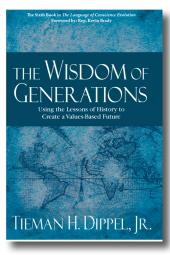
Awards honored several Headliners this June. Kirk



Hector DeLeon



Jim Schwertner



Skipper Dippel's book The Wisdom of Generations (a copy of which resides in the Headliners library) recently was selected for the Montaigne Medal given by the Eric Hoffer Award. This award is given to books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. The Montaigne Medal is given in honor of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne.

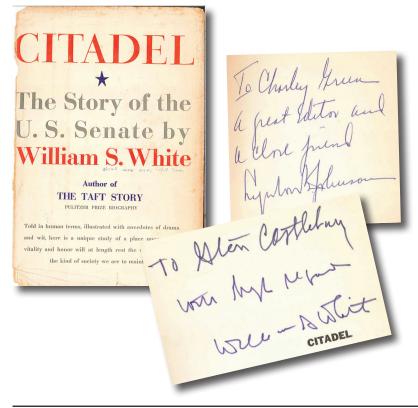
Lyle Dunlap was totally mesmerized by the movie Big Hero 6. She was the special guest of her mom Greta Goldsby and dad Justin Dunlap.



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community involvement.

### New to the Headliners Library



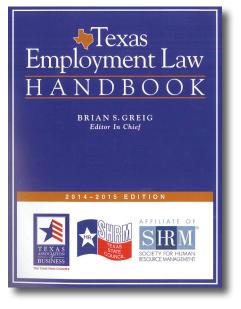
#### Citadel - The Story of the U.S. Senate by William S. White

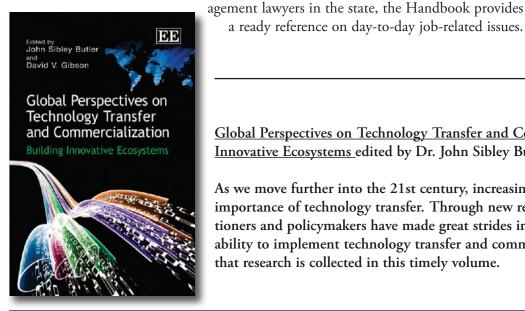
A special gift for the Headliners Club Library! Citadel - The Story of the U.S. Senate written by William S. White - was originally given by Lyndon B. Johnson to Headliners Founder Charles Green. It came back into White's possession, and he gave it to Headliners member Glen Castlebury. Mr. Castlebury, who is a Headliners Award recipient for his American Statesman coverage of the 1966 UT Tower shooting (see moment in history section in this newsletter!), has graciously donated Citadel to Headliners, where it will find its new home in the Green Room library! Thank you Glen Castlebury!

Texas Employment Law Handbook edited by Brian S. Greig

Thirty years ago Brian Greig recognized there was no comprehensive treatise on the law of the workplace written for business people. This led to The Texas Employment Law Handbook, published by the Texas Association of Business and the Society for Human Resource Management Texas Council. With chapters by the leading man-

a ready reference on day-to-day job-related issues.





Global Perspectives on Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Building Innovative Ecosystems edited by Dr. John Sibley Butler

As we move further into the 21st century, increasing emphasis is being placed on the importance of technology transfer. Through new research and practices, scholars, practitioners and policymakers have made great strides in broadening our understanding and ability to implement technology transfer and commercialization processes. The fruit of that research is collected in this timely volume.

## • HEADLINERS FOUNDATION •

Nearly \$30,000 is awarded to deserving journalists each year by the Headliners Foundation. Winners at the division level receive \$500 prize money to recognize their achievements, and Charles E. Green Award winners receive \$1000 prize money. In addition, winners are invited to the annual Mike Quinn Awards luncheon to receive a trophy and to be recognized and honored by their peers. This year's Quinn luncheon will be held on **Saturday, September 17 at the Club**.

The Showcase and Charles E. Green Awards are considered by many journalists to be the state's top awards. The award programs continue to grow in participation and in the quality of entries, thereby highlighting the work of the Foundation and a healthy industry focused on providing high-impact stories to keep Texans informed, educated, and engaged.

#### Winners of the 2015 Showcase Awards for Enterprise and Innovation

Showcase Gold:

Brian Rosenthal, Houston Chronicle, for "How Texas Officials Use Your Money to Help Their Friends"

Showcase Silver: The Texas Tribune and *Austin American-Statesman* for "Paid to Prosecute" KRGV-TV (Weslaco) for "Trafficked: Web of Despair" Brooks Egerton, *The Dallas Morning News*, for "Deadly Dentistry"

Showcase Honorable Mentions:

KXAN-TV (Austin) for "Racial Profiling Whitewash" KVUE-TV (Austin) for "State of Neglect"

#### Winners of the 2015 Charles E. Green Awards

Texas Associated Press Managing Editors (TAPME)

Star Investigative Report of the Year: Andrea Ball and Eric Dexheimer, Austin American-Statesman, for "Missed Signs, Fatal Consequences"

Star Photojournalist of the Year: Smiley Pool, The Dallas Morning News

Star Opinion Writer of the Year: Lisa Falkenberg, Houston Chronicle

Star Reporter of the Year: Brian Rosenthal, Houston Chronicle

Star Breaking News Report of the Year: Staff Writers, *The Dallas Morning News*, for "North Texas Tornadoes – Total Devastation"

Texas Associated Press Broadcasters (TAPB)

Best Spot News Coverage by a Station (Radio): Staff, KRLD-AM, Dallas-Fort Worth for "May Flooding in North Texas"

Best Investigative Report (TV): Brian Collister, Ben Friberg, Joe Ellis, Josh Hinkle and Chad Cross, KXAN-TV (Austin), for "Racial Profiling Whitewash"

Best Reporter (TV): Matt Rist, KOSA-TV (Odessa)

Best Reporter (Radio): Kate McGee, KUT 90.5 FM, Austin

Best Spot News Coverage by a Station (TV): Philip Bruce and Staff, KHOU-TV (Houston), for "Memorial Day Floods"

Joint Competition: TAPB and TAPME

Best Online Package: Jennifer Emily and Diane Jennings, *The Dallas Morning News*, for "Kids or Criminals: Growing Up and Getting Out"

## NEW MEMBERS +

Tony C. Budet President & CEO/ University Federal Credit Union

James M. Cowden Partner/ Scott, Douglass & McConnico LLP

Matthew Hoglund Regional Manager/ DPR Construction

Soncia Reagins-Lilly Interim VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students/ University of Texas at Austin

Tom Noonan President & CEO/Austin CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Jeff P. O'Jibway *Executive Vice President/* Horizon Bank

Patti O'Meara Founder & President/ Personal Administrators Inc.

Trey Phillips Sales Associate/ Moreland Properties

Christopher L. Shields Vice President/ Horizon Bank

Sam Greer Director/ Austin Community College

Wayne Slater Journalist

Brian Sweany Editor in Chief/ Texas Monthly

## ♦ REQUIESCANT IN PACE ◆

Joseph C. Boggins

H. C. Carter

Bettie (Mrs. Robert) Girling

Karen (Mrs. James) Johnson

Jeanette (Mrs. Ferris) Nassour

## • GOOD TO KNOW! HEADLINERS UPDATES •

The **Legacy Membership** category was created so that families long associated with the club could encourage the next generation to become members. A Legacy member is a person who is the child (biological or adopted) or grandchild of a current member, that member having held membership in the Club for no less than 10 years. Legacy Memberships are available to persons under the age of 45, however the age ceiling has been suspended temporarily. Therefore, from **now until the end of the year**, Legacy Memberships will be available for qualifying individuals of any age. Legacy members also have the distinct advantage of a discount on their initiation fee.

- Headliners members and their guests have been **raving about the updates recently made** to dinner service. Watching the **sunset over the Hill Country** is stunning; the south-west view from the Nash Dining Room is truly beautiful.
- Our **relaxed dress code** has been well received -consisting of a collared shirt for men with slacks or pressed jeans. No jackets or ties required! **Enjoy a more relaxed setting for lunch and din-ner**.(Please refrain from wearing T-shirts, shorts, sandals, athletic attire or athletic shoes.)
- Through the month of August, evening parking in the garage will be complimentary for members and their guests coming to dinner or to happy hour in the press box.
- We have been getting great feedback from everyone **parking at the alternate lot during the lunch hour.** The discounted \$5.00 rate is available only to Headliners Club members and guests on weekdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Using the code below, parking will be valid for up to three hours from the time you park. **Don't forget, there is always ample parking here in the Chase Bank Tower in the evenings.**

## **HEADLINERS PARKING**

## **Great News About Parking!**

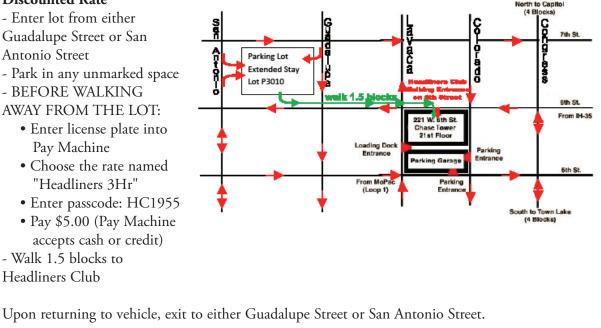
As many of you know, parking in downtown Austin at lunchtime has become increasingly challenging. Parking is certainly still available in the Chase Bank Tower garage. However, the garage does frequently become full during the lunch time. The Headliners Club has partnered with Premium Parking (thanks to Headliners member Ryan Berger) for a solution to this problem.

Premium Parking is offering the Headliners Club a discounted parking rate at the parking lot it operates at 600 Guadalupe Street (Lot P3010 - connected to the Extended Stay America Hotel). When the Chase garage is full, or when you prefer to avoid the congestion of the garage, the additional parking lot is a wonderful solution. In the evenings the garage in the Chase building is still your best bet.

Several members have parked at the new lot and those who did found it to be easy to access and with no wait to exit the lot, a great experience all together.

The discounted \$5.00 rate will be available only to Headliners Club members and guests on weekdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Using the code below, parking will be valid for up to three hours from the time you park.

## Instructions for Using Discounted Rate



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