Kathleen Cunningham
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Kathleen continues to present entertaining programs, including:

**UNSINKABLE – A Memoir, by Debbie Reynolds**

with *My Girls*, by her son, Todd Fisher

**Before the Parade Passes By, Marge & Gower Champion**

by John Anthony Gilvey

She also currently offers:

**Mary Martin — Broadway Legend, by Ronald L. Davis**

**The Astaires, Fred and Adele**, (his sister!) by Kathleen Riley

What audiences have said:

“Your program was such fun and a huge success with our group!”

“Truly one of the best, most professionally done presentations we have had.... EVER!”

“You have such a gift for storytelling.”

“My friends and I loved your every word and move.”

“What an amazingly thorough and passionately researched, but most of all BEAUTIFULLY delivered program you gave us last evening!!”

“Everyone was thoroughly entertained, as well as delightfully educated.”

“We were completely captivated by the story and your graceful performance.”

“Your reviews are always delightful and memorable.”

“Always so elegant.”

Dance has been a major part of Kathleen’s life ever since she began studying ballet at the age of four. At Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, she was an officer on the drill team. At Southern Methodist University, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority, her favorite classes were in the Dance Department. She even had the opportunity to study with the Houston and Dallas Ballet Companies.

Since that time, she has become well known in Dallas not only as a speaker and book reviewer, but as a performer of professional ballroom dance exhibitions with her husband, Randy Willis. Known professionally as, Kathleen & Randy, they’re trained in the International Style of Standard and Latin ballroom dancing, now known as Dancesport. After competing nationally for eight years, they performed professional ballroom exhibitions for over 20 years.

Kathleen has had a long association with the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society. Starting as a docent...
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giving tours in the historic DeGolyer mansion, Kathleen developed the Arboretum’s Speakers Bureau over 10 years and served six years on the Arboretum’s Board of Directors. She was also a member of the Arboretum Women’s Council Board of Directors, serving as Program Emcee. In 2009, she served as Co-chairman and Emcee of the Women’s Council Children’s Christmas Tea that featured former First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, as guest “Storyteller.” Kathleen was delighted to have been named Honorary Chairman of the Women’s Council Writer’s Garden Symposium in 2008. In 2016, Kathleen was honored to be the recipient of the prestigious Founders Award.

As a member of the Dallas Woman’s Club, Kathleen served on the Scholarship Awards Committee for three years. She is also an active member of the Dallas Garden Club and has served on its Board of Directors.

Kathleen is proud to be a member of the Dallas Professional Book Reviewers Association.

Current Programs Offered:

**UNSINKABLE – A Memoir,** by Debbie Reynolds

with **My Girls,** by her son, Todd Fisher

One day after the death of her daughter, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds passed away, saying, “I just want to be with Carrie.” After you hear the details of Debbie’s life – from childhood in the Great Depression, to winning Miss Burbank, to Singin’ in the Rain, to three failed marriages that left her broke and bereft – you’ll understand why Debbie truly was unsinkable. This review incorporates thoughts expressed by her son, Todd, in his recently published memoir. Despite the hardships, her tale is woven with joy, laughter, and fascinating inside stories of the golden age of the Hollywood musical.
Before the Parade Passes By, Marge & Gower Champion
by John Anthony Gilvey

Next to Fred & Ginger, no other couple captured the hearts of the Broadway, TV, and movie-going public like Marge & Gower Champion. They came into their own during the ’50s and ’60s with amazing lifts, ballroom choreography, and show dancing in movies like Showboat. Gower went on to direct, and choreograph hits on Broadway including Bye Bye Birdie, Hello, Dolly!, and 42nd Street. Marge continues to dance in her nineties. This review cover the ups and downs of their colorful career.

Offered on special request:

Mary Martin, Broadway Legend by Ronald L. Davis

Perhaps best known for her role as Peter Pan in the 1950s, Mary Martin became the darling of Broadway in the 1940s singing My Heart Belongs to Daddy. Born in Weatherford, Texas, she captivated audiences in the touring company of Annie Get Your Gun, before making Broadway history in South Pacific and The Sound of Music. Hear about her early years running a dancing school in Fort Worth, her Hollywood career, and the difficulties between her husband, Richard Halliday, and her son, Larry Hagman, who became famous as J.R. Ewing, on the TV show Dallas.

The Astaires: Fred & Adele by Kathleen Riley

Sister Adele was Fred’s first and all-time favorite dance partner. As different as night and day, they were as close as fraternal twins. Together they performed in vaudeville and starred on Broadway for 27 years before Fred ever made his first movie. With Ginger, he made nine films over seven years, but spent far more time creating the dances with a man—named Hermes Pan. After Ginger, Fred danced in 20 more movie musicals with nearly as many different partners. Find out how he worked with each, and why there were so many different partners after Adele.