

Q3 2023

TBHF NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear TBHF Legends, Directors and Alumni,

In just two weeks, we will be in San Antonio, hosting our Annual Induction Dinner & Ceremony (presented by Texas Capital). For the fortieth consecutive year, we will be honoring individuals whose impact has been transformational in both business and community.

This annual event is an opportunity to honor transformational business leaders for their contributions to the state economy and their communities. This year we are honored to recognize Beaver Aplin, Alan Dreeben & Eddie Block, Kit Goldsbury, Janet Gurwitch, Daniel Lubetzky, and Jack Martin as our Class of 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees. Each of these individuals have left an indelible mark on their industry, economy and world. All are trailblazers who have engineered avenues for other businesses and business leaders to thrive. Their story is our story and your story, and we cannot wait to inspire a whole new generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders this special evening.

I would like to thank our Directors for their loyal involvement and support, our scholar and Veteran Alumni who have benefitted from our business leadership awards and continued to give back so generously to this organization in terms of time and resources, and to our Legends who continue to impress us by showing up for and celebrating their peers. Together, you serve as tremendous ambassadors for our mission to encourage business leaders to embrace their profession and success as a responsibility to make this world better. Thank you for your commitment sustaining and growing the business culture of our state and protecting the values that make it so special.

Sincerely,



Meredith Walker, Executive Director

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Alexa Stachowiak, Janet Gurwitch,
and Takeya Green



Matt Hinson, Blake Bunger, and
Darrell Morris

IN CONVERSATION WITH JANET GURWITCH



Janet Gurwitch and Amanda Brock

On September 21st, TBHF had the distinct pleasure of hosting a cocktail celebration, honoring 2023 Hall of Fame Inductee Janet Gurwitch.

Gurwitch is the Founder and Former CEO of Laura Mercier Cosmetics. Currently, she is an operating partner for Advent International, where she works in the beauty/personal care private equity space. She is also a minority owner and board member of the Houston Astros.

The event kicked off with some welcome remarks from 2023 Chairman of the Board John Keeton. He then turned things over to TBHF Director Amanda Brock to moderate a discussion with Janet. Their conversation touched a wide variety of topics ranging from her corporate experience at Foley's and Neiman Marcus, starting her own brand, venturing in the world of private equity, and baseball.

This event was made possible by the generous support of TBHF Directors Amanda Brock (CEO, Aris Solutions) and Carolyn Faulk (President, A&C Plastics).

Gurwitch and her fellow Inductees will be honored on November 2nd in San Antonio at the 2023 Induction Dinner & Ceremony. We hope you can join us for this special celebration of Texas entrepreneurship and community-minded leadership.





30 CONVERSATIONS
30 TEXAS BUSINESS LEGENDS



TBHF 30X30

This year, the Texas Business Hall of Fame launched an exciting new initiative: TBHF 30x30, a series where we sit down with TBHF Legends for an intimate 30-minute conversation, offering a behind the scenes glimpse into the life of an entrepreneur. During these virtual conversations, we focussed on lifestyle questions, habits, and characteristics that help make an entrepreneur successful. We intentionally kept the audience small, ensuring participants would have an opportunity to interact with and ask questions of our Legends.

This was an ambitious undertaking, but one that has led to countless fascinating conversations on leadership, personal development, and innovation in business. We'd like to thank the TBHF Alumni and 2023 Awardees who showed up for these virtual calls and asked great questions.

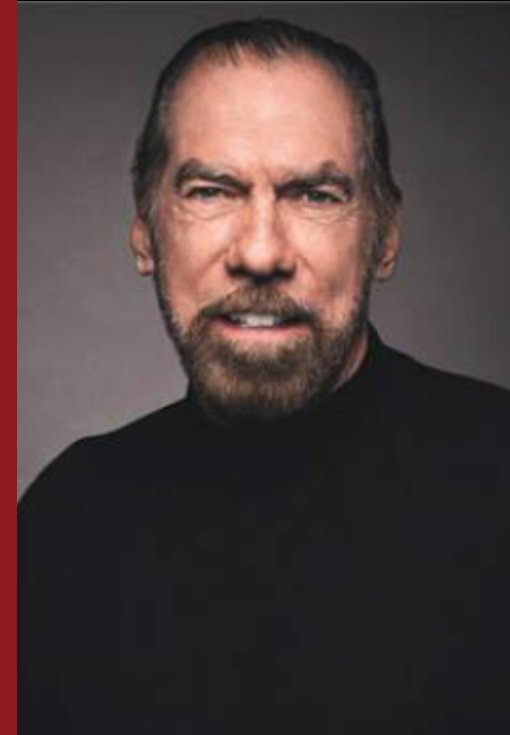
TBHF would like to thank each and every Legend who agreed to participate in this series: John Paul DeJoria, Dennert Ware, Rod Canion, Gary Dudley, Carlos Alvarez, John Arnold, Robert Duncan, Edward Whitacre, John Goff, Paul Hobby, Graham Weston, Dian Graves Stai, Lucy Billingsley, Harvey Najim, Ric Campo, and Charlie Amato.

Another special feature of this series was we had a handful of TBHF Alumni volunteer as moderators. Special thanks to Joseph Cabrera, Lauren Cornell, and Michael Kmetz.

You can watch recordings from our virtual calls on YouTube by clicking [this link](#).

"My personal motto is: success unshared is failure."

JOHN PAUL DEJORIA



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

MARTINA LEMON DIXON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UNICORN SERVICE
SOLUTIONS

You have over 12 years of experience in executive and leadership roles. What traits do you think have helped you succeed as a business leader?

Succeeding as a business leader requires a combination of skills, traits, and qualities that enable you to effectively guide any organization, make strategic decisions, and navigate the challenges of being a leader. The traits that have been integral to my success are being able to see the big picture, having strong communication skills for conveying the vision and expectations, being decisive when making tough decisions, leading with honesty and integrity, staying curious and seeking new knowledge, being a solution seeker, and having a strong financial acumen, which is crucial to making informed decisions.

You joined the TBHF Board of Directors this year. What drew you to the organization and what has been the most rewarding aspect so far?

TBHF is the perfect combination of the very things that are most important to me, business, philanthropy, and paying it forward to the next generation of business leaders. Serving as an interviewer for the TBHF Award Interview for University of Houston business students was most rewarding. The students were all so talented and impressive, and it was very difficult to make a decision to choose just one.

To read the entire interview with Martina, please click [here](#).

"I have embraced a purpose-driven approach in an effort to create a better world, one where businesses thrive alongside individuals who are empowered to make meaningful contributions. Community leadership and business leadership are closely interconnected and complement one another."

MARTINA LEMON DIXON



"Excellence in business really is about staying true to your core values and working with others that share those values. Everything else is just an extension of that idea. For me at this point in my career, I am most passionate about building a great team and organizational culture while we also build great real estate projects."

JOHN MORRAN



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JOHN MORRAN
PRINCIPAL, TOPO

One of TBHF's core values is community. Your latest venture, TOPO, is a full service commercial real estate development company that believes "responsible growth means creating spaces that both grow our community and pay tribute to its roots." Why is community so fundamental to TOPO's mission and how do you achieve this goal?

Community is fundamental to us because several core members of our team at TOPO have been part of the Austin community since 1984 and we want to actively contribute by delivering developments that are unique in the market. We call our type of project: Creative Commercial. Since that is not a label that is traditionally recognized by our industry, we explain a TOPO project as an activated, mix of commercial uses in space that has thoughtful design, unique forms and human scale while still offering our tenants attainable rent. We focus on creating a place for small to medium size local business operators to be successful and in order to best set them up for that success, our projects need to include food & beverage, retail, entertainment, fitness, creative office uses that combine with the design of the project to create meaningful interactions for our tenants and visitors. It is about creating experiences, or evoking feelings, with some emotional value when you are at the property.

Check out our full interview with John [here](#).

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

JAY CLINGMAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR, HEAD OF COMMERCIAL
BANKING, TEXAS CAPITAL

You have a long history of serving on many non-profit boards in the Dallas and San Antonio areas and currently serve as a member of the Klyde Warren Park Board in Dallas and the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio. Why do you think it is important for business leaders and entrepreneurs to be actively engaged in their local communities?

Having rich programs in healthcare, education, economic development and the arts are mutually beneficial to our communities and our businesses. It is my view that it is in every leader's best interest to get involved in their community. Leaders are in a unique position to serve because we can use our professional expertise to support a nonprofit's goal. In my experience, I have been able to share my lessons from banking to help organizations grow and thrive.

What is a piece of advice you would offer to early-stage entrepreneurs looking to start or grow a business in Texas?

It is especially important that anyone looking to start or grow a business here in the Lone Star State build relationships with trusted advisors. I highly encourage others to seek counsel from experienced business operators and other entrepreneurs. Surround yourself with people who will give you transparent feedback, both good and bad. In addition, you will likely require more capital than you initially project. Build capital cushions into your plan so that you can launch successfully.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview with Mr. Clingman. Thank you to Texas Capital, the presenting sponsor of the 2023 Induction Dinner & Ceremony.

When it comes to business, excellence is being consistently successful in innovation, operations, marketing and service. The best companies are consistent in each of these areas every day.

JAY CLINGMAN





Jason Hendricks, Madison Xavier, and John Paul Thomas



Grant Goodrich and Wade McCrory



TBHF Alums and Directors mingling at our latest Dallas networking event

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The objective for the Alumni Association is to connect TBHF scholars and veterans to each other, as well as to Directors and Legends. Our goal is to continue inspiring alumni members long after they have received their Future Texas Business Legend Award and build a sense of community among our recipients.

As an Alumni Association member, you are part of a legacy of exceptional students, Veterans and entrepreneurs. You are also now part of an exclusive network of business professionals and Legends throughout our state. Members enjoy a series of exclusive benefits, like invitations to our virtual programming and in-person events, including our annual Induction Ceremony.

Membership is only \$50 a year to support association activities. Joining the Alumni Association is a powerful way to pay forward the Hall of Fame's investment in your success, continue to benefit from the Hall of Fame network, and gain eligibility for exclusive mentoring and learning opportunities.

Questions? Contact pbartlett@texasbusiness.org.

GET SOCIAL WITH US

The best way to stay up-to-date on the latest TBHF news is to follow us on our social media platforms. We share exclusive content, sneak peeks, and interviews on a weekly basis. We love to connect with our members and stay in touch, so follow us today.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL SCHOLAR & VETERAN AWARDS LUNCHEON

Sponsored by Deloitte & Frost

NOVEMBER 2
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

2023 INDUCTION DINNER & CEREMONY

Sponsored by Texas Capital

NOVEMBER 2, 2023
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CHAIRMAN'S & PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Sponsored by Bank of Texas

NOVEMBER 2
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS