

2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala

Honoring
Shelley and Art Gottschalk



RICE
UNIVERSITY





The Friends of Fondren Library
cordially invite you to join us in honoring

Shelley and Art Gottschalk

at our 44th Gala Dinner and Auction
Friday, March 13, 2026

Cocktails and festivities at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:45 p.m.

River Oaks Country Club
Houston, Texas

Black Tie Optional | Valet Parking

For event and auction updates, please visit library.rice.edu/friends.

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Proceeds from the 2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala will benefit the physical spaces, programs and collections at Fondren Library.

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Shelley and Art Gottschalk

We are proud to honor Shelley and Art Gottschalk in recognition of their profound and multifaceted contributions to Rice University and Fondren Library. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of philanthropy and engagement that strengthens our university community.

Shelley and Art have played a pivotal role in the success of many Friends of Fondren Library initiatives, most notably the signature Special Occasion Dinner program, which they chaired in recent years, and their impactful leadership as gala chairs in 2024. Together, they have consistently championed the library's mission. Shelley served on the FoFL board from 2016 to 2022 and held the position of board president in 2022. Their generosity also extends to unique gifts, such as concerts at their lakeside home or whimsical collections of owls gathered during their travels, all donated for library auctions.

The Gottschalks are beloved Traveling Owls hosts, known for uncovering hidden music venues around the world and sharing those discoveries with the Rice community. Their interest in travel and support of students led them to establish the Arthur and Shelley Gottschalk Traveling Grant for Musicians. In its 10 years, this award has supported student projects that reflect their deep commitment to fostering global awareness and understanding.

Across the Rice campus, Art's impact has been far-reaching. A distinguished professor of music composition at the Shepherd School, and one of its original faculty members, he founded and directed the school's electronic music laboratories for 25 years, and chaired the Department of Music Composition and Theory for 15 years. His music is performed around the world and is featured on over 45 commercial recordings. Gramophone Magazine described his music as "infectious,

loud and fun", and the BBC called it "fascinatingly strange." His outstanding contributions at Rice have earned him the Association of Rice Alumni's Meritorious Service Award, the Presidential Award for Mentoring and the inaugural Outstanding Enrichment Host from the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls. His academic and professional papers are being preserved in Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center.

Shelley's connection to Rice began even earlier than Art's. Her family legacy dates back to Rice's earliest years, when her grandmother, Louise Beraud Griggs, was a member of the Class of 1918. Though interrupted by valorous and decorated service in WWI, she graduated in 1920. In addition to her contribution to the library, Shelley has long been a champion for Rice's international students. As manager of volunteer services for the Institute of International Education, she supervised nonacademic programs for international students at local colleges and universities. Her involvement with the Friends of International Students and Scholars, which connects international students at Rice with local families to help ease their transition to life in the U.S., was very special to her. Upon her departure from IIE, the Rice Office of International Students and Scholars presented her with an award of appreciation for dedicated service to Rice International Students.

The Gottschalks are also avid supporters of athletics at Rice and longtime members of the Owl Club and the RBI Club. Through their visionary leadership, enduring generosity and commitment to excellence, Shelley and Art Gottschalk have left an indelible mark on Rice University, Fondren Library and the broader community. We are proud to celebrate them at the 2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala.

At the heart of Rice University's academic life, Fondren Library is a place where students study, collaborate, and engage directly with ideas and materials that deepen understanding. Faculty and researchers rely on the Library not only for access to resources, but also for the expertise and spaces that support teaching and research across disciplines.

Your support of the Friends of Fondren Library Gala helps advance the Library's strategic priorities. Gala support strengthens distinctive collections, expands digital scholarship and research services, and supports welcoming, accessible spaces where collaboration can flourish. With your help, the library can continue to respond thoughtfully as academic needs evolve, offer experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for what comes next, and care for resources that will serve Rice scholars for generations.



Our live auction items are listed on the next pages for your planning purposes. Please visit our website for details about our very popular Special Occasion Dinners. The dinners are intimate events where a small group of library donors enjoy a short talk by a Rice administrator or faculty member, followed by discussions over dinner. Your fixed-price bid secures one seat at the dinner, so check your calendar with friends or colleagues now and plan to attend a dinner together. We wish you luck in winning your favorite prizes.

Live Auction Highlights

San Miguel de Allende at Casa Tecolote

Pack your bags for this quaint, historical village just a short two-hour flight from Houston. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, San Miguel is near the town of Dolores Hidalgo where Mexico first initiated the fight for its independence from Spain and where the patriots who spearheaded the revolution, including Miguel de Allende, lost their lives, immortalizing San Miguel de Allende. Dating back to 1542, the town is in the very heart of Mexico and sits at 6,000 feet above sea level in the Sierra Madre mountain range. In the last two decades, it has successfully beckoned chefs from all over the world, becoming a food mecca where visitors can experience just about every type of cuisine.

Your home away from home is Casa Tecolote (Owl House), a 150-year-old traditional colonial Mexican home located in the Centro Histórico district of San Miguel, which is the original old town. The central Jardin (garden) is a mere three blocks from the house and the Mercado de Artesanías is a short, picturesque two-block walk.

Upon entering Casa Tecolote, you are ushered into a capilla (little chapel), complete with a hand painted, vaulted ceiling. From there, you step into the central courtyard, where all rooms open on to the courtyard featuring an outdoor fireplace and built-in gas grill. There is a beautiful, well-equipped kitchen that is open to both the living and the dining rooms and is complemented by a small separate catering kitchen.

The first-floor primary suite has a king bed. On the second level, there are two bedrooms both with en-suite bathrooms. One bedroom features a king-size bed. The second upstairs bedroom has two twin beds. Both rooms open onto a lanai with chaise lounges — a perfect place to while away an afternoon with a good book. There is also a study on this level to complete all the creature comforts and needs of home.



A roof top terrace features a hot tub that has a stunning vista up the mountain side to the east and a beautiful view of four of the seven churches in San Miguel to the west.

Dates for your seven-day stay to be mutually agreed upon April to June or late August through mid-October 2026. Please note that April and May tend to be the warmest months in San Miguel.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages and tips

Please note: Smoking or vaping of any kind and pets are strictly prohibited in the home, on the rooftop or on the grounds.

Donated by Amy and Robert Taylor '74

Live Auction Highlights

Casa Porvenir

Relax as you enjoy the beautiful, historic, city of San Miguel de Allende and its wonderful people. Sip coffee on the rooftop of the centrally located Casa Porvenir as you take in the sunrise, watch the hummingbirds and listen to the church bells. Enjoy one of the staff's wonderful breakfasts, lunches or dinners or sip on an agua fresca made with fresh fruits, cereals, flowers or seeds. Stroll down the original Chichimeca walking path, Cañadita de Los Aguacates or Calle Aldama and join in festivals, learn about local history and eat at first-class restaurants. Casa Porvenir is a short walk to Parque Juarez, a public plaza, and is also close to El Jardín, the central garden. Outside of the city, you can enjoy the countryside with vineyards and hot springs and return home to enjoy the sunset and wake to another satisfying day in this enchanting town.

Casa Porvenir, surrounded by trees and relatively quiet, is a light-filled, 2,000-square-foot patio home with staffing two or three days a week. Your only responsibility will be to pay the staff, as they are part of the magic. Flowers and plants bloom in big pots outside and inside and a soft breeze prevails, ventilating the house with a profusion of sweet, fresh aromas. Color abounds in the decorations and furnishings of this split-level house suitable for two couples.

From the back entrance, the downstairs bedroom is only four steps to all main rooms. The master bedroom, on the second level, is large and quiet. Both bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms. The house, decorated with art and textiles collected from Mexico, Central and South America, is named after the owner's maternal grandfather's estate in Santa Marta, Colombia. The realtors recently designated the



neighborhood the Beverly Hills of San Miguel.

Dates for your seven- to 10-day stay to be mutually agreed upon April or December 2026. Maximum number of guests is four.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages, tips and staffing — staffing costs 2,000 pesos per week or 3,000 pesos for a 10-day stay. (2,000 pesos are approximately \$110 as of December 2025.)

Donated by Therese Tilley

Live Auction Highlights



Villa in Spain

Discover Frigiliana, the most beautiful village in Spain, while spending seven days in a restored villa just five miles north of the Mediterranean in Andalusia. There are two bedrooms, each with a queen-size bed, and two shower baths. The living room, dining room, kitchen and terrace have breathtaking views of the Sierras de Tejeda and Almirajara mountain ranges and Alhama Natural Park and openings to ancient caves. Dates for your one-week visit to be mutually agreed upon.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages and tips

Donated by Barbara Byrd

Chef-Selected Dinner for Eight

Turner's Cut, a Berg Hospitality Group original concept and Houston's most opulent steakhouse located in Autry Park, offers white-glove service, daily live music and exquisite fare in a sophisticated steakhouse reminiscent of the Gilded Age. The restaurant received the 2025 rd+d award for full-service restaurant design, impressing the judges who like that "it's a very curated space" with "bespoke details." This chef-selected pre-fixe five-course menu for eight guests with wine pairing will feature American Wagyu beef and Broken Arrow Ranch quail. In DiningOut HTX, Sarah Neilsen says, "A meal at Turner's Cut is truly an unforgettable one."

Date to be mutually agreed upon, excluding December, holidays and special events.

Donated by Berg Hospitality Group



Live Auction Highlights

City Kitchen In-Home Dinner for Eight

Imagine an elegant dinner for eight in your home, prepared by the incomparable City Kitchen Catering. Plan your three-course menu with their events team and sit back to watch and enjoy culinary artistry. You will experience an unparalleled dining experience, featuring the best seasonal ingredients and creative new offerings that showcase exceptional flavors and contemporary presentations.

Date to be mutually agreed upon within one year of purchase date, excluding holidays and the month of December. This item is for food and staff only. Buyer provides rentals and beverages.

Donated by City Kitchen



Clinic With Rice Women's Golf

Enjoy an exclusive golf clinic for up to eight participants hosted by the Rice University Women's Golf Team. This two-hour experience with our Owls will include instruction in putting, short game, and range work from our coaching staff and student-athletes. Complimentary beverages and small bites will be provided. Each guest will also receive a gift bag filled with Rice Golf swag to commemorate the day.

Date to be mutually agreed upon.

Donated by Rice Athletics





For more information, please call 713-348-5157,
email mary.lowery@rice.edu or go to library.rice.edu/friends.

Auction and event updates will be available online in advance of the event.



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