

# 2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala

Honoring  
**Shelley and Art Gottschalk**



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Jessica and Colby Keithan

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Oct. 31, 2025

We are delighted to invite you to the 44th Friends of Fondren Library Gala on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at River Oaks Country Club. This festive evening will include a seated dinner, an exciting live auction and the ever-popular sale of Special Occasion Dinner tickets.

This year, we are proud to honor Shelley and Art Gottschalk for their generous contributions to Rice University and Fondren Library. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of philanthropy and engagement that strengthens our community.

Shelley and Art have played a pivotal role in the success of many Friends initiatives, most notably the Special Occasion Dinner program, which they chaired, and their impactful leadership as gala chairs in 2024. Shelley served on the FoFL board from 2016 to 2022, including as president in 2022. Their generosity also extends to unique gifts for library auctions, ranging from concerts at their lakeside home to whimsical owl collections from their travels.

The Gottschalks are beloved Traveling Owls hosts, known for uncovering music venues around the world and sharing them with Rice alumni. Their support of students inspired the Arthur and Shelley Gottschalk Traveling Grant for Musicians, which for 10 ten years has funded projects that foster global awareness and understanding.

Art's impact on campus has been wide-ranging. A distinguished professor of music composition at the Shepherd School, he founded and directed its electronic music laboratories for 25 years and chaired the Department of Music Composition and Theory for 15 years. His music is performed internationally and featured on more than 45 recordings. His contributions earned him the Association of Rice Alumni's Meritorious Service Award, the Presidential Award for Mentoring and the inaugural Outstanding Enrichment Host award from the Traveling Owls.

Shelley's Rice ties began even earlier. Her grandmother, Louise Beraud Griggs, graduated with the Class of 1920 after serving in WWI. She herself has long-championed international students, supervising programs that supported students across Houston and playing a central role in Friends of International Students and Scholars at Rice.

Longtime members of the Owl Club and RBI Club and steadfast supporters of Rice Athletics, the Gottschalks, have left an indelible mark on Rice University campuswide.

We hope you will join us in celebrating their legacy. Purchasing or sharing a table with friends and family is a wonderful way to honor them while enjoying an evening of fellowship and fun. Most importantly, your support ensures Fondren Library continues its tradition of excellence for generations to come. Thank you for considering this special opportunity, and we look forward to seeing you in March.

Sincerely,

Jessica '09 and Colby Keithan '09  
*Gala Chairs*

# 2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala

Honoring  
Shelley and Art Gottschalk



Friday, March 13, 2026 • River Oaks Country Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it should appear in the invitation and program)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to be an underwriter for the Friends of Fondren Library Gala (please check one):

☐ **Fondren Diamond** — Table for 10 — \$20,000

☐ **Fondren Circle** — Table for 10 — \$15,000

☐ **Benefactor** — Table for 10 — \$10,000

☐ **Sponsor** — Table for 10 — \$7,500

☐ **Patron** — Table for 10 — \$5,000

*Gala proceeds will support Fondren Library's physical spaces, programs and collections.*

I/we are unable to attend but would like to support Fondren Library with a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Please find my check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Rice University).

☐ Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

We accept ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover (please check one)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check or credit card information to Rice University, Friends of Fondren Library—MS 245, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892 by Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, to be listed in the invitation. To pay through our secure website, please visit <https://riceconnect.rice.edu/fondren/2026FoFLGala>.

In accordance with IRS guidelines, the value of benefits received for an individual ticket is \$125. In compliance with the Internal Revenue Code Notice 2017-73 and IRS guidance, Rice does not accept, in whole or in part, payments for events, most memberships (except FoFL), auction items, tickets, etc., from Donor Advised Funds, foundations or Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA account. Donors of IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions and Donor Advised Fund grants are prohibited from claiming a charitable tax deduction for their distributions and grants.

For more information, please contact Mary Lowery at [mary.lowery@rice.edu](mailto:mary.lowery@rice.edu). Thank you!

Rice University Friends of Fondren Library—MS 245 • P.O. Box 1892 • Houston, TX 77251-1892 • 713-348-5157