**Message from the President**

Hello members! This year marks a new beginning as we make the changes we have been planning over the past several years.

We had a great turnout at our September 15th luncheon. Thirty-seven members attended and voted unanimously to change the name from the Grand Rapids Symphony Women’s Committee to Grand Rapids Symphony Friends. The new name describes who we are and what we do. It also reflects our more inclusive membership.

We will continue using both names this year, as we transition and get our new name out there. Thanks to all who worked so diligently through this two year process.

In an effort to include more members in our meetings, most will be scheduled around the lunch hour. Both November 17th and March 23rd meetings will be held at the Betty VanAndel Opera Center, so there will be plenty of easy parking as well. An evening January 20th meeting is a “Night Out”—Dinner and the Pops. It will also include a “meet and greet” with Pops guest artist, Ann Hampton Callaway after the event.

Be sure to read about all of our upcoming projects and activities. This will be an active and exciting year as we help the Grand Rapids Symphony welcome our new director, Marcelo Lehninger.

Please check out the articles on our Rumsey Street event last June and this summer’s Picnic Pops Luxury Raffle, and read more about our upcoming “Fairy House” event at Blandford Environmental Center in June.

Based on our raffle sales, we were able to give $12,000 to the Grand Rapids Symphony. Lower than what we typically give, this was impacted by the weather and one week of concerts fewer than in the past. The fourth concert week was scheduled after we had already printed our raffle tickets.

Thanks for all your help and dedication to the Symphony and our organization. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year! Warmly, Bonnie Monhart

---

**A Talbots Shopping Event!**

Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers and anyone else you can think of, to the Symphony Friends Talbots event! What a great way to shop for holiday attire and gifts, while raising money for the Symphony’s education programs. Talbot’s will donate to the Grand Rapids Symphony, 10% of pre-tax dollars spent from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday October 25.

There will be music, light refreshments and the opportunity to win one of two $50.00 Talbots gift certificates. Invitations have been emailed to all members. Contact Lori Curley for more information if you did not receive. Hosted by Gina Paul and Lori Lee Curley.
**Members’ Night Out!**

Save the Date: Liz Schultz

January 20, 2017, for our annual Members’ Night Out. Bring your friends to an evening of dinner, the GRSO Pops Concert, “Hits of Barbra Streisand”, starring Anne Hampton Callaway and a backstage champagne toast with her after the show. The GRSO box office has set aside a limited block of discounted prime seats in the mezzanine for our members and their friends. We will be sending out invitations in November and need to have your reservations and payment by January 4th, 2017. You may sign up now by sending an email to lizzieschultz@yahoo.com, or calling Liz at 616-828-9540. This promises to be an exciting exclusive event for our members and their friends.

John Varineau is conducting and will also join us for dinner.

Ann Hampton Callaway is an exquisite jazz-singer who was named “Performer of the Year” in 2014 by BroadwayWorld.com She is best known for her divine voice and depth of emotion in her singing. She will be performing the amazing catalog of songs made famous by Barbra Streisand including, “The Way We Were” and “People”

---

**Ann Hampton Callaway**

---

**Brazilian Carnival Event—February 28, 2017**

Brazilian born Marcelo Lehninger, Grand Rapids Symphony’s new Music Director, will be here at the end of February to conduct the March 3rd and 4th concerts. In February, it’s summer in Brazil! Help us celebrate a “Brazilian Summer Carnival” on “Fat Tuesday” and welcome Marcelo with music, dancing, and a summer style picnic, with a Brazilian flair.

We are still in the early planning stages. Members working on this event include: Caroll Pereze, Julie Connors, Suellen Bandyk, Bonnie Monhart. If you’d like to help, please let us know.

Save the date...February 28, 2017...more details later...you won’t want to miss the fun!!!

---

**“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent”**

Victor Hugo

---

**Grand Finale Luxury Raffle a Success!**

The Grand Finale Luxury Raffle was successful again this year. We had a net profit of $13,940. A very big thank you goes to Jean Vanderlaan, co-chair, for doing all the work in obtaining prize donations. That all starts in January and she was able to do it all from her sunny home in Florida.

This year we had “Team Leaders” for each of the three weeks that we were able to sell at the Picnic Pops. The Siegel’s, the Monhart’s, and the Bandyk’s did a great job of gathering volunteers and getting everything organized for them when they arrived to sell. Thank you “Team Leaders” and all of the members of their families and friends that joined us out on the “hill” to make this fundraiser a success.

Thank you also to our members and Symphony Board members who either sold or purchased their tickets. Also, congratulations to our 2016 Luxury Raffle winners and a huge thank you to our prize donors. Please support their businesses when possible. Jean Vanderlaan, co-chair, Penny Greta, co-chair (winners on page 3)
1. John Edwards: VIP Plus Guest Pass once a week for a year by Celebrations Cinema (value: $1,144)

2. Karl and Jean Vanderlaan: “Tour of the Collection” Gift Cards by the Gilmore Collection (value: $1,080)

3. Scott Luce: $1,000 cash prize by the Grand Rapids Symphony Friends Committee

4. M. Paynich: Two individual Seasons Passes 2016-17 by Cannonsburg Ski Area (value: $900)

5. Tami Doran: Luxury Suite Package by the West Michigan Whitecaps (value: $720)

6. Keith Buhler: Flowers once a Month for a Year by Eastern Floral (value: $720)

7. Dave Verburg: Two Classical Series Showcase tickets by the Grand Rapids Symphony (value: $560)

8. Deb Grygiel: 4 Diamond Package Plus by the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (value: $500)

9. Colleen Bennett: Spa Packages and Gift Cards combo by Design 1 Spa and Salon (value $500)

10. Juanita Sharpe: $500 in gift certificates by Klingman’s Furniture

11. Julie Connors: Two Orchestra Premium Seats for all four mainstage productions in the 2016-17 season by Opera Grand Rapids (value: $500)

12. Kristin Bergh: $500 necklace gift certificate by Siegel Jewelers

Save Your Receipts!!

A new fundraiser…

Symphony Friends has the opportunity to earn some cash simply by saving your grocery receipts from any SpartanNash store. This includes D&W, Forest Hills Whole Foods and Family Fare Stores.

Simply save your receipts in a safe place, such as a jar or a vase and bring them to our meetings where a box will be placed for you to deposit your receipts in. If you prefer, you may also send them to Jan Bennett at 4780 E. Meadows Dr., G.R., MI 49546

For $150,000 in receipts we will earn $1,000, so start saving now!!!

Great Homes for our Extra Cookbooks

Although we did our best to sell our beautiful Encore cookbooks, we still have a number of copies that need a good home.

We definitely boosted sales of raffle tickets at the Picnic Pops with the special offer of a free cookbook with purchase of four raffle tickets at $20.00. It was great to see all the first time purchasers enjoying their books out on the hill!

The Rockford Marching Band has been invited to play in the 2017 Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade. We have donated 15 cases (195 books) to help with their fund raising efforts.

The Blodgett Babies Welfare Guild will also receive a donation of 200-300 books for use in this year’s events. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue our connection with Edith Blodgett.

Additionally, we are providing cookbooks to the Cascade Community Foundation for this Fall’s Iron Chef event.

There are still a number of cookbooks left. If you are interested in obtaining or have ideas for donations, please let us know.
Rumsey Street Bazaar: Julie Connors

Our June Rumsey Street project was a huge effort. We pushed our boundaries, both geographically and creatively, to reach out to parts of the Grand Rapids community not typically exposed to the GR Symphony or our group. We are enormously grateful to all of you who gave your time and donated items for our sale. Visitors had a great time poking through our sale items, attending our three events and eating and drinking at our food trucks and bars.

We didn’t make a lot of money, but there were definitely pluses. Let me share a few:

1. 23 musicians volunteered their time to play
2. Over 50 volunteers turned out to produce the event
3. Over 30 sponsors, businesses and community partners helped to make it happen. These included, Site Lab, Habitat for Humanity, students from Kendall College of Art and Design and many more.

4. Brad Callahan, the NYC designer of our fashion event, shared that the excitement and support he got in GR, encouraged and inspired him for his designs this season. Kendall students who worked on the fashion event said the experience was invaluable.

5. We made friends in the Grandville Ave. neighborhood where the event was located.

6. Our committee included a half dozen young Grand Rapidians who shared invaluable talents with us—particularly in the realm of social media.

Thank you all for your support.

The “Blandford Enchanted” Fairy Garden Update: Liz Schultz

The fairies are returning to our fair city June 1-4th, 2017. They will be setting up camp this season at Blandford Nature Center.

BLANDFORD ENCHANTED will feature fairy houses by local artists, designers and crafters in an installation that will delight and enchant the community. They will be auctioned to raise funds for the education programs of the GRSO. We will be setting up a fairy house building workshop where people ages 1-100 can design and build their own fairy houses to place in the nature trails at Blandford. This is where we need your help this autumn:

1. We are gathering and foraging for natural materials: acorns, pine cones, drift wood, rocks, barks and other natural materials. You can drop them off at my house to store for the event. Call Liz Schultz at 616-828-9540.

2. We are looking for fairy house builders for the auction. Registration and fairy house parameters will be sent out in November. Please consider helping us find interesting people to make our “Fairy Village” truly enchanted.

3. We will be creating magical fairy decorations out of natural materials to place in the trails at Blandford. We will be gathering the second Saturday of the months of Feb.-March to design and create this magic.

4. We need volunteers for setup, greet, create and clean up June 1-4th, 2017. Contact Liz Schultz at above number or lizzieschultz@yahoo.com. We need you!!
CODA—Rumsey Street Bazaar

Chloe Bratton, Emma Wright and Fiona Bratton w/ model Veronica Scott at the Rumble on Rumsey St.

Brad Callahan, designer & Laura Schultz

Design by Bradley Callahan. Drawing by Kelly Muschiana Illustration and design for Veronica Scott

Rumsey Runway Models

Rumsey Street Bazaar

Special Needs Adults and their art wall

Special Needs Adult artwork
Our New Logo!!

www.grsymphonyfriends.org