

KEYNOTES

SPRING 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Usually, by this time of year we've completed a fundraiser and are taking a break before the Luxury Raffle begins in July. Not so this year!

This has been a year for stretching and reaching out. I say 'stretching' because we're all trying to use social media to connect with prospective members and promote the GRS. It turns out there are no directories for cell phones!

Our reaching out has come through "Fundraisers." We had two events; one at Lifestyle Kitchen Studio (Thanks to Leslie VanBecker!) and the other at the Richard App Gallery. Both were lovely, lively social events including GRS musicians, food, and fun. In

January we reached out to the GR Native American community, inviting several leaders to a Women's Committee dinner at Bistro Bella Vita before the Native Sounds concert. The GRS is a wonderfully inclusive organization and we are delighted to represent that.

Now **Brookby Enchanted** is on the horizon. I do hope we'll see all of you at our opening event, **Garden Party, Bubbles and Jazz**, on June 4th. Many thanks to Lori Lee Curley, Judy McCabe and Barb Rohwer who are organizing that event.

Finally, we're going to need a lot of help on tour days, so please volunteer and bring a friend. Volunteers will each re-

ceive one tour ticket for each shift they work, but the real payoff will be in seeing our visitors enjoying the 30+ fanciful fairy houses that are being created by area designers.

Thanks to all for your support these past two years!
-Julie Connors

Spring Luncheon

May 7, 2015

11:30 Social, 12:00
lunch

Noto's

6600 28th Street SE

RSVP to Suellen Bandyk
suziban@comcast.net



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HIGHLIGHTING...	2
BY-LAWS VOTE	2
FAIRY WALK	3
VOLUNTEERING	3
RAFFLE INFO	4
WC DATES	4
WEB INFO	4



Brookby Enchanted VIP Preview Party

Garden Party, Bubbles and Jazz

June 4, 2015 from 5:30-8:30

\$75 per person includes cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, fairy walk and home tour.

RSVP by May 21 to Lori Curley: llc3331@aol.com



Martha
Bowman

HIGHLIGHTING....

Martha, the Grand Rapids Symphony's principal bassoon player, has played the bassoon for 50 years – and the very same instrument for all that time! Her first musical instrument, however, was the saxophone which she started playing in the sixth grade. A Chicago Symphony bassoonist who lived across the street from her family was instrumental in her segue to the bassoon. Martha's participation at the Interlochen Arts Academy as a teen eventually led her to audition for the Grand Rapids Symphony in the mid 1970's when a full time symphony became a reality for Grand Rapids.

Many of you know Martha's family has several talented musicians. A highlight of her musical career has been being able to play with the symphony surrounded by family members: husband Michael on the trumpet, daughter Sarah on the oboe, and son-in-law Erich on the French horn. It is with great pride that she looks forward to her younger daughter Emily's graduation this year from Penn State's Hershey College of Medicine with a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology.

Martha, a Women's Committee member for over 15 years, was the first GRS musician to become President of Women's Committee. She particularly enjoyed producing and participating in the Variety shows which were productive fundraisers and allowed the audi-

ence to see a different side of the GRS musicians.

When Martha's not playing the bassoon, you'll probably find her at the Humane Society of West Michigan. Her primary role now is Supervisor of Adoption Counselors. Beginning as a foster Mom to orphan kittens, she is now the proud mom of four rescued cats. She is passionate about helping abandoned and/or poorly treated animals and intends to keep this "job" for years to come. Her future plans also include spending more time with her granddaughter, Amelia, as well as traveling with her husband.

Martha's passion is evident when you speak with her or work with her. She is proud to be part of the Grand Rapids Symphony's accomplishments, the fundraising efforts of the Women's Committee, the achievements of the Humane Society and of course, so very proud of her family. Martha will be retiring at the end of the 2015 season, so we all wish Martha the best in her future endeavors.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE



At the April 23rd meeting of the Women's Committee Board, a motion was made to strike the word "women" from Article III, Section 1. which reads:

"Membership in Women's Committee is open to all [women] who support the purpose of the organization."

The motion passed unanimously.

This is a topic we have been discussing for some time, but the vote was precipitated because a young father who has been working on our Brookby Enchanted project has asked to join.

Changes in the by-laws must be approved at a General Membership meeting with support of two-thirds of those present. Members must also be notified of such a vote ten days before the vote takes place. We are interested in your views on this proposed change and will provide opportunities for discussion. Please feel free to contact any member of the board to discuss this possible change. A vote will be taken in the fall.

BROOKBY ENCHANTED JUNE 2015



Brookby Enchanted, our Blodgett House Tour and Garden Fairy Walk Fundraiser, is magically taking shape. We have received grants to spiff up the first floor of the Blodgett House and many

underwriters for the creation of the Fairy Garden Walk. At this time, over 26 local artists and designers have committed to creating Fairy Houses and tree decorations to transform the gardens into a magical enchanted forest for people of all ages to enjoy and explore. Landscaping professional and gardeners are eager to start the clean up and installation. Musical events will be held inside the lovely living room and creative activities will take place throughout the gardens.

The event will be open June 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Sunday, June 14, it will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please go to www.BrookbyEnchanted.org for information. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children.

Volunteers are needed both inside the



house and outside in the garden to greet, monitor, work the gift shop and pass out goodie bags to all the lucky children able to visit. There will be two time blocks each day for volunteers: 12:30pm - 3:30pm and 3pm - 6:30pm. We are looking for six inside volunteers and six outside volunteers for each time slot. For each shift you do, you will receive a free pass to come to the event with your friends and family. There will be designated parking for you.

This is a daunting task but we are many, so if everyone signs up for a couple shifts, this will run smoothly and be quite fun! If you would like to volunteer for any of the dates, please use SignUpGenius: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054EACA629A02-grswomens/26626966 The code is WCBE.

If this is out of your comfort zone, please do not hesitate to call me (828-9540) or email me (lizzieschultz@yahoo.com) with the dates and time slots that you are willing to work. Please consider helping us at this creative and magical event. We need you!

And thank you for helping us make Brookby Enchanted a success!

-Liz Schultz & Karin Waterbury

More Brookby volunteer opportunities—We're looking for people to attach little strips of paper to suckers. The paper strips promote Brookby Enchanted and baskets of suckers will be placed in shops, museums, etc. We need to do 2000 of these. If you'd be willing to do 100 or 200, please contact Debby Ford at 609-617-2159.

In addition, we're collecting natural materials (pine cones, shells, acorns, interesting bark, etc.) to be used in fairy house starter kits for children. If people have such things to donate, they may leave them on the green bench at Liz Schultz' house (1120 Plymouth Road., SE).

Four people are needed to hand out Brookby Enchanted information at the Family Concert at DeVos Hall on May 16th. The time is 1:45 - 3:00. If you're willing, contact Julie Connors at 957-8144 or jaconnors71@gmail.com.

GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

300 Ottawa Ave, Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-9451

We are on the web:

www.grswomenscommittee.org

[Facebook/grswomenscommittee](https://www.facebook.com/grswomenscommittee)



Grand Finale Luxury Raffle 2015



Spring is in the air and summer is coming... really!! It's time to start thinking of picnics, warm relaxing evenings and, of course, music under the stars. Picture the Picnic Pops!!

The 2015 D & W Fresh Market Picnic Pops is scheduled for July 9 – July 31.

We have secured outstanding prizes again this year, including (2) \$500 gift cards from our new donor, Siegel Jewelers. You will receive a letter and 10 tickets to sell or buy yourself as part of our kick-off in May. Please have your check and ticket stubs in by May 28th. Our goal is to make \$25,000 to donate to the Grand Rapids Symphony so we need everyone to sell, sell, and sell!

A few more volunteers are needed to help sell tickets at the remaining Spring Concerts in DeVos Hall – May 8, 9, 16, and 17. As usual, we'd like 10 volunteers each night at the Picnic Pops for selling tickets. Please join us "on the hill" for a great evening of fun.

Please call or email me to volunteer at 219.363.8842 or

mamapanache@gmail.com

Let's make this 9th year the best year yet!!

Penny Greta, Chair

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 8-9—David Lockington's final performance as Music Director. Richard and Helen DeVos Classical Series—Mahler Symphony No. 2

May 15-17—John Varineau conducts Le Ombre, Fox Motors Pops

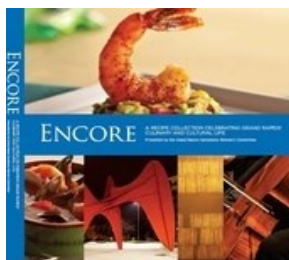
June 4—VIP Preview Party for Brookby Enchanted

June 5-7– Brookby Enchanted Open hours 1-6pm

June 11-13– Brookby Enchanted Open hours 1-6pm

June 14– Brookby enchanted Open hours 11-4pm

July 9—D&W Fresh Market Picnic Pops begins!



Reminder! Cookbooks are still available for purchase—special pricing below:

One cookbook for \$20, Two for \$30, Three for \$40 and Four for \$50

Please contact Kim Roy to get yours today! kpbmroy@comcast.net or 616-818-9348