

President's Message

Ellen Schneider



The saying goes, "March comes in like a lion!" For the Society this year, it is more like a roaring tiger...but more on that later! First, we have our annual spring fundraiser on **Friday, March 4** (our regular meeting date) at The Landings. "*Spring into Fashion*"! is the event, and **Razzle Dazzle** is the featured shop. If you are like me, you stayed away from shopping for new outfits during the past two years of the pandemic. I'm ready to add some color, style and maybe some sparkle to my spring wardrobe. I'm looking forward to inspiration from this Cape Coral boutique known for its Southwest Florida style collections (and upbeat fashion shows). We can also count on co-chairs Stacia Featherston and Sandy Magyar and their helpers to put on a fun event. If you have not already purchased your tickets, gather a few friends to enjoy this luncheon and show while supporting the Symphony. Contact Stacia or Sandy TODAY! (see inside for info!).

And now for that tiger! Our gala "*Year of the Tiger*" on **Tuesday, March 22** celebrates all the tigers in the world to commemorate this 2022 Chinese year icon on their zodiac. It's at Cape Coral Yacht Club and complimentary valet parking is included in your ticket! The celebration includes a delicious assortment of pan-Asian food and entertainment to make it a pleasurable evening for you and your friends. The committee kept the ticket price at a very reasonable \$80 per person, so contact Liz Marnul or Verena Schneider-Christians, co-chairs, to reserve your seats! Please come and support our BIGGEST fundraising event!

On Tuesday, February 8, the Society's Operating Committee convened a Special Membership Meeting at the SWFLSO Artistic & Operations Center at Bell Tower. The purpose was to brainstorm ideas for moving our organization forward. As we all recognize, these past two years have been very difficult for all volunteer organizations, as well as our own. We appreciate that we had a nice turn out of members, but many could not make it for various reasons. If you have ideas for membership growth and retention, please contact the Operating Committee chair, Sandy Magyar. Everyone's input is important!

If you haven't been to one of the **Meet & Greet** receptions to meet our guest conductors, you are missing a great opportunity! Although it is too late to meet the first three eminent maestros, the final event is on **Wednesday, April 20**, with guest conductor Radu Paponiu. The informal receptions are from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and you get to chat with the maestro. If you attend Masterworks 4 the following Saturday evening, you'll experience him in front of the orchestra to add a special element to the concert! Liz Marnul has coordinated each of the four events, with the help of Society members who have contributed delicious hors d'oeuvre trays.

The Symphony Society has lots going on in the next few weeks. I hope to see you soon!

Ellen

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SPRING INTO FASHION

*A fashion show by Razzle Dazzle
of Cape Coral*

March 4, 2022

The Landings, Fort Myers, FL

Cost: \$50.00 per person—Eight people per table

Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

of Tickets _____ Type of payment: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

*Please provide the names of the individual(s) with whom you wish to sit below.
We will try to accommodate your table request.*

Reservations can be made by sending the reservation form with credit card information or your check to the SWFL Symphony office at 7500 College Parkway, Suite 200, Fort Myers FL 33907, Attention Society Fashion Show or at the February 4 Society Luncheon.


Reservations must be received no later than February 25, 2022


All proceeds benefit the Southwest Florida Symphony




YEAR OF THE *Tiger*

DISCOVER WHERE THEY ROAM THROUGH
FOOD, DANCE, AND MUSIC. IN TURN
SUPPORT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BY
ATTENDING THIS FABULOUS EVENT.





TUE, MARCH 22, 2022
5:30 PM DOORS OPEN
CAPE CORAL YACHT CLUB


Sponsorship Levels 

SIBERIAN TIGER
HOST & EVENT SPONSOR - \$1500
COMPLIMENTARY TABLE FOR SIX PEOPLE, A BOTTLE OF RAYMOND GENERATIONS WINE, FOR THE TABLE OR TO TAKE HOME, PREFERRED TABLE PLACEMENT, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME MENTIONED FROM THE STAGE, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN THE 2022/23 SEASON, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, 6 SETS OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE BASKET DRAWING, VALET PARKING.

BENGAL TIGER
VENUE & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR - \$1000
TWO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO EVENT, PREFERRED TABLE SEATING, ONE BOTTLE OF RAYMOND CABERNET SAUVIGNON FOR THE TABLE OR TO TAKE HOME, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME MENTIONED FROM THE STAGE, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN THE 2022/23 SEASON, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, 3 SETS OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE BASKET DRAWING, VALET PARKING.

SUMATRAN TIGER
BENEFACTOR - \$500
ONE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET TO EVENT, NAME IN PROGRAM, NAME IN THE SWFLSS YEARBOOK AND WEBSITE IN 2022/2023 SEASON, 1 SET OF RAFFLE TICKETS FOR BASKET DRAWING, NAME ON SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT, VALET PARKING.

CASPIAN TIGER
PARTNER - \$80 PER PERSON
COST FOR DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT AND VALET PARKING.

 **MALAYAN TIGER**
SUPPORTER
A GIFT FROM YOUR HEART, UNABLE TO ATTEND.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:
☐ MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:
THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY SOCIETY 7500 COLLEGE PARKWAY, SUITE 200, FT. MYERS, FL 33907.
☐ CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AVAILABLE ON THE SWFL SYMPHONY SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE, CLICK EVENTS TAB TO REGISTER AND PAY.
☐ WE CAN ALSO ACCEPT YOUR PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION VIA TELEPHONE BY CALLING (239) 333-4041.

Year of the Tiger event is only \$80 per person. That includes Dinner, Entertainment and Valet Parking!

Southwest Florida Symphony Society Luncheon

The regular March 4 luncheon is replaced by the **SPRING INTO FASHION** style show and fundraiser, also on March 4. See page 2 for more information and make your reservation by February 25.

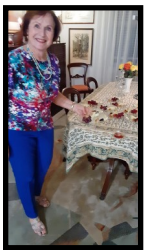
The last luncheon of the year will be on April 1 at The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club. Details will be in the April News of Note.

TREAT—Delicious Wine Pairings January 12, 2022—Home of Michael and Verena Schneider-Christians

Hosted by Michael and Verena Schneider-Christians, this event featured, foods and libations of Spain. Attendees enjoyed tapas and paella as they sampled wines. Thanks to Michael and Verena for a delightful evening and to Pat Short for providing some of these photos.



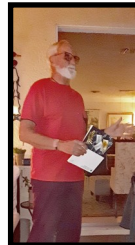
Verena offered glasses of vermouth, followed by initial plates of tapas.



The tapas included salami, serrano ham, and meatballs.



Tasters had seven different wines and finished off the evening with some cava and sherry.



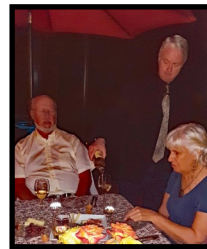
Left: Michael introduced Jonathan Ford.



Right: Jonathon Ford had a hand in preparing the paella.



Liz Marnul, Barbra Blaharski and Jan Hladik.



Jonathan Ford pours for Carol Robinson.



Michael and Verena with Pat Short.



Alan and Diane Thompson.



Bob and Pat Short, Rob, Carol Robinson and Frank Matthews.



Madeline Seefeld and Anne Wardlow.

Symphony of Treats

I can't believe that our season of Treats has only 3 more months to offer Treats to our members and guests. Still, we do have some fun events to offer this season.

February brings us a Mardi Gras party like no other on Saturday, February 26: Beautiful masks lots of beads, fantastic Mardi Gras food and plenty of fun. Wear your festive colors—golds and greens, and enjoy the evening while supporting our orchestra. There are still a few reservations open. Call Sue Wells to reserve your place.

As you know, Our Treats are fundraisers used to support our orchestra as well as offer some smaller activities for our members. Our dinner hostesses generously assume all expenses of their parties, while

hostesses of the smaller events most often make a donation for their Treat. My sincere thanks to all these generous members and friends.

If you would like to host a Treat, or if you have a suggestion for a Treat for next season, don't hesitate to let me know. Our next season's schedule is prepared by the end of April. Without your help, either by hosting and/or attending the Treats, we would not be able to present these fun afternoon or evening events.

*Kim Wittstadt. Sue Wells
and Roseanne Taylor*

TREAT—Taste of the Islands January 29, 2022—Jan Hladik's Home

Participants didn't have to travel to experience and enjoy the cuisine of the Caribbean Islands. Chef and Host Jan Hladik prepared and served courses from Havana, Grenada, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and other islands.



Chef Jan hard at work.



Jan's staff of neighbors and friends helped serve. Jan is second from the right.



The menu is announced.



The first six courses must have disappeared hastily, but here is a picture of the yummy coconut cheesecake..



Stacia and Gary Featherston, Gerry and Kim Wittstadt, Linda DePardo, Dolly Ross.



Charlotte and Bill White, Ellen and Herb Schneider, Ellie Fox.

Scholarship Competitions Underway

The Van Sickle Voice Competition was held on Saturday, February 5, and was a rewarding, first-time experience for most of the Society volunteers who assisted. There were 10 voice students vying for two four-year scholarships for music study (\$3,000 and \$2,000) from the Van Sickle Endowment Fund. Special thanks to Nancy Campbell who acted as our consultant (Nancy chaired the Scholarship Committee for 6 years, but "retired" this year). Fay Ebrite (our only committee "veteran") ably handled the Registration Desk, and the following Society members helped with the details and flow of students and accompanists: Dan Wells (site manager), Mary Beardon, Kathy Caldwell, Linda DePardo, Jan Hladik, Madeline Seefeld, and Anne Wardlow. We also had the assistance of Wendall Beardon and Herb Schneider in setting up and closing. Many thanks to these volunteers who made the students feel welcome and kept things on schedule.

Coming up is the Jillian Prescott Music Awards at FGCU on Saturday, April 16. This is a much more complex event covering ages 12 to 22, and not only voice, but also strings, keyboard, woodwinds & brass, and percussion. We will be having a volunteer prep meeting on Friday, March 25. Please contact me if you are available to help.

Ellen Schneider
Acting Scholarship Chair



We hope you are enjoying your winter and now we look forward to spring and the

Year of the Tiger Fundraiser

that will be held at the
Cape Coral Yacht Club
Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Doors will open at 5:30 PM with a fabulous cocktail hour with great appetizers, a beverage of your choice (Cash Bar at \$5.00 a drink) and an 8 piece orchestra with a terrific vocalist.

Dinner will be served at 6:45 PM.

We have complimentary valet parking and a wonderful selection of baskets that you can try to win via a raffle. We also will be hosting a Wine Pull, where you can win some very good wines.

Tickets cost \$80.00 per person. Just send in your checks to: The Southwest Florida Symphony Society located at 7500 College Parkway, Suite 200, Fort Myers, FL 33907-5500 or call Liz Marnul and she can take your credit card information. Please call her at 239-458-3620.



Birthday	Name
03/04	Mary Bearden
03/05	Ellen "Elle" Clifford
03/21	Amy Ginsburg
03/23	Stacey Gossmann
03/24	Jay Edwards
03/25	Gerard Wittstadt
03/29	Sharyl Leifeld

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (*Anne Wardlow, Elle Clifford, Kim Wittstadt*) reported at the February luncheon meeting that nominations will be delayed until a full slate of executive officers has been developed for next year. It was pointed out that new leaders will also be required for several key committees in order for the Society's purposes to be fulfilled. For example, volunteers will be needed to head the Ways and Means Committee and the Scholarship Committee next year.

Operating Procedures Committee

In response to the Nominating Committee's report, the Operating Procedures Committee (*Sandy Magyar, Liz Marnul, Elle Clifford, Anne Wardlow, Kim Wittstadt*) conducted a meeting of the General Membership on February 8. The meeting focused on the purposes of the Society and membership engagement. Approximately 23 Society members participated in the meeting. It appears that there is broad support for the organization with many loyal members very willing to play a role in various tasks, but little appetite for assuming leadership positions. Members in attendance recognized that innovation is required in order to succeed. Additional meetings of the general membership will likely be scheduled in the near future to further explore these points.

239-542-9511  239-851-0982

Clifford Law Firm, LLC.
Trusts, Estates, Probate, Divorce
Cape Coral, FL
Ellen W. Clifford
Attorney-At-Law
ellenwclifford@embarqmail.com

 **Stacey's Dog Care**
Walking and/or staying at our home

Stacey Gossmann
Dog lover!

4464 W. Mainmast Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33919

239-470.1659
staceygossmann@comcast.net





Dr. Trent Brown, Artistic Director
Abigail Allison, Accompanist

Craig Hella Johnson

**Considering
Matthew Shepard**

April 10, 2022
4:00 PM
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

For more information, Visit:
ChoralArtistry.org

Ruth Messmer Florist
65 years of Floral Excellence

Jessica Gnagey
Floral Designer

1850 Boy Scout Dr Unit 111
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-936-2131
ruthmessmerflorist.com
floristruthmessmer@gmail.com



A Meeting of Symphony Society
Board Members and Chairpersons
will be held IN PERSON
Wednesday, March 2 at 10:30 a.m.
in the Training Room
at the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank
9311 College Parkway, Fort Myers.

Please note: there will be no separate
Executive Committee Meeting this month.

Please try to attend so we have a quorum to
transact any business
that comes before the Board.

Please notify Ellen if you cannot attend.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 25	Deadline for Spring into Fashion Reservations
Feb. 26	TREAT: Mardi Gras Celebration
March 2	Executive Committee and Board Meeting
March 4	Spring into Fashion at The Landings
March 10	Deadline for April News of Note
March 22	Year of the Tiger Fund Raiser
March 26	TREAT: Elegant Poolside Picnic
March 25	Deadline for April Luncheon
March 30	Executive Committee and Board Meeting
April 1	Luncheon—The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club
April 16	Jillian Prescott Music Awards Competition

"News of Note" is published 9 times a year — September through May. Contact Editor Barb Coons (239-549-8283 or kayebarb3344@gmail.com) for more information.

Luncheon—February 4, 2022

Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club



Rose centerpieces made by Kitty Satterfield were given to the person at each table with a paper heart underneath their plate.



New Member Pat Short was introduced by Membership Chair Pat Obermiller.



Left: Kim Wittstadt carried a Mardi Gras mask to remind us about the Mardi Gras TREAT on February 26.



Right: After a lovely chicken salad lunch prettily decorated portions of red velvet cake were served.

HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS

The February Luncheon honored the Society's Past Presidents. President Ellen Schneider asked each those present to share a special memory of their presidency. In attendance and sharing their memories were:

2003-04	Diane Thompson
2008-09	Kim Wittstadt
2013-14	Sandy Magyar
2015-16	Liz Marnul
2017-18	Anne Wardlow
2018-19 & 2019-20	Elle Clifford
2020-21	Ellen Schneider (who is serving an extended term.)

Thank you to the leadership you have provided, and continue to provide, as the Society works to fulfill its mission of providing support for the SWFL Symphony Orchestra.