



April 2023 Volume 27 Issue 8

President's Message

Jan Hladik



Our season of working to support the Southwest Florida Symphony is coming to a close with the final luncheon meeting. After two years of not being able to participate in our usual way, there have been successes. The Van Sickle Competition was well organized with more applicants than at prior competitions. That is a success. The fund raising activities of "For the Love of Music" and "Spring into Fashion" fashion show were a lot of work and many stepped up to make it a success. At the luncheon the total funds raised will be announced. I'm looking forward to it.

With this year closing, we need to look forward to the redesign of our Society. Most likely there will be a name change and I'm sure a number of other things will be reorganized. Like the old saying "you can't please all the people all the time", so

I'm sure there will be some who will dislike the changes. But be careful, I don't want to hear "But that's not the way we always used to do it". Some of the things we did in the past may still work, but we need to accept changes and work for rebuilding into a better functioning organization, presenting an image that makes people want to be a part of it. Whatever changes are proposed will require a rewrite of our Bylaws and Procedures. I anticipate there will be committees to work on various aspects, as this is too big of a task for one or two people. If you care about what we do and what we stand for, you should be participating in the work of reorganization.

The officers of this season have agreed to continue in position until the reorganization has been accomplished and elections can be held. Hopefully by then there will be individuals that are willing to serve. The future depends on you, don't let the opportunity slip away.

Jan Hladik

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Executive Director's Message

Amy Ginsburg



Every year, I'm astounded by how quickly a concert season flies by and this one is no exception. As we approach the last luncheon of the year, I know there are looming questions about the Society's future, but the symphony board and staff take the existence of a collaborative fund and friend-raising auxiliary seriously. We have engaged in creative, positive conversations about ushering in the evolution of the Society while honoring its 50+ year history and all of the great work it's done to benefit the orchestra. In the interest of being transparent, we don't have 100% of the answers for how the Society looks in the future, but we have lots of viable ideas that we will share with you as they take meaningful shape. Those ideas will be communicated with all of you throughout the late spring through early fall. Have faith and trust. Next

year will bring an awesome new beginning. Stay tuned...

In the meantime, we hope to see all of you at Masterworks 3: A Night at the Opera, which Robert Van Winkle will Narrate, on Saturday, April 1 and Masterworks 4: Collaboration with Grand Piano Series of Naples on Saturday, April 22. Of course, you won't want to miss the final Brave New Pops of the year, The Orchestra: Former Members of the band Electric Light Orchestra, on May 6 at Barbara B. Mann Hall and May 7 at Charlotte Performing Arts Center. Anyone who saw the movie Xanadu will remember this fantastic, trail blazing orchestra crossover music!

Wishing you all a happy Easter and Passover and a peaceful, restful summer! We'll be in touch!

Symphony Society Evolution

On February 20, approximately 20 of our most loyal and long term Society members met at the Bell Tower to share their thoughts and ideas on responsibilities, activities and possible structure for future support for the Symphony. Several members who were not able to attend that meeting also shared their thoughts and ideas in writing. Their input was wide ranging and is greatly appreciated.

The Symphony Trustees were informed of the issues facing the Society at their Board meeting on February 21. An extended discussion ensued and every Trustee at the meeting contributed input on how the challenges might be addressed. Staff is also evaluating the role they can play in supporting various functions that have historically been performed by members of the Society.

There are many ideas and possibilities under consideration. Stay tuned for further updates. In the meantime, please send any communications regarding this subject to Liz Marnul or Anne Wardlow.



Birthday	Name
04/01	Sue Matthews
04/02	Nancy Petralia
04/03	Carolyn H. DeWolfe
04/06	Renate Englert
04/10	Linda M. DePardo
04/11	Evelyn M. Hagfeldt
04/11	H. Arlene Houck
04/15	Mady Teeple
04/17	Helen Bovbjerg Niedung
04/18	Liz Neuhardt
04/21	Frank Matthews
04/29	Anne Kimball
04/30	Patrick Neuman



Southwest Florida Symphony Society Luncheon

Friday, April 7, 2023

**Heritage Palms
Golf and Tennis Club**
10420 Washingtonian Palm Way
Fort Myers FL 33966

Doors open at 11:30
Meeting begins at 12:00

Please pay at Registration Desk
\$30.00 Cash or Check
\$31.50 Charge

*******For Reservations*******

***** **Call 239-666-1230** *****

Reservation Deadline
Friday, March 31, 2023

If you make your reservation after the deadline, you will be put on a wait list and be notified if space becomes available.

Cancellations after the reservation deadline and no-shows will be billed. Call Madeline Seefeld to cancel (239-292-9910).



Thanks to Ruth Messmer Florist and owner Heather Messmer for providing a floral centerpiece for the President's Table each month. After the luncheon, the flowers are taken to a member who needs support and cheering.

NOTE: After a discussion and vote at the September SWFLSS Board of Directors meeting, the lunch price has been raised to \$30.00 for cash or check, \$31.50 for charges. This is necessary to simply cover the cost of the luncheons.

Menu: The meal will start with berry salad (with nuts and blue cheese crumbles and raspberry dressing) accompanied by rolls and butter. The main course will feature roast pork with dark gravy, roasted red potatoes and broccoli. Dessert will be chef's choice.

As always, a vegetarian option will be provided if it is ordered with the reservation. We have become aware that April 7 is Good Friday. We are checking on adding a fish entrée. If we are successful, we will let everyone know and give you a chance to change your order so we have correct numbers for the chef.

Special Drinks: Cash or Credit Card

Directions: **From Colonial and Cleveland** (US 41), go east on Colonial to Challenger Blvd., about 2.5 miles. Right on Challenger Blvd., Right on Winkler Rd., Right on Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Right on Heritage Palms Blvd. The Club House is straight ahead at intersection of Washingtonian Palm Way. **From Daniels Rd. and Cleveland** (US 41) go east on Daniels Rd. about 2 miles to Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. Left on Six Mile Cypress Pkwy about 3 miles. Left on Heritage Palms Blvd. to Club House. Please have your Driver's License handy in case you need to show it to the guard at the gate.

Luncheon Collections

At every luncheon we collect used computer ink and toner cartridges which are recycled at the office supply stores for credits towards future purchases for the Symphony office or for the Society directly.



\$\$\$

CASH DRAWING TO BENEFIT
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

GALA: For the Love of Music

February 16, 2023, La Venezia, Cape Coral

The Symphony Society's annual gala, *For the Love of Music*, was a success! On February 16, the beautifully decorated ballroom at La Venezia in Cape Coral was full of supporters of the Southwest Florida Symphony. More than 70 tickets were sold to attend and nearly \$12,000 was raised. Dancers danced to the music of Riverside Band and the photo booth was popular! There was a wonderful selection of gift baskets to choose from for the silent auction and raffle. The live auction was competitive! Co-chairs Verena Schneider-Christians and Christina Mehta would like to thank everyone for their attendance and support. A special thank you to our basket donors and volunteers.



Ellie Fox



Dolly Ross and Jan Hladik on reception



Robert VanWinkle, our auctioneer



Dean Wilcoxon and Bee Horner, Linda and Mike Farris



Verena Schneider-Christians with photobooth postcard



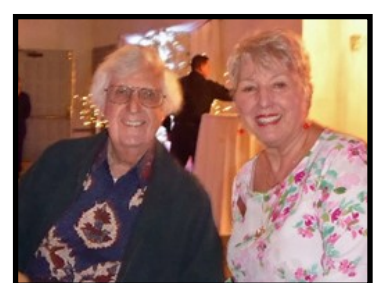
Gerry and Kim Wittstadt, Bette Neuman



Rick and Pam Simon



Table decor



Frank and Sue Matthews

Symphony of Treats

Here we are almost at the end of "The Season". Our Symphony of Treats has only two 2 events left. But first, we want to say THANKS to Dolly Ross, who hosted the **AFTERNOON TEA, SOUTHERN STYLE**, at the Wisteria Tea Room on February 24. (Remember it had to be cancelled in November?). It was a small group of ladies who attended (see group picture), but they reported that it was a lovely afternoon. Thank you, Dolly.

Verena and Michael Schneider-Christians had planned a lovely evening of **WINES FROM DOWN UNDER** for March 5. However, due to insufficient attendance, this fun and informative evening had to be cancelled. Thank you so much, Verena and Michael, for your generosity to have offered this Treat.

Nancy and John Petralia are planning a nice evening for us — **A TRUE SICILIAN DINNER** on March 18 at their home. We are looking forward to this.

This year, April is such a busy month with Easter that only one last Treat is planned - **SUNDAY BRUNCH** on Sunday APRIL 30. Let's make this a

really last hurrah for the season. Call me (Kim) at 410-262-8224 to make your reservation. Sunday Brunch at the Villages of Country Creek is exceptional. Everything and anything you like from scrambled eggs to fruit is on the buffet and/or prepared for guests. There are always surprises at our Treats, so come and have a nice start for the day AND support your SYMPHONY OF TREATS. ****PLEASE NOTE DATE — SUNDAY APRIL 30, 12-2p.m.

I need HELP in planning for next season. Send me your suggestions for something you might like to see or do around the area. I am NOT asking you to plan something, I am just asking for some input and ideas that our Society members and friends would be interested in attending. The sky has not dropped anything down to me yet for next season for Treats.

Keep safe and be happy,

Kim, Sue, and Rosanne

TREAT—Afternoon Tea, Southern Style

February 24, 2023



A small group of members enjoyed the afternoon at the Wisteria Tea Room. Seen here are Brenda Sammis, Dolly Ross, Esther Kulhavi, Stacia Featherston, Jean Nicholson and Madeline Seefeld. Lovely outfits, ladies!

FASHION SHOW: Spring into Fashion

March 3, 2023, The Landings Yacht Club

More than 70 people enjoyed lunch and the fashion show. Members of the Society modeled clothes from Razzle Dazzle, showing off a variety of outfits.



Models: Donna Munizzi, Paula Mattras, Jean Nicholson, Bee Horner, Marsha Klamner, Verena Schneider-Christians, Christina Mehta, Pam Simon



Clockwise: Linda Farris, Michele Holcomb, Madeline Seefeld, Diane Thompson, Pam Simon, Bee Horner



Johanna Veneman, Renata Englert, Kitty Satterfield and friends

Clockwise below: Amy Ginsburg, Robert Van Winkle, Fred and Lora Manion, Christina Mehta, Michael and Verena Schneider-Christians



Clockwise above: Joanne Hostetter, Stacia Featherston, Bonnie Grey, Linda DePardo, 2 friends, Jean Nicholson, Donna Munizzi, Linda Knight



Table décor with centerpieces by Kitty Satterfield

Thank
You



Due to my accident, I am unable to personally write to each and every one that contributed to the success of our Fashion Show. Especially our sponsors, Kitty with her beautiful table decorations, our model's and their escorts Robert Van Winkle and Michael Schneider-Christians, and our Program committee. A special thank you to Razzle Dazzle for working it out as Cathy had to have surgery that day. The show went on without a hiccup. To our members and their guests: Without each and every one of you, this would not have been a success. Bonnie and I thank you. I pray that I have not overlooked anyone. Again, we thank you.

With gratitude,

Stacia and Bonnie

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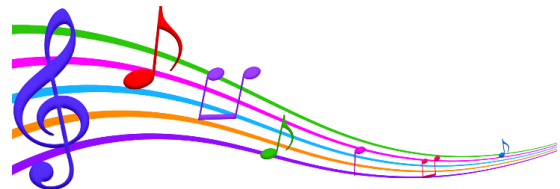


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Attorney-At-Law
ellenwclifford@embarqmail.com

Dates to Remember

- Mar. 31 Deadline for April Luncheon Reservations
- April 1 Masterworks 3—A Night at the Opera
- April 5 Board Meeting
- April 7 Luncheon at Heritage Palms Golf and Tennis Club
- April 10 Deadline for May News of Note
- April 22 Masterworks 4 with Ying Li, piano
- April 24 Sunday Brunch
- May 6 & 7 Brave New Pops: The Orchestra: Starring Former members of the band Electric Light Orchestra
- June Send in membership renewal



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**Symphony Society
Board of Directors Meeting
10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

All members are welcome to attend

**SWFL Symphony Orchestra
Office Conference Room
7500 College Parkway**

"News of Note" is published 9 times a year — September through May. Contact Editor Barb Coons (239-218-1555 or kayebarb3344@gmail.com) for more information.

Congratulations!



If you know of a Society member who should receive a card of support or happiness, please notify the Corresponding Secretary:

June Gibson
junemgibson@gmail.com
239-936-7792 (home)
617-759-0085 (cell)

*Thinking
of you*

Symphony Society Membership Renewal 2023-2024

Please mail renewal form to:

Symphony Society Membership Committee, 2455 La Salle Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33907-5812
The fiscal year is July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 Receipt by Aug 1, 2023 ensures Yearbook listing

Choose your membership level and note your additional donation for the scholarship fund:

\$50 ☐ Active (I will participate in Society events, join a committee, organize a Treat, etc.)

\$75 ☐ Patron (I am not able to provide any active participation this year)

\$ _____ ☐ Symphony Society Scholarship-Education Fund donation. Music study scholarships are awarded to talented local youth following an annual competition in December.

TOTAL \$ _____ Circle payment option: Check payable to SWFLSS AmEx MCard Visa Discover

Credit Card Acct. No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____ CVV/Security Code: _____

Spouse: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Address: _____

Summer Address: _____

Dates for mail to summer address:

From: _____ To: _____

Local Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Summer Phone: _____

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY SOCIETY
 7500 College Parkway, Suite 200
 Fort Myers, FL 33907

