



A SWELL NIGHT FOR ROMANCE FUNDRAISER

Members of the Guild pulled together once again to put on a very successful fundraiser on February 15th. Held at Park Place Banquet Hall, this event had an excellent turnout. Brian Townsend created a wonderful evening of song and comedy to a very appreciative audience. The cast of the show (Brian Townsend, Kevin Talanges, Jillian Drapala, Anna Dewey, Peter Moore, Angela Keller-Pelc, Kori Bielaniec, Phil Booth, and Mike Moseley), accompanied by Brian Sampson on the piano, were in great voice and hilarious in the sketches depicting romance. Dave Reynolds II again enhanced the visual dimension

of the show with his lighting, and David Wood and Reynolds headed a team that built new platforms and set up the stage, drapes and lights. Guild Governors and their committees created unique gift baskets that were raffled off, which was also highly successful.

Ways and Means Governor Richard Moore and member Diane Kaplan were the forces of nature behind this event. Richard's organizational skills were invaluable in getting the event put together, and seeing that the evening went smoothly. Diane Kaplan had the original vision of the event, was incredibly perseverant in

getting her vision to actuality, and her sense of design and getting the "little touches" in place made the evening truly classy.

For all the people who are named, there was an equal number of Guild members who gave of their time and talents to make *A Swell Night* happen. Deep thanks to all of them. Thanks as well to all the members who came and who brought friends and family. Bringing your friends and family to the Guild and to Guild events is the highest form of compliment for what we do.

COLLAGE CONCERT

On February 8th the stage of the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center was the setting for performances of several Players Guild members. The occasion was the "Collage Concert" which was a fundraiser for the theatre at FCPAC. While the Guild does not regularly use the theatre, we still consider ourselves part of the Dearborn cultural arts community, and director Paul Bruce,

musical director Paul Abbott, and performers, Kimberly Paige, Jeff Flannery, Brian Townsend, and Alex Gojkov generously donated their time and talents. Selections from our first show of the season, *The Fantasticks*, were performed. In addition, member Kevin Dewey served as musical director for the benefit, coordinating the stage performances of the Dearborn Symphony, Vanguard

Voices (which he also conducted), Dearborn Community Chorus, and the Dearborn Public Schools Honors Choir. Nearly four hundred supporters of Dearborn cultural arts, including a dozen or so Guild members, enjoyed the performances, a strolling buffet and a tin can raffle. Current Guild president John Sczomak served on the Fine Arts committee that produced the concert.

ON OTHER STAGES

While no member received an award, Guild members played significant roles in the 26th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards that were held at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center February 12th.

Richard Moore, Kevin Dewey and Greg Viscomi did outstanding jobs as presenters.

Janeen Bodary and members of her Prysm School of the Arts and Auenue Dance Company, including Guild member Shardai Davis, performed some wonderful Hawaiian dances.

The event production staff included Greg Viscomi as producer and director, and Stan Guarnelo did the power point presentation.

Welcome, Gavin

Gavin William Ferry

Born - December 17, 2013 -
2:53 AM

Wyandotte General Hospital

Weight - 7 pounds 4 ounces

Length - 19 inches

Parents - Meredith and Kenny
Ferry

SAD NEWS

We recently learned that Elna (EJ) Johnson passed away. Rich Bulleri wrote the following about her.

"EJ was a long-time member of the Guild ... joining in 1965 ... I have to say that it was EJ that sent me to the Guild in 1969 ... We were both in *Look Homeward Angel* at The Dearborn Civic Theatre and she told me about the upcoming auditions for *Mame*

at the Guild ... I went and the rest is history ... I had the pleasure to share many stages with EJ over the years ... at the Guild she "Misbehaved" as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* ... she "Did It With a Horn" as Mazeppa in *Gypsy* ... She made a major decision as Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* ... she was in many non-musicals as well ... at The Backstage she was the torch singer when we did *Torchsong Tril-*

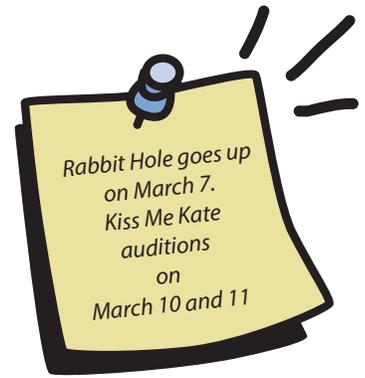
ogy ... at Southgate Community Players she played Mrs. Shinn to my Mayor Shinn in *Music Man* ... EJ has been a Board Governor at the Guild and worked backstage in costumes ... make-up ... house and hospitality ... ways and means ... EJ you will be missed."

We know she is waiting for her wings in the wings. Break a leg, EJ. Curtain in five. Places, please.

ANNUAL PARTY REPORT by Tim Carney

This years annual party took place on Saturday, February 8, 2014. The theme was Classy vs Trashy. 58 people attended. The food was catered by Nicole's Catering and was delicious. Door prizes of gift cards to The Cheese Factory, Applebees, Barnes and Nobles, Home Depot, Starbucks, and Red Robin were raffled off. Winners included Shari Mayne, Mike, Mayne, Margaret Kinnell, Diane Cliff, Diane Cliff's

husband, Daryl, and Tracy Boudreau. I would like to give a HUGE thank you to my co-chair Sydnee Rider. I could not have done it without her help. I would like to thank Jake Dombrowski, Jeff Bartos, Dave Reynolds II and his lighting crew (Jeff Flannery and Brett Reynolds), Inez Hernandez (and Kevin), and Luke Boudreau for all of their help to make the party a success.



MORE ON OTHER STAGES

Guild members Ross Grossman and Alan Ellias are in a mystery dinner theater at Novi Community Center on March 14 and 15 at 6:30. Two nights only. The show is *The Mobfather*. More information at <http://www.skysthelimitproductions.org/vlt48156.htm>

Ross will also be in *Rumors* at Farmington Players, starting April 25. The Guild is doing *Rumors* next season and Ross thought this would be a good opportunity to learn the show before we do it.

Guild members Mike Suchyta, Jade Reynolds, Brett Reynolds, and Sydnee Rider have been cast in the Downriver Actors Guild production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The show goes up in June.

■ This is an attempt to resurrect *News and Cues*. We are going to try and get it out at least monthly with additional issues on an "as needed" basis.

We can use your help. Are you on another stage? Have you had a child? Engaged? Married? New job? Etc.

Let us know. Send your stuff to sparrow.thomas@gmail.com or bulldog813@aol.com.

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