



**NEWSLETTER VANGUARD - ALBANY SYMPHONY, INC. NOVEMBER 2019, NO. 165**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Vanguard Members,

It has been a year of changes, doubts and questions as to our viability and the relevance of Vanguard . We typically have a slate of officers to present at the annual meeting but this year it proved difficult to even form a nominating committee. There was no one willing to take on the leadership. Thus, after a lengthy discussion at the annual meeting, a nomination from the floor and a bit of persuasion, I agreed to serve as Interim President in the hopes of continuing this wonderful organization with such a rich history.

A focus committee was formed and met several times over the summer, both by itself with Sophie Moss, Director of Development for the ASO joining the committee, and with NYCON (New York State Council for Non-Profits). Problems facing our organization are not unique to us as volunteerism has fallen off for various reasons; i.e. family commitments with care giving, people too busy or unable to devote time outside of their jobs and homes, the inability to attract new members, travel and winter respites, etc. In spite of this however, there was an overwhelming consensus that Vanguard simply needs to re-structure itself and plan perhaps smaller projects and programs that can be successful. There is a ground swell of enthusiasm and energy for going forward. To that end we have several chair- persons who have volunteered to work on new ideas and programs, in addition to the upcoming Fashion Show/Luncheon in November and a combined program with the ASO in March. Our first event for the new year has already taken place. It was a wonderful trip to the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck and the Millbrook Winery which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us that went!

Please join us as often as you can and know that all board meetings are open to the entire membership. We are looking for your ideas, your talents, and some of your time if you can afford it. Membership dues bills will be going out shortly and can also be paid through our website. Check out [Vanguard-ASO.org](http://Vanguard-ASO.org) for a total review of our organization and upcoming events. I look forward to an exciting, productive year as we "re-brand" ourselves.

*Judith Ciccio, Interim President*

#### **Can You Please Help Us?**

Assistance is needed for front-of-house at ASO concerts: greeters, Will Call, CD sales. Complimentary ticket to the performance will be provided.

Contact: [marykaysawyer@earthlink.net](mailto:marykaysawyer@earthlink.net), 518-463-1048 or 518-730-6964

## SAVE THE DATE

To Members and Friends of Vanguard and the Albany Symphony

The Illium Cafe on Broadway in Troy will be the setting for a luncheon prior to the afternoon concert at the Troy Music Hall on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 3:00 pm. Lunch will be served from 12:30-2:30 pm. There will be three selections from which to choose. The choices will be available in the next newsletter. A payment can be made in advance which will include a gift to the Symphony. Specific information will be sent regarding the luncheon event in late February. Additional information can be found on the Vanguard-ASO.org website.

The luncheon before the concert is a new "happening" for Vanguard. We will keep you updated. We are excited to be having this event and we hope many will support Vanguard and the Symphony.

*Diane Davison and Joy Emery, Co-Chairs*

Vanguard's Fall Luncheon and Fashion Show will be returning to Normanside Country Club on Friday, November 15! Titled 'A Symphony of Style', the show will feature Chico's holiday collection. Several of our members will model the new 2019 outfits. Please plan on joining us for this exciting event. You can be assured of a delicious meal and a fun first glimpse of the new fashion season.

Invitations will be emailed or sent by USPS. The cost of the event is \$35. Reservations for the luncheon can be made at Vanguard-ASO.org or by mail to Shirley Hunter, 17 Lanci Lane, Albany, NY 12205. Checks should be made out to Vanguard – Albany Symphony Inc.

If you have any questions, please call Julia Smart (518-765-3622) or Kathy DeWeese (518-874-9114).



## DID YOU KNOW ? -- THIS 'N THAT

- 1) We are trying to go digital !! Email invitations, Email membership dues, Email notices!! BUT if you do not have access, we will still hard copy you!!
- 2) We have a strong musical instrument program! If you have an instrument sitting around collecting dust, please consider calling Jill Rifkin - 439-1843 to donate it to Vanguard. We are getting instruments in the hands of students who otherwise would not be able to play!!
- 3) Next board meeting is Oct. 28 at the Delmar Reformed Church. Come to share your ideas!!

## A Fine Autumn Day in the Hudson Valley

What a wonderful and colorful autumn day we spent together in the Hudson Valley region on Sunday, October 13, 2019. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at the historic Beekman Arms Inn in Rhinebeck. It is the oldest continuously run inn within the entire country and it dates back to the 1670's. After lunch our adventure continued at the Millbrook Winery and Vineyards in Millbrook. We tasted six wines and then toured the facility to learn how wine is made and stored. It was a memorable day well spent with Vanguard friends.



*Anna Bray, Chair*

**L-** J. Kraft, J. Ciccio, P. Ordway, A. Bray, M. Pass

**M-** D. Davison, J. Kraft, M. Pass, A. Bray, J. Emery, J. Ciccio, K. Ordway

**R-** A. Irwin, J. Ciccio, D. Davison, J. Emery