

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a joy this past year has been!! We are back to being able to “see” each other and engage in activities that abound. Vanguard has hosted multiple events (Jazz brunch, Tiffany Windows tour, Victorian tea, Van Gogh exhibit, a trip to the NYC Botanical Garden) and has several more events planned for this spring, thanks to very active travel and fundraising committees. An upcoming fashion show, a shrimp boil and the annual luncheon are on the calendar - information included elsewhere in this newsletter. The Musical Instruments for Students program continues with collection dates slated in various places around the Capital District.

Our success from the last events propels us forward in planning outings that will not only bring us together, but also help raise monies for our beloved Symphony. The Showhouse of yesteryear was a huge fundraiser which raised a great deal of money, but since we are no longer able to host that, we are attempting to offer several events to replace some of those monies. Hopefully you will join us for the comradery as well as the value we can bring to help keep the music alive.

In addition to the Vanguard offerings, the ASO is planning their annual Gala on May 20 at the Desmond Crowne Plaza. This is a festive event with food and music and, again, a nice way to get together while benefiting the Symphony and its programs. Let’s help make all of these things successful by getting involved with the planning and also attending the functions!

Judith Ciccio

Musical Instruments for the Students Program News

Used musical instrument drives benefitting needy children were held at Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs on January 16 and at Coldwell Banker Prime Properties in Slingerlands on February 11 which generated many instruments by donors who were thrilled about this program. It was originated by long-time, dedicated Vanguard volunteer and Past President Lynne Nisoff in 2007.

Future drives planned to date:

Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave, Delmar, March 12, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Voorheesville Library, 51 School Road, Voorheesville, April 1, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Honest Weight Food Co-op, 100 Watervliet Ave., Albany, April 15, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Stuyvesant Plaza event, Book House, May 20, 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.



Instruments are given to eleven school districts which badly need them. I've collected 557 since about 2013, with a goal of 1,000 and more. Recently, I received a totally unexpected call from Melissa Hale-Spencer, editor of the Altamont Enterprise newspaper, who had heard positive reports from a donor about the program. She interviewed me for her newspaper's podcast and also wrote an article about the program in the paper on February 16.

Jill Rifkin, Chair



Our Fundraising Committee has been busy working on several exciting events that we hope you will enjoy attending while helping to raise money to help support our amazing Albany Symphony.

First - Spring Luncheon and Chico's Fashion Show at the beautiful Albany Country Club. The fashion show will feature Chico's fabulous Spring collection. Join friends, sip wine while enjoying lunch and seeing the latest fashions modeled by someone you may know!

Save the date! Wednesday, April 26

Check our Vanguard-ASO.org website to select a lunch from three choices and make your reservations.

Second- Father's Day! What better way to show Dad how much you care with great food, drink, assorted cookies for dessert and an outdoor setting then by coming to our **Shrimp Boil at the amazing June Farms**, with music by The Joe Barna Trio. Those of you who were at the Jazz Brunch know how great that music was. This will take place under the farm's roomy, outdoor tent overlooking this picturesque farm. The Dad-pleasing dinner will include a pound of jumbo shrimp, potatoes, sweet corn, Italian sausage, old bay butter, lemon and bread.

Save the date! Friday, June 16

Check our Vanguard-ASO.org website to make your reservations.

We hope you will join us at these two exciting events.
Maureen Geis, Chair

April is **National Volunteer Month** celebrating the impact volunteers have on our lives and encourages active volunteerism in generations to come. Presidents of the United States throughout the years have proclaimed National Volunteer Week and Month, honoring the unparalleled services of the volunteers who have given countless hours for the betterment of mankind, communities and the American way of life. When surveyed, 96% of volunteers believe that volunteering makes them happier people!

Every day but especially this April we salute you, our Vanguard volunteers, for your unwavering service to us and the Albany Symphony Orchestra.



ANNUAL MEETING

Vanguard has been very busy with events but please make sure to add one more very important date on your calendar!

Our Annual Meeting will be Thursday, June 29, at the Albany Country Club. As we get closer we will provide more details. Hope to see you there!

Kathy DeWeese and Julia Smart, Co-Chairs

This March marks the 38th Music in Our Schools Month. Every day in music classrooms across the United States, music educators dedicate themselves to reaching all students with life-changing musical experiences.



As you all know, Vanguard does our part by raising funds for the Albany Symphony who works closely with our local schools to bring their talents to the students. But don't forget our work with the Musical Instruments in the Schools Program, collecting new and gently used instruments for students who would otherwise not be able to afford to take instructions.



Now individually we all need to contact our politicians--at the local, state and federal level--to encourage them to keep music in our schools.

Congratulations to all Music Teachers who spend their careers introducing music to our children.

***"So long as the human spirit
thrives on this planet,
Music
in some living form will
accompany and sustain us."***
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)



NEW MEMBERS

Vanguard is pleased to welcome the following new member:

Patricia Ryan, Loudonville

IN MEMORIUM

Ursula MacAffer (Past President) –
January 27, 2023

Paul Richer – January 27, 2023

Micheileen Treadwell – January 11, 2023

An Immersive Experience



VANGUARD joins the 21st Century!!

On Thursday, February 23, Vanguard members and their guests were treated to an amazing afternoon at the Immersive Van Gogh Experience within The Armory Studios in Schenectady. The multi-room event showcased the life and times of Van Gogh using an amazing combination of technology and art.

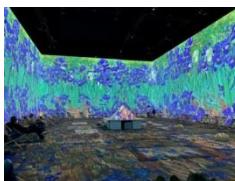
There were displays featuring moving 3-D images projected onto an enormous bust of Van Gogh's head as well as onto a large flower vase. There was a life-size room setting of Van Gogh's bedroom where you could enter and imagine that Van Gogh would soon come in to greet you. There were many framed images of his paintings throughout the exhibit as well as display boards explaining different aspects of his life.

The main feature of the entire show was a room where Van Gogh's paintings were featured using a 360 degree projection technique that surrounded viewers with colorful, moving images painted by the master himself. While visiting The Armory Studios, you are welcome to visit the lounge for lunch, drinks or a light snack. It is a welcoming room with a living room vibe including sofas, club chairs, coffee tables and dining tables and chairs. Bountiful Bread catered our delicious lunch right there in the same building as the exhibit.

It was a wonderful, memorable day spent learning about the life of Van Gogh while also enjoying time with fellow Vanguard members.

This show was awarded the best immersive experience by USA Today and it is ranked among the twelve best immersive experiences in the world! The exhibit has been so popular that it is being extended through the month of May so if you have not yet seen it, now is the time to go.

Anna Sipp Bray, Chair



Have you noticed some emails in your inbox from Vanguard? We have been working with Constant Contact, a communications company that offers remarkable services to groups such as ours hoping to increase interaction with their members. With a list of our member emails, I can create a single email, complete with our logo, appropriate graphics, photos and a timely announcement. Then, with a single click, I can send it out with a personalized greeting to each of you. You may have seen this at work with information about our trips and upcoming events such as the Fashion Show Luncheon and Van Gogh exhibit experience.

This is similar to the ability of the ASO to put out attractive and creative notices to many people. At this time, we have about 85 of you "on board" to receive our news this way. Please share these announcements with your friends and feel free to give me feedback about the whole process! Don't forget that our website is also kept up to date with Vanguard activity and the ability to sign up and pay for many of our events:

Vanguard-ASO.org

Marilyn Hunter, Chair

New York Botanical Garden Trip Planned

Attention all members and their guests! An exciting day trip is planned to the New York Botanical Garden to see the famous Orchid Show on Saturday, March 18.

Surround yourself with the fragrance and sights of the incredibly beautiful orchids from around the world, innovative displays and amazing gardens. This event is held indoors in the Enid Haupt Conservatory. If it's a nice day, you may venture outside and take a seat on the trolley which will take you throughout the world-class gardens.

This exciting trip includes round-trip transportation, admission, driver tip and a small Vanguard donation. Lunch may be purchased on-site or you may bring a brown bag lunch. Total trip cost is \$125.00. The Brown Bus Company is arranging a comfortable tour bus to take us at 7:00 AM from the Crossgates Mall auxiliary parking lot across from J.C. Penney. The bus will return by 8:30 PM. Trip takes place rain or shine.

To purchase your ticket online go to: Vanguard-ASO.org and click on this event. Deadline is Monday, March 12. If you have any questions please contact Anna Bray at (518) 438-1960.