Message from the President

Happy New Year and welcome to the latest edition of the BAFFA Bulletin Board! This last quarter has been filled with many activities and we are thrilled to share them all with you in this newsletter.

All three of our groups either resumed or made great strides towards resuming operations. Our Gallery officially re-opened in November. The Chorus started rehearsals in October and did a concert in November which was streamed via YouTube. Plus, a small group of Orchestra members, that met privately and safely to play together during the pandemic, represented BAFFA at the opening of the Bayport Blue-Point Library. More gallery exhibits are planned for 2022 and the orchestra and chorus plan to resume rehearsals and concerts too. You can read all the details in the articles below.

We are happy to introduce two new people to our organization. Please welcome Ryan Green (our new Office Manager) and Donna Pace (our new Chorus Manager). Ryan and Donna are stepping into the roles held by Rich and Lynette Rushton who are retiring and moving to Florida. Please wish all of them well in their new endeavors.

Your membership and financial support of BAFFA has been our primary source of income for many years. During the pandemic, BAFFA was able to pursue some grant opportunities as well. We were thrilled to receive grants from the Suffolk County and the Knapp-Swezey Foundation in 2021. Both of these grants helped us to resume operations and we will continue to research additional grants in 2022.

As you are all aware the recent up-tick in COVID cases is impacting our community. BAFFA will continue to keep the health and safety of our members our primary concern. We have learned so much in the last two years that we hope to continue operations safely amid this new variant.

Thank you again for your continued support of BAFFA. On behalf of the entire organization, we want to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Andrea Edwards

BAFFA Tidbits

MEMBERSHIP
As a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization, membership provides an important part of our funding. Please join BAFFA by clicking on the link below. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you very much. https://www.baffa.org/membership

FACEBOOK
Please consider liking our Facebook page: Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts.

BAFFA Website
For up to date information and current events, please visit our website.

AMAZON SMILE
You can help BAFFA by selecting The Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts as your charity of choice in your Amazon account. Click here! Select ‘Pick your own charitable organization.’

In case you missed it:
BAFFA has a YouTube channel and you can see many of our concerts including “The BAFFA Beat Goes On.” Click here or search YouTube for Long Island’s Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts.
The Bell Street Artists

Following our long shutdown, BAFFA was very pleased to be able to welcome our artists back to the BAFFA Gallery at the Gillette House to share their impressive artwork.

During Saturdays and Sundays in November, the Bell Street Artists presented a Retrospective exhibit of their work which included a wide range of media. Some of these included watercolors, acrylics, mosaics, photography, pen and ink, scratch board, collages and sculptures.

The Bell Street Artists was founded in 1973 and its diverse members come from throughout Suffolk County. They exhibit across the metropolitan area, and we are delighted to have them back at the BAFFA Gallery. For more information about this interesting and very talented group, please visit their website at: http://bellstreetartists.com/.

Plein Air Limner Society

On December 11th and 12th, the BAFFA Gallery was again transformed into an oasis of beauty with the PALS: Plein Air Limner Society’s 12th Art Exhibit and Holiday Sale which followed the theme Discovering Long Island. Not only were viewers treated to beautiful art, they also had fun recognizing familiar scenes from across Long Island.

PALS was formed by Jeanne Salucci in 2009. This group travels throughout Long Island where they experience the joy of painting outside in tranquil places while enjoying the camaraderie of being with other artists. New members are always welcome. Much more information can be found about PALS by visiting their website at: www.PALSPleinAir.com.

BAFFA is in the process of scheduling more art exhibits from our regular groups, like the Bell Street Artists and PALS, as well as new artists. In addition, plans are underway to have our popular school art exhibits and juried high school competition in the spring. If you are interested in displaying your art at the BAFFA Gallery, please contact our Gallery Manager, Lora Ann Batorsky, at loraann@baffa.org.
BAFFA’s Power Couple - Lynette & Rich Rushton

For decades Lynette and Rich Rushton have been familiar faces at every BAFFA event and have made enormous contributions to our organization.

Lynette started singing with BAFFA in 2006. She immediately became a key member of the alto section. Since 2011, Lynette has done an amazing job as the Chorus Manager. She has also been an important part of BAFFA’s Victorian Carolers since it began. Lynette is in her Victorian Caroling costume on the left and in the blue dress in the middle of the group shot below. Lynette has been an active member of the BAFFA Board for many years and she has always been there to volunteer to help, not just with chorus activities, but with all BAFFA activities. She is both a leader and a hard worker.

Rich happened to retire at the same time BAFFA was looking for a new Office Manager in 2009. How lucky BAFFA was to get him! Using his many technical skills, Rich brought our office into the computer age. He designed and maintained our BAFFA website. Rich was the one who was responsible for making sure our journals, programs, flyers, and newsletters got out to our members and the public. He set up programs to help us keep track of our many activities. Not only did he run the BAFFA office three days a week, Rich also attended all the concerts where he helped out with whatever needed to be done. He was there to assist the artists when they were setting up for shows. Rich was always on the move so it was hard to get a picture of him but he can be found below helping with the panels the artists hang their work on. He really did it all!

Lynette and Rich will be moving to FL soon to be with their children and grandchildren. BAFFA will never be able to thank them enough for all that they have done for our organization for so many years. They will be sorely missed but we wish them the very best. No doubt, they will soon leave a mark on their new community. This power couple is always on the go and helping others.
Steve Alford suddenly passed away in November 2021. He was a bassoonist with the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra as well as past president of the BAFFA Board of Directors. Karen Miller, another bassoonist with the orchestra reminisces, “He was an avid golfer, taking lessons and sometimes buying equipment to better his game. I always laughed and told him ‘it is the Indian, not the arrow’. We had a good laugh. Steve played bassoon in high school and attended many ALL County events. His daughter, Rebecca, played 2nd violin in BAFFA as a Jr.-HS student. She is now married and has a daughter about six months old. Steve owned his own business, Superior Technical Solutions, that dealt with electronics. Many times when we had rehearsals, Steve would come late only because he was on the road, coming from New Jersey, but always had his bassoon in the car. He really enjoyed the orchestra. At his service, everyone spoke of his kindness and caring for others. He was the ultimate handyman around his home, rebuilding the kitchen and bathrooms. If a neighbor needed help, Steve was there to help. He leaves a large void in his family ad all his friends. He graduated from RPI in Troy NY with a degree in engineering and I think computers, but not sure. He loved his family very much and always spoke about their accomplishments.” He is survived by his wife Marjorie and 2 daughters, Rebecca and Emily. Steve will be dearly missed.

BAFFA Chorus

In October, the BAFFA Chorus was very happy to be able to resume rehearsals and met at the Bayport United Methodist Church. Fully vaccinated, members masked up and spaced out in the Parish Hall. Since the masks make singing a little more difficult, rehearsal time was limited to one hour instead of two. However, chorus members were thrilled to be able to sing together again and everyone was very pleased at how well the chorus sounded, even wearing masks. Conductor Martha Campanile was so impressed that she arranged for us to put on a concert (complete with concert dress) entitled, Joy and Peace on November 17th. Performed in the Parish Hall, the concert was streamed to viewers on the church’s You Tube Channel.

The chorus is scheduled to start practicing again in January at the Bayport United Methodist Church. Please check your email for the date when rehearsals will resume and watch for concert date information on our website and Facebook page. The theme of our next concert will be Sing We a Love Song, a Lullaby and Music to Bring Us to a Beautiful Place.

Remembering Steve Alford

Steve Alford suddenly passed away in November 2021. He was a bassoonist with the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra as well as past president of the BAFFA Board of Directors. Karen Miller, another bassoonist with the orchestra reminisces, “He was an avid golfer, taking lessons and sometimes buying equipment to better his game. I always laughed and told him ‘it is the Indian, not the arrow’. We had a good laugh. Steve played bassoon in high school and attended many ALL County events. His daughter, Rebecca, played 2nd violin in BAFFA as a Jr.-HS student. She is now married and has a daughter about six months old. Steve owned his own business, Superior Technical Solutions, that dealt with electronics. Many times when we had rehearsals, Steve would come late only because he was on the road, coming from New Jersey, but always had his bassoon in the car. He really enjoyed the orchestra. At his service, everyone spoke of his kindness and caring for others. He was the ultimate handyman around his home, rebuilding the kitchen and bathrooms. If a neighbor needed help, Steve was there to help. He leaves a large void in his family ad all his friends. He graduated from RPI in Troy NY with a degree in engineering and I think computers, but not sure. He loved his family very much and always spoke about their accomplishments.” He is survived by his wife Marjorie and 2 daughters, Rebecca and Emily. Steve will be dearly missed.
Bayport-Blue Point Library Opening

“Strings Attached”, an ensemble representing BAFFA, played beautiful music at the opening of the Bayport-Blue Point Library. Their music was very well received. The music could be heard as attendees of the library opening event explored the gorgeous new library. Special thanks to Dr. Richard Wright for his help with the ensemble. From left to right, the members are: Claire Yannacone (cello), Lauren Marinich (viola), Barbara Feehan (violin), Ella Feehan (violin), Andrea Edwards (violin), Barbara Llobell (violin), Danae Butler (violin), Kashmere Cooey (flute.)

Victorian Carolers

“I can’t thank you enough for delighting us with your singing. The Victorian Carolers are such a hit! AND such a perfect fit for our event.” Maryann Almes, President of the Oakdale Historical Society.

These were the comments the BAFFA Victorian Carolers received following their performance for the Oakdale Historical Society for their Civil War Christmas on December 11, 2021. The carolers sang Christmas carols that were popular during the Civil War. Many people were surprised to learn that the songs that were sung then are still popular today. We hope that next year covid will allow us to sing inside the St. John’s Episcopal Church in Oakdale. Special thanks to Martha Campanile for conducting this event.

BAFFA Symphony Orchestra

After an almost two-year long wait, the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra will resume rehearsals in January 2022. We will be rehearsing at the James Wilson Young Middle School in the Chorus Room. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Tina Barkan. Please check your email for the date when rehearsals will resume and watch for concert date information on our website and Facebook page.