

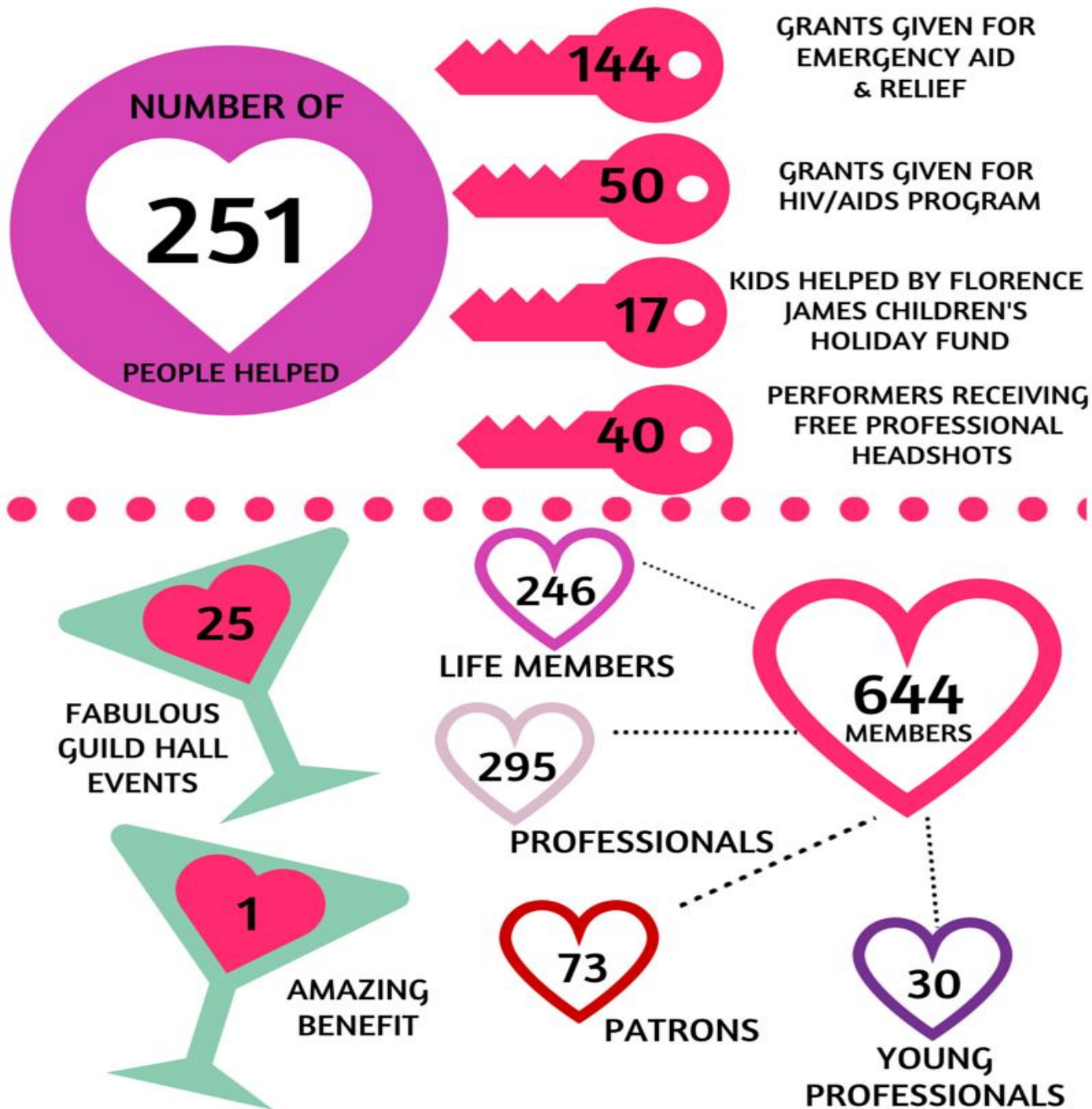
THE EAGLET

The Episcopal Actors' Guild

Est. 1923

For All Faiths, and None

EAG 2014: BY THE NUMBERS





The Little Column Around the Corner

Karen A. Lehman
Executive Director

As we start the new year I want to reflect on two reasons that the Guild's charitable work is so great. We are RESPONSIVE to the needs of our clients. And when we have an idea, the whole EAG community rallies QUICKLY to support it.

It was this RESPONSIVENESS that led to the founding of our Florence James Children's Holiday Fund when we realized families were going without a holiday celebration because they couldn't afford one.

We also RESPONDED QUICKLY when we realized that our clients were using outdated headshots (some as old as 20 years!) because they couldn't afford to get new ones. With a unique idea, The Headshot Project, and the support of the membership, we have provided over 100 free professional headshots to our clients, a valuable tool to advance their professional careers.

And now we are at it again as we unveil our newest service. A few months ago, I met with a woman in her 70's, living on a fixed income and struggling to keep up with the rising costs of NYC. She said that she often went without food to make ends meet. We did help her with a small grant to buy groceries but she insisted the bulk of the grant money be applied toward her rent. I wish I could tell you this was a one time event but the fact is that the majority of our clients

report not having enough to eat. I knew this was a serious problem and we could RESPOND in a way to make it better. In December 2014, we started The Actors' Pantry with the hope of providing a bag or 2 of groceries to help people get back on their feet. Every client that has come to us for assistance has since utilized this service and they are overwhelmed with gratitude for the ability to be able to provide a meal for themselves and their families.

Many of you have RESPONDED to the call to help in this endeavor, donating money, food, and time to get this project off the ground. We salute you! But there is still much to be done. Please see the article on page 5 for how you can get involved in helping the performing arts community at the most basic level.

Thank you, as always, for your QUICK RESPONSE!

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'Twas a Wonderful Season at EAG

This past holiday season at EAG was quite special, beginning with our Lessons & Carols Service and ending with two heart-warming radio-play performances of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Thanks to all who came out!



Our thanks to Ahron R. Foster for these wonderful pictures! www.ahronfoster.com

No More Starving Artists! by Ahron R. Foster



Over half the clients being seen at the EAG have discussed the fact that they don't have enough to eat. Sometimes this means not only the individual, but their families as well. In response to this disheartening trend, we have

created a new charitable service: The Actors' Pantry. Located inside of Guild Hall, this resource offers clients who visit EAG for financial assistance a bag of groceries as well.

"In the past year, the number of people in our community dealing with hunger has skyrocketed," reports Executive Director Karen Lehman. "I knew something had to be done, so I reached out to Ahron and the EAG Council and they are dedicated to addressing and solving this issue."

We have started collecting canned goods and non-perishable items at Guild events. We have also reached out to local supermarkets in the hopes of developing long term relationships with them. We are grateful to have already received a donation commitment from Trader Joe's and Fairway Market.

We thank those of you who have already made monetary contributions. With these, we have pur-

chased what we can at local stores. Along with the food brought by members, we have helped every client that Karen has seen since mid-December. What an amazing feeling to be able to help put food on people's tables!

We are off to a great start but we need your help to sustain this important initiative. Here's how you can contribute:

- 1. Bring non-perishable food items to any EAG event or meeting.**
- 2. Make a tax-deductible contribution to the Episcopal Actors' Guild for The Actors' Pantry.**
- 3. Schedule a delivery using freshdirect.com or other grocery service. Contact the office for the best delivery times.**
- 4. Talk to your local grocery store about making a financial or food contribution (we can help you with any paperwork or questions).**

I have volunteered to chair the committee responsible for the logistics of the project. Please contact me with any questions. We will soon have a page with more information online at www.actorsguild.org.

Thanks to all of you who have donated or plan to donate. Whether for your monetary help, the food you've brought or sent or the time you have given, it is greatly appreciated and it is helping those in need.

"Thank God for EAG": Clients Share Their Story

For this first issue of 2015, we asked clients of EAG's charitable programs to tell us their Guild story. The responses are honest and encouraging, while reminding us of the value in the good work of this great organization.

My name is Edward Lawrence, known professionally as Lawrence James. I've been an actor since 1966, gaining my Equity card playing the role of "Cal" in *The Little Foxes* with Colleen Dewhurst at Buffalo's Studio Arena Theater. My first association with EAG came some years ago when I needed help with my rent, and the Guild provided that help.

At that time I was put in contact with a gentleman by the name of Lon Clark. Today, Executive Director Karen Lehman and Assistant Director Matt Roberson are doing an excellent job assisting performers. A few months back the Guild provided assistance for me with a dental

bill that I would not have been able to pay without their help. I just turned 80 on January 8, and you can imagine how thankful I am having an agency like The Episcopal Actors' Guild there to help me - and so many others - in times of dire need.

Lastly, I will add that it's so very important to have the right type of individuals running these agencies. When a person in need arrives at the door, it goes without saying he or she can use a friendly hello and smile. I can say without hesitation that The Episcopal Actors' Guild, beginning with it's Executive Director Ms. Lehman, has those kinds of folks, thank God.

When the Ladder Gets Pulled Out From Under You

Sometimes the rug just gets pulled out...other times it's a ladder. And typically, you don't see it coming. That's what happened to me on October 22, 2013.

That evening I had taught a packed fitness class (you know, the making-ends-meet gig for a Broadway performer and writer), had a great dinner, flirted by text with a cute boy I'd met, took a long bath, and eventually headed up the ladder to my sleep loft at 1 a.m. Realizing I'd forgotten something, I reversed my direction on the ladder and somehow missed a rung...crashing to the ground about six-feet down. As a dancer, my natural instinct was to point my toe as if about to land a jump...only the floor hit faster than I anticipated, and the next thing I heard was a horrific crunch.

I lay on the floor knowing I had broken my foot but having no idea how I had literally just ruined my life for the next year. A trip to the ER and subsequent visits to specialists at the Hospital for Special Surgery led to the diagnosis that I had not only severely shattered the metacarpals in my foot, but I'd ripped all the ligaments, displaced the mid-foot and broken my ankle. Go big or go home right?

This led to two surgeries, three metal plates and a screw inserted in my foot and nearly six months without walking. Epic disaster...especially for someone who considers dancing her first love.

I have always been good with my money—saving when on tour or in Broadway shows and investing—but you never expect an accident like this to happen! I had fortunately been paying for health insurance, but I still found myself in serious financial straits. Living in NYC as a single gal is tough...even tougher when you can't walk—or work—for eight months.

It was at that point that one of my best friends suggested I look into assistance. After years of collecting for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and doing benefit performances for the Actor's Fund, it had never even occurred to me that I was now one of those people for whom I'd done all that volunteer work. I reached out to the Actor's Fund and they connected me with The Episcopal Actors' Guild.

I am humbled by the help they were able to give me with some of my expenses during an incredibly painful and frustrating rehabilitation. Thankfully, I am now walking again and even dancing, but there was a while when I thought I might lose my apartment and everything I had killed myself to achieve, because of one freak accident.

The Episcopal Actors' Guild was a godsend in a time of need for me, and I'm forever grateful.

- by Kimberly Dawn Neumann

The Children's Holiday Fund...Making Spirits Bright

I have been acting as a profession for 23 years now. I love what I do with a passion and am very good at it.

I have had ups and downs in my career, both economically as well as professionally. Although I have not yet gotten my "big break", I continue to believe in my talents as I pursue my dream.

Throughout my time as a professional actor, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. The relationship with her father and I did not last, and I became a single parent when my child was 2 years old. I unfortunately don't receive any sort of child support from her father, making it more difficult to raise her with my "starving artist" income.

The Episcopal Actors Guild has been a great help to me throughout my years as a single parent. One of the incredible ways in which the Guild has helped me, is through the holiday gift program. This has afforded my child the joy of enjoying lovely presents on Christmas! Without this help, I might not be able to buy my daughter presents due to my very low income.

I find it to be such a kind act to give children Christmas presents so that they are happy around the holiday season.

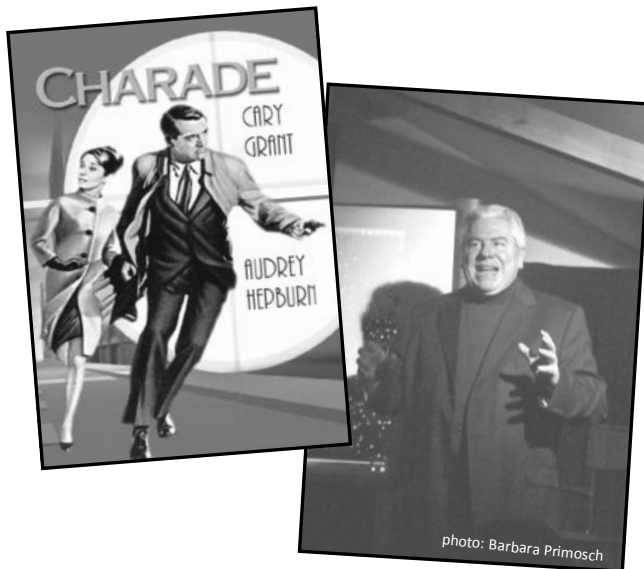
Thank God for the Episcopal Actors' Guild! I am very grateful that such an establishment exists. I would also like to add the fact that the Guild's Karen Lehman has been so incredibly kind and supportive throughout the years. Asking for help can be a very humbling experience, and it really helps when you are repeatedly greeted with such a kind and open heart. I am sure that Karen will be blessed for her kindness and love.

- by Anonymous

The need for EAG's services is great, but with your help, we'll continue making a difference in the lives of New York's amazing performing artists.

Make your tax-deductible contribution today by calling (212) 685-2927 or online at www.actorsguild.org.

Classic Cinema Comes to Guild Hall



On January 15, a small but enthusiastic crowd battled cold and evening traffic to attend the first of what we hope will be many movie nights in Guild Hall. On screen was the romantic thriller *Charade* starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn.

The evening's host was Steve Hayes, who is the creator and star of the popular online show *Tired Old Queen at the Movies*. Last year, Hayes' dedication to classic cinema was rewarded when Turner Classic Movies selected him as a Guest Programmer.

As guests enjoyed wine and popcorn, Hayes introduced the film, offering insight about the film and its many stars. It was particularly interesting to hear that after being rejected by the studios, writer Peter Stone turned the script into a serial novel for *Redbook* magazine, which then led to a bidding war among the studios that had previously said "no."

Of course, the Guild calendar would be blank without the efforts of our volunteers and Events Committee, who cheerfully tackle every task from securing performers to folding chairs.

Future movie nights hosted by Steve Hayes are already in the works, so stay tuned. And if there's a film you think we should show, tell us at matt@actorsguild.org.

Meet Your Fellow Guilder: Bernadette Fiorella

Bernadette Fiorella is proud to be a member of EAG since 1997, now serving as a Council member as well. As a classically trained soprano with a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from Brooklyn College, she sang with the New York City Opera company for 22 years until the demise of the company. As a member of AGMA, she has served on several committees to negotiate contracts. She is also a Council member of Christ Lutheran Church where she has served as secretary and coordinator of the weekly volunteer list. At present, she is an ESL teacher, a voice teacher, and a transcriptionist. Recently, she offered a concert of British and Spanish music in Guild Hall.



Why did you join EAG? I knew a couple of people who were already members, including my husband, Craig Wichman, and I liked what the organization did. I also thought it would be a great space to do a recital and have now done several there.

Favorite Guild memory? So many memories it's hard to pick just one: Lessons and Carols Services, Christmas parties, recitals I did and those I attended, Open House New York, performances with Quicksilver Radio Theater. Just being in that lovely, warm space and feeling at home and welcomed.

Performer, living or dead, that you would most like to see at Guild Hall? I would love Campbell Scott, who is on the Advisory Board, to do something there. I knew him before I knew who he was, so to speak. We worked together as transcriptionists in an office. I wonder if he'd remember me....hmmm....

Favorite line from a movie or a play? "With a little sex in it, but I don't want to stress it" from *Sullivan's Travels*, a Preston Sturges movie, which was where the name of the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* came from.

In heaven, there's a Sardi's. Who is at your table? Joel McCrea, Lionel and John Barrymore, Irene Dunne, and Cary Grant. Maybe Robert DeNiro, just to have someone there who's actually still breathing.

Welcome Our New Members

John Anderson	Bill Lumley
Iris Beaumier	Myriam Marero
Terry Chayefsky	Taylor Martin
Judy Cole	Amina Noordin - Life
Michael Coleman	Linda Porto
Patricia Dey	Mark Preston - Life
Rob Donohoe	Lin Snider
Marilyn Duryea	George Sterling Coyne II - Life
Roberta Horton	Jack Urbont
Rand Houghton	Mary Lou Zobel
Cheryl Leggi	

Are your dues due? Call (212) 685-2927 to find out.

Turnley's TURNS

by Matt Roberson (matt@actorsguild.org)

...It seems you can't squint in this town without seeing fashion's latest trend: icicles. One exception: the stages and screens on which our amazing Guilders have been plying their trade. For instance...

...At the Little Church, **CLAUDIA DUM-SCHAT** will host a concert featuring the Schola Cantorum choir performing *The Genius of Monteverdi*. 2/6/15 @ 7:30 pm. \$15/25. RSVP: 212-684-4174...For you opera fans, **LESLIE MIDDLEBROOK** is performing works by Rossini, Strauss and more at St. Peter's in Midtown on Feb. 10 @ 7 pm...

...Down in North Carolina, **ANTHONY NEWFIELD** is appearing as Mayor Peter Stockman in a production of

Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at PlayMakers Rep...And in March, Newfield will direct a reading of **RICHARD ALLEMAN's** *The Burner Sisters* (3/23 @ House of the Redeemer. RSVP: 212-289-0399)...

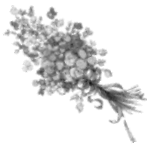
...Also in March, see **RICHARD HOLBROOK** perform the songs of Burton Lane at 54 Below. 3/17 @ 9:30 pm. Tix/Info: 646-476-3551...

...Looking backwards now...In January, **WILLIE-MAE PERRY** offered her show *A Sentimental Journey* to delighted listeners at the new Klavierhaus room...That same month, **VERONICA JAMES** returned to the airwaves as part of WPSC's Alumni Takeover 2015...

...In December, **CHUCK** and **KELLEY KAREL** were featured performers in the long-running Dana Lorge Variety Show at the Metropolitan Room...Also in December, The Snarks presented *Tartuffe* featuring **AMELIA ANDERSON**, **ERIC KUZMUK**, **KATHLEEN MOORE**, **DUDLEY STONE** and **JERRY VERMILYE**, with choreography by **DEBORAH STONE**...

...And just announced: In May of 2015, **JIM DALE** and **MARK YORK** will take *Just Jim Dale* across the pond for a run at London's Vaudeville Theatre, which happens to be the same stage on which Dale made his West End debut in 1964...

|| MUSING with WILLIAM SHUST ||



- Daffy-nition: kindred - the fear of visiting relatives.
- Joan of Arc was NOT Noah's wife



• "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Two on the Aisle

by Jerry Vermilye

Yesterday's world of weekly dramatic summer backing provided the perfect conduit for a stock offered an invaluable training ground, not sotto voce rescue.

only for acting, but also for the kind of backstage etiquette not taught in drama schools. Where else would the neophyte learn not to sample the prop food or offer advice to a fellow player? And, when stage managers still prompted floundering thespians, how and when to do so? Just such a crisis of decision was encountered during a performance of Shaw's *Pygmalion*, when a well-known Hollywood actor suddenly veered off-track. Too long an onstage pause indicated that action was called for. Fortunately, the set featured a fireplace whose

Later that season, management staged *The Iron Gate*, a new play "prior to Broadway." This southern costume melodrama proved so ripe with derivative clichés that one critic dismissed it as "a sort of Little Foxes of Wimpole Street," concluding with "Let us hope that *The Iron Gate* is allowed to clang quietly shut in the hinterlands."

One night backstage, our resident juvenile was overheard to mutter, "I can't act in this part!" This assistant Stage Manager knew enough to keep his mouth shut.



The Episcopal Actors' Guild

Guild Hall
1 East 29th St.
New York, NY 10016



What's Happening at EAG?

FEBRUARY
Sunday, February 22 @ 2 pm - Guild Hall: Larry Woodard & Carol Skarimbos in *I Feel a Song Comin' On*

MARCH

Dates TBA - Guild Hall: The Thomas Barbour Memorial Playwrights' Award

APRIL

Thursday, April 9, 2015 @ 7 pm - Guild Hall: A Musical Tour of Italy with O Sole Trio

JUNE

Thursday, June 4 @ 4 pm - American Academy of Dramatic Arts: 2015 Annual Membership Meeting

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Wednesdays @ 2 to 4 pm - Guild Hall: February 18, March 11

Archives Committee Meetings @ 12 pm - Guild Hall: February 21, March 14, April 18, May 16

Get in Touch!

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