

THE EAGLET

THE EPISCOPAL ACTORS' GUILD | EST. 1923 | FOR ALL FAITHS AND NONE



COMMUNITY LOVE

VOL. 36, NO. 1 | FEBRUARY 2025

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NYC Cultural
Affairs



EAG is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

THE LITTLE COLUMN AROUND THE CORNER

BY KAREN LEHMAN FOSTER, EAG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are often judged by the company we keep. Thankfully, as EAG members, we are all in good company when we come together and there is no judgement! We are a vibrant and caring community that regularly gathers to have fun while raising funds and awareness for our charitable work.

If you are new to this community or are eager to become more involved, this issue has tons of ideas. What I personally love is that there is something for everyone.

See page 5 for our newest (and most fun) volunteer opportunity, The Pantry Parade, and also details on how you can perform at our Members-Only Actors' Night.

On page 6, you can learn about joining our Artist Way group, established in 2019 or our Archives Committee, established in 1998.

If none of these suits your fancy, you can create your own event and rent our space in beautiful Guild Hall. We'll take a look at recent members projects on pages 3 and 4.

One of my favorite community groups at EAG is our Broadway Book Club. Started in January 2017, the club meets every other month to discuss novels about the performing arts. We have spanned genres, from historical fiction to science fiction to mysteries to thrillers. We have been fortunate to have had three authors attend book club to discuss their books: Amy Poeppel, Kathryn Leigh Scott, and Fiona Davis (who attended twice).

We have about 15 members, most of whom meet in person at Guild Hall with coffee and cookies. But a few people Zoom in - from Alabama, Canada, and Brooklyn.

Like a lot of our groups, the book club is more than what meets the eye. Genuine friendships have started and endured. Kind words and hugs abound when someone is in need of extra cheer. And you won't find better theatre or film recommendations than from within the conversations we've had.

Our Broadway Book Club meets at 2:30 pm on the first Monday of every other month. Upcoming 2025 dates include - April 7th, **June 2nd**, August 4th, October 6th, and **December 1st**. *If you like a party, check us out in June when we will celebrate our 50th book! And in December, we always have a fabulous holiday party where we exchange books as gifts.*

I love the EAG community and hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Karen Lehman Foster
Executive Director
karen@actorsguild.org



Guild Hall's Unique Theatre Space

"In the Room Where It Happens"

By Denise Pence Boockvor

In collaboration with JoAnn Yeoman and Rebecca Lovett



Performers at Vinnie Marano's *Soulful Music for Interested Times*; photo by Denise Boockvor

Were you in the audience when *A Chorus Line* first opened at The Public? Or *Hamilton*? *A Chorus Line* had "buzz" about it, but *Hamilton*? They couldn't give the seats away! My good friend got a couple of free tickets, couldn't find anyone interested in going with her and then sat there dumbfounded at the brilliance she was witnessing on that stage! The rest is obviously, history.

Guild Hall is like our own private Public Theatre! Whether for an audience member or a creative artist, EAG is a creative home where members not only find financial and spiritual support when needed, but Guild Hall offers each of us space to work and grow as a creative artist. We just need to show up! Actors Night! Intentional Artist Series! Pilates! Play-reading series!

What? A play-reading series? Yup. Courtesy of new Council member Vincent Marano, EAG has a new play-reading series, *The Works*, scheduled February thru June. An offshoot of the Workshop Theatre's *Shop Talk*, this is where renting Guild Hall offers even more magic.

Through regular e-mail blasts, members of EAG are, of course, going to know when projects from their membership are in support of EAG and are presenting in Guild Hall. Were you in the room for the recent "insider" theater history from composer/lyricist, Mark York's *Give My Regards to Broadway*?

Other fun and informative stand-out events were sold-out performances to *Living with Laughter*, by the indomitable Jim Dale; the insightful, hilarious commentary by EAG member, "Tired Old Queen" Steve Hayes, to great movie classics, like the recent *My Man Godfrey*; and the spot-on character voices bringing the ever-popular, annual radio play, *A Christmas Carol*, to life, presented by EAG member Craig Wichman ("Scrooge") and the Quicksilver Radio Theatre Company, now in its 30th year.

Veteran Guild Members will recognize W.W.O.W., also its 30th year, as regular renters of Guild Hall for the past 10 years. While Quicksilver writes new radio drama scripts, W.W.O.W. recreates vintage radio dramas – mostly

mysteries and horror shows – stepping back in time to the 1940's and the Golden Age of Radio. **Watch for dates and times posted on The Guild's Facebook Group Page!**

That's how I stumbled upon the upcoming one-man show, *Godzilla's Prince*, presented publicly in NYC and beautifully reviewed in the past. How did the project happen to come to Guild Hall? "Six degrees of separation," put the writer, Theresa Cascio and her husband of 25 years, Doc Dougherty, in Guild Hall to see Jim Dale's performance. Love at first sight of Guild Hall, prompted Anna and Doc to become new members and voila! We get to experience *Godzilla's Prince*, a modern-day Irish ghost story, up close and personal, February 13 through March 8 at Guild Hall.

Guild Hall just might be a new date night for this retired couple. More affordable than Broadway, with potential stars of tomorrow cutting their teeth on us. Whether an event sponsored in support of The Guild; or an outside

renter of our space, this writer suggests being in the room where it happens! All efforts support the Guild, and you never know when lightning might strike in that unique little theatre space steeped in theatrical history.



MORE UPCOMING RENTAL EVENTS AT GUILD HALL

- **Godzilla's Prince**, solo show performing February 13-March 8, (EAG members Anna Theresa Cascio/writer & Doc Dougherty/performer) [ticketstripe.com/events/7365106095906427](https://www.ticketstripe.com/events/7365106095906427)
- The NY Chapter of **The Sons of the Desert**, The International Laurel and Hardy Appreciation Society, will have their monthly meetings/screenings on February 14, March 14, (EAG Member Jack Roth is "Grand Sheik & Keeper of the Celluloid") www.sonsofthedesertnyc.org/meetings
- Theater in Asylum's Cold Readings: **Gertrude Stein Night**: February 19 (EAG staff Paul Bedard), www.theaterinasyllum.com/cold-readings.
- EAG Council Member Vincent Marano and SHOPTALK will be hosting a play-reading series, **THE WORKS**; next dates are February 25 and March 11
- EAG Member Elza Zagreda will be performing her new solo show, **Anxiety, Anti & Assholes**, Wednesdays March 5, 12, and 19
- **Salon de Artistas** will showcase artists from a variety of disciplines on Thursday, March 20. (EAG Member Alexandra Laliberte, producer), salondeartistas.com
- **Cranston & Spade Theatre Company** and **W.W.O.W. Radio** (EAG Member Michael Johnson) will be recreating an old-fashioned radio drama, live onstage on March 22, www.facebook.com/wwowradio, email for reservations: cranstonandspade@yahoo.com
- Faith in God Theater Group (EAG Member Cilque Brown, writer/director) will be presenting the two-act drama **Meal Ticket** on Saturday, April 5, www.ticketleap.events/tickets/faith-in-god/meal-ticket-3-red-carpet-affair-and-performance

INTERESTED IN RENTING GUILD HALL?

Centrally located on 29th Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues, this unique space is perfect for readings, recitals, and performances. All rental fees support NYC performers in need!

- Stage Configuration: proscenium (~10.5' deep x ~19' wide), house is ~21' deep x 22' wide (no rake)
- Max Occupancy: 65
- Available Hours: after 6pm on weekdays, all day on weekends.
- Rental Rate: \$90/hour (\$70/hour for members!).

Learn more and inquire about dates by scanning this QR code:



PARADING DOWN 29TH STREET

BY PAUL BEDARD

“I’m out front, can you help me unload?”

For years, our intrepid executive director Karen Foster would trek into the crowded city with her black VW Tiguan full of groceries for the Actors Pantry. On her way, she stopped at Trader Joe’s, BJ’s, and



sometimes other stores in pursuit of soups and bars and peanut butter and oatmeal. She and whoever else was working that day would, bag by bag, carry the haul up the stairs for unpacking and shelving. The shelves would be stocked for a few weeks, and then we’d be back to counting jars and trying to correctly guess how much stuff could fit in that VW.

“You know, when congestion pricing starts, we’ll probably need to figure something else out.”

That was early 2024, when congestion pricing’s June start felt imminent. We ended up having more time before congestion pricing actually started (six months more, to be precise) but a new way to restock the pantry was needed anyway. It was too much for too few people, and soon to be too expensive. Out of necessity came this idea: What if

we could get volunteers to help?

On July 10th we held our first-ever “Pantry Parade,” wherein a half-dozen volunteers met Paul at the Trader Joe’s on 3rd Avenue and—prepared with carts, wagons, and bags galore—paraded a boatload of much-needed food back to the Guild and our Actors Pantry. We looked a little silly, this line of wagons in the sweltering summer sun, but we made it back, and the haul up the stairs was significantly easier with more hands sharing the load. A post-parade ice cream treat soon joined the activity and parades continue today, about once every other month, refilling the pantry and helping to feed performers in need. What was once a difficult chore for just a few EAG staffers is now a little easier, a little more fun, and saves both gas money and New York’s new congestion toll.

Governor Kathy Hochul may not have had Karen’s VW in mind when she finally gave congestion pricing the green light, but the program succeeded in getting at least one car off these busy streets. In its place, you may see a line of eccentrically-dressed theater people marching down 29th street, arms and carts full of food.



ACTORS’ NIGHT

BY PETER VON BERG

I would like to say a few words about Actors' Night at the Episcopal Actors Guild. 2025 is upon us. The country is in turmoil. In the acting profession, due to Covid and the SAG-AFTRA strike that followed there is still little work. I was a passionate supporter of the strike, it's just that it was a difficult time. And then there were the terrible fires in Los Angeles. But in spite of all this, we do have a refuge, a home for the actor, a space for his creativity. Every third Tuesday of every month, we meet up in Guild Hall. It doesn't matter if you're a star with Broadway credits or someone with no experience at all, the space is yours. The time is yours. You can channel Shakespeare. Or a song. Or Restoration. Or a TV commercial audition. Or your own writing. Or you can simply be an audience. Just bring your Passion. Bring your love. No one is destroyed, no one is abused. You will be met by love, from your fellow brothers and sisters in the acting persuasion. Guiding this gathering has brought me back to the joy of being a young actor with the expectation of a glorious future in the theatre. But you can be ninety years old and still have a glorious future in the theatre. Even if it's for the next ten minutes, you will have a glorious future. I remember my youthful happiness in those classes. But also dictatorial teachers with their egocentric infliction of shame. No-no, none of that here I promise you. Cruelty and overbearing notes and teaching is banished. Put an iambic pentameter stress on that last syllable. We few, we happy few. I like to think we are an acting company up there: The Royal Episcopal Guilders. Join us!

RESOURCES

Know your rights

[immigrantjustice.org/
know-your-rights](http://immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights)

Get help and give help to those impacted with a community bail fund
envisionfreedom.org

Emergency financial aid for NYC performers
[www.actorsguild.org/
emergency-aid](http://www.actorsguild.org/emergency-aid)

Stay grounded, make this a practice
www.findingsteadyground.com

Make sure you're registered to vote
(Some districts in NYC have a special election in March, and all NYC has a primary in June)

NYC: vote.nyc

Beyond NYC: vote.gov

Join a supportive community of artists at EAG

Memberships begin at \$30/year, but we aim for no one to be turned away for lack of funds. Email paul@actorsguild.org if you need assistance.
[www.actorsguild.org/
membership](http://www.actorsguild.org/membership)

MAKING OUR ARTIST'S WAY AT EAG

BY JOAN KANE

"The act of making art exposes a society to itself. Art brings things to life. It illuminates us. It sheds light on our lingering darkness. It casts a beam into the heart of our own darkness and says 'See?'" - Julia Cameron (from chapter three of *The Artist's Way*.)

The Episcopal Actors' Guild's "*The Artist's Way*" Group has been meeting regularly since 2019, group sessions based on a 12-week creativity course designed to help people work through professional challenges and gain artistic inspiration, as outlined in the book. Our program is focused on supporting personal relationships in order to build self confidence and eliminate possible artistic blocks. The book provides useful techniques and suggests key exercises that can help people exploit their personal relationships, gain greater self-confidence, and more effectively harness their creative skills and talents.

The Artist's Way, originally published in 1992, has become an effective guide for artists in a wide range of disciplines. Our EAG group was originally hosted by Christina Edelman and Karen Lehman Foster back in autumn 2019. And initially we met in person at Guild Hall. When COVID struck, we shifted to online sessions and have been meeting that way ever since. And when Christina left, Karen herself became our group leader. Our group has included professionals from around the country—painters, playwrights, authors of novels, musicians, actors, designers, and directors. Our goal has been to help blocked artists move forward in all their pursuits. We share passages that ring true to us from the chapter of the week. Then we sometimes split and move into breakout rooms, where we share our thoughts and gather support for our goals. I have been a participant in this effort since the beginning and gained insight into what may have been holding me back. The result: I have learned how to pay attention to my artistic dreams and to believe in my own artistic vision. I am grateful to have been part of a beautiful community of artists sharing and supporting artist growth.

For more information about our group—how to join and where/when we meet— please see the EAG mailing list.

ARCHIVES

BY ERIC STAMM

This January the Archives Committee began its 27th year. During that time, more than 75 Guild members have participated in converting an accumulation into a collection. Many thanks to all of you. Being a Guild archivist is a calling. It's usually the tedious work of preserving and organizing 50- to 150-year-old pieces of paper, often images but more often much more mundane material. So who does this? Those of us with a love of history, people intent on preserving and celebrating our past. And this becomes especially important for theatre history. One of the defining characteristics of theatre is that it is ephemeral. An actor, a company, a director— all can achieve their best performances, and which are preserved only in the audience and cast memories. There is no record except the occasional review, broadsheets, programs and images. And the stars of the past fade from the popular psyche, only to be replaced by the next generation. But many of us do care about the performers and performances that came before our times and are willing to devote time and energy to preserving that history. So maybe it's a love of the theatre community and a need to preserve its past as well as we can that drives us to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month for most of the past 26 years.

TURNLEY'S TURNS

Continuing the tradition of Peggy Turnley, we love to let our community know when EAG Members appear on stage and screen. We post these both here in *The Eaglet*, and also on the Guilders Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/eagguilders



SEPTEMBER

Jon-Mykul Bowen made his Clown debut in The Humanist's Project's *MAD MAD MAD* at the Target Margin Theatre!

Jennifer Fouché sang with the St. Malachy's-Actors' Chapel Choir for the Broadway Interfaith Celebration Concert.

Rachel Leslie appeared as Margaret (FLOTUS) in the Arden Theatre Company's production of *POTUS*.

JoAnn Yeoman, Assistant Editor of the Arizona State University Emeritus Journal *Voices* published "Playback, a history of lyrics and Break a Leg: Theatrical Superstitions."

Jenny Lynn Stewart performed in *Olivia O The Musical* at the Chain Theater, directed by Jennica Carmona.

OCTOBER

Jeff Rocco, along with Chill Bucket Productions, presented *The Below the Line Film Festival* at Guild Hall

Jo Yang acted in the indie feature *Treasure of the Lost Reel*.

Paul Bedard completed a 35-show tour of Bread & Puppet's *The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus*.

NOVEMBER

Leslie Middlebrook performed in *A Musical Tapestry* at St. Monica Church

DECEMBER

Evangeline Johns and her daughter, **Ariana**, along with **Darryl Curry**, musical director and accompanist, performed their new Cabaret show, *Exotic Adventures of Vangari*, *Wandering Hearts* at Don't Tell Mama.

Anthony Newfield performed at the Annual House of the Redeemer Christmas Party.

Lynn Godfrey performed *A Holiday Evening* at Guild Hall.

The Little Church presented *Ein Kleines Weihnachtskonzert, a Christmas Candlelight Concert*.

Stephen S. Miller has joined the Production Team as an investor for the upcoming Broadway Production of *The Last Five Years*.

Nancy Simpson performed in *Music and Memories - Sing-Along Program* at the DOROT Senior Center in Manhattan.

Cynthia Tombros published her book *Sex with Wolves* through Barnes and Noble.

Leslie Middlebrook sang in *A Musicale In Mrs. Hudson's Parlor* at The Coffee House & Salmagundi Club

JANUARY

Vincent Marano presented *Soulful Music for Interesting Times* at Guild Hall.

Paul Bedard's Theater in Asylum presented a reading of Christopher Marlow's *Doctor Faustus* in Guild Hall. A follow up, Gertrude Stein's *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, will be held on February 19.
www.theaterinasyllum.com/cold-readings

FEBRUARY

Anna Theresa Cascio and **Doc Dougherty** present *Godzilla's Prince* at Guild Hall beginning February 13.
ticketstripe.com/events/8542106095139313

MARCH

Anthony Newfield will appear in Karen Zacarias's new adaptation of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Previews on February 28, opens March 6, and runs through March 30.
tickets.arenastage.org/events/36282

APRIL

Johnny Culver's Equity Library Theater is seeking short plays for their Summer 2025 Play Festival. Deadline is April 30. www.equitylibrarytheater.info



The Episcopal Actors' Guild of America

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Welcome to our newest members!



We want to hear from you! Head over to our website and let us know what you'd like to see in a future *Eaglet* - www.actorsguild.org/the-eaglet.

Have an idea for a future *Eaglet*?

We can accept donations online via the QR code below or by a check made payable to EAG and mailed to EAG, 1 E. 29th St. New York, NY 10016.

Help us help performers in need!

Thank you!



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