



April 2022  
NEWSLETTER



### President's Message

From guitar picks to Lady Gaga's infamous "meat" dress! What a treasure we have right here in downtown Cleveland. Volumes of information were condensed and presented to us by Joe Wickens, the Collections and Exhibit Manager of the Rock Hall, within forty minutes and we even saw samples of Lady Gaga's meat dress (preserved, of course).

Joe joined us afterward to help celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a tasty corned beef and cabbage dinner (minus the Guinness) and then selected the winning 50/50 raffle ticket. Our winner this month was Linda Daly. Linda graciously donated her winnings back to the Women's Committee. Thank you so much Linda.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we found it necessary to cancel the tea at the Candoren House. We will still consider doing this in the future. A replacement for April's program will be Jack Warren who is the Managing Director of The Musical Theatre Project and will sing and perform short vignettes. So please make your reservations soon to enjoy "The Great American Musical in Times of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging".

This next bit of information is probably the most difficult to write about. It has been five years as the President of the Women's Committee and I feel that it is time to step down. My experiences over the past five years have been good. I have learned a lot, enjoyed meeting new people and making many new friends. Most of all, I enjoyed finding new ways to help support The Fine Arts Association and will continue to do so. I specifically would like to thank Paul Holm, CEO of the Fine Arts, his wonderful staff and all of you for your kindness and support over these past years. I will remain on the board in another capacity and look forward to sharing many more luncheons and programs with all of you in the future.

God Bless You All,

Karen Pribula





Wednesday  
Program/Luncheon Series

April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11 a.m.

**“The Great American Musical in Times of Equity,  
Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging”**

**Presented by Jack Warren**

Warren, a professional actor and Managing Director of The Musical Theater Project in Cleveland, is a long-time aficionado of theater and musical theater in particular. Now a professional actor, he made his mark across northern Ohio in community and professional theaters from Ashtabula to Amherst; from Lakewood to Akron (including Fine Arts Association). He has been involved in small family-owned businesses of one sort or another for more than 30 years, and is most proud of working most of the last 17 years with his mother, Bonnie, who started her Comfort Keepers franchises here in Northeast Ohio. While there was not too much opportunity for live performance on stage these past few years, he has recorded a few audio books from his home studio for authors around the country. "Blessed" with white facial hair at an EARLY age -- he will portray the Jolly Good Elf in 2022 for his 24th season. Jack lives with his lovely wife Jenifer in Concord Twp.

**RSVP Deadline is: Noon on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**A friendly reminder: Program and luncheon reservations are required!**

The preferred method is to email [anthonyjanem@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyjanem@yahoo.com).

Your email reservation will be confirmed by Jane Anthony.

Phone reservations can be made by calling 440-579-5020.

Program only reservations are encouraged, however walk-ins are always welcome.

\$15 for members. \$20 for nonmembers (**new fee**)

**A REMINDER... Reservations will not be accepted after the deadline date!!!**

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**



Spring is here! Let's celebrate with a delicious luncheon. We will start with tasty Chicken a la King on Puff pastry, and Oriental Salad and top it off with Shooters with fruit for dessert.

Catering is by Dave Baker at Manna Catering. Manna Café is at 1821 N. Ridge Rd., Painesville

**Thank you to Members of the Board for Hostessing for April**

## **Membership Committee**

It's hard to believe that another great year of fine programming and your support as a member of the WCFAA is drawing to a close! Your support by attending our programs, contributing to the Scholarship Fund and our 50/50 raffle fundraiser is greatly appreciated. So....

### **It's Time to Renew Your Membership**



Please fill out the enclosed membership form with your dues. We will be accepting the forms at our April and May programs or you can mail it to the address on the form.

**A warm welcome to our newest members**

*welcome*

**Patricia Polivchak**  
3 Keewayden Dr.  
Timberlake, OH 44095  
440-289-6752  
[ppolivchak@msn.com](mailto:ppolivchak@msn.com)

**Judi Peters**  
38660 Mentor Ave.  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
40-313-1830  
[jpeters@fineartsassociation.org](mailto:jpeters@fineartsassociation.org)

Thanks, Pat Carroll Bonander Chair

## **Scholarship Committee**

The Women's Committee provides scholarships based on talent for students enrolled in the Fine Arts Association in the study of art and dance.

Scholarship money is raised through donations to the fund. This year we provided scholarships totaling \$2,200. If the donations are less than the total amount awarded the balance is completed from the general fund.

This year we awarded eleven (11) scholarships each in the amount of \$200. Ten (10) were received by students enrolled in various disciplines of dance and one (1) was awarded for art.

Please consider donating to the scholarship fund at the time you pay your dues.

Thank you for your support of deserving and talented students .  
Thanks, Kathy Tuttle, Chair

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee , Roberta Lucia, Sandy Taddeo, Sheila Smith, Connie Sterner and Carolyn Wolfe, submit the following slate of officers for the election at the general membership meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the year 2022-2023.

President:	Jeanne Lipps
Vice President:	Barbara Schuler
Recording Secretary:	Sandy Taddeo
Corresponding Secretary:	Karen Pribula
Treasurer:	Jane Anthony



Our final program of the season is **May 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Kirtland Country Club. Cost of program and catered luncheon is \$45.

Well known presenter, Dan Ruminsky will present “The Gilded Age.”

## Remembering Billy the Artist



It all started at the tender age of 8 when Billy saw his first show at The Fine Arts Association (FAA). He was so excited after the first act he slipped away from his father and went to the front desk and secretly signed himself up for drama lessons and soon after was cast in his first of 20 memorable shows at the FAA. This started his creative journey which later brought Billy both national and international attention. After graduating from the prestigious Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Billy had a successful career as an actor performing across the country in National tours, great regional theaters and of course numerous Broadway bound and Off-Broadway productions, as well as commercials and numerous concerts in New York City.

Billy's artistic path changed, however, when Broadway producer and friend Kevin McCollum, (Avenue Q, Drowsy Chaperone, and the upcoming High Fidelity), took Billy to see a show he was thinking of producing titled later as RENT. When RENT came to Broadway, Kevin and the other producers brought Billy with them - only this time it was to paint 60 feet of murals for the inside of the theater along with t-shirt and other merchandising designs that would eventually be seen world-wide. Billy graciously donated one of the panels to FAA and it is still proudly displayed there.

Billy had started painting in between theater jobs and then with the success of RENT, his mural designs and paintings became a full-time job. Billy "Billy the Artist (BTA)" turned into a nationally and internationally recognized artist. He worked for some of the largest global brands (Swatch, Lamborghini, Gibson, Hyundai, Mountain Dew, Nescafe, Suzuki, Pizza Hut, etc.) and his artwork, products, and murals have been seen all over the world. From a street artist in the 90's in the East Village, Billy the Artist's career evolved and he was soon painting murals and original t-shirts designs for the Broadway Musical RENT. Internationally, his breakthrough was at the launch of Swatch watches in Venice during the Venice Biennale where he painted live in San Marco with 5,000 projects in front of 30,000 people. His paintings have been showcased at The Forbes Gallery in New York, throughout Chelsea, Soho, Chicago, Cleveland, Curacao, etc.

Collector Steve Cohen recently purchased one of Billy's famous cows and musician John Baptiste enjoyed playing his custom piano Most recently Billy came to Mentor on Dec. 29, 2021 for a book signing of his project East Village Closed which focused on how the energy and vibrancy of the East Village (his home for over 30 years) turned surreal during COVID.

Billy always stayed connected to his roots and expressed such love for family, for his Fine Arts "family", and the community where he began his creative journey. In 2017, FAA proudly recognized Billy as an Honorary Director on the FAA Board of Directors. Billy was often a guest of honor at FAA along with his family members at FAA galas. He once painted live at the Gala and donated his art for fundraising causes for FAA. FAA is honored to have a Billy Miller original panel from RENT and proudly displays that along with four other outstanding pieces throughout the facility - three of which were from a Billy Miller Master Class with FAA students helping to paint the pieces.

With heavy hearts we sadly said goodbye to Billy on January 22, 2022. Billy the Artist is a story of unmatched vibrancy, energy, and talent. He was a very charitable minded man who supported many non-profit organizations. His beautiful spirit and his love of life lives on in all his rich colorful art pieces.

For more on Billy and his work go to [www.BILLYARTNYC.com](http://www.BILLYARTNYC.com)

We will be selling copies of Billy's latest books during our One Acts Festival beginning April 1. Remembering Billy Miller...