



BREAD & ROSES®

live ART delivered *fresh* DAILY™

ISSUE 53

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2003

Making music, changing lives

Donor Rick Swig (left) with performers Wesla Whitfield and Mike Greensill reaffirm their commitment to Bread & Roses at a recent benefit event.



Photo by Susan Hyde

"Both my financial donations and other active participation with Bread & Roses have provided satisfying returns. It's a 30-year-old organization. It's dedicated. It's focused. It has both a mission and defined strategy. To me, Bread & Roses is a solid organization worth investment."

Rick Swig

"Imagine a room full of people who are disenfranchised – for whatever reason. They're aging, they can't live on their own anymore so they're forced to live in a place with strangers, or they're incarcerated, or they're severely disabled, physically or mentally. And for whatever reason, they just are stuck there. They can't make plans ... Think of it. Imagine it. You come into a room like that and you think, 'Huh, there's nothing I could possibly do to help.'

Well, we're lucky, because we do get to do something that helps a lot. We get to make music. It's a magic thing. And that room suddenly has a life again. And every single person is touched."

Wesla Whitfield

A Note from Cassandra Flipper *Executive Director, Bread & Roses*

On July 10, I celebrated three years as Executive Director at Bread & Roses, and I'm as energized by our mission today as I was when I walked through the door.

Moreover, the commitment to that mission of our staff, Board, volunteers and donors never ceases to amaze and encourage me.

This has been a challenging year in terms of raising funds and the foreseeable future looks just as tough. Nevertheless, we exceeded our annual goals by producing 530 shows to approximately 23,000 individuals in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

We also met our strategic goals of reaching out to more youth audiences and incorporating more youth performers into our corps of volunteers. In fact, we brought entertainment, often with an educational component, to 68 percent more children and teens this year than last.

While we have had to reduce our budget for the current year, we have pledged to maintain our level of service. We are tightening our belts in many ways – eliminating one staff position, freezing staff salaries, reducing two other positions to part-time, and postponing many projects. We're going to do everything in our power to fulfill our pledge to keep show numbers up, but we need your continued help – as donors, volunteers, or both – in order to do so.

So stay tuned, visit our website for current events, and help however you can. Together we'll transform your generosity into Bread & Roses magic.

Cassandra



Photo by Nita Winter

Former patient returns as Bread & Roses performer

By Chris Wright

Bread & Roses Volunteer Host

As a new volunteer host, I had the pleasure of attending a Bread & Roses performance by **Michael DeGarmo** at San Francisco General Hospital's short-term psychiatric ward in June.

Michael first became familiar with Bread & Roses when he was a patient in the audience at a hospital show in February. After the performance, Michael played a few songs on the piano for Producer **Marian Hubler**.

A talented professional musician who has played in many bands and on cruise ships, Michael has an expressive voice and is a spirited piano player with a widely accessible repertoire.

Marian told Michael that Bread & Roses would love to have him do a performance if he had time to volunteer when he was feeling better.

Just a few months later, he called and said he was living independently, feeling great and ready to perform.

On the day of the show, Michael sat down at the piano and talked with the crowd of about 40 patients.

He told them that he had been a

"Being in the hospital can be very depressing. All you do is think about your problems all day long. When someone comes to entertain, it gives you a chance to get away from that and just enjoy the music.

I feel like a Phoenix who has risen through the ashes."

Michael DeGarmo, performer



Photo by Andrew deLory

Vocalist and "piano man" Michael DeGarmo returns to San Francisco General Hospital.

patient in the hospital not so long ago, and that things can and do get better. He had a calming demeanor and was a great inspiration to all who were in the audience that day.

Michael began his set with Elton John's *Bennie and the Jets* and played a number of other standards.

He also showed his songwriting talents by playing a few of his original songs, along with some ragtime music.

I saw many happy people singing along and having a great time.

After the performance, many of the

'HIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES'

"Working on an inpatient acute psychiatric unit, staff rarely are able to see the clients when they are doing well outside the hospital.

The majority of the time we see clients when they come to the hospital in a crisis situation.

All of the staff were very proud and excited when we heard that Michael was coming back to the hospital, not as a client, but as a performer with Bread & Roses.

It was a joy to see Michael doing so well. His performance was especially therapeutic because of the way in which he connected with the clients.

Before he played each song, he spoke from his heart about the difficulties and struggles in his life and related how each song helped him through his hard times.

His message was one of hope and encouragement. Michael displayed the power of music as a source of healing and strength. His messages and his performance brought tears to my eyes."

*Annette Pinto, Psychiatric Occupational Therapist
San Francisco General Hospital*

patients, as well as Michael's former counselors, expressed their gratitude and told him how much they enjoyed his music.

Bread & Roses looks forward to presenting Michael DeGarmo as a volunteer performer for other institutional audiences.

A WORD ABOUT OUR DONOR LIST – CENTER PAGES

In anticipation of our 30th anniversary, we thought it would be fun to look at this year's donor list from a historical perspective.

So, for the first time, those of you who have made donations in the past fiscal year are grouped by the length of your donor commitment to our organization.

Computers, and databases in particular,

have come a long way since our founding in 1974, and our oldest data is not our most accurate. If your donor history is inaccurately represented, please email us at info@breadandroses.org.

We look forward to telling your stories, and our own, when we celebrate three decades of service next year.

David Beecher Hudnut: 1935-2003

Former and present Bread & Roses staff, board and volunteers gathered with other family and friends on July 26, 2003, at the Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco for “A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of **David. B. Hudnut,**” our beloved former Board chair.

David died unexpectedly on Friday, June 27, near Estes Park, Colorado, with his wife, **Robin,** at his side.

David served six years on Bread & Roses Board of Directors (1996-2002), including two years as Board chair (2000-2001). He played a major leadership role in the management transition from **Mimi Fariña,** founder, and **Lana Severn,** associate director, to **Cassandra Flipper,** executive director.

After completing his term as Board chair, he continued to participate informally at the request of the Board until January 2003 and as a community member on the Program Committee.

In addition, David provided counsel to Cassandra on a variety of issues and helped **Elizabeth Share,** development director, in fundraising efforts.

In 1997, David made a donation that

“When David played his saw at the Veterans Hospital in San Francisco, people from all over appeared at the doorways to see what this incredible sound was. After seeing that it was a worker’s ordinary saw, each would disappear and return with a friend in tow, craning their necks to see ‘the saw.’ They were speechless! All they could do was point at David and his saw.”

Barbara Folger, The Soulmates

Photo by Denise Boney



Former Bread & Roses Board Member Barbara Folger and her cousin, David Hudnut, perform a show at the Cedars Foundation in Ross.

spearheaded the creation of Bread & Roses Endowment Fund, which was a major milestone for Bread & Roses in stabilizing its economic health for the future.

David was invaluable in so many ways,

“There is no better friend, no kinder person, no greater spirit and no one more generous. We will all miss him, but we must all teach others what he taught us.”

Donald Bull, The Soulmates

but all of us were touched by his devotion as a volunteer performer and appreciated the 82 Bread & Roses shows he did with his group, **The Soulmates.**

A banjo and saw player, he began volunteering in 1994 and performed for audiences of all ages. His stamina and commitment earned him the “2002 Bread & Roses Trouper Award.”

He was a man for all seasons who gave generously of his time, talent and treasure to Bread & Roses. David is irreplaceable on the Bread & Roses stage, in our governance and in our hearts.



Photo by Thomas John Gibbons

“David’s friendship to me and to Bread & Roses was a gift. His ability to touch the individual with sensitivity and empathy was unequalled.”

Mark Nelson, Board member

“It’s rare to find joy and exuberance combined in a leader with commitment, integrity and compassion for others. David was a generous performer who understood our purpose and the healing power of music.”

Lana Severn, former Director of Bread & Roses

David Hudnut plays his saw at the Benefactors dinner for Bread & Roses 25th Anniversary.

A MONTH IN THE LIFE

Every month, Bread & Roses produces more than 40 shows for isolated children, teens, adults and elders in eight Bay Area counties. With the dedicated work of nine staff and through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, we produce more than 500 shows each year. We thought you might enjoy a look behind the scenes.



A Month in BREAD & ROSES

September

BEHIND THE SCENES

Bread & Roses staff and volunteers are involved in many activities to keep the fast-paced office running smoothly. Managing the database, updating performer links to the website, communicating with donors, producing fundraising events, consulting with board members, as well as community outreach and public relations are just a few of the activities that support our mission.

THE SHOWS

Bread & Roses producers are continuously engaged in making high quality matches between talented volunteer performers from diverse performing arts backgrounds and the many different types of facilities that we serve – from senior convalescent to juvenile detention facilities.

SUN	MON	TUE
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 9:30 staff meeting 11:15 Life Learning Academy Cherique (body music)
7 4 Harrison Home Jacqueline Rago (Latin percussion)		9 2:30 VA Medical Center Norm Berryback Mike Greenbill (1933 vocal/piano) video: Guy Fairbutt
14 4 Episcopal Sunday Oakland Interfaith Gospel Youth Choir	15 2:30 5th Ave Michelle Steele & Connie Mill (vocal/piano) 3 Program Committee meeting	16 9:30 staff mtg 12 noon San Rafael Rotary Club 4 Audition - Bluegrass Gold
	22 1:15 On Lok Shi Yip John Chao Lewis (1933 vocal/piano) host: Sally Pelt	23 6:30 Audition "The Blues" Gentle Tribute
28 2 Cordillera Mental Health Seniors' Chorus (pop & capella)	29 1 Burt Chilken's Star Keta Bill (children's musician) 4 Public Relations & Marketing Committee	30 9:30 Quarterly Planning 4 San Mateo General Theater Night

PERFORMER RECRUITMENT Bread & Roses has more than 350 active performing groups, acts and individuals to call on. But to meet the needs of increasingly diverse audiences, we're constantly recruiting new performers. Interactive, multi-ethnic groups are especially needed for our youth audiences.

This is a representative calendar for a Bread & Roses producer.

the Life of & ROSES of



	THU	FRI	SAT
	4 10am Producers Mtg 2 Continuum Suzanne Ciani (piano)	5 2 Contra Costa Juvenile Michael Pritulard (motivational speaker) Host: Zia Potovsky	6
10 10am Producers Mtg 2:15 SF General Board Mtg (social/guinness) 7 Teakro Zin Zanni for Kelo benefit	11	12 845 Executive Committee Mtg 4:30 Teen Advisory Committee Meeting	13 9:30 Auditions (w/ MOCOSOS w/ their band)
17 10am Producers Mtg 2 Sonoma Juvenile Phil Frasier (youth Hip Hop)	18 	20 2 Rafael Compañent Dangerous Divas (a la pella jazz)	
24 10am Producers Mtg 2 Center for Elders Independence dibby & Tom Redden (piano/bajo duo)	25 7 Marian Residence Acoustic Soul Host: dymon DAVIS	26 27 11am Hager's Honda Swing Society	

Photo Credits

Masankho Banda Dancing at Fairfax/San Anselmo Children's Ctr. by Stan Siederman
 Man Clapping at RCH, Inc. by Nita Winter
 Children Smiling at Friends of St. Francis by Lisa Gray
 Lai Yip at On Lok by Greg Twirbutt
 James Henry on Steel Drums at the 'Jam' by Nita Winter

WIDE RANGE OF

VOLUNTEERS In addition to the performers, many other kinds of volunteers are essential to support Bread & Roses' ongoing program.

Volunteer office assistants, show hosts, event production assistants, sound technicians, videographers, photographers and graphic designers are just a few of the other kinds of vital skills that are constantly needed to move our program forward.

TEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our Teen Advisory Committee is composed of teen volunteers, who along with adults, guide Bread & Roses program of recruiting volunteer teen performers and recognizing their ongoing contributions. Last spring, they produced a volunteer youth performer showcase to celebrate the accomplishments of more than 30 volunteer youth acts.

FACILITY AUDIENCES

Facilities as varied as the East Bay Centers for Elders Independence and San Francisco's Edgewood Center for Children provide audiences that span a wide range of ages and are ethnically and culturally diverse. The intimate setting of the shows is rewarding for performers and audiences.

BOARD MEMBERS

Our 13 Board members have diverse backgrounds in business, banking, personnel management, social services, fundraising and the music industry. Committees such as Program and Development also include staff and community members.

Board Changes

A warm welcome to new Board members **Dennis Parsons** and **Martin Rubino**, who joined our Board this spring.

Dennis Parsons, of Kenwood, Sonoma County, is CEO of the **McPhail Fuel Company**, a propane gas distribution company, and CFO of **McPhail's Inc.**, an appliance distribution and real estate development company.

He is on the board of directors of the McPhail Fuel Company, McPhail's, Inc. and the **Western Propane Gas Association**. He is a member of the Bread & Roses Finance Committee.

Martin Rubino, of Novato, is general manager of the **Marin Independent Journal**, where he was formerly Director of Advertising. He is a member of the Development Committee at Bread & Roses.

A heartfelt thank you and farewell to

Brenda Laribee, who stepped down from the Board in June after six years of service.

Brenda was chair of the Development Committee for two years, served on the 25th Anniversary Committee and was chair of the Program Committee for a year, where she will continue to serve as a community member.

Staff News

Cassandra Flipper, executive director, gave the commencement speech at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto on June 14.

Cassandra also moderated a panel on "Thriving as an Executive Director" at



Photo by Ken Friedman

Bread & Roses Board of Directors: standing, from left: Dennis Parsons, Haybert Houston, Brenda Laribee, Mary Doan, Joni Beemsterboer, John Iwanicki. Seated, from left: Sudha Pennathur, Courtney Bock, Mark Nelson. Not pictured: Suzanne Badenhop, Christian Erdman, Laurie McGuinness, Marty Rubino, Vance Sharp.

the 16th Annual Nonprofit Day Conference in July sponsored by **CompassPoint Nonprofit Services** in San Francisco.

Elizabeth Share, development director, participated as a panelist for the session on "How to Engage Your Board in a Strategic Learning Agenda."

Thanks to **Maxine Straiten**, who left in June after two years as our administrative assistant. We wish her well.

Bread & Roses celebrates its volunteers at Youth Showcase and 'Jam'

It was a party, a concert and a celebration of talented young people all rolled into one – Bread & Roses' first-ever Youth Performer Showcase and Celebration attended by 75 teenagers and pre-teens in April.

Thirteen performing acts entertained each other – and the few adults who managed to get inside the Bay Model venue in Sausalito – for two and a half hours of nonstop music.

From *a capella* to gospel, from funk-rock to classical violin, and from Celtic fiddle tunes to classical chorus, the young performers covered the musical gamut.

The idea for the Youth Performer Showcase and Celebration came out of the Bread & Roses Teen Advisory



Photos by Ken Friedman

Youth Performer Showcase musicians: Ryan Gottschalk from the band Vexed (left); violinist Karolinka Tekiela.

Committee, made up of youth and adult volunteers.

It was such a success that we're already looking ahead to doing it again next year.

Volunteers take a bow at 'Jam'

Volunteers took a well-deserved bow at the Bread & Roses "Jam," an afternoon of music and recognition of the invaluable

contributions they make to our 500-plus shows produced at Bay Area facilities.

Close to 300 volunteer performers, hosts, office and event volunteers enjoyed beautiful sunshine, a sumptuous lunch and the ambiance of **John and Toby Nady's** Tudor estate in Piedmont.

Musical performances included the world music of **James Henry**, as well as jams by many other performers throughout the afternoon.

Among the volunteer performers singled out were **Paul Finochiarro**, **Elaine Dempsey** and **Phil Bearce**, who received 10-year awards.

For details of these events, see the Bread & Roses website, www.breadandroses.org

The show must go on. Thanks to these good friends, it does

So many spirits are lifted each month as a result of the work of Bread & Roses. Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our donors, our spirits continue to be lifted as well.

A heartfelt thank you to the sponsors of this year's Volunteer Appreciation Event, the "Jam": **Francis and Eleanor Coppola, the Gould Family Foundation, Reid Hoffman, George Lucas, Jeff and Barbara Redman, and Sterling and Jani Ross.**

The "Jam" is our favorite opportunity to nurture the volunteers who give so generously all year long.

Special thanks to **John and Toby Nady** for opening their beautiful home in Piedmont to Bread & Roses for the fifth time for this year's "Jam."

We also wish to thank those foundations and corporations who have recently awarded us grants: **Autodesk, Inc., the California Healthcare Foundation, Compton Foundation, Milagro Foundation, the Bernard Osher Foundation and Wells Fargo Bank.**

We know that these are hard economic times and we are deeply grateful for the confidence these grantors have in our ability to deliver a great return on each philanthropic dollar invested.

An Evening to Remember, with music by two local treasures

This June we were graciously welcomed into the San Francisco home of **Lorry and Jack Luikart** for a private benefit concert – a timely event designed to entertain, inform and help us close our budget deficit before the end of the fiscal year.

Lorry and Jack, working with our wonderful Board Chair **Mary Doan**, and **Rick Swig**, a Bread & Roses friend whose loyalty and generosity are legendary, created a party that was elegant, fun and memorable.

The stars of the evening were local treasures **Wesla Whitfield** and **Mike Greensill**, an incomparably delightful duo whose extraordinary musical gifts are matched by an equally extraordinary commitment to helping local arts organizations.

Reviewing their CD *September Songs: The Music of Wilder, Weill and Warren High Note*, the San Francisco Chronicle said, "As ever, in a Whitfield recording (or live performance), impeccable musicianship, liquid phrasing and acute sensitivity to the lyrics prevail."

It is a privilege to thank all whose generous gifts that evening are helping us meet the growing demand for our year-round shows for isolated audiences. And our hats off to **Rear Admiral**



Donor **Jim Greene** (left) with host **Jack Luikart** and Board member **Haybert Houston** at the recent benefit reception.

Bread & Roses is extremely fortunate to have the support of a dedicated, talented and hardworking board of directors. All Board members donate their time and resources to support our work, and we'd like to say a special thank-you to **Joni Beemsterboer, Chris Erdman, Haybert Houston, Brenda Laribee, Laurie Angel McGuinness** and **Sudha Pennathur** for their recent financial gifts to us as well.

Finally, it is a pleasure and honor to thank longtime Bread & Roses friends **Ann and Gordon Getty, Richard Goldman** and **James Hormel** for their recent grants to us. Like so many of our donors, these individuals come through for us time and again, ensuring that the shows go on and hearts are made happy.

James Greene, Rich Morales and Corrine Perry, and Schirley and Naftali Zisman for making multi-year pledges that night to support our work. Your faith in our future and your long-term commitment to our success make a very special difference.

BREAD & ROSES

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Contributing Staff Writer – Elizabeth Share

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BREAD & Roses

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uplifting spirits
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Save these dates!

Please mark your calendar for two very special Bread & Roses benefit shows.

■ On **Monday, October 20**, Bread & Roses will present **Rhiannon and Friends** including **Frank Martin** on keyboard, **Alex Acuña** on drums, **Abraham Laboriel** on bass, and other special guests at **Yoshi's World Class Jazz House & Japanese Restaurant** in Oakland at 8 and 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling the Box Office at (510) 238-9200. Seating is general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. For directions, information and tickets, visit www.yoshis.com.

■ On **February 24, 2004**, Bread & Roses will be collaborating with musical celebrity friends and **Teatro ZinZanni** to create a one-of-a-kind, sponsors-only, gala benefit show. Join us in breaking new

Rhiannon will perform for the Bread & Roses benefit at Yoshi's on Oct. 20.



Photo by Jan E. Watson

artistic ground. We'll party with the stars and proceeds will support the 500 free, live performances we produce each year.

Email eshare@breadandroses.org for information on sponsorships starting at \$500. Please check our web site at www.breadandroses.org for updates.

Website makeover

If you've visited www.breadandroses.org lately, you'll know that our website is new and improved.

We've added an online store, featuring our newly designed merchandise, and the ability to take online donations.

There's also a new Active Performers weblinks page, so you can learn more about our talented volunteer performers.

The website continues to evolve. Thanks to Executive Assistant **Dianne Levy**, webmaster **Jack Salvador** and the Web task force. **Anna Lindgren**, database manager, is the project manager.

BREAD & ROSES WISH LIST

We're looking for updates to our office software – Filemaker, Quark XPress and various Adobe products. We are also building a new media center and could use a projector with laptop interface (such as Epson PowerLite S1 Multimedia Projector), a flatbed scanner and a color printer (compatible with MAC OS 9.x or Windows XP, high resolution). Visit www.breadandroses.org for the complete wish list and more details.

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