



BREAD&ROSES®

live ART delivered *fresh* DAILY™

Issue 56 Winter 2005

*Dedicated to
uplifting spirits
by producing free,
live, quality
entertainment for
individuals living
in institutions
or otherwise
isolated from society.*

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**WELLS
FARGO**

THANKS TO WELLS FARGO FOR HELPING TO FUND THIS ISSUE

Help Us Match a 30th Anniversary Challenge Grant

In December 2004, Bread & Roses received a wonderful gift of \$30,000 for our endowment in honor of our 30th Anniversary.

In making this contribution, one generous and humbly anonymous donor created the opportunity for us to challenge you to match any or all of this anniversary gift.

A gift to our endowment has a positive and lasting impact. It provides much-needed income to support programs today, and a protected account for tomorrow. It is an investment in the vision of Bread & Roses as the leader in providing free, live performances to the isolated and institutionalized for another 30 years to come.

Most of all, it is an opportunity to join

Mimi Fariña and others who have already ensured that their support of Bread & Roses will be felt into the future.

In 1997, former Board Chairman **David Hudnut** made a donation that became the catalyst for the **Bread & Roses Endowment Fund**.

Proceeds from our 25th Anniversary benefit concert at the Opera House in 2000, as well as a sizeable bequest from the estate of Mimi Fariña, were also important early contributions to the fund.

We thank you in advance for helping



The Prescott Circus Theatre perform for Bread & Roses at the Fred Finch Youth Center in Oakland in July 2004.

Photo by Peter Merts

us match this wonderful gift by making a one-time gift to our Endowment Fund.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Share, Development Director, eshare@breadandroses.org or (415) 945-7120.



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ISSUE 56

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2005

It's A Wonderful World

By George Nevin

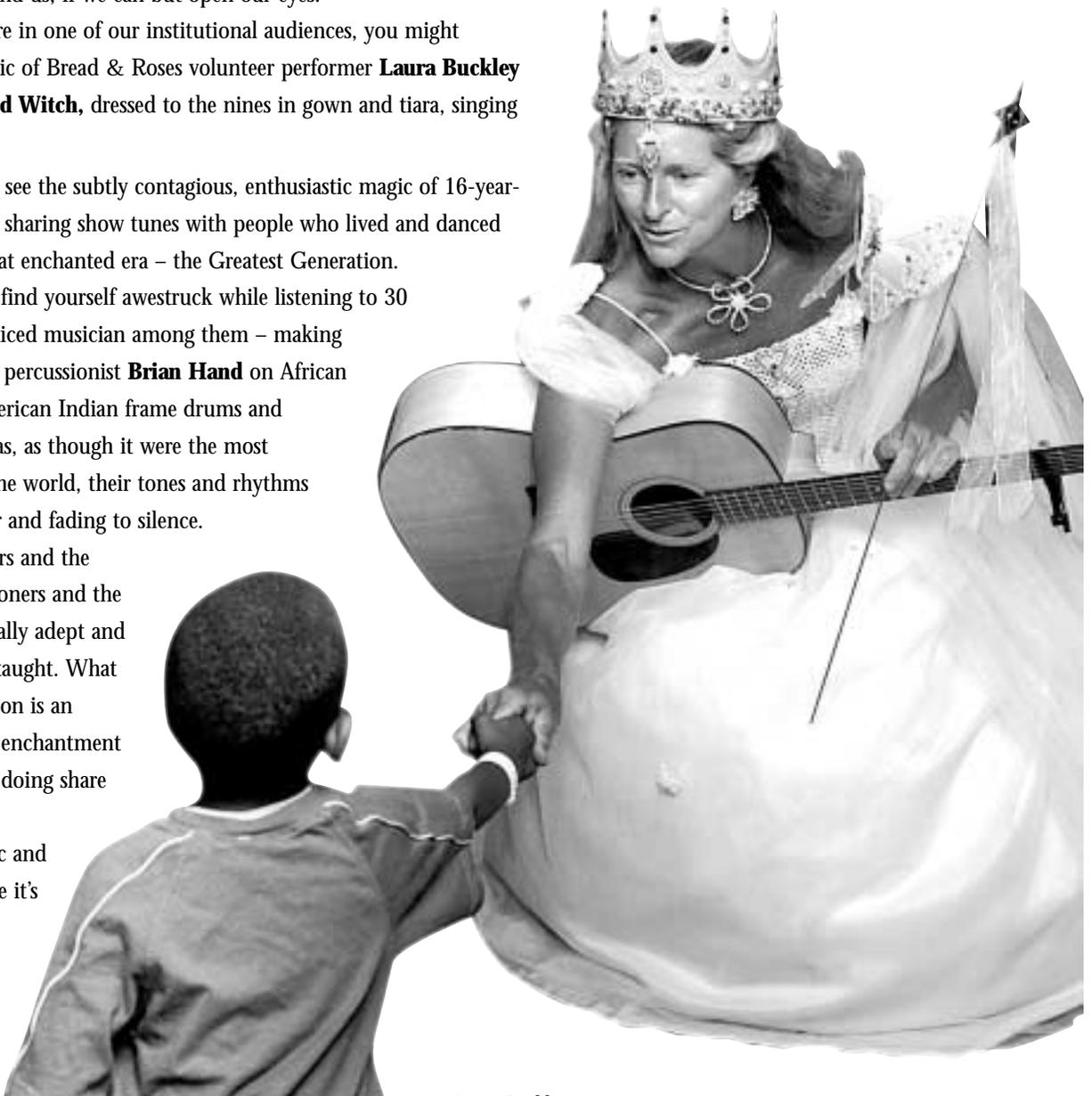
Magic is all around us, if we can but open our eyes. If you were in one of our institutional audiences, you might experience the magic of Bread & Roses volunteer performer **Laura Buckley** as **Glinda the Good Witch**, dressed to the nines in gown and tiara, singing from her heart.

Or, you might see the subtly contagious, enthusiastic magic of 16-year-old **Arianna Gard**, sharing show tunes with people who lived and danced and sang during that enchanted era – the Greatest Generation.

Or you might find yourself awestruck while listening to 30 elders – not a practiced musician among them – making ecstatic music with percussionist **Brian Hand** on African thumb pianos, American Indian frame drums and Peruvian clay huacas, as though it were the most ordinary thing in the world, their tones and rhythms swelling to thunder and fading to silence.

Bless the singers and the strummers, the crooners and the belters, the technically adept and the amazingly self-taught. What they have in common is an ability to weave an enchantment together, and in so doing share their hearts.

Bless the music and the magic – because it's all around us, it's undeniable and it has the power to bind up the wounds of a troubled world.



Laura Buckley reaches out as 'Glinda the Good Witch' at Children's Hospital, Oakland, June 30, 2004.

MORE MAGIC – PAGES 2 AND 3

Photo by Peter Merts/Illustration by Molly Turtle

It's A Wonderful World

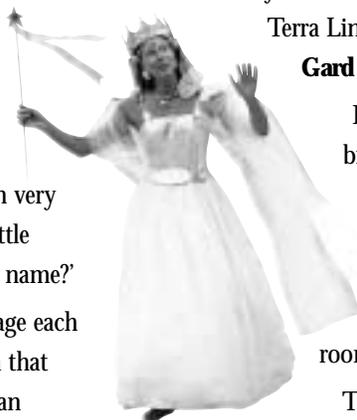
Three Special People Who Make the Magic

Laura Buckley, fondly known as Glinda

Laura Buckley's story, in her own words:

"I began working for Bread & Roses in 2004, visiting a children's day care center in Marin. I remember getting down very low, shaking and holding each little hand, whispering, 'What is your name?'"

"I believe that when you engage each child eye to eye, it is a validation that you are recognizing the child as an individual and acknowledging them in the presence of their peers."



"At my first visit to a senior facility in Terra Linda, I met **Arianna**

Gard (see below).

I arrived early in a bright, flowered dress with very high heels. I assisted the staff by bringing residents down from their rooms to the activity room.

This gave me a chance to introduce myself and find out a bit about each one.

Our third Wonderful World performer is Reggie Shell. He's on page 3.

"I told them, 'My present to you will be a cavalcade of songs from the hits of Broadway.'"

"One gentleman in a wheelchair in the back responded with tears to the question about who was the greatest love of his life. He disappeared, returning soon with a photo of his beautiful wife. We passed it around and we all agreed that she was one

See GLINDA, page 5

Arianna Gard - at 16, in love with the old songs

You could say that **Arianna Gard** is totally at home in the music of a much earlier generation.

She's 16, a high school junior, but she's comfortable with the show tunes of the 1930s through '60s - a genre she calls "musical theater."

She comes by it naturally. Arianna says, "My grandmother sings opera and my mom is a theater major. I grew up in a musical household."

Arianna's first time at a Bread & Roses show was at a performance by **Laura Buckley**. It was a chance for Laura to gently mentor the young singer. That day, Arianna learned how important it is for a performer to connect with the audience, one on one.

Since then she's done three Bread & Roses shows at senior convalescent facilities. "At my first solo show, I was nervous. I introduced this song by talking about my dad. I started bawling in the middle of the thing. My dad was there, and he was crying, too. He came up and gave me flowers."

That day, Arianna learned how to get an audience on your side. "If you wear your emotions on your sleeve, they identify with that. If you're nervous, tell them you're nervous. You're never going to get rejected."



Photo by Ken Friedman

Arianna Gard sings to an 85-year-old resident, a former professional saxophone player, at Fifth Avenue Convalescent in San Rafael.

Arianna always tells her audiences to join in, and most do. "There was one older man, he wanted to dance to every song. He said he was 95 - he looked like 70. He had so much energy."

"Another time, I was singing *Can't Help Loving That Man*, from *Showboat*, when a woman started singing. She was really good. I told her, "Don't make me look too bad."

Entertaining on behalf of Bread & Roses gives Arianna "a profound sense of helping people and making a difference in their lives. They all say, 'We want you to come back.' They give me presents. I don't feel I'm performing - I feel I am helping people, making them happy."

Your Gifts Sustain Us, Your Words Uplift and Encourage Us

We at Bread & Roses are so blessed. We reach out to you and, time and again, you respond with generosity and heartfelt wishes for our continued success.

The gifts you make, and the wonderful little notes of encouragement you send, uplift us and ensure that we can continue to make a difference, one special life at a time.

We are grateful to all of you who have supported our work during the first half of our fiscal year (July 1, 2004-Dec. 31, 2004).

We wish that we could thank each of you by name in this article, and trust that you know that every gift, large or small, makes a difference in the lives of isolated children and adults.

Response to Our Fall Appeal

Our deepest thanks to **Deborah** and **Carlos Santana** for sharing with you their commitment to Bread & Roses through our fall appeal letter.

Because of their longstanding friendship with our founder, **Mimi Fariña**, and their generous support of Bread & Roses over the years, we were especially moved to have Carlos and Deborah be the supporters to launch our 30th Anniversary celebration.

Your response to their appeal was warm and very generous, so we know that you, too, were moved by their words of support.

A special word of thanks to **Kitsaun King** for help producing this letter. Kitsaun, Deborah and Carlos – we cannot thank you enough for sharing your time, talent and spirits.

A very special thanks to **Martha** and **Roger Fleischmann, James Hornel, Greg Minshall, Pegi** and **Neil Young**,

and **Saul Zaentz**, all of whom who made generous gifts in support of this campaign.

Individual Friends and Supporters

Because every gift matters so much, it is difficult to choose just one or two to highlight in each newsletter.

We hope that you will see yourselves in these stories of gratitude, trusting that each gift makes more effective all the others we receive.

Just look for the smiling faces in the newsletter and on our website for evidence of your gift's wonderful impact.

We are delighted to be able to thank our New York pen pal, **Stephen Elliot**, who, during this period, made a gift in response to our appeal, purchased one of the **Jim Marshall** photos of **Mimi** and **Joan Baez**, and best of all, has agreed to come to meet us this March.

Each of Stephen's gifts is accompanied by kind notes and warm wishes, and we can't wait to thank him in person.

We are honored to be able to thank **Sue** and **George Bull** and to note their kind generosity. We met Sue and George at our **Teatro ZinZanni** event last spring. Since then, the Bulls have made two extraordinary gifts to further our work.

We are deeply touched by their outpouring of support and look forward to demonstrating to them what a great

investment we are.

As a special holiday gift, our Board member **Sudha Pennathur** hosted a gift party at her home with all net proceeds donated to us. Sudha's beautiful textiles, jewelry and handicrafts can be seen at her website, www.pennathur.com. Thank you, Sudha, for all the time you devoted to making this event a success.

And finally, as always, a special thank you to our Board members for their priceless contributions of time and talent.

Foundation and Corporate Gifts

We are extremely grateful for gifts from the following foundations and corporations during this period:

Eva Benson Buck Charitable Trust • Fireman's Fund Foundation • Loveland Foundation • Marin Community Foundation • McKesson Foundation • Rotasa Foundation • Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund • Thomas J. Long Foundation • VanLobenSels/RembRock Foundation

Our deepest gratitude to you for demonstrating your support of our work with such generous investments.

BREAD & ROSES

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New Board Members

Bread & Roses warmly welcomes **Susan Gilardi** of Larkspur and **Toby Nady** of Piedmont to the Board.

Inspired by the mission of Bread & Roses, Susan comes to the Board with a wealth of corporate and non-profit experience.

A leader who is fully involved with the community where she lives, she owns her own business, **Gilardi and Co.**, with her husband, **Dennis**, and has been on the board of the Marin Theatre Company since 1997.

A former concert promoter, Toby, along with her husband, **John**, is also a generous host of Bread & Roses annual volunteer recognition events.

She comes to the Board with first-hand knowledge about Bread & Roses as well as a music industry background. Chief Operating Officer of **Nady Systems, Inc.**, she is also a musician who plays sax and keyboard.

Staff News

Tracy Blackman is now working as program assistant in the Program Department.

A talented singer-songwriter/guitarist, she continues to volunteer as a performer for Bread & Roses facility shows and has been a recent favorite at both Chrysalis and the Marian Residence.

Farewell to **Lisa Gray**, who left Bread & Roses after almost two years as program assistant. She is now working as an audio recording engineer for Leap Frog Educational Toys in Emeryville.

In Memoriam

A sad goodbye to **Walter Cinollo**, long-time Bread & Roses volunteer who passed away recently at his home in

Photo by Susan Hyde.



Mimi Fariña with event volunteer Walter Cinollo at a Delancey Street show in 1999.

Oakland. Walter first met **Mimi Fariña** when he was an inmate at San Quentin in 1980 when Bread & Roses presented a concert at the prison featuring **Eartha Kitt**.

He then spent more than a decade at **Delancey Street Foundation** in San Francisco, where he worked with Bread & Roses on many concerts for the residents there.

During this time, he became a Bread & Roses volunteer who helped with many benefit shows and agency events. His partner, **Marie Taylor**, said that one of the highlights of Walter's life was returning to San Quentin as a Bread & Roses volunteer with the **Bonnie Raitt/Keb Mo** show in 2001 and feeling as if he had come full circle.

A singer/guitarist, Walter understood the healing power of music in a very personal way. He was one of Bread & Roses' true stars behind the scenes. His buoyant energy and undying enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Farewell also to Bread & Roses

performer **Ed Kelly**, a renowned jazz pianist who played with **Jon Hendricks** in his "Evolution of the Blues" for Bread & Roses' annual benefit on Alcatraz in 1997.

Ed was the loving father of **Terrance Kelly**, founder and musical director of the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**, a group that has performed for Bread & Roses at various facility shows and agency events for more than a decade.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and band members of **Keith Knudsen**, longtime **Doobie Brothers** drummer.

Keith played with the Doobie Brothers for many Bread & Roses benefits, including the concert at the Herbst Theater (2003) and at Bread & Roses' 25th Anniversary Benefit at the Opera House (2000).

Tom Johnston, John McFee and the Doobie Brothers' extended family have been dedicated supporters of Bread & Roses through the years.



Keith Knudsen gets ready for his set with the Doobie Brothers at the Bread & Roses Benefit at the Herbst Theater on Feb. 13, 2003.

Photo by Andrew deLory.

A Note from Cassandra Flipper

Executive Director, Bread & Roses

In the face of the war in Iraq, the tsunami devastation in South Asia, and ongoing acts of inhumanity at home and abroad, each of us can find some measure of peace by helping those in need and bringing joy to those who are injured, sick or shut away.



Photo by Nita Winter

The human need for beauty is universal and even critical for those who are isolated in institutions, and today we are reminded of the importance of giving.

Bread & Roses continues to bring live entertainment that will inspire those who may have lost hope and to bring joy and beauty that will encourage healing and success.

Every day we see that our performances provide more than delight and diversion. On a basic level, we enhance the services provided by institutions, which house and support our audiences.

We also fill a deep need for connection that is as important for our performers as it is our audiences.

This has been our mission for 30 years, and you can depend on us to continue this heartfelt work with the passion that propelled **Mimi Fariña** to launch this organization. You can also depend on our commitment to quality, diversity and love in all we do.

Each year, as we renew our dedication to quality match-making between performers and audiences, we increasingly strive to present programs that facilitate a participatory and interactive experience as well.

Once again, we thank all of you who donate your time, talent or treasure to support Bread & Roses and the audiences we serve.

Cassandra

MORE OF **IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD** – from page 2

For Reggie Shell, It's All About Healing

Reggie Shell, who does so much for people shut away from live entertainment, yearns to do more.

“I’ve gone through a lot of life experiences myself,” he says, meaning heartache, failure, hopelessness. “I’ve seen what can happen to people along the way. If I can reach out and say something positive to them, I will. You have no idea who you are going to touch.”

Reggie says, “I have played at rehabilitation centers, senior citizen

facilities, mental facilities, for people who can’t get out into the world, and also for people who are being kept alive – paralyzed people with terminal diseases. It’s hard sometimes to walk down those corridors and not know what is going to happen.”

He says, “You feel sadness for these people. You wish your music could magically make them better, and for the time you are playing, they *are* better.”

Reggie has played both sides of the aisle – he’s a Bread & Roses entertainer and he himself was a longtime hospital patient



Photo courtesy Reggie Shell

Versatile guitarist and singer Reggie Shell.

after a brain aneurism in 2003.

Reggie says he had a 5½-hour operation and didn’t know if he was going to live or die.

“Recovery took a long time. After six days, I had a guitar brought to me in the ward. I didn’t know if I could still play.

“But I did – I played for my ward, from my bed, a Bread & Roses show. I had a new look at what it means to entertain people and to have something to look forward to.”

Today, Reggie says, “My rough times are behind me and performing for Bread & Roses helps keep me focused on the important things in life: family, health and integrity.”

Mary Alice Kirincic: Volunteer Host Leads the Way

By Marian Hubler
Producer/Public Relations Liaison

For the past five years, **Mary Alice Kirincic** has been a dedicated volunteer host for Bread & Roses. Since March 2000, she has hosted more than 90 shows



Mary Alice Kirincic

for Bread & Roses facility audiences.

An article in the San Francisco *Chronicle* about **Mimi Fariña** and the work of Bread & Roses inspired

her to begin hosting to support our ongoing program of live music and performing arts shows at Bay Area facilities as varied as senior convalescent and youth detention centers.

While in college in Illinois, Mary Alice joined a traveling theater troupe and has understood ever since how important it is

"When I host a Bread & Roses show, I have a special regard for the musicians who volunteer for these shows and I love the cast of ever-changing characters.

Volunteering with Bread & Roses is the world's easiest gig and it is never boring. I am at an age myself when I am more aware than ever of the needs of our isolated populations, like the elderly. I'm finding a deep sense of satisfaction in this work and it's great fun besides."

Mary Alice Kirincic,
Bread & Roses Volunteer Host

to bring "song and dance" into inner city neighborhoods.

Supporting the arts and social service is a priority for the Kirincic family. Two of Mary Alice's daughters are musicians and another teaches theater. Her husband, **Paul**, is president of the board of **Henry**

Ohlhoff House Inc., which provides residential adult rehabilitation services with programs in both San Francisco and Novato that are served by Bread & Roses.

A dedicated and enthusiastic host, for several years Mary Alice has also taken a leadership role in sponsoring an annual gathering of Bread & Roses volunteer hosts at her lovely home in Mill Valley.

At these wonderful evenings where hosts share stories about Bread & Roses shows, Mary Alice has cooked delicious dinners featuring hand-crafted cakes in the shape of a guitar, a keyboard and a rose.

Bread & Roses presents more than 500 shows annually; more than half are hosted by volunteers like Mary Alice. The Program Department is always looking for more dedicated volunteer hosts, particularly for daytime shows in San Francisco as well as facilities in the East Bay and on the Peninsula. Please call Tracy Blackman at 945-7120 if you are interested in volunteering

Active Volunteers

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2004

of the most stunning women we had ever seen.

“I said, ‘We carry these wonderful people with us always and it is important to keep them alive in our hearts.’”

About her alter ego **Glinda the Good Witch**, from *The Wizard of Oz*:

“I used to teach roller dancing and practiced at an old, closed-down skating rink. I began to notice a mother and daughter in the bleachers way up at the top.

“One day they met me at the gate and the mother apologized for the intrusion, but said her daughter was fascinated with me. I invited them to the opening night of the *The Wizard of Oz* as my guests – not telling them which character I would be playing.

“After the show, in the receiving line, I stood there with my eight-foot wand. The little one came up and said, ‘Glinda ... (long pause) ... do you think I could have your magic wand?’

“I said, ‘Well, you must have a very good reason to ask for my wand.’

“Then her sweet little mouth whispered, ‘I have a brain tumor. I believe that if I have that wand on the wall over my bed and make a wish on it every night, my tumor will go away.’

“That night, before bed, she made her first wish on a wand. She is now 18 years old.”

Bread & Roses is truly blessed to have Laura Buckley, along with all of our other 350 acts, in our community of volunteer performers.

Bread & Roses Reaches Out to Successive Generations

In celebration of our 30th Anniversary, Bread & Roses is participating in a series of “Bread & Roses Nights in Your Neighborhood” at various venues around the Bay.

Our goal is to spread the word about our mission so we can attract the next generation of performers, volunteers, donors and Board members.

On February 10, Bread & Roses participated in a concert at the Independent, a San Francisco music showcase, featuring **Garrin Benfield, Spencer Day and JP Cutler**. Garrin has been a volunteer performer for a number of years, bringing his heartfelt, original songs and superb guitar-playing to many Bread & Roses audiences, including special needs schools and rehabilitation facilities.

More “Nights in Your Neighborhood” are planned at various venues throughout the Bay Area with our volunteer performers who are “rising stars.”

Bread & Roses will host a special meeting later in March to give up-and-coming artists a chance to learn about our work and to join our roster of performers.

If everyone in our community could reach out to just one young friend to see if he or she might be interested in becoming involved with Bread & Roses – as a volunteer or a supporter – we can ensure the legacy of our mission for future generations.

Please let us know if you can help us in this effort by emailing info@breadandroses.org or calling (415) 945-7120.

Silver • Jay Stewart • Patricia Wall • George Whitney • Lucia Whitney • Joel Wolfson • Christine Wright • Luci Zimering

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