

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO LEAGUE

IN TUNE

MARCH 2024



January Cocktail Party Nancy Raznick, Sharon Litsky, Ruth Finkelstein, Betty Taisch, Cynthia Lubarsky, Judy Shulman

THE SAN FRANCISCO LEAGUE

The mission of the League is to provide volunteer service and financial assistance to the San Francisco Symphony as well as to encourage audience development and educational opportunities.

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: [Polly Gardner](#)
Vice President Education: [Robin Giustina](#)
Vice President Fundraising: [Amanda Sargisson](#)
Vice President Member Development: [Marilu Donnici](#)
Vice President Strategic Development: [Pat Pendergast](#)
Treasurer: [Debora Gaspari](#)
Recording Secretary: [Kathleen Kelley](#)
Communications Secretary: [Judy Shulman](#)
Member at Large: [Janet Chapman](#)
Immediate Past President: [Kathy Paul](#)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND REPS

Advocacy: [Theresa Moore](#)
Annual Meeting 2024: [Sue Kanke](#), [Pamela Culp](#), & [Maureen Buick](#)
Annual Fundraiser: [Sharon Seto](#)
Audience Development: [Maureen Buick](#), [Lina Pritchard](#), [Misty Tyree](#), & [Sabrina Raphael](#)
Music for Families: [Susan Tahawi](#)
Database: [Pat Pendergast](#)
Meetings & Programs: [Pamela Culp](#) & [Kathleen Anderson](#)
Membership: [Marilu Donnici](#), [Pamela Culp](#), [Katie Colendich](#)
Newsletter: [Amanda Sargisson](#)
Nominating: [Janet Chapman](#) & [Pamela Culp](#)
Opening Night (Gala) Rep 2024: [Sue Kanke](#) and [Kelny Denebeim](#)
Youth Orchestra: [Sharon L. Litsky](#) & [Chrissy O’Gara](#)



IN TUNE is a quarterly publication published by and for the members of The San Francisco League.

| ISSUE | SUBMISSION DEADLINE |
|--------|---------------------|
| FALL | November 15 |
| WINTER | February 15 |
| SPRING | May 15 |
| SUMMER | August 15 |

Submission questions, omissions, or corrections?
Contact Amanda Sargisson: amandasargisson@yahoo.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Youth Orchestra News.....2
A Letter from the President.....3
sfleague.org.....3
Advocacy.....4
MTT Way.....5
Annual Meeting & Marketplace.....6
Mark Your Calendar7
Audience Development.....7
Music for Families.....8
Membership News.....10
Finding Bomb Boogie & Books by the Bay.....11
Volunteer Award Recipients.....11
FIESTA! Día de los Muertos.....12
January Cocktail Party.....13
November Meeting and Associates Tea.....13

YOUTH ORCHESTRA NEWS CONTRIBUTED BY SHARON LITSKY

The remaining YO concerts this year are:

March 17, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 PM,
Fingal’s Cave (The Hebrides Overture)
by Felix Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto by Alexander Glazunov (with Hiro Yoshimura on violin)
Fratres by Arvo Pärt
Excerpt from Daphnis et Chloé by Maurice Ravel

May 19, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 PM
Mahler’s Fifth Symphony



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, POLLY GARDNER

What an incredible year we have had so far! Many thanks go to our enthusiastic Board and Chair members. We began with our league's participation in a sensational Opening Night Gala with our reps **Susan Kanke** and **Kelny Denebeim** taking the lead; what a night of eating and dancing! Our Dia de Los Muertos event fundraiser was ever so successful, another record-breaking event, led by **Sharon Seto** and **Amanda Sargisson**. Bravo for all the efforts in this amazing fundraiser!



We enjoyed our Annual Associates Tea at the Rotunda at Neiman Marcus, organized by **Pamela Culp** and **Kathleen Anderson**, very chic. Our Audience Development Chairs, **Maureen Buick**, **Sabrina Raphael**, **Misty Tyree** and **Lina Pritchard** planned 3 dinner/concert series including **Esa-Pekka** and **Emmanuel Ax**, James Bond's Casino Royale and upcoming Strauss and Ravel concerts. What a great way to get to know our fellow league members. Our annual Cocktail Party in January was very fun and relaxing with our guests and potential new members! Our Membership committee, **Marilu Donnici**, **Pamela Culp** and **Katie Colendich** have been a dynamite team recruiting so many new members. Our current membership includes 53 actives, 39 associates and 3 honorary league members. Welcome to our new members!

Our Youth Orchestra Chairs, **Sharon Litsky** and **Chrissy O'Gara** have organized three group events with YO and hosted ICA students to attend the Symphony. **Susan Tahawi** has launched new role with Music For Families. **Theresa Moore** is involved in advocacy for the Arts and keeping our league apprised of current events.

Pamela Culp and **Janet Chapman** are heading up the nominations committee recruiting a new slate of Board and Chair positions. The slate of positions will be voted upon at our General Voting Meeting on March 20 in the Wattis Room at DSH.

We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting and Marketplace to be held at Top of the Mark on May 13. This event is a shopper's dream! Our Chairs, **Sue Kanke**, **Maureen Buick** and **Pamela Culp**, have organized an event not to be missed!

I am so grateful to the Board, Chairs and Volunteers who work hard to make our league so successful. Thank you to All! I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting in March.

Best to All,

Polly Gardner
President, San Francisco League President

SFLEAGUE.ORG



We are pleased to announce the launch of our League website where you can find:

- Calendar of League and Symphony Events
- Photo Galleries (coming soon)
- Advocacy Information
- In Tune Newsletter Archive
- Membership Information & Application
- Member Only Area
 - San Francisco League Handbook
 - Online Member Directory

The online directory was created to improve efficiency in our database maintenance. Once updated the information in the database will be used to create our standard League handbook We hope to use this as a new member recruitment tool, providing information about the League and our mission.

Instructions on how to access the members only portion of the site and profile update can be found [here](#).

Questions? Contact amandasargisson@yahoo.com

SYMPHONY LEAGUE ADVOCACY

FALL 2023

NATIONAL

October was National Arts and Humanities Month.

Below is an excerpt from the Proclamation issued by President Biden recognizing the importance of the Arts.



President Biden stated, “During the throes of the American Revolution, General George Washington wrote a letter to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences saying, ‘The arts and sciences [are] essential to the prosperity of the State and... the ornament and happiness of human life.’ His words are a reminder that, since our founding days, America’s arts and humanities have helped tell the story of our Nation. They represent the freedom of expression that empowers Americans to speak and think independently and creatively. They build bridges of understanding by chronicling the shared experiences of hope, heartbreak, joy, and pain that help us see ourselves in one another. And they record and wrestle with the truth of our history while envisioning all the possibilities our future holds. During National Arts and Humanities Month, we celebrate all the artists and scholars whose works depict the rich, enduring soul of our Nation.” To read the full proclamation, please visit the [White House briefing room webpage](#).

Victory for the Arts in the U.S. House of Representatives! There were two attempts to eliminate federal funding for the arts and humanities in the FY’24 Appropriations bill and both were soundly defeated! The Freedom Caucus Chairman sponsored two floor amendments to eliminate all funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). 100% of Democrats and 39% of Republicans voted against both amendments to make it a BIPARTISAN declaration that Congress supports the arts and culture. You can now see your House member voted on the [NEA vote](#) and the [NEH vote](#). Next step is that this House bill will now move to

the Senate. We will be lobbying for \$207 million.

Arts Advocates. This victory is due, in no small part, to the hard work of arts advocates, and demonstrates the influence arts advocates have when united together to support important arts programs. Many of you responded to our Symphony League’s email and signed a letter in support. Remember when you get these email requests from us it is very easy, just click the button in the email to sign...that’s it! The rest is done for you electronically, and your signed letter is then produced and sent!

CALIFORNIA

Proposition 28. In California it is a truly historic moment for arts education! Proposition 28, the Arts & Music in Schools Act passed by California voters in November 2022, provides PreK-12 schools with ongoing funding to increase arts instruction. The unprecedented investment, approximately \$800 million – \$1 billion annually, is intended to increase equity and access to arts education. Parents, grandparents, students, teachers, arts organizations, and community members – You have a key role to engage with school leaders to ensure funds are used to expand current arts education programming, so please connect with school leaders to raise awareness about the opportunities of Proposition 28.

Governor Gavin Newsom signs groundbreaking law promoting affordable housing for artists working in cultural districts, helping set protections for the state’s cultural treasures and greater economic opportunity for artists.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 812 which allows local governments to reserve affordable housing in cultural districts for artists at risk of being displaced by rising housing costs. The first of its kind in the state, AB 812 provides a tool for local governments whose jurisdictions include a cultural district and who recognize the need to retain the artists and cultural workers who make these neighborhoods unique.

Artists are the lifeblood of our cultural communities and help preserve the cultural footprint of the region. This prevents artists from having to move away from the neighborhoods they contribute so much to, simply because they can no longer afford to live there.

This is a groundbreaking win for California's arts and culture sector. The creative economy generates over 7.25% of the state's economy. A 2021 survey by the city of Berkeley found that while most working artists and cultural workers are highly educated, 60% have low, very low, or extremely low income, and many are experiencing displacement pressures due to increasing housing prices in cultural communities. While California recognized its artists as "essential" and declared them the state's "second responders" in 2019, this new law helps educate state and local decision makers that many artists are part of the vulnerable class of low-earning California workers that should be considered when producing workforce housing.

Sustained Advocacy WORKS! Governor Newsom signed a budget which included funding for [SB1116](#), [the Equitable Payroll Fund](#). After two years of sustained advocacy and engagement with elected officials, the state is directing \$11.5 million of unexpended funds from the CA Venues and Nonprofit Performing Arts grant programs to finally launch the program. Advocacy efforts were all critical. This was an uphill battle and a tremendous win.

The National Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) Study was conducted by Americans for the Arts. The study was conducted in partnership with the majority of States and their local regions. The results are just now in the process of being released to each region. The Study showed Santa Clara County's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$384.5 million in economic activity in 2022, including \$292 million in San Jose. Countywide, the arts supported 5,916 jobs, provided \$243.2 million in personal income to residents and generated \$63.9 million in government tax revenue.

Thus we see demonstrable evidence that the arts help with residents' well-being and communities prosperity and can impact generations to come. Art not only fills our souls but strengthens our economy. Art is serious business.

Contributed by Theresa D. Moore
Advocacy Chair



MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS GETS HIS OWN STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO

On Friday, December 15th the new MTT Way commemorative sign outside of the San Francisco Symphony building. [Click for more:](#) Event photos and the article in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Contributed by Sharon Litsky





SAVE THE DATE

May 13, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING, LUNCHEON & MARKET PLACE

Top of the Mark

DONATE TODAY FOR OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON,
A WIN-WIN!

We are going to have a table or two of donated items to sell with 100% of proceeds going to the symphony. We are looking for small items, last year the big winners were crystal items, silver, small table top accessories, frames, etc.

The goal is to sell out completely, so the prices will be so reasonable everyone will want to buy the merchandise. The idea is to sell all. So look in your closets and try to donate an item or two.

You can contact **Sue Kanke**, 415-722-8718 or clite1@earthlink.net.

We can arrange pick up or you can bring the items to the March meeting. This is a **WIN** for all!!

Many thanks.

Sue Kanke
Annual Meeting Co-Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 2023

Music for Families Let's Dance
Saturday, March 9, 2024, 2:00 pm
DSH

Board and Chair Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Green Room, DSH

Youth Orchestra Concert
Sunday, March 17, 2024, 2:00 pm
DSH

**General League Voting Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Wattis Room,
DSH

APRIL 2023

Music for Families. Teen Night
Saturday, April 6, 2024, 7:30 pm
DSH

Board Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Green Room, DSH

Volunteer Recognition Celebration
Saturday, April 27, 2024, 5:30-7:00PM

MAY 2023

Board and Chair Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2024
Green Room, DSH

**Annual Meeting and Marketplace
Monday, May 13, 2024, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm
Top of the Mark, San Francisco, CA

Youth Orchestra Concert
Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:00 pm

You should receive specific information on each event, including how to RSVP, by email or by mailed notices from the symphony. Please send any additions or corrections to Judyshulman@hotmail.com.

*Events with ** qualify for SFSL events required prior to induction into membership and count toward the expected four events attended per year for active members.*

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT



We still have some tickets left for the SF Symphony concert: Canellakis Conducts Strauss and Ravel. The concert is on Friday, April 19, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are in the orchestra section at a discounted price of \$81.75 apiece.

Please contact **Maureen Buick** at mrnbuieck7@gmail.com if you are interested. First come, first served.

Dinner plans before the concert for those who express interest. More details to follow.

Thank you, and we hope you can join us.

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES

These are concerts designed to appeal to adults and children, with no preparation needed.

March 9 date is the second in a series for the season. Concerts are recommended for ages 5 and above.

What is it?

The second concert in the San Francisco Symphony education concert series for young listeners on Saturday, March 9 at 2pm and we need your help in making it a success!

Who is it for?

Great for parents, grandparents, friends and more.

When is it?

Saturday, March 9 at 2pm

What is the program?

Let's Dance! A fun program for families that explores dance in music. Let's Dance! pieces will include Ellington's Giggling Rapids from The River, Beyonce's (yes, THAT Beyonce) Crazy in Love, Strauss' Feuerfest

Polka, Yuan's Dance of the Yao People and many more.

Is there a discount?

There is a \$5 off code for adult tickets in all sections except Loge, Side Box, Premier Orchestra, and Center Terrace. Discount code: **GROWNUP5**

How can you help?

We are asking you, our Volunteers to help get the word out and promote ticket sales to make this concert a success.

How can you do this?

- Encourage friends and families with children to attend this fun concert. Share the pdf or printed info piece with them, as well as the discount code for \$5 off adult tickets.
- Share the same info with local library or local businesses with bulletin boards. If comfortable, reach out to local elementary school principal, teacher, music or fine arts department, or PTA to share information about the March 9 concert.

What materials do you have that I can share?

Printed and digital are available, contact Leslie or Vonya for them.

SF SYMPHONY

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES

LET'S DANCE!

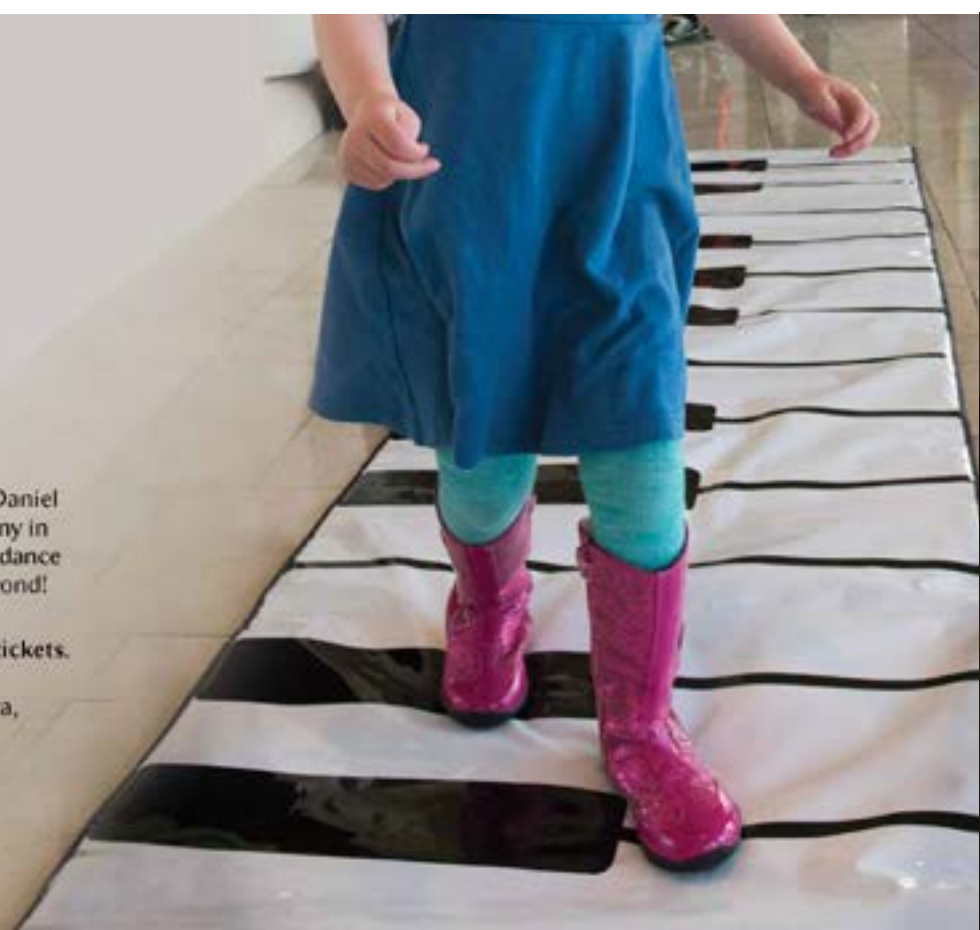
MARCH 9, 2:00PM

From Bernstein to Beyoncé, and Dvořák to Ellington, Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser leads the San Francisco Symphony in Let's Dance!—a fun program for families that explores dance in music. A perfect concert for young listeners and beyond!



Use code **GROWNUP5** for \$5 off adult tickets. This offer is good for all sections except Loge, Side Box, Premier Orchestra, and Center Terrace.

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES
IS SUPPORTED BY



[Here](#) is the link to purchase tickets and remember to share code **GROWNUP5** for \$5 off adult tickets. Feel free to share this information in an email or verbally now!

Volunteer Council Contacts:

Vonya Morris
Music for Families Chair
(650) 492-0192
vonzie9@prodigy.net

Leslie Sarandah
Assistant Chair for Services
(415) 713-4174
lsarandah3@gmail.com

Download Promo Card

[Music For Families](#)

[Teen Night](#)

JOIN US FOR A CASUAL LUNCH BEFORE MUSIC FOR FAMILIES!

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Noon

Rad Radish

301 Hayes St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact Sabrina Raphael for more informatio:
brinasay@gmail.com | 415-624-9217



SF SYMPHONY

TEEN NIGHT

APRIL 6, 7:30PM

Save the date to experience the best band in town: Teen Night at the San Francisco Symphony is not your parents' concert!



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We welcomed two new members at our Tea and General meeting on December 7, 2023, **Abigail Brenner** and **Nora Quattrin**.

Abigail Brenner was sponsored by Misty Tyree. She is a retired Psychiatrist . She lived and worked on the east coast until 15 years ago when she moved with her husband to San Francisco.

She volunteered at Congregation Emanu-El in New York City and was on the religious school committee. Here in San Francisco, she volunteers with the Bay Area Jewish Healing Services as a therapist. Abigail was married for 54 years and was widowed four years ago. She has two children and five grandchildren. She has authored five books and is a blogger for Psychology Today Painting is an artistic outlet for her. She has had a life long love of music and the arts and is delighted to join our group and to be more involved with the Symphony.



Abigail Brenner

Nora Quattrin was sponsored by Katie Colendich and Sabrina Rafael. She is currently working as a controller for Presidio Farms. Previously she was the associate curator for Saatchi Art and did public programming for LACMA and Grammy Museum.

She has volunteer experience with Fine Art Museums of San Francisco (Auxiliary Member) and is a volunteer

for the San Francisco Opera Archives. She Is Secretary Elect for the Junior League of San Francisco , Event Coordinator of the USC Alumni Club of San Francisco and President SF Opera Bravo Club.

Nora grew up in Northern California and moved to San Francisco with her family. She attended High School at Convent of the Sacred Heart, college at USC and then eventually returned to San Francisco. She has grown up attending the arts and realizes how important exposure and access to the arts are and she welcomes the opportunity to volunteer for the Symphony.



Nora Quattrin

Please introduce yourself to our newest members at our upcoming events.

We encourage every member to invite people in their circle to one of our meetings if you think they would enjoy the League.

Pamela Culp & Katie Colendich
Membership Co-Chairs

FINDING BOMB BOOGIE & BOOKS BY THE BAY

Thank you for supporting our members, Maureen Buick, author of Finding Bomb Boogie, and Cheryl Popp, Owner of Sausalito Books By The Bay! Guests were treated to wine, sparkling water, nibbles, and a brief discussion about Maureen's book hosted by Cheryl.



Sue Kanke, Judy Shulman, Kathy Paul, Risa Meyer,



Maureen Buick and Cheryl Popp



Maureen Buick and Janet Chapman



Pamela Rummage Culp, Janet Chapman, and Kathleen Kelley

VOLUNTEER AWARD RCIPIENTS

We are pleased to recognize the following 2022–23 Volunteer Award recipients. We congratulate and thank these volunteers for their exemplary contributions to the San Francisco Symphony.

Distinguished Service Award:
Laura Peterhans, Upper Peninsula League
Gloria Walli, Metropolitan League

Rising Star Award:
Phoebe Schreiber, Junior Committee League

Collaborator Award:
Janet Chapman, San Francisco League

Innovator Award:
Paul Roskoph, Silicon Valley League

FIESTA! DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

The San Francisco League hosted another successful FIESTA! Día de los Muertos event, on November 4. Guests at the sold-out event enjoyed the Día de los Muertos concert at Davies Symphony Hall followed by a cocktail reception and seated dinner at San Francisco's beautiful Presidio Golf Course & Clubhouse. The event included music by Adventures in Music ensemble, El Tren Trio, plus a Tequila Draw and auction.

Thank you to the ¡FIESTA! Presenting Sponsors **Alexander's Steakhouse Group**, **Pamela Rummage Culp**, and **Sharon and David Seto**. We greatly appreciate your support.

Special thanks to artists and partners Casa Círculo Cultural, El Tren Trio, Salvadores Mezcal Artisanal, and William Grant & Sons Inc.



Pamela Rummage Culp and Winter Culp



Sharon and David Seto



Sue Kanke, Barbara Johnson, and Marie Growney



Carolyn Otis and Jacqueline Jacoby



Lina Pritchard, Janet Chapman, PJ Handeland, and Laine Buckingham



Jim Buick, Maureen Buick, Chrissy O'Gara, and Vincent O'Gara



Harry Chapman and Janet Chapman



Kathleen Anderson and Edward Anderson



Tom Guistina



Ludmila Kisseleva-Eggleton

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMITTEE

2023 EVENT CHAIR

Sharon Seto

HONORARY CHAIR

Isabel Valdés

SAN FRANCISCO LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Polly Gardner

FIESTA CHAIRS

Katie Colendich

DECOR CHAIR

Pablo Fischer

AUCTION CO-CHAIRS

Amanda Sargisson

Lindsay Ward

LOGISTICS CO-CHAIRS

Pamela Rummage Culp

Sam Leftwich

HOST COMMITTEE

The Honorable Aida Alvarez

Kathleen Anderson

Navid Armstrong

Erin Badillo

Dulo Batsuh

Paula Blank

Janet Chapman

Angel V. Chavez

Nicole Cooper

Theo Alisa Gallagher

Jacqueline Martínez Garcel

Robin Giustina

Anne Herrera

Lin Sun-Hoffman

Heidi Imbus

Jacqueline Jacoby

Ludmilla Kisseleva-Eggleton

Sharon Litsky

Sara Lomelin

The Honorable Arabella

Martinez

Deborah Rocha

Lionel Shaw

Bilques Smith

Kevin Yeh & Catherine Meng

Angela Zhang & Daniel Hung

Teresa Rodriquez



Sharon Seto, Isabel Valdés, and Paula Blank



Lina Prichard and Kathleen Kelley



Janet Chapman, PJ Handeland, Sharon Litsky



Debbie Grutzmacher, Robin Guistina, Debbie Avakian, and Polly Gardner



Edna Vázquez and Sharon Seto



Maureen Buick, Marilu Donnici, Miguel and Maritza Harth-Bedoya



Sharon Seto, Pamela Culp, Karen Wiel, Steve Wiel and Sam Leftwich

JANUARY COCKTAIL PARTY

ASSOCIATES TEA



Clockwise from top left photo; 1. Maureen Buick, Misty Tyree, Kelny Denebeim, PJ Handeland, and Bill Diefenbach 2. Theresa Moore, Pamela Culp, and Cathy Goodman 3. Debbie Grutzmacher and Polly Gardner 4. Kathleen Kelley and Thomas Soper



League Events

2024 | MARCH

14

BOARD AND CHAIR MEETING

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Golden Gate Park (Spreckels Hall)



Our Mission

The mission of the League is to provide extensive social and financial assistance to the San Francisco Symphony as well as to encourage musician development and educational opportunities.

Member Access

[Sign in to account](#)

THE BEST LEAGUE MEMBER IS AN INFORMED LEAGUE MEMBER

Introducing sfleague.org!

