

SOMERSET AUXILIARY
of the
JOHNSTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Somerset Auxiliary of the JSO met on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at noon at Maggie Mae's in Somerset. Nine members and four guests attended. Members present were Sam Hanson, Ruth Hofmaster, Pat Hofscher, Daryl Jones, Fran Langley, Louise Majesky, Dennis McNair, Gay Reed, and Eleanor Schrock. Sharyn Spinelli and Monica Kozak, JSOA, as well as SAJSO spouses Don Reed and Gary Hofmaster, joined us as guests.

President Gay Reed opened our meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing our pleasure at having two special guests among us -- Sharyn Spinelli, JSOA President, and Monica Kozak, Recording Secretary. Thank you both for coming! Gay praised Monica's excellent work on the JSOA Newsletter and we gave her a well-deserved hand for her efforts and the handsome layout of the website.

Syd Bowersox, Treasurer, was unable to attend this meeting but Gay advised that SAJSO income remains the same as last month. ♦ We were very sorry to hear that Margot Beech, one of our last charter members, was at Somerset Hospital resulting from a stroke. A card was passed around to send to her. Sadly, she has since passed away. Condolences may be sent to Elwood Beech and Family at her home address. ♦ Natalie Cornez is still in Florida and is improving with new treatment. ♦ Esther Michaud is in Philadelphia with her daughter and says hello. ♦ Jeanne Wagle will return from Florida on or about April 15.

Dennis McNair provided news from the JSO Board, spotlighting the upcoming concert Saturday night, March 14. The "Jazz in your Face" band and the JSO will perform together in this program, entitled "Fusion and All That Jazz". Dennis added that Maestro Jaray is an enthusiastic patriot himself and is very excited about this show and other patriotic concert events!

138 applications have been submitted for Maestro's vacating post and it is hoped by the end of April to have narrowed the count to 10. Symphony players will be called upon to review applications. Ultimately there will be six finalists who will conduct each concert of the new season in way of auditioning.

Pat Hofscher, Orchestra Manager, provided news from Johnstown: She described two "marathon months" coming up -- April and May -- with ten events in two months! These include the **Bach Lunch** fund-raiser, two JSO concerts, **JSOA Fashion Show**, **Mother's Day Concert**, **Community Strings** concerts, **Youth Symphony** and **Chorus concerts**.

Lottery Tickets for March have been sold and are already bringing in dollars for JSO. Gay recognized that Teresa Marafino, JSOA, did a great job handling this project, which is a very successful fund-raiser for the symphony.. ♦ **Bach's Lunch** will take place on **April 16, 2015**. Teresa brings the lunches ordered for Somerset from Johnstown. A local business, DeVilbiss, was a drop-off point for Teresa in Somerset last year. We expect SAJSO volunteers will be able to pick up the lunches there again for delivery in Somerset.

Mother's Day Concert tickets for **May 10, 2015** soon will be available. Mothers are free and all others are \$5.00. Upcoming SAJSO events appear in the Laurel Arts Newsletter, and we will ask the new Executive Director of Laurel Arts, Mary Lee Statler, to join our auxiliary.

“Learn to Paint in Watercolors”, a fund-raiser taught by Jeanne Wagle, will take place on **Saturday May 16th** 2015 from 1-4 pm at Laurel Arts. Cost is \$30 per person. This is BYOB and snacks if desired. JSOA members and guests are invited. Interest is alive already. Please contact Gay for a reservation, tell your friends and join the group!

Good news for Johnstown is that **Somerset Trust CEO Henry Cook** has generously offered to **subsidize the July 4th fireworks in Johnstown** as well as being a contributor in Somerset! ♦ In other news, Louise Majesky is working on a **Golf Tournament** fund-raiser in August at Indian Lake Golf Club. Louise asked that a notice be included in the JSOA Newsletter about the event.

Restaurants are already being recruited for **“Taste of the Laurel Highlands”**, which will be held **at Green Gables Restaurant on October 14th at 5:30 p.m.** It is not too soon to ask for commitments, so efforts from members to this end are greatly appreciated! ♦ Also, importantly, **SAJSO** is planning a **party for Maestro Jaray** on a Sunday in **June** at **Georgian Inn!** Maestro will be asked to pick a date. JSOA members are invited, so please join us.

Louise Majesky provided our Sunshine Basket this month. Ruth Hofmaster was delighted to draw an Easter basket filled with an adorable stuffed bunny and lots of chocolate goodies. Also, as usual, our favorite O'Shea's chocolate bars were on sale during the meeting. Our **next meeting** will be held at the **Gourmet Buffet in Somerset** on **April 8** at noon. We hope to see you there and we encourage your bringing guests!

Ruth Hofmaster, Recording Secretary.