

BACKSTAGE

AUTUMN 2017

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Like us at:  FriendsOfTheRep

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE REP

The Friends: By the Numbers

Dear Fellow Friends of The Rep:

I'm happy to welcome all of you to The Rep's 64th season! The Friends of The Rep have been providing support nearly all those 64 years, first as the Laura Sherry League, and now as a mighty 800-member-strong organization.

I started with some numbers—64th season, 800 volunteers—to describe our theater company. How about a few more?

- **12:** the number of **board members who lead The Friends**. The board makes sure all the activities, from picking up artists at the airport to organizing the Raffle, come off without a hitch.
- **38:** the number of **Sundown Suppers** The Friends will organize and serve this season. Every Saturday night, volunteers feed the cast and crew of every show, with meals served to between six and 64 people each night.
- **16,000:** the approximate number of **volunteer hours** ushers spend greeting and seating patrons over the course of a Rep season.
- **42,000:** the size of **the gift the Friends gave to The Rep last year**. In addition to volunteer efforts, we do a little fundraising on the side.



Aileen Smith, President of The Friends of Milwaukee Repertory Theater, on the fourth floor "hub" of The Rep's theater complex.

The Friends Board of Directors 2017/2018

President: Aileen Smith

Secretary: Erin Burgess

Treasurer: Jim Mergener

VP Fundraising: Terry Sutter

VP External Services: Melita Biese

VP Internal Services: Susan Herro

Directors:

Terry Bell

Sue McComb

Steph O'Connor

Suzanne Powell

Kris Schmidt

Craig Warnecke

MEET THE ACTORS AND CREW WHILE SERVING A MEAL!

Not sure where to start your volunteering experience? Try out the Sundown Suppers. The Sundown Suppers are a fun way to spend your Saturday night with friends! You will have the opportunity to prepare, serve, and share supper with the cast and crew of Rep performances. When you volunteer at a Sundown Supper, you also get a free show voucher.

If you want to get involved, or just want more information, please contact Terry Bell at terribel@ameritech.net or Suzanne Powell at redappleabcs@gmail.com. The Sundown Suppers are super easy and a super fun way to begin your journey as a volunteer at The Rep!

We couldn't do it without you! Thanks for all you do to keep The Rep a pillar of the Milwaukee arts community. Check out this first newsletter of the season. And, have some fun this year, won't you?

Aileen Smith

2017/18 Friends of Milwaukee Repertory Theater President

WELCOME BACK FRIENDS OF THE REP!

After a wonderful summer, this season is off to a great start. Whether you're new to The Friends, or have been volunteering for years, The Rep is excited to have you. The Friends of The Rep are an integral part of The Rep.

There are a number of ways you can support The Rep – ushers are always needed! You can be the friendly face to welcome and assist patrons to their seat. You can also join us for a First Rehearsal Reception and prepare and serve lunch to the cast and crew of The Rep's company members! Other opportunities include hospitality rides for actors and crew members, office support for Rep Staff and aiding in making Emerging Professional Resident (EPRs) feel right at home in Milwaukee by hosting and making them home-cooked meals.

If that wasn't enough – don't worry – there's more! There are numerous Friends events that need your help. The Friends Raffle is the largest fundraiser of the season. Keep an eye out for the Raffle Volunteer link in the next few weeks. There are Friends events that occur throughout the season, such as Repartee, Sundown Suppers and more, and we are always in need of great volunteers to help out. There are also opportunities growing The Friends by assisting to maintain The Friends social media platforms, like Instagram and Facebook!

We want you to help make The Friends team stronger to support the world-class talent and staff of The Rep. Being a member of The Friends allows you to be an advocate for the arts in Milwaukee and is a great opportunity to meet new friends. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, you can do so today by [following this link!](#) Join as an individual at \$30 or as a household (two people) at \$40.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at friends@milwaukeeep.com.



FRIENDS OF THE REP KEY DATES!

October 2017

10/17 First Rehearsal – [Holmes & Watson](#)

10/17 First Rehearsal – [Murder for Two](#)

10/31 First Rehearsal – [A Christmas Carol](#)

November 2017

11/15 Friends Raffle Begins

December 2017

12/12 First Rehearsal – [Animal Farm](#)

12/26 First Rehearsal – [Black Pearl Sings!](#)

"MY REP MEMORIES" THE FORMER EDITOR OF BACKSTAGE SHARES HIS MEMORIES FROM BEHIND THE EDITOR'S DESK!

As the former editor of Backstage, Dan Reszel got to hear many Friends recount their Rep Memories. When speaking about his own memories of The Rep – one story stands out illustrating the power of theater – for those at all ages.

"The first time I took my daughter to The Rep – she was 10 years old. We saw *Arsenic and Old Lace* – continuing to go to shows as she grew up... The Rep welcomes the young, as well as the young at heart. It allows for the arts to pass from generation to generation."

When asked about his favorite recent show, Reszel describes something I didn't expect, "The shows change every year and it's so hard to pick a favorite, but the season reveal is wonderful – It's like Christmas morning!"

He also described his unexpected love of *Cabaret*, "I was skeptical. After 30 years of being a season ticket holder and never seeing a mainstage musical, I wasn't sure what to think of the change." But after seeing Mark Clements' production, "I was taken by how terrific the production was — I loved it!"

Though Dan is no longer writing for you all as the Backstage editor, he continues to be a friendly face at the theater.



Dan Reszel

ANNUAL FRIENDS RAFFLE

This year, The Rep Raffle will be held during the run of *Holmes and Watson!* This annual event raises thousands of dollars supporting The Rep. Tickets will be available during the entire run of the show, held in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater (November 14 – December 17, 2017).

Friends members interested in volunteering for tickets sales can contact **Raffle Chair Terry Sutter** at trs2040@gmail.com. Bring a friend to volunteer with you – sell before the show and during intermission! It's a wonderful way to see the show for free while having fun selling tickets.

Keep an eye out for details about the raffle packages in the next issue of Backstage.