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September 2025

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Kate West, Editor

Dear Friends of The Rehearsal Club,

This is a great day to express my enduring gratitude for the entire community of The Rehearsal Club. Our bonds of friendship and support, our joy in the creative process of fine and performing arts, along with our sense of humanity, overshadow scary news with hope for a better future that embraces kindness.



The Rehearsal Club Receives A Transformative Gift

In Memory of Jane Hennessy Wintz

Longtime TRC supporter and former Resident Jane Hennessy Wintz passed away on April 27, 2025, at the age of 90, after a long and richly fulfilling life. We are honored to announce the establishment of the Jane Hennessy Wintz Library at The Rehearsal Club - a tribute to Jane's lifelong passions for books and dance.

This meaningful space has been made possible through a generous donation from the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, given in honor of Jane's eldest daughter, Jami McKeon, a Partner and Chair at the firm. Additional gifts from family and friends will help fill the library with books and furnishings to inspire generations to come.

An official ceremony will be held to formally dedicate the library at a time when

Jane's family can attend. Her loved ones include her husband of 68 years, Bob Wintz, whom she met while living at TRC, and their four children: Jami McKeon, Bonnie Wintz Boroian (also a TRC resident, former board member, and Broadway alum), Doon Wintz, and Julie Ballestero.

Jane's legacy continues through her 16 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren (with three more on the way), and the hundreds of students she taught and inspired through the many musicals she directed and choreographed in her longtime hometown of Morristown, New Jersey.

The library fills a special desire in Jane's heart for a community of spiritual comfort and sanctuary surrounded by literature, music and yes, even games! We believe the library will flourish and grow in many ways.

Onward!
Gale



BIRTHDAY GIRLS!

Several Members gathered at Denise Pence's birthday celebration for Cameron Taylor And Donna Brooks Coteau, and also joined in the regular Thursday Meditation led by Charter Alum Michele Mason.



Charter Member Nancy Wight, TRC Residency Director and Alum Kelsey Lepesko, Resident Emma Lillian, Meditation Group on computer screen, Charter Member Francine Mancini, Residency Coordinator Faith Olson, Charter Member Cameron



BARBARA BRIGHTON – I'M STILL HERE! A Las Vegas Icon

By Deb White

In the early 1960s, **Barbara Brighton** joined the Rehearsal Club, where she lived alongside performers such as Blythe Danner, Annie O'Donnell, Sandy Duncan, and Rockettes members. Determined to establish herself in the arts, she attended countless auditions while also holding regular jobs. Originally from Boston, she trained in ballet, jazz dance, and piano, and during her time at the University of Florida she quickly launched a successful singing career.

Barbara's career flourished on Broadway, where she performed in sixteen productions, including *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Milk and Honey* and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. Beyond Broadway, she built an international career, performing her nightclub act across South America, Indonesia, Australia, and Japan, as well as on cruise ships worldwide. During this period, she also discovered her passion for songwriting, with *Have a Little Faith in Me* among her favorites.

Barbara also built a successful television career, appearing in shows such as *General Hospital*, *Hart to Hart*, *Archie Bunker's Place*, *The Next Best Thing* and *Superior Court*. While in Los Angeles, she further expanded her reach by producing and hosting the first cable television talk show, which ran for three years and featured an array of prominent guests, including celebrities, attorneys, psychologists, political figures and journalists. Later, she discovered her comedic talent through impersonating Joan Rivers, a role that became a defining reinvention of her career and continues to bring her recognition.

Barbara currently lives in Las Vegas, where she is considered a legend! She has played Caesars Palace and the Desert Inn. She is a busy, talented lady as she continues to make appearances. Recently she performed in a *Drag Queen* show impersonating Joan Rivers. She also has an upcoming guest appearance on the Mike Leonitti show. On October 24th she will perform at the Smith Center in *The Cast Party*, and on November 1st, in the *Spotlight Spectacular*.

Barbara encourages young actresses to not be afraid to take a chance, try new things and always challenge yourself. There may come a time when you will have to reinvent

yourself, She's Still Here!

Follow Barbara Brighton on You-Tube: *Brighton Your Nite*
Website: <https://www.barbarabrighton.com>



Diane Findlay Shines in *Ladies of Broadway*



Our own Diane Findlay, third from right in the above image, is currently shining in a production of *Ladies of Broadway* at the Transcendence Theatre Company in Napa Sonoma through September 14. Diane reports that "The theatre is outdoors, the beauty is overwhelming, top quality production all the way in every way. The talent is extraordinary - band, lighting, Director, Artistic Director and all responsible for making this little magic place work for the last 14 years. It's a pleasure to work with these talented youngsters. I feel very blessed."

The show is about seven women of all different ages, their lives on and off stage, and what brought them to want to perform. According to Diane, "I'm actually doing my life. I'm singing *I'll Be Seeing You* about my time in Viet Nam, *Parade Passes By*, which started my career, and one of my all-time favorite songs, a song of deep gratitude, *Here's To Life*, with a monologue I also wrote. It's a very moving show."



Charter Alum Kristin Larkin LoGerfo Dedicates Her Time and Talent to Kino Saito

Charter Member Kristin Larkin is an auxiliary Board member of KinoSaito, an interdisciplinary art center established to extend the collaborative practices of the Japanese American abstract painter and avant-garde theater designer, Kikuo Saito.

One of the three galleries in the renovated Catholic school was recently renamed the Larkin LoGerfo Gallery in honor of Kristin's late husband, who was a doctor and friend of Kikuo Saito. Follow the link below for more information

On Saturday, Sept. 13, Kristin will perform a poetry reading at KinoSaito as part of the Center's 4th birthday celebration, from 3 to 7 pm. Kristin says anyone going up from NY

can coordinate with her to ride up together: 1:30 train, shared Uber to Gallery.
Membership is \$50, which includes this event, or \$25 admission to this event only.

KinoSaito



TRC Charter Member Sara Louise Lazarus Directing Two Shows at the Legendary Birdland

First up is Karen Akers' (Tony nominee for *Nine* and *Grand Hotel*) new show *Come With Me To Paris* on Monday, September 15th, at 7pm. On Monday, October 6th, cabaret star Jeff Harnar is reprising *The 1959 Broadway Songbook*, also at 7pm. Sara was part of the creative team for this award-winning show years ago for the Algonquin Oak Room. It includes songs from ALL the 21 shows that were playing on and off-Broadway in 1959, including *The Music Man*, *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *My Fair Lady*, *Bells Are Ringing* and *Once Upon A Mattress*. It is an absolute delight, full of phenomenal songs, both familiar and lesser known, great humor, and wonderful vocals. There's an excellent write-up in the September 4th edition of *BroadwayWorld*.



TRC Charter Member Robina Suwol's California for Safe Schools event, **Your Life Is Now**, takes place at the California Endowment October 13th. Though it is by invitation, any TRC woman is welcome.



Residency News

And the Beat Goes On...

Kudos to the new generation of Rehearsal Club Women!

Our newest crop of talented Residents is hosting a garden party for all the new Residents who have lived at our beloved sanctuary since the TRC renaissance of 2021! What a wonderful tribute to the sustainability of The Rehearsal Club community of common values.



The Rehearsal Club

Truth



Or
Fiction

Back in the 50's, a very talented young actress was allowed to stay at the Club the very day she applied, even though there was a long waiting list. This young actress was contracted to get her Equity card on a future summer job. Through a Rehearsal Club friend she was told about a non-Equity audition for *West Side Story*. Her friend strongly encouraged her to attend, even though the show was 98% cast. She arrived at the St. James Theatre to find a line four blocks long. By what appeared a miracle, she was singled out, given a final callback and cast.

Truth Or Fiction? True! The young actress was Carole D'Andrea (TRC 1956-57). She was cast as Velma in *West Side Story* and went on to play Velma in the film. Carole was an incredible talent. The name of the Rehearsal Club friend who encouraged Carole to audition is not recorded, but her help to Carole is a perfect illustration of how fellow Residents encouraged and supported each other. This support happily continues to the present day.

This information is from Carole's chapter in *Cinderellas of West 53rd Street - Stories From The Legendary Rehearsal Club*.



Congratulations to TRC General Member Rebecca Damon on being named to the Labor Power 100. Rebecca is New York Local Executive Director of SAG-AFTRA.



Episcopal Actors' Guild

Starry Night Benefit

TRC Charter Member Denise Pence, and her husband Steve Boockvor will be co-hosting a mini-tribute for *A Chorus Line's* 50th Anniversary at The Episcopal Actors'

Guild's *Making A Difference* benefit on September 29th. EAG is celebrating how they and countless others in our creative world have "made a difference" in the lives of so many, as has The Rehearsal Club! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit their website [HERE](#).



In Memoriam



George C. White, founder of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, passed away peacefully at his home in Waterford, Connecticut, Wednesday, August 6, 2025. George was a great supporter and champion of The Rehearsal Club, participating in the 100th Anniversary celebration at the Lincoln Center Library. Click the link below for full obituary.

George C. White



Our [Company](#) hit the ground running with *King John* readings starting right after Labor Day weekend, September 2nd and 9th. We welcomed newcomer and TRC Residency Gal Emma Lillian to the reading! Not too late to join us for a minor role and/or be added to SA's casting alerts. Contact denise@denisepence.com.

The last two plays, *Titus Andronicus* or *Henry VIII*, will happen in October! See you in the room where it happens!



THE REHEARSAL CLUB RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Become a TRC Member!

For those working or retired from the performing or fine arts, a \$50 annual fee to this historic organization supports young artists and sustains our nationally recognized legacy.

Benefits of TRC Membership:

- Monthly & Members-only Newsletters
- Invitations to Members' occasions & public events
- Extraordinary networking amongst like-minded spirits
- Workshops and seminars

Through TRC Alliances:

- Discount tickets to performances in NYC and other major cities.
- Special prices on hotels, airfares, rental cars.
- Special invitations to events

For arts lovers and believers in our mission, a \$100 annual fee as a TRC **SUSTAINER** provides most benefits of General Membership and supports our 110-year history of excellence.

For further information, please write to: info@rehearsalclubnyc.com
Go to: www.rehearsalclubnyc.com.

The Rehearsal Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit; all contributions are tax deductible.

Donate to TRC



Join **One Hope Wine** on their mission to give back to local and global organizations with 10% of every purchase donated directly to a cause of your choice. With over \$9 million donated to date, they continue to change the world one glass at a time.

Check out One Hope at the link below. You can designate TRC as the recipient of 10% of your purchase by clicking the link at the top of the home page.

One Hope Wine



Goings On Is Bi-Monthly

Text submissions should be Microsoft Word documents,
150 words or fewer, and include photos, links and pertinent information.
The deadline for the November issue is October 10, 2025.

Please note the address for newsletter submissions: info@rehearsalclubnyc.com

The Rehearsal Club
2350 Broadway – Suite 934
New York, NY 10024
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