



September 2023

©TRC

www.rehearsalclubnyc.com

Kate West, Editor

Join TRC's 110th Birthday Celebration!

DON'T MISS THE PARTY OF THE CENTURY!

CELEBRATE 110 years of women making performance magic from Broadway to Oshkosh to Saigon!

Join our tribute to the women who dared to break the rules in order to dedicate their lives and their passions to the benefit of cultural achievement. Please invite friends and family, and introduce them to the wonderful work we do.



See you there!

Gale Patron



PLEASE JOIN **BLYTHE DANNER** AND
FRIENDS ANDREA FRIERSON, CYNTHIA DARLOW,
DIANE PHELAN WITH OTHERS FOR THE
110TH BIRTHDAY OF THE REHEARSAL CLUB



Tickets
On Sale
NOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

At The Players, 16 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003

Featuring: Enchanting Musical Revue • Star-Studded Performances
Silent Auction of Celebrity Gowns • TRC Signature Cocktail
Sumptuous Canapes • Elegant Attire; Jackets • Birthday Toast



www.rehearsalclubnyc.com

Photo: The Rehearsal Club, 1953. Charlotte Brooks for Look Magazine. Museum of the City of New York.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

TRC REVIVES THE BELOVED WARDROBE SALE!



LADIES! Tired of the same ol' stuff??

Is your wardrobe in need of a make-over??

COME TO

THE REHEARSAL CLUB
TRC
EST. 1913

WARDROBE SALE

Saturday, October 21, 2023

2:00 - 5:00 pm

BROWSE & BUY fabulous women's apparel (gently used) for affordable prices

SUPPORT TRC'S mission to encourage young women in the Arts

Cash & Personal Checks to TRC Only

Cash & Personal Checks to TRC Only

Metro Baptist Church
410 West 40th St. (In Hell's Kitchen)
Sponsored by TRC Wardrobe Sale Committee
Call Kathy Conry @917.428.0323 or 212.279.6444 for more info

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TRC PROGRAMS

Is your wardrobe in need of a makeover? Are you tired of the same old stuff? Here's an opportunity to browse and buy gently-used fabulous women's apparel at a reasonable price while contributing to TRC's mission to support young women in the Arts.

Traditionally, TRC's Board of Directors periodically held a wardrobe sale as a way for young women to purchase casual, cocktail, evening or "red carpet" apparel at prices they might not otherwise be able to afford. This coming October 21st, from 2 to 5 pm at Metro Baptist Church, 410 W. 40th St., in Hell's Kitchen, a committee of former residents will revive the Wardrobe Sale for the first time in 44 years, featuring a stunning selection of high end, new and vintage clothing!

All proceeds benefit the programs and services of TRC! Cash and/or personal checks made out to The Rehearsal Club only, please. Sponsored by TRC Wardrobe Committee.

Want a Wardrobe Sale preview and a chance to bid in a silent auction for some celebrity donated items? Then join us at The Gala on October 20!

Please contact Kathy Conry for further information: natashalamocha1947@gmail.com



Spotlight on TRC Charter Member

Sheryl Simms-Foster



September's Newsletter Spotlight Focuses on TRC new Board Member, Sheryl Simms-Foster. Sheryl serves on TRC's Finance and Development Committees and has been hard at work on the Gala.

Sheryl lived at the Club in 1969 and 1970. She grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi and was encouraged by a local patron of the arts to move to NYC and to connect with Lou Wilson. Wilson was a very successful figure in the NYC

theater world, as well as being on the Board of the Rehearsal Club. Wilson helped Sheryl to become a Resident. She lived in a room that faced 53rd Street, and she often stayed up late into the night looking at the beautiful city lights. Sheryl was at the Club for a year, experiencing

various jobs and adventures. She met her husband, Dean Foster, a musician working at a Greenwich Village Club. They have been married 52 years and have two children, Leah and Noel, and 3 grandchildren.

During her career, Sheryl toured in a rock version of *Antigone*, appeared in soap operas and did product modeling as well as other projects. A highpoint was a TV film with her daughter, Leah, in Judy Blume's *Otherwise Known As Sheila The Great*. They played mother and daughter.

Sheryl and her husband ran a very successful singing telegram business, Musicbox, featured on every media outlet, including *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. Their next business endeavor was intercultural training for companies doing business globally, Dean Foster Global Intercultural Solutions. Sheryl has travelled to sixty-five countries and all seven continents.

Sheryl is retired and still involved in the arts. She works in photography and had a photo featured in *National Geographic Magazine*. She has also written a book for middle school children, *The Mardi Gras Mystery*. After leaving the Rehearsal Club, Sheryl never left NYC; she has a treasured home in Brooklyn.

We are so grateful to have Sheryl on our Board of Directors.



If you've already RSVP'd for this wonderful TRC Members only event,
good for you!

If you haven't, there's still time.

When: Wednesday September 13, 5:00 pm EST

Where: 340 West 55th Street, NYC, on the Rooftop

(Apt 5E, Ellen Zalk, for reference)

Rain or shine: If it rains, we will move to the social room in the basement.

Wine and cheese served.

RSVP required.

Please RSVP to: rclub.francine@gmail.com



On a Saturday in August, Maria Elena de la Noval, TRC's Residency Program Coordinator, a.k.a. "House Mother," cooked up a delicious brunch for TRC Residents in FOUND Study's fabulous kitchen.

The invitation, menu and order form shared a "House Mother's Café" design. It was an opportunity for the new Residents to meet their compatriots. The Residents had a lovely time exchanging theater talk and getting to know each other. Andrea Frierson, Chair of the Residency Program, joined us as well. Sounds like we'll be having another House Mother's brunch again soon. Bon Appetit!



Cinderellas of the West Coast Celebrate!



Left to right: Kathie Kellogg, DeBorah Sharpe-Taylor, Robina Suwol, Christopher Callen, Maybin Hewes Sherman, Patricia Hill, Melanie Mayron, Kerry Slattery, Joie Magidow, Dorothy Fuller Polash

Thank you to TRC Charter Alum Patricia Hill for organizing and producing a very successful event in Malibu on August 19th celebrating the publication of *Cinderellas of West 53rd Street*.

Actor, author and historian Kerry Slattery started the celebration with the story of The Rehearsal Club's origins in 1913. After an explanation of the 30's movie and Broadway show *Stage Door*, by Edna Ferber, which was based on The Rehearsal Club, we heard the soulful voice of Christopher Callan singing *Broadway Baby*.

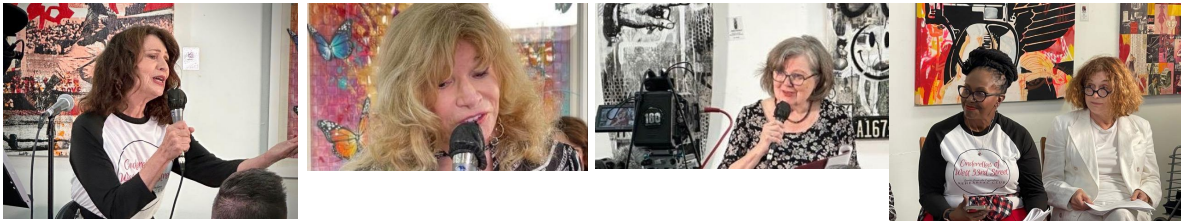
Moving into the 1950's, Betty Bigger's tale of being strangled and of Ed Sullivan helping her get into the Club was read by Dorothy Polash. Dorothy, who traveled from San Francisco just to watch and reconnect, jumped into understudy mode when Annie O'Donnell booked an Amazon commercial. Dorothy nailed it. Dorothy is a Democratic fundraiser in San Francisco, and we're hoping she picks up singing again soon.

Next, Christopher Callen shared her adventures. She came to TRC because of her friendship with Kerry Slattery. She even officiated at Kerry's wedding.

Patricia Hill shared her experiences in that old 1870's Brownstone with all its magic and lifelong friends, and where her professional life changed to cinematography.

Our Emmy Award winning Melanie Mayron's story is like watching acting perfection. She has been directing so much lately, it is easy to forget how exceptional her talents really are.

DeBorah Sharpe-Taylor was one of the very last women to stay at the Rehearsal Club, in 1979. Besides her amazing singing voice, she also jumped in as technician for playback and background music.



Left to Right: Christopher Callen, Dorothy Fuller Polash, Kerry Slattery, DeBorah Sharpe-Taylor and Melanie Mayron

Meanwhile, On the Other Coast...

As a wonderful "bookend," TRC member Leslie Middlebrook hosted a book-signing event at The Lambs on June 13. The presentation was directed by TRC Charter Member and Lambs Member, Mary Jane Houdina, who created an all-singing, all-tapping opening number followed by a reading of excerpts from the Cinderella Book, ending with a group sing of *Who We Are Today*, written by Charles Leipart and Jamey Grisham. Julia Adams read Judy Jenson's story from the book. Click the link below to watch:

<https://youtu.be/W9iztrnSD28>

TRC Charter Members are now hard at work recording their stories from across the country for the audiobook, which features a cover design with Bonus CD by TRC Descendant Laura Duffy. Special thank you to TRC Vice President, Margaret Strom, professional audiobook reader, for lending her voice and expertise during

this process.



Top, Left to Right:
Dottie Belle, Charla Hayen, Julia Adams, Mary Jane Houdina,
Michele Mason, Diane Findlay.
Bottom Left: Mary Jane Houdina
Bottom Right: Andrea Frierson and Terry Baughan

Welcome to TRC's New Members

Dani Carr: Award winning audiobook narrator. Union organizer with AFTRA, SAG and now SAG-AFTRA.

Rebecca Damon: Executive Director, New York Local, Labor Policy & International, SAG-AFTRA.

Fiona Davis: New York Times bestselling author of several novels, including *The Spectacular*, *The Dollhouse*, and *The Magnolia Palace*.

Michael Fawcett: Actor/singer, with 30+ years experience in theater, film and TV.

Alexis Rocker: Founder, Betsy Kay Finch Performing Arts Foundation, Inc.

Sarah Seeds: Bi-coastal actress, writer, and producer.

TRC STANDS WITH SAG-AFTRA



Left to Right:

Rebecca Damon, TRC member, former President of the NY Local, currently Chair of the Member Outreach Relations & Education Committee.

Duncan Crabtree Ireland, Executive Director of SAG-AFTRA and Chief Negotiator.

Margaret Strom (note TRC visor on my hat).



Shakespeare Alive invites The Rehearsal Club Circle of Friends to our first zoom overview of history, character and context for *The Merchant of Venice*, Monday September 11, 6:00pm EST. See link below. In a nutshell, we are "actor-driven." We do NOT cast – YOU submit for the role of your choice. We share, we gender-bend, We double up on roles and reading stage directions. Readings are only open to the cast and the Shakespeare Alive Company.

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87322290188?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87322290188?pwd=M2NrMjRIRWlxeCt0cC9iaDJvaWxyUT09Z)
pwd=M2NrMjRIRWlxeCt0cC9iaDJvaWxyUT09Z

Questions? Contact denise@denisepence.com. Hope to see you in the room where it happens!

Tap Into Well-Being At A Discount for TRC Members!

Tap Into Well-being™ INTRO



Linda Rose Iennaco, creator of Balance and Bones™
Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation
Ambassadors Leadership Council

Tap dance in a chair? You bet! Whether a beginner or a seasoned professional, young or old, you'll experience the joy of tap dancing with the benefits of exercise – without worries about physical limitations,

balance, hip, knee or foot challenges. Learn or re-learn the basics of tap dancing from a seated position. We'll stand when we're ready. Expert instructor Linda Rose Iennaco, a veteran of hit Broadway musicals, will guide you through a safe, supportive, and fun-filled class.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes (no sneakers or tap shoes–yet!)

Register for one class at a time or 8-class Series

30% Discount Code for TRC Members only: WELLBEING30

Virtual only

8 Tuesdays Sep 12 – Oct 31 02:45pm–03:45pm (ET)

Tap Into Well-being™ BASICS PLUS

Tap dance in a chair? Sometimes! This uplifting experience combines the joy of tap dancing with the benefits of exercise without worries about physical limitations, balance, hip, knee or foot challenges. Learn traditional tap combinations (soft shoe, waltz clog, timesteps) from either a seated or standing position. Expert instructor Linda Rose Iennaco, a



veteran of hit Broadway musicals, will guide you through a safe, supportive, joyful class ... appropriate for those who have some basic tap technique.

*Wear comfortable clothing and shoes
(no sneakers or tap shoes–yet!)*

Register one class at a time or 8-class Series

30% Discount Code for TRC members only: WELLBEING

Virtual or In Person

8 Tuesdays Sep 12 – Oct 31 04:15pm–05:15pm (ET)

[Register](#)

TRC Workshops

Meditation and Mindfulness



Hosted by Alum: Michele Mason
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Highly recommended to reduce stress and help
to bring you into a state of true Zen.

Meeting ID: 826 3351 2427
Passcode: 535077

Thank you, Michele, for sharing your amazing gift with us every
week! This Workshop is a special place to collect, reflect and
commune.

September Zoom Link

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Calling all TRC Members

We are in the throes of all kinds of activities and we NEED volunteers from
among our membership to serve on our many committees. If you have any time, or
ideas or enthusiasm to spare, please contact Margaret Strom
at voicemargaret@verizon.net.

TRC is in all our hands and we need yours! Please Help!

Goings On Is Now Bi-Monthly

TRC's Newsletter Is Now Bi-Monthly. October 24 is the submission
deadline for the November Newsletter.

Please send submissions to trc.newslettersubmissions@gmail.com

The Rehearsal Club
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