

# Acts Of Kindness Cabaret

Issue XIV

## Newsletter

August 2019

### Your Impact

#### What YOU Make Possible

If you're reading this, it's because you are part of the Acts Of Kindness Cabaret family. You support us at performances, donate, volunteer, perform, serve on our Board or a committee, help make connections. In some way, you have contributed to our kindness chain, so it's always a joy for us to share with you the impact of your kindness.

#### Curt's Cafe

Curt's Café improves outcomes for young adults living in at-risk situations. Their trainees, ages 15 - 24, are determined to build a positive future for themselves, and Curt's provides that opportunity by teaching marketable skills and then assisting in securing employment. Curt's teaches culinary techniques and provides instruction trainees need to fill in educational gaps, gain confidence, and become job-ready.

Curt's results at their Evanston locations are so impressive, they are currently opening a new location in Highland Park. ([www.curtscafe.org](http://www.curtscafe.org))



On July 11, AOKC had the privilege to provide a benefit performance for Curt's Café. We left quite an impression! Here is part of a note Board President, Rich Marsh, shared with his Board members:

*"A highlight for me and Holly last night was the cabaret performance. The Acts Of Kindness Cabaret team of three singers, a wonderful piano player, and their sound system, put on a fabulous show. I was taken aback in that they are a non-profit group that has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for a variety of Chicago-area non-profit organizations doing good work in our communities. We can get lost in all the negative news headlines these days, but there are many folks and organizations doing good things in our communities!"*

*Cynthia Clarey, Caryn Caffarelli, and Hilary Ann Feldman yuck it up in AOKC's show, 'You Can't Be Serious!'*

#### Words On Wheels

All it takes is a little brain exercise — talking, playing, reading, singing — and that's what Words On Wheels does. WOW volunteers go to places where at-risk babies aren't getting as much 'brain exercise' as they could. At each visit, they bring each child bubbles, a puppet, a musical instrument, and a book, and they

play. WOW believes that all children deserve early childhood brain development opportunities before they begin school. ([www.wordsonwheels.org](http://www.wordsonwheels.org))

On June 1, AOKC performed to benefit Words On Wheels, and what a night it was!

*"From the very beginning of our relationship, you showed the utmost in professionalism. Your attention to all the details needed to have a successful event made WOW's job that much easier. The talent your team provided was beyond my expectations. The board and guests were wowed! Thank you for helping make our event successful. I have been and will continue to recommend you whenever I can."*

~Beth Ragsdale, Executive Director, WOW



Caryn Caffarelli, Beth Ragsdale (WOW), Hilary Ann Feldman, and Caron Buinis after a very successful night for Acts Of Kindness Cabaret & Words on Wheels!

### But Wait... There's More!

Since last summer's newsletter, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret has also been honored to perform to benefit:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods
- Waukegan to College
- Oak Forest Rotary Club
- Family Promise Chicago North Shore
- McCord Gallery & Cultural Center

Thank you for being a part of so many great things happening in Chicagoland!

## Executive/Artistic Directors' Update



Katelynn Woodin  
Executive Director



Hilary Ann Feldman  
Founder/Artistic Director

When I came on board with AOKC I shared that I was inspired by the principle on which Hilary built this organization: using your gifts — things you were already doing in everyday life — to contribute to the world in a meaningful way. As a former performer (dance, not song...believe me, no one wants to hear me sing) and current development professional, I continue to feel that leading this organization enables me to do just that.

In the four months I have been with AOKC, I continue to be inspired by the positivity around me as I see firsthand the impact our organization has: not just at the organizational level, but on a personal level — in the connections made through this beautiful art of storytelling through song.

I've had the aphorism "a rising tide lifts all boats" in my head recently, and I think it's because I am so honored to be a part of AOKC's kindness chain: our generous donors gift us the privilege of helping other organizations who, in turn, fill needs in our communities. Together, we rise, a song in our hearts.

## AOKC By the Numbers

You've made this a great year at Acts Of Kindness Cabaret:

- 50% growth in number of annual shows
- 20% increase to annual budget
- Nearly \$350,000 raised for 52 area nonprofits
- Our first 10 sponsors EVER!
- 8 community non-profits supported this year
- 1,000 friends of AOKC
- 1 amazing organization

# Upcoming Performances

*Please visit the calendar page of our website for ticket information and to keep updated on all performances.*

*NOTE: Current donors (those who have given in the last 12 months) may see shows free of charge, but you must call AOKC (847-419-7664) to reserve your spot(s). Space is limited. Thank you!*



**National Organization for  
Albinism and Hypopigmentation**

## **Sunday, September 15, 1:30p**

Beneficiary: National Organization for Albinism and  
Hypopigmentation

Performance, Family Activities, Food, Raffle

Historic Wagner Farm

1510 Wagner Road in Glenview

Show: *You Can't Be Serious!*



## **Saturday, October 19, 6:00p**

Beneficiary: Family Promise Chicago North Shore  
St. Augustine's

1140 Wilmette Ave. in Wilmette

Show: *You Can't Be Serious!*



## **Sunday, November 3, 2:00p**

Beneficiary: Seniors Assistance Center  
Norridge

Venue Information Coming Soon

Show: *A Little Help From My Friends*

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**Acts Of Kindness Cabaret thanks**



**for their generous support!**

# He's AOKC - Robert Bakke

## **We're taking it Bakke to school – Bob Bakke, that is!**

Robert “Bob” Bakke has known AOKC’s founder/artistic director, Hilary Feldman, a long time. As in, since she was in the 4th grade. As her Jr. High music teacher, he got to see Hilary’s talent from its inception. As one of AOKC’s longest standing and most generous donors, he’s supported our organization from its inception, too!

We couldn’t help but ask Bob about preteen Hilary – if the talented and kind songstress was anything like she is today – and were pleased to hear she was much the same (would you expect anything less?). Bob says that, in addition to participating in flute ensembles, Hilary was in the chorus as a soprano and that our young founder was focused and “exhibited a healthy curiosity for new ideas, sought new musical performance opportunities, and a general passion for learning.” He remembers her getting the lead female role in Northwood’s musical, and says, “She’s never left the stage!”



Bob became connected to Acts Of Kindness Cabaret through Hilary and through AOKC Board Vice President, Mike Unger, who (surprise!) was also a music student of his. Over the past 15 years, Bob has watched AOKC grow and develop. He says it’s clear the public and private support for our organization has increased over the years and that our beneficiaries have diversified both in population and location. “I’m very proud of both these remarkable young people and what they have accomplished and will continue to accomplish through AOKC!” he says. Both Hilary and Michael are just happy to be called ‘young people’!

Bob taught public school music for 34 years and, although he has been retired for 16, he continues to involve music in his everyday life. During the academic year, he sings in three choirs and plays in two instrumental groups. And he still teaches! Although he does limit it now to a few voice lessons each week.

Proving that one can absolutely reinvent oneself later in life, Bob has gotten a second wind with an endeavor that caught him completely by surprise. Two years ago Bob, along with 3 partners, purchased the famous Allyn Mansion in Delavan, WI. The stately home was built in 1885, and members of the Allyn family lived there as late as 1950. The house was sold and converted into a nursing home and then a furniture store. In 1984, two gentlemen purchased the home and spent 18 years restoring it to its original splendor. The Allyn Mansion is on both the state and national historic registries. Bob and his partners plan to start opening it up for historical tours and renting it out for weddings and other special events. The project was a complete left turn for Bob, but it brings him immense joy.

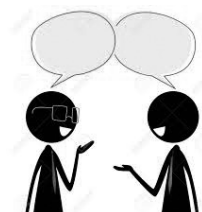
We are so lucky to have had Bob on board with us all these years and are humbled by, and grateful for, his ongoing and enthusiastic support!

By the way, after 15 years Bob still comes out to cheer on both AOKC and Hilary from time to time. His favorite performance? Hilary’s tribute show to Carol Burnett!



# HOW YOU CAN BE AOKC, TOO!

## Be Like Bob



### HELP MAKE A CONNECTION:

Do you know a business or organization that wants to make a difference in their community? Our Annual Sponsorship Program is a great way to raise a philanthropic profile and offers an entire year's worth of exposure and promotions! Contact Executive Director, Katelynn Woodin (Katelynn@aokcabaret.org or 262-424-1337), for detailed sponsorship materials or to make a connection.

Do you know of a non-profit organization that could benefit from an Acts Of Kindness Cabaret performance? Please put us in touch. Contact Artistic Director, Hilary Feldman (Hilary@aokcabaret.org or 847-419-7664).



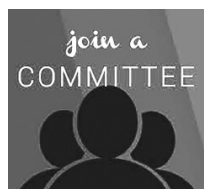
**DONATE.** Your donation to AOKC supports our dual mission of serving area nonprofits while introducing new audiences to the art of cabaret. We receive no state or federal funding, so it is thanks to you that we keep going strong. You can donate through our web site ([www.aokcabaret.org](http://www.aokcabaret.org)) or use the enclosed envelope.



**VOLUNTEER.** There is no better way to understand the creative process or appreciate the talent of the artists than to volunteer at a show. If you have other talents (PR, fundraising, nonprofit - you name it) and are interested in working with us, give us a holler (Hilary@aokcabaret.org, or 847-419-7664).



**JOIN THE BOARD.** We promise, we won't make you President right off the bat - but if you've always wanted to be on a nonprofit board, we have seats open. While we are looking particularly for people with marketing, fundraising, and other professional expertise, all interested parties are encouraged to apply. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Katelynn Woodin (Katelynn@aokcabaret.org, or 262-424-1337).



**SERVE ON A COMMITTEE:** Not ready for a board position but want to get more involved? Join one of our committees (marketing, board development, events, fundraising, governance). We'd love your help! And you'll get to meet some really great people, too. If you'd like to be part of this incredible organization, contact Katelynn@aokcabaret.org or call 262-424-1337.



**FOLLOW US:** Can't get enough AOKC? Follow us on social media for performance pictures, live streamed videos, inspiration, and news about the work in our communities!

Thank you! However you choose to support AOKC, we're grateful to you!

# Thank You, Donors, for Your Gifts This Year!

(Reflecting donors who've given within the last 12 months)

## Visionary

(\$10,000+ Lifetime)

Caryn and Craig Caffarelli 🎵  
Laurence & Marye Feldman 🎵  
GEMC3 Foundation  
IS Consulting 🎵  
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
Scott Unger  
Tim Weiland

## Producer

(\$5,000+ Lifetime)

The Miles Foundation  
Michael Unger 🎵  
Matthew Zell

## Director

(\$1000 - \$4999)

Jen Breuer & Andy Goldberg  
The Malkin Family  
Morgante Wilson Architects  
Bill Niles

## Patron

(\$500 - \$999)

Michael Elrad  
Carla Gordon 🎵  
Barri Maaske  
Blake Nelson  
Seymour Zitomersky &  
Barbara LaSpesa 🎵

## Supporter

(\$100 - \$499)

Andrea Backman & Michael Siegel

Bob Bakke 🎵  
Roger Bialcik 🎵  
Dawn Brusa 🎵  
Brian Caffarelli  
Peter & Francesca Cenzer  
Joan Curto  
Jennifer Edgecomb  
Hilary Ann Feldman 🎵  
Ferdinand Garcia  
Benjamin Goldberg  
Steve & Doreen Goldberg 🎵  
Joel Goldberger  
Phil & Judy Goldstein  
Deborah Good-Krochock  
Geri Greenberg  
Robert & Sharon Griscom 🎵  
Al & Carolyn Guay 🎵  
Donald Hoffman  
iGive.com  
Amelia Kohm  
Jim LaPointe & Kate Friedlob  
Sue Lee 🎵  
Erika & Dan Marder  
Joan Marks  
Allen McDowell & Sherry Drew  
Cecelia Menaker\*  
Barbara Mills  
Jason & Kathlyn Northam  
Marianne Murphy Orland  
Eliot Osherman  
Janel & Mike Palm 🎵  
Ian Perschke & Jennifer Worstell  
Anne & Al Piper 🎵  
Merril Prager & John Levine 🎵  
Bernie Rice &  
Judy Rosignuolo-Rice  
Laurie Carter Rose  
Brian & Amanda Scheuzger 🎵  
Elizabeth Sciortino  
Nicole Seidlitz  
Natalie Van Straaten\*  
Linda & Tom Surlak 🎵

Stuart Unger &  
Marlena Ascher 🎵  
Arla & John Unwin 🎵  
Karen Willough+  
Beth Wilner  
Katelynn Woodin

## Friends

(\$25 - \$99)

Jonathan Abarbanel  
Amazon Smile  
Marc Ascher  
Reva Auerbach\*  
Brianna Bingham  
Sherry Blix  
Julie Boyer  
Cindy Burrell  
Ray & Mary Linda Caffarelli 🎵  
Carri Carl  
Kevin Coleman  
Tom Conway 🎵  
Shirley Craven  
Deborah Darr  
Jeff Dean 🎵  
Larry & Margaret Dooley  
Kate Feinstein &  
Richard Skolly\*  
Cynthia Finlon  
Cardi Fleck  
Pauline Goldberg  
Ilene Goldstein  
Diana Gornik 🎵  
Michelle Gould  
Shayla Griggs  
Gloria Groom  
Aiden Guimond  
Melissa Hornsberger  
Charles & Sandy Incorvia 🎵  
Anita Jenke  
Felice Johnson

## Friends (*continued*)

Anita Kallen  
Dawn Kaplan  
Lauren Klayman  
Tom Knapik  
Shelley Knee  
Judy LaRose 🎵  
Monica Lasky  
Lesley Lee  
Roberta Lerman  
Kate Loitz 🎵  
Susan Lynn  
KT McCammond  
Susan McCracken  
Denise McGowan Tracy  
Laura Mellon  
Vivien Mitchel 🎵  
William John Morey  
David Northam

Ed O'Connell  
Liz & Bob Osgood  
Judy Pepper  
Mimi & Wayne Peters  
Myrna & John Petlicki  
Robin & Jonathan Plotkin\*  
Amy Postmus  
Laurie Prager  
Meg & Scott Radliff  
Leslie Robbins  
Mary & Ernie Roth  
Laura Salas-Damer  
Rori Scheffler  
Bobby Schiff 🎵  
Brenda & Marv Segal  
Fred Seidlitz  
Elizabeth Simer  
Mary Beth Siegel & Paul Glick

Barbara Ann Smith  
Lisa Soni  
Lyn Steagall  
Debbie Stern  
Kim Stone & Ken Wexler 🎵  
Sue Susman  
Diane Tilstra  
Sharon Werling  
Genny Wert  
Jennifer Wilson  
Donna Wittert 🎵  
Ted & Lisa Yagmour  
Vevan Yang

🎵 Donor of 10+ Years

\* Gift made in honor of Merrill Prager

+ Gift made in honor of Chriss Grossi

## Thank You, Volunteers!

Bridget Bean - Crew, Office  
Brie Bingham - Board, Crew  
Caron Buinis - Vocalist  
Caryn Caffarelli - Vocalist, Board, Crew  
Craig Caffarelli - Consultant, Crew  
Cynthia Clarey - Vocalist  
Karen Eickemeyer - Crew  
Hilary Ann Feldman - Vocalist, Crew  
Russ Kaminski - Sound, Crew  
Joan Marks - Board  
Marianne Murphy Orland - Vocalist  
Eliot Osherman - Crew  
Merril Prager - Board, Crew  
Maria Rodriguez - Crew  
Thomas P. Scheuzger - Technical Advisor  
Linda Surlak - Board, Crew  
Michael Unger - Board, Sound, Crew  
Arla Unwin - Board  
John Unwin - Photography  
John Witzgall - Crew

