

## Message from Laurie Harley, President, Shaw Guild



Spring may still be a few weeks away but the **Shaw's 2020 season is definitely underway.**

You can feel the "buzz" everywhere! Whether it's the invitation to attend the "Newbie Secret Theatre" organized by the Activities team, or observing the first rehearsals of *Charley's Aunt* and *Gypsy*, you know **this season promises to be another winner.**

And we're off and running at the Guild too! March will bring our annual visit to the Scene Shop to witness the magic behind set construction (March 23); April will see the official launch of the Guild season with the Spring Preview lunch (April 6) and we'll celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 19 to 25) with a special "thank you" reception and a return visit to Narnia to watch a Dress Rehearsal of Molly Atkinson's *Prince Caspian* at the Royal George Theatre. Watch for more details in the March Newsletter.

There's more great news to share. Since the beginning of our 2020 season (November 1, 2019), we're delighted to report that **30 new members have joined the Guild** with another dozen expected to come on board at the end of February. They come from diverse backgrounds, bring an array of amazing experience and skills, and a passion for live theatre and what we do at the Guild. **Please make a point of reaching out to welcome them at our upcoming events.**

**Fasten your seatbelts – we're off to a great start for 2020!**

Your comments and questions are welcomed at any time at [president@shawguild.ca](mailto:president@shawguild.ca)

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## Shaw Guild Garden Tour and Sense, Savour & Stroll

**Early bird tickets are available until March 15!**



**Tickets for Sense, Savour & Stroll are selling fast!** Don't miss your chance to attend this fabulous event.

Buy online at [www.shawfest.com/gardentour](http://www.shawfest.com/gardentour)

or at the Shaw Festival box office.

Make sure your friends and family know about these events. Take advantage of Early Bird pricing.

Note: a call for Guild members to volunteer to help at the Garden Tour will be sent in April.

**Help promote the Garden Tour just by wearing your Guild badge!**

We have self-adhesive ribbons that attach to your Guild badge. You can pick one up at any of the kick-off sessions scheduled in April. Whenever you are greeting, hosting or docenting, you can let patrons know

- when the Garden Tour is (June 13, 10am-4pm)
- when the Sense Savour & Stroll event is (June 12, 7-9pm)
- where to buy tickets (Shaw box office).

You don't need to do anything else!



BUT if you want to know

- how many gardens there are (8)
- where they are ([check here](#)), and
- details about Sense, Savour & Stroll (gourmet food & drink, live music, 3 fabulous gardens and a silent auction of original art), you can do that too.

You can also just direct people to [shawguild.ca/garden-tour](http://shawguild.ca/garden-tour)

**On behalf of the Guild Garden Tour team, we thank you!**

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## Young Actors delight their audience at “Sneak Peek”!



On February 15<sup>th</sup>, a group of 35 Guild members and guests of the Shaw gathered at the NOTL Library for a wonderful evening of performance and conversation. In an intimate and warm atmosphere lit with candles and lamps, the 8 actors who had participated in the **Slaight Family Intensive program** wove an intriguing tapestry of word and song which delighted those in attendance.

Some of the actors were new to the Ensemble this year and others were returning members of the Company. All of them put their considerable energies and brilliance into a provocative performance piece, **directed by the mega-talented Kimberley Rampersad**. The audience was drawn into the piece and moved around the performance space with the actors, following their journey. It was exciting to experience the talent and power of the actors and sense their anticipation of a wonderful season to come. Thanks to **Kate Hennig, Kimberley Rampersad and Stephanie Filippi** as well as the acting ensemble for such a special evening!

## Upcoming Shaw Guild Events

The Events team has been busy planning an exciting season of fun, fascinating events for your enjoyment!



### Scene Shop Visit: Monday March 23, 2020, 7 – 9pm

You are invited to enjoy an interesting and informative evening, learning about set design, planning and construction for the upcoming 2020 Shaw Festival season.

**Location:** Scene Shop  
12 Walkers Road, Virgil  
Industrial Park.

Coffee and cookies will  
be provided



As this event is usually very well attended, please register in MVP under Opportunities -> Events by March 16, 2020.

OR register by emailing Brenda at [Activities@shawguild.ca](mailto:Activities@shawguild.ca)

This event is for Guild members only. Please wear your badge!

## Everything's Coming Up ROSES!



### Shaw Guild Spring Preview Luncheon plus Show and Tell, April 6, 2020

Sign up now to attend this popular annual Shaw Guild event that kicks off the new season. **Enjoy a delicious luncheon followed by a presentation by a member of the Shaw Festival.** This year's theme is Everything's Coming up Roses inspired by Gypsy!

To attend both the luncheon as well as the Show and Tell, the cost per Guild member is \$25. There is no charge to attend just the Show and Tell.

**Luncheon starts at noon and takes place in the Shaw Festival Theatre lobby.**

**Show and Tell starts at 1:30 p.m. Please come to the lobby at 1:15 p.m. and you will be directed to the location.**

How to sign up:

- Log into MVP, look at Opportunities under the category Events.
- You will see 2 events listed:

- Everything's Coming Up Roses Luncheon plus Show and Tell
- Everything's Coming Up Roses Show and Tell Only
- Select one and click Sign-up
- For the luncheon, you will be sent confirmation as soon as your payment is received.
- For just the Show and Tell, you will be automatically confirmed.

If you prefer to register by email, send a note to Brenda Weafer, Shaw Guild Activities Chair at [activities@shawguild.ca](mailto:activities@shawguild.ca). Please include the name of any other Guild Member you wish to register.

### **Options for payment:**

Send online e-transfers from your bank to [shawguildactivity@gmail.com](mailto:shawguildactivity@gmail.com). Use your own security question and answer and email both to [Brenda](#).

### **OR**

Mail a cheque to: The Shaw Guild, P.O. Box 83, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Please include your name and the name of any other Guild member you are paying for.

For any dietary restrictions, please let Brenda know by email.

**Deadline for registration and payment is March 30. Space is limited so sign up today!**

### **Other events are planned with details coming soon . . .**

- Later in April, we will honour our volunteers at a reception preceding the Dress Rehearsal for *Prince Caspian*.
- In late summer/early fall, the Annual Shaw/Stratford Cricket Match.
- A cocktail party before the Speakeasy in September.
- A chance to see a set changeover in action.

Watch for announcements of these opportunities as they draw closer. There is never a dull moment when you are a Shaw Guild Member!



Brenda Weafer, Activities Chair

### **Quote of the month:**

*"Memories are like threads of gold. They never tarnish or grow old."*

Author unknown. Submitted by Kim Mustill

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## Together, we are a caring community!

Once again Shaw Festival Company members are joining the network of Niagara organizations to welcome and care for the 2,000 Caribbean and Mexican farm workers who arrived back in Niagara starting in January.



For decades, migrant workers have been coming to the Niagara Region to produce and harvest our tender fruit crops. In recent years, **there has been a great effort to raise awareness of the work they do, and the vital role they play for our economy and community.**

Welcome Kits, **initiated by Niagara Workers Welcome**, are an easy and inexpensive way to greet our offshore neighbours with a friendly “hello, and thank you for contributing to our community”. The Shaw Company has jumped on board and we invite Guild Members to join this caring community effort.



If you want to participate, **pick up a bright green bag (and list of suggested products) at**

**Stage Door or the Library.** Products include toiletries, warm socks and work gloves, snacks, etc. Filled kits can be returned to Stage Door. Alternately if you would like to **“sponsor” a Welcome Kit for \$25**, pay via e-transfer to [niagaraworkerswelcome@gmail.com](mailto:niagaraworkerswelcome@gmail.com) (use the security answer **welcome**) or you can put some cash (any little bit helps!) in the collection jar at Stage Door. Three easy ways to join the caring Shaw Company... to say **WELCOME BACK** to our farm workers.



Paddy Parr, Shaw Gardens Chair

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In our continued commitment to support Shaw Guild volunteers, **MVP 2020 Training opportunities will be offered from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested, please check the "Opportunities tab" under the "Other" category and sign up.

The Shaw is always looking for various types of skills and experience that will enrich our pool of talent. To help us find out about the skills you bring to the Guild, please go to your MVP **My Profile** and click **Additional Info**. You can add anything that you'd like us to know about your past and current skills. Your expertise is of great value to the Guild!



And don't forget to **login to MVP from time as there are all sorts of events and activities planned for 2020**. We look forward to your participation and as always should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kim Mustill, MVP Chair  
[mvp@shaw.ca](mailto:mvp@shaw.ca)

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## News From Backstage

Last season, 5 docents-in-training attended presentations by Shaw staff, directors and designers, sat in on first reads and shadowed tours conducted by senior docents. By the end of the 2019 season, they were conducting tours and had individually logged more than 70 hours of volunteer time to prepare for their final assessment in December. I would like to congratulate the following new docents who are no longer "docents-in-training"; they have passed the audition! Welcome to **Lois Chapman, Sandy Henderson, Gail E. Kendall, Joy Lambert, and Ellen Wodchis**.



Each season the docents put in many hours reading the scripts, attending seminars, and sitting in on rehearsals to learn about the productions and prepare for the hundreds of patrons who will tour the backstage of the Festival Theatre. This year the new tour is called “**Backstage Secrets**” and will share with our patrons the special behind the scenes magic that creates the shows they will see this season.

Even if you have been on a backstage tour in the past, we promise new insights and a close-up look at what is onstage for 2020. **Take advantage of the free tour offered to Guild members on the following dates:**



- Monday, May 25
- Monday, August 17
- Monday, November 30

Arlene Carson, Docent Chair

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## 🌸 News from the Driveway

The **2020 Shaw Season** is fast approaching and we're all gearing up for another great **Shaw year!** **Changes are in the wind!** Kim (MVP Chair) has been working on **enhancements to MVP** which will make scheduling better for you (and Marg, no longer in that locked room!) And yes, there'll be fewer emails from us for you to wade through!

The **Big Change** is the introduction of **Self-Scheduling**. The process is similar to last year, **BUT** when you **choose a shift** -> You **ARE BOOKED!**

### **Dates to Remember:**

**RETURNING Greeters:** At the beginning of March, look for an email (yes, you'll still get some from us!) with **pertinent information for Greeters** about these **changes** and **explaining** the upcoming **Notification** for April **AND** May Shifts.

**NEW Greeters:** At the beginning of April, look for an email invitation to the **April 22nd New Greeters' Orientation**.

**ALL Greeters and Hosts:** Hope to see you at one of our **Combined Host/Greeter KickOff Meetings** on April 20, 21, May 11 or 12

Here's to a fun 😊....hopefully warm 🌞.... NOT hot ☹️....  
NOT cold 🥶.... NOT wet ☔....Season on the Driveway!!



See you soon!

Marg and John Mather 🤝

Shaw Guild – Greeting, shawgreeter@gmail.com

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## Hosting News

With the opening of the Shaw 2020 Season quickly approaching on April 2, the Shaw Guild Executive Committee, including yours truly, has been working diligently to get the various Guild functions geared up to meet this season's impending requirements. I, like you, **look forward to another fantastic season volunteering at the Shaw** but I also remember the considerable challenges we all faced last year with the launching of the new MVP web-based volunteer management system. We in Hosting learned plenty last year, and we are now in a position to **implement significant process improvements for 2020 based on your input** at the end of last season. Many thanks to our Hosts and Host Captains for their great support in this endeavour!

## What's new in 2020 for Hosts!

Last fall a survey was conducted by the Guild Executive Committee to determine what was of concern to you, as well as to consider your suggestions to improve the operations of the Guild. We listened, contemplated, and then **moved forward with various initiatives to put your suggestions into direct action plans.**

A chart highlighting the Host booking process, **Signing Up for Hosting Opportunities Process: Comparison 2020 vs 2019**, can be found on the Shaw Guild website in the [Member Zone – Resources](#) section. You will find important **Host Information** in this area, including the 2020 revised Hosting Handbook.



### Calling all Host Coaches (New Position)

We are off to a roaring start this season with 26 new Host Volunteers already signed up to pick up the ticket scanner and get going welcoming our Shaw Patrons. Given this significant number of “Newbies” I would like to reach out to our very experienced Hosts who would be interested in taking on a Coach/Mentoring role to “buddy up” and directly work on Host assignments with our New Host Volunteers.

### The criteria to become a Host Coach are:

- Meet all the Host qualifications as defined in the Host Handbook
- Have attended a 2019 Host Kick-Off session, and are aware of the Host process changes addressed at that time

- Maintain a flexible personal time schedule to accommodate (sometimes on short notice) and coach new Hosts on their assignments
- Enjoy interacting and teaching new Hosts and be willing to play a coaching role

If you are interested in becoming a Host Coach please contact me directly.

I look forward to the start of the new season and I'll see you at a kick off session (see next article).



Greg Fedoryn, Host Chair [gregfedoryn@rogers.com](mailto:gregfedoryn@rogers.com)

## Shaw Guild 2020 Season Kick Off Sessions

**Is it April yet???** Every year, Shaw Guild members look forward to the upcoming Shaw Festival season. Meanwhile, the Shaw Guild **continues** to invest in its members by hosting annual Kick Off sessions. This year's dates have been secured, and it's now your turn to book your preferred date in your calendar.... And in MVP!

- [Click here to access MVP.](#)
- Login and look under Opportunities.
- In the Other category, you will see **2020 Kick Off | NOTL Community Centre | April 20 - May 12.**
- Click that sentence which will bring you to a page that has 4 sessions listed.
- Click on the session that suits you and click **Sign Up**. You will be automatically scheduled to attend.

Space is limited to 80 people per session so book as soon as you can! If you do not have access to MVP, please contact [Kim Mustill](#).

### Dates/times:

Monday, April 20 from 2pm to 4pm

Tuesday, April 21 from 7pm to 9pm

Monday, May 11 from 2pm to 4pm

Tuesday, May 12 from 7pm to 9pm

### Location:

NOTL Community Centre, Anderson Lane, **Simpson Room**

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## In Memoriam: Mary Haney, Shaw Actor



Mary Haney passed away February 24, 2020.

Kate Hennig, Associate Artistic Director, Shaw Festival, writes about her:

"The body of work that Mary Haney accomplished during her thirty years at the Shaw Festival (between 1978-2016) is unprecedented, and easily distinguishes her as one of the greatest Canadian actors of her generation.

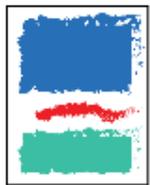
Dearly loved by her peers, there was nothing quite like the twinkle in Mary's eye while she waited for the laughter to subside before picking up her next cue and continuing the play.

The Shaw Festival is indebted to Mary for the contribution she made to the success of 63 productions across the tenure of three artistic directors. And Mary kept damn good score at the annual cricket match!!"

Mary's obituary can be read here: [wgyoungfuneralhome.com/2020/02/mary-haney/](http://wgyoungfuneralhome.com/2020/02/mary-haney/)

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## Community Notices



Niagara  
Pumphouse  
*Arts Centre*

**Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre** [niagarapumphouse.ca](http://niagarapumphouse.ca)

The Niagara Pumphouse invites everyone to join us for upcoming exhibits & special events. Details on the website.

- Instructors Exhibition: April 7-30, 2020
- Volunteer Celebration Party on April 9, 2020, 7:00-9:00 pm. See our upgraded facility!
- Pop Art Fashion Show: May 24, 2020, 12:00-5:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, NOTL, ON.

*Niagara Historical*  
SOCIETY MUSEUM

**Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum** [www.nhsm.ca](http://www.nhsm.ca)

### **FAMOUS & INFAMOUS/People & Events, 2 pm**

Join us in the gallery each month for a presentation by a local resident, followed by a lively discussion about people and events from the past. Free admission.

**March 23:** The Medicis (part 1), presented by Suzanne Hebert, Shaw Guild Fundraising Chair.

### **Niagara Historical Society Lecture Series: *All Along the Waterfront***

Held on the Third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. \$10 or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Generously sponsored by Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner.

**March 19:** Peter Mulcaster | *A Railway History of Niagara-on-the-Lake 1854-1959*

# RIVERBRINK EXPLORE LOOK LEARN

## ART MUSEUM

**Riverbrink Art Museum** [riverbrink.org](http://riverbrink.org). For details email [sdelazzer@riverbrink.org](mailto:sdelazzer@riverbrink.org) or call 905-262-4510.

- Film screening: Niagara Strait – a sculpture by Gordon Reeve. March 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
- Coffee with the Curator with Director/Curator Debra Antoncic. Second Friday of every month. Next: March 13, 11:00 a.m.
- Artist Workshop: The SoulCollage© Process Workshop with Lenore Walker. Saturday, March 21, 11:00 am.
- Artist Workshop: The Lydia Ruth Truth and Reconciliation Project. Saturday, March 14, 11:00 am.