

# NORTHLIGHT THEATRE

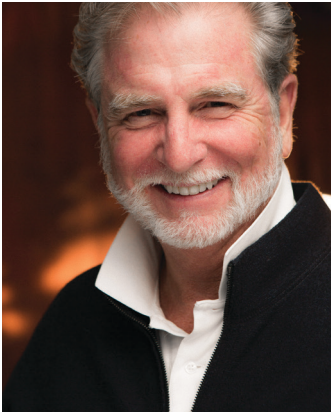
INTENSELY ENTERTAINING



**2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Photo of Hamid Dehgani and Rob Lindley*

## A NOTE FROM THE **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**



For nearly 50 years Northlight has been in conversation with our loyal audiences. In my 25 years as Artistic Director we have thrived through economic challenges, health crises, political unrest, and international conflict. The fuel for our journey is the healing power of art and the balm it provides for our audience. From our student audiences, their parents and teachers, and our loyal friends who've been with us for decades, we are a community that revels in the shared experience of the spoken word and striking image. Live theatre perseveres as long as the human spirit burns bright. And that dear friends is priceless.

*BJ Jones*

## A NOTE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Like all theatres across the world, Northlight shut down in March of 2020 due to the worldwide pandemic. It was a moment of crisis for us but also a moment of opportunity.

From the beginning of the pandemic, after discussion with our staff and Board of Trustees, Northlight decided to retain our staff and not take the route of layoffs of our employees. This proved to be a good decision because when the pandemic started to subside, we were ready to resume full productions and operation with our same seasoned staff.

We took the opportunity during the shutdown to build our Board of Trustees, create a long-term commitment to EDI issues, program our artistic work through internet programming, reach over 4,000 students through our educational work online, and secure the purchase of property in downtown Evanston, destined to be our new home in the future.

Since resuming operations in September of 2021, we have seen the return of audiences over the last two years, with a 38% increase in single ticket buyers from the 2021-22 to the 2022-23 season. Also this past season, Northlight extended two of the last three productions due to audience demand.

There is still recovery to be made with audiences and donors but Northlight is on solid footing for future growth and excellence. We are grateful to our patrons and loyal donors for their remarkable support during these challenging times. Thanks to Northlight's leadership, staff, board of trustees, and advisory council members, Northlight looks to the future with great anticipation of amazing things to come.

*Timothy J Evans*

# 2022|23 SEASON



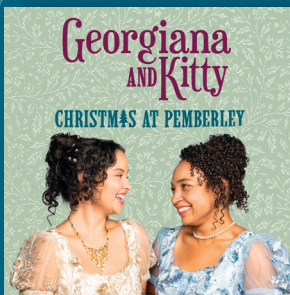
## THE GARBLOGISTS

by Lindsay Joelle

Directed by Cody Estle

September 1 - October 2, 2022

This off-beat buddy comedy pairs an old-school sanitation worker with an Ivy League-educated newbie in an NYC garbage truck. When these two wildly different essential workers are thrown together, they discover there's more that binds them than taking out the trash.



## GEORGIANA AND KITTY: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

Directed by Marti Lyons

November 26 - December 24, 2022 | *Rolling World Premiere*

The youngest Darcy and Bennet sisters are ready for their own adventures in life and love. Meddlesome families, outmoded expectations, and a secret correspondent don't make for easy progress. But these determined young women are forging their own way in a holiday tale filled with music, ambition, sisterhood, and love!



## ANDY WARHOL IN IRAN

by Brent Askari

Directed by BJ Jones

January 19 - February 26, 2023

In 1976 the artist Andy Warhol, portrait painter of the rich and famous, travels to Tehran to take Polaroids of the Shah's wife. Between sightseeing and room service caviar, Warhol encounters a young revolutionary who throws his plans into turmoil and opens his eyes to a world beyond himself.



## THE PORCH ON WINDY HILL: A NEW PLAY WITH OLD MUSIC

by Sherry Lutken, Lise Helmi Johanson, Morgan Morse, and David M Lutken

Conceived and directed by Sherry Lutkin

April 13 - May 14, 2023

In 1976 the artist Andy Warhol, portrait painter of the rich and famous, travels to Tehran to take Polaroids of the Shah's wife. Between sightseeing and room service caviar, Warhol encounters a young revolutionary who throws his plans into turmoil and opens his eyes to a world beyond himself.



## MARIE AND ROSETTA

by George Brant

directed by E. Faye Butler

July 6 - August 13, 2023

Sister Rosetta Tharpe influenced rock icons with her combo of fierce guitar playing, swing, and gospel. This play with music chronicles her first rehearsal with protégée Marie Knight, as they prepare for a tour that would establish them as one of the great duos of musical history.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Northlight utilizes theatre in its broadest capacity to act as a conduit between us and our community. Our programs fulfill self-identified needs within our partner organizations using applicable theatre skills and resources. These dynamic engagement initiatives align with Northlight's mission of reflecting our community to the world, and the world to our community.

## PARTNERS



## ARTS FOR EVERYONE

Arts for Everyone is Northlight's ground-breaking initiative designed to break down the barriers to accessing theatre starting with the price of a ticket. Over 1,000 free tickets were provided to the populations served by the community partners listed above.

**23** PARTNERS

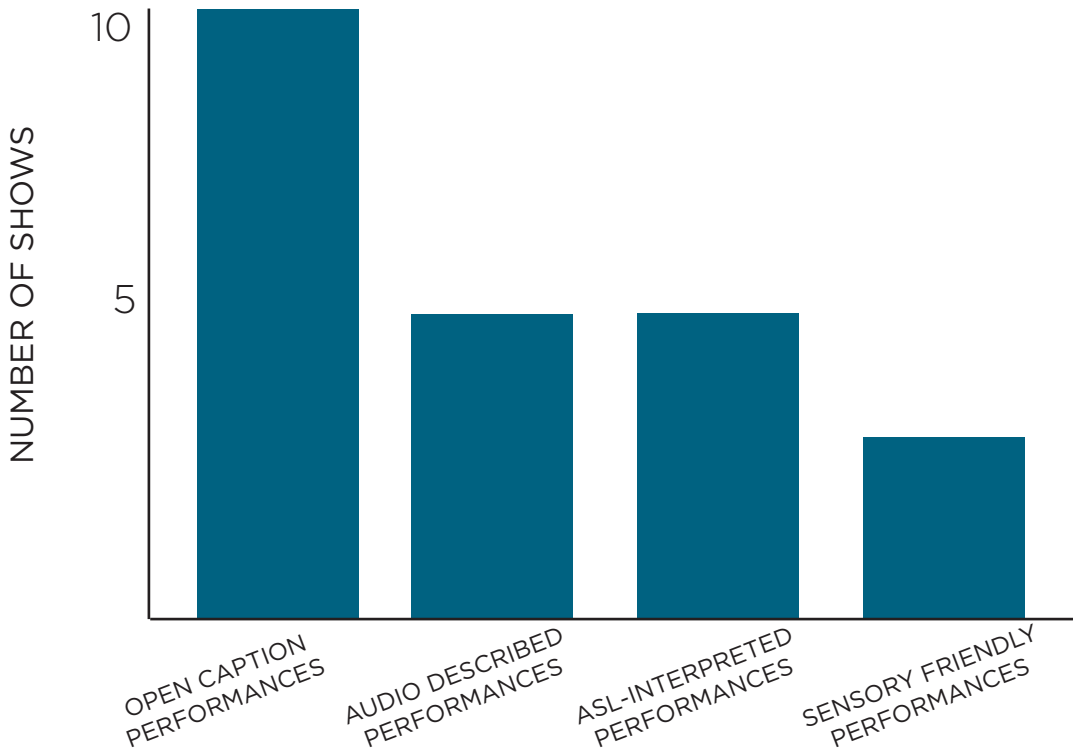
**1189** FREE TICKETS



# ACCESSIBILITY

Northlight aspires to remove as many barriers of entry as possible for members of our community to attend our shows. Our hope is to continue to expand our current offerings and make Northlight a space where all community members in the North Shore and Chicago area are welcome.

**218** DISABLED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES REACHED



ASL Interpreted performance of *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*

# EDUCATION

Northlight's Education Department approaches all aspects of education programming with a spirit of collaboration to encourage students' artistic growth through self-expression and unbridled creativity

## SCHOOL YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

**56** SCHOOLS/SITES

**7** STUDENT MATINEES

**163** CLASSROOMS

**20** TEACHING ARTISTS

**3,187** PARTICIPANTS

## SCHOOLS/SITES

Acero  
Fairview Elementary  
Fairview Middle School  
Grissom Elementary  
King Arts  
Knapp - Fall  
Mason Elementary  
Middleton Elementary  
Orrington Elementary  
Old Orchard  
Science and Arts Academy  
Sherman  
Southside Occupational  
Academy  
Turner Drew  
Hendricks  
Legacy  
Lincoln Hall Middle School  
Eisenhower  
Evanston Township High  
School  
Henderson  
Johnson College Prep  
Julian High School  
YMCA McGaw  
Taft  
Baker College Prep  
Jordan Community School  
Otis Elementary  
Niles North High School  
Nichols Middle School  
North Lawndale  
Mother McAuley  
Libertyville High School  
Glenbrook South  
Niles West  
Mansueto High School



Students at the 2023 Speak Up Summit

# Gala 2022

PURPOSE. PASSION. PROGRESS.



Rashada Dawan performing at the 2022 Gala: Purpose. Passion. Progress.



Attendees at the 2022 Gala: Purpose. Passion. Progress.

## PURPOSE. PASSION. PROGRESS.

Nearly 320 people attended Northlight's fundraising gala on October 6 at Theatre on the Lake. The dark and stormy night did not keep people from having a fabulous time -- including bidding in the silent auction filled with fun and unique experiences, enjoying musical performances from the outstanding Rashada Dawan, and participating in the live auction and paddle raise, masterfully led by Northlight Artistic Director BJ Jones and Master of Ceremonies Karen Jordan, of ABC7 Weekend news. The event raised close to \$350,000 for the Northlight's expansive education and community engagement programs.

### 2022 COMMITTEE

Julie Chernoff, *co-chair*  
Susie McMonagle, *co-chair*

Betsy Baer  
Marea Brichta  
Christy Callahan Pfeifer  
Candace Corr and BJ Jones  
Timothy J. Evans  
Freddi Greenberg  
Kim Hoopingarner  
Ann Jennett  
Marcia Mead Stillerman  
Mark Tendam  
Diane Trenchard

### GALA SPONSORS



# ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

This year, Northlight continues to be committed to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts. Highlights include fundraising for Iranian humanitarian relief, community panels, and the ongoing efforts of the EDI Committee



## IRANIAN DONATIONS

### \$5,000 RAISED

After each performance of *Andy Warhol in Iran*, our cast members encouraged audience members to consider donating to human rights organizations supporting those currently fighting in Iran. By the end of the run, onsite donations totaled over \$5000



## BEYOND THE PORCH

### 4 PANELISTS

On April 29, we hosted Culture Makers: AAPI Visibility and Voices featuring Lisa Helmi Johanson, Sangini Brahmabhatt, Nancy Kim Phillips, and Gina Choi discussing Asian American Pacific Islander voices in Chicagoland and beyond.



## SEASON OF CONCERN

### \$16,197 RAISED

Northlight raised \$16,197 for the Season of Concern Campaign during *Georgiana and Kitty*. Season of Concern is an organization that provides direct, short-term emergency financial assistance to Chicago-area actors, directors, designers, technicians, playwrights.

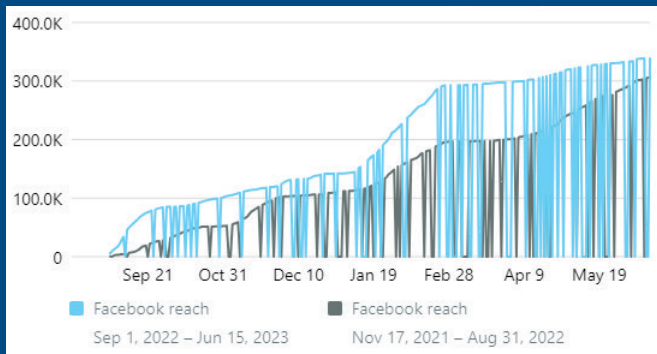


# SOCIAL MEDIA

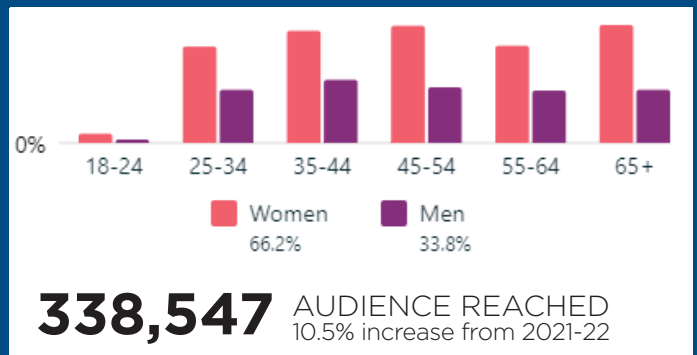
Report from September 2022 - August 2023

## FACEBOOK

### FACEBOOK REACH

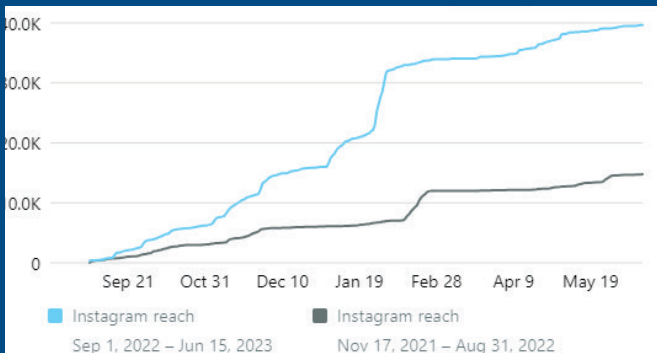


### FACEBOOK AUDIENCE

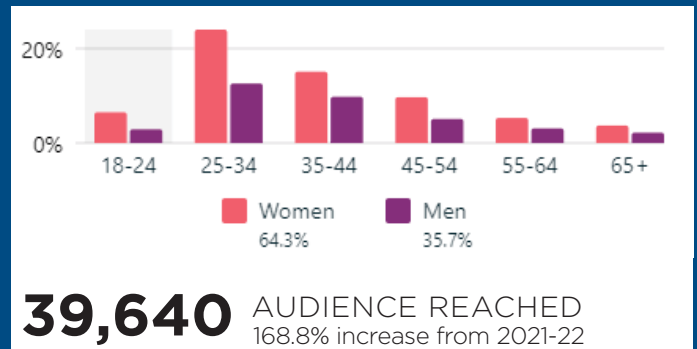


## INSTAGRAM

### INSTAGRAM REACH



### INSTAGRAM AUDIENCE



# NEW STAFF ROLES

During the 2022-23 season, Northlight introduced two new staff positions: the Associate Artistic Director and the Human Resources Manager.

## ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Working under the supervision of the Artistic Director, the Associate Artistic Director is a senior level position working in partnership with the Artistic Director to curate and implement all artistic programming. This includes season selection; cultivating and managing artist relationships; curating & managing Interplay readings and workshops; addressing rehearsal needs; and actively participating in audience engagement and outreach initiatives. This position serves as one of the public faces of the Artistic team of the theatre.

## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Working under the supervision of the Managing Director, the Human Resources Manager manages all aspects of Human Resources for the company, including managing hiring and termination processes; maintaining the Employee Handbook and personnel files; and managing all employee benefit programs. This position is responsible for all payroll functions, including the submission of weekly payroll. The Human Resources & Payroll Manager is the permanent co-chair of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee and is responsible for managing all EDI programs at the theatre.

# NORTHLIGHT'S NEXT ACT

Over the last 12 months, Northlight has worked with Eckenhoff Saunders Architects, Bulley & Andrews General Contractors, Schuler Shook Theatrical Consultants, and other partners including Evanston-based firms Grumman Butkus and Teska Associates to complete the design for Northlight's new home in Evanston. Construction drawings were sent out to bid in July in anticipation of breaking ground in 2024. The Barn Steakhouse remains open and active on the rear of the property.

Northlight's future home in downtown Evanston will be a dynamic performance, event, and educational environment that will serve Evanston, Chicago, and the entire Chicagoland area long into the future. As of August 2023 we have raised 65% of the fundraising goal. We are grateful for support received from the Illinois Arts Alliance, the City of Evanston, the State of Illinois, and many generous individual donors as we move forward with this exciting and transformative project.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert J. Regan, Chair

Jennifer Christensen, Vice-Chair

Julie Chernoff, Vice-Chair

Donna Frett, Vice-Chair

Paul Lehner, Secretary

Percy Berger

E. Faye Butler

Carole Cahill

Diana Cohen

Paul Epner

Timothy J. Evans, *Executive Director*

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Freddi Greenberg

BJ Jones, *Artistic Director*

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Dennis Marino

Mark McCarville\*

Blythe McGarvie

Rahul Roy

Reetu Gowdar Sanders

Bob Silverman\*

Craig M. Smith

Thomas D. Stringer\*

Kent Swanson

Dr. Eric Witherspoon

*\*Past President/Chairperson*

# ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Steven J. Bernstein

Karl Berolzheimer

Edward Bradley

Margo Brown

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Marcia Caulkins

Josh Chernoff

Dennis Clarkson

Beth Davis

Dave Davis

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Marge Gambow

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Michael Gennaro

Craig Golden

Eleanor Hall

Tom Hazlett

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Paul Lehman\*

James Lytle

Michelle Marvin

Bradford Matson

Marcia Mead Stillerman

Ed Michael

Kevin Mott

Carol Mullins

Reverend Dr. Michael Nabors

Atlee Valentine Pope

Cheryl Judice Powell

Merril Prager

Barbara Putta

Roberta Rubin

Toby Sachs

Esther Saks\*

Sara Schastok

Ralph Segall

David Seidman\*

Jill Soderberg

Gina Speckman

Ingrid Stafford

Trimmy Stamell\*

Timothy P. Sullivan\*

John Syvertsen

Anne Taubeneck

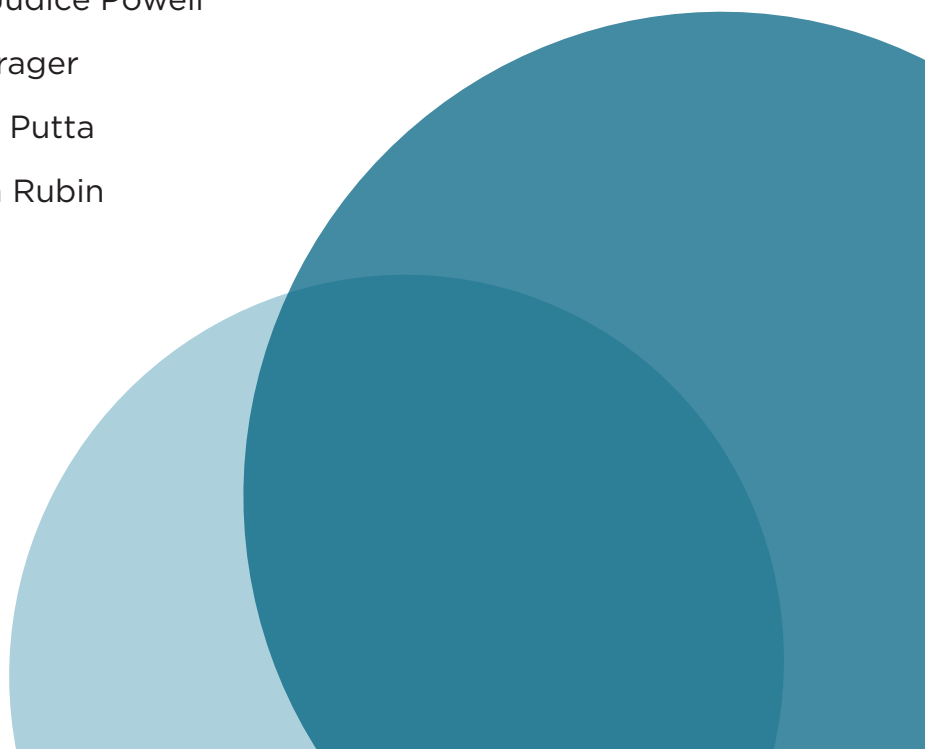
Greg Taubeneck

Mark Tendam

Payson Wild

Betsy Ziegler

*\*Past President/Chairperson*



# THANK YOU

## **NORTHLIGHT VISIONARIES CIRCLE** *This list reflects gifts received August 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.*

The Northlight Visionaries Circle consists of lead supporters, contributing \$1,000 or more to Northlight's Annual Fund. These members help to realize the vision, both present and future, of Northlight Theatre with their generosity. Members engage with the theatre and artists on a deeper level through special events, education site visits, backstage tours, lunches with our directors, and our Donor Exclusive Newsletter. Circle members are also invited to attend dress rehearsals, Opening Nights, and more.

### **PLAYWRIGHTS** \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous Erik Anderson Bob Regan and Cindy Clark	Julie and Josh Chernoff Carole Cahill Freddi Greenberg and Dan Pinkert	Nan and Wally Greenough Greg and Anne Taubeneck	Rahul and Anuradhika Roy
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### **DIRECTORS** \$5,000 - \$9,999

Judith Artwick John and Linda Baker Anne Berkeley J.Douglas and Marion Cameron-Gray Jennifer Christensen	Patricia and James Corirossi R. Bert Crossland Robert and Chie Curley Paul Epner and Janet Gans Epner Donna and Gene Frett	Reetu Gowdar Sanders and Will Sanders Carol and Jim Hansen Suzanne and Dan Kanter Harry Kraemer	Tiffany Laczkowski and Tobi Laczkowski Leslie and Paul Lehner Blythe McGarvie Susan Mabrey Gaud Linda and Payson Wild
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### **DESIGNERS** \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous David Abrams and Cynthia Bemis-Abrams Evelyn Alter Vickie and Tim Burke Christy Callahan and Drew Pfeifer	Julie and Josh Chernoff Diana Cohen and David Spitulnik Susan and David Curry Dave and April Deming Howard Dubin Foundation 65	Illinois Arts Council Paul and Leslie Lehner Bob and Barb McCullough Judy Newton Barbara and Daniel O'Keefe William and Eleanor Revelle Richard Rosenberg	Keith and Ann Sarpolis Sara and Horst Schastok Michele Thompson Elizabeth Tisdahl Cathy Tschannen, MD.
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### **COMPANY** \$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous (4) Susan and David Abraham Ken and Nancy Arlen Betsy Baer Bob and Trish Barr Susan Barret-Kelly and Peter M. Kelly Carole Bass Diane and Mike Beemer Diane and Karl Berolzheimer Patricia and Edward Blumen Edward J Bradley Deborah and Thomas Brejcha Julie Bromley Margo and Paul Brown Joe Cappo Ron and Kavita Chadha Ron and Mary Charles Joyce Chelberg Fay Clayton The Reverend Alicia and Mr. James Crawford Nancy M. Cunniff Barb and Michael Davis Mort and Reva Denlow	Marci Eisenstein and John Treece James and Pam Elesh Daniel and Nancy Engel Joan and Kevin Evanich Bill and Sandra Farrow Kimberly Freeland Friedman Family Foundation Willard A Fry, M.D. Neil and Marge Gambow Tas and Liz Ganitopoulos Emily and Kevin Hansen Brenda Hansen Brian Hanson and Karen Alter-Hanson Paul and Mary Ann Harvey Dorothy Harza Thomas and Virginia Helm Helen Hilken Louise A Holland Kim and Kirk Hoopingartner Sarah Krepp and Carter Howard Colleen Hughes and Donald Rothschild Kathleen and Hal Jenkins Susan Karol and Glenn Warning	Dr. Claudia Katz Diana H. King Rick Kolsky and Anne Jacobson Brenda Lee and Jeff Kang Levy Senior Center Foundation Michael Lippitz Ruth Lovingood Bonnie and Jay Lytle Adele and Roland Martel Michelle and Jim Marvin Eric and Kate Mattson Marcia Mead Stillerman Lois Melvojn Robert and Linda Meyers Carolyn Michel and Howard Millman Brian Montgomery and Laura Armstrong Montgomery Peter & Margaret Morris Milan Mrksich Carol and Steve Mullins Ellen K. Munro Mark and Susan Neaman M. J. O'Brien Family Foundation Kathy Fredricks Oswald	Andrew Porte Barbara Putta Tracy Quattrocker and Neal Brady Jackie Quern Michele Johnson Rogers Roberta Rubin Stacy and Scott Simpson Janet Carl Smith and Mel Smith William E. and Janice K. Smith Sandra Louise A. Sunderland Dave and Shirley Ter Molen Michael & Sarah Wagner Kathryn Weber Seth Weinberger and Barbara Goodman Mrs. Donna Welch and Ms. Georgia Cronin Dr. Eric and Cynthia Witherspoon
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## ANNUAL FUND

Northlight Theatre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors of \$100 or more for gifts received August 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

### PARTNERS \$500 - \$999

Anonymous (4)  
Sheldon & Gela Altman  
Michael and Cecilia  
Anderson  
Ken Belcher and  
Sandra Ihm  
Meera Bhatia  
Michael and Joan  
Callahan  
Lynn & Robert Clark Frederick  
and Elizabeth  
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Brigid Duffy Gerace  
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John Levine  
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Sandra Rau  
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Janice Liten

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Sue and Jim  
Thompson  
Helen and Paul Weaver  
Cindy Wilson and  
Chip Peters  
Margie and Mark Zivin

### ADVOCATES \$250 - \$499

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Peg Sullivan  
Mary and Ken Sullivan  
Dorothy & Casmir  
Szczeplaniak  
The Dearborn  
Karen Usiskin  
Tony Valukas  
Catherine Vollick  
Margot Wallace  
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Widmer  
Don Wiener and  
Mike Thallmer  
Dr. Alan Zunamon



Alexis J. Roston and Bethany Thomas in *Marie and Rosetta*

## SUPPORTERS \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (7)  
Allan Alson  
Beth Alwin and Kevin Bethke  
Charles Arndt  
Monica Badlani  
Linda and Randy Balla  
Charles Bartling  
Anne and Charles Bartling  
Andrea Bauer  
Marcia Baum  
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Yvonne Fogerty  
Susan Ford and  
Scott McDonald

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Doris Gilbert  
Alice Ginsburgh  
Anneliese and Howard Glick  
Ethel and Bill Gofen  
Donna Goldman  
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Larry Green  
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Alex Greenough  
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Pete and Jean Henderson  
Troy and Kristin Henikoff  
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Nancy Hirschfield  
Janet & Brian Hoffman  
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Lynn Hughitt and James  
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Susan & Bruce Huvad  
Karen and Andy Jacobs  
Jeffrey Jahns and  
Jill Metcoff Jahns  
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Cameron and Emily Jones  
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Valerie Kretchmer  
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Christine Lehmann  
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Jennifer O'Neil  
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Carmen Roman  
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Mary and Gary Walther  
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Michael and Vera Wisniewski  
Mel Marino Wolff  
Cheryl Wollin  
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Wooldridge  
Susie Zelinsky  
Carol Zimmerman

## IN KIND

Afsan's Pro Skincare Spa  
Asolo Repertory Theatre  
Betsy Baer  
Beth Higgins Interiors  
Anne Berkeley  
Bennison's Bakery  
Bien Assorti  
Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss  
Marea and Bill Brichta  
Bubbles Academy  
Pat Butkus  
Christy Callahan  
Campagnola Restaurant  
Carina's Cupcakery  
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