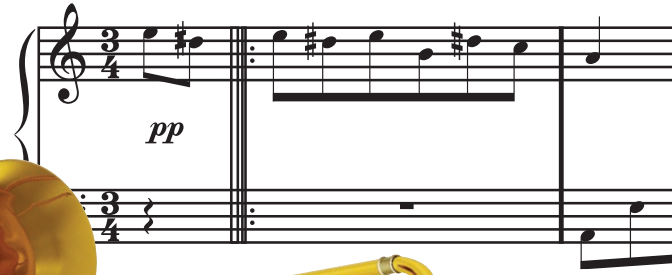


EXPERIENCE THE SOUND



LEE'S SUMMIT SYMPHONY

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC
A PUBLICATION OF THE LEE'S SUMMIT JOURNAL

10 years

THE FIRST 10 YEARS

*A*s the Lee's Summit Symphony approaches its 10th year, I have taken a few moments to reflect about the last 10 years and the many great things our Symphony has experienced.

I must admit, I attended that first concert with some trepidation; however, with the insistence of our good friends, David and Davalynn Tietgen, I went to the first concert in the fall of 2003 at the Longview Farm arena. After the first piece, I was hooked on the Lee's Summit Symphony and the Symphony has been a passion of my wife, Debbi and me since that very first concert.

The Lee's Summit Symphony was incorporated in the State of Missouri as a Not-for-Profit Corporation on April 22, 2003. Board member and attorney, David Elliott, was responsible for the organizational paperwork. The first Board President was Bob Gourley, and the first Friends of the Symphony President was Marsha Gibson. Russell E. Berlin Jr. and Phyllis Hamilton were co-founders of the Symphony. Phyllis was our first Symphony Manager, followed by Bob Paisley, Shelley

Loethen and Gloria Helmer, current Symphony Manager. All of these people have given countless hours of commitment, dedication and support to the overall success of the Symphony.

Over the years, Board presidents have included Dr. Tony Stansberry, Dr. Fred Grogan, Ron Williams, Paul Shrout and Robert White. Friends presidents have included David Tietgen, Gary Fruits, Sandy Carolyn and Mary Ann Rhoads.

In addition to that very first concert, some of the highlights of our history would include Spring and Fall Classic concerts which showcase music for the classical music lover, Holiday Magic concerts which put everyone in the spirit of the holidays and showcase singers and dancers from Lee's Summit, and our Family Pops Concerts where Russ Berlin and the musicians accomplish much beyond the presentation of the concert – a place for parents and children to share interests, learn about instruments and spend time together! In addition, R-7 art and choir students are showcased at this event. Finally, Booms & Blooms, Powell Gardens' annual 4th of July concert, celebrates our independence in a beautiful setting which is sometimes hot, and not always dry!

Other events that were fun and exciting were

the Regalia events of 2006, 2007 and 2008. These were great evenings to show our appreciation for our wonderful Symphony! The afternoon Symphony in Chocolate events at the Longview Mansion and most recently, our 5K walk/run events at Unity Village have all been great ways to raise funds for our Symphony. Of course, we are very proud of our electronic newsletter, STANZA, as it is one of a very few Symphony newsletters in the United States. The dreams of our Conductor Russell E. Berlin Jr. and co-founder Phyllis Hamilton have become so much more than anything they ever anticipated. Our Lee's Summit Symphony musicians routinely offer quality performances throughout the year with something for everyone – and they take great pride in delivering a first class performance at each concert!

It has been a great past 10 years and I, personally look forward to many more years of great music from the Lee's Summit Symphony. I look forward with great anticipation to our Kauffman Concert on June 15. Experience the Sound!

Congratulations on a Great Past and Wishing the Lee's Summit Symphony an even Greater Future!

–Gary Fruits

GET TO KNOW THE CONCERT MASTER

Serving as concertmaster in any orchestra is an honor that includes several responsibilities. He or she plays the first violin parts and most violin solos, and sits immediately to the left of the conductor. The concertmaster is the most skilled musician in the section, experienced at learning music quickly, counting and observing the conductor for the rest of the section to follow.

In fact, the concertmaster is the leader of not only the string section, but of the entire orchestra, subordinate only to the conductor. After the other members of the orchestra warm up and prepare for the start of a concert, the concertmaster enters the stage and signals the principal oboe player to give the pitches for the final tuning.

Dr. John Rutland has served as the concertmaster in the Lee's Summit Symphony since 2006, and was an original member. Armed with a bachelor's degree from Stetson College, plus a masters and doctor of musical

arts from the University of North Texas, John found his way to the University of Central Missouri where he is currently an associate professor of music, coordinator of the string area and conductor of the UCM Orchestra. He and his wife and daughter live in Lone Jack, and when he heard that Russ Berlin was starting an orchestra in Lee's Summit he enthusiastically joined.

Since he was 16, when John joined the Arkansas Symphony, he has played in numerous orchestras in Florida and Texas. With that broad range of exposure we asked him to assess Lee's Summit's orchestra. His word was "excellent!" He added, "Lee's Summit is so fortunate to have a great talent pool, many of whom are products of the school district's music program, and the proximity to UCM in Warrensburg is an added bonus. I love playing alongside my fellow professors and outstanding college musicians."

–Carol Rothwell





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GUESS THE MUSICIAN



MUSICIANS ARE DIVERSE

Musicians in the Lee's Summit Symphony are an eclectic and interesting bunch! Can you guess who?

- _____ Trains tractor trailer drivers for the CDL license?
- _____ Has played for every show in Branson?
- _____ Makes home-brew beer?
- _____ Has starred in several independent films?
- _____ Started two successful biotech firms?
- _____ Did student teaching with Russ Berlin 21 years ago?
- _____ Is a foster parent?
- _____ Moved here from Florence, Italy?
- _____ Has competed in several triathlons?
- _____ Is a plumber with a PhD. In music?
- _____ Played bass drum in summer band at age 7?
- _____ Used to be a genome mapper?
- _____ Played a concert at the Playboy Mansion?
- _____ Is finishing a masters in dietetics and nutrition?
- _____ Is an anesthesiologist and champion cyclist?

Answers, in order: 1-Shannon Lawrence, 2-Kim Lemons, 3-Gary Caselman, 4-Laurie Crawford, 5-Sara Hall, 6-Amy Sadler, 7-Kristin Dunlap, 8-Cindy Hancock, 9-Greg Brenner, 10-Jim Gai, 11-Janet Vaughn, 12-Carrie Turner, 13-Jen Nichols, 14-Sarah Camery 15-Brian Casement

10 YEARS

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CHARTER MEMBERS



Musicians who play in the Lee's Summit Symphony are a loyal group. In fact, at least forty people who performed in the first concert season, 2003, are still members. That's more than half of the current membership. Congratulations to charter members:

Violin: John Rutland, Rebecca Berlin Doss, Jill Brock, Christina Dyer, Sara Hall Renison, Lisa Sutherland, Kyla Stoltz, Casey Solsberg Shields, Kelli Turner, Emily Stone Houston, Annette Davis, Ken Frashier; Viola: Amy Sadler, Cathy Solsberg, Laurie Schwab; Cello: Michael Bersin, Sharry Willoughby, Justin Cowart; Bass: Brian Casement, Kristin Dunlap Paul Hess; Flute: Janet Vaughn, Susan Clabaugh; Oboe: Karl Hayes; Bassoon: Lisa England, Marti Whelan; Clarinet: Jim Gai, Rebecca Caselman, Shelley Loethen, Tracy Mitchell; Horn: Gary Caselman, Forest Stewart, Richard Lanoue, Shannon Lawrence; Trumpet: Don Shaffer; Trombone: David England, Tuba: Angie and Clif Thurmond; Percussion: Tim Schwab; Harp: Joan Ferguson.

—Carol Rothwell



Shannon Lawrence demonstrates brass instruments at a Family Pops Concert.

An Inside Perspective

Shannon Lawrence is a charter member of the Symphony, playing French horn and percussion. She is also president-elect of the Board of Directors. Here's her personal account of the experience.

The first time our Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra members met together was at Pleasant Lea Middle School. I remember it was one of the most intimidating days of my life.

I walked into the rehearsal room with my head down, managing to recognize a few faces as I found a place to set my French horn case. My fingers shook as I unlatched it to reveal a borrowed, entry-level, student instrument that reeked of stale coffee.

I carried that horn to the last chair in the horn section. It had been so long since I had been principal horn player at Lee's Summit High School, that during my

home practice prior to that first rehearsal I was petrified that my embouchure muscles would no longer recognize operator intent. I wanted to shout my musical resume in an effort to legitimize my being allowed to be there. I later discovered I was not the only one who felt that way about one's once glowing potential. The creaking of musty instrument cases after long periods of non-use proved many of us were in the same boat.

The French horn is a complex instrument. I love and hate it simultaneously. There's rarely a more beautiful sound when played by a master. But those notes can be elusive—several consecutive tones can be played by pressing the same valves or even no valves at all, putting responsibility for accuracy on breath support, a well-developed ear, jeweler-precise embouchure, lion-sized courage—(often amidst silence) and intestinal fortitude.

I call it the mental art of the French horn. More than any

instrument I know, the horn can bring even the most seasoned player to his knees lamenting a three-note passage that was bobbled after sweating through 87 measures of counting rests and shifting posture.

That first rehearsal proved that the privilege of experiencing orchestral music for the first time, in decades for some of us, far outweighed the steel-cold terror of letting someone else actually hear our rusted, cob-webbed, long-slumbering virtuosity. For some the experience was reminiscent of loosening the Tin Man with an oil can.

But Conductor Russ Berlin's initial down beat brought the thrill of it all flooding back. Some players were indeed not rusty, not cowering and shivering, but were, in fact, at the top of their game. They stepped up as leaders to guide the resurrected balance of us back into the life of symphonic music.

Even with our organization's humble start and the ten years since, there remains this truth: No matter how experienced a conductor, musician or audience member may be, with music there is no prejudice. Everyone in and around an orchestra experiences math you can hear, the same fractions of time and frequency of pitch in the heart of corporate reality—all together, for good, for bad, for reward, for rededication.

Week after week for 10 seasons, all who have worked together to found, to lead, to support, to listen and to play, have provided a successful Lee's Summit Symphony organization. The players are grateful and our Lee's Summit Community is richer for it.

—Shannon Lawrence



WHY DO THEY PLAY?

As with most community orchestras, Lee's Summit Symphony's musicians are mostly volunteers. Only the section leaders and small ensembles hired to play at outside events are compensated. There are weekly rehearsals during the 9-month season and many hours of individual practice, so the musicians have made a real commitment. And a number of musicians drive 50-100 miles round trip to bring live performances of orchestral music to our community.

Why do they make these sacrifices? We

asked them. In addition to the desire to present good performances for us, the community, many of musicians tried to explain their love of the music, their instrument, and the group.

"I love the people in the symphony, the music, and the feeling of being part of something big."

—CINDY HANCOCK

After a 20-year hiatus from his trombone, David England says playing lets his creative/emotional side have a night out. Shannon Lawrence (horn and percussion) says she enjoys the corporate experience of playing with so many

talented and dedicated musicians. Kim Lemons says playing her viola with the orchestra

provides stress relief, and "clarinet geek" Rebecca Caselman enjoys the great people, great music and great organization. Laurie Crawford enjoys inspiring people, and Will Braune, a music teacher, says although he loves teaching, "playing is the best!" Angie Thurmond mentions the long record of musical excellence in Lee's Summit, saying she's glad to contribute her services to this group that enriches the community. Cindy Hancock's response was typical of many others when she said, "I love the people in the symphony, the music, and the feeling of being part of something big." And when asked why he plays, Don Langellier said, "Easy. I MUST."

—Carol Rothwell



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LS SYMPHONY'S 10TH YEAR TO CONCLUDE WITH CELEBRATION AT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER



Thanks to Saint Luke's East Hospital, and its exclusive sponsorship, the Lee's Summit Symphony will conclude its 10th anniversary season with a special event. The Symphony will present Celebration at the Kauffman Center at 8 p.m. June 15 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City.

The Celebration at the Kauffman Center will provide concert goers with the opportunity to hear the Lee's Summit Symphony in this beautiful new auditorium.

Tickets for the June 15 concert will go on sale April 2, 2013. Reserved-seat tickets for the June 15 concert are priced at \$15, \$30 and \$50. The \$15 tickets are available at the two

Lee's Summit Hy-Vee stores. All price levels of tickets will also be available through the Kauffman box office, which you may access by visiting www.lssymphony.org or calling 816 994-7222.

In addition, the Lee's Summit Symphony is offering transportation from Lee's Summit to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts that evening. Transportation vouchers may be purchased for \$10 at both Hy-Vee locations.

"We are proud to support the Symphony through this sponsorship, and it is our way to thank the community for supporting the hospital," said John Clabaugh, Saint Luke's East Hospital and Symphony Board member. "As part of our mission at Saint Luke's, we are dedicated to enhancing the physical, mental and spiritual health of the diverse communities we serve. Supporting the Symphony in its mission to enhance the local cultural experience seemed a natural fit for us as music is relaxing and healing."

Celebration at the Kauffman Center will be the first of two summer concerts this year for the Lee's Summit Symphony, which will also present Booms and Blooms July 3 at Powell Gardens in Kingsville, Mo. Transportation vouchers will be available for \$10 per person at both Lee's Summit Hy-Vee stores.

-Janice Phelan



Photo courtesy Tim Hursley

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra, It is my pleasure to work with some of the best musicians in the area. For 10 years they have been led by the Symphony's co-founder and conductor, Russell Berlin. The Symphony started as the dream of Russ and the late Phyllis Hamilton and has progressed to become one of the top community symphonies in the state, if not the nation. I would invite you to come and "Experience the Sound" and marvel in the wonderful artistic talent that is so abundant in our beautiful community.

-Bob White, President Board of Directors, Lee's Summit Symphony

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Special Composition Honors 10th Anniversary

Oboe player Karl Hayes is also a gifted composer who has written “Celebrate the Collective” depicting the ten-year history of the Lee’s Summit Symphony. The piece honors the development process, intentionally brief so as to reflect the relative youth of the orchestra, and outlining its life thus far. Listeners will hear a representation of the founders forming the organization and its walking, running, jumping, thinking, and feeling. Hayes’s description follows:

“A symphony orchestra is an organic entity,

forming from its ‘birth’ into a fledgling ‘adolescent’ on its way to becoming a mature, experienced ‘adult.’ It is an entity comprised of people and their experiences from all walks of life, with each person being part of the total orchestral organism, constantly working to mold their experiences and expertise into the overall mechanism of the aggregate in an attempt to produce the perfect music—music that eventually plays itself. This exalted state is rare. This is why musicians play and why people listen.

“Along the way, as with any growing organism, the orchestra encounters the trials and emotions of development—joy, conflict, pain, happiness, fear, panic, relief and so many more. And as it develops, it begins to understand its own strengths and weaknesses and learns to trust its parts. After an incredibly fast decade of existence, the Lee’s Summit Symphony is simultaneously at several points along this journey—a collective mind and body developing at differing rates. When seen in this light, it is a beautiful thing to behold!”

WHO IS THIS MAN WE CALL “OUR DIRECTOR?”

We see him at every Lee’s Summit Symphony Concert, at special events and throughout our community...but who is this man we call “Our Director”?

Russell E. Berlin, Jr. was almost a “Yankee Doodle” being born on July 7 in Warrensburg, Mo. His first three years of life were in California and Arizona where his dad was stationed in the Army Air Corp during World War II. After completing his tour of duty, Russ’s dad moved his family back to his hometown of Marshall, Mo., and worked in a traveling position for RCA.

Russ and his family moved to Manhattan, Kansas when Russ was 7 years of age. He attended Manhattan public schools and graduated from Manhattan High School. His music career began in fourth grade playing the trumpet. Russ was always very active in band, orchestra and choir.

Upon graduation from Manhattan High, Russ enrolled at Kansas State University. Russ started out as a music major but considered changing majors to political science after serving in Student Senate. Had he pursued a major in political science, we might be calling him Governor, or Senator or even President Berlin!

During his college years, Russ played in the K-State Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Men’s Glee Club, and the K-State Singers. He was also a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity in addition to all of his music and class activities.

Upon graduation from Kansas State University, Russ began his teaching career at Arrowhead Junior High in Washington District Schools in Kansas City, Kan., teaching both instrumental and vocal music. During his third year, one of Russ’s groups

performed at the Kansas Music Educators Association meeting. He started his master’s degree work at the University of Colorado on a trumpet scholarship. He later transferred to the University of Kansas to complete his master’s degree.

Former Lee’s Summit High School teacher, “Prof” Keith House contacted Russ to see if he would be interested in coming to Lee’s Summit to teach elementary band and that was the beginning of a 32-year career with the Lee’s Summit School District. He was at Lee’s Summit High School for 25 years and went on to Lee’s Summit North High School to complete his tenure with the Lee’s Summit School District. He also served as the choir director at the Lee’s Summit United Methodist Church for 25 years. Russ and his groups in the Lee’s Summit R-7 School District received numerous awards and recognitions over the years, but none more memorable than when the Lee’s Summit High School Orchestra was invited to perform in Vienna, Austria for the International Youth and Music Festival. As Russ puts it “It was a wonderful experience for all of us!”

Russ and Phyllis Hamilton, a member of the choir at Lee’s Summit United Methodist Church, both saw a need for a community orchestra and after many discussions felt the time was right. Russ had many former students who were moving back to the Lee’s Summit area and wanted to continue playing music. According to Russ, it took two years of careful planning and coordination and he was ecstatic over the number of people who were interested in playing. That first concert in October of 2003 was at the Longview Horse Barn. Russ recalls that David Gale “loaned” the barn and built a stage



for the very first concert – What a great opening – I was there!

Russ is the proud father of Rebecca, who also teaches elementary strings in the Lee’s Summit School District, and Rachel, who is in the insurance business in St. Louis. They are married to Justin Doss and Andy Butler, respectively. Justin teaches band in the Park Hill School district and Andy is a government teacher and water polo coach at Lindberg High School.

Of course, Russ’s pride and joy are his grandsons, Joey who they lost but will always be part of their family, Noah who just turned one and Braden who will be two in May.

Russ is very proud of his family and feels he has been blessed to live and work in Lee’s Summit.

Who is this man we call “Our director”? He is one fine gentleman who loves and cares about his city and is always giving back to his family, friends, church, Symphony and Lee’s Summit!

—Gary Fruits

FRIENDS OF THE SYMPHONY SUPPORT MUSICIANS AND LOCAL CULTURAL LIFE

Whether working behind the scenes or in the front of the house, the Friends of the Symphony provide valuable support for the local orchestra. Friends membership is open to any individual or business wanting to help the Symphony be successful and positively impact our community.

Joining Friends is currently \$15 for an individual and \$50 for a business. You can join by visiting the Symphony website at www.lssymphony.org. In addition to the financial support provided through the Friends memberships, the organization provides volunteers for everything from concerts to fundraising events to publicity.

Friends are recognized as a

dedicated and resourceful group of volunteers who also have a good time as they work as a team to support the musicians and the Symphony. The group brings together volunteers who appreciate classical music and want to give back to the community.

Members of Friends also report numerous benefits from being a part of the organization.

"There's a tremendous feeling of personal satisfaction when you work with a great group of people," said Mary Ann Rhoads, Friends president. "Friends do a job that makes our community a better place to live while being part of a great artistic experience."

-Janice Phelan

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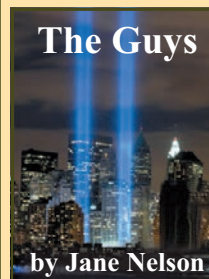


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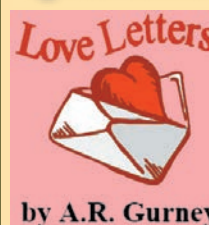
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SUPPORTING THE SYMPHONY

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to raise an orchestra. Many volunteers are involved in each event; you may see them handing out programs, setting up displays, or registering you for the Flights of Fancy run/walk.

It also requires funding—\$110,000 this year. Because ticket prices are intentionally low, this funding must come from individuals, businesses and foundations supportive of the arts. The first way to get involved is to join the

Friends of the Symphony for a very modest fee, or give a 10th birthday gift of any amount. Support the businesses that support the orchestra, and consider including a gift to the Lee's Summit Symphony from your estate. A gift to the new endowment fund will help guarantee that this valuable organization will continue to add to the quality of life in Lee's Summit and Eastern Jackson County for generations to follow.

—Carol Rothwell

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION ARE VITAL TO SYMPHONY'S SUCCESS

The Lee's Summit Symphony not only provides our citizens with high-quality classical music, the orchestra's musicians and supporters also reach out to educate and inform the community.

At both the annual holiday concert and the family pops concert, talented local students are featured during performances with the Symphony. The young performers are included in dance numbers, accompanied by the full orchestra, at the annual Christmas event. Children's choirs sing during the holiday and family concerts, also accompanied by the Symphony.

These two concerts provide local young people with the opportunity to showcase their talents while also experiencing performing with a full orchestra.

A major outreach program for the Symphony takes place during the annual family pops concert, which traditionally features hands-on activities for children before the performance. These include an "instrument petting zoo," offering children the opportunity to handle the musical instruments they see on stage. The family concert pre-show activities also offer a display of how stringed instruments are made and hands-on art stations.

In addition, musicians working in small ensembles take the music to the community by performing at local events and smaller venues. These range from area meetings and events to community festivals and special occasions.

The Lee's Summit Symphony's edu-



Tim Schwab was among Symphony musicians participating in the "instrument petting zoo" before the family concert.

cation efforts also include publishing a regular newsletter, known as the Stanza, to keep community members up-to-date about the Symphony and provide information about classical music. This electronic newsletter is offered free to all interested subscribers.

For more information about the Symphony, including how to hire Lee's Summit Symphony musicians for events and how to subscribe to the electronic newsletter, visit www.lssymphony.org.

—Janice Phelan

FLIGHTS OF FANCY RUN/WALK TO BENEFIT LS SYMPHONY

April 20 event is prelude to popular kite festival

The Lee's Summit Symphony will be among non-profit organizations benefitting from the Flights of Fancy Run/Walk, scheduled at 9 a.m. April 20 at Metropolitan Community College-Longview. The popular event is a prelude to one of the largest kite festivals in the country, and run/walk participants are encouraged to finish the race and stay for the MCC-Longview Flights of Fancy Kite Festival, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at MCC-Longview, 500 SW Longview Road in Lee's Summit.

The run/walk offers three courses – a 5 kilometer, an 8 kilometer and a 1.5 mile run/walk. The course begins south of Third Street, runs down the valley ridge of Longview Road through the forest of Longview Lake Park with a beautiful view of the lake at the turn. The route then circles through R.A. Long's country estate, in front of the Longview Mansion

on Longview Park Drive, returning north to the finish across from MCC-Longview.

Walkers and runners will finish the race just as the colorful kites rise into the sky for the Kite Festival. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest overall in men's and women's 5K and 8K with \$100 for first place, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.

Other beneficiaries of the walk/run are Kids with Courage Foundation and the New Longview Foundation. Sponsor for the run/walk is Jackson County Parks and Rec.

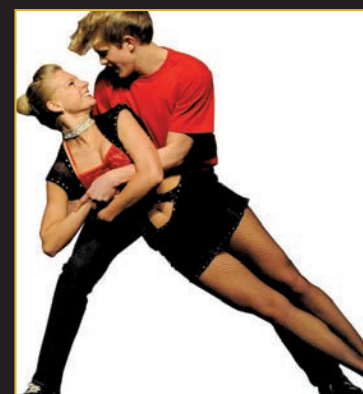
Individuals who want to support Flights of Fancy Run/Walk but sleep in on race day may sign up to become a "sleep walker." Sleep walkers will receive a walk/run T-shirt to celebrate the event.

For more information or to register online, visit <http://fofrunwalk.com/>.

-Janice Phelan

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I will praise the name of God with a song,

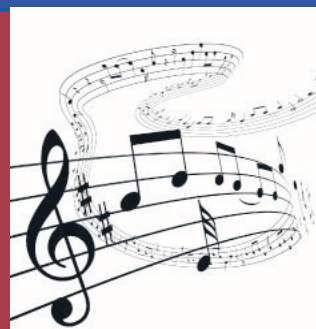
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30

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A graphic of a musical staff with several black musical notes of varying pitch and rhythm, including a large treble clef, set against a dark background with a light-colored curved line.

Wishing you many many more
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