



THE ASSOCIATES

A Stitch in Time. . .

There are five sets of Cavaliers and Sugar Plum Fairies that will perform during this year's production.

Winston-Salem Journal, *December 11, 2017.*

The caption under the picture in the Winston-Salem Journal hailing this year's *Nutcracker* probably made most readers think that UNCSA is doing a great job with its dancers because so many—five sets—are able to perform. Associates who attended the December meeting of the Board probably had a different reaction and a different kind of appreciation.

Our December speakers were Kathryn Grillo and Carolyn Fay. The former is the Director of the Dance Costume Shop, and the latter is retired from that position but still helps. Together, they have nearly fifty years of experience making costumes for our dancers. They brought two of the costumes used in this year's production, a baby mouse costume and a tutu.

Imagine getting *five sets* of costumes prepared. Ms. Fay said that ballerinas were almost always between 5'2" and 5'4" only a few years back are now generally taller—as much as six feet. Managing the costumes and the dancers falls under the leadership of Merissa

McCullough, Wardrobe Mistress, but creating, fitting, and altering the costumes is the job of the costume department.

The costume shop does everything from buying the fabric (Ms. Grillo has family in Singapore and has brought back material from that far away!) to appliqueing the jewels.

They get the cast lists in about mid-October. The five sets of costumes for the Sugar Plum Fairies and Cavaliers are just the beginning of their work. While they use the same costumes year after year, they have to be adjusted for this year's dancers. The Snow costumes with their ice-blue skirts, for example, need to have an even hem-line across the stage. When dancers vary from five to six feet tall, those hems have to be fine-tuned. Mother Ginger? It's always a challenge with her system of pulleys to allow her gaggle of children to exit and enter her capacious skirts. And, yes, there is a hidden human "driver" under those skirts, too, guiding Mother Ginger and her gaggle on and off the stage.

Associates at the meeting were able to look closely at the mouse and tutu. The mouse costume which looks soft and fluffy on the stage is made of tightly sown layers of netting. It is close, tedious work. Although the beauty of the workmanship on the tutu was impressive, its *weight* is what brought the most comments. Those beautiful dancers are wearing heavy costumes when they make it appear that there is no gravity at all on stage!

The Nutcracker is only one of the School of Dance's productions during the school year. Fall Dance, Emerging Chorographers, Winter Dance, and Spring Dance are all popular performances and require still more costumes.

Once again, Associates have been allowed to see the art behind the art at UNCSA. Thank you, Kathy and Carolyn.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

It did not take President Susan Melville long to run through the agenda at the December meeting of the Associates. A cluster of us gathered at the Stevens Center to meet and have a presentation from Kathy Grillo and Carolyn Fay from the dance costume shop. Standing committees had little to report although they are busy planning next semester's events.

Carolyn Peddycord reported that her team is ready for the Nutcracker Feed. She will depend on cookie donations from The Associates as well as the contributions from Lowes Foods, Salem Kitchen, O'So's, and Mindy Bloom.

The Hospitality Team is planning for the reception after the Mozart Birthday concert on January 27. If you do not have your tickets to the concert, get them soon. It is always a sell-out.

Karen Robertson reported that our membership stands at 297.

Bob McNair's Helpmates gave 182 hours and the Associates Board gave 224 hours in November. Together, we have contributed 2169.5 hours since July 1.

The next Board meeting will be February 6th. Katherine Laidlaw who is charged with marketing and audience development for the school will be our speaker.

The Giving Time of Year

Nearly six years ago, anonymous donors challenged The Associates to match their \$10,000 to establish an Associates Endowed Scholarship. Associates took that challenge, matched it, and our scholarship was established. Since then, numerous students have benefited directly from the generous spirit of our membership.

The fund now has \$55,998 (market value, \$67,898) and continues to be a source of pride for The Associates. It is always rewarding to know that what we give helps meet the needs of deserving, talented students.

Please remember that you can contribute to the fund by going to the UNCSA website. Click on “Giving,” at the top of the screen and designate your contribution to “The Associates Endowment Fund” under “Other.”

Give, and the next time you enjoy a performance or meet an enthusiastic, dedicated student or hear about the success of our graduates, you will know you’ve had a part in it!

CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 2

NO MEETING

Thursday, January 17

Pickle Pantry Drop-off, Welcome Center.

Saturday, January 27

Mozart Birthday Concert. Watson Hall, 7:30.

Tuesday, February 6

Associates Board Meeting. Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library. Katherine Laidlaw, speaker

PICKLE PANTRY

11 AM – 1 PM UNCSA WELCOME CENTER

DATES

October 19
November 16
December 14
January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19

Food-of-the-Month*

cereals & non-refrigerated shelf-stable milk
grab & go snacks
canned foods & juices
frozen foods
grab & go snacks
microwavable meals
cereals & non-refrigerated shelf-stable milk

**suggested donations*



UNCSA THE ASSOCIATES

WHAT IS THE PICKLE PANTRY?

The Pickle Pantry provides supplemental food and other necessities to UNCSA students who need assistance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please bring items to the UNCSA Welcome Center between 11am and 1pm on the Thursdays listed and *drive thru* to drop them off. Attendants will be on hand to take your donations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

contact : banksl@uncsa.edu for more information

DRIVE-THRU THURSDAYS

General Information—Important Links

The Associates Website: <http://www.uncsa.edu/Associates> At our website, you will find the Board members listed, the calendar of Associates events and Associates-sponsored events, and other general information. You will also find the form to renew your membership

Email Address: uncsaassociates@gmail.com

The Performance Calendar Website:
<http://www.uncsa.edu/performances/>

Our Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/uncsaassociates>

Newsletter: uncsaassociates-news@gmail.com