

What's Mime Is Yours *from the desk of the artistic director*

It was another great party. On Valentine's Day, two hundred and fifty patrons graced the St. Noel Party Center for our Fifth Annual Have A Heart dinner dance and silent auction. One couple who had attended last year's event returned with four full tables of guests to help them celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Perhaps Beacon Street has stumbled on a new phase of ministry!

"Skinny Rib," a local band that reassembled after a 20-year break, treated us to 70's and 80's tunes during the silent auction. Band members are long-time friends and supporters. Many of the guests cornered committee members asking to have "Skinny Rib" return next year. We'll see if they are up for it.

Dennis McNulty, executive director of Catholic Charities Disability Services, served as our DJ for the fifth year running. Music has been an avocation for our multitasking friend ever since we have known him. Every year Dennis has commented about the spirit of our gathering and our guests.

Beacon Street performed a piece with the able assistance of co-founder Steve Rico and auxiliary performer Tria O'Maille. In the spirit of Dr. Seuss we presented "Go Make a Difference," or "Oh, the places you don't want to go!" It combined the call of Isaiah and Matthew 25,31-46 with interspersed verses from "Go Make A Difference," a song by national artist Steve Angrisano. We told the audience we would like to try this one out before taking it on road. It won the approval of all. Next year's Have A Heart will be on Saturday, February 12th. Mark your calendars now. You find a date. We will supply the rest.

Beacon Street was recently featured in an article in the Cleveland diocesan paper, *The Universe Bulletin*. Free publicity is always

and the photos by George Shuba were captivating. The headline for the story read: "Performance Gospel: Beacon Street makes teachings of Jesus real for kids of all ages." The article may be responsible for a number of calls from school for fall programming.

Elsewhere in print, the Cleveland Plain Dealer featured Beacon Street's artistic director and his co-founder wife Jean in an article relating to Tracy Kidder's book about Dr. Paul E. Farmer: Mountains Beyond Mountains. The June 26th issue of the PD featured a story by Karen Long: "It all started with a book on a doctor's work in Haiti." Lynn Ishay's photos prompted many a call and comment to our house. Local bookstores sold out of Kidder's book within days.

Appletree Bookstore owner Jane Kessler coupled my personal interest in the book with that of Judi Schonfeld who works at University Hospital. All this resulted in an evening during which 120 local supporters came to the Cleveland Playhouse to meet and hear Paul Farmer.

Like Beacon Street, Dr. Farmer believes that the person in front of you deserves your undivided attention. He works with medicine, good nutrition, and raw determination. We work with story, local support, and unbounded enthusiasm. "Make the world a better place" are words he used several times in his presentation. When I am asked why I use that phrase as often as I do, I respond simply: "Because we live there."

Words that motivate Paul Farmer in his work, his travels, and his lectures can be found in writings about liberation theology. "Preferential option for the poor" figure in to all that he does. I strongly recommend Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder for anyone looking for signs of hope in these often weary days.

The Beacon is published by Beacon Street Performing Arts in Ministry, an Ohio nonprofit organization. Staff: Bob Kloos, editor and artistic director; and Pat Hannon, office manager. The Board of Directors: Richard Fratianne MD; Lou Geneva, Treasurer; Conrad Gromada; Rev. Tom McCarthy, VP; Elizabeth Robenalt, Secretary; John Sideras, President. Printed at Cleveland-based Color Bar (colorbar.net). Contact us at: Beacon Street -Box 21029 Cleveland, OH 44121-0029 216.291.1367 216.291-1371 fax. BeaconSt4U@aol.com www.beacon-street.org.