



Board of Directors Biographies & Responsibilities FY26

Heidi Johnston (President)

Tenure: 2023 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: President, Governance Committee, Fundraising Committee

Residence: Martinsburg, WV

Heidi brings a variety of talents to the Board as an independent business owner, freelance writer, and experienced volunteer. She has worked in real estate sales since 2014, honing her skills in customer service, marketing, negotiation, and problem solving. In the preceding decade, she wrote grant applications, newsletters, and feature stories for local nonprofits, municipal offices, and print media. As a grant writer, she secured more than \$2 million for clients in arts & culture, social services, and animal welfare. Living in Ipswich, Massachusetts until 2019, she served for 9 years on the Town's Planning Board, where she chaired monthly meetings, oversaw public hearings, enacted local zoning bylaws, and recommended policy changes. Heidi earned an MBA from the University of Massachusetts and a BS from Bates College in Maine. She holds fond memories of her childhood music lessons, marching band rehearsals, and orchestra performances.

Robert Murphy (Vice President)

Tenure: 2025 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Education Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Martinsburg, WV

Robert Murphy has spent his entire life learning and creating practical things. After attending evening classes in construction, he found himself working in quality homes installing architectural millwork. In 2000, he returned to trade school and became a certified aircraft mechanic. Along the way in midlife, he studied classical guitar, learned to read music, and began another vocation as a collector, restorer and student of multiple instruments. He enjoys attending annual musical workshops, performing in numerous groups and recording projects. Known as a folk musician, Robert has always found Classical music soothing to the soul.

Barbara Zingg (Treasurer)

Tenure: 2018 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Treasurer, Finance Committee, Governance Committee

Residence: Harpers Ferry, WV

Barbara is an award-winning math teacher who did her undergraduate study in Mathematics, Education and Theatre at Mary Washington College (now University) in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She holds two Master's Degrees in Curriculum Design for Online Learning, and Curriculum and

Instruction from Capella University and Concordia University respectively. She teaches full-time in the mathematics department at Washington High School and has received numerous accolades including Secondary Math Teacher of the Year from the West Virginia Council for Teachers of Mathematics. She frequently consults for the West Virginia Department of Education on a wide variety of topics relating to many areas of education in the mountain state. In addition to her 28+ years of teaching, Barbara owns and operates a consulting firm, APCS, which provides multi-layered administrative support for a mental health counseling service with offices in West Virginia and a compensation consulting specialist out of New Lenox, IL. She has been married for 47+ years to retired special educator, Rob, and has two grown children. Her mother, Betty Lou Bryant was instrumental in the formation and growth of Friends of Music throughout its history. When Betty Lou passed away at 91, Barbara accepted a position on the board as a tribute to her mother's love and devotion to beautiful music at a local level.

Tim Whetzel (Secretary)

Tenure: 2025 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Concert Committee

Residence: Shepherdstown, WV

Tim is a West Virginia native, (Petersburg), returning to WV in 2020 after 43 years. The time away from WV included graduating from James Madison University, a 35-year career in banking, spanning Alexandria, VA, Washington, DC, Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, CA. Tim currently works as a Psychotherapist, (second career, which completes the circle of having been a psychology major at JMU in the 80's). He is a lifelong music lover, with fond memories of competing for first chair trumpet player in high school band. His interests have involved community volunteering, working with Hospice, Big Brothers, foster care, high school tutoring, and other outreach activities with Greater DC Cares. Most recently, Tim was a member of the Fernbank neighborhood Board of Directors. Being back on the east coast affords multiple destinations for pursuing activities he enjoys, to include art, music, dance, theatre, and many outdoor activities in the natural surroundings. Never imagining, until the more recent years, a return to WV, (especially after the Southern California climate), warrants a quote from T.S. Elliot; "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

Judith Miller Jones (Immediate Past President)

Tenure: 2016 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Fundraising Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Shepherdstown, WV

Judy retired from a career in health policy and education at the National Health Policy Forum at George Washington University. For more than 40 years, the Forum was renowned for its off-the-record briefings, publications and site visits to assist congressional staff and high-level executive agency officials gain unbiased and practical information for their decision-making. Locally, Ms. Jones has served of the Board of the Jefferson County Health Department and, with her husband Rev. Stan Jones, helped to start Good Shepherd Interfaith Caregivers, still serving the elderly and disabled after more than 25 years. She remains very active on various boards and keeps involved in health and related activities through her work with Health & Human Services

Collaborative of the Eastern Panhandle and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation. A member of the Institutional Review Board at Shepherd University (which oversees privacy and the protection of human subjects data), she also serves on the boards of Panhandle Home Health, Inc. and the Shenandoah Community Health Foundation. At one time, Ms. Jones was an instrument-rated pilot; today she is an amateur artist and an avid gardener. Judy joined the Friends of Music board in 2016 with a love of music and a desire for more students to prosper from a well-rounded education, including exposure to the arts and music.

Tina Burns

Tenure: 2023 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Education Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Kearneysville, WV

Tina is Director of Resource Development for Shenandoah Community Health (SCH), where she is dedicated to the fundraising and promotional efforts of Shenandoah Community Health Foundation in support of the health center. She is active in the area's non-profit community, collaborating on initiatives that promote health and wellness, with an emphasis on increasing access to healthcare, especially for the underserved. During her tenure with SCH, she has filled a variety of roles, initially with the migrant health program, capitalizing on her language skills. Tina received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Mary Baldwin College, now University, and a Master of Arts degree in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont and in Madrid, Spain. She serves on the local governing board of the Health, Science, & Technology Academy, the Executive Committee of Morgan County Starting Points, and the tri-county Steering Committee of the Health and Human Services Collaborative. Tina is senior warden of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Leetown and is a member of the Jefferson County League of Women Voters and of WISH (Women Investing in Shepherd).

Piper Dankworth

Tenure: 2018 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Governance Committee, Fundraising Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Shepherdstown, WV

Before retiring, Piper Dankworth had a 26-year career as a fundraising executive for both regional and national foundations. She held positions as Development Director for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of Northern VA, Inova Health System Foundation and Development Officer for the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and Inova Community Health. Piper's career in healthcare fundraising rose to the national level when she became the Director of Development for the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF). She left NOF in 2011 to become the Executive Director of the JDRF Greater Chesapeake Chapter, raising funds for Type 1 diabetes research. In addition to serving on the board of Friends of Music, as a transplant recipient herself, Piper does much work in the heart transplant community. She serves on the Patient Family Advisory Council for Inova Heart and Vascular Institute; participates in the Heart Failure Collaboratory Think Tank, and mentors heart transplant patients in and out of the hospital. She is also a member of Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH), a local giving circle that supports innovation activities at Shepherd University and local non-profits.

Ann Henriksson

Tenure: 2024 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Education Committee (Chair), Concert Committee

Residence: Harpers Ferry, WV

Ann Henriksson retired from Shepherd University in 2016 after nearly 30 years of service. As a librarian at Scarborough Library, she was Coordinator of Reference and Government Documents. In that capacity she taught library instruction classes, liaised with the faculty, and promoted the reference and documents collection. She was active in the WV Library Association and was the Chair of the College and University Section. She successfully spearheaded a campaign to award Shepherd librarians faculty status. For the last 12 years at Shepherd, Ann divided her time between the library and study abroad. She became Shepherd's first Study Abroad Director counseling students, establishing and promoting education abroad opportunities and scholarships, creating course transfer procedures, and health and safety policies and procedures. Since moving to the Eastern Panhandle in 1985, she has been active in Literacy Volunteers, Friends in Action, and Read Aloud. She is a member of WISH: Women Investing In Shepherd and was a member of its Grants Committee in 2018. She is an active member of the Women's Club of the Harpers Ferry District and has been its Treasurer since 2018 and a member of the Carrie Schilling Scholarship Committee since 2019.

Heather M. Marshall

Tenure: 2017 – present; 1994 – 1998

FY26 Responsibilities: Fundraising Committee (Chair of Puzzlemania Fundraiser)

Residence: Martinsburg, WV

Heather attended the Academy of Holy Names and then Guilford College, earning a B.S. in Political Science. Upon graduation, she worked for the law firm Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte, North Carolina until the death of James Moore. In 1992, she started The Village Finery, a local women's boutique, with her partner, Joan Kartley. In 2000, she left The Finery to become a buyer for Saks Fifth Avenue, Naples, Florida. She was a member of the Friends of Music Board from 1994-98 and re-joined again in 2017. Heather was also President of the Shepherdstown Business Association from 1996-2000 and has served with numerous other non-profits.

Peter Smith

Tenure: 2015 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Publicity, Concert Committee

Residence: Shepherdstown, WV

Peter was born and raised in New Canaan, CT. He is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and did graduate work in art history and literary criticism at the University of Iowa. Prior to his retirement, Peter was Director of Public Affairs for the Washington, D.C. based Association of American Universities for 15 years. From 1973 to 1988 he served as press secretary to three different U.S. Senators. Earlier, he worked as a reporter at two Iowa newspapers and taught freshman and sophomore English at the University of Iowa. In addition to his current service on the board of Friends of Music, he is a member of the Board of the Rotary Club of Shepherdstown. He was one of the original members of the Eastern West

Virginia Community Foundation's Two Rivers Giving Circle and continues to be active in that organization. He served as president of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society for six years from 2006 to 2012. During 2011 and 2012 he chaired an ad hoc town committee that organized and directed all the major events related to Shepherdstown's 250th anniversary celebration. He has also served on the boards of the Friends of the Shepherdstown Library, the Shepherdstown Men's Club, and the Shepherdstown Visitors Center. In 2013, he was the Jefferson County recipient of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundations' Spirit of the Panhandle Award. The award, which is given biennially, recognizes individuals in the region for their service to the community.

Phyllis Smock

Tenure: 2021– present

FY26 Responsibilities: Education Committee, Fundraising Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Martinsburg, WV

Phyllis worked at the University of Maryland for 30 years. She retired in 2001 and moved to West Virginia. While at the University of Maryland, she held several administrative positions and was the director of alumni relations at the University of Maryland University College (now Global Campus) which served over 50,000 alumni worldwide. As director she managed a 24-member alumni board of directors and organized many large-scale events. Phyllis served on the Board of the Scarborough Society Friends of the Shepherd University Library from 2004 to 2014 and organized yearly educational bus trips for the members as well as serving on the fundraising Gala Committee. She also served as president of the Stonebridge Property Owners Association and was on the board of directors of the West Virginia Organization of Homeowners, a statewide organization whose mission is "Sharing Information-Increasing Knowledge." From 2001 to the present, Phyllis has been an active volunteer and fundraiser for the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. Phyllis is a graduate of the University of Maryland and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies.

Elisabeth Staro

Tenure: 2014 – present

FY26 Responsibilities: Fundraising Committee, Concert Committee

Residence: Shepherdstown, WV

Elisabeth graduated from Boston University with a BSc degree in Nursing. She lived in the Boston area for seven years and worked in Spinal Cord Rehabilitation. She moved to Long Island, New York where she was active in many community projects, including early Hospice development. Elisabeth returned to nursing after raising three daughters, served on her neighborhood Homeowners' Board for twenty years, and taught English in a literacy program leading to citizenship. Upon moving to Shepherdstown in 2006, she was thrilled to find such a vibrant musical scene; supporting Friends of Music became her passion! Actively involved in community affairs, Elisabeth also participates in her homeowners' association, leads restoration efforts of the Shepherd University gardens, and works on new wellness technology in conjunction with Shepherd's Department of Nursing.

Sherry Sykes**Tenure:** 2025 – present**FY26 Responsibilities:** Education Committee, Concert Committee**Residence:** Rohrsersville, MD

Sherry worked as Friends of Music's part-time, paid Administrator for more than 3 years before joining the Board of Directors in July 2025. As Administrator, she adeptly handled concert logistics, donor relations, mentoring of the student intern, and general office management. Sherry earned her B.A. from Hamilton College and a Master of Arts Administration at Indiana University in Bloomington. Sherry is the former Coordinator for the Community Music Program at Shepherd University School of Music, and she previously worked with the Levine School of Music, Yale Opera, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the School of Music at the Chautauqua Institution. She is married to professional jazz pianist, Robert Sykes. Sherry is an advocate for arts education for children and adults, and she enjoys building partnerships through music in the community.