



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR XIOMARA MALDONADO



Hello Friends! In the New Year, I like to look back on the Sirovich team's accomplishments and celebrate all that is yet to come. I feel humbled as I think about my past six months as Director of Program and Operations and emboldened as I embrace our plans for this year. Mostly, I feel grateful for every member, volunteer, staff person, community leader, and partnering organization that contributes to Sirovich's vibrancy and success.

I am proud to say Sirovich will participate in some exciting projects this year:

- United Neighborhood Houses selected Sirovich Community Center as a cohort member of the *Older Adults Strengthening Communities* initiative. This January, UNH will train a group of Sirovich and Project ORE members to form a self-directed team that works to address a local issue (e.g. neighborhood affordability.) Sign up with Trevor Martindale.
- Councilwoman Rivera and Councilman Powers each awarded Sirovich with a SU CASA grant! We're eager to see which artist and which organization we are assigned this year.
- Sirovich's first floor bathroom renovation is slated to begin in January and end in June. We will have a new women's bathroom, with multiple stalls and improved accessibility.
- Sirovich Ceramics Program will hold a "Use Your Head" exhibition featuring beautiful works of art at the *Art on A Gallery*. At Instructor Nick Biscardi's request, *Art on A* generously donated time and space for this project from Monday, January 14th through Saturday, January 19th. Check out our special events calendar for more information.

I'd also like to welcome new Sirovich team members: Handyman Rashawn Gladden; Night Cook Danny Hernandez; and Nurse Ji who will answer questions and address concerns in the Health Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays while Nurse Nina is on maternity leave.

I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year, and Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!

MEMORABLE QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"How fortunate we are to have such a dedicated staff in the Ceramics Studio. Instructor Nick goes over and above, brings out the artistic talent in every participant, and creates a warm environment. Sherman and Steve provide wonderful support services to keep the studio running. Thank you to all who make this outstanding program possible." –Marcia Berken, Member

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

PG 1: LETTER FROM DIRECTOR
PG 2: VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW W/SARIE TEICHMAN



This month, meet Advisory Board President and Volunteer Music and Arts Activities Coordinator Sarie Teichman, who has volunteered with us for over 15 years. She discovered Sirovich after chronic illness forced her to leave work. With more free time, she stopped by Theater Desk one day and was intrigued to find a Halloween Party thrown by former Director Terry Gregory. That was it—she was hooked! For years, Sarie was Sirovich’s photographer. Now, she hosts and MCs events like Holiday Luncheons, Concerts, and Birthday Parties, co-leads Vocal Ensemble, offers Medicare workshops, and helps with Opera class and community events. Her contributions to the Center also include acting as a sounding board for the Director when planning events, helping to fundraise for our Grand Piano and its tunings, and lending Sirovich her sound equipment to work around the Auditorium’s audio issues. On weekends, you may find Sarie rehearsing or performing with her fabulous band *Just (Jazz!) Friends*. **Learn more about this valued volunteer here:**

My Home and School: I was born in Chicago and grew up in upstate New York. I went to many different colleges, and spent a year in what’s now called AmeriCorps and a year studying drama in London. I loved it there because I was able to travel all over Europe, and London awoke my creativity—it was exciting to live in a big city with all the music, art, and theater. I knew then that I would move to NYC, and that’s exactly what I did after Grad school.

My Favorite Childhood Memory: Maybe that time I snuck out of home as a teenager to go to an Elton John concert with forbidden “older” college kids...

My Music: Jazz! American and Brazilian. I’m old-school. I probably know most songs in *The Great American Songbook*. I’m big on female vocalists—some of my favorites are Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Rosemary Clooney, Nancy Wilson, and Diana Krall. I also enjoy R&B (Aretha!) and attending operas. As a child, I sang with my sister in temple choir, but I didn’t pick up music again until I was in my 50s and started voice lessons. Now in my 60s, having the *Just (Jazz!) Friends* band is a dream come true! I love singing. It lets me get outside of myself and it’s a good way to express feelings.

If I were an Animal: A cat—because I’m curious about so many things, especially people, politics, nature, music, art, film, drama.

If I had a Superpower: Telepathy, so I could eliminate narcissism in people (and certain politicians!) and make them care more about others.

My Life’s Philosophy: Joie de vivre, a French phrase that means life is to be enjoyed and embraced. I like to have a good time! I also believe very strongly in being kind and helping people. I always advocate for the powers of volunteerism and creativity in the aging processes.

My Favorite Place in the City: Sirovich and Lincoln Center (and my couch!)

My Dream for Sirovich: For Sirovich to obtain much needed funding to improve or renovate the Auditorium. We could better support and even expand our music, dance, and drama programs if we had the latest and greatest sound, technology, and lighting in this beautiful space.

What I Love Most About Volunteering at Sirovich: Sirovich is my home away from home. It helped me to have this wonderful place after I could not work full time. I love the variety of people and diverse cultures. I love interacting with the members and staff, hosting parties and special events, sharing music, and doing things to make people smile and have a good time.