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Lutheran Church in Cass Lake where he rocks the service with everything from traditional to jazz music for a most appreciative congregation.

The show's producer and emcee, former WAF chairman John Warren, said the idea of doing a musical revue dinner theater came when the foundation board was brainstorming ideas for a major fundraiser in early 2009.

"A number of nonprofit organizations in the Walker area conduct major fundraisers each year, but nobody was doing a big musical event. WAF just happened to have a new board member with a professional background as both a music director and performer in musical productions. That was Joanna Aamodt, of course, and the rest is history," said Warren.

Aamodt praised the Northern Lights Hotel Event Center staff and facilities for helping make last year's Taste of Broadway the most successful ever with a record attendance of 350 patrons.

"The move to Northern Lights not only enabled more people to see 'A Taste of Broadway,' but our larger audience enjoyed much improved visibility, professional sound and lighting and a fabulous dinner," Aamodt stated.

As in past years, residents of area assisted living homes will be invited to attend the show's dress rehearsal Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19, as guests of the WAF Board.

Reservations remain at \$50 per person for the Aug. 20 dinner show and will be available beginning May 21. As a non-profit community foundation, WAF places all proceeds from the show in its endowment fund to benefit the Walker area.

WHA students of the month

Each academic month WHA teachers from various departments select a, "Student of the Month". Student designations can come from improving study or class work habits, being more helpful with other students or simply improving their grades. The WAF also assists in the funding of the award program. The students are then featured each month in The Pilot-Independent and on walkermn.com.



Friends of the Walker Library's mission is to raise funds

The Friends of the Walker Library was formed in 2002, and began their partnership with the Walker Area Foundation in 2006.

The mission of the Friends of the Library is to raise funds to allow the library to purchase additional items for their collection, and to provide a source of volunteers to assist the staff in some of the day-to-day functions of the library.

Since 2005, the Friends have made an annual donation to the library to finance the Automatically Yours program. This

program allows the library to automatically receive titles from bestselling authors such as James Patterson, William Kent Krueger, Patricia Cornwell, David Baldacci and other authors whose books are sure to be in high demand.

Since 2005, funds from the Friends of the Library have purchased over 700 bestselling books for our library. As volunteers, individual members of the Friends have been incredibly helpful to the staff by helping with shelving and assisting patrons in the library.

The Friends have two primary fundraising programs. The first is by collecting donations and holding used book sales at the library. Enough books are collected to hold between three and four book sales per year. The second area of fundraising is by holding yearly membership drives.

Currently the Friends have over 90 members on their mailing list, and would encourage anyone interested in the organization to contact the Walker Public Library for additional information.

AUDREY'S PURPLE DREAM "Our Answer to Cancer"

Audrey's Purple Dream is dedicated to the memory of Audrey Pidde, a lifelong resident of Akeley, MN. After a heroic battle against cancer, Audrey passed away on March 24, 2005.

A community event raised almost \$10,000, but unfortunately, the cancer didn't give Audrey enough time to realize her dream of an Alaskan vacation. The money enabled her to pay medical bills and other expenses, giving her some peace of mind, and most of all, letting her know how much people cared. Led by Audrey's daughter Shannah, this group decided

to continue this kind of work in the Akeley area.

Under a partnership with the WAF, they had set up multiple funds helping local area residents battle cancer.

The foundation has also managed funds for "APD" making it possible to serve others in the area. APD is a proud partner of the Walker Area Foundation; we couldn't provide assistance to others without them.

For more information on Audrey's Purple Dream, visit www.audreypurpledream.com

Mary Norton Scholarship

The estate of the late Walker artist Mary Ann Norton provided for the Leech Lake Art League to annually award scholarships to local high school graduates who aspire to careers in the arts. A portion of this legacy was obtained when the League sold the remainder of Norton's art works after her death. The League used these funds to create an endowment at the Walker Area Foundation, which is intended to ensure that the Norton Scholarships will be awarded in perpetuity.