Holiday Cabaret Was a Crowd-Pleaser

It was a gala and a holiday concert rolled into one – with a large surprise included – when The Charity Guild put on its Holiday Cabaret on Nov. 21. Overseen by Guild Vice-Chairwoman Nancy Gustafson, a troupe of Guild favorites sang Broadway and holiday songs on three stages in the Shaw’s Center and circulating through the sellout crowd of 280. Principal singers were Bethany Conway, Lia Macrina, Alan Thomas and Nancy herself. Matt Cunningham, Stephanie Miele, Father Joe Raeke and Alan’s daughters Elise and Erin also took star turns. The surprise was a tribute to the Brockton musician Alice Carey, who was surrounded by admirers who sang “For Good” from “Wicked.” The a capella group the Echos went from table to table during cocktails and dinner, and the evening wound up with a holiday medley. Plans are already being made for this year’s gala. More Holiday Cabaret photos are on the Harvest Gala page of our website.
It has been 50 shades of white outside The Charity Guild this past month but the staff and volunteers have worked hard to offer service as usual.

Thrift shop worker Eileen Bailey one day shoveled her way to the front door to open up, and pantry manager David Barton climbed onto the flat roof three times to push off the snow and prevent a dangerous buildup. "I was freezing just watching him," said general manager Lynne Stent, who has seen nothing like this weather in the eight years she has been at The Guild.

The building was closed six days in all, and thrift shop sales fell 40%. The pantry missed only two days but several big food deliveries were canceled.

The Guild now faces its own Winter Challenge: Higher bills for heat, snowplowing, even a backhoe to cart the stuff away. Please consider making an emergency contribution to The Guild at Box 2372, Brockton, MA 02305 or Donate Now at thecharityguild.org.