

# Guarantor Spotlight by Cheryl Dungan

## Meet Tom and Judy Hall

**TOM AND JUDY HALL** met while they were students at The University of Arizona in the early 1960s. They could not have known that half a century later they'd be retired in Northeastern Pennsylvania enjoying the music of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and become Guarantors and strong supporters of the arts in the region. Tom went to Rutgers University after graduation from Arizona, and stayed to earn a Ph.D and a law degree. After giving birth to four children, Judy returned to college, got her BSN at Trenton State and her MSN at Rutgers-Newark and worked in a variety of challenging nursing positions, retiring from the New Jersey Department of Health in 2008. Tom practiced law in northern and central New Jersey.

While they loved the mountains, lakes and people of Northeastern Pennsylvania, they were worried about leaving the cultural opportunities afforded by living near New York and Philadelphia. That was one needless concern! Judy puts it this way: "With the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic, The Bach Choir, and the many community theater and chamber groups in the region, we have a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the performing arts nearly every week."

With their children spread throughout the world, the Halls enjoy a lot of travel. Tom described one trip through the Baltic region which featured splendid concerts every night for two weeks as "a smorgasbord of creativity."

The Halls thank long time Bach Choir Guarantor Peggy Fulmer for introducing



them to The Choir, and reinforcing the need to support the arts, not only by coming to performances but also financially.

"The days of dukes and princes supporting the arts are long gone," said Tom, "and governmental support for the arts – which we regard as essential for a complete life – is a small fraction of what is needed." Judy noted, "If we don't support the arts, our lives are poorer – and the chances for our children and grandchildren to hear this music are diminished."

## Fond Farewell to Our Oldest Guarantor and Warm Welcome to our Youngest by Bridget George



Singing at the 2015 Festival

**Charles Cassard Kaesemeyer (1914–2016)**, who at the age of 102 was The Bach Choir's oldest Guarantor, died on October 4, 2016. The whole Bach Choir family fondly remember his faithful presence at the Festival for decades with his beloved wife Marjorie and daughter Bobbi. We also remember Cassard's surprise and enjoyment when The Choir sang *Happy Birthday* to him over the phone for his 100th birthday. Cassard also regularly attended *Bach at Noon* at Central Moravian Church, of which he was a devoted member. It was lovely to

see Bobbi and sister Polly in attendance on October 11 for Cantata 100 that ends with the image of God holding the wayfarer upon "the rugged path" of this life "like a father in his arms."

Cassard came to Bethlehem as a student of industrial engineering at Lehigh University (class of 1935). He was employed by the Fuller Company in Catasauqua in 1935 and worked for the company until his retirement. His children Bobbi, Polly, and Tom write beautifully in his obituary: "From his father Cassard inherited a sense of adventure and mechanical ability and from his mother a caretaking nature. From both he imbibed courtesy, honesty, and a lack of pretension. His writing ability and quiet humor were all his own; his wilder sense of fun came from Marjorie." Some of us have treasured memories of our last visits with Cassard – his mind sharp, wit brilliant and fun, and spirit luminous to the end. How lovely that in his last days, he got to meet his 13th great grandchild for the first time.

**Eleanor Ann Davis**, our youngest Guarantor,



was sponsored by proud grandparents Greg and Nanci Funfgeld. Eleanor was born to their daughter Craley and husband Michael (Chip) Davis on July 12, 2016 in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The joy and blessing of Eleanor was celebrated with a special gift from Rosa Lamoreaux. One month after the birth, she sang Leonard Bernstein's *Greeting* during the fifth annual Bach Choir musical salon at the Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard in the Finger Lakes:

*When a boy is born, the world is born again,  
and takes its first breath with him.  
When a girl is born,  
the world stops turning round,  
and keeps a moment's hushed wonder.  
Every time a child is born, for the space of that  
brief instant, the world is pure.*



**Pass the Guarantor tradition on to the next generation!**

Do you have a child or grandchild to whom you would like to give the gift of Associate Guarantor membership? Many of our sustaining members first joined us through a gift from parents or grandparents, who sponsored their membership. Associate level membership (pledge of \$50-\$124 a year) is reserved for young people up to age 35. Contact us to help set up your gift of membership.