

# Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

## August/September 2016



**Here's a note from Debbie DeBois regarding Raffle tickets and/or money.**

Hi Fellow TBPers,

It's time to turn in all stubs, \$\$\$, and left over tickets to me from the summer raffle. About 50 of you still have your tickets and I need them back so I can try to get rid of the odds and ends at the last events. I hate trying to track everyone down by phone that last two weeks. So please try to catch me at one of the following places or mail them back directly to me.

**Deb DeBois**  
**313 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.**  
**Tawas City, MI 48763**

**OR**

**Tawas Bay Players**  
**PO Box 607**  
**Tawas City, MI 48764-0607**

Listed below is where you can find me for the month of September....Hope to see you!

- 3 – 4** Labor Day Art Show – Shoreline Park Tawas (Saturday 8:30-6:00 & Sunday 9:30-4:00)
- 4** Neiman's Market (Monday 10:00-5:00)
- 7** Oscoda Farm Market (Wednesday 9:00-2:00)
- 10** Farm Market (Saturday 8:00-12:30)
- 10-11** Women's Softball – Dewey Durant Park, East Tawas (Saturday 12:30-5:00 & Sunday 9:30-5:00)
- 14** Oscoda Farm Market (Wednesday 9:00-2:00)
- 17** Tawas City Farm Market (Saturday 7:00 – 1:00)
- 19** Neiman's Market (Monday 10:00-5:00)
- 21** Oscoda Farm Market (Wednesday 9:00-2:00)
- 24** Hale Balloon Festival – Fairgrounds (Saturday 9:00-6:00)

**ABSOLUTELY THE LAST DAY TICKETS CAN BE TURNED IN**

### **Love, Loss and What I Wore**

This new TBP endeavor, Tawas Bay Players After Hours, is directed by Brenda Chadwick with assistance from Sharon Langley and produced by Donna Thomas. The cast is as follows:

Lynne Meyer - Gingy  
Suzan Dunham - GERALYN/LISA/ALEX  
Stacy Perrot - Holly/Amanda/Merrill  
Donna Thomas - Nancy  
Kathleen Devereaux - Lynne/Alex's mother/Eve's Shrink  
Sheilah Monroe - Rosie/Doctor/Dora  
Tina Dalton - Pam/Liz's younger sister

Diane MacDonald - Stephanie/Liz  
Tara Western - Gingy's mother/Mary's mother  
Sharon Langley -- Gingy's mother/Mary's mother  
Beth Borowski - Nora/Annie  
Pam Katona - Mary/Liz's older sister  
Carol Kushion - Eve/Woman/Nancy's mother  
Brenda Chadwick - Heather

Performance dates are September 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th, and 17th at 8:00 p.m. There are no Sunday performances. Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept 7th at 8:00 p.m.

### **I'll Be Back Before Midnight by Alan Dalton**

Jan is recovering from a nervous disorder. She and her husband rent a remote cabin from an odd farmer who delights in telling gruesome ghost stories. Then the husband's sister arrives and all manner of frightening events occur. The cast includes Kim Lingo as Jan Sanderson, Jay Wells as Greg Sanderson, Keith Frank as George Willowby and Tina Wells as Laura Sanderson. Performances are October 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. and October 16 and 23 at 2:00 p.m.

## **2016 Tawas Bay Players Annual Meeting by Sue Duncan**

The Knights of Columbus prepared a delicious meal for the nearly 80 TBP members and guests in attendance on Friday August 12, 2016. The change in date, venue and format was appreciated by many. It was a pleasure to have air conditioning and not have to cook. Holding the meeting on a Friday evening allowed everyone to spend more of their Saturday doing other activities. The decorating committee of Janie Mundy, Craig Sayer and Pam Frank created centerpieces representing various previously produced TBP Shows. For those of you who were wondering, those shows included: *Tangled Webbs*, *Esanaba in Da Moonlight*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Two by Two*, *Grease*, *Quilters*, *Bell, Book and Candle*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Forever Plaid*, *Nonsense*, *Queen of Bingo*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

The business meeting included a recap of last year's highlights by president, Keith Frank, with elaboration by members who were involved. Highlights included: the Spring CTAM Conference, the second Dinner Theatre Murder Mystery and the musical revue, *A Dozen Legends*. Members also heard reports on all the typical business such as correspondence, finances, membership, summer raffle fundraiser, TBP Singers and the Artistic Advisory Committee. Some new additions to the theater such as a motion sensor light at the kitchen entrance, a new faucet in the kitchen and the planting of two Viking Cherry Shrubs in memory of Vincent Weiler were shared. Also in his honor, The Scholarship Fund is now officially the Vincent Weiler Scholarship Fund.

There was a preview of shows in rehearsal and soon to come, *Love, Loss and What I Wore* in mid-September and *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* in mid-October followed closely by *A Dozen Legends II*. President Frank also announced a meeting for the directors and producers of this season's productions to be held tentatively on September 6.

Suzan Dunham invited all members to attend the Fall CTAM Conference held in Cadillac September 23-25 to expand their knowledge of theater and to network with like-minded folks. Scholarships for partial payment of registration costs are available for TBP members of a year or longer. (Check our website for more info.)

The 2016 Founders award was presented by last year's winner Sharon Langley to Bob O'Meara. Bob was recognized for his 20 plus years of dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Not to mention his incredible raffle ticket selling abilities, at the time of the meeting he had already sold 88 tickets this year. Congratulations Bob and thank you!

Election of board members was held and incumbents Keith Frank, Pat Casey and Sue Duncan were re-elected. Craig Sayer and Eric Perrot were also on the ballot.

## **"What We Got Here is a Failure to Communicate..." (Cool Hand Luke) by Barb Hunter**

**Note: What follows is the personal opinion of Barb Hunter, member. It is not, in any way, a representation of the view of the board of directors or the editor of this newsletter. Please address any questions, comments, or concerns directly to Barb @ [bhunter1@chartermi.net](mailto:bhunter1@chartermi.net) or by calling me or texting me on my cell, (989) 284-0728, or by messaging me on Facebook.**

This, my friends, is precisely what we have in our theatre group. I left the annual banquet after the bulk of the business meeting was over because of illness; much to my surprise, and later dismay, I learned that the meeting was far from over. Had I known fireworks were on the agenda, I may have opted to stay, but irreverence aside, we have a problem.

The dissension among valued members in our group continues to fester and occasionally erupt in unflattering and inappropriate ways, as I understand it did Friday night. Over the last three years, our annual banquets featured uncomfortable moments where tempers flared and arguments ensued resulting in genuine attempts by the board to address those concerns via surveys, newsletter articles, and invitations to the membership to bring their concerns to the board. Why isn't this working? I think the easiest explanation is that some people believe their issues, complaints, or suggestions are not being heard. I would offer that that's not the case. (Think survey on term limits).

What I see happening is something akin to playground politics. “If you won’t play by my rules, I’m going to take my marbles and go home.” Really? I think we’re better than that. We elect a board of directors to create and enforce policies that support our mission while supporting our community. We have a rather detailed accounting of their record thus far, and I’d say it was an incredible success. Does that mean that I agree with every policy? No. But guess what? It’s not about me. And it’s not about you either. It’s about our group, and that means sometimes (or many times) your opinions may not yield a result you like. Get over it. You don’t like it? Run for the board. Write an op-ed piece for the newsletter (Pam Frank practically begs for contributions from our members). Go to board meetings and ask to be put on the agenda. Find like-minded individuals and discuss respectful ways to register concern, but I beg you, do NOT succumb to the temptation to belittle the very people **the majority of us choose to lead our group**.

I served on the board (as well as being President) for several years. It is a working board; that means if the board members don’t do it, it doesn’t get done. So for every program that’s created, every sign that has to be changed, every type of basic maintenance such as a broken refrigerator, or a burnt out light, every bill that needs paying, every new venture we want to try from the researching of online ticket sales to the decision on what to raffle, there is a board member at work securing bids, asking for work bees, and giving additional time outside of board meetings every month to get these tasks completed. And they never say a word. Why? Because it’s part of the job they agree to when they run for the board. What they did not agree to was to have virtually every decision second-guessed, questioned and challenged both openly and divisively -- despite lengthy explanations for making said decisions.

I direct my challenge to those in the membership who are disgruntled. Enough. Make a decision of your own. Personally, I would like to see people stay and work *with* the group to continue to strengthen and grow. But sad as it may be, if cynical dissenters continue to flaunt the policies and challenge the procedures, then it’s time to part ways and say goodbye. This theatre group only works when everyone agrees to abide by the rules -- and that’s **all the rules**, not just the ones you like, **all the time**. If you can’t do that, maybe you should take your marbles and go home.

## **A Brief Update on the Artistic Advisory Committee by Tara Western**

Vincent Weiler, one of the Tawas Bay Players founders, put the Artistic Advisory Committee (AAC) together in 2012 in hoping to continue TBP’s growth and vitality, and maintaining excellence in our productions. He appointed Carol Kushion, Suzan Dunham, and Tara Western to serve with him. In 2014 the Board nominated two of its members to the Play Reading/Selection Committee (PR/SC), which is a subcommittee of the AAC. Those members are Sharon Langley and Chris Mundy. Recently, Jeff Chadwick was added as a Play Reading/Selection committee member (pending approval by Board). Donna Thomas joined the AAC after Vincent’s death, also serving as a liaison to the Board.

Probably the most important job the AAC has is finding new plays and vetting shows that are suggested. A Community Theatre of Michigan (CTAM) president once said that community theatres that fail, fail because their Board doesn’t read the scripts. That is why many have separate committees. You can’t have a quality theater without quality plays. The AAC is committed to finding quality scripts that will make our audience laugh, think, and feel. As our community changes, we need to find the best comedies, farces, dramedies, dramas, and musicals we can.

Plays that were suggested by the AAC/PSC and have been performed are: *Quilters*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, *Red Velvet Cake War*, *The Queen of Bingo*, *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and this season, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, *I’ll Be Back Before Midnight*, *Spitfire Grill*, and *Second Samuel*. IMPORTANT: if you see, read or hear of a good show, please contact one of the members. If you have any questions, you can email me at [tarawestern@hotmail.com](mailto:tarawestern@hotmail.com).

### **Save the Date for the Third Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**

Our third annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, *Murder At Roswell*, done in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, will be held Friday and Saturday, January 27 & 28, 2017. Not only are these shows a lot of fun, they have been great money makers. It takes many volunteers to make them happen, so anyone interested in being involved should contact the director, Michal Jacot or the producer Sue Duncan.



## A New View From The Board by Donna Thomas

It has now been one year that I have been on the Tawas Bay Players Board, three years since I have been involved with the Players total. I was fortunate that Nadeen O'Meara and June Hudgins asked me to be a dragon for Sleeping Beauty. Thanks to them for opening my eyes to the wonderful world of TBP.

At the membership meeting on August 12, some items came to light that I feel compelled to address. Members have questioned some decisions made by the Board, that they – the members-feel they should have been informed of. Well, the board sends out regular emails informing the membership of when the board meetings occur. Those meetings are open to the membership. There is even a standing item on the agenda for attending members to have up to 5 minutes to speak on any topic they feel important. I am not sure what other access members would like. Please let us know. I have heard repeatedly from members that the board does not appear to listen, does not attempt new things, etc. Well, over this past year I have witnessed that, and I have witnessed an opening of minds and attitudes also. Being a board member is not just a title, it means you are committed to being involved and coming up with ideas. This board allowed an idea of hosting the CTAM Spring Conference which had never been done, and by all measures it was a success. This board agreed to open up dress rehearsals to local schools and groups to get kids in our audience. This board also acknowledged and allowed for a new idea to bring in a new audience with the "After Hours" concept. They recognized, like most theaters across the state, that there is an age divide in participation and attendance. I could go into detail on it, but suffice to say older generations had theater as entertainment, the next ones (mine included) had television and movies. So theater was not a recognized venue for us. Now we are making a major effort to attract those age groups and have shows that speak to them. The shows have more adult themes and yes, adult language. Theater reflects life. We are advertising these shows as such. These shows stand alone and are not included in the season package of our standard feel good shows. This is not an attempt to replace our current audience, it is to replenish and enhance it. I have taken the time to talk to all kinds of people in this area, people who have and have not attended our shows. Sometimes the fluffy feel good shows, think Nunsensations, or classics like Music Man, do not appeal to a younger audience. They want to see Rent or Avenue Q. And yes, I know I just listed all musicals.

I cannot speak for the entire board, only myself, and I see progress in new ideas and thinking beyond when we will be replaced. I have heard no one say "Well when I leave, the playhouse can cease to exist." We are merely the stewards of the current TBP; we need to leave it in better shape than we found it for the next crop. We need to leave it strong and vital to the community. Not just fun for one portion of the community.

TBP is a non-profit, and as such, we need to not judge a show successful because it made money. We need to stay true to our mission statement about providing the community quality and entertaining productions and theater education. I would like to see our members and board attend seminars and conferences where we can learn a new way of enhancing our theater. We are still trying to educate members on putting on a show, come and learn how to run lights or sound. We have had acting and directing seminars, but let's do more. Let's keep using the playhouse for other shows, like Legends and having dance recitals for local children's studios. Let's start doing a Christmas show, just one weekend and invite local churches to participate. Let's stay a vital part of this community. In closing I would also like to say we need to stop hearing, "We can't do that" or "It won't work". We need our mantra to be, "Yes, we can make this work."

### TBP Contact Information

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## Vincent Weiler Memorial Shrubs by Pam Frank

During the Spring CTAM Conference banquet a donation of \$50 was presented to TBP by the CTAM Board as a memorial to the extensive Community Theater contributions of Vincent Weiler. I was asked, due to my horticultural background to choose an appropriate shrub to plant at the theater. With that donation and an additional contribution from the TBP Board I selected two Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) shrubs. They will have white flowers in the spring, black berries in summer and red orange fall color. Thanks to Bob Zacharias who assisted in digging and planting and to Sue Duncan and Donna Thomas who have kept them alive by frequent watering during this very dry summer. The watering was a bit of a challenge however, since there were no water hoses at the theater. Sue and her husband Larry VanWaggoner have donated one but we really need about 3 more 50 foot hoses to leave at the theater. If anyone has an old hose that they would like to donate I would appreciate it. Please let me know if you have one to spare.



# Happy Birthday



## September

3 Laken Buchanan  
20 Elaine Shmina  
21 Tara Western  
29 Tom King  
30 Vicki Sanborn

## October

3 Lyn Behnke  
4 Nadeen O'Meara  
6 Chelewynne Shuart  
13 Tom O'Malley  
18 Brady Jacot

## November

2 Chris Mundy  
13 Sharon Langley  
14 Tom Shmina  
24 Felicisimo Abis  
25 Mendy Shmina

## December

5 Carol Kushion  
7 Walter Sanborn  
8 Marley Buchanan  
10 Pat Casey  
17 Judy Quarters  
18 Dave Hill  
29 Kathy Weaver  
30 Vickie Szatkowski

## Happy Birthday Dear Grandpa



