

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

January/February 2013



A Message from June Hudgins

Hello everyone. As you all may know over the holidays I was in St. Mary's Hospital with a blood clot in my arm. It has been removed and they did not find any more. Now I'm just getting my strength back. I want to thank all those that took time to call me in the hospital and thank you for all the wonderful cards you sent me. You are all part of my family and I love and cherish each one of you. So again, my great thanks and come see the show now going on *Tons of Money*. Thank you.

I want to offer congratulations to Karen Curtis who was named Perchville Queen this year. She joins a long line of TBP members who are Perchville Royalty. Be sure to congratulate her when you see her.

It's a Wonderful Life

Tawas Bay Players audiences were treated to a history lesson as well as a very entertaining show with *It's A Wonderful Life*. Thank you Tara Western & Vincent Weiler for bringing us this classic Christmas story. Because of the vocal talents of Michal Jacot, Tim Haskin, Tara Western, Reesie Smith and Jon Shaffer as well as the many talents of Sue Duncan and Sue Dowell we were transported back in time to see as well as hear an old time radio show. Sue and Sue performed all of the sound effects live from the fairly simple door opening and closing to the more complex footsteps crunching through the snow. (The rhythmic crunching of cornflakes in a pan). Larry Van Wagoner created special equipment to make the wind sounds and the applause sign. Thank you Larry!

A Thank you from Nadeen O'Meara: I would like to thank everybody who made cookies for *It's a Wonderful Life*. It makes refreshments run so smoothly when you have wonderful people who never hesitate to help out. I know it was Holiday time also and you all still came through and for that I am so grateful.

Christmas Outreach Project: During the run of *It's a Wonderful Life*, peanut butter, jelly and tube socks were collected for the Tawas Schools Back Pack program. This program helps to provide students in need with food for weekends and holidays. I'm not sure of the count on socks and jelly but it was reported that enough peanut butter was collected to last until Easter vacation. Thanks to all those who donated and to Sue Duncan who headed up our efforts.

Tons of Money

A great choice for the winter play, *Tons of Money* brightens the dreary winter. Dress rehearsal was very entertaining with wonderful performances from TBP veterans and newcomers alike. Cast members include John Morris, Jane Ruster, Alan Dalton, Jon Shaffer, Tina Dalton, LeRoy Wenzel, Taura Williamson, Will Williamson and Tim Curtis. We welcome Tim, Taura and Will to TBP and hope to see them in more shows. Kudos to Sharon Langley in her directing debut! Sharon had lots of help from June Hudgins, of course no one has more experience with British comedies than our own "Queen Mum". And hats off to Tina for not only perfecting a British accent but producing as well. The show continues Thursday, January 24 through Sunday, January 27, be sure to see it if you get the chance.

***More Tons of Money* by Diane Ray**

On Saturday, January 5th a work bee was held to paint backdrops for *Tons of Money*. What made this one different is where it was held. Suzan and Dave Witt provided several huge (5' x 8') sheets of cardboard and the Tawas Bay Performing Arts Center building. TBP members Diane Ray, Craig Sayer, Sharon Langley and Suzan spent 5 hours preparing and painting 3 panels of cardboard with river, woods and mountain scenery. The end result can be seen on stage for *Tons of Money* and on the Facebook page for the Tawas Bay Performing Arts Center. Thanks as well to Dave Witt and Dave Dunham for transporting the cardboard to the theater.

Thank you to the Michael Denney family for the use of their beautiful grandfather clock for the set. Not only did they let us use it but they delivered it to the Playhouse in the cold and dark of night.

A tremendous thank you is also in order to British born, Tawas Bay Artist June Longstreet. June graciously consented to allow us to hang her original painting of a British street scene on the set of *Tons of Money*. The painting is of the area where she grew up. She also loaned us her painting of "The Old Man" for display in the refreshment room. The artwork is very colorful and beautiful. It adds a bit of British flair to our Playhouse. We would like to thank Tawas Bay Artist Sharon Gramer for arranging this wonderful display.

Tryout Dates Set For *The Music Man* by Dennis Szatkowski Sr.

Well, the time is rapidly approaching for tryouts for *The Music Man* and I hope that we will have a large number of people who will come out to try out. This is a BIG show! For the "old timers" in the group, you will remember that we did this show back in 1986 and it was the first show that brought my family into the Tawas Bay Players family. It was a great show then and it still is today. It's a timeless musical and listed by many critics as being among the top musicals of all time. I will be directing the show with Vickie Szatkowski and Judy Quarters producing and I am extremely happy that Jim Sapp will be the Pit Director. Vocal directorship is pending.

This wonderful show is ideal for performers of all ages, from children to older adults and it is an ideal show to cultivate and bring in new members to our community theater family. I am asking everyone to please spread the word to anyone you may know that has thought about trying out for a play but may have just not taken the step to do so. There will be at least 10 principal speaking roles for men; 7 for women; 2 for boys and 3 for girls with additional needs for children, men and women townspeople/chorus members. I'm thinking we will need between 35 to 40 people in the cast. My son Dennis was 7 when he was given his first child lead role of "Winthrop" and I hope to find another boy of about that age for the role this time too. If you know of a young boy who can sing and act a little... please encourage him to tryout and let me know too!

I have to work around a busy theater schedule so the tryout dates and times will be:

Friday, February 8th: Children 6:00-7:30 p.m. and Adults 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 9th: Children 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. and Adults 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Show dates will be May 10-12 and 16-19 with the possibility of a couple added shows if needed.

An excerpt from MTI says this: "An affectionate paean to Smalltown, U.S.A. of a bygone era, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize - this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

Perfect for professional theatres, community groups, summer stock and schools alike, this award-winning, critically acclaimed Broadway classic is an all-American institution, thanks to its quirky characters, charmingly predictable dramatic situations, and one-of-a-kind, nostalgic score of rousing marches, barbershop quartets and sentimental ballads which have become popular standards. The cast features a soaring soprano ingénue, parts for young performers and children, and one of the musical theatre's treasures, a tour de force leading role for a charismatic actor who doesn't need to be a trained singer.

By turns wicked, funny, warm, romantic and touching, *The Music Man* is family entertainment at its best.

2nd Annual Park & Sell by Diane Ray

Our inaugural Park and Sell was such a success that we will be repeating it. As you prepare for spring cleaning be sure to save your unwanted articles to either rent a space or to donate to TBP for their table. We still need to confirm the date but we wanted you to start thinking about it early. Watch future newsletters for complete details.

Legacy Quilt Raffle by Janie Mundy

I'd like to thank everyone who made the raffle of the Legacy Quilt a very successful venture. The winning ticket was drawn on December 19 and the lucky winner was Diane Coffman. She is very excited to own this beautiful quilt.



I would like to congratulate Carol Kushion on her success with *Quilters*, her first time directing for TBP and thank her for her vision of "paying it forward". She put in a lot of hard work coordinating with all of our local quilt groups for all of the textiles used in the play and displayed throughout the theater. Thank you to Doni Butzin and her helpers Marilyn Denhoff and Pam Baker for donating all of their time and the materials to make the beautiful legacy quilt. Thank you to Debbie DeBois, Diane Ray, Tina Dalton and Mary Kiernan for selling the tickets. Thank you to Dr. Lesneski for donating the tickets for the raffle. We sold so many tickets that we were able to donate of \$1,325 to Shelter, Inc. That donation will be used to assist Iosco County residents in need. Tim Haskin & I went to Oscoda on December 19th to personally present the check to Shelter, Inc.

Editors note: Janie spent many hours coordinating this raffle as well as producing *Quilters*. Thank you Janie!

Orchestral Addition Complete by Keith Frank

Our long awaited dream of an Orchestra Pit has become a reality. Well sort of. Because of the difficulties with space requirements, etc. to construct an actual "pit", the Tawas Bay Players board opted instead to construct an "orchestral wing" off of the main stage. The area is 10' deep by almost 20' wide and the walls and ceiling are paneled with acoustical tiles. From this location, the musicians can now see what is happening on stage throughout the performance. By being in an area that never before existed, the pit is off stage and no longer has to take up valuable stage space during productions. And, if anyone saw the performances of *Quilters*, they really looked good. Dressed in theme costuming, they looked like they were part of the cast, as they in fact are.

The TBP board began planning in earnest in the fall of 2011. Members of the board met with Russo Engineering in the early fall to see whether an actual "pit" was even an option. As it turned out it was but at over twice the cost. The decision was made to go with a "wing" instead. Russo Engineering drew up preliminary plans and presented them to the board in November. Throughout the winter of 2011 and spring of 2012, many meetings were held. It was during one of these meetings that the decision was made to add an enclosed hallway that would go from back stage all the way down to the Newman/Lincoln street foyer. This addition would allow cast and crew to go from back stage to the back of the house without having to go outside of the building. Plans were finalized and the project went to bid in June 2012. The low bidder on the project was Lake Shore Construction (Barry Schley) at a cost of \$68,385.00. Russo Engineering followed up on Lake Shore's references and on July 23, a special board meeting was held to award the bid to Lake Shore Construction.

With an October 1 deadline, construction started almost immediately. During the construction period it was decided that, since *Quilters* included a musician in a wheel chair, we needed to add handicap access for cast and crew. Barry said he would donate the labor if TBP purchased the materials. We did and Barry added the exterior handicap ramp and access door. We also made some changes to the orchestral room and hallway lighting during this period. Several changes were made that added to the final cost of the project but there were several more minor changes that were made during this period with Barry doing them at no additional charge as long as TBP paid for the materials. All in all, the final bill for Lake Shore Construction came in at \$71,360.00. We also decided to carpet the new hallway and entire back stage area and Lincoln street hallway. This added an additional \$2,050.00 to the project. Engineering costs were \$8,060.00 which included all of the drawings, bid documents and project oversight. All in all, the entire project cost came out to \$82,237.60.

So, if you have been a longtime member of Tawas Bay Players as I have, it's nice to see that our dream of an orchestra area has finally come to fruition.

TBP Contact Information

Keith Frank – President	362-8492	k.frank@charter.net
June Hudgins – Vice President/House Manager	362-8423	jhudgins8423@charter.net
Vickie Szatkowski – Secretary	362-6419	densden2@yahoo.com
Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	pcasey@chartermi.net
Debra DeBois – Corresponding Secretary	362-6800	debois@charter.net
Chris Mundy	362-9199	daddoo10@hotmail.com
Penny Zacharias	739-1903	pzac7@yahoo.com
Judy Quarters	362-8463	judykq@hotmail.com
Tim Haskin	362-4978	tawastim@yahoo.com
Pam Frank – Newsletter Editor	362-8492	p.frank@charter.net

Suessical the Musical

This season's teen production will be an adventure into the imaginative world of Dr. Seuss. Directed by Alicia Sgambelluri, assisted by Lisa Denney this show will showcase the amazing talents of our youth. Cast members include Arden Torgusen as JoJo, Payton Knapp as Horton, Savannah Bettega as The Cat in the Hat, Jamie Walker as Mayzie LaBird, Donna Georgieff as the Sour Kangaroo, Grant Dehner, Brendan Dehner & Taylor Austin as the Wickersham Brothers, Gabriella Sahr, Alaina Dehner & Gabby Morris as the Bird Girls, Zachary Dalton as the Mayor of Whoville, Elise Heal as Mrs. Mayor, Cassandra Mousseau as Gertrude McFuzz, Kelli Philpot as the Grinch, Ryan Kaiserman as Jr. Wickersham, Amanda Denny as Fish, Tristan Emert as Vlad Vladikoff and Gabby Morris as Yertle the Turtle. So far the production staff consists of Diane Meyer as musical director, Pam Katona as vocal coach, Sunny Ragan as stage manager, make-up by Cheyenne Dowdy, Jamie Nunn on lights and costumes by Pam Frank. [Editor's note: Anyone interested in getting involved let me know and I'll get word to Alicia.](#)

Creating a World by Alicia Sgambelluri

As a less mature member of the players, I often find myself in the position of trying brave, new things that some of the long-standing members may think are not necessarily appropriate, accomplishable, or even sane. To these comments, I respond, "Anything is possible." As a fresh post-college director, I find myself being looked at as ambitious by my peers and advisors for choosing a show that is set in a fictional and imaginative world with a book that is 90% music. To these comments I say, "I have wings, I can fly." And as a young woman who is working full time, directing, teaching, and planning a wedding, my friends and family think that I am in "over my head." To them I say, "You are probably right, but it's my world, now I have to make it turn."

The world of Dr. Seuss is a whimsical fantasy world of talking animals, bold color, and imaginative architecture. It is a challenge as a director to find a creative way to address this world and put it onstage within the constraints of a theater building that has little space for moving scenery. It is also a challenge to populate a world of such imagination with our community's small number of young (albeit talented) actors and actresses. However, the group of teens I am working with bring life to the tiny stage world of my imagination in ways I hadn't even dared to think.

As a person in my twenties, I find that I can relate to my young performers in a way that many other directors cannot, as I am fewer years removed from my high school career than many who direct, and don't yet have children of my own. I clearly remember a time a few years ago when I took the stage alongside my friends to perform *Once upon a Mattress*. I remember thinking that it was hard work, but fun, so much fun, to create a world on stage that got me away from the hustle and bustle of high school. I love that I have the chance with *Seussical* to let this current group of young Thespians have a part of creating that.

As we began rehearsals at the beginning of November, I could see the light of anticipation in the eyes of my young cast as they remembered the beloved Dr. Seuss stories from their childhood while they sang through the peppy, energetic music. And now, as we prepare to begin the staging of the music that the teens have worked so hard on these last three months, I see the sparks of creativity beginning to jump (Literally in the case of my Wickersham brothers!). I see them

trying on their costumes and beginning to move the way their characters might. I see them looking at the model of my scenic design and imagining themselves placed upon it. At times like this, I realize that I have helped them create the world they see, and it brings me great joy.

It has yet to be seen if the scenic world of my imagination will come to life, as of the writing of this article anyway. But I see it, and I see all of the other pieces of the world fitting together. It's exciting, colorful, and full of new things that TBP haven't seen before. I assure you, dear readers; it will be colorful and full of life and things that the players won't expect. Regardless of all of these things, I am excited and happy to share this new world of imagination and all of my "thinks" with you!

Coat Room Update by Pat Casey

Next time you're at the theater, check out the coat room. It has had a complete makeover thanks to Mary Ann Michalski. Mary Ann took one look at the walls, including all the gouges, and didn't like what she saw. Next thing we know, she's in there mudding and getting the walls ready for a new coat of paint. To ensure that the walls stay in good shape she even added a chair rail. The ceiling was a little high for Mary Ann so she called Charles Shuart who lent a helping hand. Add the Memorial Plaque and the newly redone Founder's Award Plaque and we have a new coat room.

In addition to her work in the coat room area, Mary Ann has spent countless hours at the theater lately. She helped to build and then painted the set and stage floor for *Tons of Money*. Thank you Mary Ann for all your hard work and dedication. She has also been filling in as House Mum, cleaning the theater until June gets back on her feet. Mary Ann's next project is the lobby, watch for it to become beautiful. [Editor's note: Pat Casey is responsible for the beautiful new Founder's Award Plaque.](#)



Happy Birthday



February

- 6 Mike Robson
- 7 Pam Dibert
- 7 Dennis Szatkowski
- 8 Vincent Weiler
- 11 Kay Nordin
- 12 Dorothy Smith
- 15 Michael Denney
- 17 Tim Haskin
- 22 Tina Dalton
- 26 Mason Brewer
- 26 Charlene Castigila
- 26 Annette Zollner
- 27 LeighAnne Skiver
- 28 Ron Lockett

March

- 4 Bob O'Meara
- 4 Dr. Richard Kaiserman
- 7 Chaison Shuart
- 11 Ryan Kaiserman
- 16 John Henry
- 17 George Robson
- 19 Frank Brewer
- 20 Randy Brewer
- 22 Maripat O'Malley
- 22 Liam Strauer
- 24 Ethan Buchanan
- 27 Judy Merluzzi
- 27 Jessica Smith
- 28 Geri Koepke
- 30 Brianna Dalton
- 30 Cooper Gorman
- 31 Chris Nunn

April

- 1 Stephen Morris
- 2 Lisa Denney
- 3 Jayme Nunn
- 4 Amanda Grusecki
- 4 Jeff Hemphill
- 5 Jane Ruster
- 10 Sherill Frank
- 10 Sal Agnello
- 11 Margery MacMurray
- 14 Sharon Bailey
- 19 Harry Johnson
- 24 Jerry Wergedal
- 26 June Groff
- 27 Laura Zacharias
- 28 Barb Hunter

It's a Wonderful Life



TONS OF MONEY

