

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

July/August 2014



USO Show 2014 by Barb Hunter

Back by popular demand, TBP proudly presents the USO Show musical review for area audiences as the final show of the 2013-2014 season. Directed by Barb Hunter and Pat Casey, and produced by Judy Quarters, the program this year features the addition of the popular area jazz orchestra Sound Waves under the direction of Diane Meyer-Macdonald and Bethany Britt. It'll be a fun night of classic standards from the greatest generation, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the USO organization action serving US servicemen and their families for over for over 73 years.

The cast includes: Craig Sayer, Michal Jacot, Pat Casey, Pam Koepke, Greg Dahlstrom, George Robson, Mendy Shmina, David Stanchik, Chris Mundy, Laurie Jacot, Tracee Lentz, Pam Frank, Jeff Chadwick, Tom Fox, Barb Hunter, Penny Zacharias, and Bob Zacharias. Show times are 7 p.m. nightly July 11th, 12, 13th and 17-20. Tickets are \$11.00 and can be purchased on line at www.tawasbayplayers.com or the box office which will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a. m. to noon as well as prior to each performance. Any questions call 989-362-8373.

This whole show has its roots firmly planted in my childhood where every summer found my friends and me putting together a "show" for the whole neighborhood's entertainment and edification...where else could you watch 7-10 year olds lip synching to artists as varied as Nancy Sinatra to Nancy Wilson? We had dance numbers, jokes, skits, and of course music, music, music. I grew up listening to big band and swing music blaring from my dad's stereo in his home office...generally at pretty high volume...while he leaned back in his chair, eyes closed, and tapping his foot in time to the music. At times, we'd moan and groan and complain about his gross taste in music, begging my mom to intercede on our behalf...but somehow, over time, that music grew on me. That era of history became endlessly fascinating to me because of the tremendous courage and sacrifice it took to pull off an intervention of that magnitude. The fact that my dad was a part of it was a source of pride for me, and I only wish I had the foresight to write down the stories he'd share with me whenever I was smart enough to ask. Mom was a die-hard Sinatra fan, so between the two of them, we had lots of albums bulging in the side pockets of the stereo. I've always loved music and singing...probably because my parents did. So when I was 11 or 12 and watched an old movie about The Hollywood Canteen and the USO, I was hooked. I wanted to do something like that someday. In 2011, I got the chance to put on a show again, only this time, it was on a little grander scale, with a few more talented people, but still for a great cause. We had such fun and were able to recreate that spirit of camaraderie so prevalent in that era...for a few nights. That show and this one were (and are) tributes to my amazing dad, Fred Hunter and my Mom, Marie Hunter who lived and loved each other as husband and wife for over 50 years. They raised 7 pretty amazing children, thereby leaving behind a legacy I'm proud to share with others. This show is a thank you for teaching me so well. I sure hope you'll enjoy it for the labor of love it is. Thank you Poppa Fred. I miss you.



Fundraising Gift Basket Raffle by Janie Mundy

Last winter I came up with an idea to raise money with a Gift Basket Raffle. The original plan was to do this raffle with *The Women of Lockerbie* but since that show did not have an intermission we asked Barb Hunter if we could do it during her summer USO Show. She thought it could be easily incorporated as part of her show. Thank you Barb! A committee was formed and we decided to do one basket for each show so the winner could take their prize with them when they left the theater and we didn't have to buy a raffle license. The baskets were put together by the committee members as follows: Janie Mundy – Movie Night, Tina Dalton – Pampered Pets, Pam Frank – East Tawas 150th Birthday Celebration, Diane Ray – Fun in the Sun, June Hudgins – Homemade Goodies, and Deb DeBois – Plant Hanger Lottery Tickets. There was also a basket full of donations from local merchants. Plus we had enough extra items to put together a grab bag basket for dress rehearsal. We want to thank our local merchants, the city of East Tawas and also the USO Show patrons for their wonderful response. I'd like to thank my committee for their hard work preparing the baskets, Deb DeBois for selling the tickets before the show and during intermission and the TBP Board for approving my idea in the first place.

TBP Picnic & Annual Meeting

What: TBP Annual Membership Dinner/Meeting

When: Sunday, August 10th, Social hour to begin at 3:30

Where: Dewey Durant Park, West Franklin Street, East Tawas



The Players will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, plates, cups, silverware and ice. Each member/member family is asked to bring whatever you would like to drink (alcohol is permitted) and a dish to pass that will serve 10 – 12. We will mix things up a bit this year and ask those with last names beginning with the letters **A-G to bring some kind of side dish or casserole** (baked beans, rice, potatoes, etc), those beginning with the letters **H-N to bring a dessert**, and if your last name begins with the letters **O-Z please bring a salad** (i.e. tossed, fruit, vegetable, Jell-O).

This year, thanks to Sue Duncan, we are planning a social hour with outdoor games to begin at 3:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting, election of Board Members and selection of the Founders' Award winner will be held immediately following dinner. Board members up for reelection this year are Chris Mundy, Vickie Szatkowski and Penny Zacharias.

If anyone is interested in running for one of these board seats please call or email Keith Frank (362-8492 or k.frank@charter.net) so he can prepare the ballots.

Just to make sure everyone understands who may vote, the Tawas Bay Players bylaws state: The membership of each Tawas Bay Player shall terminate annually at the end of the annual meeting. Voting shall be restricted to active members at the annual meeting or any special meetings called by the Board of Directors. To be eligible to vote, you must be an active member 45 days prior to the meeting.

Please call or email Keith or Pam Frank (362-8492 or p.frank@charter.net) no later than Wednesday, August 6, 2014 to let us know how many will attend and whether you prefer hamburgers or hot dogs to eat. We also need help the day of the picnic with setup and cleanup so please let us know if you can help.

Picnic? Duh....What picnic??

What are you doing on Sunday, August 10th? If a friend or spouse asks that, hopefully your answer will be, "I'm going to the Tawas Bay Players' picnic and annual meeting in the afternoon, what else?" If that is NOT your answer... here are twelve reasons to change your mind.

1. You pay dues to be a member, right?!? So, be one! Get involved. It's really easy at the picnic. Eat, vote and leave.
2. The potluck foods are always phenomenally good. After all, who'd bring anything less than their best recipe to a potluck?
3. You get to bring your own favorite adult beverage rather than being subjected to somebody else's favorite drink.
4. You'll be one of the first to know who is chosen for this year's Founders Award. Maybe somebody you know, or maybe even.... YOU!
5. There's also likely to be other news and/or gossip exchanged that might be of interest. Bring on the grandbaby pictures!
6. The annual meeting is usually short and informative. Honest!
7. The TBP Board will have 3 openings and your vote COUNTS a lot!
8. You get to watch others cook burgers and hot dogs for your consumption and it won't cost you a cent! Free Show!
9. It's possible you might meet some of the people whose names you've heard mentioned many times, and it's possible you might enjoy their company!
10. Your friend, or spouse, will be happy you said yes to going to the picnic, and that alone is reason enough! (Keep the Peace, baby!)
11. Besides, what else have you got to do that's more important... Really, hmmm?? It is YOUR community theatre, right? So you need to be there!
12. See you there, or Be Square!

Not Bored Being on the Board by Sue Duncan

I didn't know what being a Tawas Bay Players Board member would be like when I was nominated and elected last August. A year later, here I am trying to give a little insight to general members about what being a member of the Board is like, and encouraging you to nominate somebody or to be nominated at the annual August meeting.

The officers do tremendous feats behind the scenes, no pun intended, for all of the members and the community at large. Wow! They work hard for all of us. The monthly meetings tend to run two hours or longer... which was a surprise to me. They are not like the annual meeting, which is always amazingly short. Monthly meetings are spirited, informative and fun meetings, usually. So don't let the time issue scare you away. They are long because there are usually plenty of topics that need consideration and discussion.

Here are two examples of physical changes this year, of which all of us can be proud. The new air conditioning is lovely, but getting it took much research and several meetings with the contractor and the board officers and then the full board to finalize. I would bet Pat Casey and Keith Frank invested about 30 hours. The same is true about the six new additional microphones and the sound system. That project was another 30 hours plus for them. These big-ticket items wouldn't be possible without the Board's careful planning AND money previously earned by members (you!) selling raffle tickets. Speaking of raffle tickets; another Board Officer, Corresponding Secretary Deb DeBois, "lives" in a tent most of the summer selling tickets and helping promote the raffle which is a major money maker for TBP.

The Board considers plenty of other issues and situations besides the physical building. For instance planning the 2014 - 15 season with the guidance of the Artistic Advisory Committee, surveying the membership about term limits, looking at closed circuit TV to replace baby monitors, safety issues with stage lights and of course, paying the bills! You get the idea. This is why the meetings are longer than I expected. At the beginning of this I should've just said, "The Board deals with a lot more than I realized."

My conclusion? It is rewarding to have this opportunity to serve on the Board. I am happy, however, to see each meeting come to an end. There is a lot to think about; my brain gets full! I also feel a sense of satisfaction at being involved in a group where so many people are dedicated to, care about, and have pride in their organization. It was a good decision for me to accept this position. You might think about agreeing to run for a seat on the Board. Perhaps you would be the one to make a difference and a contribution with a long lasting impact on our TBP community and the surrounding communities as well.

TBP Board 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
Sue Duncan	362-2522	smdunc@charter.net

The Logging Legacy

The Logging Legacy, an original play written by Michal Jacot will be performed at Harbor Park at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 3rd and Wednesday, August 6th as part of the East Tawas Sesquicentennial Celebration. The cast consists of Keith Frank as the Sawyer, Mark Finnell as the Timber Cruiser and Dennis Szarkowski as the Riverman. Michal wrote the play to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lumberman's Monument. It was first performed in the early 1980s with the original cast of Ray Skiver, Ron Warner and Tim Walenzik. In the early 1990s there were several encore performances at the Monument throughout the summer with 3 different casts. Catch the show if you can.

2014 Raffle Update



It is hard to imagine that this is our 15th Annual Summer Raffle. This past weekend marked the turning point, we covered all expenses and as of this writing we are \$273 ahead. Of the \$4003 in tickets Deb has sold at this point, only \$650 has come from members' ticket sales. Bob O'Meara is currently our top seller, having just picked up his third set of tickets. Now is the time to really push the ticket sales to friends, family and heck even total strangers! The amount of profit is really in our hands; Deb still has some major events left to attend but if we, as members, could sell all of our tickets we would be in great shape.

Our raffle prizes again this year are a John Deere D-130 Lawn Tractor with bagger, an LG 50" TV and Blu-Ray theater system, a 42,000 BTU Weber Genesis Gas Grill w/ cover, cooking utensils, and grilling spices, and a Cash Prize of \$100 plus Two Season Tickets. Our costs are up by about \$300 this year, due to adding the bagger and increased insurance costs. The raffle goes until the end of September with the drawing on the 29th at WKJC during morning drive time. So sell, sell, sell. Please if anyone wants to help sell at any location or if you need **more tickets to sell**, contact Debbie DeBois at 362-6800. Some of the places you can find her are: Neiman's, Farm Market, Iosco County Fair, Fine Art Show in Tawas City Park, East Tawas Sidewalk Sales, the Sand Lake Festival, Blues Fest, Labor Day Art, East Tawas, Ladies Softball, Dewey Durant Park, and the Hale Balloon Festival.

Deb would like to recognize and thank those who help get her to various locations and those who help her sell, allowing bathroom and food breaks: Jeff Chadwick, Keith Frank, Bob & Penny Zacharias, Tom King, Bob O'Meara, Jim & Bill Erickson (from the Chamber), George & Kay Robson, Chris Mundy, Lynn Phillips, Mike Robson, Mary Kiernan, June Groff, June Hudgins, Diane Ray, Sue Dowell, and Sharon Langley.

Tryouts Set for *Merry Christmas Dear Grandpa* by Michal Jacot

As most of you know by now, our fall play is titled *Merry Christmas Dear Grandpa*. MCDG is a holiday-themed comedy, written and directed by me. And now I will take your questions about the show. Yes, the good-looking person sitting in front of the computer...?

What's it about? Basically, it's about three generations of a family getting together for a Christmas dinner. There's more, of course, but since "family" and "Christmas dinner" are ripe with comedy, I'll let you figure out the rest.



Can I bring my saintly old Aunt Petunia to it? You sure can. It's a family comedy, safe for everyone

How many people do you need for the cast? A total of six, three men and three women.

Is there a part in it for me? Well, since the cast spans three generations, pretty much anyone over 30 has a shot at filling a part. There are three siblings who can be anywhere from 30 to 40, their parents, who can be 55-65, and a senior citizen who can be 80 on up. Makeup works wonders, so don't obsess about the ages.

Is it any good? It was picked up for publication by Eldridge Publishing this past summer. It is a sequel to another play of mine, *Happy Birthday Dear Grandpa*, which has been done in 27 states so far. So they must have some faith in it. And I like to think that it's good, yeah.

When are tryouts? Tryouts are **Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12 and 13 at 6:30**. If you arrive late, no problem; just be aware that we'll start without you and if we wrap up early you'll miss them altogether, so don't be overly late.

What should I be doing right now? Running to your calendar and marking these dates down. Go ahead, do it. I'll wait.

What should I bring to tryouts? A birthday card, August 12th is June Luv's birthday. Even if she's not there, bring one. Let's show her the love. Beyond that, just be prepared to stand up in front of people and read. Oh, and it wouldn't hurt to bring a list of any potential vacations, out-of-town trips, and other commitments you might have up through mid-October.

I'll be busy both of those nights overthrowing a small South American country. I want to try out, but freedom and democracy comes first. What do I do? Let me know of your interest, and I'll certainly keep you in mind. It's always best if you can physically be there at least one night (both is excellent) to see how you read in various combinations with others. Obviously, those who show up will be first on the list for consideration, but if a conflict in your schedule prevents you from attending, don't let it stop you. Just let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Can I come to the first night of tryouts, ask to take a script home, promise to bring it back the next night, and then never show up again? That would be a no. In fact, we won't even have scripts at tryouts, so don't bother asking.

What do you mean you're not going to have scripts at tryouts? Just show up and find out, okay?

I go to pro wrestling matches with Aunt Petunia every Thursday night. If you're planning on rehearsing on Thursdays, does that mean I won't be considered for a part? Nope. It just tells me that if I want you in a part badly enough, I'll make the adjustment. The important thing is to let me know of conflicts at tryouts; I'll do my best to work around everyone's schedules.

When are production dates? Production dates are **October 10, 11, and 12 and October 16, 17, 18 and 19. Check your calendar to see if you're available. It's a real drag when you realize halfway through rehearsals that you've scheduled that South American overthrow thing on one of those weekends.**

Who else is working on this thing? I am pleased to announce that Sue Duncan has agreed to be my Assistant Director and Judy Quarters will be my producer. Trust me; I only surround myself with competent and fun people, so this production will be drama-free.

What can I do to irritate you? Come to tryouts, get cast, then call me the next day and say you can't take the part because of a conflict you already knew about. Really, if you can't do the time, don't do the crime. Don't try out if you can't commit to the rehearsals.

What's so special about this show? Because it has only recently been published, there is a very good chance that ours will be the first production of this published script in Michigan, and possibly the first production *anywhere*. Being in the cast and crew of a world premiere is always good for bragging rights. Plus there's always the "local author" thing, which is good for our town.

What if I throw up when I get in front of people? I'd advise against trying out. Instead, work behind the scenes; see Judy to find out what you can do. It's a pretty simple script, production-wise; nothing too outlandish or outrageous. We're talking Theatre Lite - all the fun of working on a show with minimal work.

What kind of rehearsal schedule are we looking at? I'm looking at the traditional three nights a week schedule. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are anticipated but not written in stone. I will start rehearsals at 6:30; the acts are all fairly short so I don't see a lot of late nights happening.

I want to have fun. Do you promise I'll have fun? When I direct a show I do my best to make sure everyone enjoys the experience as much as possible. A happy cast and crew radiate that feeling to the audience. Keep in mind, though, that alcohol will not be permitted at rehearsals or productions (I don't want you to be *that* happy).

The script is funny; why aren't you this funny in real life? You have to pay me.

My question wasn't on the list! Stop whining and just call me at **362-4765** for any other information.

A note from Barb Hunter – Thank you!

I'd just like to take a second to thank all my TBP family and friends for all the retirement good wishes, cards, and gifts as I celebrate this next stage in my journey. It is nice to feel all that love and support behind me.



TBP Singers

The TBP Singers have been taking a little break due to the USO Show BUT we will soon be getting started again. Watch for us on Sunday, August 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at Harbor Park as we help kick off the East Tawas Sesquicentennial Celebration. We have been invited to sing with the Community Band on Monday, August 4th at 7 p.m. and we will be picking up our Thursdays in the Park at 7 p.m. on August 14th and 21st. We will also be performing a Patriotic Program on August 23rd in Tawas City. No rest for the weary!

New Air-Conditioning Units + Heat by Pat Casey

After many, many years of sweltering in the theater for our summer productions (and sometimes spring), the board voted to put in new air-conditioning units. What a difference! Before we would turn on the air and let it run for days on end and it still wouldn't cool down the theater. AND for those of you that have been onstage it felt like you were in the tropics! Plus the cost of running the old unit was astronomical! These new units cool the theater down literally in a matter of minutes and should prove to be very cost efficient. I guess we'll find out when we get our first bill but that's what we were told. There are three units - two in the theater and one onstage. All can be controlled separately. Even the tech booth and the "pit" cooled down! We actually had people tell us it was too cool in the theater! We will get it figured out. Our other problem was heating the theater in the winter. The units in the theater (not onstage) are also heating units. Again, should be much more cost efficient than our old system. The old system still heats/cool the rest of the building but that was never a problem. The long ductwork runs to the back of the theater have been an issue from the get go. The board did a lot of research and spent many hours trying to find a solution. Hopefully, we have succeeded!

Third Annual Park and Sell by Diane Ray

The third annual Park and Sell was a great success thanks to our special volunteers, Janie Mundy, Kay Robson, Susan Rook, Barb Hunter and her kids, Ashley, Taura and Will Williamson, Ken Rogers, Katherine Becotte, Carole Reed, June Hudgins, Diane King, June Groff, Mary Ann Michalski, the Shuart family, and Tara Western.



Saturday, May 24, 2014 was a gorgeous day, warm and sunny for the parking lot filled with vendors. We rented 15 spaces at \$10 each, cookies and water donations came to \$64, and the TBP donations tables brought in \$289, for a profit of \$466 after subtracting the cost of advertising (\$37). This was our most successful sale ever! Thanks to the members that came as vendors: Jon Shaffer, Mary Staweke, Jane Hackborn, the Dalton family, Melissa Eldred, Penny LeClair, and Diane Ray.

All proceeds will be used for tools and supplies we need for the theater and the extras that would just be nice to have. Some ideas for purchase include a bench or table for outside, a Cricket machine, a nail gun, or maybe an outdoor trash bin protected from animals. We would be interested in any ideas members have about what they would like to see at the theater. None of this would have been possible without the effort of our volunteers. I sincerely want to thank all of you for being there and contributing your time and hard work. I hope to see all of you next year. The date for the sale next year will be after Memorial Day weekend now that Janie has retired. We are thinking the weekend after Memorial Day, but watch for complete information in a future newsletter.

Thank You Carole by Pam Frank

Many thanks to new member Carole Reed and her granddaughter Sam who cleaned out and straightened the fabric storage room above the stairs in the theater. Pam Frank and Lisa Denney spent several hours sorting and packing and labeling fabric during the production of *Sleeping Beauty* but it quickly became an awful mess and was completely inaccessible. As I was working on the costumes for the USO Show I held my breath and closed my eyes before opening the door and preparing to venture inside. What an incredibly pleasant surprise when I easily found what I needed! Carole also worked on the costumes for *The Women of Lockerbie* and did an outstanding job. Now she is in charge of refreshments for the USO show. Welcome Carole and thank you; your efforts are greatly appreciated.

***The Women of Lockerbie*, a Play Worthy of Submitting for Competition by Diane Ray**

"WOW!" This was the comment I heard most often from theatergoers after they saw the May 2014 production of *The Women of Lockerbie*. More comments: "this was not like other plays that you usually perform", "this play brought me to tears", "what great emotion", "I didn't realize we had actors that could do such intense drama", "I never thought about the people of Lockerbie and the effect the terrorist bombing had on them".

How many of our productions can bring about such comments? Truly we took a chance on *Lockerbie*, but the rewards were great. To get people to say "WOW!" is significant in itself. But also to get people to think, have emotion and feel and learn at the same time is outstanding! Not to mention the standing ovations! I think this in itself is enough reward, not the box office receipts, not the empty seats, not the tally of profit. Let us be known for producing high quality theater with thought provoking subject matter, laughter, and tears. Many thanks to Deb DeBois, and the cast and crew for bringing *The Women of Lockerbie* to the stage. I also want to send a note of thanks to May and John Bozick for contributing the beautiful Scottish kilts and sashes that were displayed in the refreshment room during the performances. And the really delicious authentic Scottish shortbread cookies!

***The Women of Lockerbie* by Tim Haskin**

Wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! How about the superb performance all of the cast turned in during their "actualization," of *The Women of Lockerbie*. Thanks Deb, for directing and helping choose this play to be done. To Suzan, Ray, Sue, June, Alan, Tina, Stacy, Reesie, and Donna, a rousing BRAVO, THREE CHEERS, RAH, RAH, Standing Ovation, Loud applause to you all. I was thoroughly entertained, as were the multitudes of theatre attendees I talked with after the performances were finished. The cast and crew deserve kudos. I hope this is not June Love's last performance as she proved she still has it. I was especially proud of "newbie" performer and good friend Stacy Perrot and hope she comes back for more by trying out again soon. It would be neat for her and her daughter(s) to appear on stage together. You were all so believable in your accents, characterizations and deliveries. This was a great day (a number of them) for Tawas Bay Players and will be well remembered for many years to come. Thanks for making theatre in the Tawas area such a quality, fun and emotional experience. The "ole" teacher in me says A+..... (I can hear it now but you are an old teacher-HA). Again, thanks so much for what you all created.

Camp Cedar Ridge Performing Arts Company by Diane Ray

The Huron Forest Camp Cedar Ridge production of *Oklahoma* came and went out with a roar! Did you see it? If not you really missed something! The Cedar Ridge Camp headed by Jessica French, transformed the Oscoda High School Stage on Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28.

I found out about Camp Cedar Ridge from Suzan Witt last year when I went to their production of *The Sound of Music*. The quality of theatrical performance by this group is outstanding! Consisting of professional actors, directors, producers, and crew, the performing arts company enlists the help of people and auditions children from all over the United States. Our own Ryan Kaiserman (Winthrop from *The Music Man*) and Arden Torgusen (JoJo from the teen production of *Suessical*) auditioned for the show last fall and were invited to attend the camp in the Huron Forest for two weeks and learned their parts for *Oklahoma* in only 9 days!

Unable to reach anyone at the TBP Playhouse, Jessica French contacted Suzan Witt for assistance with the production. Suzan called on her husband Dave, the Dalton family, Diane Ray, and Pam Frank along with others from Witz End Performing Arts Center, who gladly lent a helping hand with set construction, painting, costumes, and ushering. What a rewarding experience! We worked alongside talented, professional actors, set designers, costume designers, choreographers, musicians, and technicians.

Over the course of preparations for the play, many new ideas were exchanged about plays, directing, costumes, and set construction. I personally was given a young intern by the name of Jerlisa Culpepper, age 19, from Jackson, Mississippi, to work with and teach the art of painting cardboard to make roof shingles for the farm house. She learned quickly and took over my job and finished it!

Jessica French with assistance from the Oscoda Rotary Club produced a showcase performance of her talented singers with a Disney song review at the band shell at the Oscoda beach park on the Saturday afternoon prior to the performances of *Oklahoma*. Many of the singers were theater professionals and sounded amazing!

Even if you've seen a play before, it always pays to see how someone else does it. I always enjoy seeing how a play is staged, the design and costumes. I always learn something. Never be afraid to see any production by this fine group of people. I truly enjoyed the whole experience and look forward to helping again next summer with their production of *Annie*. Watch the newspaper next year for the performance dates.

I know I included this in the last newsletter but I feel it bears repeating. We may never again have the opportunity to see such a wide range of quality theater productions so close to home.

Future CTAM/AACT Conferences 2014-2015

Conference	When	Where	Synopsis
CTAM Fall Conference	September 26-28, 2014	McGuire's in Cadillac	Michigan workshops, etc.
State AACT festival	March 27-29, 2015	Owosso	Michigan only - One hour productions
Regional AACT festival	April 16-19, 2015	Midland	Winners of State festivals in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin & Ohio
National AACT festival	June 22-28, 2015	Grand Rapids—Amway Grand	Winners of each regional festival, the best of the best

CTAM=Community Theater of Michigan

AACT=American Association of Community Theaters



Happy Birthday



August

- 4 Brenda Chadwick
- 4 Reesie Smith
- 4 Amanda Denney
- 5 Taylor Huitema
- 6 Donna Dahlstrom
- 12 June Hudgins
- 15 Jeff Chadwick
- 15 Brian Shmina
- 20 Shirley Robson
- 23 Bob Zacharias
- 23 Sharon Huitema
- 23 Charleson Shuart
- 24 Karlene Falker
- 24 Jolene Grusecki
- 29 Pam Koepke
- 30 Phyllis Spencer

September

- 3 Laken Buchanan
- 20 Elaine Shmina
- 21 Tara Western
- 25 Lilyana Denney
- 29 Tom King
- 30 Vicki Sanborn

October

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



USO Photos by Keith Frank

