

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

April/May 2013



Mary Ann and the Lobby Renovation

Is Mary Ann Michalski embarking on a second career in painting and wall board repair? Not really, she just has a great deal of dedication to making the theater as beautiful as possible. And she accomplishes what she sets out to do!!! She started rather small, repainting the outside steps. Next she tackled the coat room area and it looked so good that the lobby was pretty shabby by comparison. So, she took on the lobby. Of course as it goes with every project, it turned out to involve a lot more than just a fresh coat of paint. Pat Casey removed the circular plates covering the holes left when the lights were moved and helped put in screen and said "Okay Mary Ann, now fix it." Mary Ann tells me "I was not a happy camper because I was not sure how to mud and fix those nine holes, so you could not tell they were there. New experience for me! It turned out in the long run and I was happy."

We also want to thank Charles Shuart who painted the large wall in the lobby and the trim above the ticket booth. He did the mudding and sanding in the ticket booth before he and Mary Ann painted it. Thank you to Nadeen O'Meara who did 90% of the railing and to Donald Zeiders who caulked the spaces on the bottom of the railing before it was painted. Pat Casey is responsible for rehangng the donor recognition plaques. It is certainly a beautiful space now and we appreciate our members taking care to keep it that way. Thank you Mary Ann, we appreciate your time and talents.

Calling All Directors by Vincent Weiler

The Artistic Committee is looking to find out who is interested in directing for next season's productions. That would be all shows of 2014 (winter through fall). We have several ideas for hit shows but we are open to your ideas also. If any member has an idea for a show you would like to suggest please contact us before April 17th. Contact Vincent Weiler at vweiler@ioscoresa.net. Some of the plays we are looking at are *Stop the World...*, *Pajama Game*, *Men On Ice*, *The Apple Tree*, *Women of Lockerbie*, *Love letters*, *The Gin Game*, *Luce Talk Tavern* and *Second Samuel*.

Suessical the Musical

TBP's teen production of *Suessical the Musical* was amazing. Our enormously talented group of kids captured all the energy and imagination of the beloved Dr. Suess children's books. The music and the fun were non-stop with acrobatics, fun makeup and bright costumes. They really used the whole theater for the production, not just the stage. I want to offer congratulations to Alicia Sgambelluri, Lisa Denney, Pam Katona and Diane Meyer for getting these wonderfully talented kids on the stage. Cast members included Savannah Bettega, Arden Torguson, Payton Knapp, Donna Georgieff, Jamie Walker, Cassandra Mousseau, Zachary Dalton, Elise Heal, Kelli Philpot, Ryan Kaiserman, Brendan Dehner, Grant Dehner, Taylor Austin, Alaina Dehner, Gabby Morris, Amanda Denney and Tristen Emmert. The pit, under Diane Meyer's direction was wonderful, as always, thanks to musicians JoAnn Noffsinger, Cheryl Miller, Margery MacMurray, Lyn Behnke, Calvin Lentz, Joe Cziaka, Pam Katona, Jim DiLoretto, Susan Rook, Rich Cranston, Anissa Emery, Dave Dunham and Ron Lockett. We were fortunate to have young people working backstage as well with Cheyenne Dowdy in the makeup room, Jayme Nunn on lights and Kelli Philpot painting the set backdrops. Check the last page for photos.



Thunder Bay Theatre by Pam Frank

Thunder Bay Theatre is located in Alpena in a refurbished historic building. They have a core company of professional actors and are supplemented by local volunteers both on and off stage. I have seen several of their shows over the years, most recently *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent*, *Legally Blonde* and *Cats*. It is a great way to see a variety of shows with a minimum of travel and ticket expense. But what always seems to come to mind when I see one of their shows is how lucky we are to have such dedicated and talented people in our group and, even more, how fortunate to have the support of our community and patrons. They just managed to raise the \$15,000 they needed for a new sound system and we spent \$80,000 on a new addition. It is pretty amazing what we have here, we should all be very proud. Check out TBT's web site for more information at <http://www.thunderbaytheatre.com/>.

***The Music Man* by Judy Quarters**

Cast

Harold Hill..... Jon Shaffer
Marion Paroo Alicia Sgambelluri
Mrs. Paroo..... Cheryl Colvin
Winthrop Paroo..... Ryan Kaiserman
Amaryllis..... Chele Shuart
Mayor Shinn Charles Shuart
Ulalie Shinn..... Peggy Fitzpatrick
Zaneeta Shinn..... Gabby Morris
Gracie Shinn Meagan Sykes
Marcellus Washburn Seth Waite
Conductor..... Cory Ragan
Maud Dunlop..... Diane Ray
Alma Hix Jane Hackborn
Ethel Toffelmier..... Suzette Rodriguez
Mrs Squires..... Elaine Shmina
Constable Locke Lyle Groff
Charlie Cowell..... Rob Nordin

Barber Shop Quartet

Chris Mundy
John Morris
Barry Hamilton
Jay Rock

Town Folks

Cassandra Verellen
Sandy Courval
Melissa Eldred
Sunny Ragan
Buck Weaver
Janie Mundy

Young Folks

Kallie Jordan
Charlotte Foether
Charleson Shuart
Katie Boensch
Jayden Quarters
Lilijana Denney
Kelli Philpot
Arina Wade
Alexey Wade
Taylor Adams

We got off to a little bit of a rocky start with this production, but things are coming together. There are a bunch of new faces in our cast, great for our little theater and our audiences. We have Dennis Szatkowski II, Tracee' Lentz, Dale Harwood and Christine Huebner all helping with vocals and our songs are beginning to sound great!

Last night Dennis II was working with Ryan Kaiserman. Winthrop from 30 years ago is working with our Winthrop of today. And Tim Haskin, the former Harold Hill, will be working with Jon Shaffer who is our 2013 Harold. Moments like that sure make all the work worth it.

We need to share our talents with others whether it is lights, costumes, tickets, props, building, etc. If you are doing a job, bring along a friend, young person, or neighbor and teach them.

We still need a House Manager, someone to make sure that the theater, refreshment room and bathrooms are neat before each performance and to help tidy up afterward. We have some folks who can help once in a while, so if you can't commit to both week-ends, the job could be shared. We are open to any help. Also, we are looking for painters. If you are interested in helping with these or any other job, please let Vickie or Judy know. We are practicing Monday, Wednesday and Thursday so stop by and see what we need help with.

Members, Your Opinion Matters! by Diane Ray

Tawas Bay Players Board meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:30. All TPB members are welcome to attend these meetings and give your input. Please use this privilege to voice your concerns, make suggestions or just listen in to find out what is happening within your theater. Our Community Theater is only as strong as we make it and our success depends on everyone! If you would like to be added to agenda to discuss something with the board, please call Keith.

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
Tim Haskin	362-4978	tawastim@yahoo.com

Top Ten Reasons to Attend CTAM Summer Master Classes by Tara Western

Unlike David Letterman, I'm going to start with the Number One reason, as you may quit reading.

1. **Fun** - I went to the Art of Comedic Acting a few summers ago and it was a blast! No, it's not canoeing and short sheeting, but it's still a great experience.
2. **Scholarship Money** - Money is available to help pay for the trip from both TBP and CTAM.
3. **Learning** - you will learn soooooooooo much. And it's hands-on, with the best instructors, which leads me to.....
4. **Leeds Bird** - A theater "god" in my experience. I have been watching him on stage and directing at the Bay City Players since the 1970s! He will be teaching "Solving Directors' Problems". Leeds, a longtime director at Bay City Players is experienced as a professional actor, director, and graduate level theater instructor. Leeds has a BA and MA in theater. And besides that, he is always willing to help, and is a lot of fun!
5. **Campfire** - We had a campfire at night on the shores of Higgins Lake with adult beverages. (See #1)
6. **Sharing** - You will meet thespians from all around the state, get to know them, learn from them and bond with them.
7. **Food** - Great food!!!! Three squares a day.
8. **Accommodations** - It's a dorm but totally adequate. A Spartan-like weekend is good for the soul! (Makes you appreciate your own bedroom!)
9. **Benefits to Our Group** - We will end up with new and/or revived directors and with synergy and come up with all sorts of new ideas for TBP.
10. **I Don't Want To Go Alone!**

Just the facts, ma'am! Two master classes are being held this summer at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake the weekend of July 19-21. Master classes are an intensive workshop on a topic that is relevant to all community theaters. A couple of TPB members going to each class would give us a wonderful knowledge base and some new and fresh ideas. This year's classes are for directors (See # 4 above) and Marketing, Promotion, and Using Social Media. For more information on the workshop and scholarship opportunities check the CTAM web site at <http://www.communitytheatre.org/>. The deadline for a CTAM scholarship is June 30. If you have questions you can also contact Tara Western at tarawestern@hotmail.com. For a copy of the TBP scholarship guidelines and application you can contact me at p.frank@charter.net.

Park and Sell 2013 by Diane Ray

The 2nd annual Park and Sell will be held on Saturday, May 25th from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. So, start saving all those gently used items that no longer need; don't throw them away. You can rent a space for \$10, fill your vehicle and park it in the Playhouse parking lot. You may rent more than one space if you desire or a handicap spot if you have a permit. Anyone can rent a space to sell but we are opening it up to TBP members first. You can sell new or used items but please no clothing. Last year merchants brought in hand-made jewelry, painted rocks, plants, used furniture, tools, bikes, gourmet popcorn, arts and craft items, lawn ornaments and household goods. You may bring tables for display and suggest you bring a chair as well.

TBP will have their own sale table(s) for donated items, yummy baked goods and water. We need donations of items to sell and baked goods. Please call Diane Ray at 305-6767 or Janie Mundy at 362-9199 to reserve your space, to offer baked goods or for more information. Money raised from this event will be used to purchase theater tools and supplies.

I wanted to share this wonderful email with all of you.

Dear Pam:

My name is Tracey Lehman and my father is Gene Hickman, a former East Tawas Player. I came across your fall newsletter that had a tribute to my father, who passed away in September. My father truly enjoyed his involvement with the Players group as it gave him a sense of involvement and broadened his circle of friends and acquaintances. My father's stage debut was in Arsenic and Old Lace. My sisters and I, as well as his granddaughters, were in the audience to cheer him on.

My father was a man of honor and integrity. As you may know, he was involved in the local VFW honor guard as it gave him a continued sense of duty and commitment to his country. His memory was amazing. He could remember many details from a meeting that many of us would probably forget. He could remember conversations he had with people he met just one time and go on to remember what they were wearing, the day they met and what they had for lunch! He loved to work with his hands and had a passion for leather-working. Many people don't know that my father was in the delivery room when his first granddaughter was born. My dad came into the delivery room to tell me he was there, and he ended up holding my hand during my daughter's birth. It was a special moment between us that I will always cherish.

My father's sickness and subsequent death was sudden. Unfortunately for my sisters and our families, we were prevented from saying our last goodbyes to him. We were prevented from seeing him at the hospital and from attending his funeral.

I am thrilled to see that his name will be engraved on a memorial plaque at the theater. He would be honored and humbled. Thank you again for the tribute to my father.

Tracey Lehman



Happy Birthday



May	June	July
2 Diane King	4 Michal Jacot	2 Al Bixby
2 Jim Gorman	6 Travis Pearce	2 Alan Dalton
5 Diane Brewer	8 Mary Kiernan	5 Dennis Szatkowski II
5 Kelsey Mudry	10 Jodielynn Price	5 Buck Weaver
7 Gregory Jacot	11 Dana Gorman	6 Sandy Schorffhaar
7 Bill Grusecki	14 Fred Zollner	9 Christine Huebner
7 Charles Shuart Jr.	15 Cheryl Colvin	9 Feliwelyn Shuart
12 Ray Skiver	15 Rob Nordin	12 Shelby Evans
13 Pam Frank	15 James Denney	12 John Morris
13 Marie Girard	16 Lynn Phillips	12 Diane Meyer
17 Suzan Witt	16 Andy Marciniak	13 Larry Van Wagoner
17 Warren Brewer	16 Ethan Archambault	15 Deb DeBois
20 Kaye Wergedal	20 Christian Wygant	18 Katie Zacharias
22 Erica Tatum	21 Laurie Jacot	18 Mary Henry
25 Mike Merluzzi	22 Pat Ruster	18 Betty DeWilde
26 Sue Dowell	26 Kay Robson	21 Gatlyn Dunham
26 Tom LeClair	27 Craig Sayer	22 Janie Mundy
27 JoAnn Noffsinger	27 Sheldon Skiver	27 Dee Bixby
30 Andre DeWilde	30 Mary Ann Michalski	
30 Alan Kushion		

Art Shaken, Not Stirred

This creative experience will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tawas Bay Performing Arts Center. Taught by TBP's own Diane Ray, you need absolutely no special talent to take this class. Your night will be filled with new concepts in painting on canvas. All materials are supplied, just bring a beverage and we'll have snacks and goodies. The theme is totally Italian....

There is a charge of \$20 per person to cover the cost of supplies. Please call Suzan Witt at 989-820-5257 for more information and/or to register. This adult art get-together will be like no other and the first of its kind in this area.

Suessical the Musical

