

# Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

## October/November 2014



### ***Merry Christmas, Dear Grandpa* by Michal Jacot**

Our new season kicks off in a few short days with *Merry Christmas, Dear Grandpa*. The comedy, written by me, will see its world premiere weekend on October 10-11-12, with a follow-up on October 16-17-18-19. I am also directing it, with a very helpful crew including assistant director Sue Duncan and producers Judy Quarters and Vickie Szatkowski.

MCDG centers around the efforts of Amber Hartley (played by Stacy Perrot), new homeowner and slightly obsessive-compulsive, to gather her family together in her new abode for what she envisions to be the “perfect family Christmas.” That family consists of her father Al (Lynn Phillips), happily subservient to his wife Marie (Barb Hunter), a wannabe world traveler, her brother Keith (David Wajda), desperately trying to be funnier than he actually is, her sister Frankie (Katie Hill), a carefree slob, and her crabby grandfather Walter (George Robson), who just can’t seem to find the happy side to anything.

But things happen, and Amber’s plans for a traditional Christmas dinner go haywire. Then it’s up to her two incompetent siblings to take up the task of feeding everyone. There is more, of course, a subplot involving Grandpa and a strange little town called Coober Pedey, for starters. But mostly it’s a fun romp through the holiday season with a gathering of personalities you may recognize from your own family. And you may never sing “Silver Bells” in the same way again.

Dress rehearsal is October 8. If you’re a paid member of the TBP, you get to see the show for free that night; it’s a perk of being a member, so use it to your advantage. If you can’t make it that night, make a reservation for another night and take your spouse out to dinner beforehand. See, I just planned your date night for you. You’re welcome. I look forward to seeing you at the show!

### **2014 Raffle Warp-Up by Deb DeBois**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Raffle came to an end with the drawing of the winners on WKJC, Monday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup> and the winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – John Deere D-130 Lawn Mower W/ Bagger - Ray & Marie Girard - Tawas City
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – 50” Lg Flat Screen TV W/Dvd Player - Tammy Gonyea - Ossineke
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Weber 42,000 Btu Gas Grill W/Accessories - Dan Pritts - Ann Arbor
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – \$100 Cash W/Two 2014-2015 TBP Season Tickets - Gary Birkmeier - Chesaning

We were lucky and made a profit of \$8528 this year. The gross amount earned \$12,258, minus the expenses of \$3730, gave us this great profit. With Events bringing in \$8483 and Members selling \$3775, we out did last year’s gross profit by \$365. Because costs were up, our income was up by \$54. We sold 3515 tickets, with 276 lost and 248 unsold out of the 4040 printed. Thank you to the members who sold their tickets. Top sellers this year were: Bob and Nadeen O’Meara with 72, Chris and Jane Mundy with 60, and Carole Reed selling 51. Congrats!

I would like to thank the people who helped me out all summer. The sponsors: O’Connors for sponsoring the tickets, Print N’ Go for printing, John Carroll/Kevin Allen from WKJC for letting us draw the winners on air for the last 15 years, Neiman’s and the Farm Market for letting me park and sell tickets, and Card Equipment of Twining, Tawas Hardware of Tawas City, and Tawas Electric and Appliance for such great deals on our prizes.

My drivers: Jeff Chadwick, Jim Erickson, Keith Frank, Tom King, Chris Nunn, Chris Mundy, Bob O’Meara, Lynn Phillips George Robson, Mike Robson, and Bob Zacharias for their strength and willingness to hitch up and unhitch that trailer and put up that tent. My event helpers: Sue Dowell, June Hudgins, Kay Robson, Diane Ray, June Groff, Sharon Langley, Lynn Phelps, and Ray Skiver for their tremendous support in the hot/cold and rain/wind.

## **Basket Raffle Update by Janie Mundy**

The Basket raffle held during this summer's USO Show performances was a great success. We raised a total of \$901 and after subtracting our expenses of \$17 (for tickets) we made a profit of \$884. I'd like to thank everyone who bought tickets, donated items and my committee. I want to especially thank the local businesses Alley Cuts, Booknook, Brew Crew, City of East Tawas, Family Theater, J Pad Video, Klenow's Market, Northwoods Steakhouse, O'Connors, Ray of Hope, Richies, R & M Dockside, St Vincent DePaul, Twin City Spa and the Village Chocolatier for their generous donations.

Deb DeBois made a lottery plant basket (with Alan Dalton supplying a handmade plant stand) and was at every show to sell tickets. Diane Ray (Ray of Hope) made the cutest "Fun in the Sun" basket with an all yellow theme. Tina Dalton made up a "Pampered Pets" basket and the lady who won didn't even have a pet. It shows what a nice job Tina did on the basket if people who didn't even have pets bought tickets. The winner donated it back to us and we will offer it during the next basket raffle. June Hudgins put together a basket of homemade goodies made by Barb Hunter, Elizabeth Rogers (Janie's Mom), Tina Dalton & June herself. Everyone went crazy for this basket and it sold the most tickets. Laurie Jacot bought the winning ticket and shared some of the treats back stage. Pam Frank coordinated an East Tawas basket with items commemorating its 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday as well as performing in the show. I made a "Movie Night" basket and had a great time putting it together. Everyone worked on the "Mystery" and the "Local Merchants" Baskets.

Kay Robson sold tickets for two extra baskets during the Annual Meeting and we raised an additional \$97 (bringing the total profit to \$981). Thank you to all for your support. It is greatly appreciated and I couldn't have done it without you.

## **Annual Meeting Was Like A Day In The Park! (Oh, Wait ... It Was!) by Michal Jacot**

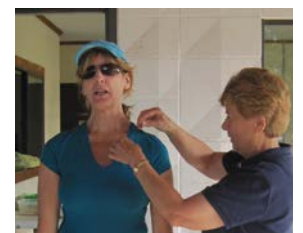
TBP's annual membership meeting was held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Dewey Durant Park in East Tawas. The weather was beautiful, the camaraderie was enjoyable, the games were fun, and the food was plentiful. Like last year's meeting, it was a combination of business and pleasure, and the park setting made the business part of the gathering more casual and easygoing. We started off the meeting as any meeting should start, by filling our stomachs with burgers, hot dogs, salads, sides, and desserts. After a meal like that, the business end of the meeting was a breeze!



The various reports were made, with everyone basically reporting that the TBP is in good shape. Vickie Szatkowski and Judy Quarters filled everyone in about our new online ticket system, and I encourage everyone to check this out on our website. Keith announced the results of the term limit survey sent out to members. As outlined in the 2013 meeting, if the majority of members were in favor of term limits it would be discussed further at this meeting, if opposed, the subject would be dropped. The majority of responses were opposed, so no further discussion was called for. In new business, Keith discussed TBP's participation in the East Tawas

Sesquicentennial and a \$1000 grant from Quota Club that goes toward a new sound system for the hearing impaired. He also told everyone about a welcome update to our building, a new air conditioning system that will not only make the building more comfortable for everyone but will drastically reduce costs by operating more efficiently than the last system.

We had a lively discussion about where to hold our annual meetings (the other option being a sit-down dinner at a local restaurant). Pros and cons of both were brought out and in the end we decided to keep the picnic format for next year. The attendees elected two new board members, Michal Jacot & Sharon Langley and re-elected Chris Mundy. As always, the meeting was topped with the presentation of the Founders Award. Last year's winner Mary Ann Michalski presented this year's pin to Penny Zacharias. Penny will be officially inducted on Halloween night during a midnight full-moon ceremony where we sacrifice a chicken. (Just wanted to see if you were reading this far.)



The annual meetings are always a delight to attend. It's not a stereotypical boring business meeting; the proceedings are always upbeat and involving, and keep us all up-to-date on what's happening with our group. Remember, there are many other things going on with TBP than just plays; it's fun to keep up with reports on how our theatre is growing, renovating, and reinventing itself. In addition, we have a load of delicious food, lots of games (so bring your kids, they can play while the meeting goes on), and of course, the company of friends. I hope we can have a big turnout next year, and I hope we see your smiling face there.

## **CTAM Regional Directing Workshop**

### **Hosted by Tawas Bay Players and WitzEnd**

A workshop for all aspiring community theater directors will be held at the Tawas Bay Players' Theater on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. For \$20, participants will receive lunch, a copy of Jim Carver's Manual on Community Theater Directing and formal accreditation hours from CTAM. WitzEnd will supply water, coffee and doughnuts.



This workshop is for any and all people interested in Community Theater. Experienced directors, potential directors, and even actors will learn something at this educational and FUN day! Topics to be covered are: Preparing the Production Concept, Blocking, Auditioning Actors, Rehearsals, and Directing Actors.

Pre-registration is required. Please text or leave a message with your contact info at 989.820.5257 or email [info@witzend.co](mailto:info@witzend.co).

## **Preparing for 2015-16 Season by Keith Frank**

The TBP Board of Directors has begun preparations for the 2015-16 Tawas Bay Players season. At the regular board meeting on October 28, the Artistic Advisory Committee will present a list of plays that they are recommending. The Committee has read these plays and believes that they would be good choices for us to perform. We would like to invite any interested TBP members to attend the meeting and hear the Committee's recommendations firsthand. Also, since these plays do not have directors, we strongly urge any members who are director certified to attend to see if they would have any interest in directing one of these shows. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Playhouse.

On Monday, November 10 the Board will host a Play Presentation meeting. As in previous years, this meeting is geared toward directors who have a play that they would like to direct. Directors are invited to present their selection to the Board and the AAC. However, any member (whether director certified or not) who has a suggestion for a play is invited to attend and make a presentation as well. Members (and directors) should be prepared to give a brief synopsis of the play, number of cast members required (male, female, children, etc.) and, if possible, bring a copy of the script to the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the AAC will evaluate each play to determine if it would be a good choice to add to our next season. Final decisions on play selection for the next season will be made by the Board. This meeting will also be held at the Playhouse beginning at 6:30 p.m.

***Please come out to these meetings so that you can be aware of what shows are up for consideration.***

## **2014-15 TBP Officers**

At their first meeting of the new fiscal year, September 30, the Board of Directors elected officers for 2014-15. Elected to serve this year were: Keith Frank, President; Michal Jacot, Vice President; Sue Duncan, Recording Secretary; Pat Casey, Treasurer; Deb DeBois, Corresponding Secretary. The TBP Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Playhouse.

### 2014-2015 TBP Board Contact Information

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Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	<a href="mailto:pcasey@chartermi.net">pcasey@chartermi.net</a>
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## CTAM Fall Conference Report

### TBP takes Cadillac! by Tara Western

Twelve Tawas Bay Players attended the Cadillac CTAM conference the weekend of September 26-28. We were awarded the traveling trophy by having the most attendees. Members attending were: Alan Dalton, Tina Dalton, Deb DeBois, Sue Duncan, June Hudgins, Sharon Langley, Stacy Perrot, Diane Ray, Vincent Weiler, Tara Western, Suzan Witt and Anne Williams. Let's win it again next year! Workshops attended included *Propping a Show*, *Big Show/Small Stage*, *Costumes and Wigs' Cleaning and Storing*, *Liability*, *Hosting Special Events*, *Techniques for Learning Lines*, *Smooth Transitions*, *Readers' Theater*, and *Theater Safety*.



In a Facebook post, Mary Lou Britton, the CTAM president said, "(TBP) deserve the award on several levels: Most people, funniest people, most attractive people, and really good conference-goers!"

### The Play's the Thing by Tara Western

Next year's fall CTAM conference in Cadillac will be all about "putting on the play": play writing, play selection, marketing your season as well as acting, directing and the technical side of theatre. Why are you telling us this, Tara? I mean, that is almost a year away! Well, here's the deal. CTAM is having a Ten-Minute Play writing contest. Due date is May 25, 2015. So, sharpen your pencils, and unclick your pens! Some tips, keep it simple! Only 2-3 characters, a single simple set, and a single time frame. The plays will be produced that weekend!

### Readers' Theater by June Hudgins

Quite a lot of us went to the CTAM convention in Cadillac and we are each going to report on some of the workshops that we took. One I took was Readers' Theater. I took a session a few years ago on the same subject and got some Readers' Theater books and things to get started with. It is a very easy thing to do, no learning of lines. You just read from the script. We need music stands and stools to sit on. Readers wear nice black pants and the same color shirts, black works really well.

A lot of Readers' Theaters perform strictly for seniors, but you don't have to. Readers' Theater groups go to many venues, senior centers, libraries and other small gatherings, for 15 minute to 1 hour shows. We do not charge for the shows but are allowed to take donations.

If any of our members would like to do this I would be happy to help and get started on this project. There are a lot of folks who cannot learn lines, but would still like to do something like this. It is a lot of fun and not a lot of work to do Readers' Theater. Please call me at 362-8423 or send me an email at [jhudgins8423@charter.net](mailto:jhudgins8423@charter.net) if you would like to know more.

## **Costumes and Make Up and Wigs, Oh My! By Sue Duncan**

Joy Butler, a retired professional costumer and make-up artist gave a wealth of safety information at the fall CTAM conference. The heart of this topic is the same as in a good kitchen. Keep It Clean and Keep it Safe. That is the on-going focus and the final goal of healthy, incident and hopefully, accident free performances!

Costumes and Wigs - If it is washable it may need to be washed every time it is used. For example: stocking caps in the summer. Wig 'caps' need to be washed and air-dried after each use during any season. Baby shampoo, Dawn dish soap, vinegar or baking soda is the recommended substances for cleaning. Fabric softener is NOT recommended on washables as it makes the fabric less breathe-able.

Dry clean costumes only when necessary and be sure to "air" the dry cleaned clothes well, then store them uncovered. Dust coverings should be of cloth, not plastic. Keep costume and wig storage areas dry and well ventilated.

When creating a costume one needs to consider how to create good vision conditions and body coverings that allow safe movement. Think safety first. Plastic bags do not make good costumes; so ditch that idea involving garbage bags!

Make-Up is NOT for sharing. Not lipstick or mascara or base or anything! Use throwaway sponges on your face and rubbing alcohol to clean dispensers. Clean hands, face, work area and make up will go a long way to cutting down on pink eye, fever blisters, colds etc. A good moisturizer helps protect your skin and allows the base make up to adhere more evenly. If you have allergic conditions to consider, be sure to 'test' the substances you'll be putting on your face or hands well before dress rehearsal.

If you use brushes for make-up don't clean them with acetone. Wash them with baby shampoo, Dawn dish soap, vinegar or baking soda. According to Joy, these substances will clean everything except oil-based paint. It may just require a bit more elbow grease to do so.

## **Big Show- Small Stage (Instructor Leeds Bird) by Diane Ray**

Do you think the "big" shows are out of the question for our small theatre? I know we have said that we just can't stage this one or that one because it's too "big". Well, we learned to rethink big shows and learned to take a new look at our theatre's possibilities. It's all in the way we look at things.

Look at going up, fly whatever you can; use elevations, design them into the set. Use truck wagons, if wing space allows, use several from either side or front to back. Use 3-sided walls, to change the scene, leave one blank and hang on bricks or rocks, or windows and doors that can be removed easily and are light (like cardboard). Use costumes to tell the audience what is happening. Is it raining or snowing outside but you don't want to take up space showing an entire scene of snow or water or ice? Use your actor's costume to set the scene. If he comes through the door closing an umbrella it tells you he just came from the rain. If he is inside and going outside, he may open the umbrella on the way out telling you it's raining outside.

A tricky huge scene can be deleted entirely just by using an actor with the props that might have been in that scene. *Little Women* has an ice skating scene, but you don't have to put it on stage, just have the actors coming back home with ice skates hanging from their shoulders. Use black-outs with sound effects to get the audience to imagine what is happening. A ship's mast is the only thing on stage, you hear thunder and see lightening, and winds, then a sudden blackout, and you hear a loud snap and breaking of lumber; the scene comes back on and you no longer see the ships mast (incidentally then you may use the same mast for the next performances).

My additional idea was to make a miniature of your setting, (like for *The Phantom of the Opera*) to show the audience at the beginning of a scene, then open up to your stage and show just a minimal amount of the key elements for that scene, like a standing candelabra and the Phantoms' chair and a tall mirror. Give the audience credit for using their imagination. You will save a lot of volunteer hours and headaches if you just simplify your set and think about the possibilities of staging a BIG Show!

## **What I Learned at the CTAM Conference and Am Able to Say In Public by Tara Western**

Propping a show is fun! Michael Wilson from Grand Rapids Civic was so geeked about making props, I think everyone in the class wanted to go home and make stuff! To create a replica he looked at the object from all angles and thought out of the box. Love to see someone with such passion and fortunately, TBP has those people too!

Michael had a very cool grid he used to organize the props for a show. I offered to do this with *Red Velvet Cake Wars*, and Director Sharon Langley has accepted. If it works, I'll share what I learned. Understand, I am NOT doing props, I am organizing them. Also, get this, the director emails a report after every rehearsal to all the backstage crew.....after every rehearsal!!!

P.S. Grand Rapids Civic has offered to loan us costumes, set pieces, and props several times. That is one of the many benefits of attending conferences: really helpful people.

**In Hosting Special Events**, Jill Patchin the editor of the Daily Community Theater Newsletter mentioned many, many ideas, but this one thing resonated: with your volunteers after a big event: Recognize, Reward, Review.

Casual learnings (not in a class!) Tawas Bay Players are the nicest people! The wait staff hugged many of us when we left on Sunday! We had an adorable server who was in love with June's British accent and we turned her into a little Ida, the Cockney maid! I can't party late anymore! The last weekend of September is always hot! That weather should be moved to June! Leeds Bird is hilarious!

## **CTAM Scholarship Raffle by Deb DeBois**

Every year at the CTAM Fall Convention, a Scholarship Raffle is held to benefit any CTAM member who wants help with funding trips to the conventions, workshops, and classes that CTAM sponsors. Member groups and individual members are asked to donate raffle prizes to be given away on the last day. This year many of our TBP attendees were fortunate to win a few of those prizes after buying raffle tickets throughout the weekend conference. (Many of our own TBPs actually sold those raffle tickets all weekend long.)

Winning some fun gifts were Vince Weiler, June Hudgins and me. A few of the items I won actually will benefit the Players. A \$100 prop rental from Grand Rapids Civic Theatre certificate, good for one year. And especially a \$1000 gift certificate from Music Theater International (MTI), a publishing house, for one year towards the cost of a musical published by them. I was also lucky enough to win a registration for the National ACT-Fest in Grand Rapids in June.

Other awards were given out for hours of class work accreditation, earned by taking CTAM workshop classes throughout the year. Tara Western was awarded a 25 hours certificate for her participation. Congratulations!

## **Teen Drama Production by Diane Ray**

WitzEnd Performing Arts Center will present *The Yellow Boat* by David Saar, November 14 through November 22. Friday shows, November 14th and 21st will be at 7 p.m. and the Saturday performances on November 15th and the 22nd will be at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Performances will be held at the WitzEnd Performing Arts Center on North US-23 in East Tawas. Tickets are \$10 per person and seating is limited so please call Suzan Witt at 989-820-5257 for reservations.

This play is based on the true story of David and Sonja Saar's son, Benjamin, who was born with congenital hemophilia and died in 1987 at the age of 8 of AIDS related complications. Benjamin was a uniquely gifted visual artist whose imagination transformed his pain into fanciful drawings and paintings. This story is a glorious affirmation of a child's life and the strength and courage of all children. This play is recommended for parents, families, adults and children age 8 and older.

The cast members are Payton Knapp, Jordyn TeBeest, Neil Peterson, Shea Bryant, Arina Wade, Alexey Wade, Zach Dalton, and Arden Torgusen. The crew consists of Alan Dalton, Tina Dalton, Diane Ray, Suzzette Rodriguez, Amy Torguson, Ann Williams, Dave Dunham, Ray Skiver, Amy Peterson, Dave Witt and Gatlyn Dunham.

# Happy Birthday

## November

2 Chris Mundy  
8 Kayla Grusecki  
13 Sharon Langley  
14 Tom Shmina  
15 Elizabeth Roy  
18 Greg Dahlstrom  
20 Kal Lentz  
24 Felicisimo Abis  
25 Mendy Shmina  
27 Jon Paul Roy

## December

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

## January

3 Keith Frank  
3 Carmelita Abis  
4 Jake Huitema  
7 Gabby Morris  
9 Diane Ray  
13 Liz Shmina  
14 Nick Osech  
15 Penny Zacharias  
16 Rebecca Buchanan  
18 Zachary Dalton  
19 Penny LeClair  
29 Sue Duncan

## Where Are They Now? by Judy Quarters

Tyler Bischoff in Rome writes:

*Today I was ordained a deacon in St. Peter's Basilica with 42 of my classmates at the North American College in Rome. God is good! With great joy I look forward to serving the Church in imitation of him "who came not to be served but to serve," Jesus the Lord.*



Bear McBride is now a DJ on WIOG in Saginaw and loves ball room dancing! He writes: *I don't think I could have been more lucky to get the job at WIOG. What an awesome place, with an awesome staff that's so good to the newbies of the industry. Always wanting to answer questions if I have them, and very supportive! This is going to be a great gig!*

Amanda Jungquist graduated from University of Michigan and is now following her dream and studying in New York City at Actors Studio Drama School. I'm sure we'll see her in a movie some day!



# Merry Christmas Dear Grandpa

