



Curtain Calls

Dec. 2024 / Jan. 2025

The Tawas Bay Players
would like to invite you to our

 **Christmas** 
Songs & Stories

December 10, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Free Admission

(Seating limited to 150)

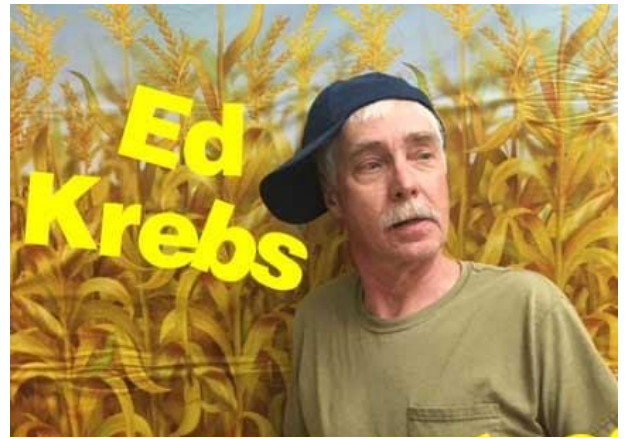
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



401 Newman St.
East Tawas, MI
989.362.8373



President's Corner



My name is **Ed Krebs**, and I am the new president of the TBP Board of Directors! I am a transplant from downstate, now retired up in Greenbush. I've been fortunate to meet many (but not yet all) members, and one of the reasons I joined was because of how welcoming this group is. I may be newer to the group than most, but I have over 53 years of experience in community theater! I've done it all – well, not all, I don't do musical direction or choreography, so please don't ask me to sing or dance!

But enough about me (for now), because I want to take this moment to appreciate and celebrate the past president – **Keith Frank**. Keith sat in the President's chair for over 20 years, and has been active in building this organization for quite a bit longer. Most of you can likely recount many things that Keith has done to support this organization, shows that you've been involved in, or even on stage with him. Personally I can't thank Keith enough for the things that I've watched him manage over the years, and really appreciate his willingness to take the Vice President role to back me up and help me learn, meet the people we interact with (like the township leadership), and gently pass the baton instead of throwing a flaming spear.

And now for the survey of the month. At the annual meeting, I challenged every member to fill out the back side of the membership form, indicating areas you are willing to work on. We are a volunteer organization, and it takes active members to put together quality live performances. As part of that, I also challenged every member to put down one area you are interested in learning, but might not have experience in (yet). Maybe it's tech – lighting, sound, even special effects. Maybe it's producing, or directing, or (dare I say it) acting! The organization grows when it's people grow. It's time to engage (or re-engage), learn, and have fun together! You can take the survey online here: <https://s.surveymonkey.com/lifeynpo>

This month we recognize Keith, and of course there are many others that we'll honor over time. However one other recognition won't wait – I can't tell you how much I appreciate **Michal Jacot** and the work he does for our newsletter. It's not easy being editor, layout artist, and writer-of-many-articles-when-no-one-else-submits-material! He not only deserves our thanks, but also our contributions. So write and submit early and often! A review of a play you've seen and might like us to do, a technical tip, a recap of a group event, a call to action, heck, even a joke or two! Let's make this our newsletter, and not just Michal's task. Thank you Michal – communication is paramount to our craft and our organization!

TAWAS CHILLERS:

READERS THEATRE 2.0

By Tara Western and Jolene Grusecki

As I was thinking about writing this article, I thought what made the event at the Buckhorn Friday, October 25th so enjoyable. It's this: I sat with friends as if I were out for dinner. There was mingling table to table, we watched the show while commenting to companions and sharing many laughs. I love watching shows on a theater stage, but this intimate version of "dinner theater" in the backroom of the Buckhorn was lots of fun and very unique.

Kudos to the production team: Producer **Jolene Grusecki**, G.O.A.T. Director **Barb Hunter**, and co-directors **Adam Davis** and **Stacy Perrot**. **Pam Koepke** and **Judy Quarters** were there with the laptop checking tickets, and **Tracee Lentz** was an efficient server-that woman was everywhere! The

food was great, the beer was cold, and the environment was chill.

In case you missed it, the cast performed various roles that ranged from hilarious to the macabre: **Mindy and Adam Davis, Bethany Gay, Sharon Langley, Bill Archer, John Mitchell, Amanda Jungquist Drumm, Keith del Rio** and **Tina Dalton**. Last year's skit *Turbulence* was featured again, as it was a fan favorite; **Eric Toth, Stacy Perrot**, and **Alan Dalton** reprised their roles as the passengers along with **Chris Mundy** as a very bad, drunk pilot, **Tina Dalton** as the snarky flight attendant, and the ever so suave **Keith del Rio** as the announcer. So funny.

Finally, the pop-ups were a big hit! Various audience members (assigned by Jolene) stood up when called and read their one-liners to the appreciation and laughter of the guests. A couple of examples included: "Quarantined... Without toilet paper!" and "There's nothing like the laughter of a baby unless it's 1:00 a.m., and you live alone."

Stay tuned: there are big plans for next year!

Coming soon to the TBP Stage ...

"The Play That Goes Wrong"

A WE Players Production

hosted by Tawas Bay Players

February 21, 22, 23, 28, March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

You all know the classic whodunnit story, there has been a murder at a country manor and an inspector is set on the case to find who the culprit is. However, when this plot is given to the accident-prone thespians at The Cornley Drama Society, everything that can go wrong... does!

The actors and crew battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Do you ever find out who murdered Charles Haversham? You'll have to see for yourself!

Editor's note: Laurie and I saw this in Bay City this last summer, and it is hilarious! Highly recommended for a fun night out! - Michal

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG



BY HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER AND HENRY SHIELDS

TBP Holds Costume Clearance Fundraiser Sale

By *Michal Jacot*

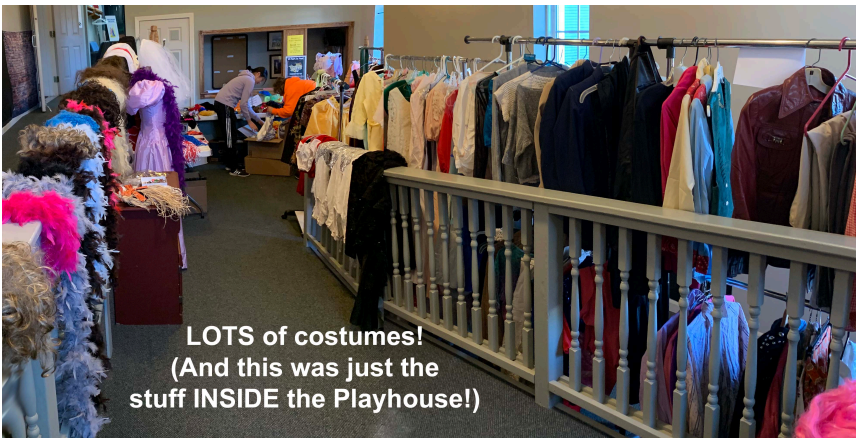
The Tawas Bay Players cleaned their closets and raised some money in the process.

Headed by **Sheila Krebs**, we held a Costume Clearance Sale on October 26 at the Tawas Bay Playhouse, in the entryway and spilling out to the outside. The sale went from from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. and offered a wide variety of unusual items.

The purpose of the sale was twofold: first, to clear out some of our wardrobe inventory; and second, to raise money for our upcoming trip to AACTFest to present *Leaving Iowa*.

AACTFest begins at a regional level; winners advance to statewide, then national, levels. The regional level takes place in Bay City, the statewide level happens in Owosso, and if we make it to the national level, *Leaving Iowa* will be presented in ... wait for it ... DesMoines, Iowa.

While we were disappointed with the small turnout, we nevertheless raised a few dollars to help with the traveling expenses, and every dollar helps. Thanks to Sheila for organizing this project!



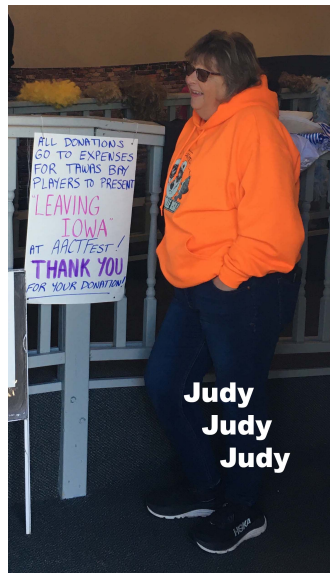
LOTS of costumes!
(And this was just the stuff INSIDE the Playhouse!)



Even with a new hip replacement, Laurie Jacot endured the cold wind to help!



Sheila says, "You want wigs? We've got WIGS!"



Judy
Judy
Judy



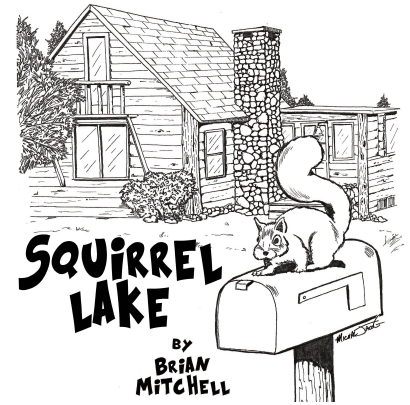
NHS student Joy Qui pitched in! Thanks, Joy!

In a place called Squirrel Lake, you're bound to meet a nut or two!

"SQUIRREL LAKE" Coming Soon!

Tryouts are coming soon for TBP's spring comedy *Squirrel Lake*. Directed by **Ed Krebs** and produced by **Laurie Jacot**, this show will be an audience-pleaser with its cast of crazy characters.

The synopsis: Phil, Sally, and Patrick gather at their family's summer home on the shores of Squirrel Lake, Wisconsin, to read their recently deceased mother's will. A cast of characters, including a nun (or is she?) and her insane brother, a psychic, supposedly sent by Mom from the great beyond, and their own out of control children add madness to mayhem as they try to get everything sorted out. In the end, *Squirrel Lake* proves that even the unlucky in life can find happiness and contentment if they simply look for the gifts given to them.



Look for audition information soon! Show dates are May 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

"GRANDPA" AT ALPENA CIVIC

For those of you who are interested, Alpena Civic Theatre will present *It's My Wedding, Dear Grandpa*, the third in **Michal Jacot's** "Grandpa" plays, January 16-19 and January 23-26. Check alpenacivictheatre.com for times and ticket info!



Adjudication 101

By *Jolene Grusecki*



Compared to many members, I'm a newbie who is still learning the ropes in theater productions and experiencing the many facets of production success. Despite my semi-rookie status, I do realize that, similar to businesses and other non-profit organizations, improving and moving forward are critical in order to thrive.

Having stated that, I believe that the saying "You can teach an old dog new tricks" certainly applies to our theater and adjudication. Although some may be off-put by judgements, my personal belief is that being observed and evaluated by a trained, objective person is vital for growth.

As a teacher for over twenty-five years, I was evaluated twice yearly during my tenure. There were times that I may not have agreed with the assessments, but I certainly appreciated the well-intended suggestions for improvement. Yes, as I reflect back, those observations made me a better educator.

During *The 39 Steps*, our cast and production crew agreed that adjudication was important; as a result, this was a great decision. In the past, I observed adjudicators stating, "You do not need to change anything now. My observations are simply from my history of theater experience..."; I appreciated that statement, so personal and professional offenses were not taken.

Our adjudicator's feedback was incredibly positive and helpful. Mary Jo Denolf, CTAM administrator, even wrote an article and highlighted our playhouse in the November Callboard (see below-Page 4).

Additionally, during that feedback, Mary Jo mentioned that because TBP highly encourages adjudication, we were an inspiration, as there have been a number of community theaters in metro-Detroit and Grand Rapids who now have included adjudication in their productions.

Overall, we are thriving, AND we are influencing others! Shoutout to all the cast, directors, and producers who are hardworking, open-minded, and forward thinking!

(See next page for Mary Jo Denolf's article.)

**Deadline for the February/March CURTAIN CALLS is JANUARY 24th!
Have your contributions to me by then! mljacot@sbcglobal.net
And HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!**

Adjudication is alive and well in Michigan...



... and we have exciting news to share with you about its future. First, I am taking over chairing the Adjudication program as Larry Nielsen decided it was time to pass the torch after many years of faithfully keeping the program alive and well. We cannot possibly thank him enough for his time and experience leading this vital CTAM program. Thankfully, he will continue as an adjudicator for us.

Second, thanks to a generous grant from the MACC and the NEA we are able, at least for the time being, to pay mileage for all adjudicators to travel to your shows, and **CTAM will now pay \$50 for all adjudicators that take place between now and September 30, 2025.** We hope the addition of paying for mileage will enable more adjudicators to travel longer distances and be available for more shows and that the ability to have this done at no cost, will encourage more groups to give adjudication a try! At least three theaters in the state are looking at having all their shows adjudicated. If you wish to get an adjudicator for one of your shows or want to know more about the process, please email me at lyonwillis915@gmail.com

Finally, and with great excitement, I can announce that CTAM is going to offer two opportunities for you to learn to be an adjudicator. World renowned AACTFest adjudicator, Kathy Pingel, and I are teaming up to conduct training at the state and regional AACT Festivals, which both take place in Michigan in 2025. Kathy will introduce the AACT guidelines and teach the structure we use via a Zoom session prior to the first festival date in February.

I will be your in-person session leader at the festivals where all participants will have the opportunity to conduct their own adjudication of at least one of the festival shows for their classmates. Cost of the two part training is \$50 per person and you can choose to come to the training in February or March as space allows. There will be space for no more than 12 participants for each festival, and the training will be opened to all states in our AACT region. CTAM's additional costs will be paid for with grant funds. Your additional costs will be festival registration and accommodation if needed. If you want to get on the list now, please email me at the same address as I listed above. If you are already an adjudicator and would like a refresher, please contact me and we will include you if space is available.

Watch the Callboard for more information. I hope to see you in February and March.

-- Betsy Willis



Betsy Willis (above left) with Laura Vosejka and Jill Patchin at the Fall Conference as they lead a challenging and lively roundtable on rallying community support for your theatre.

Out and About

By Mary Jo Denolf,
CTAM Administrator



I had the wonderful opportunity to attend *39 Steps* at **Tawas Bay Players** and give an adjudication after the show. It was a great time and performed by a wonderful group of volunteers.

If you are not familiar with *39 Steps* it is a parody play adapted from the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock. The original concept and production of a four-actor version premiered in 1996 and the adaptation this group performed was 2005 which includes more actors.

Director, Suzan Nemeth, did a fantastic job of working with her cast of 10 (which included the Stage Manager and Ast SM) moving about the stage. Suzan utilized all parts of the stage, theatre and spaces which allowed the audience to feel as if they were part of the production. One thing that I'm very picky on, especially as I get older, is the dialect of a production. I want to hear every word that is said and understand what is being said. Congratulations to this cast. Not only could I hear everyone, I understood everyone and the Scottish dialect were the best ever! (Even when you're not supposed to understand...I understood!) Character development with this group was also outstanding. Fantastic job done by all.

If you have never been to Tawas Bay Players, they go above and beyond from the time you step in the door. They welcome you as you enter the building and the lobby space has the same theme as the show. For this production, their intermission included Union Jack flags and English/Scottish food offerings for guests. What a fantastic way of embracing the theme and feel of the show.

If you would like to catch a show and travel to a great city their next production will be *Squirrel Lake* in May. But, WE Players also performs at this same building and their next production is *Puffs* November 15 - 24. Check them out as well. This group is led by Suzan Nemeth and is a group of very talented youth.



Would you like to learn more about adjudication and having a trained adjudicator come to your theatre - contact Betsy Willis (lyonwillis915@gmail.com). Or would you like to take a training to become not only an adjudicator for CTAM but also the opportunity to adjudicate for AACT? Contact Betsy or watch for our information on this training happening with AACT-Fest25 starting in Bay City for the State festival.

