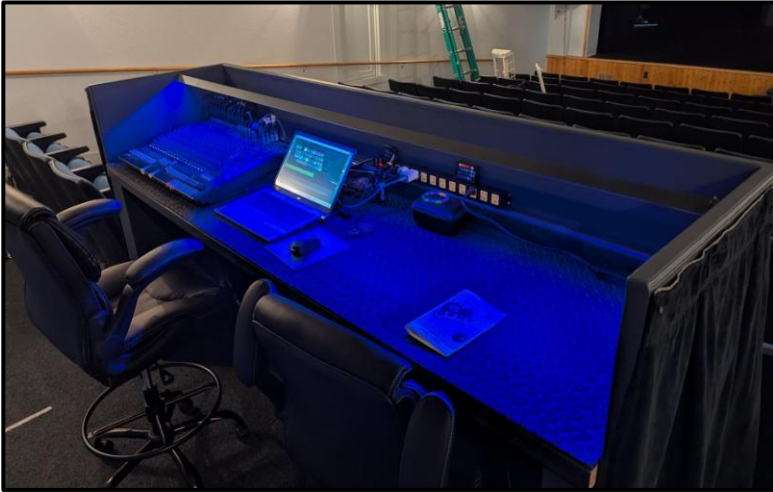


Curtain Calls

Tawas Bay Players July/August 2026

NEW TECH by Ed Krebs



New Tech Desk is Live!

At last year's annual meeting, in the back of the theater, sat a cardboard mock-up of an audience level tech desk. If you attended "Decades of Delight" you probably noticed that that model desk is now a reality. Sitting in a new chair at the new desk, Ray Skiver ran sound for an

amazing show!

If you attend performances at professional theaters, and many regional and community ones as well, you'll notice that the sound board is at the audience level. This is because mixing sound is best done where you can hear exactly what the audience is hearing, instead of in a semi-enclosed booth with a dozen cooling fans whirring around you. For Tawas Bay Players, there is a second advantage. The new tech desk is much more accessible to those who dreaded the steep stairs leading to the booth.

Perhaps you've even considered running sound or lights, but those steps kept you from volunteering. I've already heard from a few of you that you might now consider helping with tech! There is just enough room that if a volunteer wants to learn to run lights (which is PC based), you won't have to be put off by the staircase. The booth itself is still useful, with the follow spotlight, as well as an option to continue running the lighting PC from up there.

There are a few last things that will be added to the booth, such as the ability to remotely turn on and off some of the switches (such as the running lights) at the new desk. Some acoustical paneling may need to be added to the booth overhang to further improve the sound operator's sense of accurate sound. We thank **Ray**

Skiver for planting the seed of the idea, as well as being the test subject during “Decades of Delight.”

We are learning from that inaugural show, and are deeply thankful to **Michal and Laurie Jacot** for raising the funds for this project with **three** murder mysteries! **Sheila Krebs** did the sewing on the curtain material surrounding the desk, and put up with me while I built the desk in my barn (*editor’s note: No wonder she won the Founder’s Award*).

Please, be sure to check it out at the annual meeting, and if you have ever wanted to learn tech, we’ve got some great shows in the pipeline. You are never too young (or too old) to learn something new. If you are in the tech alumni club, please consider offering your services to an upcoming production once again!

T.B.P. Singers by Pat Casey



The Singers once again represented Tawas Bay Players in the 4th of July Parade. It’s so much fun watching the people on the side start to dance/sing/move to the music as we come down the street. I even saw one of my ex students doing the Irish Jig to the music! All was fine until my tablet decided to overheat on 23. Penny sang a little, Chris ad-libbed, and then Marjie played a little patriotic piccolo music! After throwing the tablet in the cooler for a minute, it came back to life and we picked up the music and finished the parade. What a group! I do appreciate the teamwork in putting the float together and taking it apart. We’ll be singing out and about over the next few weeks. Thanks again to Bob for driving, Nadeen and Michal for spotting, and Ollie for just looking cute. A special thanks to Dennis Frank for the use of the trailer.

Looking for Theater Outside Our Own? Tara Western has the DL on all the things happening in live theater around the state.

Community Theatre in Northern and Northeast Michigan

Compiled by **Tara Western**

Show	Theatre	City	Dates
**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	Alpena Civic	Alpena	October 22-Nov. 1
Leading Ladies	Bay City Players	Bay City	Sept. 13,18-20
Willy Wonka Jr.	Cadillac Footliters	Cadillac	Sept. 17-20
Dracula: a Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really	Cadillac Footliters	Cadillac	Oct. 22-25
Old Hams	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	Cadillac	September 19 & 20
Christmas Show	Northern Lites Readers Theatre	Cadillac	October 4 & 5
Jersey Boys	Center for the Arts	Midland	Oct. 30-Nov. 1
Come From Away	Center for the Arts	Midland	Nov. 13-22
Clue	Center for the Arts	Midland	Nov.14-15
1776	Northland Players	Cheboygan	Nov. 6,7,8,13,14
Finding Nemo (Kids)	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	June 5-13
9 to 5	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Sept. 11-26
Honky Tonk Laundry	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Oct. 9-11
Dracula: a Comedy of Terrors	Old Town Playhouse	Traverse City	Oct 23-31
Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella	Rogers City Community Theatre	Rogers City	Nov. 6,7,8,13,14,15
The Chaos Behind the Curtain	Shoreline Players Youth	Oscoda	August 15 & 16

*Please Google the venue before making plans...errors occur! Also, for times, ticket prices etc.

** The ACC box office opens two weeks before opening night: Thursday, October 8. You can call and make a reservation then."

***In Loving Memory:* by Tara Western, TD Haskin, and Barb Hunter**



As many of you have no doubt heard by now, TBP lost another valued person in our theater family. Long time member **Sharon Langley** passed away after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Anyone lucky enough to have worked with Sharon will no doubt attest to her dedication, humble nature, and loving personality. Sharon shared her many gifts both generously and copiously. Lucky indeed were those who had the chance to appear on stage with her, to work behind the scenes with her, or of course to be directed by her. We will continue to feel her loss for quite some time, but I'm sure that our continued efforts at providing opportunities to let our local talent from ages 1-100 will continue to be a testament to her love for TBP.

This is a review of *The Cemetery Club* in the January 17, 2007 edition of the ***losco News Herald***. "Sharon Langley in the part of Ida not only showed us her ability to handle funny lines, but also her skills at being able to develop a believable character."

This was from a review of the play, and for Sharon it was her first major role. She was petrified (as were Deb DeBois and I); so many lines!!! These words are extremely special as anyone who has been reviewed positively in the paper knows.

My favorite memories of Sharon are from three plays we worked on together. Intense bonding occurred when Debbie DeBois, Sharon and I were cast by Vincent Weiler in 2006-2007's ***The Cemetery Club***. We three were cast as "ladies of a certain age" and had lots of lines. We weren't spring chickens so we were all fairly nervous about learning all those lines. This was especially true for Sharon as it was her first major role! And she nailed it. But, because of our fear of making fools of ourselves, we started immediately rehearsing at Sharon's house a couple of times a week.

At the first blocking rehearsal, we all knew the lines!!! Vince was amazed and thrilled. And so were we!

In 2009-2010's ***Squabbles***, Sharon played a smaller part: the scary German nurse who was hired to take care of the new baby born to Chad Robson and Reesie _____. The baby was Keith and my grandchild.....we were the reason the play was called Squabbles. Chris Mundy played Hector the inept maintenance man. Again, lots of fun and Sharon was great!

2012-2013's ***Quilters*** was an all-female production, directed by Carol Kushion. It was a delightful experience. I remember Sharon being not really confident about her singing voice, but she was consistently reminded by the whole cast that we were amazing when we all sang together. Barb Hunter still called each "Sissy," right up to the last time she worked on a show, ushering for ***Moonlight***. With her castmates by her side, Sharon once again succeeded.

Sharon's first directing experience was ***The Red Velvet Cake War*** in the spring of 2015. I desperately wanted to be in it, and as I was in Florida, Sharon let me audition over the phone. I loved playing Peaches! Such a funny play and fun experience.

In addition to her TBP work, Sharon went to many AACTfests and CTAM conferences with Sue Duncan and me. She wanted to learn. Always memorable, always welcome and welcoming, that was our Sharon.

And finally, from **Timothy Dean Haskin**. "Sharon Langley, yet another major loss to Tawas Bay Players and our entire community. A wonderful person in every sense of the word. She was a talent in many ways, but totally unassuming, sociable, meaningful and helpful with excellent morals and a true friend's friend. I remember her start in the group, a bit hesitant and shy but willing to get on stage and also do various jobs behind the scenes. After her first time on stage I said,

“How does it feel to be a star?” She replied, “ Oh Tim, don’t be silly, I’m no star but I can’t wait to be on stage again.” Through many conversations I learned she loved helping and meeting people and she truly was a “huge” lover of Tawas Bay Players and all that came with us.

Sharon was generous with her time and money, she certainly was a helpful and generous spirit. TBP, home nursing patients, doctoring, the Pregnancy Center and many others, prospered from Sharon’s actions, advice, help and giving nature. She was also “ Super Woman” as the best sister a brother could have. She did so much for others without expecting anything in return. Next time you get a chance, please raise a glass, sing a song in tribute, say a prayer in her memory and or just smile really large and say Sharon Langley out loud in respect and in memory of a totally beautiful friend who has been lost to us much too early. Thanks for the good memories Sharon, from all of us in the TBP world. Her pain is gone, she now is at Peace and resides in heaven. In kind thoughts and fond remembrance, with love!!”

HOLY FAMILY TOUR by Judy Quarters

So as we all know Hell Week is stressful! There are 32 last minute things to get done!! Yet Suzan Nemeth and Melissa Street organized a tour of the theater for Holy Family School on Wednesday of that week before ***The 33 Little Pigs!***

The kids learned about theater and enjoyed Suzan and Addison Street doing improv on stage. They were also treated to a tour of our wardrobe rooms, thanks to Sheila Krebs. Then Michelle Crossley helped them try on some costumes and Judy Quarters displayed and explained a variety of props. They were also given a paperface to put some makeup on while on their back stage tour.

There were about 80 children and it was a fast and furious hour, but it was a blast! If there are any groups who might want to have a field trip to the theater, we could make it happen!



Dear Drama Diva: I've been cast in a few roles, and now I landed a big role, yay me! Downside: Now I have to create a back story for my character! Can you give me some tips?

Thanks, from Gonna B.A. Star

Dear GBAS: First, understand/study the play. Read it a few times. One of these might be at a "table read" where the entire cast reads through the script. Your director may offer tips at that point. Perhaps you'll be able to ask questions about the script. On stage, don't just wait for your next line. Hear what the other characters say about you or how they react to you. This will

let you know more about your character.

For a back story, you will think about your role as a real person. Imagine their job, financial status, family, friends, hobbies etc. It is suggested by many directors to write this down. You can even text yourself. Maybe the director will never ask you about it again. That's typical, as they are trusting that you did the work.

You could hang out with the cast and just talk about your characters while socializing.

Theatrically yours, **Drama Diva**



And lastly, also by **Judy Quarters**



Auditions
August 10th & 11th 6:30 p.m.
Needed:
1 Nurse – Female
6 Patients - 4 Females/2 Males

“My Summer at Camp-O-CHE-MO” tells the poignant story of a retired schoolteacher and her diverse group of fellow patients navigating the challenges of chemotherapy treatments with humor, hope and camaraderie. Through its exploration of the ups and downs of cancer treatment, the play shines a light on the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of community in times of hardship.

Auditions

**My Summer At
Camp-O-Che_Mo**

Our own **Carol Kushion** wrote this play, along with her friend Richard W. Hingst. This story is Carol's personal journey through her battle with cancer and weekly chemotherapy treatments and the people along the way! Every family has experienced their life being affected by cancer. This is a first hand view that will educate and entertain people. This is the first time the show will be performed, though it was done

one time as a reader's theater.

There are some “real characters” in this play which takes us through all the fun times and touching moments of living with cancer. Our Director is **Barb Hunter**, **Judy Quarters** is the Producer and **Becky Archer** is Stage Manager. We could use your help! The cast is made up of one female nurse, and six patients: two men, one younger and one older, along with four women, ages ranging from 20's to 70's.

Show dates are: **October 9, 10, 11 and 15, 16, 17 & 18**. Should you be interested in reading the script, let Judy know, her number is 989-387-8763. As always we will need lots of help behind the scenes, please come to the auditions or let Judy know if you are interested in helping this show come to its premier on our stage.