

OCTOBER 2023

# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PELICAN PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER

Editors: Barbara Boyle, Mary Anne Moseley and James Williams



THE PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT

BY: RICK SWENSON

## Pelican Players

*Community Theater of Sun City Center, Florida*

In 2020, when the majority of your present Pelican Players Community Theater ("PPCT") Board of Directors were elected to the Board we discussed our goals. We wanted to become great stewards of PPCT. We wanted to be able to turn the Board over to our replacements in a few years with PPCT being an even better organization than it was.

In case any of you are wondering, being a PPCT Board of Directors member is not an idle position, where you just attend an occasional BoD meeting. It is very much a working position with numerous duties to accomplish.

We know that our performances, whether they are a mainstage production, radio recording, Cabaret Singers performance or Murder Mystery show are the main face of PPCT. That is certainly important but not the whole picture. There is so much more going on "behind the scenes".

In our monthly Board meeting treasury reports, it had become a standing joke about how little we were making on our savings account. It was averaging around \$0.70 each month. That led to our investigation with Community Foundation Tampa Bay ("CFTB"). We found that in addition to the endowment we have with CFTB for our PPCT Scholarships Fund, they also have a Reserve program. This led to more communication with CFTB, discussions at our Board meeting, appointments at Chase, transferring funds, closing accounts and filling out paperwork to begin a new Reserve with CFTB. We are anxious to see the first report from CFTB to check if all of that work brings us more than \$0.70 per month. *(cont'd next page)*

# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## THE PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

We were very sorry to find that Amy Fattori was moving away and leaving her position of overseeing our PPCT promotions team. We are excited to report that Cathy Stevens has taken on that position. She is doing a great job and thanks to email, texts and more, she is presently doing it from their summer home in Tennessee. Thank you Cathy and all of our promotions team.

Unfortunately, I need to end my portion of our newsletter mentioning the passing of another beloved PPCT member, Ed Brown. Ed has been a tremendous talent. He was creative in his direction, performing, writing, technical help, advice and more. Ed is truly missed.

Thank you for being a valued member of PPCT.

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## PLAY READING ANYONE

*By: James Williams*

We are in search of plays for our 2024 season. Here is a list of plays that we have read and a couple more that will be previewed. Watch your email for dates/times and join us.

“Drinking Habits 2” by Tom Smith

“The Dinner Party” by Neil Simon

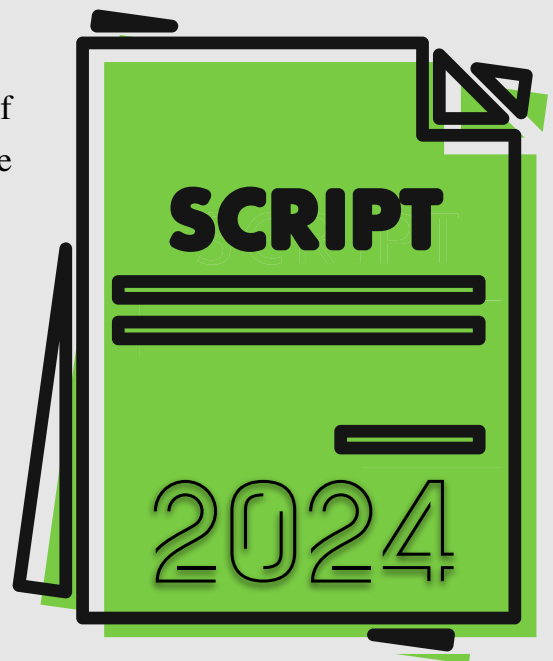
“The Decorator” by Neil Simon

“The Actress” by Donald Churchill

“Olive and the Bitter Herbs” by Charles Busch:

“Jack of Diamonds” by Marcia Kash and Douglas Hughes

“Flamingo Court” by Luigi Creatore



*"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." - Amy Poehler*



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## FESTIVAL OF TREES UPDATE

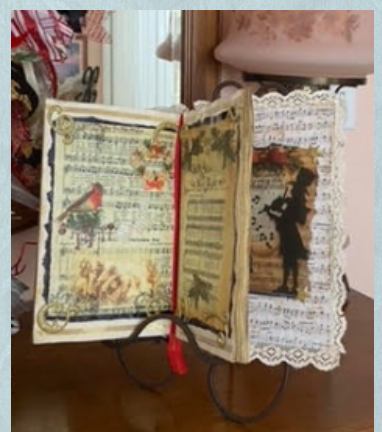
By: Alexis Swenson

We are making progress on our Christmas tree entry for the Festival of Trees. It's going to be a "Victorian Christmas tree." Our Pelican Players costume department is creating the tree as a gown on a dress form with all the accessories to complete the ensemble. There is a surprise under the Christmas tree. More details to follow:

I need a few items to complete the tree. If you have any of these items please get in touch with me via email [alexisswenson@gmail.com](mailto:alexisswenson@gmail.com).

1. Mismatched cluster style earrings. Rhinestones, pearls etc. (Nickel to a quarter in size). The type that would be a clip on. It could be a single earring.
2. Pins or brooches. 1"-3" in size. The busier looking the better. Vintage styling. Our colors are: Black, green, red, white, silver, gold. Rhinestones and pearls will work too.
3. Polyester fiberfill. The material used to stuff toss pillows or used to quilt. Any amount would be appreciated.
4. Floral wire used in crafting.
5. Christmas paper napkins with small images. They need to fit in a 1-2" space.
6. Old charms that would work in a shell, 1/2" or smaller. Example: starfish, crescent moon, crab,
7. Costume jewelry rings. Ladies style. Color does not matter.
8. White lace round 54" or 70/72" tablecloth elegant looking for a tree skirt. Or a Victorian looking tree skirt.
9. White lace edged handkerchief.
10. A pair of white wrist length gloves.

Here is a glimpse of what is in the works:



Congratulations Syncere Pugh of Riverview High School and Jayla Washington of Lennard High School. Both have been awarded Pelican Players Scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each.



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



## DON'T SAY "GOOD LUCK"




By: MaryAnne Moseley-Sapia

Theater people are a superstitious bunch. Some have lucky underwear, dresses or ties. And they may be in a particular color. But one of the most well-known superstitions is to never say good luck before a performance. "Break A Leg" is an idiom always used in theater. Its origins are murky, and a number of theories abound. One story is that spirits wreak havoc in theaters and make the opposite happen. The earliest one comes from ancient Greece, where the audience didn't clap, but instead stomped their feet to show appreciation. If they stomped long enough someone would break a leg. So, if someone broke a leg, your performance must have been good. Another possible origin was in the 18th century when a British actor named David Garrick was the lead in Shakespeare's "Richard III". He fractured his leg onstage, but was so involved in his role, he didn't know he broke it.

In modern times, it is attributed to Robert Wilson Lynd in 1921. He wrote an essay about the prevalence of superstition in acting and horse racing. In horse racing they would not wish someone good luck, because they did not want to push one's luck too far. As a sort of reversepsychology and an appeasement of the spirits of fate (there go those pesky spirits again), they would say "I hope your horse breaks a leg". And so, it applies to theater also. In 1931 the phrase turned up in regard to acting in an autobiography of Edna Ferber, in which she recounts tales of understudies waiting backstage in hopes that the principals would break a leg and they would get their chance at fame. Ironically, to wish an actor good luck is, actually bad luck.

Another major no-no is to say the word "Macbeth" in the theater unless you are actually performing it. There is a history of bad luck attached to the play all the way back to the 17th century. The antidote for uttering the forbidden word; exit the theater, spin around three times, spit over your left shoulder and utter a profanity, or some lines from Shakespeare. There are a number of other theater superstitions, but we won't discuss them now. You will have to wait until next time. In the meantime, "have a nice day". OOPS, I mean "don't have a nice day".

A photograph of five hands, each making the "break a leg" gesture (crossing the index and middle fingers). The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned against a white background.

**The Pelican Players Donations to Date: \$6,018.00**

**Donations from Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, Readers Theater and personal donations.**



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## AN INTERVIEW WITH CATHY STEVENS

By: James Williams & Barbara Boyle



Recently, we caught up with Cathy Stevens to ask a few questions.

### **What is your background? Where are you from? What have you done?**

Originally from Harrodsburg, Kentucky, I grew up in a small town. In grade school, my only experience in anything performance related was in 6th grade when I was part of a salute to America and sang “Oklahoma” with a group on stage. The best part was the costumes! After that, my parents supported me in taking organ and guitar lessons. I was part of a small gospel music group as a teenager playing lead and rhythm guitar. Athletics won out over anything music and drama related and that is where my focus stayed. During my senior year, I joined the Kentucky Army National Guard and left for basic training at the age of 17. My first summer camp was in Mannheim Germany and since then I have had the nickname “Cathy GO”. My love of travel started there. In college, I was in ROTC and was commissioned an officer in the Transportation Corp. What a great thing this turned out to be. Several years later I met my now husband and soulmate Jack while attending a Transportation/Logistics conference in Arlington, Virginia.

We were married in 1991 and during the next 7 years we moved around. I worked in Finance as a Civil Servant for Military Traffic Management Command in Arlington Virginia, the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, Kansas, and the Veterans Administration Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Florida. For two years in Manila, Philippines, I had the great experience to work at the U.S. Embassy for the Refugee Program office. Jack and I traveled to many other countries while in Asia.

Jack’s last assignment was at MacDill AFB, and during that time I went to USF and finished my Bachelor’s Degree in Information Systems. My next jobs were some of the best, traveling globally and implementing and training new IT systems.

### **How long have you been with PP? What have you done in the past for PP?**

While back in Florida, Jack was involved with local theater in Brandon and I did some sound and background work. Jack had already joined Pelican Players, but it was not until he had a role in “Is He Dead” that I decided I would join too and see what I could do to support the group. That was in 2019. I first got involved by helping out with the Pelican Players website and Facebook postings. James Williams mentored me in these endeavors and we continue to work together on show ads and flyers. Since then, I have helped with sound, lighting, stage build and have been part of the backstage crew. I have been a cast member in two Readers Theater shows - “It’s Christmas” and an episode from Ozzie and Harriet “Ozzie Buys a Valentine”.

### **What is your take on volunteering in general? What do you get from it?**

We have enjoyed our time in Florida for 34 years and our two children and five grandchildren have come to love it too. We now split our time between Florida and Tennessee, where we are closer to both of our families. I enjoy volunteering with the Pelican Players Community Theater and am looking forward to the new opportunity I have as the Promotions Coordinator for the group. I think the membership has grown and evolved into a popular performing group within the community. Our local papers and radio stations also do a super job of supporting us! The members work hard to support one another and they really produce great shows! We get to have fun while supporting young performing arts students through scholarship donations

### **How do you see this specific volunteer opportunity?**

I will end by telling you that promoting the various shows is fun! We need more members to help create materials and get the word out to our local and surrounding communities. A shout out to those who currently work in promotions - James Williams, Mary Banazsak, Amy Fattori, Carol MacAlister, Carolanne Olson, Shirley Walker, Joy Dunn, Barbara Boyle, Mary Anne Moseley and Rick Swenson. And thank you to all Pelican Player members that have been involved and have laid the groundwork to get us where we are today.

# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## WHO'S WHO?



**This column is about the people who make up  
The Pelican Players Community Theater.**

By: Mary Anne Moseley-Sapia

**JULIE RAMSEY** (nee Steinke). Julie grew up in Dayton, Ohio with her older brother, Kevin. Their family owned a bakery, where Julie had her first job at the age of 13. It seems the tradition in family bakeries is to start the children working at an early age. Kevin took over the family business and Julie worked for him. Her mother and brother were active in community theater as performers, and Julie enjoyed working backstage with props and various other jobs. She also went to charm school and did some modeling. After graduating from Trotwood Madison High School, Julie went to work as a runway model for the Sisson Modeling Agency. After two years, she became the Agency Director and also taught runway modeling. She did this for eight years. Her work schedule was often unpredictable so when her mom had a stroke, Julie changed jobs to have a more stable work schedule to help care for her mother. She then started working in the hotel industry in Dayton. On a girls trip to Cincinnati one weekend, Julie met the love of her life in a bar. She saw a man in a tuxedo and went to speak to him, thinking he worked at the bar. It turns out he didn't. He had his initials embroidered on his cuffs and he asked her to guess his name. She said "Ricky Lee". He was dumbfounded because it was true. They met in August, and they were married the following April. Julie moved to Cincinnati at that point and secured a sales job in an office supply company, and then a ribbon company. She has worked for several different companies, always in sales. She loves working with people.

Julie and Rick built their own dream home on ten acres in Hamilton, Ohio. Rick was a pipe fitter by profession, but his passion was restoring old cars. They both got involved in car and horse racing and would spend many happy weekends with their large group of friends, attending races and gatherings with like-minded people.

Unfortunately, Rick was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2015, and shortly after that he had a devastating accident while trimming trees on their property. He was air-lifted to the hospital with a broken back, neck, and pelvis. He also had a brain shear. Over the years he declined, and Julie needed help to care for him. They moved to Sun City Center to be near her brother, Kevin. Julie and Kevin have always had a very close relationship and she knew she could count on him for assistance.

Sadly, Rick had a stroke and was in and out of rehab facilities, nursing homes and finally hospice where he passed away in 2022. Julie was already a Pelican Player member, but since Rick's passing, she has become a very active member. She started out in make-up and has worked in costuming and being a dresser. She has helped out in various ways backstage and made her acting debut in the murder mystery "Crimes of Fashion", standing in for an actor who was ill. She recently was Co-Director for "Savannah Sipping Society" with her brother. She is currently Director for our next main stage production, "A Facility for Living".

Julie's favorite thing about Pelican Players is the friends she has made, and the camaraderie, kindness and generosity she has felt from this group.



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## THE PELICAN PLAYERS IS TEAMING UP WITH THE LITERACY ALLIANCE

by James Williams

Coming October 26th, we are adding something new to our complimentary Readers Theater evening. *Scrambled Fairytales*, directed by Diane Keyes, will be taking the stage. You may remember Diane from *Drinking Habits*. She played Sister Mary Catherine.

She was born right here in Florida. She grew up in the orange groves where she spent a great deal of time reading, imagining, and pretending: tree houses were castles, sheds were secret dens, and stones were magical gems. But eventually she had to grow up and be an adult. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art and English from Principia College, a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of South Florida, and teaching certifications in Art K-12 and English 5-12.

Diane is the founder of The Literacy Alliance. It is a Central Florida nonprofit. We are honored to bring Diane's *Scrambled Fairytales* to our stage. Don't miss it!



**"Scrambled Fairytales" is being brought to us in conjunction with The Literacy Alliance.**

<https://www.thelitalliance.org>

THE PELICAN PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER

PRESENT A  
READERS THEATER DOUBLE FEATURE  
**SCRAMBLED FAIRYTALES**



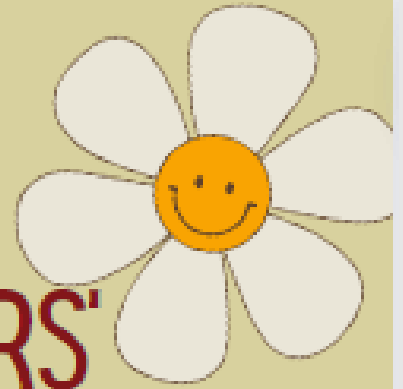
**THE HITCHHIKER**

**October 26, 2023**



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

**Nov 1st  
2023**



**A Tribute  
to the 50's  
& 60's**

**THE PELICAN PLAYERS'  
CABARET SINGERS  
PRESENT**

**THOSE OLDIES  
BUT GOODIES!**

**Directed by Ron Deitsch  
Assisted by Mary Anne Moseley-Sapia**



**Featuring melodies you'll want  
to sing along to!**



**Kings Point Veterans Theater, Doors open at 6pm,  
Show at 6:30pm. \$6 at the door. Cabaret seating,  
BYOB and snacks!**



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SLATED FOR NOVEMBER

by James Williams

For those wanting a diversion from their normal day, stop by the Waterside Room on November 2nd. **Doors open at 5:30 pm and our Board meeting will start promptly at 6:00 pm.** This meeting will focus on our 2024 membership drive. We will have applications available upon entering. Our membership fee has not changed. It's only \$10.00.

Our club President, Rick Swenson, will lead our semi-annual meeting. We will discuss current happenings, financials, membership status and upcoming events.

Hope to see you there!



PELICAN PLAYERS PRESENT  
**SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
WATERSIDE ROOM

PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
DOORS OPEN 5:30PM  
MEETING BEGINS 6:00PM

WWW.PELICANPLAYERSCC.ORG

# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

Saturday, November 4, 2023 Veterans Theater  
Doors Open: 5:00PM - Entertainment Begins: 5:30PM

Kings Point Pottery Club Presents

## Florida's Frank Sinatra Don Juceam

Open to All Sun City Communities

Join us for a  
Frank Sinatra and  
Rat Pack  
Glitz Party!  
*Come Dressed  
to Impress!*



Tickets \$17 available at KPCH Box Office

Includes Pre-Show & Post-Show DJ & Dancing, Silent Auction, and Raffle!

Bring Your Cash or Checkbook

BYOB and Snacks



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## A FACILITY FOR LIVING COMING IN NOVEMBER

by James Williams

Fall is in the air and the morning temperatures are easing up on us Floridians. With that said, November may find you looking for fun things to do inside. Why not add “A Facility for Living” to your list? That is, if you want to laugh a lot.

This show has played in many cities across the United States and the critics have written many favorable reviews about the show. “A Facility for Living” by Katie Forgette will be presented right here in Sun City Center on November 16, 17, 18 and 19. There will be five shows altogether with 3 evening and 2 afternoon performances. See the ad on page 8 for details.

Julie Ramsey is the Director, Michele Whelan is the Assistant Director and Joy Dunn is the Stage Manager. The show is bound to be great with these stellar volunteers leading the rehearsals and the way forward. Boy, they have been having fun!

*The Cast*  
(in order of appearance)

Kevin.....	Guy Bailey
Beatrice "Judy" Hart.....	Donna Fiore
Wally Carmichael.....	Rick Swenson
Nurse Claudia.....	Jeanne Naish
Squawk Box Voice.....	Dan Tackitt
Mitzi Kramer.....	Carolanne Olson
Joe Taylor.....	Kevin Steinke
Patient #33573 & Phone Voice.....	Shirley Walker
Hal "The Robot".....	James Williams

Another GREAT COMEDY!!!  
Produced by: The Pelican Players Community Theater  
A COMEDY THAT DARES TO CONFRONT THE ISSUE OF AGING IN AMERICA



## A facility for LIVING

BY: KATIE FORGETTE  
*Performed with special permission from Concord Theatricals  
Julie Ramsey, Director  
Michele Whelan, Assistant Director*

**NOVEMBER 16 & 17 @ 6:30PM**  
**NOVEMBER 18 @ 1:30PM & 6:30PM**  
**NOVEMBER 19 @ 2:00PM**  
Doors open: 30 minutes prior  
Tickets: \$16/\$13 Matinee  
Tickets also available at the door.

Kings Point Veterans Theater  
1900 Clubhouse Drive  
Sun City Center, FL  
Kings Point Box Office Hours  
Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm

  
www.pelicanplayersccc.org



**GUY**

Learning lines?...Or is he?



**Jeanne**

Troublemaker!



Bob, Michele, Julie and Joy!



**Donna**

What's she reading?

**James & Shirley**



Two Heaven-sent angels!



**Rick**

Sleepy!



**Carolanne**

Is she sleeping too?



**Kevin**

Must be a funny dream!



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



Photo by: Carol MacAlister

 **Another GREAT COMEDY!!!**  
Produced by: The Pelican Players Community Theater  
*A COMEDY THAT DARES TO CONFRONT THE ISSUE OF AGING IN AMERICA*



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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
TAMPA BAY

[www.pelicanplayersscc.org](http://www.pelicanplayersscc.org)

 2023

**Kings Point Veterans Theater**  
1900 Clubhouse Drive  
Sun City Center, FL  
Kings Point Box Office Hours  
Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH WORD SEARCH



## THEATER

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ACTOR  
AGENT  
AUDIENCE  
BALCONY  
BOARDS  
CRITIC  
DANCES  
DIRECT  
ENTER  
EXIT  
LAUGH  
LIGHTS  
MAKE UP  
MUSIC  
PIT  
POSTER  
SCENE  
STAGE  
WING

C	A	G	E	N	T	T	E	S	S	S	B
R	R	M	U	S	I	C	T	C	T	O	S
E	E	I	H	E	N	H	E	A	A	T	E
T	T	X	T	E	G	N	G	R	T	I	C
S	N	A	I	I	E	E	D	U	I	P	N
O	E	D	L	T	C	S	E	R	A	D	A
P	U	E	K	A	M	G	N	I	W	L	D
A	C	T	O	R	Y	N	O	C	L	A	B

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.



# THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

## Feather Fall

©2016 James Williams

I watched a feather fall yesterday.  
The wind gently whirled it around.  
Perhaps an old friend was successful  
getting my attention.  
I felt the feather and followed it.  
It traveled to an open, grassy field with  
buttercups.  
I felt weightlessness, freedom and peace.  
I wondered how it opened my eyes.  
I felt calm.  
I recalled many faces of my past.  
I felt my future in front of me.  
I know I was connected to so many.  
The feather was powerful.  
It landed so softly.



Email us your poems, prose and writings. We may be able to use them in future editions of "The Pelican Playbill". [pelicanplayers.rep@gmail.com](mailto:pelicanplayers.rep@gmail.com)