

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PELICAN PLAYERS COMMUNITY

Editors; Barbara Boyle; Mary Anne Moseley; James Williams



THE PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT

BY: RICK SWENSON

It is heartwarming to see audiences again in Veterans Theater. On June 9th our **Cabaret Singers**, directed by Ron Deitsch, filled the house with their voices. On July 23rd, our Readers Theater presented the world premier of **NATIONAL STORYTELLER CHAMPIONSHIP** written by PP members James Williams and Kevin Steinke.

Our August Readers Theater was postponed due to the Covid Delta Variant surge. In addition, our Board met on August 31 and made the very difficult decision to postpone the November main stage performances of Nana's Naughty Knickers. We decided that we could not, in all good conscience, put our staff, crew, and audience in danger with the current Covid situation. On September 23 and October 21, we will safely proceed with our planned schedule of Readers Theater. Readers Theater only requires one or two rehearsals, the cast can safely follow Covid protocols and the performance is only an hour. Our main stage shows require months of rehearsals and trying to follow social distancing procedures is not practical during these rehearsals. Our cast, crew and audience's safety is our main concern.

Barbara Boyle has agreed to co-chair Radio and Readers Theater along with me.

HELP WANTED

We need Sound Technicians, Make-up Artists, House Managers, Set Build and Set Strike Crew. If you can help us in any of these areas, we would really appreciate it. We are also looking for material and directors for our Radio and Readers Theater. Email us at: pelicanplayers.rep@gmail.com if you are able to help. Our goal is to get **YOU** involved.

All performances during the remainder of 2021 are dedicated to the memory of: Lawrence MacAlister, Keith Connes, Mary Winter, Jim Smith and Frank Rezoagli. They are all treasured members who left us far too soon.

Thank you for being **Pelican Players** members.



RAVE REVIEWS

BY: MARY ANNE MOSELEY

The Cabaret Singers opened up a new season of entertainment on June 9th with a free concert. The Veterans Theater was filled with almost 400 fans. It was a rousing success and a very entertaining show. The singers: (Paula Klein; Cyd Charrow; Dan Tackitt; Ken Rodman; Ashley Lobo; Hilde Klein; Lucy Malacos; Mary Anne Moseley; and Ron Deitsch) under the direction of Ron Deitsch, performed a variety of tunes from Pop, Rock, and Broadway. Different voices and different styles had the audience applauding and cheering. We are all looking forward to more musical entertainment in the near future.

Our Readers Theater presented a new and unique show on Friday July 23 in the Veterans Theater. "National Storyteller Championship" was written and directed by James Williams and Kevin Steinke. Twelve actors portrayed characters from across the country in a competition unlike anything you have ever seen and heard before. All were vying for the coveted "Pelican Trophy". Paul Ansell was the zany announcer who introduced us to these colorful characters with poignant, reflective, offbeat and humorous stories from their lives. We even received some cooking lessons from one contestant.

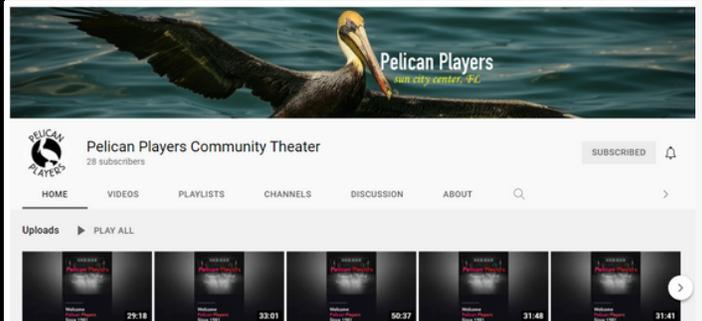
The cast included: Donna Fiore as Violet Van Zandt; Jimmy Sapia as Oak Montgomery Mason; Julie Ramsey as Daisy Beachcomber; Cyd Charrow as Lily Chrysanthemum; Shirley Walker as Thryallis Thibodaux; Kathryn Shea as Rose Amandine; Rick Swenson as Palmer Primprew; Barbara Boyle as Camelia Clancy; Mary Anne Moseley as Marigold Pondersox; Jeanne Naish as Goldenrod Gallup; Wendy Smith as Rosemary Griffith; and Chuck Foell as Elmwood Edison.

PELICAN PLAYERS HAS LANDED ON YouTube

BY: JAMES WILLIAMS

That's correct. We now have our very own YouTube channel. The web address to access it is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTn7h50G7s-AUKGxAJMFw-Q>



We have started to put our Radio Theater shows on it but we will be using it for other videos as well.

If you haven't subscribed to our channel, please do so.

Pelican Players Trivia



What year was Pelican Players designated a non-profit 501(c)3 organization?
(The answer is on page 4.)

WHO ARE THE PELICAN PLAYERS?

BY: MARY ANNE MOSELEY

Who are the Pelican Players? They are ordinary people like you and me, who have had varied lifetime experiences before lending their time and talents to this extraordinary community theater. Some have theater or music in their background, and many others have never stepped on a stage before coming here to live. You may recognize their names or maybe just their faces. You might have passed them in the supermarket. Each newsletter will feature several members' stories. Who are the Pelican Players? It's time to find out:

Rick Swenson was born and raised in Iowa. He attended Central College in Pella, Iowa (yes, Pella the window people) with a major in Communications and Theater. He started working in the floor covering field and steadily rose from sales to management in retail, then distribution and manufacturing. In his early theater experience, his favorite role was that of Geoffrey in "The Lion In Winter".

He met his bride, Alexis, at a wedding in New Jersey. They have been together ever since. Married for 47 years, they spent their first ten years in Iowa and then moved to New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 2010, they "temporarily" moved to Kings Point to help out with Alexis's parents, and soon realized this was the place for them. They joined Pelican Players in 2013.

Rick says his favorite thing about Pelican Players is the camaraderie and community. He has been in several plays and Readers Theater productions. His favorite role for PP was Charlie in "On Golden Pond". Rick is an excellent stage manager and has worked in stage construction and directed Readers Theater. BTW, he is now President of Pelican Players. That degree is finally paying off!

Born and bred in Detroit Michigan, **Mary McClafferty** is known as the Pelican Players prop master. After graduating from high school, she went to work for Detroit Edison until she married Eamon "Mac" McClafferty in 1961. Three children later, they moved to a lovely townhouse in Trenton, MI. As the children grew up, she became a Medical Biller, a job she loved and where she honed her organization skills, which serve her well to this day.

In 1994, she and her husband moved to Mexico for two years courtesy of Ford Motor Co. for Mac's job. In 1996, they went on a cross-country quest in their motor home in search of the perfect retirement community. They arrived in Kings Point in 1997 and knew they were home. An avid golfer, she had never been involved with theater, but in 2007, on a lark, she and her best friend auditioned for the Pelican Players and the rest is history.

Mary has been featured in several mainstage productions namely: "SEX AFTER SIXTY?", "CEMETERY CLUB" and "CACTUS FLOWER". Since joining PP, Mary has helped out in numerous ways, however she prefers her backstage work with props, a role in which she truly shines. She has also performed in several Follies productions and the Kings Point chorus.

Sadly, Mary lost her husband in 2016, but friends, golf and the Pelican Players have kept her determined spirit going strong. We can always count on Mary to set the stage!

WHO ARE THE PELICAN PLAYERS? (CONT'D)

BY: MARY ANNE MOSELEY

Our very dedicated and talented Membership Chairperson, **Shirley Walker**, was born and raised in Manchester Maryland. After graduating from high school, she began her career as an office worker who "always made the boss look good". She married young and raised two children in Pennsylvania, unfortunately that marriage did not work out. She then met Rich, the love of her life. They moved to Kings Point in 1996 where they enjoyed golf and socializing. Shirley was the Social Chair for Oxford 1 where she planned wonderful parties. Unfortunately in 2013, she lost Rich. Shirley decided to dedicate her time and experience to the Pelican Players, which she joined in 2011 after auditioning for a small role in "THE ODD COUPLE, FEMALE VERSION". Shirley had no acting experience and had never thought about it, but once it happened she was hooked. Her first main role was in "CEMETARY CLUB". More great roles came her way; 'ON GOLDEN POND', STEEL MAGNOLIAS' and "BOEING BOEING" among her favorites.

Shirley was on the Board of Directors of PP for six years and remains an active participant in all things Pelican Players. "I will do anything that needs to be done. I wanna be a gofer". She has directed mainstage productions as well as Readers Theater and Mystery Dinner Theater.

She feels that the Pelican Players are Family. She is also very active in the Methodist Church here in Sun City Center. Her children and grandchildren remain a very big and loving part of her life.

This dynamo is our party planner extraordinaire, and BTW, she is still looking for Pokemon after all these years.

Pelican Players Trivia



Pelican Players was designated a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in 1982.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Swenson, President - rlsvenson1968@gmail.com
James Williams, Vice-President - loveslittlepear@gmail.com
Joy Dunn, Secretary - jedunn66@gmail.com
Kevin Steinke, Treasurer - sccnoonen@gmail.com
Mary Anne Moseley, Member-At-Large - triplelady@aol.com
Barbara Boyle, Member-At-Large - barbill2711@gmail.com
Ruth Lake, Member-At-Large - rbclake5@yahoo.com

READERS THEATER FROM ED BROWN'S PERSPECTIVE

Ed Brown, a well known and talented member of our community has been active in broadcasting and acting for many years. He was an original PAC and South Shore Theater member and is a lifetime member of the Pelican Players. Ed has been involved with post production for our Radio Theater and starred in "George and Gracie" along with Jeanne Naish in our Readers Theater and Radio Theater. He recently sent an opinion letter to Sun Radio 96.3FM right here in Sun City Center. He was reviewing one of our shows, "The Life Of Riley". We wanted to share this letter with you and thank him for his kind, thoughtful and eloquent words. It means a great deal to actors to know that their hard work is appreciated.

To:
WSCQ-FM
Pelican Players

Hello,

Pelican Players' "The Life Of Riley," as heard on WSCQ-FM, represented the art form of radio theater no longer in demand commercially but whose satisfactions have their origin in the earliest of campfire storytelling. I sat with two people 'round the radio/computer to hear the show, not a common occurrence since radio listening transitioned decades ago to an almost always solo activity. (*Disclosure: I was engaged in post-production work for "Riley," and certain other Pelican Players' productions.*)

The radio "Riley" also demonstrated the difficulties and rewards of radio acting. Many people, actors included, believe that standing at a microphone with a script in hand is easier than memorizing lines and blocking for the stage. Quite the reverse is true. The actor on stage has visible support from other actors, a set, lighting, props, and body action that combine to create a character and situation. The radio actor also has other actors, canned music and effects to work with, but when lines are being spoken, there is nothing in play but the voice and the words. The voice and the words.

As a test of this proposition, put an actor in costume, within a narrow spotlight on a darkened set and with skull in hand, to recite "To be or not to be: that is the question," and have the same actor read the lines unseen by that audience, and see who is voted the best Hamlet. The stage actor version will most likely prevail. My argument, like most generalizations, oversimplifies the challenges faced by actor (and director), but it represents a long-standing bias on my part favoring the spoken word and the disembodied voice. That's what made the "Riley" characters appealing. Even though the script was about seventy years old the actors approached it like it had never before been performed. They didn't imitate, but reimagined. They didn't originate their roles but sounded like they could have. Actors, facing more exalted texts, have been working Shakespeare's lines that way for more than four hundred years.

So, over here we visualize Hamlet lamenting the loss of poor Yorick, the court jester, whose skull he holds, asking where are your "flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar?" And over here we imagine factory worker Chester A. Riley, in overalls and with welding torch in hand, saying, "Remember, every mother-in-law was once born a human bein'" Yorick caused laughter by design, Riley provoked laughter by accident. Who is to say that any one play's jest and merriment, the pleasure they provide, the need they fill, matter more or less than any other? After all, as noted by the Prince of Denmark, "The play's the thing."

Thanks to WSCQ-FM and Pelican Player,