

JANUARY 2025

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PELICAN PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER

Editors: Barbara Boyle and James Williams



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Welcome to 2025, but before we delve into this new year, let's take a quick look back at 2024. We performed three mainstage productions, FLAMINGO COURT, JACK OF DIAMONDS and THE WITCH IN 204 to approximately 3,500 audience members in 2024. We donated \$1,000 to the SCC Emergency Squad during Flamingo Court, \$1,000 to Samaritan Services during Jack of Diamonds and \$1,000 (which was matched to become \$2,000) to CFTB Hurricane Relief during The Witch in 204. We also performed 22 Murder Mystery shows which were all written by our very talented Vice President, James Williams. We performed several Readers Theater shows with free admission to thank our community for 43 years of support. We performed a Cabaret Singers show. We joined with Diane Keyes Literacy Alliance in reading events to area pre-schools. We held numerous play reading evenings to help us choose shows to perform in the future. We continue recording radio shows which were broadcast monthly on Sun Radio and WKOT Radio. When you add in the many auditions, rehearsals and meetings that went along with all of that, it was a very busy year. We thank all of you that became involved and helped us.

Our first mainstage show in 2025 will be two shows, DRAMS OF SHAKESPEARE and DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF SHAKESPEARE. Whether you liked or didn't like studying Shakespeare in school, you haven't seen Shakespeare like this. Our second mainstage show will be BERMUDA AVENUE TRIANGLE, and our final mainstage show of 2025 will be THE ODD COUPLE: FEMALE VERSION.

In addition, for 2025 we will be doing five free Readers Theater events along with a Cabaret Singers show. We expect 2025 to be as busy as 2024. Don't forget, it is up to you to reach out to us through our email address pelicanplayers.rep@gmail.com to let us know if you are interested in helping us.

We thank you for your membership. We hope to see you at our January 3rd Masquerade Gala.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

www.pelicanplayersccc.org

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

GUNSMOKE'S "BEEKER'S BARN" RELEASED TO YOUTUBE



December 12, 2024 - We are pleased to release another fine recording to our YouTube library. It is Gunsmoke's "*Beeker's Barn*" directed by Ron Banaszak and recorded by Bob Dealmeida and Mark Goldman.

The cast includes:

Ron Banaszak as Chester, Ken Rodman as Doc, Kathryn Shea as Kitty, Kevin Steinke as Beeker, Guy Bailey as Ross, Donna Fiore as Harmony and Dan Tackitt as Matt Dillon.

NEW RELEASE

AVAILABLE NOW

You Tube

SUBSCRIBE



<https://youtu.be/otrXT4cde4Q>



thank you

A special thank you to Amy Fattori for her generous \$1,000.00 donation in the name of Jack and Cathy Stevens. The Pelican Players Scholarship fund is increasing thanks to your generosity.



THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



ENDING 2024 WITH “THE WITCH IN 204”

By: Marianne Palmer

Oh my! The Witch in 204! Where do I even start? I have seen some great Pelican Players performances over the years, but The Witch in 204 was sensational - one of my favorites. The show was filled with superb acting and surprises right through to the very end.

The set was clean and bright and visually appealing. Well done everyone.

I was House Manager for one performance and loved to hear the audience constantly laughing, and whispering words like, “Uh, Oh” and “Oh, no!” It was a unique experience, and I would tell you yes, do reach out to the Pelican Players if you have even the smallest interest in finding your place within the Pelican Players community. There are so many things to do behind and in front of the curtain with a great group of people.



To Marianne Palmer for joining our newsletter team!

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

2025 SEASON AND DIRECTORS



2025 is here and we are prepared to let our exciting season unfold. Our first main stage shows include “*Drams of Shakespeare*” by James Williams paired with “*Desperate Housewives of Shakespeare*” by Jim and Jane Jeffries. Both shows will be **directed by Kevin Steinke**. Auditions will be early February.



“*Bermuda Avenue Triangle*” by Joseph Bologna and Renee Taylor will be **directed by James Williams**. He plans to kick off the production late May or early June.



“*Odd Couple, Female Version*” by Neil Simon will complete our 2025 season. It will be **directed by Julie Ramsey**.



TREASURER’S DONATION REPORT

This year, Murder Mysteries, The Cabaret Singers, and our donation box has brought in **\$8,413.00**. This is a nice amount to add on to The Pelican Players Scholarship Fund.



Hurricane Relief and Recovery

During times of crisis, Community Foundation Tampa Bay is here to connect our community. To resources. To ways to donate. To volunteer opportunities.



\$1,000 of our proceeds from “*The Witch in 204*” were given to CFTB Rapid Response Fund after Hurricane Milton. CFTB then matched our donation.

We also donated \$500 to Kings Point Employees and \$100 to The Firehouse Cultural Center who were impacted by the hurricane.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

JACK'S SHACK OPPORTUNITY AND FUN!

By: Marianne Palmer

A fundraiser at an ice-cream shop? That's a win-win situation. Jean aka Mom, and I arrived during the last 50 minutes or so, and we were greeted by smiling and happy members of the Pelican Players on the last leg of their volunteer time slot. As we were ushered in, we were reminded of all the wonderful works that the Pelican Players create for our community, as seen on the display table which was purposefully appointed-catching the eye, but not overwhelming it.

We sat and chatted, met new members, reminisced and laughed as we spoke about old shows and new shows...and, of course in SCC what doctors we visited that week... then on to the ice-cream. This provided another show of sorts as we watched the cream ice-up and get rolled into a delicious desert.

Super fundraiser idea-super fun and we raised **\$140.00**.



NEW MEMBERS CORNER

Please give a warm Pelican Players welcome to our newest members:

Karen Decker
Cheryl Kovalik
Anita Stella
Laura Palermo

Candy Sigel
Mary Fisher
Cathy Kail
Sharon Wise

Sandra Kiehm
Alice DeSchryver
Claire McColl
Mildred Gantvoort

Thanks for joining. We are thrilled to have you!



THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

“THE SHADOW”

“DANCE OF DEATH”

SET TO PREMIER ON RADIO

By: Jeanne Naish



The Shadow "Dance of Death" is a Radio Program which aired on October 10, 1943. It is a rather creepy story which is revealed as the story unfolds. As I read through it for the first time after 80 years, (yes, it was 80 years ago!) I thought to myself this is creepy, but I liked it. The cast did a great job creating the characters as I hoped they would. At the end of the story the culprit is brought to justice. As the Shadow says, "The weed of crime bears bitter proof. Crime does not pay, The Shadow knows".

The cast & crew were:

Bob Dealmeida, Recording Audio effects Engineer and Postproduction Editor;

Sound Board: Wayne Keyes;

Lamont Cranston, alias The Shadow: Dan Tackitt;

Margo Laine: Shirley Walker;

Carter, the Toy Shop Owner: Kevin Steinke;

Harvey Steele: Guy Bailey;

The Commissioner and the doll Henry: James Williams;

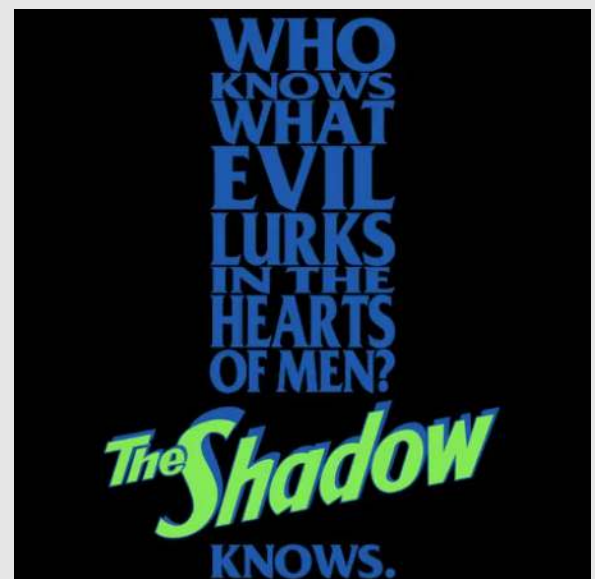
Mrs. Steele and doll Henriette: Kathryn Shea;

Robert Walker, newsboy and delivery boy: Ron Banaszak;

Little Girl Nancy: Jeanne Naish; and

Announcer: Jon Barb.

The show was Directed by Jeanne Naish.



Jeanne Naish for directing and for your article this quarter!

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

SCRIPT READERS MEET TO READ

“*WHO’S IN BED WITH THE BUTLER?*”

By: Diane Wade

On November 12th, several members got together to read another script as a possibility for our 2025 season. This month the script chosen to read was “*Who’s in Bed with the Butler*” by Michael Parker. Kevin Steinke hosted the evening starting at 4:30 PM on the dot. For those who have not attended one of our play readings, they are open to all Pelican Players members. It is a great way to get involved in the selection process for our mainstage shows. Members who arrive for the play reading have an opportunity to draw from the hat for reading a part out loud. The script is displayed on a Power Point screen for the audience to follow along with the selected readers. This is the first time a play is presented to the membership. The intent is to make a recommendation to the Board regarding the viability of using the script for one of the three mainstage plays for ensuing seasons. *Who’s in Bed With the Butler?* is full of fun, mishaps, frolics and hilarious double entendres!! The players are a deceased California billionaire, his butler, a housekeeper, an agency actress, three lovers - Josephine, Renee and Marjorie and a daughter, Constance. Those in attendance seemed to thoroughly enjoy the play and voted unanimously to recommend it to the Board as a future mainstage play. It is an outrageously funny plot. If the Board accepts this play for a future production, you will not want to miss it!



Diane Wade for joining our newsletter team!!

LET'S
READ



SCRIPT READING



We are pleased to announce Jennifer Meier and Paul Fales as new hosts of script reading night.

They begin this new adventure starting Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 4:30 PM in the KP Dance Studio, North Clubhouse. The play selected is “*The Bookstore*” by Adam Szymkowicz.

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Tuesday of every month in 2025 and join in on the fun.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



UPCOMING DATE

Tuesday, January 21st @ 4:30PM

KP Studio

Help us choose our 2026 season.



THE BOOK STORE

ADAM SZYMKOWICZ

Summary

The future of a whimsical, almost magical bookstore is uncertain after the owner dies and leaves the shop to her niece Rachel. Rachel has a job in New York City that doesn't pay her enough and a fiancé that won't stop calling. She doesn't have the time or patience to run a bookstore, so when real estate magnate Max Brewer offers her more money than she can imagine to turn the store into an apartment complex, her choice seems like a no-brainer. But as the shop works its magic on her and she gets to know the eccentric employees and clientele, she starts to wonder: Can you really put a price on a beloved community bookstore?

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

AN INTERVIEW WITH HARRY BURGESS

By: Barbara Boyle

On October 26, you performed a Mark Twain show in the Veterans Theater as part of our Readers Theater. You did an outstanding job. What made you pick Mark Twain?

Mark Twain's insightful, humorous and poignant reflections on society and the nature of man are just as relevant today as they were when Twain began his lecture series in October 1866. Because of this, I feel compelled to keep the work of Twain alive by introducing him to new audiences who may know nothing of Twain and re-introducing him to those who have embraced his work. Mark Twain not only makes us laugh, but more importantly, makes us think. I am grateful to the Pelican Players for giving me the opportunity to bring Mark Twain to the stage.

Have you been a fan of Mark Twain? If so, what was it that first drew your attention to Twain? I have been a fan of Mark Twain since childhood when I found Huckleberry Finn to be the most interesting and entertaining of his stories. After seeing Hal Holbrook's solo performance as Twain on television in the late 1960's, I became a student of Twain. I was drawn to his work on the lecture circuit and to Mr. Holbrook's solo performance based on years of research into the life and works of Mark Twain.

How did you prepare for the show? How did you transform yourself, your voice, etc. for this character? The first thing I considered was whether or not I could physically look enough like Twain to make his appearance believable. This involved examining many pictures of Twain and reviewing Holbrook's performance. There are no known recordings of Twain's voice but the actor William Gillette, who was Twain's neighbor as a child, recorded an imitation of Twain's voice in 1934. That recording of an old man with a slow Missouri drawl was studied as well as the voice of Hal Holbrook. Role preparation required hours of focused memorization and refinement which I don't believe I could have accomplished without my wife's assistance and support. She endured hours of memorization, refinement and repetition.

What lessons have you personally learned by studying Mark Twain? I have learned that solo acting is not for the faint of heart and that is why most actors won't attempt it. The amount of focus and rigorous preparation requires a great deal of self-discipline. I realized that it is difficult, without another actor to play off of, to maintain audience engagement and maintain the momentum of the work. All of these things have presented momentous challenges to be overcome.

Thank you, Harry. We hope to see more of Mark Twain in 2025!

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

PELICAN PLAYERS PRESENT

SEMI- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WATERSIDE ROOM



FEBRUARY 13, 2025
DOORS OPEN 5:30PM
MEETING BEGINS 6:00PM



WWW.PELICANPLAYERSCCC.ORG

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A CABARET SINGERS PICTORIAL

Photographs by Ron Banaszak



THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

The
CABARET
Singers

LET'S GO!

COMING
away

MAY
13

**DO ANOTHER
SHOW**

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

IN HIS OWN WORDS - RON DEITSCH

Where are you from?

I grew up in The Bronx, NY



What are your life experiences, e.g., jobs, family?

I received a degree in Music Education from Lehman College in the Bronx. While in college I was part of the Musical Theater Society and was in all the shows they performed. I was musical director for some of the shows (Jaques Brel is Alive and Well, Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Minnies Boys). After college I taught Band and Chorus in Middle School in upstate NY and Houston, Texas. I played two years in a 50's Rock and Roll show band. After getting married to my wife, Hope, we moved to Houston, TX and had our two children, Becky and Brian (who gave us our 3 grandchildren). I switched careers from teaching to computers. I started off in sales and finally ended up in corporate IT as a System Engineer. We moved to Tampa, Florida in 1988 and then to Kings Point in 2004 before retiring in 2014.

When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players?

The first thing I did when we moved to Kings Point was to look for a theater group. I found Pelican Players in the community guide and quickly joined.

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group?

My first activity for the Pelican Players was working backstage for a mainstage production. I have performed in the Follies and a few Ed Brown shows. I was in the last musical put on at the Rollins Theater. I have also performed in Readers Theater and was co-director for a time. I formed the Cabaret Singers in 2017 and will continue to put on shows for as long as I can.



Ron, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players Community Theater. You are so appreciated.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



IN HER OWN WORDS - BEVERLY ALEXIS SWENSON

Where are you from?

I grew up in Long Beach Island, NJ. I have lived in New York City and Montclair, NJ before marrying Rick Swenson. We then lived in Cedar Rapids, IA, Bettendorf, IA, Mount Laurel, NJ, Thurmont, MD, Fairfield, PA and then in August 2010 we moved to SCC, FL.

What are your job experiences? I had a wonderful childhood growing up on a barrier island, LBI, NJ. Following High School in Manahawkin, NJ, I went to school at the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. I had one sibling, a brother who was tragically killed in an accident many years ago.

I started my career in interior design at the age of fifteen. I worked for Sink or Swim on LBI and quickly moved into doing the displays in their store. They moved me to Del Ray Beach, FL to set up their new store there. In August of 1973, I was maid of honor in a wedding that Rick Swenson was best man. On June 16, 1974, we wed. Following our wedding and moving to IA, I became an Interior Designer in the Ethan Allen there. I continued as an Interior Designer in various Ethan Allen stores as we moved around the country until my retirement in 2010. We have had seven fur-babies in our over 50 years of married life.

Since retiring and moving to SCC, I have held workshops in floral arrangements and wreath designs, Bunka Japanese embroidery, shell crafting, Christmas decorations, accessorizing interior spaces, and decorating large and small party venues.

When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players? In 2014, we attended a performance by PAC in the Rollins Theater in SCC. It was after that performance that we learned about the Pelican Players. We joined PP shortly thereafter.

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group? All during our married life, no matter where we lived, we have always had a “theater-family”. KP/SCC is no exception. We love the creativity and comradery of this theater family.



Alexis, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players Community Theater. You are so appreciated.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



IN HER OWN WORDS - DIANE KEYES

Where are you from? I was born in Gainesville, FL. I have spent most of my life in the Central Florida area

What are your life experiences, e.g. jobs, family?

I have been working since the age of 12 in various jobs. Before college, my most interesting job was as a character in the 1776-1976 Bicentennial "America on Parade" in Disney World. I danced around car-sized inventions such as the telephone. I looked out the neck through a screen of an oversized housewife doll costume. After college, I eventually settled on a career as a Children's Librarian for a county library system in Seminole Co., FL. I loved being a librarian! I earned my MA in Information and Library Sciences. In 2011, I founded a nonprofit, The Literacy Alliance, which provides literacy programs that bring books to life for children. I introduced The Literacy Alliance to various Pelican Players members. Through their support, The Literacy Alliance performed in a Reader's Theater, and we are now providing literacy programs for 10 locations in our area. I also hold Teaching Certifications in Art and English. I currently teach two days a week helping children who need extra support in reading and math. Along the way, I married my college sweetheart. We have been married 42 years and have 3 wonderful children and 2 adorable grandchildren.

When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players? When we moved to Sun City Center two years ago, the first club I joined was The Pelican Players. I have always enjoyed theater and acting and I hoped to become involved in the local community theater.

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group? My experience with the Pelican Players has been fantastic. As a new member, I wasn't sure how I would fit in. But I found the PP members to be kind, generous, and just plain lovely people. My favorite thing about belonging to this group is the new friends I've made and being around creative people!



Diane, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players Community Theater. You are so appreciated.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

By: James Williams

My journey with The Pelican Players Community Theater began many years ago. I was helping the late Linda Halperin (*God rest her soul.*) and Kevin with a scene from Neil Simon's "*Plaza Suite*". Linda recognized my unforced and natural suggestions and soon after she asked me to consider directing a show with her. I have to say that I truly enjoyed working with the *Plaza Suite* script and developing the actors stage directions, including body movements and gestures.

Soon after, Linda approached me with the idea of selecting a show to direct. After careful thought, we chose "*On Golden Pond*". Unfortunately, Linda passed away before the show went into production, but I was able to direct with the late Mary Winter (*God rest her soul.*) Shortly after the production of "*On Golden Pond*", Mary asked if I would be on the Board of Directors. I would be replacing a person who was moving out of state. I said "yes" and about 8 years later I have completed two back-to-back terms. Time goes by so fast.

I have enjoyed the progress that we have made in the time that I have served on the Board. I feel we have upped our game in many ways and improved our community through theater. We have definitely increased monies in our "*forever*" endowment fund handled by Community Foundation Tampa Bay so scholarships can go on and on long after our departure.

I will still be around and helping where needed but I am going to add some other creative ventures in 2025. I am honored to be a Pelican Players lifetime member. Happy New Year everyone!



THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH WORD SEARCH

This word search contains words from *The Witch* in 204.

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

CAULDRON

MARGATE

BEWARE

CAT

HERMAN

EUGENE

EVELYN

LAIR

THELMA

SYLVIE

WITCH

POTION

BELLA

MABEL

DOOR

LATCH

BOLT

Word games may give your memory a boost.



This is also known as your “immediate memory”, and exercising this special part of your working memory by regularly doing word searches, crosswords, and other word puzzles can be useful for your overall brain health!

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

*A flicker in the quiet night,
A gentle flame, a guiding light,
A candle burning, soft and low,
For memories that still softly glow.*

In memory of
Fred Charrow
9/6/1931 - 12/13/24
Rest in Peace.

