

JUNE 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 January of 2021, I mentioned to the Board that I would like to see us put out a quarterly newsletter. In February of 2021, a newsy e-mail was sent out announcing many things including that we were planning on a quarterly newsletter to keep members in touch with what was going on in the Pelican Players Community Theater. This led to Barbara Boyle, James Williams and Mary Anne Moseley-Sapia tweaking this idea which evolved into what you have been receiving quarterly and are receiving today. They have evolved this into the wonderful newsletter you see. It is far beyond anything I envisioned when I first suggested it. I know that it is a tremendous amount of work for the three of them. I hope you join me in thanking them for all they have done to produce this wonderful newsletter.

April brought another well-received PPCT production to the Veterans Theater main stage, Savannah Sipping Society. One of the many unique things of SSS was that it was headed up with a brother/sister duo. Kevin Steinke directed with his sister, Julie Ramsey co-directing. In addition to a fantastic cast of Jennifer Meier, Cyd Charrow, Lucy Malacos, Donna Fiore and Dawna Efford, we were excited to have Carolann Olson make her debut as Stage Manager, heading up a fantastic backstage crew.

We have been so lucky to have Carolann perform onstage, backstage, in radio shows and to do a tremendous job in helping us with our insurance plan. Carolann's husband, Dan, has also been a fantastic help behind the scenes. We were sad to learn that they have decided to sell their KP home and move closer to family north of Lakewood. I would say we will miss them, but instead I'll point out that's only a little over an hour away. Not a bad commute, they can continue their membership and continue helping PPCT grow. We would love that. If they decide against that, I hope they know they will be missed. We wish them well.

We hope you plan on attending our upcoming main stage production of Drinking Habits, directed by Paul Ansell, with Julie Ramsey as Assistant Director and Joy Dunn Stage Manager. We are looking forward to another smashing hit. *(cont'd page 2)*

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THE PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

We have received our confirmed dates for our five-show Fall main stage production of A Facility for Living. It will be performed on November 16-19, 2023. We are starting our search for a director and production team for show, our last main stage of the year. If interested, please send us an email to pelicanplayers.rep@gmail.com

We are starting our search for our 2024 main stage season. If you have seen or have heard of a play that you think would work for our community, please send us your suggestions. We would love your input.

We have been quite busy with our Murder Mystery performances: Scorned in Sun City Center, Crimes of Fashion and Murder in Flontrachet Vineyards. All three of these shows have been written by our own very talented, James Williams.

And finally, we want to thank Bob Dealmeida. He has been a tremendous addition to PPCT working on sound and sound effects, postproduction, videographer, and more. He arranged with WKOT radio, 102.1 FM to broadcast our radio plays at 7:00 pm the second Saturday each month in addition to our last Friday of the month broadcasts on Sun Radio 96.3 FM. Both stations offer live streaming from their websites.

Thank you for being a valued member of the Pelican Players Community Theater and please volunteer as often as you can.

NEW ROOF

By: *Barbara Boyle & James Williams*

On May 4, the metal roof on The Pelican Players' workshop was upgraded to a rolled asphalt roof with ceiling ventilation fan and two solar tubes.

These upgrades are courtesy of a grant awarded to The Pelican Players Community Theater from Community Foundation Tampa Bay. Thank you CFTB.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
TAMPA BAY



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



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

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



L-R (Front) Diane Keyes, Sandra Foell-Goldman, Kathryn Shea, (2nd Row) James Williams, Kevin Steinke, Shirley Walker, Barbara Boyle, (3rd Row) Paul Ansell & Stephen Preuss

DRINKING HABITS - JULY 20 - 22, 2023

** NEWS RELEASE**

Pelican Players Community Theater presents “Drinking Habits” July 20-22

A door-slamming farce full of belly laughs, plot twists, and rampant paranoia.

By: Carol MacAlister

Sun City Center, Fla. — “Drinking Habits,” a zany farce full of multi-layered, hysterical mistaken identity, is the second main-stage production offered this year by the Pelican Players Community Theater of Sun City Center.

Written by award-winning playwright Tom Smith, “Drinking Habits” is an uproarious comedy about the threat of a small convent closing its doors and two nuns who desperately try to keep them open by secretly making and selling wine. The play ingeniously combines mistaken and assumed identities with well-drawn characters, revealed secrets, and an abundance of high jinks.

“What drew me to the play is that it’s a fast-paced farce filled with entrances and exits, mistaken identities, and — at its heart — a good, old-fashioned love story. Actually, two love stories. Well, actually ... three love stories,” says Paul Ansell, director of the show. “Oh, and did I mention that it all takes place within the walls of a convent?”

Set in the Convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing, the only actual needlework going on will be the audience when they are in stitches with laughter.

The role of Mother Superior is being played by Shirley Walker; Sister Philamena is played by Kathryn Shea; Sister Augusta by Barbara Boyle; George by Kevin Steinke; Sally by Sandra Foell-Goldman; Paul by Steve Preuss; Sister Mary Catherine by Diane Keyes; and Father Chenille by James Williams.

Julie Ramsey is Assistant Director, and Joy Dunn is Stage Manager.

Audiences will have four opportunities to see the play, starting Thursday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m.; Friday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, July 22, at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are on sale now at the Kings Point Box Office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Evening performances are \$16; \$13 for matinees. Tickets will also be sold at the door for each show.

All performances are at the Kings Point Veterans Theater in the North Clubhouse, 1900 Clubhouse Drive, in Sun City Center.

Founded in 1981, the Pelican Players Community Theater, a 501(c)(3) organization run by volunteers, seeks to promote the dramatic arts by staging productions and educational activities. All profits go toward the Pelican Players Scholarship Fund, handled by Community Foundation Tampa Bay and benefiting local students pursuing the arts.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

SCORNED IN SCC

By: Barbara Boyle

On May 26 and 27, our latest murder mystery "SCORNED in SCC", written by our very talented James Williams debuted. It premiered at St Andrew Presbyterian Church to two sold out crowds. The show was very well received. The cast included: Carol MacAlister, Judy Rodman, Sandra Foell-Goldman, Shirley Walker, Lisa Rivera, Julie Ramsey, Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz and Kevin Steinke.



"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players."
-Shakespeare



THE MEMORY CABINET

By: Alexis Swenson

A new addition to the halls of the KP north clubhouse will be coming this Fall.

The PPCT has acquired a Memory Cabinet. It will display memorabilia of our club's five theatrical arms during our 42-year history. Main stage productions, Twig Theater, Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, Cabaret Singers and Readers/Radio Theater will each be represented. The home for our PPCT memory cabinet is slated for the wall between the lobby and the business office. Costumes, props, playbills, photos and more will show off our history and ongoing creativity.

In addition, even though the Florida heat has definitely cranked up, the Festival of Trees Elves have been seen working on the PPCT entry for later this year. A casual walk through the Swenson's garage looks like a walk-through Santa's workshop. It will be exciting to see the Elves creative hard work come to life.

Alexis Swenson: Chief Designing Elf and Memory Cabinet Display Coordinator.

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.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CREW

By: MaryAnne Moseley-Sapia

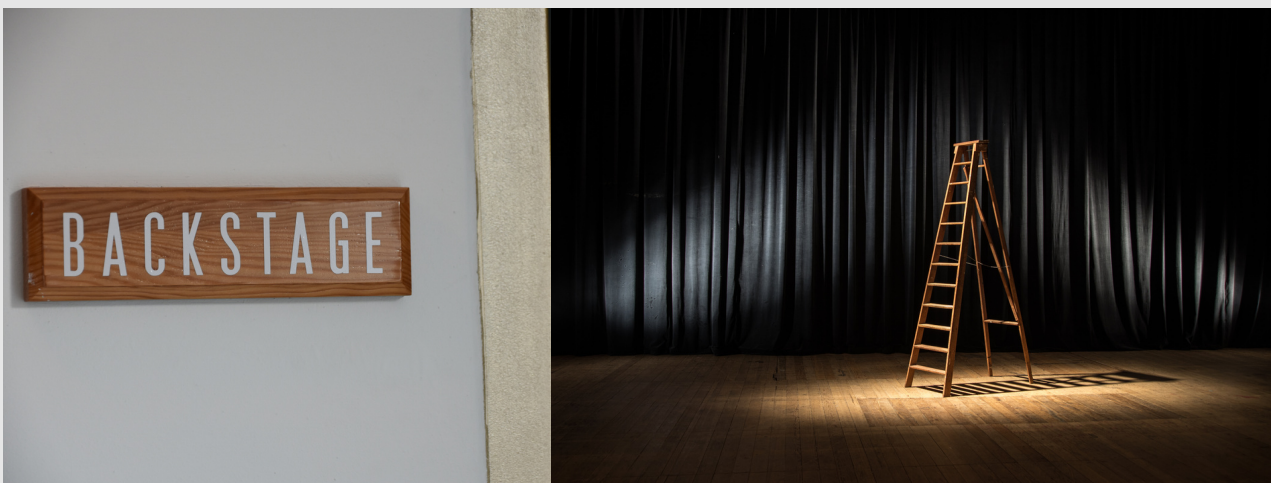
When most people think of the theater, they automatically think of the actors and the magic that happens on stage. But there is also real magic behind the scenes. This is where a show comes together through the efforts of the backstage workers.

I believe it is in the actors' best interest to learn these other theater skills. Auditions can be tough and not everyone can get a part. Let's face it, not everyone can or wants to perform. But almost everyone has skills that can be vital to the successful production of a show. Scenery, lighting, sound, costuming, props, make-up, stage design, marketing, and publicity open up many opportunities to be actively involved in a production. In this digital age, computer skills are a plus.

Being part of a senior community theater brings together people of many varied interests and capabilities which are important to the technical side of theater. As I stated earlier, if actors participate in "backstage" work on occasion it would give them a new appreciation of their support team and broaden their own horizons.

When I first started in theater 15 years ago, I was thrown into the role of Producer. I had no idea what being a Producer entailed and my instructions were vague. I was determined to succeed and came up with my own unique ideas which were rewarding beyond my expectations. This gave me the courage to try acting and an experienced Director gave me a chance. Once I got over my stage fright, I found that I loved it and was good at it. Something came alive in me, and it piqued my interest in all aspects of the theater. Though performing remains my love, I have learned make-up, props, stage design and building and also working with the sound techs (don't ask me about working with the sound board....not in my wheelhouse). I have also directed, and I really enjoyed it (maybe I'm just bossy).

By valuing and acknowledging the contributions of the crew, we develop a deeper love and understanding of live theater and each other. That is what brings us together as a theater family and therein lies the magic. And don't forget....THE CAST PARTY!!!



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WHO'S WHO?



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

By: Mary Anne Moseley-Sapia

DONNA FIORE A well known personality around town, Donna was born and raised in Chicago. She is the middle child of three girls raised by a single mom who worked two jobs to support her girls. Donna said she grew up very responsibly. She attended dancing school at the age of five and went on to a studio of dance and drama at ten. She performed in local shows around Chicago and its suburbs, singing and dancing her way through life. Donna sang in her high school chorus and church choir.

Upon graduation from Regina Dominican High School, she received a full scholarship in Journalism, but turned it down because she was not interested in that field. Instead, she started working for General Mills where she met her husband John, and that as they say, is all she wrote.

She married at nineteen and had her first child at twenty. After taking secretarial courses at a local college, Donna worked temp jobs while raising her six children with John. John worked a number of different jobs, and they eventually moved to Peoria for five years where Donna worked for the Peoria Parks Department teaching drama in a local Catholic school. John decided he didn't like Peoria, so they packed up their then five children (the sixth was born in Florida) and moved to Tampa in 1975 where her brother-in-law owned an ice cream store. They joined forces and eventually opened a second store. During all this time, Donna pursued her love of theater and singing, performing in many local shows and of course singing in the church choir. She spent quality time with her kids by bringing them to her rehearsals.

Throughout many struggles in her life, Donna has always found her own special peace through singing and acting. She has also had private lessons in voice, classical piano, music theory and choir directing.

Whew! I'm tired just thinking about all that. They lived in Tampa for 37 years and then discovered Sun City Center through a cousin of John' who lived there. Donna was unsure at first about moving to a senior town, but found out what an active community it was, and it had activities for both of them. John was able to play pickle ball for a time, but a devastating heart attack left him very ill. Donna became a caretaker, but eventually he needed care in a skilled facility and very sadly passed away in April of 2016. That July, she opened her restaurant "Fiore's" with her son Matt as chef and various children and grandchildren working alongside them. Unfortunately, the economy and inflation worked against them and they closed in 2022. But throughout, Donna remained active in Pelican Players. She has been an active member since 2012. She is also a Cantor for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. She is a devoted mother and grandmother of 17, and great grandmother of 5. Performing for Pelican Players is where she finds her tranquil outlet from a busy life. Donna's life philosophy can be summed up in these words, "Don't let your past dictate your future."

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JOHN FOSTER John is one of our oldest and longest lifetime members. He was born in Rye, New York 90 years ago and currently resides in Freedom Plaza. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Darien, Connecticut where he grew up and graduated from Loomis Prep School in 1951. He received a scholarship from American Field Service to study in France. He spent that summer in France staying with three different families and loved the experience. He majored in French at Yale University and became, what else.... A French teacher. He also did a stint in the Air Force where he flew B-47s for the Strategic Air Command.

John taught at the Choate School in Connecticut where he eventually became head of the French Department. His love of Bridge led him to a table where he met his lovely wife, Lorraine. They married in 1960 and raised a son and daughter. In 1969, they moved to Troy, New York where John became head of the Language Department at the Emma Willard School, the oldest girls school in the country. This is where he got a real taste for the theater. He was Director of their Christmas pageants and always played the father figure in their plays. John and Lorraine retired in 1990 and moved to Sun City Center because it had the three things he loved the most (aside from Lorraine); golf, Bridge, and a community theater. He became a certified Bridge teacher in 1992 and was runner-up for Bridge Teacher of the Year by the nationwide Duplicate Bridge Association.

John became a member of The Pelican Players in 1991 and was President of the Board of Directors from 1997-2003. He was the editor of the Pelican Perch, our original newsletter. John is also responsible for obtaining our storage building outside the theater and has headed several Directors workshops. When Pelican Players originally started The Follies, back in the 90's, John was an MC and was responsible for increasing the shows from 2 to 3 performances (2 evenings and a matinee) to bring in more revenue for scholarships. John started publicity enhancement for productions with the help of Diane Borini who managed the ticket office for many years. This involved fliers and poster displays outside the ticket office. In addition to these accomplishments, John is a published poet. He started out by entering a contest at the Hillsborough County Library called Wit-Lit in 2007. He educated himself in all forms of poetry and has written four poetry collection books. His latest book, "A Gesture of Words" is a guide to 33 poetry forms from around the world and has been endorsed by the Poet Laureate of Florida. He currently is the custodian of the poetry display at Freedom Plaza called The Poet Tree.

A few months ago, his wife, Lorraine passed away after 63 years of marriage. John still maintains a wonderful outlook on life and keeps busy. His daughter recently threw him a 90th Birthday bash at Freedom Plaza where they had a wonderful time. John is a humorous and delightful man. To me, he will always be the Poet Laureate of Sun City Center.

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Produced by: The Pelican Players Community Theater

November 16-19, 2023



A facility for **LIVING**

BY: KATIE FORGETTE

Performed with special permission from Concord Theatricals



www.pelicanplayersccc.org

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 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

