

# Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

## January/February 2009

Happy New Year Everyone! Thanks to all who responded so promptly to my request for articles. Keep them coming. I'll shoot for March for the next newsletter.

### TBP Singers

We had a great season singing for lots of different Christmas parties and events. We were off to a great start on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at O'Connor's store in downtown East Tawas. We are always amazed at how we can cram ourselves into tiny little spaces and still sing. Deb DeBois performed while draped over a clothes rack and the men (Chris Mundy & George and Mike Robson) didn't look *too* uncomfortable surrounded by women's clothing. (The best part of small spaces is that we can skip the choreography.) It was a fun start. We would like to thank our roadies for that night: Michael, Stevie, Sheldon, Sunny, Christiana and Bradon (all provided by Barb Hunter).

Our next outing was to Northwoods Steakhouse for the Lions Christmas party. You may all remember that Tuesday – it snowed and snowed and then snowed some more. But we all made it. We really appreciate the efforts of our out of Tawas members, for performances and rehearsals. Penny Zacharias and Kathy Erickson come from Oscoda, Mike Robson comes from Hale and Amy Huff comes all the way from Twining.

The Christmas program of songs and stories at the theater was very well attended again this year. Thank you to Tim Haskin, Tara Western and Miss Elizabeth for the stories. We missed Greg Dahlstrom's wonderful voice this year but are looking forward to having him back next year. (Greg was preparing for hip replacement surgery). We greatly appreciate the talents of Donna Dahlstrom on lights and Ray Skiver on sound, thank you to both of them. Thanks as well to Phyllis Spencer, Kay Robson and Mary Kiernan for taking care of the house and refreshments.

### Christmas at Neiman's

Deb Michaels from Hits FM, some US Marines, cast members of *Scrooge* from the Assembly of God Church, representatives of Operation Shoebox and several Tawas Bay Players joined together on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Neiman's Market for a couple hours of Christmas cheer and song. Donations were taken for Toys for Tots and Operation Shoebox (a group of volunteers who send shoeboxes full of goodies to our troops overseas). Neiman's provided refreshments and the proceedings were broadcast live on Hits FM. Representing TBP were June Hudgins, Tim Haskin, Debra DeBois, Mary Henry, Cheryl Colvin, Tanya DeVault, Andy DeWilde and Farah & Kit Eagal. Thanks to Kit and Farah for providing the song books. June reports that it was great fun and next year they are looking at sometime in the evening so more people can attend.



### Christmas at Tawas Village

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> June Hudgins, Tim Haskin and Farah & Kit Eagal headed out to Tawas Village to Play Santa. For the past few years June has headed up the effort to provide bags of small gifts to the residents of Tawas Village. June said "My, my how their faces lit up when we gave each of them a bag of goodies. We had plenty donated this year to fill bags for 37 women and 13 men." Thank you to Debra DeBois and Tim for helping fill the bags. And a big thanks to all who donated items or money: June Hudgins, Tim Haskin, Farah & Kit Eagal, Pam & Keith Frank, Laurie & Michal Jacot, Penny Zacharias, Debra DeBois, Barb Hunter, Pat Casey, Chris & Janie Mundy, Mary Ann Michalski, Ken & Phyllis Spencer, George & Kay Robson, Sue Dowell, Nadeen & Bob O'Meara and Tara Western. June lost her original list of donors and she is very sorry if she forgot anyone.

### A Note from June Groff

Hi Everyone! Just a note from sunny Florida. I ended the Christmas season with an enjoyable afternoon at American Stage Theater in St. Petersburg where I saw *Tuna Christmas*. What a hoot. Tawas would enjoy it for a Christmas special. Hope everyone has a great new year and I do look forward to the News Letter.

## **A Note to All from Laurie Jacot**

Dear TBP family,

I appreciate all the cards and prayers that I have received this fall. My mother's difficulties have taken a toll on all of us. It was hard to watch her suffer. I know she is at peace now. Your support has meant a lot to me. I have enclosed a poem that was written by my mom's mother, Laura Schlacht that has also given me comfort through this difficult time. I thought that maybe it could help others as well. Thank you again for all your support.

### ***On the Wings of a Prayer***

Just close your eyes  
And open your heart  
And feel your worries  
and cares depart,  
Just yield yourself  
To the Father above  
And let Him hold you  
Secure in His love.  
For life on Earth  
Grows more involved  
With endless problems  
That can't be solved.  
But God only asks us  
To do our best,  
Then He will "take over"  
and finish the rest.  
So when you are tired,  
Discouraged and blue,  
There's always one door  
That is open to you  
And that is the door  
to the "House of Prayer"  
And you'll find God waiting  
To meet you there.

### ***The Butler Did It***

Both director Deb DeBois and producer Phyllis Spencer report that things are going very well. They want everyone to know what a great show this is going to be and encourage everyone to come out and see it. It's not everyday you get to see Keith without his beard, wearing tights. Dress rehearsal will be Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Show dates are January 23, 24, 25 and 29, 30, 31 and February 1. We are pleased to be hosting the CTAM Board on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. See the next article for details of their visit to Tawas.



### **CTAM News from Diane Ray**

CTAM board members Vincent Weiler and Diane Ray attended the November CTAM meeting in Traverse City, November 15 & 16. We arrived early Saturday and got to see a sneak peek of their Children's Theatre rehearsal for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* with CTAM board member Michelle Dungjen directing. What a treat! They did a fine job. Then we went into committee meetings to plan next year's workshops.

Saturday evening Michelle Dungjen invited the board to her home for a glass of wine and tour of the home that

she and husband Brian are renovating. Later the Traverse City Oldtown Playhouse hosted the members with *Urinetown, the Musical*. What terrific music and energy on such a small stage! It was a special treat to watch and hear this well choreographed and directed play. We noticed that many of their programs ads were pertaining to water! At intermission we were encouraged to pay for use of the bathroom and then given a button saying "I paid to pee!" Sunday morning we met back at the theatre, discussed committee reports and business and adjourned at noon.

Tawas Bay Players will be hosting the CTAM (Community Theatre Association of Michigan) board meeting on January 24 & 25. The CTAM board will be holding committee meetings Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning at the playhouse. They will be our guests for Saturday's performance of *The Butler Did It* on Saturday evening and at a reception after the show. All TBP members are welcome to visit with the CTAM board members. Please come meet the CTAM Board after for fun and refreshments. The reception will be potluck so if you plan to attend please bring a dish to pass. For more information, contact Deb DeBois at 362-6800.

### **CTAM News from Vincent Weiler**

There are a couple of really exciting things happening with your community theatre association.

First of all there is a acting master class which will be held in Clare the weekend of January 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. The class will be held at the Doherty Hotel and will be led by Penny Notter who is an excellent director and workshop leader. This class will be not only a great learning experience but a lot of fun.

2009 is an AACT/Feat year and the state competition will be held in Monroe on February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Seeing a theatre festival like this is a wonderful way to see many plays preformed by groups and judged by nationally recognized adjudicators. It is a great learning experience for anyone interested in theatre and a good way to check out plays that we may wish to do here in Tawas.

One other exciting piece of information will be the Master Class in Musical Theatre that will be coming this summer. We are extremely excited to have Leeds Bird to teach this class. Many of us at TBP know Leeds and know the fantastic work he does. More information on this class will be in future newsletters.

Attending CTAM events is a great way to further your knowledge in theatre and also see what other groups are doing; also these events are a lot of fun. More information on these and other events can be found at the CTAM website [www.communitytheatre.org](http://www.communitytheatre.org) or by contacting Vincent Weiler.

### **All Shook Up by Judy Quarters** (Editor's note – this is not Judy's normal state)

The cast has been chosen with the 10 lead characters. There is a representative from all our local schools which speaks highly of our northeastern Michigan talent! Dennis & Vickie have been working with the acting, Dennis II with vocals and June Wygant with the choreography. Jim Sapp is putting together the pit...its looking to be a great show!! Practice started the first part of December in Dennis' garage but due to our lovely weather many practices have already been cancelled. So beginning January 5, 2009 we will be going strong three nights a week at the playhouse. We will have only about a month on stage between *The Butler Did It* and when our show starts so it is going to be a very busy January & February. Let's hope the weather cooperates!! The show will run March 6, 7, 8, and 12, 13, 14 and 15. Dress rehearsal is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**If anyone is interested in helping with anything please let Judy Quarters know. We are looking for saddle shoes poodle skirts and leather jackets if anyone has any they would like to let us borrow please bring it to the theater some evening during a practice.**

### **The cast of characters for All Shook Up**

<b>Natalie Haller</b>	Kira Tait	Oscoda High School
<b>Chad</b>	Tyler Braun	Hale High School
<b>Jim Haller</b>	David Ryan	Whittemore-Prescott High School
<b>Sylvia</b>	Brittany Lynch	Oscoda High School
<b>Lorraine</b>	Kaylee Wilson	Arenac Eastern High School
<b>Dennis</b>	Jon Collard	Whittemore-Prescott High School

**Miss Sandra**  
**Mayor Matilda Hyde**  
**Dean Hyde**  
**Sheriff Earl**

Alex McDaniels Tawas Area High School  
Erica Tatum Whittemore-Prescott High School  
River Peludat Tawas Area High School  
Daniel O'Rourke Tawas Area High School

### Chorus Members

Erik Adamiak	Tawas Area
Leandra Kaake	Tawas Area
Nate Turlalnd	Hale
Allison Wilson	Hale
Kayla Grusecki	Tawas Area
Sara Blust	Tawas Area
Cortney Spencer	Whittemore-Prescott
Jasmin Simon	Tawas Area
Brianna Dalton	Tawas Area
Courtney Turner	Tawas Area
Stephanie Robert	Tawas Area
Tiffany Guenthar	Tawas Area
Taylor Knapp	Tawas Area
Lorea Johnroe	Tawas Area
Sheldon Skiver	Tawas Area
Sunny Ragan	Tawas Area
Jon Shaffer	Tawas Area
Alexis Parker	Tawas Area
Megan Lamrock	Oscoda
August Zech	Tawas Area
Nicole Obeada	Oscoda



### **All Shook Up news from June Wygant**

Choreography rehearsals for *All Shook Up* have been simply fabulous so far, even though we had to cancel twice. Talk about a talented group of young people! They have impressed me so far not only with their ability to count, move, and pick up choreography quickly, but they also have a super work ethic! With only two rehearsals under our belts, I am surprised at how much we have already accomplished. The fun and lively music and the vintage style have been tons of fun to work with so far. Jailhouse Rock opens the show with lots of energy, and boy oh boy do these guys and gals have energy! With lots of swing and jitterbug style infused, this number will certainly kick the show off to a great start. I am looking forward to more great rehearsals and working together with the cast and production staff to make this one of the best shows in TBP Teen Musical history. Thanks to all the students for their hard work, Dennis and Vicki for the opportunity to work with them, and to my handsome partner, Christian (my son) for helping me teach all the partner moves. He's really good, and the students have gotten a kick out of him being part of the process (and so have I)!

On another note, I am looking to see if any teens or younger kids (grades 6-8) would be interested in participating in another series of Improvisation Workshops for student actors. The students that got involved in these Saturday work sessions last year had a blast and learned some great skills to advance their stage presence and ability to take risks with characters and situations. If anyone might be interested in participating, they should email me or give me a call at (989) 329-7461 and if the interest is there, I will take the idea to the TBP Board. Happy Holidays and may 2009 be our best year yet in theatre!

### **TBP Young People Working in Theater Update**

Deb DeBois provided this update on Amanda Miller (Sharon's daughter) from her website. We would all love to hear about what our former youth members are doing now. Or former adult members for that matter. If anyone has news to share please send it to me and I'll include it in an upcoming newsletter. Now on to Mande...

An accomplished wig, hair and make-up designer, Amanda has designed for the Pearl Theatre Company, the Princeton Festival, Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Hangar Theatre, Barrington Stage Co. and Williamstown Theatre Festival, as well as the dance company, RETTOCAMME. As a

member of Hairstylist and Make-up Artist Union Local #798, she works on a collaborative design team for NBC Studios' 'Saturday Night Live'. Additionally, she collaborates with wig designers, Watson Associates, on numerous Broadway productions, including the currently running, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Color Purple*, and *Les Miserables*. Amanda has worked wigs, hair, and makeup for the Metropolitan Opera Company, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Boston Lyric Opera, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Her design talents extend from the theatre industry to that of the commercial arts, creating several hair and makeup concepts for music album cover photo shoots, including Aerosmith's 2006, *ROCKIN' THE JOINT*, for photographer, Ian Gittler. She additionally teaches within academia, offering a make-up master class each year for the Mannes School of Music Opera Program, where she is the hair and makeup consultant. Amanda began her career as a wig and makeup apprentice with the Santa Fe Opera, after receiving her BFA from the University of Michigan School of Music.

Check out the website [www.wigshairmakeup.com/](http://www.wigshairmakeup.com/) to see photos of her work.

## **Hail to the Chief or Long Live the King**

Our illustrious TBP president, Keith Frank has been chosen as the 2009 Perchville King. He follows a long line of current and former TBP members to serve as King or Queen: Carol Klenow, June Hudgins, Bill & Tara Western, Pat Ruster, Sharon Miller, Jo Ann Lutz, Brenda Chadwick, Deb DeBois, Lyle Groff and Judy Quarters. June Hudgins remembers her reign well, 1987 was the year of the terrible winter storm that knocked down the tent late Saturday or early Sunday morning. She greeted her loyal subjects from the warmth of the Chamber office. Be sure to come out to the various Perchville activities and say hello.

## **The Rest of the TBP Season**

***Nonsense*** directed by Chris Mundy – 362-9199

Try-outs are tentatively scheduled for March 17-18. Dress rehearsal will be Wednesday, May 6.

Show dates are May 8, 9, 10 and 14, 15, 16 and 17.

***Two by Two*** directed by June Hudgins – 362-8423

Try-outs are tentatively scheduled for May 12 & 13. Dress rehearsal will be Wednesday, July 8.

Show dates are July 10, 11, 12 and 16, 17, 18 and 19.

**For more information or to confirm the audition dates please contact the directors directly.**

*And now more musings from Michal Jacot.....*

## **The Shot (Or a Word Very Similar To That) Heard 'Round the Theatre**

People always seem to be impressed with projecting on stage. By people, I mean people who don't do the theatre thing.... you know, normal people. They always seem to be amazed at how an actor can project his voice out into the audience, booming it out so loudly and clearly that everyone in the back row can hear. I always tell them that it's a skill that takes years of experience, a talent one must hone to a razor point. It beats telling them that I just have a big mouth.

There is a reason I bring this up, of course. A few years ago, we were doing "Little Shop of Horrors". It's one of my favorite scripts, with catchy music and funny dialog. I got to play the dentist, which meant I got to fulfill a fantasy of seeing what I'd look like in black leather biker regalia. (The word we're looking for here is "ridiculous.") We had three women as the "doo-wop" girls who float in and out of the scenes acting as a Greek chorus.

One woman was Barb (to protect the innocent, I won't mention her last name, which, incidentally, is "Hunter." Oops. My bad...) Barb is known far and wide for her legendary colorful vocabulary when something goes wrong. Barb has spent many creative hours brainstorming phrases that would make truckers and sailors blush.

One night, the doo-wop girls prepared for one of the play's final scenes. They were dressed in matching evening gowns, and they were to enter gracefully onto the stage singing. Hitting their cue perfectly, they paraded out to the stage single file. That was when the woman in the front of the line caught her high heel in a stage crack and stopped dead. Like a masterfully executed Three Stooges routine, the two in back of her plowed into her. There they were, three beautiful women, knocking into each other and exclaiming "whooff!!" as the wind pushed out of their lungs.

Here's where that thing about projecting comes in.

Ever notice that, when you're in a crowded room and you say something you shouldn't, it's never when everyone else in the room is talking? No, it's always during that one second where everyone stops their conversation and the entire place hears you say, "... and that's how I got a free prostate exam!"

During a lull in the music, before anyone started singing, the audience heard the bumping and thumping behind the curtain as the girls bumped into each other. Then, clear as well water, they heard one single word from the wings. It was not a pretty word, and is usually reserved to describe a certain bodily function and in-laws.

Fortunately, the audience was in good humor by then, and enjoyed hearing the ad-lib. The funny part is, to this day, most of us in TBP assumed it was Barb who delivered this epithet. But it wasn't. One of the other women (who shall remain nameless, but only because I don't remember which one it was, but I think she edits the TBP newsletter), was responsible. But it's such a natural assumption on the part of everyone who knows Barb. If there was a foul word being thrown around, we just figured it came out of Barb. To this day, Barb must endure being the subject of this story. No matter how many times she tries to set people right, she'll never convince all of them. Maybe it has something to do with how she defends herself: "How many \$@##\* times do I have to %#\*&@ tell you? It wasn't me, it was %#@##\*\* someone else!! #@\$%\$%@ @!!!"

*Editor's note: This article may be an encore presentation but even if you have read it before it's good for a chuckle. And it's a good opportunity for me to fess up and exonerate Barb. Michal does take just a bit of literary license with the story. What actually happened was this; we were waiting to go on after intermission. We were out of sight of the audience, listening to the orchestra and waiting for our cue when I took a step and realized that my heel was stuck in the crack between the stage sections. No amount of pulling up would free it. I guess the word slipped out while my mind was occupied trying to figure a way out of my predicament. I was actually third in line and until that unfortunate expletive; the other two didn't have a clue that anything was wrong. Lucky for me, I shifted my weight just right and the heel popped free in time to enter on cue. And I'm sure leaving the audience wondering what had happened. Sorry Barb.*

## SOME PHOTOS FROM OUR SONGS AND STORIES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

