

Summit Playhouse Green Room Notes

October 2004

***Fiorello!* Opens on November 5th**

Fiorello!, the musical story of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1959, will be revived on our stage November 5–20. Rose Pancirov is directing, assisted by Ken Horn as musical director and Stephanie Warkulwiz as choreographer. Members of the cast include Chaz Turner as the mayor and Sandy Rudnitski, Bethany K. Fustos, Joe Schmidt, William Yersevich, Ms. Warkulwiz, Robbi Curtis, Jim Knight, Jeslyn Wheelless, Emily Russoniello, Aimee Dehope, Liz and Bud Dawson, Melanie Lombardi, John Becker, Gil Childers, Paul Morrongiello, and Keith Sampino. The show is produced by Vincent Balzano; the program is sponsored by Countywide Home Loans. Tickets are \$25 (\$15 for students under 18 years of age). Call (908) 273-2192 or order online www.summitplayhouse.org.

Membership and Subscription Renewals Due by November 1st

If you have neglected to send in your subscription or membership renewal, please do so promptly so that you can enjoy *Fiorello!*, *Inspecting Carol*, and *A Delicate Balance* at our very reasonable subscription rate of \$40. If we don't hear from you by November 1st, our by-laws require us to drop your name from our roster.

City of Summit Proclaims Marjorie Jefferson Day

On Wednesday, September 8, 2004, Mayor Jordan Glatt and the Council recognized the work of Marjorie Jefferson as cited in *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail* (2004), and they designated the Playhouse building as an historic site. The proclamation received by President Nancy Boucher has been framed and is on display in the theatre.

A New Roof over Our Heads!

New member Philip Van Vort, a construction engineer, surveyed our building this summer and put us in touch with a historical contractor, who took pictures of the roof and other parts of building that need repair. These pictures are displayed near the coat rack downstairs, and the pictures are worth more than words alone. This fall we are completing the first phase of our restoration project, a new roof, new gutters, and downspouts. Funds for this project were donated by some generous Playhouse members and subscribers; other funds came from a benefit conceived by Vince Balzano.

***Two Guys and a Girl* Nets over \$6500 for Building Restoration**

Bill Lubrano and Susan McDaniel sang their way into the hearts of the jam-packed audience on Saturday, October 16th. Vince, the second guy, arranged the fundraiser, delivered some good jokes, muttered self-effacing remarks, and made half-hearted attempts at singing. Besides raising money, the evening brought new faces to our theatre and, we hope, some new subscribers. Thanks, Balzanos!

Denny Johnson Memorial Plaque Installed on Our Stage

On September 3rd forty-five friends of the late Denny Johnson attended the dedication of a memorial plaque honoring his long tenure as technical director and set builder in our theatre. Gloria, his widow, and Scott and Sharon, their son and daughter, journeyed from Utah to participate. Scott showed a videotape about his father's life, and the Summit Folk Dancers, a group founded by the Johnsons, performed several dances to remember him. You, too, can remember him whenever you sit in our auditorium, for he restored every one of our 1930's chairs. Nearly \$5000 was contributed to the Playhouse in Denny's memory.

Is Your Name on One of Our Playhouse Chairs?

John Bauer, Director of Development, announced that Beacon Hill Tavern, Dolores Croneberger, Jack and Millie Cooper, and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Balestrieri are our newest "chairholders." For a \$100 contribution to our Building Restoration Fund, you, too, can have your name permanently inscribed in the theatre.

Other Development News

As a member of the Amadeus Circle of Donors to the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, John is extending his benefit to attend dress rehearsals free-of-charge to all Playhouse donors of \$100 or more. He has also arranged for these donors to receive copies of *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail* (2004) mentioned in the "Marjorie Jefferson Day" note above.

Changes on the Board of Governors; Newsletter Editor Needed

Since you received the President's letter of July 8th, there have been two changes on our Board. (1) Chris Messineo, who was elected Vice President, has resigned his position. Unfortunately, because of a change in the by-laws that was just made, this vacancy must remain until the next Annual Meeting next June. (2) Sue Smith, who was appointed newsletter editor, has been given additional responsibilities at work, and is unable to serve. If any member or subscriber is interested in putting out the remaining three newsletters this season, please apply directly to Nancy Boucher (973-377-9058). A new appointment will be made by January 1st.

News from the House & Grounds Committee

The fall clean-up took place in several phases: • During the summer John Bauer, Nancy Boucher, and Betty Kaus cleaned the window wells and trimmed the shrubbery. • Cathy Hawrusik, Nancy Gurley, and Betty Kaus cleaned the kitchen. • Costume and prop rooms were organized by Geraldine Zoccoli and Lyn Mackie. • House & Grounds Chair Linn Smith, Mike Tatlow, Bill Roome, Ed Johnson, John Bauer, and Nancy Boucher cleaned the storage room, while Vince Balzano made several trips to the dump. • New members Pat and Gary Arnesen retiled the floors in the lavatories off the Board Room and replaced and painted the baseboard. Gary also repaired the sink in the women's dressing room. • Betty Kaus and Joann Scanlon donated flowers from the luncheon celebrating Betty's retirement from Bergdorff Realtors, and John Bauer planted them in front of the Playhouse. Thanks to everyone.

Nancy Gurley Throws Another Great Party

Over sixty people attended the fall kick-off party held at Nancy Boucher's home in Chatham on October 3rd. The event was hosted by Nancy Gurley with the assistance of Geraldine Zoccoli. Attendees supplied the food, the Playhouse supplied the drinks, and the Johnsons from Utah and the Summit Folk Dancers were special guests.

All Cast Pictures Now Displayed

Additional picture racks have been installed in the Board Room and the Green Room, so that pictures from all main stage and Kaleidoscope productions are now displayed. PT Kizzia, our Historian, will arrange them before the opening of *Fiorello!*.

More Playhouse News

• Lori Balzano and her Playreading Committee surveyed our audience members before beginning the selection process for next year's season. • Lois Hageman announced the following benefits for this year: SPARC, Kiwanis Club of the Chathams, and Delta Gamma. If your group would like a benefit, please contact Lois in care of the Playhouse. • Jo Ray is planning an acting workshop to be followed by a performance. • Joanne Wilson is chairing a telephone committee to improve communications with our members.

Playhouse Members on Other Stages

• Joann Scanlon is directing *The Little Foxes* in Westfield. • Linn Smith is stage-managing for Joann. • John Bauer is playing the part of Poseidon in *The Trojan Women* by Euripides. The production is being staged in the Wilkins Theatre on the Kean University campus from November 11th through the 21st. • Alan Danzis is doing a pilot for a national college television network. It is based on his *Fate Date* show at Loyola University.

Unsolicited Praise Received on October 11, 2004

Dick Brady from Newport Beach, California, who performed on our stage from 1967 to 1969 in *The Odd Couple*, *Philadelphia Here I Come*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*, wrote that in preparation for a brief visit to Summit, he accessed our web site and was happy to see "that the Playhouse is in caring hands." He added: "Please accept my applause for keeping and improving on a proud tradition."

News from the Tri-County Community Theatre Association

Rose Pancirov, Summit Playhouse Board liaison to the TCCTA, has announced these productions: **Stony Hill–London Suite**, October 22–31; **Amahl and the Night Visitors**, December 18–26, January 1–2; **Florham Park Players–The Scarlet Pimpernel**, November 5–13; **Westfield Community Players–The Little Foxes**, October 9–30; **There Goes the Bride**, January 8–22; **The Strollers–The 1940's Radio Hour**, November 5–20. Playhouse members receive a \$2 discount on these plays with their I.D. card.

We will see you at *Fiorello!* . . . We hope to have a new editor for our newsletter soon.

The Playhouse Association, Inc., 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 (908) 273-2192

Nancy Boucher, President • Ed Johnson, Business Manager • John Bauer, Editor • www.summitplayhouse.org