



# S.C.S. Players' Newsletter

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 8

APRIL 5, 2010

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA NEUWIRTH

## 50th Anniversary

### Special points of interest:

- *History of the St. Clair Shores Players*
- *Membership*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Memories from the Past*
- *President's Note*
- *From the Director's Chair*
- *Calendar of Events*

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As each year goes by and new members arrive, it becomes imperative that some record be made of what your organization has gone through so that you may have a better understanding of how we arrived at this point.

- Les Wilson

**The History of the St. Clair Shores Players** as told by Les Wilson.

#### The Jackie Awards

In 1960 we decided we should give out awards somewhat like the Oscars. The Board of Directors mulled over what to call this award and came to the conclusion that it should be called a "Jackie". To be named after our founder, Jackie Duemling, and not Jackie Kennedy as one reporter from the Detroit Free

Press had hoped.

The Jackie Awards parts became our biggest social event right from the start. At first we gave awards for almost every category imaginable including best set design, costumes, make up, lighting and sound effects. Along with these categories were the usual awards for best lead, supporting, featured, and even bit walk on parts called non featured.

This of course added up to a lot of awards. When we first started out the statues cost about \$12.00 each. Each year, however, the expenses increased until the statuettes began costing close to \$30.00. Thus, the budget began to spiral out of control. It reached a point where we finally decided to give up giving out

awards altogether. This lasted some fifteen years until we once again decided to resurrect this entertaining function. This time, however, we narrowed the list of recipients to best (male and female) lead, supporting, featured, and Director.

#### On the Road

We should mention that there have been a few shows that we have taken on the road. We started doing this in the late sixties with a couple of children's plays entitled, **The Red Shoes** and **The Land of the Dragon**. They were good money makers for organizations that paid us to bring the show to them.

In the early seventies, the Grosse Pointe Theater had been taking shows to Fenton, Michigan. They had reached a point that they no

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### Upcoming Social Event

GUILTY CONSCIENCE  
Friday and Saturday  
APRIL 16th and 17th

Eastpointe Community Center  
Eight Mile between Kelly and  
Gratiot

*And*

APRIL 23rd and 24th

Doors open: 7:30 pm  
Curtain: 8:00 pm

## MEMORIES FROM THE PAST



I have a lot of fond memories from being involved with the St. Clair Shores Players over the past nine years that includes plays, fund raisers, and social gatherings. What stands out most right now is the play we are currently rehearsing, *Guilty Conscience*. It's been a little while since we've been able to do a show due to some unfortunate circumstances and I feel very fortunate to be involved with this

show. It's got me remembering how much I missed it and how much fun it really is. During the course of rehearsing and preparing for each show we experience some laugh out loud moments with bloopers and working out the blocking. Those moments are not only a learning experience but they provide memories and laughter for years to come. We have a great group of people who come together to put on the shows bringing huge talent, whether it's acting, set design and construction, directing, props, set dressing, etc. It's pretty great that during the course of rehearsals we all have such a good sense of humor. We can laugh at ourselves and each other, yet still know when to be serious and as a

result put on a fabulous show that we have a lot of fun with. One example is our curious little bull dog friend named Marie, who tends to pace across the stage during rehearsals looking for anything edible on the floor. There is one particular scene in which our furry four legged friend comes in and seems to be very concerned about what's going on. Yes, Marie puts us to the test of staying in character and provides us with some heart warming moments and laughter too. I am looking forward to many more fond memories in the future with the St. Clair Shores Players.

- Jenny Miller

## Membership

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE 2009 - 2010 SEASON SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL BY THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Now is the time to show your continued support for the SCS Players and renew your membership for the 2009—2010 season. Single memberships are only \$20.00 and families are \$30.00. Make

your check payable to "**SCS Players**" and mail it to Matthew Sheehy our

Membership Committee Chairman (see address at the end of this article.)

Here are a few things to remember about memberships:

Single memberships are for anyone 18 years of age and up.

Family memberships include you, your spouse (husband or wife) and your children. Family memberships **DO NOT** include grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and /or boyfriends/girlfriends.

Mail your 2009 - 2010 Membership dues check to:

**Matthew Sheehy**  
22521 Doremus  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080



## Friendly Family Restaurant Fundraiser

It was wonderful to see so many members, their friends, and family attend the fundraiser at the **Friendly Family Restaurant** on Saturday, March 13th. People began arriving around 9:00 am for breakfast with a steady stream of members coming

to the restaurant throughout the day. We raised additional money from the generous ten percent of the breakfast and lunch receipts plus donations from the jug on the counter by the cash register. Everyone had a great time! Randa and Sharon visited

With everyone who came. This is another successful fundraiser that helps us build the bank account so that we can perform plays now and in the future.

- Linda Neuwirth

## A Few Words from the President



Hi there!

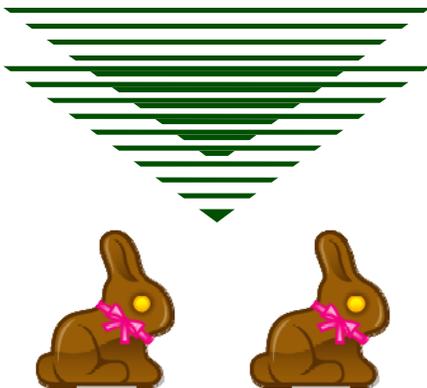
Easter is coming and it's hard for me to decide what to eat from my daughter's Easter basket. Let's see... there's chocolate eggs, a chocolate bunny, marshmallow peeps, and of course jelly beans... *how will I ever choose?*

On another note, I'm very excited to have a part in the upcoming play ***Guilty Conscience***. The St. Clair Shores Players will be performing at the Eastpointe Community Center after almost a two year hiatus. Does it seem like its been that long ago since we performed our last play? The performances are Friday and Saturday, April 16th and 17th, and April 23rd and 24th (And don't forget... set construction is Saturday, April 10th from 9am to 1pm at the Eastpointe Community Center).

I hope to see everyone at one of the performances (*and set construction!*), and bring a friend...or two...or three...or as many as you want. I'm looking forward to a great turnout for the play. See you soon!

Scott Smith,  
President

Visit our website:  
<http://www.scsplayers.org>



## Highlights from the March General Membership Meeting

**Treasurer's Report** - Sharon Kusch reported that the total amount in the checking account is \$2,162.52 as of March 2nd.

**Vice President's Report** - Matt Sheehy reported that there are currently 22 members of the SCS Players.

**Director's Report** - Matt Sheehy reported that rehearsals have been going smoothly. Still need backstage crew. Rachel Robinson volunteered to be the Stage Manager. Need volunteers to paint the flats in Matt's basement.

**Web Master** - Matt Sheehy updated the site and added this month's newsletter. He also added a map to the Eastpointe Community Center.

**Publicity Report** - Kathy Smith reported that notices were sent to all the newspapers and cable for the open house. A notice was also sent to Kate at WWJ Radio. Cathy is looking for volunteers for the open house on Saturday, March

13th from 1:00 - 4:15pm.

**New Business** - Doug Ralston is interested in directing a workshop in the fall. Carol needs to know the dates for next year's general membership meetings so she can make arrangements with Jefferson Middle School to use the key card.

**Workshop** - Pat Sheehy reported that the skit ***The Bench*** taken from ***The Bench in the Sun*** will be performed at the open house at 2:00 pm. The skit was performed for at the General Membership meeting tonight with Pat Sheehy directing and new members Rachel Robinson and Debora Burnham performed as the two senior citizens on the park bench.

## From The Director's Chair by Matthew Sheehy



Hello Everyone!

We are in the home stretch with our production of GUILTY CONSCIENCE and a lot has occurred since last month, so let me see if I can get it all into one article.

First let me welcome **Rachel Robinson** to the crew of Guilty Conscience. Rachel has volunteered to take on the Stage Manager duties for this show. **THANK YOU RACHEL!**

The play itself is going very well. As of last Monday (03/29) we have rehearsed all 50 units of the play. This coming week (04/05—04/09) we will

run through each act on its own and then through the entire play so we can be fully prepared for TECH week (04/12 - 04/16).

Before we get to TECH week, however, there is set construction! Yes, we will be putting up the set at the Eastpointe Community Center on Saturday, April 10th starting at 9:00am. We need help doing this. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend! Bring your tool kit and be prepared to help.

**Before we can construct the set we must move the set pieces from my house to the Eastpointe Community Center and for that we need HELP! Does anyone have a large pick-up**

**we could use to move set pieces and furniture? The fewer trips we make the better!**

Speaking set construction, please be advised that there will be very little (if any) painting that needs to be done on April 10th. We have had several paint crews working on this set over the past two or three weeks and the set is 99.99% complete with regards to painting. Many thanks to Pat and Carol Sheehy who painted all of the flats themselves. Also many thanks to Karen, Rachel, Linda, Alan, Pat and Matt who all helped painting trim on flats and columns!

Finally a play doesn't work without great audience... please be sure to spread the word and plan on attending.

## Workshop Skit: *The Bench* taken from *The Bench in the Sun*

In this short humorous skit directed by Patrick Sheehy, we look in on two senior citizens who habitually share a park bench at their senior citizens center where both reside. Two of our newest members, Rachel Robinson (as *Harriet*) and Deborah Burnham (as *Alberta*) play the two senior ladies. Harriet is talkative, full of spunk, always looking on the bright side of life and willing to go with the flow. Alberta, on the other hand, is cantankerous and grumpy in her outlook on her life. When this odd

couple come together on the bench and the audience can't help but laugh!

This skit was preformed twice; once during the March General Membership meeting and once at the March 13th Open House. Both performances were excellent and Rachel and Deborah were richly rewarded with the audiences applause! (See *PHOTO PLAY "Open House" for photos.*)

**GREAT WORK LADIES!**

## History of the St. Clair Shores Players (continued)

Longer wanted to go to all the trouble of continuing the endeavor. So, they asked us if we would like to take over. We agreed, and for three years we took our fall show (after doing it first at home) to the million dollar auditorium in Fenton. The first two shows were a huge success, but the last one, ***Don't Drink the Water***, the Fenton people wanted us to do before we had a chance to do it first at home. Needless to say, this one turned out to be rather bad and we were never asked to come back.

We have found that there are always problems no matter where we are. One of the big problems that appeared after

we were at Chippewa for a few years was the fire marshal. Whenever he made his inspections he would find our storage areas in violation. The school would notify us to find some place else to store our flats and paraphernalia. There was, however, no place that we knew of to move to, so we procrastinated.

After a couple of years of being continually notified, we were shocked one evening when we arrived at the school to find all of our belongings sitting in a large pile unprotected in the parking lot! This forced us into action in a hurry. We found someone willing to

rent us their garage for \$25.00 a month. We then packed our most valuable things into it and discarded a great deal more.

We were in this position for three or four years. For each show we would have to pick out the flats and other things we needed and bring them to the school to construct the set. Ultimately, the garage owner wanted their building back. So, we were forced once more into finding another garage and over everything over to it. At this point we decided to appeal to the city council for some help.

# PHOTO PLAY

## Open House — March 13, 2010



This is YOUR newsletter! Please send your comments, questions and story ideas to [scsplayersorg@yahoo.com](mailto:scsplayersorg@yahoo.com)

# PHOTO PLAY

## Painting Flats — April 2, 2010



*Clockwise from top left... 1) Patrick Sheehy demonstrates the proper way to "bless the flats." 2) Tools of the trade. 3) Close-up on spattering. 4) A yard full of painted flats drying in the sun. 5) One happy painter.*

## Newsletter Editor: Linda Neuwirth

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### The St. Clair Shores Players

*A Celebration of Community  
 Theater Since 1959*

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WWW.SCSPLAYERS.ORG

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### Mission Statement

The St. Clair Shores Players is a non-profit community theater group serving the city of St. Clair Shores and the surrounding environs. The SCS Players seek to provide a quality live theater experience to the community and also to provide an outlet for local talent in the production of these plays.

Membership to this group is open to anyone interested in furthering the purpose of the group (you do not need to be a citizen of the city of St. Clair Shores).

The SCS Players have, since the group formed in 1959, always held open casting calls for its productions. If you would like to try out for a play, or work behind the scenes assisting with props, set design and construction, costumes, etc. we would be pleased to have you as a member of our group.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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			Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/06/10	Board of Directors Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm	06/01/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm
04/10/10	Set Construction - Eastpointe Community Center - 9:00am-1:00pm	06/08/10	Board of Director's Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/16/10	Performance <b>Guilty</b>	06/13/10	End of Season Picnic - Spindler Park, Eastpointe 3:00 pm - ??
04/17/10	<b>Conscience</b> - Eastpointe Community Center -		
04/23/10	Doors: 7:30 pm		
04/24/10	Curtain: 8:00 pm		
04/24/10	Set Tear Down - Eastpointe Community Center - 10:00 pm		
05/04/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm		
05/11/10	Board of Director's Meeting		