

St. Clair Shores Players



50 Years of Theater

S.C.S. Players' Newsletter

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 7

MARCH 1, 2010

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA NEUWIRTH

50th Anniversary

Special points of interest:

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- *Membership*
- *Upcoming 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.

Phase 2

The next thing the Players did proved to be a real stroke of genius. They became part of the Adult Education. This move gave them the use of a classroom in a school not only for their monthly meetings but also for rehearsals three nights a week. All free of charge. If they had had to pay for any of this for all those years since

1959, it would have added up to a fortune. We had talked to many theater groups in the state that have had to do just that.

The Players were then assigned to Chippewa Jr. High school which was located on Jefferson Avenue near 10 1/2 Mile Road. It was formally the Old Lakeview High School. Since then it has been torn down and is now the location of the Bon Secour Nursing facility.

The stage at the school was located at one end of the gymnasium. We found the acoustics were not terrific but at least we now had a home. As for scenery, we received some things from Channel 7 and some old stuff from the Players on Jefferson in Detroit. There were also a lot of flats stored in

the wings that originally belonged to the old Lakeview High School. All those flats eventually became ours.

When the group first formed in the summer, Kenny Revoir was appointed the interim President. Now they held an election and Richard Caruso was elected the first full time President and Les Wilson became the Vice President. It was Caruso's leadership that welded the group into a well organized assembly.

By-laws were adopted and the Players became incorporated on November 16, 1969. There is a statewide organization of Community Players called the Community Theater Association of Michigan (C. T. A. M.). It is made up of some ninety groups. We became part of it in about 1961.

(cont'd on page 5)

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

7:30 - 8:30 pm

Jefferson Middle School

Workshop presentation by Pat Sheehy

Meeting to be followed by a social hour at Pat O'Brien's Pub

St. Clair Shores Players Open House

ST. CLAIR SHORES LIBRARY

11 Mile and Jefferson

Saturday, March 13, 2010

1:00 - 4:45 pm

Come and view memorabilia from the Players past and meet current members. A short skit will also be presented at 2:00pm.



MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

My first time stage managing with the group, I was the Stage Manager for *Little Women*. I loved getting to fill in when people were sick and it was fun getting to call everyone to order. I remember Matt and Pat reminding me to “Be a Bulldog!” so I could keep the cast in line. When opening night came around my adrenaline was pumping! I was so excited to be helping to make this show happen. It was fun, exciting, nerve-wracking, and totally scary! I started pacing at 6:30 and most likely paced until the show ended

at 10 All four nights and most likely at the dress rehearsal too. I counted cast members, checked lights, peeked through the curtain at Matt doing the sound, and made my way up and back on the ramp backstage at the Cultural Center. I am not even sure I breathed the entire time. It was an amazing feeling and to hear the crowd applaud at the end was pure magic. I was hooked like a cat on catnip. Over the nearly twelve or so years I have been a member I have been blessed to have many more wonderful experiences like this

one. Most of them make me so nervous I want to pee backstage until it's all over, but luckily, I've managed to keep that in. I have loved being onstage and backstage and miss everyone terribly. Lately my theatrical endeavors have been on hold a bit, but hopefully I will be able to return to live theater again one day. Break a leg everyone!

-Michelle Neuwirth

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**



February's Social Event

It was wonderful to see so many of our members attend the Valentine's Day Social Event February 12th.

We arrived around 6:00 to 6:30 at Gilbert's Lodge, had dinner and shared Valentine's cards in a relaxing atmosphere. Red was the predominate color worn, to

illustrate that this was a special event. We all had a good time together!

See photos from this event in the PHOTOPLAY section of the newsletter (page 5).

If you have an idea for a social event, please contact Sharon Tasti at:

sharontara@yahoo.com



A Few Words from the President



Hi,

Mmmm What's that I smell? Kathy's in the kitchen making Irish Stew for St. Patrick's Day.

Speaking of Irish Stew and St. Patrick's Day, as they both are in March, I wanted to remind everyone to come to the General Membership Meeting on March 2nd at 7:30pm. Pat Sheehy will present another wonderful skit for our enjoyment for the workshop. You don't want to miss this presentation by some of our members.

I hope to see everyone at the General Membership Meeting and the Open House, and may the luck of the Irish be with you!

Scott Smith,
President

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



Another exciting event taking place in March is our second Open House at the St. Clair Shores Library on March 13th.

Memories from the Past

Wow that's a hard one ... there are so many...

I think two of my favorites were:

- 1) I got to direct two plays. I had never directed anything before and "The Players" gave me that opportunity.

I remember directing *Up the Down Staircase*. I had thirteen teenagers (local High School Students) that were part of the show (I know, what was I thinking directing my second show with thirteen kids in it) and my assistant director Pam Smith and I had to play "Good Cop", "Bad Cop" through most of the show ... I was the bad cop, yelling and cracking the whip so to speak and Pam was the "Good Cop" and the one all the kids ran to for sympathy. It was really a great experience.

- 2) I was starting out back in Theater after many years absence and got a part in *Sweeny Todd*. I met so many wonderful people in that show and through the Players ... but I met Miss Lovett (Cindy Nicholson) in that show and she really pushed in a good way to stay involved

and keep trying out for shows and even to direct ... and Cindy I still have the little bird (pigeon) you gave me and he goes on my Christmas tree every year ... and I think of you...

Just a few lines that are memorable to me from different shows

"*Seems like an open and shut Case to me*". Can't remember the shows name but Jean Leach was on the sofa on stage and she was an old dead lady and they kept having to push her legs closed and that was the line the cop said...

I think from *Dearly Departed Juanita* (Karen Drum) looks at a casserole I think and states "*Hmm and it sure looks good*".

There are so many memories and people from the Players that have touched my life and I cherish everyone of them.

- Chris Mann

From The Director's Chair by Matthew Sheehy



Hello Everyone!
Well its that time again... time for an update on the "health" of the Spring 2010 production of **GUILTY CONSCIENCE**. So let me run through it as I see it.

REHEARSAL

We've been rehearsing for a little over a month now (we started with a read thru of the script on Monday, January 25th) and we are making good progress. We are still on schedule to be 100% ready for our April opening night, despite a few hiccups (the director was out of town for a week for work and we also needed to re-arrange the schedule to meet the needs of one of my actors). We started with 28 "regular" rehearsals and we currently only have 14 of these left. In the previous 14 rehearsals we completed the preparation of Act One, Scene 1 and Act Two, Scene 1. We are currently just few pages short of having Act One, Scene

2 complete (and we should have that in hand by the end of this week - March 5th).

Speaking of rehearsals, if you are wondering where are we rehearsing this show, well we are working in my basement. That has, in my opinion, several advantages: 1) my basement exactly matches the dimensions of the stage at the Eastpointe Community center (so when we move over there the feel of the stage won't be suddenly much bigger or smaller), 2) We can leave all the set pieces in place so there is no set up or tear down at the beginning and end of rehearsals, 3) We have real furniture (no folding chairs!), 4) we have a lot of the crucial set dressing and prop pieces in place at all times, 5) We have walls which match the placement of flats on the real stage. Nice, but there also some disadvantages: 1) It's a bit chilly in the basement, 2) there are support columns in the middle of the set that won't be there on the real set and 3) sometimes a little bulldog wanders into a scene and makes unsolicited "comments" about the acting.

ACTING

I am still very pleased with my cast with regards to learning lines and blocking. The lines are almost always spot on and the blocking normally just needs a little corrections to make it pop. **GREAT JOB GUYS!** Keep up the fantastic work.

STAGE CREW

Many thanks to Linda who has been coming to rehearsal to help with props. Also many thanks to Pat for helping as Assistant Director. Special thanks to Carol for working on set dressing items — especially finding the new wing chair and for putting together the fantastic bookcases!

Speaking of stage crew... this is still the part of the production that worries me the most. We need more people to help out on this production!

> PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP <

Contact me at:

mattsheehy@yahoo.com

Thanks!

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

We started the first few years doing just two performances of each show. One on Friday and the second on Saturday and charging \$1.00. The superintendent of Lakeview Schools would come to see our shows and he remarked once that it was a shame that we put all that effort into a play do it only for one weekend. Up until then we hadn't realized that we would be allowed to tie up the stage for two weeks. From then on we did all our shows on two weekends.

After a couple of years we felt confident enough to tackle a musical. The first one attempted was *The Pajama Game*. We went all out on this show even forming our own

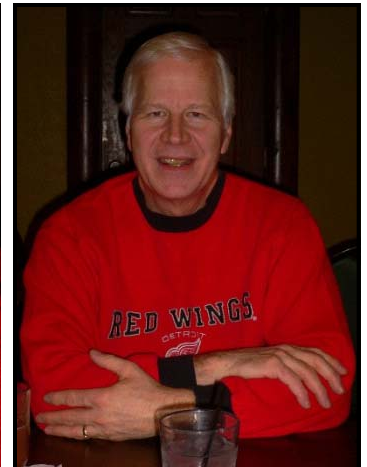
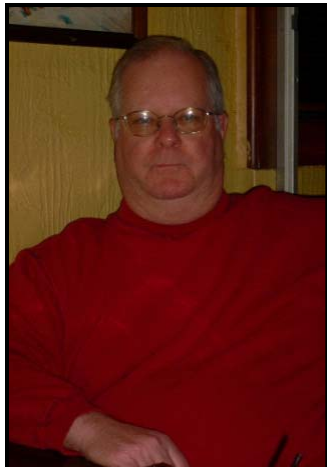
band. We had well over fifty people involved one way or another in the production. Opening night was one of the most spectacular openings, but the second night was a disaster. It was November 22, 1963. That was a date that would stand out forever in the minds of anyone living at the time. It was the day that John F. Kennedy was assassinated! It proved to be an excruciating night as the members assembled at the school early that evening to decide what to do. Some wanted to continue in the old tradition of "the show must go on!" Others were dead set against it. Even the professional theaters closed that evening. It was finally decided out of respect to the circumstances that we

would close down that night. As it turned out, only a few people showed up anyway, and they were understanding as they were turned away.



PHOTO PLAY

Valentine's Gathering — February 12, 2010



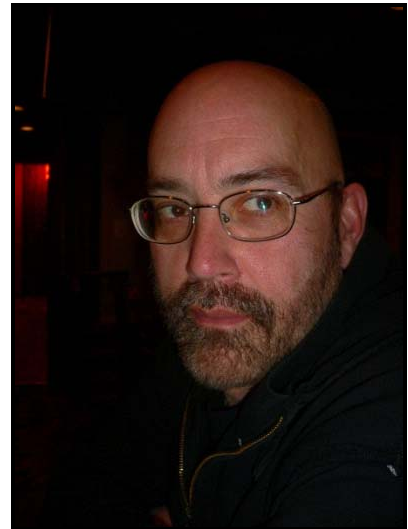
Happy Valentine's Day!

PHOTO PLAY

Valentine's Gathering — February 12, 2010



The cast of **GUILTY CONSCIENCE** couldn't help but cry when they heard that SCSP President & fellow cast member Scott Smith and his family would be unable to attend the Valentine's Event.



Here we find a few of the "usual suspects" breaking out their acting / comedy chops. Karen with her classic Martian sunglasses. Shawn with his best Elivs lip curl. Mark busts out a dramatic look and Jenny shows us all how to laugh and have fun.



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The St. Clair Shores Players

*A Celebration of Community
Theater Since 1959*

WWW.SCSPLAYERS.ORG

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

03/02/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm	Center - 10:00 pm
03/09/10	Board of Directors Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm	05/04/10 General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm
04/05/10	Board of Directors Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm	05/11/10 Board of Director's Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/10/10	Set Construction - Eastpointe Community Center - 9:00 am - 1:00 p	06/01/10 General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm
04/16/10	Performance Guilty	06/08/10 Board of Director's Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/17/10	Conscience - Eastpointe Community Center -	06/13/10 End of Season Picnic - Spindler Park, Eastpointe 3:00 pm - ??
04/23/10	Doors: 7:30 pm	
04/24/10	Curtain: 8:00 pm	
04/24/10	Set Tear Down - Eastpointe Community	09/07/10 General Membership Meeting — Jefferson Middle School— 7:30 pm