

CALLBOARD

Fall Conference is history!

As with all good things, they must come to an end! And so the 2018 Fall Conference will go down as one of the better ones in history, thanks to Chair Suzan Dunham Nemeth and her team of hot-shots! The change in venue to a conference center more centrally located seemed to please everyone, as well as moving it several weeks later in the season.

The workshops were outstanding and we give great kudos and appreciation to the following:

- ✓ Ben Zylman for You're a Real Character
- ✓ Katie Wasserman for Dialects for the Stage
- ✓ Matt McCormick for Painting Better Sets Easier
- ✓ Edward Daranyi from the Stratford Festival for Interpreting Shakespeare the Right Way
- ✓ James Kuhl for Analyzing Play Structure for Directors

The keynote speaker, Allen Ebert, on Friday evening was motivating and got us all started in the right frame of mind. He continued as the moderator for the TLC (Theatre Leadership Conference) which ran concurrently with the Fall Conference.



Keynoter Allen Ebert with newly elected CTAM President Betsy Willis. Betsy coordinated the TLC weekend.



Next event: AACTFest in Owosso

An exhilarating weekend of theatre is in the offing for everyone who attends! The Owosso Community Players are hosting AACTFest 2019, March 15-17, 2019 at the Lebowsky Theatre in Owosso, Michigan. The festival includes three days of competitive drama productions from CTAM affiliate member groups. Five groups have already registered, so hopefully three more will register soon. The first eight to register will be accepted, so register as soon as your ducks are all standing up in a bright, shiny row!

Competitor registration forms and information is available at www.owossoplayers.com; forms for general attendees will be up soon on their website.

It's the place to be, for sure. It wouldn't hurt to make your reservations now as hotel space in Owosso gets tight, the closer it gets to festival weekend. All the hotel information is listed on their website, also.

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Callboard

Editor..... Mary Lou Britton

This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group affiliates and individual members with e-mail addresses on record. Distribution is by e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the association website. Back issues are available on the association website. Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to the Editor at mellbee@earthlink.net.

- Productions and dates should be sent to the Editor.
- Short informational articles are accepted and will be used on a space-available basis.
- Show photos should be carefully selected and sent to the Editor, along with identifying caption and permission from photographer for us to publish.

Updated e-mail and postal addresses are maintained by the Executive Secretary Nancy Peska and should be sent to her at peska@cmsinter.net.

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CTAM
Community Theatre
Association of Michigan

The legend of Hal Robinson



Stagecrafters (Royal Oak) stalwart died peacefully on September 25, surrounded by his family. He had been a member of Stagecrafters for more than 50 years, served on the CTAM Board of Directors for several terms, and was a member of the national AACT Board of Directors. He truly was a legend within his own time and will be sadly missed by a lot of people in many different realms. Sleep on, sweet Prince.



Slowly but surely, the CTAM Facebook page is climbing higher and higher! We're up to 1,291 people 'liking' us now. We hope you enjoy and appreciate the news, information and laughs we share with you.

Ask your friends to join us on "Community Theatre Association of Michigan-CTAM" so they, too, will know what's going on with CTAM across pure-Michigan!

CTAM Calendar of Events

December 15, 2018 Lansing	CTAM Board meeting, Downeaster Theatre
January 13, 2018 (by phone)	CTAM Board meeting
March 15-17, 2019 Owosso	2019 Michigan AACTfest
March 17, 2019 Owosso	CTAM Board meeting Time TBD
April 11-14, 2019 Kokomo, IN	AACTfest Region III Festival
May 5, 2019 Clio	CTAM Board meeting Clio Cast & Crew
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater
July 19-21, 2019 Higgins Lake	Master Class Weekend MacMullen DNR Center
July 21, 2019 Higgins Lake	CTAM Board meeting MacMullen DNR Center



The prez Sez...

by **Christy Frick**

Congratulations to Suzan Heath and her committee for a wonderful Fall Conference! The comments I heard were positive, both for the Holiday Inn venue and the wonderful workshops. I believe everyone had a really good time.

I also want to thank the board members: Suzan Heath, Jamie Peterson, Shyrl Cone, Chuck Goddeeris, Betsy Willis, Ben Zylman, Patrick Hubbard, Michael Wisniewski along with Executive Secretary Nancy Peska, for all of your support and hard work throughout this past year. We have accomplished a great deal over the year. Just to name a few:

- ✓ We took Spring Conference on the road, bringing the workshops to you (and learned a lot along the way),
- ✓ Updated our website (thank you Prince Chuck!), and
- ✓ Moved the fall conference to the South East side of the State and made it several weeks later in the year to try to avoid season-opening shows.

Keep checking our website and this newsletter for more changes in the works.

I have enjoyed my time on the board and what I think I'll miss the most is going to the Board meetings throughout the State and watching the shows put on by our affiliate groups.

Don't forget about AACTFest in March in Owosso! I hear registrations for the one-act competition are coming in already!

Best wishes to our new President, Betsy Willis, and the new Board of Directors as they move CTAM forward to new and challenging heights!

See you around,

Christy Frick

Joyce A. Schultheiss Scholarship 2018 report

We awarded ten CTAM scholarships during 2018: Three for the Master Class in July, five for Fall Conference and two for The Leadership Conference. They ranged in various amounts, depending on how much the recipients and their groups were able contribute.

So thank you to everyone who brought raffle items to the Fall Conference...and to everyone who so generously bought tickets! It was announced at the Sunday morning brunch that we had raised \$955 from the raffle. Some generous person who shall remain anonymous approached Scholarship Chair Christy Frick after the brunch and donated another \$45 to make the total amount raised for future scholarships to an even \$1,000! So, again, thank you for your contributions, it really does help others!

Remember, if you'd like to attend AACTfest or Master Classes this summer but need a little help with the registration fee, contact Christy and she will work her magic for you.

Adjudicators available to respond to your show!

CTAM has trained adjudicators ready and eager to visit your group and adjudicate one of your shows. As a benefit of your CTAM annual affiliate dues, each member group gets one free adjudication per membership year. After that, your group pays a modest fee for additional adjudications.

Adjudicators are an independent second pair of eyes, looking at your production and seeing things you may not have noticed. Adjudications are not 're-directing' or a pass/fail situation, but rather a starting spot for improvement in future shows.

Several Michigan affiliates are having all of their shows adjudicated this year. Give it a try!

Contact Adjudication Chair Larry Nielsen to make arrangements.

Awards presented at Fall banquet

Each year at the Saturday banquet for the Fall Festival, the CTAM Board of Directors awards their Spirit Awards to individuals and affiliate groups who have gone out of their way during the year to assist CTAM in accomplishing their strategic goals.

This year's Spirit Awards were presented, as follows:

- ★ **Katherine Leduc** - has 30+ years with Players De Noc and major assistance with CTAM on the Road, the new spring conference!
- ★ **Fenton Village Players** - Hosting CTAM on the Road for southeast Michigan.
- ★ **Players De Noc, Escanaba** - Assisting CTAM with CTAM on the Road for the Upper Peninsula.

It was announced that there will be several Dorothy Arnett Service Awards presented this year. They are presented at local events to local volunteers who embody an extensive love of theatre. We'll include photos here as the awards are presented.

Gratiot County Players received a plaque honoring their half-century of existence.

If you want to nominate someone (or your group) for an available CTAM award, remember that the deadline is always July 1.



Let's go to Kokomo for AACTfest Regionals

By Sue Duncan and Tara Western

Thinking of attending AACTfest Regional competition in Kokomo, Indiana, but don't know how to get there?



Promise Tours and Travel, Inc. is working with Tawas Bay Players to provide a bus tour that will be affordable and easy on you!

Arrive at the AACTfest venue Thursday, April 14, in the evening, and return Sunday, afternoon (April 17) to your car in Michigan

Round-trip transportation by travel coach from one (or two) centrally located Michigan cities. Examples: Mt. Pleasant, Lansing, Flint.

Transportation to and from lodging to the theater daily, double occupancy lodging in a national chain hotel with free breakfast, lunch on Friday and Saturday, and tips for bus driver and hotel staff are included.

The per-person cost will be \$400 or less if more than 26 people sign-up. There is a single-traveler up charge available, also.

IMPORTANT: We need your commitment no later than Friday, November 30!

For more information call Sue Duncan at 989.701.5471 from 1:00 pm-9:00 pm.

Thanks...

For making the Fall Conference such a success! Far left is chair Suzan Dunham Nemeth; center is her new husband, Heath, and her sister, Anne Williams, soon to be living here in Michigan full-time! Right are committee



members Tim and Tina Dalton. They are all representing WE Players and Tawas Bay Players. This great team have produced the last several CTAM Fall Conferences!



Do you offer a Short Play Contest or Festival?

We have been hearing about several groups now offering a Short Play Festival for playwrights, as well as public performances ... are you one of them? If so, let the Editor know and we may be able to coordinate and share the word across the state. "Short" plays would refer to the Ten-Minute variety, as well as One-Acts.

For instance:

- ✓ Farmington Players, deadline January 20; festival June 21-23. playfestival@farmingtonplayers.org.
- ✓ Grosse Pointe Theatre, deadline January 1; performances mid-May. Includes workshops for playwrights November 3 and 17. mellbee@earthlink.net.
- ✓ Rosedale Community Players. No information yet.
- ✓ Ridgedale Players. Deadline November 2; performances February 22-23. lktbradshaw@gmail.com.

And these are just in the Detroit area; there certainly are others around the state. Send your information to the Editor and let's see what's going on in this growing area.



2018 Playwriting winners announced

As announced at the Saturday evening banquet, the winners of this year's playwriting contest are as follow:

- ✓ 1st - *Town Car for Sale* by Linda LaRocque
- ✓ 2nd - *Winona's Web* by Priscilla Cogan
- ✓ Honorable Mention - *Bird of Passage* by Colby Halloran

We were treated to excerpts from six plays at fall conference this year, including these three award winners. They were all great!

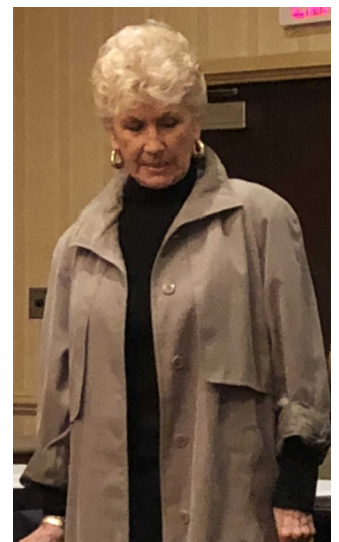
Descriptions of all the plays and contact information for the winning authors will be on the CTAM website soon.

Reminder: The 1st and 2nd award winning plays can be performed by your group, royalty-free, for the next two seasons! What a magnificent opportunity to try something new!

In the meantime, sharpen your pencils and get your creative juices flowing. The 2019 Playwriting Contest opens January 1st. For more information on the contest, contact Chairs Pat and Leo Pavaglio.



Mama Rose belts it out for St. Dunstan's production of Gypsy!



First-place winner Linda LaRocque.

What they're saying about this year's Leadership Conference!

Concurrent with the Fall Conference, CTAM also hosted a conference for the paid and volunteer leaders of our affiliate groups across the state. Long hours and great conversations provided new insights and startling ideas to make our groups more successful. This special gathering is hosted every other year, so it will next be available in 2020.

TLC was extremely informative and gave me numerous ideas and initiatives to bring back to my organization. Allen is a tremendous source of knowledge and insight and I learned just as much from the other participants as I did from him. I highly recommend any group send at least one representative, if not more, to any TLC event in the future as the information is invaluable to your organization!

*Chuck Goddeeris
Rosedale Community Players
CTAM Board member*

My time at the Theatre Leadership Conference at the Fall Conference was a wonderful opportunity to explore new ideas and brainstorm with leaders of other community theatre groups. Allen Ebert was an amazing moderator who asked pertinent and probing questions which forced us to look at our organizations in a different way to see where there is opportunity for change and growth. I was truly appreciative of the chance to discuss theatre operations with others who are facing the same challenges and

look toward the future to see new possibilities for community theatres in Michigan. Thank you for adding the TLC to this fall's line up!

*Linda Zublick
Executive Director
Grosse Pointe Theatre*

Allen Ebert at work, 2018.



The October issue of Stage Directions includes a page 34 article by Jay Duckworth on the traditions and superstitions of theatre, to wit:

"I'm sure you've been told not to whistle backstage. That's from when there were no headsets and the way they signaled if scenery was to come in and out was a clap, then a whistle. The scenery was counterbalanced with sandbags, so whistling on stage or offstage was a dangerous thing; you could get hit by the set or a sandbag.

"Humming a tune near an actor backstage is still considered bad luck but mostly for the actor who hears it.

"Opera singers and actors believe it will bring bad luck to have another person look into the mirror over their shoulder when they are putting on make-up.

"Stage Managers and crew will always talk to the actor's face and not to their reflection.

"The Scottish Play' is the correct way to refer to Macbeth when inside a theatre, unless you are in performance or rehearsal. If the word is spoken inside a theater, the speaker is quickly hustled outside and must turn around three times, spit, utter a profanity, knock and ask permission to enter the theater again.

"Never open a show on a Friday.

"Never place shoes or hats on dressing room furniture. Never knit in the wings.

"Never throw away a technician's cup of coffee." Surely head trauma will follow.

"Be sure to leave the ghost light burning on stage to keep the theater's ghosts from leaving."



A letter from Brian:

“...so much happening in so little time.”

My name is Brian Tourangeau and I am a member of Players De Noc from Escanaba. I was given the opportunity to attend the CTAM Fall Conference with my daughter Natalie through a grant from Players De Noc and CTAM itself. I would like to thank Players De Noc and Jamie Peterson for all their hard work and commitment to theater in Escanaba.

The commute to Flint was a seven-hour autumn adventure. The middle of October supplied forests of yellow, orange and red the whole way down. It is by far one of the best times of the year for driving. I had time to enjoy the view and catch up with my daughter on an individual basis. We arrived later in the evening on Friday and were greeted by Susan who eyed us up like we were going to steal some CTAM pins (which we did). She was much more welcoming when she discovered we were actually part of the conference and introduced us to the attendees that were still about as the evenings festivities had ended.

The first workshop on Saturday was Stage Dialect with Katie Wasserman. We studied the difference between Standard English and Cockney dialects and applied them in speech. Katie's instruction kept it fun and interesting. I felt that questions I had were welcomed and addressed with care. It was difficult to adjust to some words having a "Yoooper" accent and she tried her best to help. I enjoyed the time spent on dialect and would take it again, given the chance. I felt the class could have easily gone an hour longer than the time provided and I was surprised that a week later I was able to apply my learning in auditions for a show (*Don't Talk to the Actors*).

The second workshop I attended was Interpreting Shakespeare the Right Way with Edward Daranyi. This workshop was full of energy. The metric breakdown and flow of Shakespeare is not something I would have expected to be excited about, but I found I was full of excitement. The workshop was extremely interactive. Some of the exercises had us bumping into each other moving around the room in an example of how uneasy a character is in thought, just by noting their punctuation. I watched him gallop around the room in another demonstration of driving lines with force and stamina. Edward had so much to deliver in (what I felt was) such a short amount of time.

The last workshop I attended was You Are a Real Character with Ben Zylman. We broke down how to develop backstory in a character. We touched on how a character perceives themselves versus how other people see this character. Ben then moved on to how finding areas that a script left untouched like a characters ambitions or birthday or their second favorite ice cream can add a depth to scene. We discussed how relationships between characters can alter interactions even with the same words. A simple word like "Hi" could be two friends greeting or changed to engaging someone you thought was your friend but betrayed you. Again, a wealth of information was squeezed into my head like custard into a pastry. The workshop was wonderful and enriching and... not long enough. That seemed to be the theme of the conference with so much happening in so little time.

Between the workshops and during dinner, five different excerpts from entries in the Playwriting Contest were performed and I enjoyed them all. Reader's theater is an avenue that I have not seen in my area and I would consider it to be a welcome addition.

It is hard for me to explain how welcome I felt during the time I spent at the conference. The people at the conference were wonderful and shared their ideas and pieces of their history. We talked late into the night on numerous occasions. I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent there. I believe most of the reason the workshops felt short is that fact that they were very effective and enlightening. I did not want them to end. I wanted to learn more. Everyone involved worked very hard and it showed. I appreciate all the hard work that went into this experience. I look forward to sharing what I learned in the workshops and from the people I met and I look forward to the opportunity to be back again.



Brian Tourangeau and his daughter, Natalie, attended their first CTAM Conference and will be back for more, they promise.



Jan Betka and her buddies from Lapeer Community Players celebrate Jan receiving her accreditation certificate.

Executive Secretary Nancy Peska, left, and Robert Ruby at the Saturday banquet. Nancy received extra recognition and thanks for her many years of service keeping us all organized and happy.



As usual, Tawas Bay Players were well represented at this Fall Conference. L to R, Sue Duncan, Tara Western and Sharon Langley, among others.



Left above are Amber and Justin Lewis; Amber is President of Little Traverse Civic in Petoskey and was part of the TLC crowd.

To the right above is the pensive, thoughtful and completely technically aware Board Member Chuck Goddeeris, Rosedale Community Players.



Photo to the right above is children's book author and playwright Bonnie Grooters.

Below, left, is our newly elected Board member Michael Wilson from Grand Rapids Civic; Center, Board secretary, Shryl Cone with Hartland Players, and center right, Matt McCormick, workshop leader on painting, from Old Town Playhouse in Traverse City.



On his cell phone is Richard Neff, long-time member of Flint Community Players.



Bottom photo is conventioneer Ken Kelley, representing both Rosedale Community Players and Grosse Pointe Theatre for many conferences..



Who's doing what before the holidays?

Clarkston Village Players	<i>Frankenstein</i>	Oct 26-Nov 10, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Civic in Song: 1929 - 2018 (Senior Theatre)</i>	October 26-28, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Actor's Nightmare/Sr. Mary Ignatius Explains...</i>	Oct 26-Nov 10, 2018
Rogers City Community Theatre	<i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i>	Oct 26-Nov 4, 2018
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Flemming</i>	Oct 26-Nov 10, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>An Act of the Imagination</i>	Oct 26-Nov 11, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Big Fish</i>	Oct 26-Nov 11, 2018
Port Austin Community Players	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Nov 2-11, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Nov 8-18, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Little Mermaid*</i>	Nov 8-11, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane *</i>	Nov 9-17, 2018
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Nov 9-Dec 2, 2018
Southgate Community Players	<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	Nov 9-17, 2018
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Nov 23-Dec 8, 2018
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	Nov 15-Dec 8, 2018
STAGE-M Big Rapids	<i>Nutcracker, The Play</i>	Nov 15-18, 2018
Gladwin Area Friends of Theatre	<i>Once Upon a Pandora's Box*</i>	Nov 16-18, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>The Lion King, Jr.*</i>	Nov 17-18, 2018
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Nov 23-Dec 8, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Sherlock Holmes Talk **</i>	Nov 23-24, 2018
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang</i>	Nov 23-Dec 9, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Esanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Nov 24-Dec 2, 2018
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Nov 24-Dec 7, 2018
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Nov 25-Dec 9, 2018
Hartland Players	<i>Drac's Back*</i>	Nov 26-28, 2018
Bay City Players	<i>A Carol of the Birds</i>	Nov 29-Dec 9, 2018
Farmington Players	<i>Let Nothing You Dismay</i>	Nov 30-Dec 15, 2018
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>A Little Piece of Heaven</i>	Nov 30-Dec 1, 2018
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Don't Talk to the Actors</i>	Nov 30-Dec 8, 2018
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Nov 30-Dec 16, 2018
Flint Community Players	<i>A Good Old Fashioned Redneck Country Christmas</i>	Dec 1-2, 2018
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Spirit of Christmas Dinner</i>	Dec 3-5, 2018
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>God rest ye, Gerry Mentleman</i>	Dec 5-9, 2018
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>A Seussified Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 6-16, 2018
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Dec 6-16, 2018
Ionia Community Theatre	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec 7-16, 2018
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>Scrooge!</i>	Dec 7-16, 2018
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Elves and the Shoemaker*</i>	Dec 8-9, 2018
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*</i>	Dec 13-16, 2018

* indicates youth productions; ** indicates second stage productions, if submitted.

Please be sure to fill out your Dues Renewal Form completely, as that is the source for this information on shows! If your information is incorrect or missing, please send the correct information to The Editor to be corrected or included in the next issue.