

COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

# CALLBOARD

February 2017



**February 9-12, 2017**

## See you at AACTfest in Bay City!

**W**here and when can you see original scripts performed, marvel at the next generation of actors, appreciate Shakespeare's words and a modern musical, and still fit in networking opportunities with fellow theatre folks? Only one place and time: Michigan AACTFest 2017 hosted by Bay City Players, February 9 – 12!

The Festival features 10 Michigan community theatres performing a variety of one-act plays and cuttings from full length scripts. There are four performance blocks and each show will be adjudicated. The adjudicators will choose 2 shows to perform at the Regional AACTFest in Champaign, IL.

Don't be left out! You can still register for the festival and see all 10 shows, take part in the networking opportunities (read: parties) and the Awards Brunch. Simply go to [baycityplayers.com](http://baycityplayers.com) (or the back page of this newsletter), fill out the AACTFest individual registration form and send it, with your payment, to Bay City Players.

And a special Adjudication Workshop has been added to the festival. If you want to learn how to be an adjudicator, sign up for this seminar led by CTAM President Betsy Willis. You get to see all the shows, hear some of the real adjudication comments and then have the opportunity adjudicate one of the shows for your classmates. A separate registration fee applies for this workshop; certification included. For more information, check the CTAM website and newsletter. To register, go to [baycityplayers.com](http://baycityplayers.com).

See you at Michigan AACTFest 2017 in Bay City!

### AACTfest Performance Schedule

#### Friday, February 10

##### **Block 1: Doors open at 6:00 pm**

6:20	Ichabod's Little Theatre	<i>American Coffee</i>
7:55	Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Sylvia</i>
9:30	Monroe Community Players	<i>Romance Guaranteed</i>

#### Saturday, February 11

##### **Block 2: Doors open 8:30 am**

8:50	WE Players, East Tawas	<i>The Book of Everything</i>
10:25	Tawas Bay Players	<i>Love, Loss and What I Wore</i>

##### **Block 3: Doors open 12:45 pm**

1:05	Stagecrafters	<i>Trevor</i>
2:35	Twin City Players	<i>Make It Home</i>
4:10	Center Stage Theatre	<i>Venus in Fur</i>

##### **Block 4: Doors open 7:30 pm**

7:50	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	<i>25<sup>th</sup> Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>
9:25	Standing Room Only Theatre	<i>Hamlet</i>

**HELPING COMMUNITY THEATRE *THRIVE* IN MICHIGAN SINCE 1961!**

## 2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Betsy Willis**  
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City  
[betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com](mailto:betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com)

Vice President - **Heather Todd**  
Gratiot County Players  
[queenyodd@zoho.com](mailto:queenyodd@zoho.com)

Secretary - **Shyrl Cone**  
Hartland Players  
[sccone1063@comcast.net](mailto:sccone1063@comcast.net)

Treasurer - **Christy Frick**  
Gratiot County Players  
[cfrick9898@charter.net](mailto:cfrick9898@charter.net)

### At-Large Members of the Board

**Mark Cowman** ..... [mooman1971@gmail.com](mailto:mooman1971@gmail.com)

Players de Noc, Escanaba

**Suzan Dunham**..... [info@witzend.co](mailto:info@witzend.co)

Tawas Bay Players

**Chuck Goddeeris** ..... [charlesgoddeeris@gmail.com](mailto:charlesgoddeeris@gmail.com)

Rosedale Community Players

**Kylie C. Piette** ..... [piette@gmail.com](mailto:piette@gmail.com)

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

**Ben Zylman** ..... [benkal@chartermi.net](mailto:benkal@chartermi.net)

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

### Executive Secretary

**Nancy Peska** ..... [peska@cmsinter.net](mailto:peska@cmsinter.net)

Gratiot County Players

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Affiliated with American Association of  
Community Theatre



## Callboard Staff

Editor.....Mary Lou Britton

Contributors ..... Members of the Board

This is the official newsletter of the Community Theatre Association of Michigan, issued monthly to all group 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 at [www.communitytheatre.org](http://www.communitytheatre.org). Correspondence to the **Callboard** should be sent to the Editor at [mellbee@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:peska@cmsinter.net).

## AACT planning trip to Shaw Festival

If you've never been to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, here is a chance to travel there with some great theater people! Dates are September 19-22 this fall -- a close conflict with our Fall Conference, unfortunately!

They will be seeing *Androcles and the Lion*, *Me and My Gal*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Wilde Tales*. They'll spend the first night in Niagara Falls, ON, so folks can do a bit of sightseeing and the rooms all overlook the Falls. Then on to Queens Landing for 2 nights.

They have several pricing levels, depending on how you want to get there. (There's even a bus from Grand Rapids that might be of interest to some of us in Michigan!) Info on pricing is here <https://www.aact.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=152>

Check it out! Or [contact Jill Patchin](#) if you have more questions.

## CTAM Calendar of Events

<b>February 9-12, 2017</b> Bay City	2017 Michigan AACTfest
<b>February 12, 2017</b>	January/March board meeting at AACTfest
<b>April 27-30, 2017</b> Champaign, Illinois	Regional AACTfest
<b>May 15, 2017</b>	Deadline for Playwriting Committee submission; see article
<b>June 26-July 1, 2017</b> Rochester, Minnesota	National AACTfest
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	Awards Nomination Deadline
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	Deadline for Nomination for election to the Board of Directors
<b>July 14-16, 2017</b> Higgins Lake, MI	Summer Master Class
<b>Sept. 22-24, 2017</b> Cadillac	CTAM Fall Conference Evergreen Resort



## The Prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

I attended a production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at the National Theatre in Washington DC over the holidays with my niece and her three boys aged 8,7, and 4. This was their first full length live theatre performance and I promised to tell you how it went.

I am happy to say it was a hit, with three very different responses. Before we went I took an opportunity to talk to the two older boys about what they were going to see and to tell them that I work in a theatre, so this was going to be a very special day for me. They immediately wanted to know if I was going to be onstage or working backstage for this show. It hadn't occurred to me that this would be one of their questions. I think they were a little disappointed to learn that I would not be working on this show, but rather would be sitting with them.

The oldest boy, who turns 9 in February, watched with thoughtful reserve. This is his general approach to life as he always wants to understand how things work and possesses a desire to be good at anything he tries before he even attempts it. He is also very interested in technology so his mind was probably busily trying to figure out how



all the technical aspects were working. There were many changing projections throughout the show and real live snow in the theatre at the end.

The seven year old is the most "dramatic" of the three, so I really hoped he would become engaged in the magic. Moments into the show he was on the edge of his seat, leaning forward, and not moving a muscle. And this was no small feat as the hour and 45 minute show was done without intermission. As children around us squirmed and fidgeted, our little guy, who is a ball of energy, sat transfixed until even he had to have a little stretch near the end.



The youngest boy provided the most interesting reaction of all. He had been telling me the story of the Grinch all week long, and was very excited for the show – more excited than I anticipated. The play began and was probably about five minutes along when he turned to his mom and asked when the movie was going to start. Apparently I should have spent some time explaining live theatre to him. Once his mom explained he was already watching the show we came to see, he settled in nicely, with only one more request – where were his snacks? Having not planned for a lack of intermission we couldn't really satisfy that need, but he soldiered on and enjoyed the show.

The resulting smiling faces can be found on my Facebook profile picture.

As someone who has the opportunity to see how theatre can change lives on a nearly daily basis, I hope that at least one of them will learn to love live theatre as much as I do and experience the many ways it can enhance and transform his life. You can bet I will be watching from the wings!

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*Center Stage Theatre at the Midland Center for the Arts offered a rousing version of 39 Steps for their audiences in January!*

## Now is a good time to recognize your volunteers!

What motivates volunteers or staff members most? Recognition and appreciation, according to one recent study. Independence and status are the next most important job considerations. Third, the chance to contribute to the organization's goals. Here again, it is mentioned that recognition and appreciation are what motivate volunteers. How can you do that, you ask?



Terry Jolink,  
CTAM Awards Chair

The best way I see is to nominate a person(s) for the CTAM Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Award or the Robert A. McKenna Award. At the Fall Conference I had to report that we had no one was nominated for either award even though I know a few people

*"A person  
who feels  
appreciated  
will always  
do more  
than  
expected"*

that should have been nominated. I talked to a few people who had said that they had thought about nominating someone but did not get around to it. (Hint Betsy). Since we are in a new year please make it one of your resolution to nominate someone. Do it now.

For the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer service award offers an opportunity for your group to have CTAM recognize a volunteer in your group for their long-

term service. The Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award is presented by CTAM to those individuals [as recommended by you] who have given valuable, long-term service to your theatre organization. Each year all CTAM member groups are encouraged to nominate an individual or couple who has given valuable and significant service to their local group for at least ten years. If se-

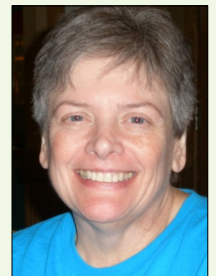
lected, the award is presented at your function or activity so the honoree can be acknowledged and congratulated by their friends.

The Robert A McKenna Award is CTAM's most prestigious award, established in 1987 to honor Robert A McKenna – a longtime CTAM friend, supporter and actor in Michigan – who epitomized the spirit of community theatre. The McKenna is given annually at our Fall Conference to a living person who exhibits, through action, commitment and dedication, his or her support of community theatre on the state and local level. A nomination may be submitted for the Board's consideration by any current CTAM group member or current CTAM associate member.

Nomination forms can be found at [communitytheatremichigan.org](http://communitytheatremichigan.org) then go to the award page. Hope to hear from many of you in the next month. The overall deadline for the award nominations is July 1. [Contact me](#) directly if you have any questions about the awards process.

### CTAM Scholarships can be used for education events

Scholarship Chair Christy Frick wants to remind you that scholarships are available for all CTAM-sponsored events. This includes AACTfest, as well as the Summer Master Classes and our Fall Conference next September.



Christy Frick

There is a short application that needs to be filled out and signed by someone on your local board of directors or your executive director. The deadline is two weeks prior to the event and the scholarship covers the cost of registration. We do have a stipulation that no more than two people from the same theatre group would be eligible. You can contact Christy by emailing her at [cfrick9898@charter.net](mailto:cfrick9898@charter.net).



# On the Boards in Michigan!



St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Birmingham	<i>August Osage County</i>	Jan 20-Feb 5, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>In the Heights</i>	Jan 20-Feb 12, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Jan 22-Feb 4, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>The Lion in Winter</i>	Jan 26-Feb 11, 2017
Bay City Players	<i>Act One</i>	Jan 27-Feb 5, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Side Show</i>	Jan 27-Feb 12, 2017
Rosedale Community Players	<i>The Kings of Unionville</i>	Jan 27-Feb 18, 2017
Standing Room Only, Bay City	<i>Second Samuel</i>	Jan 28-Feb 17, 2017
Standing Room Only, Bay City	<i>Hamlet</i>	Jan 28-Feb 17, 2018
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>The Wisdom of Eve</i>	Feb 3-12, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>The Foreigner</i>	Feb 3-11, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Charlotte's Web*</i>	Feb 3-12, 2017
Southgate Community Players	<i>Here Come the Brides</i>	Feb 3-11, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>Stop Kiss (Staged reading)**</i>	Feb 5, 2016
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Disney's Aladdin, Jr. *</i>	Feb 10-18, 2017
Farmington Players	<i>Becky's New Car</i>	Feb 10-25, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Outside Mullingar**</i>	Feb 10-25, 2017
Pinckney Players	<i>25th Annual Putnam Cty Spelling Bee**</i>	Feb 10-19, 2017
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Spitfire Grill</i>	Feb 10-19, 2017
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>Broadway 2000-17 (Revue)</i>	Feb 11-12, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Love, Loss and What I Wore**</i>	Feb 16-26, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Superior Donuts</i>	Feb 16-26, 2017
Gratiot County Players	<i>Over the River...Woods</i>	Feb 17-26, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Feb 17-Mar 4, 2017
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>I Hate Hamlet</i>	Feb 17-Mar 4, 2017
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>Treasure Island</i>	Feb 17-25, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>	Feb 18-19, 2017
Hartland Players	<i>Over the River...Woods</i>	Feb 18-25, 2017
Owosso Community Players	<i>Joseph/Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Feb 24-Mar 5, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Lady Day at Emerson's Bar &amp; Grill **</i>	Feb 24-Mar 12, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>The Red Velvet Cake War</i>	Mar 24-April 9, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>Curious Savage</i>	Mar 2-12, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>House on the Cliff</i>	Mar 3-18, 2017
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>9 to 5</i>	Mar 3-11, 2017
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Mar 9-19, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Mar 9-12, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Venus in Fur</i>	Mar 10-11, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>Home on the Radio</i>	Mar 10-18, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Mousetrap</i>	Mar 10-25, 2017
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>The Lion in Winter</i>	Mar 10-26, 2017

\* 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. A more complete list is also available on the CTAM website.

## How to appreciate and reward your volunteers

By Mary Jo Denolf



Any community theatre depends on their volunteers for support in so many ways. Did you know that there is a National Volunteer Week that gives you the opportunity to say “thank you.”

National Volunteer Week is observed **April 23-29, 2017** across the nation. This is a great time to take a step back and thank each and every one of your volunteers and let them know how much you appreciate their time, talent and commitment to your organization.

Here are some easy ways you can thank your theatre volunteers...some may take some planning, but all are worth the effort!!

- ✓ Have a Volunteer Party! This could be a potluck, or catered affair. But invite all volunteers to come and enjoy a night or afternoon of fellowship. Some theatres have a good relationship with a local restaurant or bar that might be able to assist with cost.

- ✓ Tokens of Gratitude. Find a local flower shop or business that will do a trade for advertisement or tickets. Such as a local nut/candy shop offered 20% off to all volunteers who came into the shop. Tag line: We are “nuts about our volunteers.” Flower shop offered a free rose to any volunteers who stopped by with a coupon provided. Some may offer a trade for tickets or advertisement.
- ✓ Simple hand written notes of thanks sent to all volunteers
- ✓ Have a webpage? Put a note of thanks to all volunteers on the web – include pictures and smiling faces.
- ✓ Email a special saying or quote that tells the volunteers how much they mean to the organization
- ✓ Have an Open House. Have volunteers come and bring a friend that they can share and show what they do at the theatre
- ✓ Do a lobby display of pictures of volunteers from costumes to crew, box office to actors. Just lots of photos of volunteers doing what they do best.



Whatever you end up doing...the most important part is to say “Thank You” to each and every one of the volunteers that support your theatre group. Without them, your theatre most likely would not exist. A smile, a handshake and a simple “thank you for all you do” can make anyone’s day a bit better.



*Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing, presented The Hemingway Play in January. Pictured here are Gloria Vivalda as Luisa and Michael Hays as Papa Hemingway. Photo by Ariniko O'Meara.*

## New CTAM Affiliate Pass details explained

CTAM has introduced a new program to encourage CTAM members to visit other groups and see what other groups are doing.

At the Fall Conference, little white cards were distributed and this card is your ticket to some Edu-bucks off CTAM events and a logo item, to be redeemed at Fall Conference 2017!

And don't forget to have the theatres you visit initial your CTAM Affiliate Pass next to the numbered visit you are on! Everyone should have at least ONE initial when they return, as you will have given patronage to your home theatre, correct?

Edu-bucks give you a dollar amount off your registration for CTAM educational events, amounting to a cost savings for events that you attend during your annual CTAM membership. Your CTAM logo item will be featured in the announcement of our new CTAM logo for Fall Conference 2017!

# of visits	Merchandise	Edu-buck\$
5 visits*	1 CTAM logo item	5 Edu-buck\$
10 visits*	1 CTAM logo item	10 Edu-buck\$
15 visits*	1 CTAM logo item	15 Edu-buck\$
20 visits*	1 CTAM logo item **	20 Edu-buck\$

**Note to our affiliates**, please remind your lobby or house personnel to kindly acknowledge the card when presented and initial with the theatre; i.e. Gratiot County Players would be GCP; and initials of the box office volunteer and date it for the patron. That's all we need from them: Two quick initials and the date.

*\*Visits must be to different affiliates. \*\*When you reach this level, your choice of merchandise will be personalized for you.*

Visit our affiliate theatres and witness community theatre at it's finest! For information about this new program or to get your card, contact [Vice President Heather Todd](#).

2017 PLAYWRITING  
CONTEST DEADLINE IS  
MAY 15, 2017

## January Tips from AACT

### Taking It Off

Skin reactions to makeup result from many factors. One of the most common is due to the use of paper towels to remove makeup. Most are too rough to be used on the face and abrade the skin, allowing makeup and dirt in, where they can cause irritation. Facial tissues should be used instead, or better yet, actors should bring a clean face towel with them each time they will be using makeup.

### It doesn't hurt to ask.

It also doesn't hurt to be specific while you're at it. A case in point is the want list printed in a recent issue of a Minnesota company's newsletter. Among the items being sought were black coveralls, treats for rehearsals, batteries, postage stamps, cleaning supplies for set strike, tissues for makeup tables, sailor hats, truck rental, or funding for the set strike party, newspaper display ads, or dry cleaning for costumes. You'll be surprised what you get just for asking!

### Keeping Track

Fire or police departments in many communities loan out engraving tools as a public service. Check with your fire department to see if it has such a program. If it does, now is the time to engrave your company name in all those tools, appliances and other expensive equipment you own.

### Celebrate Your Best

Consider creating your own "Walk of Fame" on the sidewalk outside your building, like Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City did. It can be an annual fund raiser.





Hosted by Bay City Players

February 9-12, 2017

## Individual Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name for Nametag \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affiliate Group \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual Registration @ \$75
- Individual Registration, CTAM member, @ \$65
- Paid by PayPal on Bay City Players website
- Check enclosed, payable to Bay City Players
- Charge (MC, Visa, Discover) Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CV# on the back \_\_\_\_\_  
Sign for charge card: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Joy Butler

Bay City Players

1214 Columbus Avenue; Bay City, MI 48708

