

COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

# CALLBOARD

The Lusty Month of May 2017



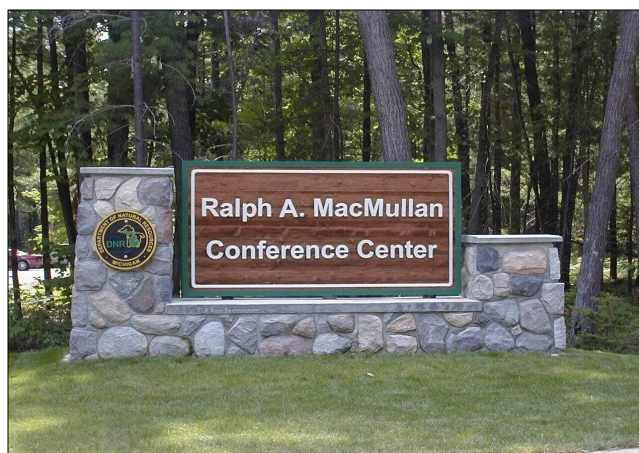
**July 14-16 at Higgins Lake**

## **Leeds Bird and Rhonda Lehan to headline Master Classes this summer**

CTAM is topping its game this year with the planned summer Master Classes at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake -- 14.5 hours almost non-stop over the weekend of July 14-16.

The two simultaneous workshops will feature **Actor vs. Director**, led by **Leeds Bird**, the consummate actor/director from Bay City; and **Stage Managing** with the ultimate stage mistress, **Rhonda Lehan**, from Grand Rapids. Both instructors are well qualified, experienced practitioners of the craft who will be teaching you the ropes!

For registration details, please see additional article on page 4.



### **STAGE MANAGEMENT: PRE-PRODUCTION TO POST SHOW with Rhonda Lehan**



The Stage Manager plays a vital role in every production. They are involved right from the start of the process and see the show through to its end. This class will help you to develop the planning, organizing, and leadership skills you will need to be a successful Stage Manager. We will cover creating paperwork, how to put together a prompt

book, and coordinating communications. With hands-on activities and group discussions, you will learn how to keep rehearsals and productions running smoothly. From Pre-Production to Post-Show, you will see that the Stage Manager is the force that keeps the collaboration going!

### **ACTOR VS. DIRECTOR – ELIMINATING THE STRUGGLE FOR INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS with Leeds Bird**



This workshop will explore for actors what directors are really looking for. It will provide actors with simple ways to facilitate a director's point of view without sacrificing anything as an actor. The flip side will be to provide directors with insight into working with experienced and inexperienced actors. Helping directors better understand the actor's process and how to join with it to meet the director's goal in the final production. A good deal of the workshop will involve actual participation as both a director and as an actor. Scenes will be selected in advance for participants to prepare for the workshop.

## 2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Betsy Willis**  
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[betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com](mailto:betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com)

Vice President - **Heather Todd**  
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Secretary - **Shyrl Cone**  
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Treasurer - **Christy Frick**  
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[cfrick9898@charter.net](mailto:cfrick9898@charter.net)

### At-Large Members of the Board

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

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

Rosedale Community Players

**Kylie C. Piette**.....[piettek@gmail.com](mailto:piettek@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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## CTAM Scholarships can help underwrite attendance

Scholarship Chair Christy Frick wants to remind you that scholarships are available for all CTAM-sponsored educational events. This includes the Summer Master Classes at Higgins Lake and our Fall Conference in September in Cadillac.



Christy Frick

The deadline is two weeks prior to the event and the scholarship covers up to the cost of registration. There is a short application to fill out and we hope that our affiliate groups will also help their members find the resources to attend. 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).

## CTAM Calendar of Events

<b>May 15, 2017</b>	<i>Deadline for Playwriting Committee submission; see article</i>
May 21, 2017 Southfield	<i>Board meeting, hosted by Rosedale Players</i>
<b>June 26-July 1, 2017</b> Rochester, Minnesota	<i>National AACTfest</i>
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	<i>Awards Nomination Deadline</i>
<b>July 1, 2017</b>	<i>Deadline for Nomination for election to the Board</i>
<b>July 14-16, 2017</b> Higgins Lake, MI	<i>Summer Master Class MacMullen Conf. Center</i>
July 16, 2017 Higgins Lake, MI	<i>Board of Directors meeting</i>
<b>Sept. 22-24, 2017</b> Cadillac	<i>CTAM Fall Conference Evergreen Resort</i>
September 24, 2017 Cadillac	<i>Fall Board Meeting at Evergreen Resort</i>

Proud Member of



## Callboard

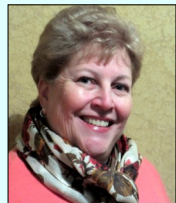
Editor.....Mary Lou Britton

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 at [www.community-theatremichigan.org](http://www.community-theatremichigan.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).





## The Prez Sez...

by Betsy Willis

Recently I asked our Adjudication Chair, Larry Nielsen, to adjudicate the show I directed at Old Town Playhouse in Traverse City. It was the first time our theatre had had anything adjudicated other than for AACTFest. I invited our Artistic Committee and all of the directors we have in our database to come and listen. It was well attended and much appreciated. Besides what I learned from Larry's evaluation, I learned that several people in my very own home theatre did not know that CTAM had an adjudication program.

Do you know that CTAM has a "stable" of well trained responders who will come to your productions and give you positive feedback and constructive solutions on how fully realized your production is as an audience member? Do you know that once a year CTAM will pay for one adjudication for any Affiliate Group in CTAM? Do you know that after that, it only costs your group \$50 to have one of our adjudicators come and provide feedback? Do you know that the adjudication is not meant to change your current show but to inform your future productions and help your actors grow.

If you didn't know before, you do now. The Tawas Bay Players have every one of their shows adjudicated because the late Vince Weiler, CTAM Past President and longtime member at Tawas Bay, highly valued the adjudication program. The result is that I have personally witnessed the growth of the Tawas Bay Players program, including strong entries in the past two state AACTFest competitions and a move toward more challenging productions.

I encourage you to contact Adjudication Chair Larry Nielsen and ask him to line up an adjudicator for an upcoming production. You won't be sorry and I promise your group will begin to grow in excellence.

## Serving on the CTAM Board: We're looking for a few good members

As you undoubtedly know, our CTAM Board is all-volunteer and eight people from around the state sit on that board in rotating three-year terms. Each member can serve for a maximum of two terms (plus any appointed or elected completion of unexpired terms). Serving members must 'take a year off' before standing for election again.

The Board elects their own officers each year and the President then assigns specific responsibilities to those members, such as Education, Marketing, Membership, etc. All Board members chair at least one committee.

The Board generally meets every other month at different locations around the state. Unless the meeting is close to where you live, one over-night stay is probably required. Board service is without compensation and all travel and meal expenses fall to the individual member.

Everyone is encouraged to nominate outstanding members from your group or any of our dedicated individual members. You can also nominate yourself if you think you have what it takes! The deadline for nominations is July 1st each year. Simply contact Nominating Chair Mary Jo DeNolf and let her know of someone you feel qualified. She will then follow up and contact the potential nominee.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting in September, provided the person nominated is willing to serve and has discussed the obligations of service with the Nominating Chair.

Please give it some consideration and offer to join the Board and do your part.



Mary Jo DeNolf,  
Nominating Chair





# Master Class location and registration details!

The class sessions will begin early Friday evening, July 14, and continue through Sunday morning, July 16. You will be done by noon!

The class registration fee is \$85 for individual CTAM members and \$95 for non-members. The fee for two nights lodging and four meals is \$167 for a shared room (two people) and \$187 for one person in a room. The registration deadline is June 30 and there will be no refunds for the MacMullen lodging and meals fee after that date. Check [the website](#) for an online registration form — which will be available soon. Or you can contact [Nancy Peska, Executive Secretary](#), directly and register with her.

The RAM Center is located at 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653. It is 1.5 miles east of US 27 and five miles west of I-75. If you go to the Department of Natural Resources website and click on the MacMullen Center on the left side, they provide maps and a delightful video, showing you the facilities.



The rooms are often referred to as 'dormitory style' with two single beds per room; the bath is shared with the next two-bed room. You can pay extra for a single room, of course. The expensive amenities of a hotel are not present, such as making your bed and a candy kiss on your pillow!

If you wish to stay elsewhere in the area and just attend the Master Class, you must add a facility fee of \$35 to the registration fee. If you want to share the family-style meals with everyone else, Nancy Peska can give you those additional prices. We try to be accommodating and make the weekend as affordable as possible.

Things to bring: A small fan for your room if the nights get sticky, your favorite bug spray for the campfires, and a flashlight to keep Sasquatch at bay, should you encounter him/her on your way back from the evening beach fire!



## Theatre Tips from AACT Fasten-ating

Little plastic Swiftach fasteners are used by retailers to attach price tags to garments. Many costume shops find it useful for projects that would normally take hours of hand tacking. For example, items that might fall off in the dark backstage. One designer used them to attach silk scales to a foam pod to make dragon scales that fluttered when it moved for a procession in the musical *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The gun and fasteners are manufactured by Avery Dennison, and are available online from several sources, including Amazon.

### Anti-Gravity Device

When a children's production needed an anti-gravity device, designer Dex Edwards used a balloon half-filled with helium, half with air, so that it stayed roughly where it was placed in the air, instead of rising. The effect almost always drew gasps from the audience.

### Costumes...Period

When costuming a show set before the present time, remember that while you're trying to be true to a period, ultimately it's all illusion. That's the advice of costume consultant Charlotte French. "You want to create something that looks realistic in terms of the period. However, you can only do so much."

### Lights Up

For a production of *The Women*, lighting designer Brenda Berry used intensely bright light to reveal a character's duplicitous nature with a dazzling display of clarity. In a profile about Berry in *American Theatre*, she described how the stage lights had been dim for a very long time, "and then we brought all the lights to full and just flooded the space. The first time we tried it in the preview, everyone clapped. It's one of the few times I can remember getting applause for a light cue."

# Spring theater in Michigan!

Farmington Players	<i>Spamalot</i>	Apr 28-May 21, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Spamalot</i>	Apr 28-May 20, 2017
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Miracle on South Division St.</i>	Apr 28-May 6, 2017
Rosedale Community Players	<i>The Gin Game</i>	Apr 28-May 20, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>9 to 5, the musical</i>	May 4-14, 2017
Thornapple Players, Hastings	<i>The Addams Family</i>	May 4-7, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>Honk! Jr. *</i>	May 5-7, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Self Help</i>	May 5-21, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Sister Act</i>	May 5-21, 2017
Lapeer Community Theatre	<i>Life in the Middle Ages</i>	May 5-13, 2017
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	May 5-7, 2017
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>Sugar</i>	May 5-24, 2017
Southgate Community Players	<i>A Chorus Line</i>	May 5-13, 2017
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	May 7-20, 2017
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>Kitchen Witches</i>	May 11-21, 2017
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	May 11-21, 2017
Bay City Players	<i>My Fair Lady</i>	May 12-21, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Assassins</i>	May 12-21, 2017
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>The Spitfire Grill</i>	May 12-21, 2017
Gratiot County Players	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	May 12-21, 2017
Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw	<i>Heathers, the Musical</i>	May 12-24, 2017
Pontiac Theatre IV	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	May 12-20, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Fool for Love</i>	May 12-21, 2017
Tawas Bay Players	<i>Second Samuel</i>	May 12-21, 2017
The Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Sweet Charity</i>	May 12-28, 2017
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	May 13-20, 2017
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>The Borrowers</i>	May 19-27, 2017
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	May 19-June 11, 2017
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Vanya, Sonia, Masha &amp; Spike**</i>	May 26-June 10, 2017
Tin Shop Theatre, Buchanan	<i>Bill W. and Dr. Bob</i>	May 27-June 5, 2017
Ann Arbor Civic	<i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>	June 1-4, 2017
Heart of the Hills, Troy	<i>G.I. Jukebox</i>	June 1-4, 2017
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Driving Miss Daisy</i>	June 2-3, 2017
St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Birmingham	<i>42nd Street</i>	June 2-17, 2017
Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing	<i>Catch Me If You Can</i>	June 8-18-2017
Monroe Community Players	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	June 9-11, 2017
Fenton Village Players	<i>Much Ado about Nothing**</i>	June 10-12, 2017
Center Stage Theatre, Midland	<i>Dorothy in Wonderland*</i>	June 15-18, 2017
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	June 16-24, 2017
Flint Community Players	<i>The House of Yes**</i>	June 16-25, 2017
Owosso Community Players	<i>Sister Act</i>	June 16-25, 2017
Northland Players, Cheboygan	<i>R.I.P. *</i>	June 17-18, 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.

## Community theatre icon returns to the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

It's been nine years since Jim Carver last shared his directing talents with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in their 2008 production of *The Foursome*. Jim, the Civic's retired Managing Director returns to the Kalamazoo Civic to direct their season closing musical *Sister Act*, an uplifting and joyful musical sure to have audiences ready to dance along with a chorus of nuns!

Jim spent 38 years with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre and in 1974 was named the Managing Director. Under his guidance the Kalamazoo Civic grew to be one of the largest community theatres in the country, presenting twenty-two productions a year with a staff of seventeen and over eight hundred volunteers. Jim has directed hundreds of plays and acted in almost that many roles. He has also developed an international reputation as a director, with two of his Civic productions (*Fools and Dancing at Lughnasa*) being chosen in national competition to represent the United States at international festivals, including the prestigious

World Amateur Theatre Festival in Monaco.



Jim always enters any production with two intentions - to produce a piece of art on the stage, and to make sure everyone has a great time doing it. There are many new volunteers making their Kalamazoo Civic Theatre debuts in *Sister Act*, and Jim welcomes the opportunity to teach acting and work with everyone, from the new-comer to the stage veteran,

to improve their craft. Getting a show rehearsed and ready to open is always an "amazing process" and Jim wants everyone involved to enjoy their time spent in the theatre.

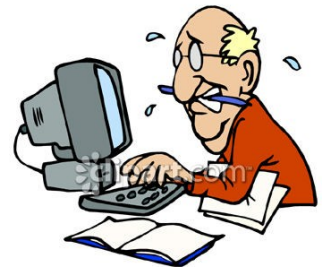


Now retired and living in Colorado, Jim is in

## Only two weeks until 2017 playwriting deadline

The deadline is here! The CTAM 2017 Play Writing Contest entries are due **May 15th**. Send your unpublished full-length plays to chair Pat Paveglio electronically. More information on the contest can be found at on our website at <http://communitytheatremichigan.org/index.php/playwriting-contest/>.

The 2017 Michigan AACTfest just featured two plays by Michigan authors; one of them was last year's winner, Art Nemitz's *Romance Guaranteed*, performed by Monroe Community Players.



### **Previews at Fall Conference:**

Excerpts from some of the play writing contest entries will be part of the entertainment at this year's CTAM Fall Conference. This will be a great opportunity to showcase Michigan playwrights and for your group to discover new works to perform.

**DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!**

demand as a director, with three more projects lined up for 2017. A proud father, Jim is thrilled that his son, Stephen Carver was named Executive Director for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre a year ago. Jim went on to say, "Kalamazoo audiences don't know this yet, but Steve is a terrific director. He's a better director than I am!"

*Sister Act* plays in the Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium May 5 – 21. For tickets, call the Civic box office at 269 – 343 – 1313 or visit [www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com).



## Don't procrastinate: Award nominations due July 1

How often have you procrastinated about something you needed to get done but kept putting it off? Finally, the deadline is suddenly approaching and you have to get the job done. This is exactly what I have done about writing an article about the awards and their deadline for this month's *Callboard*. I told Mary Lou I would have an article and I knew what I wanted to write; I just had to take the time to write it.



Terry Jolink,  
CTAM Awards Chair

In the past I have written articles about the history of the National Volunteer Service Month and Volunteer Service Week during April. That's fine but I need to bring it home and talk about CTAM volunteerism and the awards we present.

CTAM is an organization that functions on all-volunteers -- from the Board of Directors, to the committee chairs, to the *Callboard* editor. Most community theatres do the same. The CTAM Board presents their Volunteer Spirit Award to individuals who go over and above what they sign up for! Does your group recognize your volunteers for the wonderful work they do?

Recognizing outstanding volunteers from member groups is one function of CTAM, so prior Boards have created the Robert A. McKenna Award and the Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award.

CTAM's most prestigious award was 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 affiliate group or current CTAM individual member.

The Dorothy Arnett Volunteer Service Award is

presented by CTAM to those individuals [as nominated by you] who have given valuable, long-term service to your local theatre organization. Each year, CTAM affiliate groups can recommend an individual or couple who has given valuable and significant service to their local group for at least ten years. This award provides our affiliate groups with a way of saying 'thank you' to those volunteers who have made significant and lasting contributions to their local community theatre. The award is presented by a CTAM Board member at one of your performances or functions.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the CTAM awards is July 1. Do not procrastinate, do it NOW! Information is on the website, or contact Awards Chair [Terry Jolink](#) directly.

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### New member welcome:

## Todd Gerdan joins CTAM

Board member Suzan Dunham is handling our membership recruitment duties and will, from time to time, be introducing our readers to new members. Please welcome our new member Todd Gerdan! Todd has been acting since he was a youth in his local community theatre and now is involved in a major motion picture! In response to Suzan's welcome letter, here is Todd's response.

*Hello Susan, thanks for the cordial greeting! I began acting young with the Ridgedale Players, the local community theater group in our area. I stayed with it through high school and am currently involved in a major motion picture as a principal role, and as an extra in another movie, as well. I'm a fan of theater -- particularly because of the realness of it. True theater actors are a different breed. The "now" is a hard component to master when you have to literally remember the whole script. Thanks for having me, and I hope to eventually meet you at a function.*



Welcome aboard, Todd!

