

CALLBOARD



The prez Sez... by Betsy Willis

It is time to say thank you and enjoy your second retirement to Nancy Peska. After 18 years of serving as CTAM's Executive Secretary, Nancy has decided it is time to spend more quality time with her husband Dar, her daughters and their families, and her friends outside of theatre as well as those of us with whom she has spent countless hours. More time in the sun, at softball games, taking her grandchildren to theatre performances, and eating good food with friends sounds like a happy retirement to me.

During Nancy's tenure she moved from doing most of her work with pen and paper to automating almost everything, from having to reinvent registration forms for every event to them being available online and from there to online payments along with registration. Her job description talked about forwarding mail to Board members and dealing with facsimiles. I am guessing she hasn't done either of those things in a long time, at least not a regular basis.

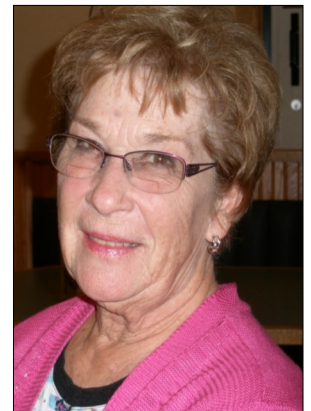
Through all of those changes, all of the new Board members who needed help getting accustomed to how things are done at CTAM, and the recent changes we underwent that meant none of us were sure what the next day would bring, Nancy has been there for us. Her smile was the first thing our conference attendees saw when they walked in the door, her friendly

voice on the phone reassured our membership, and her dedication to CTAM meant she must have worked for what must have amounted to pennies per hour because of her diligence.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU Nancy for all you have given to CTAM over the years. You promised the Board you would not disappear from CTAM, and we are counting on that. We want to hear all about your new adventures over a cocktail at a CTAM event because we will miss you. But, our most sincere wish is that you enjoy every moment of the leisure time you have more than earned.

We know that Nancy's shoes will be hard to fill, but we must do that by July so Nancy can help train her successor. The job description and details for applying are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter, as well as posted on our website and can be accessed by going to www.ctam.online. It can also be emailed or mailed to you by contacting me at 231-838-0269. Deadline for application is Wednesday, May 8.

It is on to new beginnings for Nancy and CTAM. Let the journeys begin.



2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - **Betsy Willis**
 Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City
betsy@oldtownplayhouse.com

Vice President - **Suzan Dunham Nemeth**
 Tawas Bay Players, WE Players
info@witzend.co

Secretary - **Shyrl Cone**
 Hartland Players
scone1063@comcast.net

Treasurer - **Jamie Peterson**
 Players de Noc, Escanaba
Mr.jamiepeterson@gmail.com

At-Large Members of the Board

Chuck Goddeerischarlesgoddeeris@gmail.com
 Rosedale Community Players

Patrick Hubbardphubbard3313@gmail.com
 Clio Cast and Crew

Michael Wilsonmichaelwilsonprops@yahoo.com
 Grand Rapids Civic

Michael Wisniewskiwjmjw@aol.com
 Bay City Players

Ben Zylmanbenkal@chartermi.net
 Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

Executive Secretary

Nancy Peskapeska@cmsinter.net
 Gratiot County Players
 989-763-0598
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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.

Proud Member of



CTAM is currently seeking individuals interested in serving on our Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to become involved in our organization and help our member theatres thrive.

Our Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting at the Fall Conference in October, begin immediately, and serve for overlapping three-year terms of office.

Notification of your intent to be nominated must be received by the Nominations Chair Michael Wisniewski by July 1 ... and approved at the July Board meeting on July 21. Interested members are invited to attend the July Board meeting -- mid-day Sunday of Master Class weekend -- to meet the current members and see how things are run.

If you would like to be considered, please let the chair know. Or, if you think someone else in your group or among your friends would be qualified to serve, send their names to Michael and he'll take it from there. If you are not quite sure or want more information, please contact chair Michael Wisniewski at wjmjw@aol.com.

CTAM Calendar of Events

May 4, 2019 Clio	CTAM Board meeting Clio Cast & Crew
June 16-22, 2019 Gettysburg, PA	AACTfest nationals at the Majestic Theater
July 20-21, 2019 Lansing	Master Class Weekend
July 21, 2019 Lansing	CTAM Board meeting
October 11, 12,13, 2019 Location TBD	CTAM Annual Fall Conference
October 13, 2019 Location TBD	Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

July 20 and 21, 2019

Summer Master Classes being held in Lansing!

The format of the traditional Summer Master Classes is being changed this year a bit to try and make it more affordable and easier for people to attend. The session will be two jam-packed days, starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20. With breaks for lunch and dinner, Saturday will run until 9:00 p.m. After a good night's sleep, the class will resume at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at noon on Sunday.

Suggestions for local accommodations will be available in the June issue of the Callboard.

The registration fee is \$90 for individual CTAM members and \$100 for non-individual members. CTAM scholarships are available for part of the registration fee. Contact Christy Frick, Scholarship Chair, at cfrick9898@charter.net.

A Master Class for Actors and Directors

will be led by the talented Susan Craves of the Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea. Susan has more than 35 years of experience in theatre. For the last five years she has been a Resident Artist of The Purple Rose Theatre Company where she earned her Actor's Equity Card. She spent several years training in the Sanford Meisner Technique. She attended the Kensington School of Performing Arts in Troy.



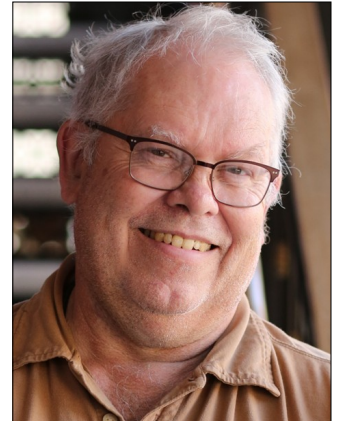
During the fall of 2018, Susan further worked on her directing skills with the Artistic Director of Purple Rose, Guy Sanville, and with actor/playwright Jeff Daniels.

Community Theatre is important to Susan. That is where she began her involvement in theatre. She continues to work as a director for Clarkston Village Players and Bay City Players as well as non-Equity theatres in the Metro Detroit area.



The Master Class all about properties will be led by the amazing Michael Wilson, the Props Master at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Some of the areas he will cover are real food versus fake, actor allergies, keeping props in the historical era, magical props, glass versus plastic, how to make blood and vomit, weapons, dry ice safety, odd prop challenges, and solving prop problems. There will be discussions, demonstrations, problem solving, and hands-on work.

The class will also explore props problems, props failures and solutions, how to make a prop look real, what is really needed, and where to purchase or rent props when necessary.



Prior to his current job, Michael has served as the props master at Central Park Players, Opera Grand Rapids, Circle Theatre, Grand Valley State University Theatre, and Aquinas College Theatre. He brings to this class more than 20 years experience in providing props for a variety of shows and venues.

Our host for the Master Class will be The Downeaster Theatre, 1120 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing 48906. Housing suggestions will be forthcoming, but please save the dates on your summer calendar.



Job Description

CTAM Executive Secretary



General Responsibilities: In general, the person in this position functions as the focal point for the membership of CTAM and for those non-members making contact with the association. As such, the Executive Secretary represents the association and its program and values. The person in this position will take direction from the Board of Directors and perform assignments as made by the Board. The Executive Secretary shall keep all board members (in particular, the President) informed of all items and happenings, which require Board attention and/or action. This person receives questions and inquiries from a wide variety of persons and groups and responds accordingly so that the association is benefited.

Specific Tasks: Specific tasks include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following examples of responsibility:

- Respond to telephone, email, and mail contacts as required or necessary
- Sort, forward email and mail to appropriate Board members, committees and their chairpersons
- Forward bills for prompt payment assuring the association's good credit
- Prepare clerical financial activity reports and make them available to the Board of Directors upon request
- Work closely with the Board Treasurer to assure that financial reporting is accurate
- Prepare and file state and federal reports as may be necessary for the association
- Track and maintain proper and current membership records retrievable by a variety of categories and useable for a variety of tasks and programs of the Board and the association
- Prepare mailing labels from the association data bases and forward them to those

needing them for an association program or activity, or for use in tasks of this position

- If assigned receive all non online reservations for conferences, master classes, and festivals; record and deposit monies; and work with hosting sites for housing deposits
- Work with all conference/festival committee chairs and Master class chair to inform them of all the arrangements, expenses, and process of their event so that knowledge is shared and owned by all necessary; and prepare or assist in the preparation of final reports (including activity, attendance and financial).
- The Executive Secretary shall monitor the work toward the association's strategic plan and prompt the Board to accomplish its tasks related to the strategic plan.
- Prior to all Board meetings: prepare reports as necessary, email reports and agendas 10 days to 2 weeks in advance of the meeting; work as directed with host groups to accommodate the Board meeting; research hotels for Board members; and flag strategic plan action items for Board attention
- Provide professional opinion to the Board members regarding administrative and activity matters of the association.
- Prepare and mail membership billings, track renewals and non-renewals, and record financial record transactions, deposits and receipts, as necessary, appropriate, or required.

- Collect and maintain historical data of the association
- For the Fall Conference, prepare the conference book, roll call lists, and reports as necessary.
- Record volunteers and forward their names as appropriate for inclusion or for assignment in association activities and programs.
- Make suggestions to the Board and/or the President regarding committee assignments.
- Provide research services as may be requested, necessary, or appropriate.
- Solicit and maintain all data necessary for publication of the association's Directory. (this requirement does not include preparation of the directory, as that project has traditionally been a volunteer activity).
- Assist the associations' newsletter editor where appropriate and necessary.

Catch-All Responsibility: Accomplish all tasks necessary to assure assignments culminate in success, such as: make arrangements with printers, copying materials, fold and stuff mailings, proof PR materials, print labels for others, make follow-up reminder calls and/or notes to Board and Committee persons regarding their tasks and responsibilities, and, of course, lend them a hand where needed after encouraging and providing volunteer board members, chairpersons and committee persons the tools and opportunity to succeed. Create an atmosphere of teamwork and togetherness in the accomplishment of tasks so that volunteers become the heroes/heroines and are provided the opportunity to succeed and shine in their roles.

Required Skills: A successful Executive Secretary shall possess working knowledge in computer finances, data base management and the ability to use all current technology (facsimile, e-mail, spreadsheets, database, etc). This person will have good working financial skills and experience as related to not-for-profit organizations, have a track record of successful task accomplishment with little direct supervision, and have a demonstrated ability of working with a volun-

teer Board of Directors.

Contract Period: The period of contract for an Executive Secretary shall be one year and eligible for renewal after an annual review.

Desirable Traits of a Successful Executive Secretary: A successful Executive Secretary for the Community Theatre Association of Michigan shall have a love of theatre, a love of people and the ability to make the association a winner. This person will have strong leadership skills, volunteer-development skills and good interpersonal skills and deportment, always able to present the best face of a progressive and dynamic organization.

Compensation: The person in this position is considered to be a contracted service provider on a part-time basis and is compensated accordingly. Compensation is negotiable.

To apply, please send:

- Cover letter, your resumé, three references, and yearly contract compensation desired.

This should be a Word or .pdf document to Betsy Willis at ryonwillis915@hotmail.com by Wednesday, May 8.

Playwriting Contest
Dot your teas
and cross your
eyes

Or vice versa! The deadline for the CTAM 2019 Playwriting Contest is in only two weeks. Your play is due on Wednesday, May 15, to be precise.

Be sure to give your play a last minute proof-read to eliminate all typos, spelling and grammatical errors before the judges get into it. Also be sure you follow the manuscript format for scripts.

Check the website for all the details. Good luck to everyone who enters a play this year!



Michigan awards at AACTfest Regional Competition

Michigan was very well represented at the regional competition in Kokomo, Indiana in April. Our two shows did very well, with Grand Rapids Civic's show selected as the alternate winner, in case one of the two winning shows cannot, for some reason, compete in the national competition in Gettysburg in June. Congratulations to both Michigan groups; thank you for doing such a fantastic job! We are so proud of you!



Leigh Levine

Players deNoc, Escanaba

The Cutthroat Game

- Outstanding Set Design: Jamie Peterson
- Acting Award: JR Spaulding, Pete Ammel and Jamie Peterson (*Presented to all three as they portrayed three brothers*)

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson

- People's Choice Award
- Outstanding Choreography: Kallie Piette
- Acting Awards:
 - Ryan Owen – Andrew Jackson
 - David Houseman – John Quincy Adams
 - Leigh Levine – Narrator

Placed: Alternate



Jamie Peterson



The Cutthroat Game, Players deNoc



Ryan Owen and Emily Diener



Robin Gavriloff and Pete Ammel



Set for *The Cutthroat Game*



Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Grand Rapids Civic



David Houseman

What's happening around the state!

Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Calvin Miller's The Singer</i>	Apr 11-May 4, 2019
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>The Swan Princess*</i>	Apr 25-May 5, 2019
Clio Cast and Crew	<i>Calendar Girls</i>	Apr 26-May 5, 2019
Farmington Players	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	Apr 26-May 18, 2019
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i>	April 26-May 5, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind**</i>	Apr 26-May 5, 2019
Holland Civic Theatre	<i>Sunshine Boys</i>	Apr 26-May 17, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>The Who's Tommy</i>	Apr 26-May 18, 2019
Players de Noc, Escanaba	<i>Moon over Buffalo</i>	Apr 26-May 4, 2019
Port Austin Community Players	<i>God's Favorite</i>	Apr 26-May 5, 2019
Rosedale Community Players	<i>Panache</i>	Apr 26-May 11, 2019
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Southern Comfort</i>	Apr 26-May 12, 2019
Bay City Players	<i>Man of LaMancha</i>	May 2-12, 2019
Muskegon Civic Theatre	<i>Shrek, The Musical</i>	May 2-5, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Out of Order</i>	May 3-18, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>War Paint</i>	May 3-19, 2019
Players Guild of Dearborn	<i>It Shoulda Been You</i>	May 3-26, 2019
Southgate Community Players	<i>Barnum</i>	May 3-11, 2019
Village Players, Birmingham	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	May 3-19, 2019
Alpena Civic Theatre	<i>How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying</i>	May 9-19, 2019
Flint Community Players	<i>LaCage aux Folles</i>	May 9-19, 2019
Pit & Balcony, Saginaw	<i>It Shoulda Been You</i>	May 10-19, 2019
Hartland Players	<i>The Addams Family</i>	May 11-19, 2019
Avon Players, Rochester	<i>Company</i>	May 17-June 1, 2019
Community Theatre of Howell	<i>13, The Musical</i>	May 17-19, 2019
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre	<i>Pippi Longstocking *</i>	May 17-25, 2019
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	May 17-June 9, 2019
Grosse Pointe Theatre	<i>10-Minute Festival: Winning and Losing</i>	May 18, 2019
Old Town Playhouse, Traverse City	<i>Mothers & Sons</i>	May 24-June 8, 2019
Downeaster Theatre, Lansing	<i>Charlotte's Web*</i>	May 30-June 9, 2019
Flint Community Players	<i>Voices from the Shore</i>	May 30-June 1, 2019
Clarkston Village Players	<i>Grounded **</i>	May 31-June 1, 2019
Grand Rapids Civic	<i>Disney's Newsies</i>	May 31-June 23, 2019
Master Arts Theatre, Grand Rapids	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>	June 6-22, 2019
The Sauk, Jonesville	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i>	June 6-16, 2019
Heart of the Hills Players, Warren	<i>Chicago, the Musical</i>	June 6-9, 2019
Cadillac Footliters	<i>Company</i>	June 7-15, 2019
Twin City Players, St. Joseph	<i>The Addams Family</i>	June 7-30, 2019

* 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.



The Scoop on Scripts

By Tara Western



Hello, May! I so enjoy writing this column. I'm always looking for the new, the quirky, the unknown gem of a script. So, if you have any titles you would like me to review, email me the titles, and I'll try!

The Yellow Boat by David Saar from Dramatic Publishing ©1993. I was extremely moved when I saw it at Suzan Nemeth's WitzEnd in East Tawas, performed by kids. Elementary-aged Ben is diagnosed with HIV in the 1980s before anyone knew what it was. Impressionist scenes tell his short life story. These are told by his parents, classmates, medical personnel etc. Scene changes are called "time shifts" and mean just that: a cinematic shift to another moment. NO set needed, just "playing spaces." Playwright Saar says that "time is fluid in the play and should be approached cinematically rather than realistically. We can and will move forward, back, and across time." Besides Ben, his mom and dad, the roles are fluid. A chorus of four or more play Ben's classmates, teachers, other parents, school administrators, and doctors. Voices overlap; a Greek chorus is used to reveal Ben's thoughts. You can imagine how Ben's brief life unfolds: playing with other kids, sports, normal life is impossible. Although the play can be sad at times, it also has many moments of love, friendship and joy. Appropriate for pre-teens through adult.

Social Security by Andrew Bergman (Samuel French ©1987) is a comedy with three men and three women which takes place in the mid-1980s in a sophisticated NYC apartment filled with valuable art. Two married couples play 40+, one stylish, one not. Who gets Mom? That is the question facing wealthy art collectors, David and Barbara, her dowdy sister, Trudy, and her husband, Martin. Trudy and Martin need to place 80-year-old Sophie with Barbara and David, because their daughter is going "sex

crazy"—their perception. When Sophie meets Maurice, a 98-year-old artist who paints her nude, Sophie and Maurice fall in love, have sex, and the frail Sophie realizes a new life, health, and passion (sex!). Inspired, David and Barbara fan their flickering "flame." *Social Security* is a joyous, funny tale of married love, new love and senior love.

Ruthless: the Stage Mother of All Musicals

©2015, book and lyrics by Joel Paley, music by Marvin Laird, was published by Samuel French. This spoof of *The Bad Seed* and *All About Eve* (parodies of the plot, over the top histrionics and stereotypical show business attitudes) also references *Gypsy* (the shifting of power, mother-daughter relationships and stage mothers in general), and *The Women* (overall pacing and style and the quick and pointed repartee). The author recommends having the director and actors watch all of these prior to rehearsals. The cast consists of six females, and one man, but it isn't that simple! Two females play ages eight and eleven, and one female lead (Sylvia St. Croix) is typically played by a man in drag. The author's notes allow for a great deal of flexibility. For instance, the adorable 8-year-old becomes a hardened 12-year-old in Act II. The set needs two main areas: a homey living room and a chic penthouse, with a couple of scenes at an elementary school. Act I is basically *The Bad Seed* and when Tina doesn't

get the lead, the funniest (and only) f-bomb ends Act I. If there was a Swear Word Hall of Fame, this would be in it. She loses the lead to the daughter of Leman's Hardware who is donating the paint and the wood and the costumes! *All About Eve* is channeled in Act II with more "Gypsy-like" mother-daughter angst. This musical needs to be played fast and furious! Great fun!!

