

Summit Playhouse Green Room Notes

Qualified by The New Jersey Cultural Trust

October 2005

“The Miracle Worker” Opens November 4

William Gibson’s Tony drama, *The Miracle Worker*, will grace our stage November 4 -19. In 1960 the play received awards for “Best Play,” “Best Actress,” “Best Director,” “Best Producer,” and “Best Stage Technician.” Our director, **Kate Schlesinger**, assisted by **Pam Heller**, has no illusions that our production can be comparable, but she will give us a show that everyone onstage, backstage, and in the audience will be proud of. She always does!

The plot of *The Miracle Worker* concerns seven-year-old Helen Keller, who became deaf and blind as an infant, and her instructor, young Annie Sullivan, who performed the “miracle” of teaching Helen to communicate and become a socialized human being. Kate has cast Megan Guinan of Garwood as Annie, “the miracle worker,” and Summit resident Paulina May Casey as Helen. Other cast members include: Audrey Atencio, Thea Clark, Sharell Crabb, Peter Curley, **Liz Dawson**, Drew and Natalie Dix, Brooke Dobossy, Indira Larson, and **Bill Roome**. The producer is **Joann Scanlon**.

Playhouse members and subscribers will want to bring their friends and neighbors to see this inspirational drama. For tickets call (908) 273-2192 or go online www.summitplayhouse.org. For those of you who renewed by September 15, here’s a good opportunity to use your discount coupons.

Playhouse Schedules an Extra Matinee with ACCESS Features on November 6

In keeping with the theme of *The Miracle Worker*, we are making special provisions for people with hearing and visual impairments. At the November 6 matinee Dr. Carol Goodman of Kean University’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program will sign, while Professor Rachel Evans of Kean’s Theatre Department will audio-describe the action for individuals who are blind or have limited vision. The New Jersey Theatre Alliance is supporting us by lending the necessary electronic equipment, which **Bill Roome** will set up, and the Union Center National Bank is providing us with large print programs for those who need them. We are requesting patrons who need the ACCESS features to reserve space and equipment two weeks in advance, but the extra performance is open to everyone. New Playhouse members **Jim** and **Mary Lou Mayfield** have been especially helpful in this endeavor.

New Playhouse Board of Trustees

The Board of Governors used the occasion of the fall party where they were sure to have a quorum to elect two trustees from the membership: **Richard Nowel** (2-year term) and **John Bauer** (one year). Both Richard and John have been active in fundraising and will continue in that capacity and work with the Playhouse president and treasurer and three trustees yet to be appointed from the community at large. Their duties will include developing an endowment and overseeing the care and maintenance of our historic building. The formation of this new Board of Trustees is a provision of a new by-law enacted in June. Copies of the revised by-laws will be mailed to active and retired active members.

The Playhouse’s Paid Ad Campaign and Free Listings, New and Old

WE began a paid ad campaign on September 14 in the free local newspapers, *The Independent Press* and *The Suburban News*, which reach over 128,000 households in Union County and nearby communities in Essex and Morris Counties. Watch for the next ad on October 11. The New Jersey Theatre Alliance has listed us for the first time in their *Guide to Accessible Theatre*, as has Spindle Publishing’s *Senior Citizen’s Guide to Northeast New Jersey*. We will also be listed in the Ruby Press guidebook entitled *Summit, New Providence, and Berkeley Heights* in late fall and in North Jersey Media Group’s new magazine, *Summit*.

We now list performances online in the Union County Cultural Calendar <http://www.unioncountynj.org/cultural/05events.pdf> and on Discover Jersey Arts <http://www.jerseyarts.com/search/index.cfm>. In addition, Rose Pancirov has informed us that the Tri-County Community Theatre Association has a website under construction, where you will soon see the offerings at nearby venues: TriCountyCTA.org. Finally, there is a City of Summit tour that starts with us! <http://www.cityofsummit.com/Tour/playhouse.html>.

On Stage Elsewhere

Vincent Balzano, the son of Lori and Vince, has been cast as Elwood in *Harvey*, at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, where he is in his senior year. Young Vincent has appeared in several Kaleidoscope productions, most recently as “Snoopy” in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in 2000. • **Rachel Schier** from the cast of *How to Eat Like a Child* in 2004 is now Young Cosette, singing “Castle on a Cloud” in the touring company of *Les Miserables*. • **Scott Goldman** is now working at George Street Playhouse.

Mayor Glatt Becomes an Honorary Member

On September 13 the Board of Governors voted to make Mayor Jordan Glatt an honorary member. You will recall that last September he and the Common Council proclaimed “Marjorie Cranstoun Jefferson–Summit Playhouse Appreciation Day.”

Request from the Playreading Committee

Lori Balzano, chair of the Playreading Committee, has asked that suggestions for next season and scripts (if possible) be submitted by October 31. Her committee has been reading scripts for several months so they can make recommendations to the Board of Governors in early 2006.

Have You Rejoined or Resubscribed?

At the beginning of August the 2005-2006 brochure, so beautifully designed by Bill Roome, was mailed to all members and past subscribers by **Ed Johnson**, Business Manager; **Stephanie Fisk**, Ticket Manager; **Rose Pancirov**, Vice President; and **Nancy Boucher**, President, assisted by Joyce Johnson. If you haven't renewed your membership or subscription, please send it as soon as possible as some performances are nearly sold out. (If you didn't receive your brochure or have misplaced it, please call Ed at 908-464-3855 for a replacement.)

Recent Playhouse Volunteers

At Summit Fair Day on July 31 **John Bauer**, **Nancy Boucher**, **Jeanne Brinkmann**, **Frank Hawrusik**, **Betty Kaus**, **Rose Pancirov**, and **Dee Robertson** talked up the Playhouse and handed out brochures. (About 150 people visited our table and tried their luck in our drawing. The winners were John Sedgwick of Basking Ridge, Nancy and Mitch Marcovici of New Providence, and Jackie and George Becker of Summit. They received pairs of tickets to *The Miracle Worker*.) • Also helping out were Meghna and Priya Maranthé, cast members of *Dear Edwina*, who handed out flyers for their Kaleidoscope show that afternoon. • On our clean-up day, September 17, House & Grounds chair **Brent Baab** and **Vince Balzano** made multiple trips to the dump. Other cleaner-uppers included: **Lori Balzano**, **John Bauer**, **Nancy Boucher**, **Betty Kaus**, **Joyce Kitson**, **John Luckstone**, **Maddie Marathé**, **Jim** and **Mary Lou Mayfield**, **Tamara Nedjar**, **Rose Pancirov**, **Jo Ray**, **Bill Roome**, **Rhoda Roper**, **Kate Schlesinger**, **Linn Smith**, and **Phil and Ruth VanVort**. • On September 18 **Joann Scanlon** and her husband Michael hosted our fall party in their lovely home in Chatham Township. **Gerry Zocoli**, Entertainment chair, organized the event, assisted by **Cathy Hawrusik**. A hearty thanks to all participants!

In Search of an Art Patron

An antique dealer from Basking Ridge and a long-time resident of the Summit Area has contacted us about an oil painting by **Jack Manley Rosé**, one of our Playhouse founders and the artist who painted the mural in our lobby. She is looking for someone who might be interested in purchasing this 24"x30" rendering of the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City. If anyone would like to acquire it for their own collection or for a donation to the Playhouse or to another building in Summit, please call Nancy Boucher at 973-377-9058. The dealer thinks the work should remain in Summit. The Manleys, afterall, were founders of the Summit Public Library.

Building Restoration Project

On August 11 President **Nancy Boucher** and Director of Development **John Bauer** were invited to the State House in Trenton to the annual meeting of **The New Jersey Cultural Trust**, where the Playhouse was awarded a \$15,000 historic preservation grant. Part of this amount must be used to ensure that renovations are done in accordance with historic preservation standards. The remainder should enable us to complete the repairs of the building and to paint it this fall. We hope to re-landscape the property next spring.

Cathy Hawrusik's SAVE A HEART Campaign

Cathy raised over \$3500 to purchase a defibrillator and to train Playhouse members in its use. The Red Cross conducted an Adult CPR and AED training course for us on September 24. Although the names of those trained were not available as we went to press, all volunteers deserve our "heartful" thanks!

WANTED — Can you supply any of these things? (1) 3-Drawer Filing Cabinet? (2) Kitchen Cabinet or Buffet 2-feet deep and 4-feet long? (3) Ten or more hours of service this year? If so, call Nancy (973-377-9058)

Volunteers Needed – Call Nancy (973-377-9058) or e-mail her nboucher@patmedia.net

- **Publicity** – Individuals to take pictures, to write press releases, and to deliver or e-mail material to the local newspapers.
- **Gifts and Benefits** – Individuals to attend the plays at Summit High School, Kent Place School, and Oak Knoll School and serve on a committee to select the art student winner for 2006.
- **Communications** (Telephone/E-mail) – Individuals to contact members and subscribers, when necessary.
- **Technical and backstage help** – Individuals to help with props, costumes, stage managing, hair and wig design.
- **House and Grounds** – Individuals to prepare the theater immediately before and during the run of a production.

The Playhouse Association, Inc., 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 (908) 273-2192
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