

May 2009
Editor, Ellie Stuck

Harley Herald



2008-2009
Harlequins Board Members
Officers:

President –
George Muehlhauser

Vice-President –
Bart Zimmerman

Secretary –
Jennifer Wertz

Treasurer –
Kathlyn Stenzel

Board of Directors:

Nate Fuller

Lisa Wiley

Lori Demres

Donna Jean Evans

Jim Ohlemacher

President's Message.

Remember in "The Best Man" last fall, when the character I portrayed, President Hockstader, said he had "cancer of the innards"? Well, in an uncanny example of life imitating art, on April 15th I underwent pancreatic cancer surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. I got home on the 21st, but wound up at Firelands Hospital from the 25th to the 29th. I am currently meeting with doctors in Sandusky discussing future treatment options. Luckily, I feel pretty good and seem to be healing well.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those of you who have sent me messages and cards expressing your concern and prayers and the other kindnesses that many of you have extended to me. You are truly a wonderful group of people. I hope that in the not-too-distant future I will be able to again take part in the activities of the Harlequins. Again thank you for your concern and support.

George

A Great Big Thanks!

Goes out to Jack Mulaney, Jean Smith, Marty Sawicki, Gary Spayd, Lisa Wiley, Bob Jacobs and Bart Zimmerman who came down to the theatre to help with clean-up in preparation for Farndale. I really appreciate everyone giving up a couple hours of their Saturday...especially with such great weather outside!

Jim

Congratulations!

The cast and crew from "Ravenscroft" have been chosen to take an excerpt to the NW Regional OCTA competition this June at Fort Jennings High School in Fort Jennings, Ohio. Lisa hopes to start rehearsals the week of May 11th. They hope to have, at some point, an open dress rehearsal for the membership to come and watch. It's always good to have an audience! More information to follow.



You Can Ring Our Bell!

If anyone would like any information put on the website, please send it to Jim Ohlemacher and he will then put it on the website!

We are trying to cut postage costs for the newsletter and would like to know if anyone receiving the newsletter would prefer to get it by e-mail instead of snail mail. If so, please let Ellie know. If that's not your thing, we still don't mind sending it by regular mail since we do want everyone to receive it and know what's going on.

Also, if there's anything you want in the newsletter, please let Ellie know. Just try and have it to her by the last week of the month preceding the month's newsletter in which you'd like it to appear.

Our new website is up and running!

Our new website, at www.harlequintheatre.org is now up and running. Make sure to check it out. If anyone has any ideas of things they'd like to see included on the site, please email me and let me know. If it's at all possible, I'll try accommodate...

Jim

I've Got Dates to Remember

May 13th – General meeting at 7:30 p.m.

May 27th - double board meeting 7:30 p.m. - new and old board - voting for the new season

June 6th-- Our annual June Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at the Sandusky Yacht Club. There will be further information to follow. Mark your calendars for this fun event!

June 12th, 13th, and 14th -- NW Regional OCTA at Fort Jennings High School, Fort Jennings, Ohio. We will be taking "Ravenscroft". If you'd like to go support the cast (and crew) but don't have a registration form - contact Lori

The Vote!

Well, it's that time of year again, time for the election of officers and board members. The vote will be held during the May 13th general meeting, so make sure you come out and vote. Listed below are those running for the open positions.

Lisa Wiley for President

Jim Ohlemacher for Vice President

Ellie Stuck for Secretary

Kathlyn Stenzel for Treasurer

Tami Crane for board

Jennifer Wertz for board

Kathy Beatty for board

Mike Sudsina for board

Next Season's

At the last general meeting, the play reading committee announced the following as next season's potential plays:

"Send Me No Flowers"

"Sunshine Boys"

"Boston Marriage"

"The Illiad, the Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes"

"Suds" (a musical)

"A Christmas Carol"

"Weekend Comedy"

"Lying in State"

Directors are needed for any and all. If interested, scripts are available to peruse. Anyone interested in directing one of these plays should contact the board before the board meeting on May 20.

June Dinner News: June 6th Sandusky Yacht Club (use west entrance)

6:00 Cocktail Hour

7:00 Meal

You will be able to choose from the following Mini-Menu

Pasta Prima Vera 12.95

Chicken Marsala 13.95

Mild Cajun Tilapia 14.95

Prime Rib 17.95.

The meal also includes: House Salad, Rivera Blend (yellow and green beans with carrots), Herb baked redskin potato, strawberry mousse, coffee, hot tea and iced tea. Your check will be written up separately and will include 20% gratuity. There will be a cash bar (draft beer \$1.50, wine \$3.50, mixed drinks start at \$3.25) and a cheese plate. Please RSVP to Marty 419-627-8899 NO LATER than Thursday May 28th. There will be awards and entertainment and laughter and dancing. Well maybe not dancing, but fun for everyone. Spread the word, especially to those folks who have been involved in shows this year, but may not get the newsletter!!!

Questions to Deb (419-271 3695) or Marty.

Getting to Know You! Donna Jean Evans

Although I spend most of my Harlequins' time now working at tasks that do not involve actual work on the productions, it was a real pleasure to take to the boards again as a reporter in "The Best Man" this season. It was especially touching for me because this was one of the roles I played during my "earlier" years with this wonderful group.

I joined Harlequins in 1976 when I came back to Sandusky "temporarily" after college. Over the past 33 years I've been on stage, worked back stage, have directed, taken on lots of tasks and have held a variety of offices. Currently I'm on the Board of Directors, handle season ticket sales and head the Membership Committee. In the past I have served two terms as Treasurer and four terms as Secretary. I have tried to be as active as I can over the years, whenever life doesn't get in the way. Some seasons I worked on everything; other seasons you probably couldn't find me around.

Having been born in Toledo and growing up in Sandusky and Perkins Township I've actually spent most of my life in and around this area, with just a few exceptions. Undergraduate college was in Indianapolis, Indiana. I majored in Speech & Theater and Sociology. I have BA's in both. Theater has always been my first love, but my mother insisted I get a "real" degree, so we compromised and I got both. After college graduation I moved to Delmont, PA, which is close to Pittsburgh, to work with a summer stock theater company. This was probably the greatest summer of my life and I got the chance to work with some wonderful actors, directors and writers with New York stage experience.

Back in Sandusky, I remember coming down to Harlequins to try out for "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds". This was the very first time I had ever stepped foot in this theater. Unfortunately I didn't get cast, nor was I offered a job backstage. Not to be deterred, I showed up for auditions for the next production, "Twelfth Night", our only Shakespearian production that I can recall. I was cast in that and, as they say, the rest is history. (In that show I had the great opportunity to meet and work with Marian Hancy, Harry Stenzel, as well as some really wonderful people who are no longer with us). Other shows that I recall acting in are "Harvey", "Night Watch", "6 Rms Riv Vu", "Out of Sight, Out of Murder", "Squabbles" and countless others where I worked back stage or in other capacities. When the Ohio Arts Council was presenting shows in the old fire station on Monroe Street I was also in "Table Settings" and an evening of one-acts, with many Harlequin performers. I tackled Kid Kompany off and on for several seasons, starting in 1979.

As for the non-theatrical portion of my life, I like to joke that I'm still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. (That assumes I ever will really grow up.) I've worked in social services, tax preparation, teaching, and am now an attorney at the firm of Murray and Murray in Sandusky. I used to drive a stock car at Sandusky Speedway and have worked for Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk. My husband Michael and I owned a photography studio in Sandusky, Four Seasons Photographics, for many years, until we decided to move to Berlin Heights. I live in Berlin Heights now and enjoy working on the house and the property that Mike and I have been in the process of building for over 20 years. We have one son, David, who I begrudgingly have to admit, will be 25 next month. He's still a college student on the "slow track" but with an expected date of graduation in May this year. (David is studying visual communications and he provided the video newscasts and convention scenes that were played on the TV in "The Best Man".

Although I haven't been able to be as active in Harlequins as I would have liked to be in the past, I'm looking forward to some more time to become an active part of the group again in the future. This is a wonderful organization and I'm very glad I've had the opportunity to be a part of it.

At the Theatre: To the Lady Behind Me

Dear Madam, you have seen this play;
I never saw it till today.
You know the details of the plot,
But, let me tell you, I do not.
The author seeks to keep from me
The murderer's identity,
And you are not a friend of his
If you keep shouting who it is.
The actors in their funny way
Have several funny things to say,
But they do not amuse me more
If you have said them just before;
The merit of the drama lies,
I understand, in some surprise;
But the surprise must now be small
Since you have just foretold it all.
The lady you have brought with you
Is, I infer, a half-wit too,
But I can understand the piece
Without assistance from your niece.
In short, foul woman, it would suit
Me just as well if you were mute;
In fact, to make my meaning plain,
I trust you will not speak again.
And—may I add one human touch?—
Don't breathe upon my neck so much.

— A. P. Herbert





On May 6th, Harlequins was honored at the Volunteer Service Award Breakfast held at the American Legion. Lori Demres, Lisa Wiley, Jennifer Wertz, Val Thames, and Steve and Angie Wetzel all received a Bronze Level Award for serving between 100 and 149 volunteer hours in the year 2008. Jim Ohlemacher received a Silver Level Award for his 409 logged hours in 2008. In addition, Harlequins Community Theatre received a certificate and letters of congratulations for a combined 1,828 logged service hours for the months of May-December, 2008. This is a great honor for the theatre, and hopefully we can log even more hours in 2009!



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