



From The President

Greetings,

Believe it or not, we are about to begin our 49th season of live theater in Bowling Green. Plans are already underway for our Golden Anniversary season next year and we have big plans! Watch this newsletter, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter to keep informed!

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Lane Hakel and as a fifteen-year audience member, actor, director, set-builder, and all around supporter of the Black Swamp Players it is with no small amount of pride that I begin what I hope will be a successful term as President of the Players. Thank you, everyone involved, for entrusting me with this opportunity. I'll need your help... more on that later.

As I'm sure you all know by now we lost a stalwart Swamper on June 8th. Dennis East meant a great deal to this organization. As an audience member, actor, director, set-builder, producer, trustee, and president, Dennis showed through his hard-work, patience, persistence, and humor how he felt about the Black Swamp Players, and speaking for our organization we feel just the same way about him. A very special moment, just four days after Dennis's passing, was shared with Kathy, Brad, Bryan, and Brayden when at the Northwest OCTA theater competition "*The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*" which Dennis directed, received six individual and group awards. In addition, it was selected as one of the three excerpts to go onto the state competition in September. "*Wullie*" was a play that Dennis had been hoping to direct with BSP for some time and had been on the schedule two years ago, just as Dennis received his diagnosis. All of us at BSP were thrilled when Dennis was willing and able to direct this play last fall. Dennis is missed by many, not least by our community. You will see details of a Dennis Celebration later in the newsletter.

Highlights:

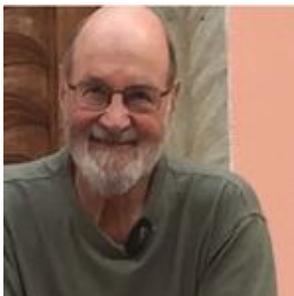
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BSP would also like to thank Guy and Janet Zimmerman for their years of involvement with BSP and wish them well as they move to the Windy City where, not so coincidentally, all of their grandchildren live.

I'm personally excited by our 49th season. Sylvia is going to be terrific. We have some terrific talent making their BSP debuts and Wayne Weber who has devoted his life to live performance making his directorial debut as well. Our next show will be our musical *Crazy For You*, a Bob Hastings-style extravaganza, which was last directed on our stage by none other than Bob Hastings himself! Inge Klopping will return as director after directing *Death By Golf* two seasons ago. Paul Soska a seasoned actor/director in the region will make his BSP directorial debut with *Dixie Swim Club*. Our fundraiser at the Clazel this year will be *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Directed by Deb Weiser, it will be a hoot.

"Dennis is missed by many, not least by our community."



Finally, I mentioned that we need your help. Please consider supporting live theater in Bowling Green in as many ways as you can. BSP is in need of people power. We need you. We need your energy, your ideas, your enthusiasm and above all, your time. If you can give us any of those things, at any time, please email us at president@blackswampplayers.org or message us on Facebook.

I'd also like you to consider becoming a benefactor of BSP. If you already are, would you consider giving at a higher level? If you've already been a member of the players you should have received your membership renewal letter a few weeks ago. We hope you'll join us for our 49th season.

See you at the theater!

Lane
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Dennis East Remembrance

The Black Swamp Players invite our friends to a Dennis East Remembrance on **Wednesday, October 12th at The Stone's Throw Tavern & Grill** beginning at 7:00pm.

We will tell stories, share memories, listen to music, laugh with Kathy and friends, and raise a toast to our friend, Dennis. The evening will be held in conjunction with The Hump Day Revue which is the regular live music show on Wednesday evenings at Stone's Throw.

Please be a part of this special night whether you knew Dennis well or not. We will be raising funds for our theater, enjoying each others company, and remembering a great friend of The Black Swamp Players.

Our 49th Season

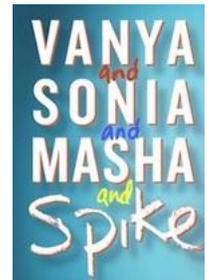
BSP is proud to present an outstanding season for 2016-17.

“Sylvia” is a love story—between a man and his dog. Bringing three new actors and a new director to BSP, Wayne Weber directs a cast that includes Traci Johnson in the title role, with Ryan Albrecht as Sylvia’s owner, Stephanie Truman as his wife, and Hilary Packard and Joshua Cloyd in supporting roles. By turns hilarious and touching, this A.R. Gurney play is sure to please. At First United Methodist Church Sept. 16-18 and 23-25.



September 16-18 & 23-25

In November, the 2013 Tony Award winner, “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” will be presented at the Clazel Theatre. Ticket price includes a gnosh buffet and a cash bar will be available, with table seating. The dramedy focuses on middle-aged sibling relationships, with a voodoo housekeeper and a boy toy in supporting roles. Auditions are Sept. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. at Stadium View Apartments’ community room on Juniper Dr. in Bowling Green.



November 3-5

“Crazy for You” is our annual musical, presented February 17-19 and 24-26 at First United Methodist Church. Combining Gershwin tunes with comedy, mistaken identities and fabulous dance numbers, this play won the 1992 Tony Award for Best Musical.

In the spring, “Dixie Swim Club” presents a tribute to lifelong friendships, with five women portrayed over several decades at their annual Outer Banks vacation. On stage at First United Methodist Church on April 28-30 and May 5-7; auditions at the church on February 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.



February 17-19 & 24-26

Tickets for the 2016 – 2017 Season

Individual tickets for our productions will be available for advance sale at Grounds for Thought (GFT) in Bowling Green and through our website, www.blackswampplayers.org. In order to facilitate online ticket sales, these tickets will be general admission. As a benefit to our members, the first two rows of seats for productions at First United Methodist Church will be reserved preferred seating for members. As before, members will receive a postcard about 3 weeks before the opening of each production and can take the card to GFT to reserve their seats. Their seat choice will be marked on the card and it will serve as their admission ticket. In response to a number of requests last year, members can also purchase adjacent reserved seats for friends at the regular admission price. Remaining reserved seats will be available for sale 1 hour before each performance at the ticket table for an additional charge of \$2.00 above the general admission price. If members do not wish to sit in one of the front two rows, they can exchange their card for general admission tickets at the ticket table prior to any performance.



April 28-30 & May 5-7



Each year, the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA) holds regional competitions across the state, giving community theaters a chance to demonstrate their best and compete for a chance to advance to the state level and beyond. This year, Black Swamp Players sent an excerpt from *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, directed by the late Dennis East, to be performed at the Northwest regional competition on June 12.

The excerpt won the praise of the judges, and was selected to represent the Northwest region, along with two other excerpts, at the state competition. Black Swamp Players also won a variety of awards in both performance and design, including:

- Merit in Acting as Annie Brown: Peggy Keyes
- Excellence in Acting as Reverend Pringle: Leroy Morgan
- Excellence in Technical Elements: Black Swamp Players
- Outstanding in Costumes: Deb Shaffer
- Outstanding in Acting as Macbeth: Joshua Cloyd
- Outstanding in Acting as Wullie MacCrimmon: Lane Hakel

The OCTA State Conference will be held in Independence, OH, on September 2 – 5. The excerpt from *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon* will be performed on Sunday, September 4, at 2:30 pm, with a chance to advance to the regional competition at the national level.

Help Us Celebrate Our 50th



Black Swamp is planning a special exhibition of fifty years of providing theatrical entertainment for the Bowling Green community to celebrate its golden anniversary. If you have relevant materials and memorabilia that you would consider lending for this project, please contact either of the co-chairs: Willard Misfeldt (wmisfe@yahoo.com) or Bob Marzola (bmarzola1@gmail.com).

We do not want the actual loan items now but would like to know about them so we can evaluate their suitability for this celebratory show. The intent of the exhibition is to review the history of BSP since its inception in 1968 and to project future ambitions and plans. Published material, photographs, and actual objects will all be considered.

Thank you!

Officers and Trustees 2016 - 2017

President – Lane Hakel
 Vice-President – Deb Shaffer
 Treasurer – Tom Milbrodt
 Secretary – Melissa Kidder

Trustees:

Bob Marzola	Fran Weith
Willard Misfeldt	Durrell Johnson
Sue Clark	Joshua Cloyd
Deb Weiser	Wayne Weber
Ben Forman	Gustavo Coutinho

The Pemberville Opera House Presents...

Live In The House Concert Series

September 3, The Dwight Lenox Avenue Express Trio, Dwight's fluid style lends itself to a vast repertoire from **Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, James Ingram, Stevie Wonder, Lou Rawls** and many more. You'll love this "little big band"

October 1, The Midwestern Swing is a Cincinnati based band inspired by the great Western Swing bands of the 40s, 50s & 60s coupled with equal parts tradition and modernity. The groups repertoire features tight arrangements from the classic Western Swing and Great American Songbooks.

November 12, The Juggernaut Jug Band What do you get when you blend jazz, blues ragtime, swing and original music with washboards, washtubs, kazoos, jugs and various other sundry hardware? Nothing less than the strange concoction called the JUGGERNAUT JUG BAND.

December 3, Matt Watroba and Robert Jones present American Roots Music (Folk, Blues, Spirituals, Work Songs, Chants, etc.) as the music that matters. This is the music that America and that the world has in common, that reflects history, social change, migration, hopes and dreams.

January 7, Silent Movie Night Once again featuring Lynne Long on the piano, don't miss this wonderful evening of an old fashioned night at the movies!

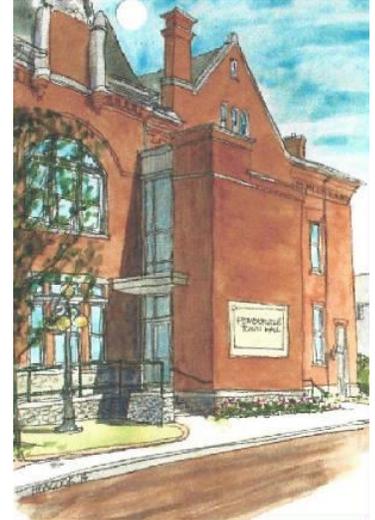
February 4, Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic America's premier youth fiddling show band present an energetic and polished show that features a diverse range of music from American folk, fiddle, bluegrass, jazz, western swing, and Celtic traditions

March 4, Dodworth Saxhorn Band is America's Premier 19th Century Brass Band recreating the music and atmosphere of a 19th Century community brass band.

April 1, Christine Lavin, Leave your worries at the doorstep and join **Christine Lavin** she presents a night of comedy unlike any other presenting her unique brand of clean and hilarious musical comedy to audiences across the US.

May 6, Wild Carrot "...a whirlwind of Roots music forms, touching on Bluegrass, Country, swinging Jazz, Contemporary Folk and Celtic music ...with a consistently masterful grace (and) flawless harmonies."

Tickets \$12.00 each or Entire Series of 9 Shows \$90.00 available at Beeker's General Store or Call Carol 419-287-4848 Ticket order forms will be available at our next show.



The Lenhart Award

The Lenhart Award is given out each year to a member of Black Swamp Players who represents the best parts of the organization and embodies the mission of this group. It is an award to honor and celebrate the individual's dedication and service to BSP. The recipient is always chosen by the past three years' recipients and is kept a secret until it is announced at the annual meeting and banquet.

This year Janet Zimmerman, Guy Zimmerman, and Melissa Kidder selected Deb Shaffer as the 2016 Lenhart Award winner.

Deb has been deeply involved with Black Swamp Players for several years and has helped out at essentially every level. She has performed in numerous BSP productions, winning multiple OCTA awards for her stellar acting skills. Deb has also served in several different "back stage" roles, such as producer, costume designer, and stage manager.



Deb Shaffer
2016 Lenhart Award Winner

The Lenhart Award Continued...

We're on the Web!

www.blackswampplayers.org

Find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/blackswampplayers

Follow us on Twitter!

<http://twitter.com/blackswampplay>

E-MAIL:

president@blackswampplayers.org

Once when she was helping out as stage manager, she had to jump into a live performance for one of BSP's show to fill in for an actor who had to leave for a family emergency. Obviously, Deb had no time to memorize the actor's lines. Instead, Deb incredibly read the lines projected on the back on the theatre's wall. You would have never known though because Deb's performance was flawless. Not only was that incident a testament to Deb's skills as an actor but also to her dedication to BSP.

Additionally, Deb has been an invaluable Board member. She is currently serving on the Board as Vice-President for a second year in a row. However, Deb has filled various Board positions over the years. Notably, a few years ago, Deb graciously stepped into the role as President when one of our Board members had some health issues. She served in that capacity for two years, and the organization flourished under her leadership.

Not only has her service to the Board been significant, but she is a wonderful champion for the organization itself. She has become a liaison in the community for BSP with her involvement in the BG Arts Council, Kiwanis, and other community organizations. She was also instrumental in getting BSP involved with several successful community-centered events, such as the Black Swamp Arts Festival and Art in the Park. Moreover, Deb was central to BSP's recent adoption of having One Act performances and worked tirelessly in getting our performances at various locations around Bowling Green.

Essentially, Deb was a perfect recipient for the Lenhart award. BSP can always count on Deb Shaffer – whether it's on stage, behind stage, out in the public, or at a routine Board meeting. So BSP wanted to return the favor and honor Deb for her significant contributions to the organization.

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC.

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Bowling Green, OH 43402