



Newsletter

Spring 2012

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Valerie Amidon
1 st Vice President	Anne La Rose
2 nd Vice President	Bridget Furiga
Administrator	RJ Muehlhausen
Recording Secretary	Neva Wallace
Corresponding Secretary	Charlyn D'Anconia
Treasurer	Eric Johns

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lenore Almanzar	Ellen Bailey
Marje Cates	Ross Clark
Ross Easty	Jaclyn Palmer
John McElveney	Jack Scott

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Bailey, Bridget Furiga

Remember the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni & Associates in your Estate Planning

PPA&A CONTACTS

PPA&A
vamidon@ppa-a.org

PPA&A Newsletter
ebailey@ppa-a.org

PPA&A Website
www.ppa-a.org and
www.pasadenaplayhousealumniandassociates.org

Henry & Joyce Sumid Scholarship
www.Sumidscholarship.com

Pasadena Playhouse Archives
archives@pasadenaplayhouse

Playhouse Website:
www.pasadenaplayhouse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Friends:

Well, it's that very busy time of year for the PPA&A as we prepare the ballots for your votes and the party that is our annual Brunch meeting.

Ballots for the election of board officers will be mailed to the membership on April 7th. Please do your part and vote! Your organization works better with your involvement.

Have you sent in your reservation for the 59th annual Brunch? Our meeting will convene again at the Pasadena Courtyard Marriott on Sunday June 10th. This year we are honoring alumni who will be traveling from Florida and New Mexico just to party with us. Please see the list of honorees in this issue.

Tony di Milo's son, Michael, produced a wonderful video of Tony's life for his memorial and he has graciously given us a copy to post on the [PPA&A website](#). The video contains many wonderful Playhouse production photos as well as shots of Tony with many of his classmates over the years. If you were unable to attend the memorial, I'm certain you will want to see this tribute. And make sure your volume is turned up - you won't want to miss this soundtrack.

See you all before you know it!

Best,

Valerie

Notice our bright new masthead created by our talented webmaster Ross Clark. Thank you, Ross, for the sharp, updated image.

Cash Flow Statement

Ending February 29, 2012

Balance Brought Forward		\$8,133.94
INCOME:		
Regular members	16	585.00
Life membership	1	125.00
Directories	8	28.00
Brunch tickets		200.00
Donations		970.00
Bank interest		.88
Total Income		\$1,908.88
EXPENDITURES		
Administrative Supplies		79.46
Membership Supplies		88.20
Annual PO Box Fee		115.50
Gilmore Brown Desk Glass		50.03
Mounting Playhouse Pictures		50.00
Donation to Pasadena Playhouse	1,000.00	
Total expenditures		\$ 1,383.19
Ending Balance 2/29/12		\$8,659.63

Board Minutes Excerpts

All meetings were held in the Playhouse third floor conference room.

January Absent – Kim O'Rourke, Ross Easty, John McElveney, Jaclyn Palmer.

February Absent – Charlyn d'Anconia, Jack Scott.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT: Jan/ The Tony di Milo memorial was much appreciated and well attended. ○ Kim O'Rourke has stepped down from the position of 2nd Vice President because of her hectic schedule and Bridget has been appointed to fill the position for the balance of the term. ○ The Board was glad to receive such a great response to the first email version of the Newsletter.

SUMID SCHOLARSHIP: Jan/ Because of current low interest rates we will be able to give only two \$5,000 scholarships this year. We might in the future give more scholarships at a lower value, perhaps \$2,500 each.

ARCHIVES: Jan/ Member Morgan Stock has written his book *Morgan by Morgan* and a copy will go to our library. ○ Frank Sumen who framed 26 of our most prized archival photos, has donated his framing services for this project. Feb/ Facilities Manager, Mark Maldonado, mounted all of the newly framed photos and a number of posters on the walls in the administrative office. ○ Items from our archives will be part of an Actor's Equity traveling exhibit to mark its 100th anniversary.

WEBSITE/TECH: Feb/ Ross Clark announced that Children's Theatre will open June 1 and 2 in the Carrie Hamilton Theatre with *The Magical Shoes* in conjunction with Pasadena Civic Ballet.

LIAISON: Jan/ The Hershey Felder collection will be presented February 28 through April 7. ○ *Commission* had a successful HotHouse run and four more readings are scheduled through May. Feb/ Donations have an added \$481,207 and the Foster Grant challenge has \$250,000 paid or pledged toward the \$750,000 goal.

MEMBERSHIP: Jan/ Charlyn reports that she is no longer able to handle the Membership duties. Jaclyn has taken on the shipping of Directories and Bridget is helping with some of the correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS: Feb/ Valerie recommended that the Board start thinking about and planning for special items at next year's Brunch which is our 60th anniversary.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday, March 26 in the third floor conference room of the Playhouse.

NEVA WALLACE
Secretary

Performances Magazine is the publication the Playhouse uses as the program for Mainstage productions. Recently, the Playhouse graciously offered the supporting organizations of the Playhouse – the PPA&A, the Friends and the Ambassadors – one full page in the program for the three groups to post information we'd like to share with Playhouse audiences.

For those of you unable to attend a show, here is a sample of one of our entries. This article appeared in the PPA&A section in the program for *Art*:

Dustin Hoffman and Gene Hackman met as students at the Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts in the 1950's, but it wasn't until the 2003 motion picture Runaway Jury that they appeared opposite each other on screen. Also appearing in that film are PPCTA alumni Henry Darrow ('56) and Elliott Street ('69). If you dig deep in the special features section of the DVD, you will find an extended interview with Hackman and Hoffman discussing their time at our College of Theatre Arts.

We Get Mail

LOVING being able to sit here at this contraption with my tea and reading E-Newsletter. What I **ESPECIALLY** like is the **RE**-inclusion of photos, such a great addition.

Kudos to all involved - the untiring **Ellen Bailey** at the head of the list - and a standing 'O' to **Ross Clark** for coming aboard and clicking and dragging us into the 21st century. Huzzahs, too, to the fabulous **Fazios** for finding their 'second wind' in all the work they do in the archives.

DON FRABOTTA '69
Douglas, MA

Save the postage. Welcome to the 21st century. And I like seeing dead people in color for obits

ELLIOTT STREET '69
Meridian, MS

I am probably your oldest alumnus.

The years at the Playhouse were my happiest. At that time Maria Manton and her husband, Dean Goodman, arrived for some stage training. Dean told me that his mother-in-law, Marlene Dietrich, was at their apartment cooking dinner. Marlene loved cooking.

I wonder what happened to Maria Manton. She was pretty, but overweight even at 18.

BEVERLY WALSH FLIPPEN '44
Cupertino, CA

In my 92nd year I'm still involved in my beloved theatre world that began at the Playhouse in 1946. I'm in my 17th year on the board of the Equity Theatre, Asolo. We seat 500 and play to 85% of capacity.

I am also on the board of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. We are dedicated to the work of black writers and performers and have finally left the red ink and are making a small profit.

I often think back to my wonderful days at the Playhouse and think of the friends I made there with great fondness.

With much love
LEN GUMLEY '48
Sarasota, FL

Directing at Albuquerque Little Theatre, 82nd season. Love it. Reminds me of the Playhouse

PETE PARKIN '69
Albuquerque, NM

Just a note to catch you up on my latest adventures. Aside from my directing *Moon for the Misbegotten*, I performed *The Unauthorized Afterlife of Eugene O'Neill* at the same theatre.

JIM CADY '63
Albuquerque, NM

Always hard to honk my own horn. Which may explain why I fizzled as an actor. I found that my real passion is photography. I have been studying it seriously for the past 10 years and have had images in several group shows in the L.A. area.

In August we moved to Austin, Texas and I found the photographic experience quite amazing. I immediately fell in with a group of talented photographers through a gallery here. The owner, Jann Alexander, came up with a great photo idea titled '24 Hours in Austin'. A select group of 24 photogs were given a pre-determined 24 hour period to shoot what we thought represented the heart and soul of Austin. We were each assigned an individual hour to shoot. Being the new kid (oh I wish) on the block I went overboard and shot well before and beyond my hour. From the 48 images selected to be in the gallery opening I had three chosen. I'm sending along some jpegs of the images. (Editors Note: *Look for them on our website*).

ROBERT MEAD '69
Austin, TX

Out and About



Sally Struthers has recently been seen performing in *Always...Patsy Cline* at the delightful Covina Center theatre and other nearby local venues. Always...a treat to see!

Ralph Burgess has been invited to a reunion of previous Romeos by the Ashland Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR. At one time he was the youngest. Needless to say, now he's the oldest.

Ross Clark held court as His Royal Majesty in a recent production of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* produced by the Pasadena Civic Ballet Company. Yep, he danced; even did a solo tap number. Way to go, Ross!

Board News

Effective June 2012, we are adding a new category of board member to our board - Emeritus Board Members. In appreciation of their years of service to our organization, the board passed a motion to grant lifetime emeritus status to all past presidents of the association.

Emeritus members may attend board meetings as they desire, will receive copies of board minutes to stay informed, and have voting privileges when they are in attendance at board meetings. Emeritus members are not members of the Governing board but can be included in the count of members present to meet the quorum for that meeting.

We have a two-fold purpose in creating Emeritus board members - Firstly, to honor the work our presidents have done for the PPA&A and acknowledge the history of the PPA&A and the Playhouse that they carry with them. Secondly, past presidents will no longer need to run for a seat on the Board in an election. This makes available more seats for YOU as members of the PPA&A to fill. So, run for a seat on the Board this election. Join us in making this an ever better association!

Emeritus Honor

I received the letter notifying me of Emeritus status yesterday. Thank you so very much for such a great honor.

As much as anyone I know that being on the board, much less being president, is not the easiest thing in the world. Particularly if you are busy with your life. The PPA&A has to rest down the priority scale. I think I would have been a much better Board Member and president had I not had so many pressing issues in my life. But then I don't need to tell any of you about that.

I have great respect for anyone who sits on a board like this because I know the dedication it takes just to make meetings regularly. Keep up the good work.

Pete [Parkin] '69

I received your letter and wish to thank the board for the Emeritus appointment. It is always nice to receive a thank you like this after years of helping in the fight for a beloved institution. What we all feel, for our days at the Playhouse, is quite unique. And it happened without the uniting force of football or other athletic teams.

I am happy to have done my part and I thank you all.

Ross [Easty] '57

This is to offer a thank you to the board for recognizing all surviving past presidents of the PPA&A.

We in the past few years have lost a few who would be thrilled with this honor; **Richard Vath, David Crandall, Helene Kent** and **Tony di Milo** most recently and all the others who have gone before. So, hats off to all of them who have kept this organization running for the many years.

John [McElveney] '63

More Out and About



Tony Miratti, class of '69, was seen recently in Mamet's *Duck Variations* in Santa Barbara, CA. Among his many other Santa Barbara appearances residents will recall his performance as Mark Twain in his one-man show, *The Trouble Begins at Eight* and *Burn This*, or in opera productions of *Die Fledermaus* and *The Barber of Seville*. At Ventura's Rubicon Theatre audiences enjoyed his performances in *The Devil's Disciple* and *All My Sons*. Veteran television viewers will remember Tony on *General Hospital*, *The Rockford Files*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Rhoda* and others.

In his New York stage debut, Tony won the New York OBIE award for Best Actor and during the past 25 years: Best Supporting Actor Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, Drama Logue and L.A. Weekly Awards and Santa Barbara's Independent Awards for his performances.

Tod Jonson, class of '49, wrote an article about artist Neill James that appeared on the internet. It came to the attention of the Executive Director/Editor of USA Today's Mexican Caribbean Edition. She called and asked permission to reprint the article. Of course, he said yes. Then he was re-contacted and offered a job writing articles for them. Once again he said yes.

Tod's quote: "Just a little something to keep me off the streets...damn."

What They're Doing Now

Forty years after its outline was originally written, the first draft of a new novel by **Donahue Silvis** was finally finished. After merely three years of becoming a serious writer again, his work has been professionally published, won awards and received commendable reviews.

Donahue began his creative career studying acting at the Pasadena Playhouse in the class of 1958. His acting skills during his time at the Playhouse won him first place at a national television talent show contest at KABC in Los Angeles. Two years later he moved to Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in film study and creative writing from Florida Atlantic University. He discovered Empire Studios near Ft. Lauderdale where he served as a scriptwriter, script doctor and actor. As a member of the Screen Actors Guild, he worked with Frank Sinatra in *Lady in Cement* and Dustin Hoffman in *Midnight Cowboy* to name a couple.

He decided to switch to business for 40 years and currently owns the local franchise of ITEX, a national barter company.

Around three years ago he pulled out some of his old scripts and turned them into books and screenplays—he has completed three novels, two screenplays, and one children's book. Silvis finds his writing inspiration derives from being an actor—it brings back the feeling of becoming someone else.

"It's the same with books," he said, "you are godlike in creating people that don't exist and you live through the characters. I'm able to make people come to life, laugh, suffer, and die. I guess I enjoy putting words in people's mouths."

Donahue enters his works into many online contests. In May 2011, his screenplay *The Cemetery Plots* won the Writemovies International Writing Contest, and is now 'being shopped' to various studios and production companies. "I would enjoy seeing the characters I've created up on the big screen. That would be a thrill," he said.

For more information about Silvis and his work, visit <http://donahuesilvis.com>

By snail mail I am sending you pictures of several of the productions staged at Pasadena

Playhouse during my years there as a student. I am identifying as many of the performers by name as I can possibly remember. I admit I'm approaching 80 years of age and am beginning to show severe signs of memory loss.

Quick background: When I graduated from Pasadena in 1957 I married a widow with 2 children and although I did get some small, low paying parts I was not earning enough to support a family so we moved to my wife's home in central Washington. On arriving in The Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick, Pasco) I found work as a disc jockey and in 1959 I became a realtor.

Within the community we have The Richland Players providing play productions, The Richland Light Opera Company providing Broadway musicals, Eastern Washington Opera Company providing live opera productions and Academy of Children's Theatre producing shows with performers ages 7-17. In 1961 I was in my first production locally playing the bus driver in *Bus Stop* for Richland Players and my first musical *Guys and Dolls* with the Light Opera Company.

In 2011 I was given awards from both Players and RLOC for 50 years of participation. My commitment also included several years of board membership, several terms as president of each of these companies, and several shows that I directed.

I retired from performing last year when I went on stage in a production and forgot some of my lines. I adlibbed my way through but recognized this would only get worse. However, I will continue to direct occasionally and serve on a board if asked. During my years of performance I have appeared in and/or directed 125 shows.

I have also recorded one audio book, was the lead performer in four training films for the local nuclear industry, and can not begin to count the TV, radio commercials and public events I was M.C. for.

I admit in my news article I have a big ego that I exercise every chance I got.

TOM POWERS '57
Kennewick, WA

PPA&A Award Nomination Info

How Are People Nominated for our Awards?

During the recent nomination process, one of our members said to me "I often wondered why some of the people from my class have not been nominated." To which I replied, "Well, someone has to nominate them." And that is a very simple process. Please send us your name, the name and a biography (if possible), of your nominee, what award you are nominating them for and why you think they should receive this award. Please keep in mind the following structure.

Man and Woman of the Year-The eligibility for honorees selected is the same as the eligibility for membership. They have to have attended the Pasadena Playhouse School, performed on one of the stages, or have been affiliated with or employed by the organization in some manner. The nominees should have maintained an outstanding career in the theatrical field of their choice.

The Keeper of the Flame-The eligibility for honorees selected is the same as the eligibility for membership. It is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution and devoted dedicated energy to the ongoing activities of the Pasadena Playhouse and/or the PPA&A.

The Gilmor Brown Award-This award is granted on the basis of outstanding creative and artistic achievement covering a period of several years of work in a special field, making a significant contribution to the theatre that reflects the ideals exemplified by the long and illustrious example set by Gilmor Brown. The honoree need not have had any connection with the Pasadena Playhouse and/or the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni and Associates.

We need your input. You can send in nominations for 2013 starting now. You can email them to me at gimslc@verizon.net, or send by snail mail to PPA&A, PO Box 291, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Bridget Furiga
Awards Chairperson

The PPA&A is always looking for 'lost' members. Do you know anyone who attended the Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts? Let us know at Membership@ppa-a.org!

And the Award Goes to...

First of all, thank you to everyone who submitted nominations this year. We are so appreciative of those who took the time to gather information on their nominees and forward it to us. We are always excited to get your input on these important awards.

Now, we move on to the most exciting part. It is with great pleasure that the Awards Committee announces the following recipients for 2012:

Gilmor Brown Award	Michael Edwards '66
Man of the Year	Robert L. Hecker '47
Woman of the Year	Nikki Harmon '65

And the Keeper of the Flame Award goes to - well that's a surprise. You will have to attend our brunch and find out.

Congratulations to all our winners and we will see you at the Brunch.

Bridget Furiga
Awards Chairperson

Membership Thanks

Thanks to the following members who renewed their memberships: **Robert Beecher, Mary Morsbach Bennett, Mary Cavena, Naomi Connors, Gene DeWild, Minta Curtis Dietrich, Cliff Emmich, Beverly Walsh Flippen, Esther Mercado, Tom Miller, Anne Short Olsen, Peter Perry, Michelle Savitz, Ronald Steen, P. Dale Ware, Maryan French Stephens, Eleanor Walker and Bernie Wiesen.**

A big round of applause to the following members who 'renewed' their lifetime membership: **Coralee Davis** (her 6th+ renewal), **Marcella Blandino Meharg** (3rd life renewal), **Dr. Frederick Ricci** (who has renewed several times), **Michelle Savitz**, and **Morgan Stock**.

A standing ovation to the following members who made donations: **Valerie Amidon, Mary Carnie, Bridget Furiga, Robert Furiga, Raymond Guth, Em Matthews, Marcella Meharg, R.J. Muehlhausen, Dave Nicholson, Michelle Savitz, Maryan French Stephens and Anthony Williams.**

And a Big Welcome to our new members: **Jeanette Hartunian**, '61 and *South Street* cast member, **Tom Shelton** and to our new lifetime member, **James Harter**.

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE ALUMNI & ASSOCIATES DUES NOTICE

NAME _____ CLASS YEAR _____

The year you graduated (or attended if you didn't graduate) or the year you worked at the Playhouse.

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ **CITY/STATE** _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ ZIP _____ - _____

DUES: 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2012 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$ 45.00 \$ _____

EMAIL MEMBERSHIP \$ 35.00 \$ _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$125.00 \$ _____

DONATION \$ _____

For a **2011 Directory** add \$3.50 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

____ Check here if you are a **renewing life member** and you would like this to be considered a donation (for tax purposes).

Payments received after April 1st are assessed a late charge of \$5.00

MAIL TO PPA&A P O Box 291 Pasadena, CA 91102-0291

Plans for **Brunch 2012** are moving along and it's shaping up to be an exciting event you won't want to miss.

WHEN/WHERE:

Sunday, 10 June – Doors open at 11AM
 Marriott Courtyard, 180 No Fair Oaks Ave
 (directions in this newsletter and on website)
 Valet or self-parking \$5

MENU CHOICES:

Filet of Salmon Tuscany Chicken
 Three Cheese Tortellini

RAFFLE PRIZES:

We have some exciting prizes but we need more. One of our major prize donors from past years is no longer able to donate. If you can donate a prize, please let me know as soon as possible either by phone (310-672-3067) or E-mail (cheeklarose@hotmail.com).

Reservation Forms are in this newsletter and online at our website. If you haven't sent in your reservation for Brunch 2012, do so now. We have been able to hold the cost to \$40 again, as we have for the past two years and the parking cost to \$5 again this year. Don't miss this exciting day with classmates and friends.

See you at the Brunch!!

Anne La Rose
 Brunch Chair

Brunch 2012 Driving Directions

Directions to Marriott Courtyard Pasadena

From EAST: 210 Freeway / EXIT Fair Oaks Ave LEFT turn onto Fair Oaks Ave / cross over Freeway / make a U-turn at Holly St (traffic signal) / hotel is on the RIGHT.

From WEST: 210 Freeway / EXIT Fair Oaks Ave RIGHT turn onto Fair Oaks Ave / make a U-turn at Holly (traffic signal) / hotel is on the RIGHT

From SOUTH: 110 North becomes Arroyo Parkway / cross Colorado Blvd / LEFT onto Holly St / RIGHT onto Fair Oaks Ave / hotel is on the RIGHT

COME JOIN US! Every 4th Monday (except June and December) at 7:00pm the Board of PPA&A meets on the 3rd floor of the Play-house. All members are welcome. Take your favorite elevator and come up and meet old friends and board members. You can check out the Playhouse's new administrative offices and your alumni association's new archival digs. Just remember to call us ahead of time so we can give you the keypad code to the stage door entrance on Playhouse Alley.

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE ALUMNI & ASSOCIATES
59th ANNUAL BRUNCH
Reservation Form

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2012	COURTYARD MARRIOTT	Huntington Room
11:00 AM Mixer	180 N Fair Oaks Avenue	\$40.00 per person
12:00 Noon Luncheon	Pasadena CA 91103	\$45.00 at the door
1:00 PM Program		

PAYMENT: make checks payable to: PASADENA PLAYHOUSE ALUMNI & ASSOCIATES
MAIL TO: BRIDGET FURIGA, 17351 Chapparral Lane, Huntington Beach CA 92649
>>>>Mailed reservations must be received by May 19, 2012<<<<<

TICKETS will be distributed at the door.
>>>> Your cancelled check is your confirmation and receipt<<<<<

>>>>>CUT HERE SAVE ABOVE INFORMATION CUT HERE<<<<<

LAST NAME _____ CLASS YEAR/ASSOCIATE _____
RESERVATION: (Please PRINT CLEARLY for name badge)

NAME: _____ 1 @\$40.00

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ FAX NUMBER _____

ADDITIONAL TICKETS: Number: _____ @ \$40.00 Amount \$ _____

NAMES OF SPOUSE, GUESTS, ETC. (Please PRINT CLEARLY for name badge. Attach list if necessary)

TOTAL \$ _____

I CANNOT ATTEND, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$ _____

- MENU: Pease list NUMBER of each
- _____ Tuscan Chicken _____ Filet of Salmon _____ (Vegetarian) Three Cheese Tortellini

- SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: check one

_____ I WANT _____ TABLE(S) IN MY NAME _____ (Each table seats 8)
TABLE NUMBERS WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NAME BADGE.

_____ I will be sitting at _____'s table. _____ I will accept general seating.