



Spring Newsletter

April 2016



REUNION!!! REUNION!!! REUNION!!!



Hello Everyone! We have been given an amazing opportunity by the Pasadena Playhouse to hold an Alumni reunion. This will not be your typical PPA&A reunion as we have had in years past but a very different and extremely special event. Most importantly, in order for this reunion to occur we must hear from you!!

The first show at the Playhouse of the 2016-2017 season will be "The Fantasticks", directed by Associate Artistic Director Seema Sueko. As some of you know, former PPA&A president Pete Parkin directed a highly acclaimed student production of "The Fantasticks" in 1969 shortly before the school and theatre closed. Seema approached Pete with the suggestion that the cast & crew of the student production be honored during her production and that idea grew into the possibility of holding an Alumni reunion at the same time. Pete has reached all of his company members that he can find; they are all onboard, honored by the offer from Seema and excited at the prospect of a reunion.

This is the rough outline of "The Fantasticks Fantastic Reunion" as of now:

Date: Saturday, September 24th

Time: starting perhaps @ 1:30 pm

Place: The Carrie Hamilton Theatre (aka the Huxley/Balcony Theatre)

The Plan: a reception with light refreshments in The Carrie Hamilton Theatre for Alumni, followed by attendance at the 4:00 pm matinee performance of "The Fantasticks" on Mainstage. The cast & crew of Pete's student production would be introduced and brought onto the stage during the curtain call. (Discussion of a sing-a-long still in the works - TBD). After the show, the Alumni reunion would continue at a dinner nearby (possibly the private room at El Portal, one block away). Dinner pricing is also still to be determined.

For those of you concerned about managing the stairs to the balcony/CHT, we're planning to have personal guides lead members into the tower (school) elevator and through the Loft (Prickett Theatre) to the balcony for easier access.

Now folks, this is where YOU come in - in order to solidify these plans and move forward we must know how many of you are interested in attending this special event. Please contact me via email at valerie@ppa-a.org and let us know if you want to be included in this reunion. If you do not have email you can drop a note to the PPA&A at our mailing address: P.O. Box 291, Pasadena, CA 91102. Please, please respond as soon as possible. This special recognition of 'The Fantasticks' company of 1969 is a perfect reason to honor all the alumni with a reunion. I guarantee you won't want to miss this special gathering. We are anxiously awaiting your replies!

"Try to remember and if you remember, then follow, follow....."



Valerie

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Valerie Amidon
 Vice PresidentAnne La Rose
 Treasurer Rj Muehlhausen
 Recording Secretary..... Marje Cates
 Lenore Almanzar Ross Clark
 Charlyn d’Anconia Ross Eastty
 John McElveney Pete Parkin
 Jaclyn Palmer

EMERITUS

Jim Kent

Newsletter Staff: Ross Clark
 Remember the Pasadena Playhouse
 Alumni & Associates in your Estate
 Planning

PPA&A CONTACTS

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 PPA&A Website
 www.ppa-a.org

Henry & Joyce Sumid Scholarship
 www.Sumidscholarship.com
 Pasadena Playhouse Archives
 archives@pasadenaplayhouse
 Playhouse Website:
 www.pasadenaplayhouse.org

TREASURER’S REPORT

<u>Pasadena Playhouse Alumni and Associates</u>			
<u>Treasurers Report</u>			
<u>February 29, 2016</u>			
	Check book balance from 12/31/15		\$1,827.31
Income	Annual memberships (0)		\$0.00
	Life memberships (0)		\$0.00
	Directories (0)		\$0.00
	Donations		\$50.00
	Bank interest, 5/30 and 6/30		\$0.09
	Ralph’s Grocery		\$34.82
	Total Income		\$84.32
Expenditures	Secret. of State		\$0.00
	Registry of Charitable Trusts		\$0.00
	Bank Service Charge		\$34.00
	Total Expenditures		\$34.00
	Check book balance as of 2/29/16		\$1,878.22
Other cash assets	Unexpended legal retainer		\$1,000.00
Cash balance as of 2/29/16			\$2,878.22
Investment Fund Balance (Franklin Income Class A - \$2,500 from Rose Freeman)			
	As of 11/16/15		\$38,594.69
	Account withdrawal		\$0.00
	As of 2/29/16		\$36,275.47
	Gain/(loss)		(\$2,319.22)
	SUMID Fund as of 12/31/15		\$473,164.04
	SUMID Fund as of 2/29/16		\$475,556.57
	Gain		\$2,392.53

BOARD MINUTES

PPA&A Minutes of Board Meeting

March 21, 2016

Present: V. Amidon, M. Cates, R. Clark, C. d’Anconia, Rj Muehlhausen, P. Parkin, A. LaRose (by phone) Absent: R. Eastty, J. McElveney, J. Palmer, L. Almanzar Guest: E. Johns

Call to Order 7:04 PM

Minutes of previous meeting M/S/P

Treas. Report acceptance M/S/P

President’s Statement:

Board will purchase 4 tickets to Gala \$2000.00 at Villa Roma Level

** Classes to resume at Playhouse**

A professional workshop on public speaking will be held April 23, 2016 (14 students)

Committee Reports:

Administrative :

\$34.82 received from Ralph’s

\$50.00 Received member Michelle Savitz

Green House:

Readings start in May; all is on target.

Sumid Scholarship:

Approximately 40 Applications received thus far. Not all are complete. A month to go before closing.

Newsletter/eNewsletter:

Plan to go to print early in April

Archives:

Present Playhouse staff is making use of the Archive resources.

Preparing for Playhouse Centennial Celebration is in progress.

Old/New Business

Possibility for resurrecting the Ghost Tour Program.

Can we raise \$50,000 to restore the Fire Curtain? Perhaps use Go Fund Me

Adjournment 8:23PM M/S/P

Next meeting May 23, 2016 7PM

Submitted by Marje Cates – Recording Secretary

WHAT THE ALUMNI ARE DOING

Lenore Almanzar ('54) - recently was featured in the Pasadena Playhouse weekly spotlight as Ambassador of the Week.

Driving by the Pasadena Playhouse after it was boarded up in 1969, Lenore Almanzar told herself, "If it ever reopens, I will do my best to see that it stays that way." In 1979, she responded to a small notice in the paper requesting assistance with the reopening of the Playhouse. That was the beginning of the Friends and Lenore's 37 years of volunteer service as Friend, President of the Friends, and Ambassador, as well as Front of House Manager since the 1980's.

Lenore graduated from The Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts in 1954. She married a fellow student and upon graduation set off on tour. She has many, many stories of her life in the theatre, including a New York play where all the checks bounced on New Year's Eve, and acting in "The Star Creatures". Playhouse students played most of the roles, made costumes and built sets for this '50's monster movie which was only topped that year by "The Killer Tomatoes!"

As Front of House Manager, Lenore continues to be the warm and reassuring presence that patrons greet when they first walk into the front lobby. Thank you, Lenore!



Jamie Farr ('54) is to receive an award at the 18th Annual Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Awards

From his days on-screen to his exemplary philanthropic work in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, Jamie Farr has

touched the hearts of people across the country. Mr. Farr is a distinguished Arab American actor and humanitarian best remembered for his endearing portrayal of Corporal Maxwell Klinger in the hit series M*A*S*H. Over the course of M*A*S*H's critically-acclaimed 11-year run, Mr. Farr brought to life the humorous, deeply compelling story of a lovable Lebanese serviceman from Toledo. His portrayal of Klinger was one of the earliest positive, three-dimensional depictions of an Arab American in the media, which made many in that community proud.

In addition to his on-screen accomplishments, Mr. Farr has a distinguished history of giving back to the Toledo community where he was born and raised by Lebanese parents. Mr. Farr continues to run a scholarship fund to support Toledo's youth, and has organized the Jamie Farr Toledo Classic golf tournament to benefit dozens of children's charities across Ohio and Michigan for 28 years. Advancing Kahlil Gibran's ideals of diversity, acceptance, and unity, Mr. Farr's sense of humor and dedication to public service has brought laughter and warmth into the households of millions of Americans. Jamie Farr's pride in his ethnic identity and dedication to elevating the Arab American community is why they are honored to celebrate him with the Special Recognition Award at the 2016 Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Awards Gala.

Jamie Farr will be honored along with fellow Gibran awardees the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Unite Lebanon Youth Project, and The Honorable Suzanne Sareini at AAIF's 18th annual Gibran Gala.

Congratulations Jamie!

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Michael Edwards ('66)

Is currently directing the Winter Park Playhouse Revue of Jerry Herman songs called "Showtunes". And he informs us that he will be appearing as HENRY, "the old actor" in "The Fantasticks" in Orlando in May.



Ross Clark ('69)

May 7th will see the opening of another Children's Theatre Production at the Scottish Rite Center just around the corner from the Playhouse. The new show is a retelling of the Wizard of Oz called "Only In Oz". Join

Dorothy in a brand new retelling of the classic Wizard of Oz story. Soon after Dorothy arrives at the prom, our story whisks her Over the Rainbow into the magical land of Oz, where she and her friends learn that things aren't always as

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The article on the front page of this newsletter was sent on April 3rd in an e-blast to all members who have an email address listed with the PPA&A and we have received a good number of responses from our members thus far. We've reprinted the article here for those members who do not have email addresses or perhaps for those whose emailed notices did not reach them. We want to be sure everyone knows about this special gathering and is able to respond as soon as possible. Please make every effort to answer right away.

In addition, just a reminder that the 2016 Sumid Scholarship season is upon us and applications are being received now. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2016. Applications must be submitted online only at www.sumidscholarship.com. If you know of any theatre students looking for assistance with their tuition, please inform them of this wonderful opportunity. Help us continue to share Hank Sumid's generous gift!

I look forward to hearing from many of you very soon!

Best,
Valerie

WE GET LETTERS

Jeanne Joe '66 writes:

Thank you for your tribute to Ellen Bailey. She had worked tirelessly with PPA&A, particularly on the Archives project, and with the Playhouse to keep it stable and growing all these years.

I had the pleasure of working in the Pasadena Playhouse Association Children's Theatre production *The Palace of 1000 Dreams*, in which Ellen directed me and John Keone Young on the Main Stage, giving us a real professional experience. She had me choreograph a fight scene, resulting in an injured ankle that barely healed enough to bring off a successful opening. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such a multi-talented and amazing woman.

It was so like her to request a love fest while she was still able, as opposed to a memorial or funeral, joyful not sad. I was glad to have spoken with her on the phone during her last weeks and kept in touch through Georgia Upshaw and Judy Berns. Many thanks to Ross Clark and Sally Struthers, whom I understand were with Ellen in her last hours.

Ellen Bailey was gracious in every way, a class act. I can envision her in the company of Gene DeWild and Dr. Helmut Hormann, sharing some laughs among the angels.

Farewell and God bless you, Ellen.
Jeanne Joe

Steve Vinovich writes:

I got the newsletter and literally gasped when I saw the announcement about Ellen Bailey. Ellen and I met in 1970. We were doing a production of "After the Fall" and Ellen was the assistant to the director. And she was a treasure. So kind so loving and thrilled with watching you work. She always remained that way. When we met years later at the Playhouse I was thrilled to see her again. We went out to dinners a couple of times. Always fun and always interested. I really am going to miss her. So glad she received a special award at the last Friends gathering. She deserved it. A special classy lady.
Love, Steve Vinovich

Lenore Almanzar '54 writes:

REMEMBERING ELLEN

"This is another fine mess you got me into" was a tease I often used with Ellen. From the time she founded the Friends, she was always suggesting I become involved with one of her ideas. She was so persuasive that, before I knew it, I would be working on some time-consuming project. Ellen had the ability to pull people into one of her plans and have them happily involved. Because it was Ellen, we all knew our efforts would be for a good cause and how much she would appreciate it.

I will miss Ellen and the many things we shared, especially at The Playhouse. We had so many laughs along the way; mostly about silly things that happened. She was a bright, talented person with true leadership qualities. I am left with so many happy memories and know my life was made fuller because I could call her my friend.

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they seem. Whether you are looking for ways to be Popular or wishing you Only Had A Brain, sometimes it takes an unexpected adventure to see the wonders that are already inside of you. We invite you to Ease On Down The Road with us, and find 'there's no place like home'. Stop by and say Hi!

Terrence Beasor ('57)

Terrence Beasor recently shot an episode of Rob Lowe's new comedy series "The Grinder"... Tuesday nights at 8:30 on Fox.



That's him in the middle, with the cap (*you will have to see the electronic version of Stage Whispers to see the photo*). He also shot an episode of "Documentary Now" entitled "Kunuck Uncovered".

Here's a link to his latest demo:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/f5edjq3k7dtl1ka/terrence_beasor_Sep2015-demo.mov?dl=0

Editors note: Be sure to see the eEdition of Stage Whispers to see fun photographs.

Please send your alumni doings to:
newsletter@ppa-a.org
so we can keep everyone up to date!

We came into possession of this fun photo of a young Jamie Farr ('54) and Bob Furiga ('54) in the real army in the 1950's just before they enrolled at the Pasadena Playhouse!





**THE PASADENA
Playhouse**

**2016 - 2017
SEASON ANNOUNCED...**

The Fantasticks
SEPT. 6 – OCT. 2, 2016

M. Butterfly
OCT. 25 – NOV. 20, 2016

Shout, Sister, Shout!
JAN. 31 – FEB. 26, 2017

Twelfth Night
MARCH 28 – APRIL 23, 2017

***Artistic
Director's Choice***
MAY 30 – JUNE 25, 2017

Holiday add on option
Lythgoe Family Production's
A Cinderella Christmas
DEC. 8, 2016 – JAN. 8, 2017

Toby Fazio '65 writes:

Mrs. Bailey

I've never told you that you're my favorite teacher of all time
Of course I've had lots of teachers but you've simply been sublime

Because you placed Larry and me together in the makeup class room
We ended up in life with me as the bride and he as the groom

Not only that, but you were responsible for me getting in the Catalina shows
You wanted me to play Annabelle Broom as I think everyone knows

You've always been gracious, warm and so friendly to me
I've always felt you were special and as sincere as can be

Many times in my life you have played an important part
I've known you for 52 years and it's been good for the heart

Although your name is Ellen, I've called you Mrs. Bailey
Afterall, that's what I called you as my teacher almost daily

I've never heard a solid word about you that wasn't good
Because of your good nature, there's no way one ever could

You're just such a fun person with so many stories to tell
With everything you've accomplished, you've done it all so well

And so, "Mrs. Bailey," I'd like you to know
That I truly love you and am proud to let it show
Toby

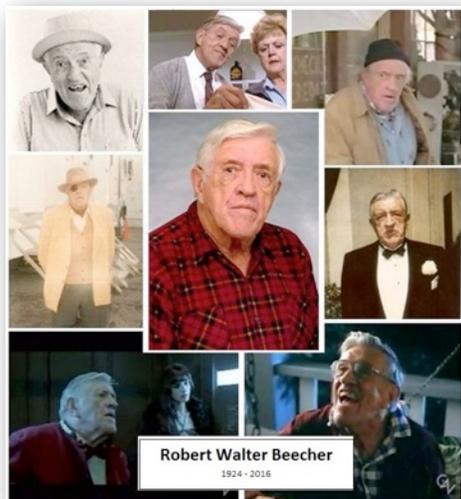
The Archives Need Your Help

. We find that we have holes in our material that starts in about 1959 and goes through 1969. We have been able to find photos of all Main Stage shows but have very few photos from the student productions. If you have any photos that you could lend us, we will scan them and return them to you. It would be extremely helpful if you would identify any people in the photos you send. Contact Ross Clark at newsletter@ppa-a.org if you can help! The Playhouse Centennial is almost upon us and we would like to have as complete a history as possible.



PANTO AT THE PLAYHOUSE
The Most Magical Summer Camp of All!
Coming this July at The Playhouse.

FINAL CURTAIN



Robert Beecher '48

Character actor Robert Beecher, builder of the Horseshoe Stage Theatre, died of

natural causes February 12 in Burbank, Calif. He was 91.

Beecher was typically cast as “heavies,” gangsters, or Western bad guys due to his imposing stature. In the mid-1950s, he built and opened the Horseshoe Stage Theatre. He also invented and patented a stage lighting system for small theatres.

After returning from serving in World War II, where he first developed a serious interest in acting, Beecher enrolled in the Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts. After graduation, he and 24 other young actors founded the Orchard Gables Repertory Theatre Company in 1948, the city’s first professional theatre, based in a large two-story house on Wilcox and Fountain Avenues.

Beecher had always wanted to create his own theatre and help other young actors develop their

craft. In late 1954, he purchased a lot on Melrose Avenue, in Hollywood, and built the Horseshoe Stage Theatre. The 91-seat venue opened January 5, 1956 with a production of “The Member of the Wedding” and Beecher continued to star in, direct, and produce plays and acting workshops at his theatre until he sold it in 1978. The theatre continues on today as the Zephyr Theatre. For a few more years, Beecher continued with smaller theatre venues of his, The Apartment, The Gardner Stage, and Stage 13 Club.

The sale of his Horseshoe Stage allowed Beecher to devote more time to his own acting career. During the next two decades, he appeared in many television shows, commercials, TV movies, and feature films.

His love of teaching culminated into his own teaching workshop, Stage 13 Productions. In the early 1970s, Beecher taught at the newly-formed Screen Actors Guild Conservatory and was an early pioneer in the use of video technology to help acting students. He taught there for over thirty years. In 1997, he was honored with their Outstanding Contribution Award. Beecher was active in the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni & Associates and, in 2004, received their Man of the Year award.

Born in Hollywood, California, Beecher was raised in the Baldwin Hills area. His had an early interest in entertaining—he used to put on shows in the neighborhood and charge the kids a penny to attend. Beecher attended Dorsey High School and appeared in dramatic

productions. He served as a weatherman in the 14th Air Force (The Flying Tigers) in Kunming, China, during World War II.



Joan Yendes Field ('40)

We have received word that Joan Field passed away November. Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, Joan married Ted Field in 1943. A committed volunteer,

she was active in many Southern California organizations. She graduated from the Pasadena Playhouse in 1940.

Editor's Note: If you know of the passing of one of our Alumni please send us any information you have so that we can publish it in our newsletter. Any obits and photographs that you have will be used and will be greatly appreciated. We want to celebrate the lives of our wonderful Alumni!

NEXT AT THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

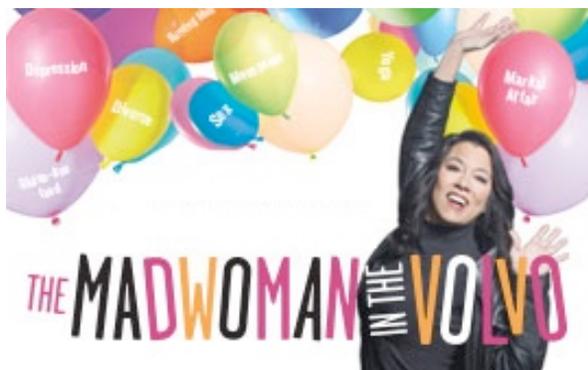
**GA
LA**

THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE
A NIGHT IN THE CATSKILLS

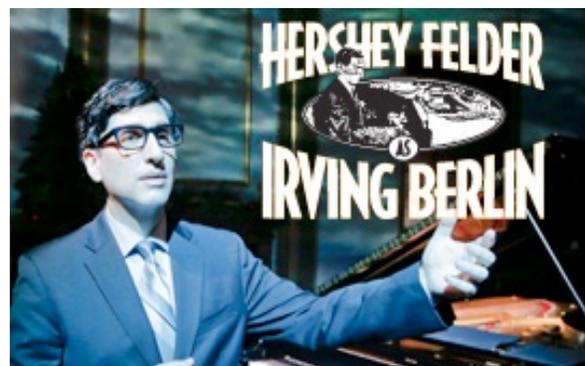


SATURDAY | APRIL 30, 2016

For more information, please contact Genevieve Ostrander 626.737.2852



**The Playhouse Mainstage
June 2-June 26, 2016**



**The Playhouse Mainstage
July 19- August 7, 2016**