



Vol. 43, No.1

Fall 2013

### Announcing Our 93rd Season!

Tradition! 93 years of comedies, dramas, musicals and mysteries. "Tradition!" Cast and crew members that range from those making their debut to those who have been involved for more than four decades. "Tradition!" More than 25 years of scholarships totaling more than \$32,000. "Tradition!" A very high artistic aesthetic for costumes, sets, lighting, and sound. "Tradition!" A very hard-working Board of Governors to oversee all business and artistic aspects of the group. "Tradition!" Loyal subscribers and audience members who visit us year after year. "Tradition!" The Community Players!

We are proud to be dedicating this season of classic American theatre in memory of our dear friend, Past-President, and founder of our scholarship program, Larry Reedy.

We invite you to join us and be a part of the tradition for the first time, or for the hundredth time! See you at the theater!

### FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

October 11-27, 2013

Music by Jerry Bock | Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick  
Book by Joseph Stein | Directed by Cait Calvo  
Musical Direction by Joseph Carvalho  
Choreographed by Michael Johnson & Michael Maio

In the little village of Anatevka, Tevye, a poor milkman, is trying to keep his family's traditions in place. Yet, times are changing. And when Tevye's daughters want to pick their own husbands, he must choose between his own daughters' happiness and those beloved customs that keep the outside world at bay. This classic musical boasts a rousing, heartwarming score, including "Tradition", "Matchmaker, Matchmaker", "If I Were A Rich Man", and "Sunrise, Sunset". Come relive the tradition!

*Fiddler on the Roof* features the talents of: Patricia Abrames, Ross Adrain, Holly Applegate, Jessica Aspel, Tom Brennan, Courtney Contente, Patrice DelPonte, Kerri Lynn Deminicosta, Stephen Dias, Janice Dionne, Michael Dube, Sarah Dube, Lee Hakeem, Dean Hernandez, Jena Hindy, John Howard, Karen Gail Kessler, Armand Leroux, Jim Lyons, Michael Maio, Christopher Margadonna, Elizabeth Messier, Sandy Remington, David Shea, Taylor Silva, and Megan Spooner, and stage manager Cherry Cartier.

### ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

January 10-19, 2014

By Joseph Kesselring | Directed by Peggy Pires

It's murder most funny as the homicidal Brewster sisters take to relieving the loneliness of old men by inviting them in for a nice glass of homemade elderberry wine which happens to be laced with arsenic, strychnine and "just a pinch" of cyanide. This farcical black comedy revolves around their nephew Mortimer as he debates whether to go through with his wedding, as his family tree also includes a brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt and a murderous brother who has received plastic surgery performed by Dr. Einstein. Don't miss this lively comic masterpiece.

### SWEET CHARITY

March 28 - April 13, 2014

Music by Cy Coleman | Lyrics by Dorothy Fields  
Book by Neil Simon | Directed by Greg Geer  
Musical Direction by Mark Colozzi | Choreographed by Lenny Machado

*Sweet Charity* is a tender, poignant and consistently funny look at the adventures, or rather misadventures, in the ways of love as encountered by the gullible and guileless lady known as Charity Hope Valentine. Featuring classic tunes of Broadway theatre such as "Big Spender", "If My Friends Could See Me Now", and "The Rhythm of Life", *Sweet Charity* is full of dancing, laughs and the most optimistic heroine in Times Square!

### HARVEY

July 11-20, 2014

By Mary Chase | Directed by Joan Dillenback

Elwood P. Dowd is charming and kind with only one character flaw: an unwavering friendship with a six-foot-tall invisible rabbit named Harvey. In order to save the family's reputation, Elwood's sister, Veta, takes him to the local sanitarium. But when Dr. William Chumley mistakenly commits anxiety-ridden Veta instead of her brother, it sets off a hilarious whirlwind of confusion and chaos as everyone tries to catch a man and his invisible rabbit.



### News of Note

- **Members:** please remember to bring your **membership card** to the theater each time you attend a show in order to facilitate easy entry.
- **Groups of 20** or more save \$3.00 per ticket for musicals and \$2.00 per ticket for non-musicals.
- **Entertainment Books** will be available in the lobby during **Fiddler on the Roof** for only \$25. They make great gifts and are filled with coupons for movies, restaurants, stores, etc. All proceeds go toward our Scholarship Fund. Take care of your holiday shopping early and help a worthy cause.
- The Community Players is an officially recognized 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. As such, **all donations are tax-deductible** to the extent allowable by law. Many companies also offer a matching gift program enabling you to double your gift. Check with your employer and thanks in advance.
- We are always looking for **volunteers** to assist us in many varying areas. (Tech, Sets, Painting, etc.) If you have an interest in volunteering, please call us at (401) 727-0702 or email [volunteer@thecommunityplayers.org](mailto:volunteer@thecommunityplayers.org) and let us know your area of interest. We'll contact you with more details. See you at the theater!



Community Players - Motif Award Winner: Greg Geer. See more pictures inside!

Season Sponsor:



## Lawrence "Larry" D. Reedy



**President: 1979-80-81-82; 1991-92-93**  
**Long-time Member, Director, Actor,**  
**Vocalist & Dear Friend**  
**DOD: February 19, 2013**

Back in June 1959, The Community Players were casting for their second musical, *The Pajama Game*. The director, Lenny Gamache, was hoping to repeat the success of our first musical the year before (*Call Me Madam*) and the right cast for the long-running Broadway smash was essential. A young man trying out for the lead as Sid, the factory superintendent, looked good (he actually was a foreman in a garment factory), but had no acting experience and Sid also had to sing fairly well. Then, Larry Reedy started his vocal audition and his voice knocked the other contestants out of the running! To quote the Providence Journal review, "...he handled his part with confidence and ability" and he was a major part in what the review stated: "...this production turned out to be one of the most spectacular successes in many a year, deserving of half a dozen curtain calls. That's what the show got."

Larry started his journey with Players with a bang and kept that momentum going throughout his involvement. True, he had not acted in a show before, but he was not a stranger to the theatre. He'd helped the Jaycees stage the Miss Pawtucket and Miss Rhode Island pageants over the years and had been a soloist and choir member for many local parishes and civic clubs since he was a teenager. And, he was a quick learner!

He occasionally directed and/or acted for a few other groups (Coventry and Assembly Players, the Cumberland Lions), but he concentrated most of his theatre efforts with The Community Players. In the late 60's and 70's, through the mid 80's, while his children were involved, Larry also contributed time and talent to his parish, St. Patrick's in Cumberland, with CYO one-act drama competitions, capturing many awards for them, and with the Cumberland High School Drama Club on musicals and dramas.

He appeared in other productions for Players (*Finian's Rainbow*; *Laura*; 1776; *By the Beautiful Sea*; *Follies*), but his first love was directing. Over the years, he did three non-musicals for us: *Never Too Late*; *Play It Again, Sam*; *Gingerbread Lady* (and they were memorable), but he directed and staged fifteen musicals. Some well-remembered ones include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Man of La Mancha* at the

Slater Park Boathouse, and *Ballroom*, our first production at Jenks, on the original abbreviated stage. Once the stage was expanded, in quick succession, he gave us *Carousel*, *The King and I*, and a second version of *Man of La Mancha*, with a background set made completely of factory skids! *The Sound of Music* followed as part of our 65th Anniversary year, with a 2-story interior of the Von Trapp mansion. *The Music Man*, *Joseph*, *Annie*, *Camelot*, the list goes on. (Those were the years when we had to add extra chairs down the aisles and in back of the auditorium, until the Fire Department discontinued that practice because of fire codes!)

Despite all of these successes, Larry's outstanding contribution was as President of the Players. At the beginning of his second term (June 1980), Larry had been cast in the leading-man role of *By the Beautiful Sea*, to be performed in early August. He was enjoying one of his rare acting appearances while taking a break from the administration tasks of the office (the Board adjourned during June and July then – no longer!). Negotiations with the city to lease the entire Boathouse were well underway and our architect had just drawn up great blueprints to expand the stage and audience portions of the theatre. Renovations were to begin in September. It was the calm before the storm.

The show ended the second weekend in August. In the early hours of August 29, vandals tossed an incendiary device up onto the outside balcony, starting a blaze that soon consumed the interior of the first floor and attic – the portions occupied by our stage and storage areas. The historic building, erected in 1917, was heavily damaged and the infrastructure severely weakened. And, we were without a home and depleted of over \$50,000 in equipment and costumes. All our dreams went up with the smoke.

Larry was not deterred. He organized and headed a search committee for a new home and, overcoming skepticism and obstacles from both outside and inside the organization, insisted on maintaining all scheduled events while searching for temporary and permanent quarters.

In June 1981, he volunteered another year's service to complete his "impossible dream" and during that time met frequently with all levels of personnel, including then-Mayor Dennis Lynch, the city business administrator, Ed Creamer, the School Committee and Superintendent, attorneys, architects, and the media.

Concurrent with his three years in office, Larry was developing and operating his own business – Sew Biz Industries, a sportswear and dressmaking company in Central Falls. He sacrificed a great deal of time away from his business and his family while looking for our new home but, a year and a half after the fire completely destroyed our resources, in March 1982, Players signed a lease for use of the Jenks Junior High School auditorium.

Without Larry's leadership, Players could have succumbed to the tragedy or taken much longer to recover. In gratitude, without his knowledge, the Board agreed to submit his name for the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year" Award and, on May 17, 1983, Larry became the first recipient of the A. T. Cross Community Action Award for outstanding voluntary leadership. A. T. Cross had just taken over as sponsor of the award from Corning Glass Works and the prize took the form of a gold-filled executive desk pen set and \$2,000, to go to a charity of

Larry's choice. Larry turned the check over to Players with the stipulation that it be used to establish a scholarship fund, which is now named The Larry Reedy Scholarship Fund. First given in 1985, we have been able over the years (with the help of our generous audiences and other donors) to donate \$32,000 to deserving students continuing their education in the performing arts. Quite a legacy!

I played Babe opposite Larry in *The Pajama Game*, and later, performed with him in *Laura* and *Follies*. He directed me in *Gingerbread Lady* and *Ballroom*, so my husband, Normand, and I got to know Larry and his wife well. Married for 61 years to the lovely Mary (his high-school sweetheart), they had 7 children and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren. Mary was not only his wife; she was also a partner in his many theatrical endeavors. While working together on numerous Players' productions and events, we became close friends and we enjoyed many happy family and social moments over the years.

The Players benefited greatly from Larry's talent and dedication and we will miss his endeavors on our behalf, but many of us miss his friendship and his presence even more. Rest easy, old friend. "The show still goes on", in a large part, due to you.

- Claire L. Beauregard



from left: Audrey Catalano and Pamela Jackson, 2013 Scholarship Chair

## 2013 Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Audrey Catalano, recipient of this year's Larry Reedy Scholarship Award. Audrey is a 2013 graduate of Mount St. Charles Academy. She is currently attending Loyola University, where she is a Business major with a Theatre Arts minor.

The scholarship initiative was established in 1985 with funds donated by Past-President Larry Reedy who passed away earlier this year, and is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is planning to further his or her education in the performing arts. Awards are based on talent and ability, academic status and financial need. This scholarship is open to students who reside or attend school in the Blackstone Valley or have at any time worked in some capacity with The Community Players. To date we have awarded more than \$33,000 to deserving students from the community.

If you would like to make a donation, please send checks payable to: The Community Players Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2302, Pawtucket, RI, 02861

## Fiddler Fun Facts

1. The original Broadway production opened on September 22, 1964 at the Imperial Theatre.
2. Though Joseph Stein wrote the story for the Broadway production, the musical is based on the fictional memoir "Tevye and His Daughters", written by Sholem Aleichem and first published in 1894.
3. Unlike most Eastern European Jewish literature at the time, the memoir was written in Yiddish rather than Hebrew. Sholem Aleichem lived most of his life in what is now Ukraine, but immigrated to New York City two years before his death in 1916.
4. The title "**Fiddler on the Roof**" was inspired by a Marc Chagall painting. The sets, designed by Boris Aronson, were also based on Chagall's work.
5. The main character, Tevye the milkman, was played by Zero Mostel.
6. The role of Tevye has also been played by Hershell Bernardi, Theodore Bikel, Topol, Leonard Nimoy, Harvey Fierstein, and Alfred Molina. Actor Paul Lipson holds the distinction of appearing as Tevye more than 2,000 times.
7. Bea Arthur, Bette Midler, and Pia Zadora also appeared in the original Broadway production.
8. **Fiddler on the Roof** was a smash hit, eventually going on to earn \$1,574 for every \$1 invested in the show. It was the first Broadway production to stage over 3,000 performances and earned 9 Tony Awards in 1965. In 1991, it won a Tony for Best Revival of a Musical.
9. In 2007, *Time Magazine* ranked **Fiddler on the Roof** as the 7th most frequently produced musical in American high schools.

## The Community Players Win 4 Motif Theatre Awards

On August 26, Motif Magazine hosted its annual theatre awards gala at Fete Music in Providence, honoring professional, semi-pro, college, summer and community theatre companies as well as dance, comedy, and original works from throughout Southern New England.

This year The Community Players had ten nominations in eight Community Theatre categories (including Best Youth Performer, Direction, Production, and Musical) and received four awards:

### GREG GEER

Best Lead Male in a Musical for  
**SWEENEY TODD**

### ALYSSA GORGONE

Best Lead Female in a Musical for  
**LEGALLY BLONDE**

### JOHN JOSEPH GOMES

Best Supporting Male for  
**I HATE HAMLET**

### STACEY GEER

Best Supporting Female for  
**LEGALLY BLONDE**



2013 Motif Award Winners (l-r):  
Alyssa Gorgone, John Joseph Gomes  
& Stacey Geer

**Congratulations  
to all the winners  
and nominees from  
throughout the  
region!**



## Show Info

### Show times

Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m.  
Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.

### Ticket prices

Musicals:

Adults-\$20.00

Students\*-\$15.00

Non-musicals:

Adults-\$15.00

Students\*-\$12.00

\*through Grade 12

Reservations:

[thecommunityplayers.org](http://thecommunityplayers.org)

or (401) 726-6860

Plenty of free parking!



## Upcoming Auditions

### Arsenic and Old Lace:

Sunday, 10/20 & Monday, 10/21 @ 7 p.m.

### Sweet Charity:

Sunday, 12/15 & Monday, 12/16 @ 6 p.m.

### Harvey:

Directed by Joan Dillenback | Dates TBA

For more information, please go to our website:

[thecommunityplayers.org](http://thecommunityplayers.org)

All auditions are held at Jenks Auditorium. For more information, please leave us a message at (401) 727-0702 and someone will contact you.

## The Community Players Board of Governors, 2013/14

### Officers

**President:** Greg Geer

**Vice-President:** Timothy Crepeau

**Treasurer:** Stephen Healy

**Recording Secretary:**

Ed Mastriano

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Vincent Lupino

### Advisory Board

Eric Barbato, Andrew G. Bobola,

Cherry Cartier, Pamela Jackson,

Karen Gail Kessler, Charles "Rick"

Koster, Joseph Luca, Kara Marziali

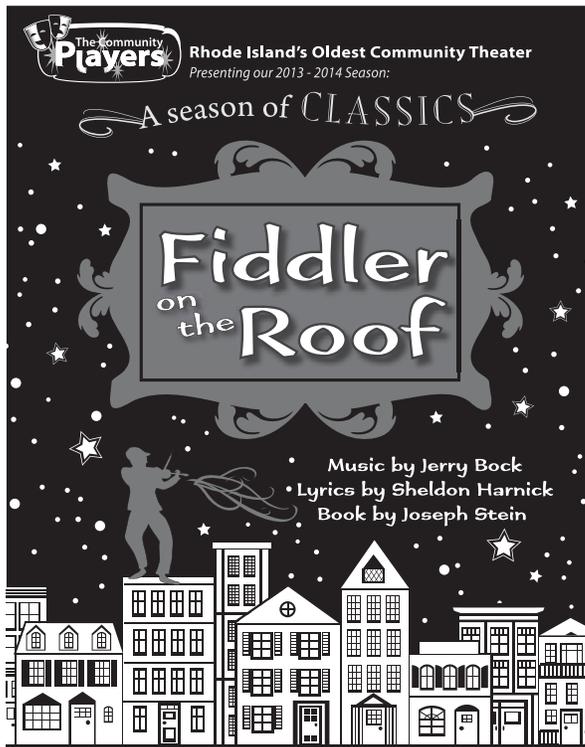
Laurea Osborne, Sue Staniunas

### Emeritus

Edwina M. Babiec, Peter F. Babiec,

Victor S. Turenne





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**Reserve your seats today!**  
Visit [www.thecommunityplayers.org](http://www.thecommunityplayers.org)  
or call 401.726.6860

**2013/2014 Order Form**

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:    New            Renewal

# \_\_\_\_\_ **Adult membership(s)** @ \$50 each (one ticket to each of the four shows in our 93rd season at a \$20 savings!)

# \_\_\_\_\_ **Student membership(s)** @ \$30 each (students through Grade 12)

# \_\_\_\_\_ **Flex Tix Pass(es)** @ \$65 each (a pass for 4 tickets to be used in any combination at a savings of up to \$15.00)

Make your check payable to: **The Community Players**  
Mail your check and this order form to:

**The Community Players**  
P.O. Box 2302  
Pawtucket, RI 02861



**Our 93rd Anniversary Season!**

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