

Gateway Players Theatre,
Inc.
PO Box 171
Southbridge, MA 01550

founded 1975
August 26, 2024
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As we look toward the fall, we have several productions rounding out the year, the 50th anniversary celebrations in the planning stages, a new season to anticipate- hope you all will be a part of the excitement.

The annual meeting was held a few weeks ago. Thanks to everyone who attended. An overview of the year was presented, the board was voted in and officers were elected. Plans are being finalized for year of 50th anniversary celebrations. With productions for adults and youth, a gala and more- be sure to be a part of all the festivities.

Gateway officers are: Lou-Ellen Corkum, president; Mike Dupuis, vice-president, Chris McTigue, secretary and Bill Guy, treasurer. Members-at-large are David Corkum, Mikey Dearn, Kathi Grenier, Deb Hollett, Deb Ostiguy and Stephanie Ruggiere. Pat Haddock continues to serve as past president.

SEASON 50: The decision to revive past productions was enthusiastically received. Directors are being sought to bring back a show from each decade. With hundreds to choose from- the choices were difficult- so many terrific shows! The finalists include

Plaza Suite (decade 1), *Clumsy Custard Horror Show* (decade 2), *Miracle on 34 St.* (decade 3), *Steel Magnolias* or *On Golden Pond* (decade 4), *Fiddler on the Roof* (decade 5).

The season will be announced mid-September. We are seeking directors. If you are interested, contact Lou-Ellen at lcorkum14@gmail.com. Scripts are available to help directors make a decision. The productions will offer a range of youth, teen and adult shows- a genuine celebration of all that Gateway has done to serve the community since 1975! What a memorable way to mark this milestone.

Gateway Board- (front) Mike Dupuis and Bill Guy. (middle) Lou-Ellen Corkum, Chris McTigue, Stephanie Ruggiere, Kathi Grenier. (back) Deb Hollett, Mikey Dearn, Deb Ostiguy, David Corkum.



Alice @ Wonderland

Gateway Players Theatre is hosting auditions for "Alice @ Wonderland" written by Jonathan Yukich, on Monday, September 16th and Wednesday, September 18th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). You only need to attend one night of auditions.

This show will consist of a youth (8 years and older) and adult cast and is directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. All those who audition will also be asked to sing a selection from the show which will be taught by Music Director, Chris Rubenacker.

Performance dates are December 6, 7, 8. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday nights, with a few Sunday afternoon rehearsals as needed. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, this program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Synopsis:

What would happen if a 21st century Alice collided with Lewis Carroll's legendary Wonderland? This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts. The story is laid out

in traditional style, except that Alice is distinctly contemporary, complete with a cell phone in hand. Full of references to text messaging and social media, the play imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure.

List of Characters:

1. Alice, 2. White Rabbit, 3. Queen of Hearts, 4. Caterpillar, 5. Frog- Newsie, 6. Frog- Newsie, 7. Cheshire Cat(2), 8. Mad Hatter, 9. March Hare, 10. Dormous, 11. Tweedledum, 12. Tweedledee, 13. Humpty Dumpty, 14. King of Hearts.

Chorus: 1. Door one, 2. Door two, 3. Door three. 4. Tiny Door, 5. Lily, 6. Rose, 7. Daisy, 8. Violet, 9. Queen's Guard 1, 10. Queen's Guard 2, 11. Storm, 12. Kitty Kat Chorus. 13. The King's Men.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou-Ellen Corkum at lcorkum14@gmail.com.

This unique and fun show is a great way for families to be on stage together and share a love of theater and a wonderful way to end Gateway's 49th season.



Gateway Players Theatre presents "Spreading It Around" a light comedy by Londos J. D'Arrigo. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. Performances will be on September 6, 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30p, and on September 15 at 2pm. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall.

This production will be directed by Lynn Boucher, assistant director is Deb Hollett, and the producer is Kathi Grenier. The cast includes Richard Clark, Cynthia Claudio, Greg Glanville, Dawn Sedlier, and Matt Sedlier. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18.

Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available

at <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../gat.../spreading-it-around>

Synopsis:

Angela Drayton, a wealthy widow living in an upscale retirement

community, is tired of handing out money to her unappreciative children. So she starts the "S.I.N. (Spending It Now) Foundation," to give to those truly in need. This terrifies her greedy son, driving him to devise a plan to have her committed. Featuring delicious roles for adult and mature actors, this poignant family comedy has played numerous theaters in the US and Canada, and continues spreading the laughs around.

NEED YOUR HELP

Gateway will be selling Cotton Candy at Charlton's Old Home Day on September 1st and at Southbridge's Autumn Fest on September 21st. These are two of our fundraising events that we do each year. If you can volunteer to help out at these events, please let us know. You can send us a private message, and we can coordinate a time for you to be there. Selling- and making- cotton candy is fun. People are always happy to see you!! Sign on and help. You will be appreciated. Thank you!!!



As we look ahead to planning the next season- and especially as we were selecting Season 50 productions, it was exciting to see ALL the shows performed over the years. We have seen kids grow, the community change, our stages alter, schools renovate- so many changes. Take a look at some of our history. "Night Watch", "Ellis Island", "Momologues", "Little Mermaid" and "Barefoot in the Park". With YOUR help, Gateway Players Theatre will continue to make memories.









SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Members are continuously added to the list- please join.

Director's Circle (\$1,000)

United Lens Company, Inc.
Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable
Foundation

Starring Role Donor (\$500)

The Goddard School, Savers Bank,
Erin & Abi Simpson,
Southbridge Credit Union

Lead Role Donor (\$100)

Patrick Bracken & Cynthia Keane,
Lou-Ellen & David Corkum,
Cormier Jewelers,
Cornerstone Bank,
Pete & Beth Cournoyer,
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Jim Douglas,
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Charles & Barbara Haddock, Eric Hart,
Deb & Keith Hollett,
Janet & Bob Garon,
Ed Humphries & Jolienne Deskus

Incom, Inc., Barb Lammert,

Morrill Funeral Home,
Rom & Nicole Portwood, "Auntie" Ruth,
Pam & Buddy Soper,
Karl-Stortz Endovision,
Ruggiere Family, Tito & Mike

Ensemble Donor (\$50)

Barbara & Larry Day,
Kathi & Scott Grenier
David & Chris McTigue,
Bruce & Linda Bouthilier,
Greg & Kathy Light,
Mike & Jeanne Dupuis

Friend (\$25)

Lucille A. Langlois,
Carol Allard Vancil,
Bill Guy.
Mikey & Kelly Dearn,
Deb Ostiguy

THANK YOU ALL

Gateway Players Theatre Board:

Lou-Ellen Corkum-- president, Mike Dupuis- vice-president,
Chris McTigue- secretary, Bill Guy- treasurer.

Members at large- David Corkum, Mikey Dearn, Kathi Grenier,

Deb Hollett, Deb Ostiguy, Stephanie Ruggiere.
Pat Haddock- past president.

GATEWAY PLAYERS THEATRE, INC. HISTORY

If you would like to see a listing of ALL the shows Gateway has performed since 1975- just go to website, gatewayplayers.org under Past Seasons. You will even find photos from many of the shows. When Gateway started in 1975, we used borrowed rehearsal and storage space, and performed at Southbridge HS on Cole Ave. In 1978 we moved into the Arts Barn at 111 Main St, on the property donated by Ruth Wells (of American Optical Company family). We were there for decades, until the Barn needed more repairs than were affordable. For the past few years, we have used space in Fellowship Hall of Elm St. for rehearsals, performances and storage, for which we are very grateful.

Thanks to DAVID CORKUM for maintaining our facebook page and to JIM DOUGLAS for website update and creation.

WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE



"Rocky Horror Show"- 2018, a truly memorable show performed at Cannery Hall, 12 Crane St. in Southbridge. We even did a late night show!



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