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

founded 1975 January 2025

Barbara Day, editor since 1991



50 years- how exciting for an all-volunteer, non-profit organization! We are very proud to be part of a vibrant community, bringing live entertainment and performing opportunities. Please join us as we celebrate a long history of theater and fun. Our first production of season 50 is Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite"- this is our 3rd version! Be sure to see it!



Many thanks to everyone who helped with the final production of 2024- cast, crew and audiences. It was a terrific, sold-out show. Thanks.



# ALICE @ WONDERLAND



### **Plaza Suite cast announced**



Director Mike Dupuis is pleased to announce the cast for the first production of Season 50:

William Bolster (waiter). Cynthia Claudio (Norma Hubley), Chamira Santiago Flores (bell hop, Mimsie Hubley), Asher McCoy (Borden Eisler), John Golden (Jesse Kiplinger), Kevin McGee (Sam Nash, Roy Hubley), Deborah Ostiguy (Karen Nash) and Hilary Robertson (Jean McCormick, Muriel Tate). Assisting Mike will be Jeanne Dupuis (producer), Gail Dupuis (stage manager), Deborah Hollett (lights and sound). Production dates are Feb 21, 22, 28, March 1,2.

"Plaza Suite" was first performed in 1975, then 1987- and now 2025. Larry Day played the waiter in 1987. Many of our original cast members are no longer with us. It is a fitting tribute to be reviving this fun- and memorable-show.

Tickets will soon be available- be sure to get yours early. Synopsis:

Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at The Plaza. A suburban couple take the suite while their house is being painted and it turns out to be the one in which they honeymooned 23 (or was it 24?) years before and was yesterday the anniversary, or is it today? This wry tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a

Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a suburban housewife, for a little sexual diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now more than the match he bargained for. The last couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her or as Mother yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!".

The holiday season was very busy- Gateway participated in the Holiday Visions Santa Parade with Alice cast and our very own Santa and Mrs. Claus (Mike and Jeanne Dupuis). A fun- cold- evening.



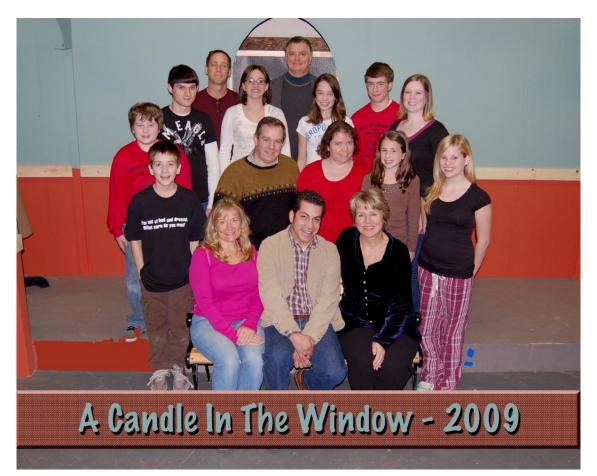
50th Anniversary celebrations- In August, our memorabilia will be on display in the main reading room of Jacob Edwards Library. Ron Senecal, a longtime Gateway member, put together scrapbooks which are housed in the library's Historical collection. Other pictures, programs, and memorabilia will be welcome to add to the display.

The Gala will be Nov 1 and information will be available as plans are finalized. Several other events are also in the planning stages. A 50th anniversary is such a milestone- we want to share all our experiences with the community.

GATEWAY MEMORIES--- we would like to put together a collection of Gateway memories- as actors, crew, audience. Please send your memory to Barbara Day- bldaycare@verizon.net. How you got involved in Gateway, friendships developed, memories to share. Thanks.



Past productions: A Candle in the Window-2009, Fiddler on the Roof- 2016, On Golden Pond- 2013. and our home for many years- the Gateway Arts Barn.











## **SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2024**

Members are continuously added to the list- please join.

Director's Circle (\$1,000)

Incom, Inc., Barb Lammert,

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, The Dinbergs Family, Joanne & Peter Dirlam, Jim Douglas, Patricia & Stewart Haddock, Charles & Barbara Haddock, Eric Hart, Deb & Keith Hollett, Janet & Bob Garon, Ed Humphries & Joliene Deskus 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

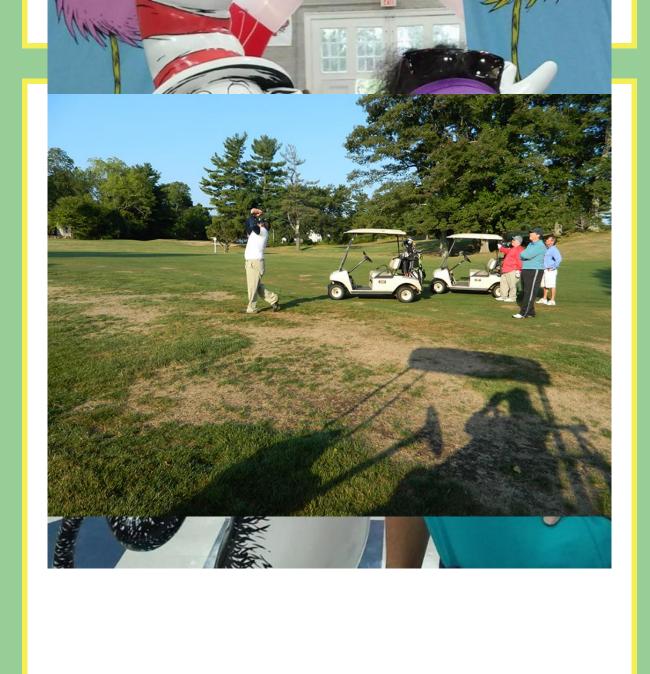
1975, we used borrowed rehearsal and storage space, and performed at Southbridge HS on Cole Ave. In 1978 we moved into the Arts Barn at 111 Main St, on the property donated by Ruth Wells (of American Optical Company family). We were there for decades, until the Barn needed more repairs than were affordable. 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. Many thanks to Jim, who is stepping away from the website-after a dozen years as website volunteer. Deb Hollett is in the process of redesigning the site- watch for updates. WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE

In addition to performing traditional- and not so traditional- plays, we have debuted new works, had fun learning from a Boston area improve troupe , held fund-raising golf tournaments and trivia nites and held several youth workshops- with entertainer Nicole Portwood and others. We have gone "on the road" - whenever and wherever we can bring entertainment to the community! There really is something for everyone here at Gateway!!







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