

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

founded 1975
January 15, 2025

Barbara Day,
editor since 1991



It's just January- looking forward to auditions and productions- be sure to join us. Please send your Gateway memories- we'd like to record YOUR thoughts. If this is the year you'd like to get more involved in Gateway= this is your chance- audition to be ON stage- or volunteer to help OFF stage. Help is always needed, from set building and painting to serving refreshments. Something for everyone.

Gateway Players Theatre presents "**Plaza Suite**", the first show of our 50th Anniversary Season. This comedy is written by Neil Simon. Performance dates are February 21, 22, 28 and March 1 at 7:30pm and March 2 at 2:00pm. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Mike Dupuis and produced by Jeanne Dupuis, this show is presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

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 tickets://www.ticketleap.events/.../plaza-suite-1845664734

The cast includes John Golden (Jesse Kiplinger), William Bolster (Waiter), Kevin McGee (Roy Hubley and Sam Nash), Hillary Robertson (Jean McCormick and Muriel Tate), Deborah Ostiguy (Karen Nash), Asher McCoy (Borden Eisler), Cynthia Claudio (Norma Hubley), and Chamira Santiago Flores (Bell Hop and Mimsie Hubley).

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!"



Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge, MA is hosting auditions for "On Golden Pond", part of our 50th Anniversary Season. This drama is written by Ernest Thompson. They will be held on Sunday, February 2nd at 4pm and Monday, February 3rd at 6:30 at Elm Street Congregational Church 61 Elm Street, Southbridge.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Performance dates are May 2,3,4,9,10. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday nights. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Services. The adult cast consists of three men, 2 women and 1 teen boy. Directed by Patrick Bracken and produced by Lou-Ellen Corkum. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531.

Synopsis:

This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory – but still as tart-tongued, observant, and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness and slang in return.

Below is cast photo from 2013 production. Patrick Bracken was a cast member. This time around he is directing. This show was Twizzler winner for best production of 2013.



As we look back on 50!!! years, it really is amazing at our history. With adult and youth casts, musicals, dramas and comedies- we really have had an eclectic history. We even presented original plays- written by local authors, Seth Leary and Ed Humphries. We have presented classic shows- and quirky shows. From **Mame**, **Fiddler on the Roof** and **Guys and Dolls** to **Incorruptibles** (digging up churchyard bones to sell as relics) to **Bob for God- 2002** (the gods need a new head god, complete with Greek chorus). We have laughed, cried, had fun, learned skills and brought entertainment to the community. All while having fun! 50 years down- more to come.

Our history is listed on the website, www.gatewayplayers.org. Here are some past photos. The Music Man (2005), One Act Festival (2007). The Sound of Music (2008). The Curious Savage (2009),





The Sound of Music

Summer 2008



The Curious Savage

2009

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.

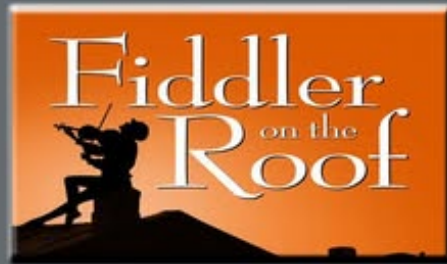
Gateway Players Theatre 2025 Season



February 21,22,28 March 1&2



May 2,3,4,9 &10



August 1,2 &3



October 4,5,10,11 &12



December 5,6 &7

508-764-4531
www.gatewayplayers.org

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



A Candle In The Window - 2009







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

Below is Angel Chorus from **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** - we performed this twice, in 2002 and 2017. In 2007 we did an original **Comedy by Committee**, borrowing skits from Three Stooges, Monty Python, Carol Burnet, the Muppets among others, A very fun evening. We DO have fun at Gateway.



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

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