

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

founded 1975  
March, 2025

Barbara Day,  
editor since 1991



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Plaza Suite successfully opened season 50, On Golden Pond is next- in May. Then we look forward to the summer musical- Fiddler on the Roof. We are working on the Nov 1 gala and library display. Join us for all the fun and entertainment

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#### Gateway Players Theatre celebrates 50 Years!

Gateway Players Theatre kicked off their 50<sup>th</sup> season with a performance of Neil Simon's Plaza Suite. This year the Board of Directors decided to fill the season with shows that had been performed during one of the decades that Gateway Players has been in existence.

In 1975 the Tri-Community Theater Association, soon renamed to Gateway Players Theatre, held auditions for its first ever production. Charles F. Russell, Jr., director of Plaza Suite, led the auditions at the AO auditorium. After discussions between Russell and Aileen Lau, show producer, the following cast was set. Chris Castendyk (Bellhop), Phyllis McNitt (Karen Nash), Wade Cloyd (Sam Nash), Sofoclis Kollios (Waiter), Lonalee Berkowitz (Jean McCormack), Kinson Perry (Bellhop), Charles Hesse (Jesse Kiplinger), Sally Seelig (Muriel Tate), Pauline Julien (Norma Hubley), Micheal Dube (Roy Hubley), Andrew Simpson (Borden Eisler), and Carol Dietrich (Mimsey Hubley). Members of the theatre group soon began working on the Plaza Suite set in an AO donated shop. Construction would continue every Saturday until production time. Once built the sets would be transported to Southbridge High where the show would be performed. The show was performed on May 8-10, 1975.

Occasionally a community theater produces a show more than once. So was the case with Plaza Suite. In 1987 Plaza Suite was performed at the Gateway Barn located behind the Dresser House, now home to the Ruth Wells Center at 111 Main Street, Southbridge. The production team consisted of Carole Hayes, Director and Jane Clarke-Loretz as stage manager. The cast for this production included: Cathy Righi, Dick Reardon, Peter Proulx, Larry Day, Wendy Blizzard, Sally Seelig, Al Cook, Ross Dixon, Pauline Julien, and Lorna Bumpus. Production dates were June 19, 20, 26 & 27, 1987.

This year's production directed by Mike Dupuis and produced by Jeanne Dupuis brought the story back to life in Gateway's current home – Elm Street Congregational Church. Appearing in this production were: John Golden (Jesse Kiplinger), William Bolster (Waiter), Kevin McGee (Roy Hubley and Sam Nash), Hillary Robertson (Jean McCormack and Muriel Tate), Deb Hollett (Karen Nash), Asher McCoy (Borden Eisler), Cynthia Claudio (Norma Hubley), and Chamira Santiago Flores (Bell Hop and Mimsie Hubley). The show dates were February 21, 22, 28 and March 1 & 2.

Coming up next at Gateway Players Theatre will be *On Golden Pond* by Ernest Thompson, May 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. Visit our Facebook page or website [gatewayplayers.org](http://gatewayplayers.org) for complete information / Below are cast photos from 1987 and 2025 productions.





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Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge, MA presents "On Golden Pond", written by Ernest Thompson. This is the second show of our 50th Anniversary Season. Performance dates are May 2, 3, 9 & 10 at 7:30pm and May 4 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 Patrick Bracken, Produced by Lou-Ellen Corkum. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

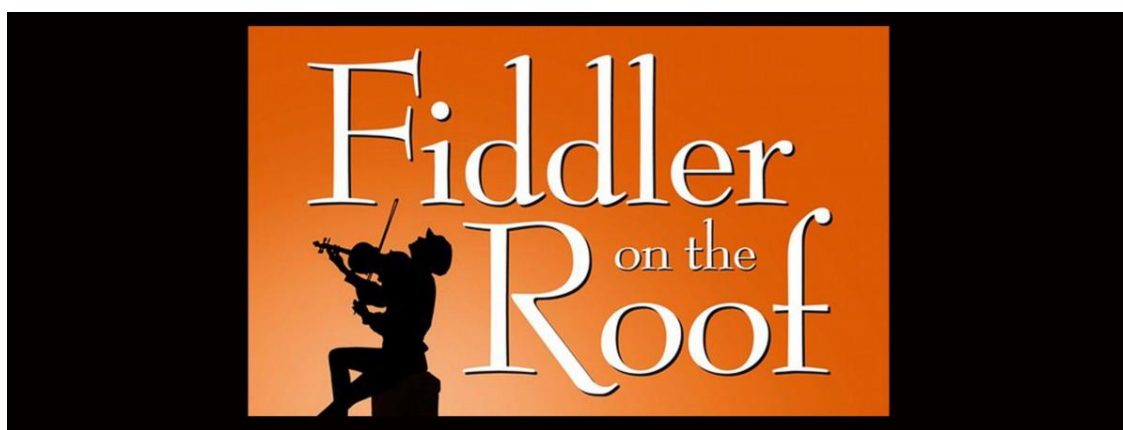
Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/gateway-players/on-golden-pond>

The cast includes Richard Clark (Norman Thayer, Jr.), Lynn Boucher (Ethel Thayer), Elizabeth Jacoby (Chelsea Thayer Wayne), Greg Glanville (Bill Ray), TJ Lee (Billy), John Golden (Charlie Martin), and Linda Bouthillier (Operator).

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. In the end, as the summer wanes, so does their brief idyll, and in the final, deeply moving moments of the play, Norman and Ethel are brought even closer together by the incidence of a mild heart attack. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits.

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.





Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge, MA is hosting auditions for "Fiddler on the Roof", the third show of our 50th Anniversary Season. This musical is written by Joseph Stein, Music by Jerry Bock, and Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. They will be held on Sunday, May 18th and Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Please be prepared to read from the script, move a bit, and sing a song from the show. Dress comfortably and bring water to stay hydrated. Performance dates are August 1, 2 & 3, 2025, at the Southbridge High School/Middle School auditorium. Rehearsals will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6-9pm. A printed schedule will be given out at the first read through. We will be casting 10 male roles and 7 female roles, and also villagers. Looking for ages 8 years of age and up. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. Directed by Patricia Haddock and produced by Kathi Grenier. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531.

#### Synopsis:

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-

Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, Fiddler on the Roof's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.



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Be sure to check out our UPDATED WEBSITE. Thanks to Deb Hollett, we have a new and exciting site. [gatewayplayers.org](http://gatewayplayers.org). You can read the most current news, history, production history and see photos from past shows.

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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. Wonder if our founding members envisioned 50 years- and still going strong! Below are pictures from past youth productions. The Snow Queen (2013), The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (2017) and Honk (2004). Wonder where they are now??









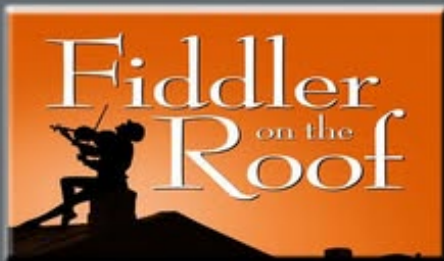
# Gateway Players Theatre 2025 Season



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](http://www.gatewayplayers.org)

our home for many years--Gateway Arts Barn.

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#### 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](http://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 tDeb Hollettan 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 Deb Hollett for website. Many thanks to Jim Douglas, who maintained the website for 12 years.

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

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Thanks to Elm Street Congregational Church for giving us a home



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

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