

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

founded 1975  
April, 2025

Barbara Day,  
editor since 1991



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April kicked off Season 50, now looking forward to On Golden Pond- and auditions for Fiddler on the Roof. Gala plans are underway and the display at Jacob Edwards Library is in the works. Such an exciting year!!

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PLAZA SUITE-- THEN AND NOW.

Below are cast photos from 1987 and 2025 productions.





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.

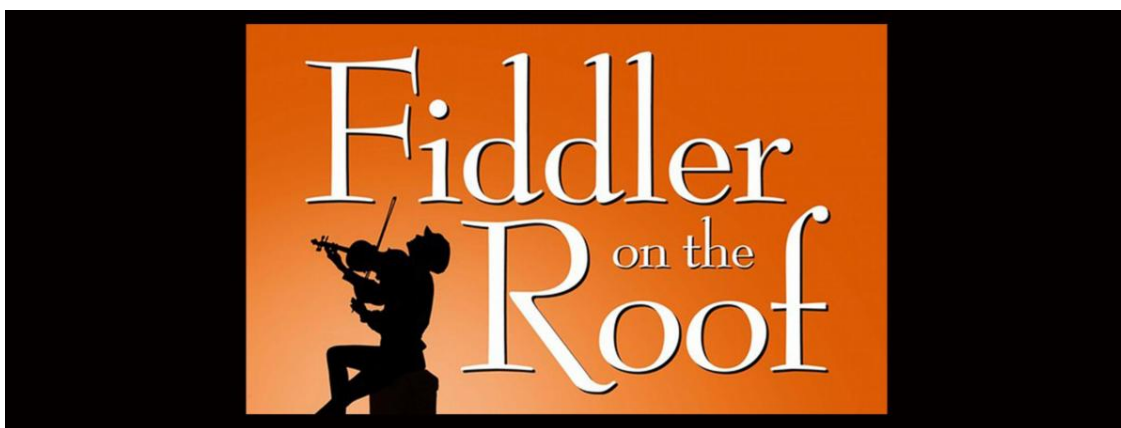
Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/gateway-players/on-golden-pond>

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.



Scholarship recipients below: Cheyenne Grenier, Ruby Pontbriand and Matthew Brady







### SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1998 Gateway has been awarding the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship to a college-bound high school senior to recognize their contribution to Gateway and theater. The application process acknowledges their work- both on stage and back stage- as they continue their education. We have located several past recipients and were excited to catch up on their lives.

#### **Cheyenne Grenier (2014)**

I am doing great, I am a full time business owner x2 with a college degree! I volunteer my free time working with Trinity Catholic Academy students running their theatre club program alongside my mom & I actually designed the invite cards for the Gateway 50th gala! Gateway was a major part of my childhood growing up giving me a sense of self worth and confidence whether it be on stage or behind the scenes!

#### **Matt Brady (2011)**

I am now a music educator for Cambridge public schools. I am their brass instrument specialist. This is my 10th year teaching and I'm having a blast. I'm thankful that I am able to help younger people discover their love for music. Being in Gateway was a huge confidence builder for me. Being a part of the productions; on stage, in the crew, or in the pit band, are some of my fondest memories. Being a recipient of the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship was an honor and gave me a sense of responsibility to make the people of Gateway proud as I continued to learn and grow as an artist and an educator. Thanks a lot for reaching out. If you guys ever need a trumpet player let me know!

**Ruby Pontbriand (2006)** congratulations to Gateway Players Theatre on an incredible 50 years! I'm so honored to have been a small part of its legacy. Receiving the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship helped shape who I am. The confidence, connection, and joy I found on that stage set the tone for everything that followed. At Worcester State University, I received the Anne Marie Shea Award for Excellence in Theater. I'm still

performing—singing with Millennium Magic, a women’s barbershop chorus heading to International competition in Chicago, and taking weekly tap classes (yes, I have a recital in June!). I’m also a proud mom to two creatively gifted kids, Julian (9) and Scarlett (6), who remind me every day of the power of the arts. Professionally, I’ve built a career in marketing. Most recently, I became co-owner of Bike House Brewing LLC, doing business as Common Ground Ciderworks in North Brookfield, MA, alongside my partner Jon Demers—a fellow Gateway alum. We’re building a space that celebrates live, local entertainment and the performing arts.

**Elise Dinbergs (2020)**

I am currently a soon to be graduating senior in the Medical Laboratory Science Program at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and still play my violin as a hobby.

When I received the scholarship, I used it to pursue violin-related activities (ex: music camps/programs).

I have a strong connection with Gateway players as my aunt Patricia Haddock, is a part of the shows there and I was also the fiddler in The Fiddler on the Roof when I was entering the 9th grade.

**Susan Day Dubrovich (2000)**

I was the fourth recipient of the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship. It meant a lot to me to go through the application process and to win, especially since I knew Bill and his passing was a hard thing to process. The scholarship helped me pay for my books when I went to Adelphi University as a Theater Major. My time at Gateway was really special. I started at Gateway when I was little kid in the Ant and the Grasshopper, having one line. But that small part led to a lifelong love of theater. I worked on stage and off, and it made me flirt with the idea of being a professional. That part may not have worked out, but without my theater degree I would be living a very different life. I now live in Queens, NY and keep in touch with a number of my fellow Theater Major Adelphi Alumni. I am now an Executive Assistant at an Advertising Agency and take myself to see Broadway Shows and Ballet whenever time and money allows. It's a really great thing to be able to see a show after work on a Thursday! I do miss the stage, but I will always have fond memories of doing plays and musicals with so many talented and dedicated people.

Below: Susan Day, Elise Dinbergs



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. Also on the website you will find the scholarship application.

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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! We performed The Compleat Works of Willm Shakespeare (abridged) twice- as part of the regular season (2004) and on the Southbridge Town Common (2013). Luke Robinson and John Kennedy were in both versions, Patrick Bracken was in the second. Fiddler on the Roof was first performed in 2016- our fiddler- Elise Dinbergs- is reclining on the stage in front of cast photo. Ruby Pontbriand was is Honk (2004).



Along with the 50th season of revivals, Gateway will celebrate this milestone with an exhibit at Jacob Edwards Library in August and the GALA on Nov.1. Other events are on the works. Stay tuned! Above card designed by Cheyenne Grenier (2014 scholarship recipient).



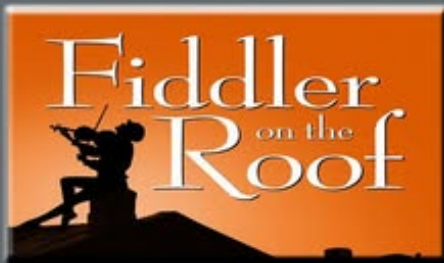
# Gateway Players Theatre 2025 Season



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,

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 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 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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