

**CONTACT US...**

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**2011 Village Players Board**

**President -** Jay Sydow.....875-6792  
**Vice President -** Jerome Holden.....569-0078  
**Secretary -** Kathleen Whitehead....539-4973  
**Treasurer -** Theresa Crowell.....522-2138  
**Members at Large -** Diane Sullivan.....539-4425  
 Russ Ellis.....569-9218  
 Jen Gagne.....339-1381  
 Judy Gallagher.....569-6963  
 Don Hargy.....569-1289

Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday evening of each month. All dues-paying members are also welcome to attend. Be sure your membership is current to receive your newsletter and special membership deals.  
 Contact Carol Bense - cwbense@roadrunner.com or 569-1396 - if you have changes in your address or email, or if you are unsure about your membership status.

**Newsletter Committee**

Carol Bense Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler Jay Sydow

**Art Production**

Carol Bense



P.O. Box 770 Wolfeboro, NH 03894



*The Village Players* **the PROMPTER**  
 ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT **DECEMBER 2011**



**Dec. 16 and 17 at 8pm**  
**Dec. 17 and 18 at 2pm**  
**A Christmas Story at the Village Players?**  
**Can that be right?**

by Phoebe VonScoy-Giessler

Oh, yes! And it's everything you think it is! From "you'll shoot your eye out" and racy leg lamps to tongues stuck on poles and "fuuuuudge!" - it's all here. You will revel in all that is A Christmas Story by experiencing it live and on stage at our theater!

While our Ralphie (Daniel Moore) and Helen (Jenni Talbot) are VP veterans, many of the youngest actors are getting their first taste of life on the VP stage with this great show. These kids include Elliott Giessler (Randy), Tyler Buttermark (Flick), Robbie Enos (Schwartz), Becky Velie (Esther Jane), Jackson Boudman (Scut Farkas), Tommy Giessler (Michael), and Kiara Wilbur (Ruth).

Many of the talented actors filling the adult roles are new to The Village Players, too, which is great news! You will meet Julie Velie (Mother), Stephen Burgess (The Old Man), Guinevere Boston (Miss Shields), and Michael Roush (Santa). And you'll be happy, no doubt, to enjoy the talents of some familiar adult faces on the stage, such as Scott

**AUDITIONS FOR NOEL COWARD'S HAY FEVER**

by Carol Bense

Ready for some mad-cap fun? Then you want to join the cast and crew of Noel Coward's excentric comedy, Hay Fever. Auditions will be held at our theater on Sunday, Dec. 4 and Monday, Dec. 5 at 7pm.

Director, Carol Bense, says, "We welcome new faces both on stage and in the production crew, so don't hesitate to come and join us. You are sure to have a great time working on this colorful show. Of course we need all kinds of help for production, but we also need to find

the right people  
 Judith Bliss - and matriarch of the who drops into hat (45-65)

**AUDITIONS** for the following roles." (lead) the dramatic queen family, a retired actress character at the drop of a

Sorrel Bliss - bohemian daughter best to keep up with 30)

**NOEL COWARD'S Hay Fever** (lead) bored, artistic and of Judith, who does her her mother's theatrics (17-30)

Simon Bliss - be artist, Simon, overly dramatic (17-30)

(lead) like his sister, would tries to carry on in the tradition of the Bliss family

David Bliss - (supporting) head of the household, a novelist who is working on his latest book, but enters into the family histrionics when called upon (45-65)

Myra Arundel - (supporting) a confident and sophisticate young woman whom Simon has invited to the house, but who has her eye set on David, the charming older man (20-35)

Richard Greatham - (supporting) the very proper young English diplomat whom Sorel has invited for the week-end (25-40)

Jackie Coryton - (supporting) a perfectly sweet, but not terribly bright young thing who is David's guest. (18-25)

Sandy Tyrell - (supporting) a young boxer, very athletic, whom Judith has invited for the week-end. (20-35)

Clara - (supporting) the long-suffering housekeeper. (35-65)

You can find out more about this play at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hay\\_Fever](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hay_Fever). Please come to one of the auditions if you have any interest in a role or in working on the production team. If you cannot attend either of the auditions, please contact Carol Bense at 569-1396 or cwbense@roadrunner.com

Performances are scheduled for April 13, 14, 20, 21, 22 in 2012.

**NEW BOARD FOR 2012**

Our annual meeting for 2011 was held on Sunday, November 13th at 4pm. A new board of directors for 2012 was elected by the membership.

**PRESIDENT:** Diane Mork  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Russell Ellis  
**SECRETARY:** Theresa Crowell  
**TREASURER:** Hilde Talbot  
**TWO-YEAR DIRECTORS:** Christian Boudman, Michael Wilkes  
**ONE-YEAR DIRECTOR:** Deb Jones

Jerome Holden will continue on the board to complete his 2-year term and Jay Sydow will remain as Past-President.

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and brought lots of wonderful things to eat.

**Don't Forget!**

**You can join, donate, or order tickets to our show on-line with credit card or Paypal.**



## Little Shop of Horrors Wrap Up

by Meggin Dail  
"Flawless performance," was one review and we'd have to concur. The seamless scenes were the result of a multitasking cast and crew who not only were Skid Row characters but became ushers, set crew, dressers and generally kept the backstage running smoothly under the direction of stage managers, Robin and Whitney.



And what characters they were. The Skid Rowians, as they were affectionately called (among other things), were given homework from the start; to find "back stories" for themselves so that they had a firm sense of who they were on Skid Row. The personalities they came up with were so entrenched it was hard to let them go by show's end. Instead of a chorus, we had more; a queen, a fisherman; an army vet, a sooth-sayer and many more with lineages as long as your arm.

This transformation of becoming crew really blurred between cast and crew. From the perfectionism of Music Director the dedication of Jones, Neiman crew on costumes; pit band who became Skid Row along with Choreographer Dean; tasking became the name of the



actors the line the Belanger; and their members characters multi-game. It tell where ended and the audience began.



was hard to the stage and the performance breaking that 'fourth wall', the directors, Meggin Dail and Jay Sydow, were happy to disrupt that comfort zone and show you that musicals are not all Rodgers and Hammerstein, that not all theatre means drama and that



easier is not always better to give YOU one fantastic show and THEM the opportunity to realize a vision.



### VP BITS

news about members etc.

Two new potential Village Players are on the way to us. **Megan Rohrbacher** and **Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler** are both bearing little future members. Surprise! Dads, Eric Rohrbacher and Scott Giessler are holding up remarkably well.

**Carol Pralle** spent a few days at Huggins thanks to an irregular heart-beat. She seems to be fine now. Her daughter, Jill, whom you may remember from her memorable portrayal of Moonbeam McSwine in L'il Abner was visiting. Jill just completed a stint as choreographer for Guys and Dolls with her local theater group.

After this newsletter went to print, we lost our long-time good friend and member, **Betty Sherwood**, to complications brought on by pneumonia. Graveside services will be held at her family plot in Persham, MA. At a later date we will hold a memorial service for her at the theater. There will be a memorial article in the next issue of The Prompter. To see her memorial page go to <http://www.village-players.com/memorial/memorial.html> and click on her photo.

### OUR KATHLEEN

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

CANCER-FREE. What better words could we hear about Kathleen. After her surgery in October, that was the news Kathleen was waiting hear.... And that was the news she got! Kathleen continues to heal from the operation and will be back to 'real' life and work very soon. We all look forward to seeing much more of her at the theater! She is so appreciative of the love and good wishes she received and continues to receive from the Village Players family.



If you care to follow Kathleen's progress, (albeit through Phoebe's slightly twisted lens) you can visit her Caring Bridge site at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kathleenhill>.

### "Some Friends" Christmas Concert

by Carol Bense

Village Players stalwarts, Carol Bense, Wayne Gehman, Rosemary and Scott Lounsbury, Diane and Corky Mork, and Michael Welch are all members of the a capella singing group "Some Friends." The group is offering a free Christmas Concert on December 18th at 3pm at St. Katherine Drexel Church on Route 28.

Come and listen to your friends sing a mix of Christmas and Winter music both popular and classical. Free will donations will be shared between the church and the Wolfeboro Food Pantry or similar charitable organization.

It's a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, and we would love to see you in the audience.

### DUES ARE DUE FOR 2012

Be sure you are up to date on your dues. Why not pay now for 2012? (A few people have already paid for 2013). You can go to the website [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) and click on the Join or Donate button to pay with a credit card or Paypal account. Or you can mail your check and this form to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. You can check to see if you have paid dues by clicking on the red Member Access button and then clicking on the Members link.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check here if you want your newsletter emailed to you otherwise it will be mailed to your postal address



### 4 Weekends of Work Sessions

By Jerome Holden (VP)

#### What got done:

Scraping, priming and painting of the front doors. Glazing the front window, scraping and priming high on the right side of the building. Repairing thresholds on front doors and stage door.

Digging out around the air conditioners to put some drainage in to stop the water flowing into the basement under the stage every time it rains.

Putting non-permiable fabric in the drainage and filling in with gravel which reduced the amount of water entering, but did not eliminate it.

Building a shelf which we assembled and put along the back wall of the cutting room under the stage. Then we emptied the hutch that was in the lower basement and moved it into the cutting room, and brought stuff down from the kitchen and put it on the new shelves and into the hutch. Now all the tools, fasteners and small stuff you need to do set construction are in one place instead of 3 places.

#### Who helped:

Carol Bense, Russ Ellis, Judy Gallagher, Don Hargy, Jerome Holden, Amy Knapp, Colyn Pineo, Helen Rautenberg, Diane Sullivan, Jay Sydow, and Barbara Wilson.

A big "Thank You!" goes out to all who helped during these work sessions. We still need to get the weeds off the roof and cover up that window in the back of the Poobah room. All the woodwork on the sides of the building need primer and paint. We also need to pressure wash the sides and back of the building. Almost every window in the place needs new glazing, priming and painting. The rest of the front of the building still needs a coat of paint. Some parts need more scraping and priming.

If you have a few hours to donate to any of these projects call Jerome at 569-5335.



Jerome Holden (foreground), Russ Ellis (background) and Diane Sullivan (middle ground) working on painting the front of the building.

## VP Issues the GREAT LEG LAMP CHALLENGE

by Barbara Wilson

In continuing efforts to raise awareness of the VP Theater, bring a little money into the coffers, entice audiences to the Theater for a performance, build goodwill in the community and to just have crazy fun, the Village Players has issued the GREAT LEG LAMP CHALLENGE to the greater Wolfeboro community.

Wolfeboro area residents are challenged to display leg lamps of any size (they are available as everything from nightlights to 8' strings to full life-sized versions, with real fishnet stocking) in a window visible from the street between now and December 17 when the final count will take place. Official leg lamp counters will roam the area that night, tabulating the number of installations and submit the results to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Leg lamps are not items commonly found in stores, however, so the Village Players have teamed with A Christmas Story House to make them available for sale through a leg lamp button on the Village Players website, [village-players.com](http://village-players.com). The theater group will receive 10% of each sale.

Other area non-profits are encouraged to join the fun and reap profits, too. Please contact Barbara Wilson at 986-4191 for details.

The Village Players will perform A Christmas Story the weekend of December 16, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. For more information about the show and joining the Great Leg Lamp Challenge, visit [village-players.com](http://village-players.com), or "The Great Leg Lamp Challenge" page on Facebook.



Adding to the fun of the GREAT LEG LAMP CHALLENGE is a raffle to win the full-sized leg lamp from VP's production of A Christmas Story. See a member of the Fundraising Committee to buy tickets or get some to sell to your family and frenemies.

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Giessler (Ralph), Rick Tessari (Announcer) and Christian Boudman (Elf).

The characters in the show, of course, would have nothing to wear, no where to go, and no light to shine on them if it weren't for the amazing production crew behind-the-scenes. Theresa Crowell is director with assistance from Mandy Ferriman. Deb Jones returns for costuming with Herry-Lyn Walbridge and Whitney Burbank as stage managers. Ami Crobuzzolo will head the make up effort and the house manager is Cate Poole. Barbara Wilson has scads of fabulous ideas up her sleeve for publicity of this great show. And, finally, the always versatile and willing Jay Sydow is the, ummm, well.... "Guy Who Does What No One Else is Taking Care of"! (I tried to call him the producer and he said that wasn't it....)

Performances are December 16 and 17 at 8pm and December 17 and 18 at 2pm. Tickets are \$12 and are available now at Black's Paper and Gifts or on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com).



by Barbara Wilson

Preparations for Glamour in Mud Season (April 13-15, 2012) are in full swing. The website, [glamourinmudseason.org](http://glamourinmudseason.org) is up, thanks to Stef Marsh and the photographic efforts of Bob Ness. The call for submissions has gone out for the Juried Art Show and Sale. Carol Bense has announced auditions for master-glam playwright Noel Coward's Hay Fever (December 4 & 5, 7 p.m.). Glam Animals from the Granite State Zoo have been booked for an exotic and entertaining exhibition. And cleverly amusing t-shirts and travel mugs are available for sale on the website just in time for the holiday season...start your shopping with VP!

As outgoing VP president Jay Sydow announced at the Annual Meeting, we will need all hands on deck to make this fundraiser (and FUNraiser) a success. Tasks range from one-and-done to ongoing support; some need to be done now, others won't be cued up until April.

Plan to attend the next Glam meeting (black tie optional) at Willie's place December 7 at 7 p.m. or be in touch with the Fundraising Committee to find how your talents can be used to best effect: Carol Bense, Theresa Crowell, Stefanie Marsh, Willie Mork or Barbara Wilson.

## Large Scale Maintenance for the Village Players Theater Building

by Jerome Holden

It's a big building and we are very lucky to have it, but it also costs lots of money to maintain. We sure could use your help for one of these projects.

Please consider donating the full amount for one of the following projects needed at the theater.

**Painting the building - \$5,000.** The whole thing needs to be pressure washed, scraped, primed and painted. Except where the volunteers did the front part of the building.

**Powder Coating the wrought iron railings in the front - \$4,300.** A welding company has to cut the railings into 8 foot sections and make them modular so that they can be transported, fitten into the powder coating over and put back together again. They need to be sand blasted, zinc primed and powder coated.

**Insulating the roofs - \$18,000.** Using large cellulose foam and spray-insulate all the roofs.

**Hot wire the roof edges and replace old wiring in the "Poobah" room - \$2,900.** We need GFI outlets put in 3 places to keep ice from forming on the roofs and dripping down onto the front steps and onto the handicapped ramp in the back of the building. We also need to replace the knob and tube wiring over the "Poobah" room and put a new junction box on the 3rd floor.

**Parameter drains around the foundation - \$30,000.** We have water running into the basement on a regular basis.

**Insulating the Auditorium ceiling \$14,250.** This can be done instead of insulating the roofs. We need to move all the furniture stored in the "Poobah" room to one side, rip up the carpet and floor, insulate it with R-19 insulation, put the floor boards back down. Then we need to do that same thing to the other half. We also need to do that in the Props room, the Tech room and Hallway up there. We need to cap off the space above the inside lifting door (between the auditorium and the side room) and insulate over the Stage.

**New Front Doors - \$6000.** The doors that are there leak air all around them. They are not energy efficient and are in poor shape.

If you are able to donate money specifically for one of these projects your name will be put on a THANK YOU plaque in the front foyer for all members and visitors to see. If you have any questions about these projects or other projects you can see which are needed, please call Jerome at 569-5335 or email: [signguy@JCSigns.com](mailto:signguy@JCSigns.com).... thank you!



### VP Trees at The Festival of Trees

by Carol Bense

Once again The Festival of Trees will take place at the Wright Museum, opening with the Preview Gala on December 8th and then open to all (with admission fee) on December 10, 11, 17 and 18 - Saturdays 10am to 4pm, Sundays 12 noon to 3pm. This year there will be two trees related to VP events. Dr. Richard Neal is sponsoring a tree decorated for A Christmas Story, and VP is sponsoring a tree decorated for Glamour in Mud Season. Check them out.

### "What's so great about Wolfeboro?"

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Wolfe 101 is the fifteen-minute television show that answers that very question. The show is hosted by the VP's very own Megan Rohrbacher and Amy Knapp on Wolfeboro's channel 25. The duo's clever and witty look at America's Oldest Summer Resort takes viewers inside the events, organizations, businesses, nooks and crannies that make Wolfeboro so special. Field Correspondent Phoebe also makes occasional appearances and you never know what she'll do or say. Even if you've lived in Wolfeboro forever, Wolfe 101 will surprise you with things you didn't know you needed to know!

You can catch episodes at 5:30 on Friday and Saturday nights (also airs randomly throughout the wee hours). Don't get cable from Wolfeboro? No problem. You can also check out the website ([wolfe101.com](http://wolfe101.com)), Facebook page, and full episodes on YouTube.