



# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

APRIL 2008



by Carol Bense

Grampa keeps pet snakes and hasn't paid income tax for 20 years. Dad and Mr. DePinna make fireworks in the basement. Sis practices ballet – constantly, while her husband, Ed plays the xylophone to accompany her. Mom writes plays – well, she starts plays. She has yet to finish one. The Russian ballet teacher and his friend, Olga, cousin of the Tsar, drop by now and then. How can daughter Alice ever make it work with the boss's son, whom she loves, and his up-tight family?

Well, he loves her too, and to try to bring Alice around to agreeing to marry him, he plays a little trick of his own. When his family mixes it up with her family, the results bring down the house. And this beloved show has been doing the same for decades.

Scheduled for production on April 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, *You Can't Take It With You* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman is directed and produced by Michael Wilkes with assistance from Athena Ellis and Carol Light. Russ Ellis is the Stage Manager and Diane Sullivan is in charge of costumes for this 30's era show. The set is being constructed by Michael Wilkes with help from James Cross, Jerome Holden, Helen Rautenberg and Gerry Theodora. Kathleen Whitehead is set decorator; Betty Sherwood is handling props; and some very special effects are being created by Mike Welch, Michael Wilfert and Jay Sydow. Theresa Crowell has the job of house manager, and Jeannette D'Onofrio is managing publicity. Helen Rautenberg is doing make-up with help from Delina Bickford and Missy Shure. Carol Bense takes care of tickets.

We are always glad to see new faces in our shows and this time we have three. Rick Tessari will debut with the Village Players in the role of Tony, the boss's son. Also taking his first steps on our stage will be

Michael Ray Parcels filling the role of Ed, Alice's brother-in-law. And we have Jerry Vasil in the role of Donald, the cook's boyfriend. Not quite new to Village Players is Board Member, Dick Cary, but I believe this is his first on-stage appearance with us as he takes the role of Mr. DePinna.



In addition, we have some of our veterans in this show. Carol Bense plays Mrs. Sycamore, Gordon Brooks takes the role of Mr. Sycamore, and Corky Mork is Grampa. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, Tony's parents are James Cross and Willie Mork. Jackie Witham, who hasn't been with us for a while, plays the struggling Alice. Her sister Essie is played by Jen Bruce. Suzanne Esper is Rheba, and Athena Ellis is Gay Wellington. The Grand Duchess Olga is played by Joyce Wood. Jim Pittman plays the flustered IRS agent, Mr. Henderson, and Dan Charlton fills the role of Mr. Kohlenkov. The government agents are played by Gerry Theodora, Bob Rautenberg and Russ Ellis.



Don't miss this timeless romp. Tickets are now on sale at Black's Paper and Gifts as well as on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com). Performances on Friday and Saturday will be at 8pm with a matinee on Sunday, the 13th, at 2pm. Take advantage of our opening night discount with advance tickets for Friday, April 4th on sale at \$8 and tickets at the door at \$10.

# New Board Members

by Willie Mork

Four new board members were elected this year. In the last issue we introduced Joyce Wood and Betty Sherwood. In this issue we introduce Michael Wilkes and Jim Pittman.



## Jim Pittman - Member-at-Large

Jim Pittman is a relative newcomer to the world of community theater. Four years ago, Holderness' Little Church Theater was staging its first ever production. While collecting his mail at the local post office, the director offered Jim the role of a nefarious real estate developer. As every actor knows, it's impossible to resist the chance to play the villain, and so, Jim's theater career was launched.

Since then, he has appeared in the Village Players productions of *I Never Sang for my Father*, *The Sound of Music*, and worked as a stage hand for *The Pajama Game*. In 2003 he served a production role for the movie "Below the Belt", which screened at The Sundance Film Festival the next year.

Jim's main performance experience has been as a musician, having played the guitar since he was a teenager. A member of Toastmasters, he has spoken before audiences of all sizes throughout the country. He is a member of Mensa, generally a retiring bunch of eggheads, but not without a few renowned actors. His day job is spent working in industrial electronics. A Connecticut native, he now resides in Effingham.

## Michael Wilkes - Member -at-Large

It all started in a little 1300 watt radio station in the Ozarks. Lurking in the shadows was one who aspired to become the next star of the radio waves. But murder was in the heart of someone also in the darkness. Then I woke up and found myself - I didn't even realize I was lost.

Directed "Play It Again, Sam" back in the dark ages and enjoyed working with The Village people. Directed several more throughout the renaissance and eventually spread out to set construction and other production jobs. Eventually hit the boards as Tevye in "Fiddler." and HH in "My Fair Lady" among several other non-musicals.

Served as President of TVP during the period the theater



was purchased and initial work was done. Spend days as Lab Director at Huggins and The Memorial Hospital. Two felines have replaced the line-up of wives and significant others. The cats are consistent with unconditional love as long as there is the provision of food and shelter. Two beautiful granddaughters that live in Florida that don't get visited often enough.



Don't miss out on your chance to be part of our summer show! This year it's the classic New England drama/comedy *On Golden Pond*. Auditions are Sunday May 18 and Monday May 19 at 7PM.

The play, written by Earnest Thompson, focuses on Ethel and Norman Thayer, summer residents on Golden Pond in Maine. During this particular summer, daughter Chelsea visits with her boyfriend and his son. This touching and humorous story explores the often-turbulent relationship between Chelsea and Norman, as well as the difficulties faced by a couple in the twilight years of a long marriage.

Director Russ Ellis **needs actors for the following roles:**

**Norman Thayer, Jr.** - age 79, crotchety and tired of life

**Ethel Thayer** - age 69, his loving wife

**Charlie Martin** - early 40s, mailman at their Maine cottage, formerly involved with Chelsea

**Chelsea Thayer Wayne** - age 42, blames her parents for her problems

**Bill Ray** - early 40s, Chelsea's boyfriend

**Billy Ray** - age 13, Bill's son

In addition to Russ, the production team includes producer Patti Pardy and assistant director Meggin Dail. Anyone interested in helping out - especially with costumes, make up or lighting design - should contact Patti. Rehearsals will begin May 25.



## VP T-Shirts

Lonely? Not sitting at the cool table in the cafeteria? Tired of being labeled a drama geek by all the jocks and cheerleaders?

Well, no more! Be the envy of all your fashion-forward friends and show off your VP pride with a 30th Anniversary T-Shirt! You can get these gorgeous new duds (steel gray with the VP logo on the front and 30th anniversary logo on the back) for just \$12. They will be on sale during performances of *You Can't Take It With You* or any time the theater is open.

Guaranteed to make you look 10 years younger, 10 pounds thinner, and the fastest kid in your gym class! (Special thanks to Jay Sydow for his miraculous design!)



**SIT DOWN FOR STAND UP** – *back again for the third year!*  
*from Jeannette D'Onofrio*



Jackson Gillman, The Stand-Up Chameleon

We are bringing back a popular favorite to The Village Players stage on Glendon St. in Wolfeboro for the months of May, June, July and August. – SIT DOWN FOR STAND UP, a comedy series.

Join us the third Friday of the month to laugh with professional comedians, and remember that all profits go to the Village Players Building Fund for our next round of renovations.

Here's the line up of the NEW funny people coming, so be sure to mark your calendars:

May 16th: Jackson Gillman (a.k.a. Stand Up Chameleon) Family show 7pm

June 20th: Tim McIntire (headliner) and Tom Mitchell (opener), PG-13 8pm

July 18th : Jim Colliton (headliner) and Pat Napoli (opener), PG-13 8pm

August 15th: Laughing Stock Comedy Company, Improv, PG-13 8pm

Don't miss this SPECIAL DEAL - \$50 for the entire series if purchased by May 1st. That's only \$12.50 per Adult ticket for the Entire Series! – ...Wow! - available on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) or downtown at Black's Paper & Gifts. All tickets for every show will be available for sale by April 1st – NO FOOLIN'! Sales were brisk last year, and all these performers are NEW to Wolfeboro, so it's wise to get your tickets early.

Something else new this year on May 16th at 7pm is a special FAMILY comedy show starring Jackson Gillman otherwise known as The Stand-Up Chameleon. For this show only, tickets for Children under 12 will be available at \$5. Adult tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Energy, wit, music, and wisdom are the stock in trade of this clever and talented performer. Jackson incorporates comedy, drama, music, dance, mime, and sign language into his own intimate style of theatre. More than 27 years in the business of speaking and performing have given Jackson an enormous amount of material on which to draw. His humor is based on a foundation of beneficence, hope, and a belief in the enduring power of the human spirit. The whole family will enjoy "A Family Cabaret", a comedy/musical revue looking at daily rituals, from wake-up to bedtime, from all perspectives. View his website: [www.jacksongillman.com](http://www.jacksongillman.com)

All other shows are aimed at the adult (PG-13) audience and tickets for each show will be \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Each month comics who are well-known on the Stand-UP scene will appear right here in Wolfeboro.

For more details contact Jeannette, 569-0078, or visit our website at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com), where you will find more detailed information on each comedian. Check your local papers prior to each show date as well, for more about the comics coming to perform.

We thank our generous sponsors for the entire series: Lydia's Cafe, TRITES Auto, Metrocast Cablevision, and both – Club 59 & Morrisseys' Front Porch. As an added bonus, Club 59 & the Front Porch will treat ticket holders to \$2 OFF their dinner entrée if they come in between 5 and 6pm as an EARLY BIRD diner only on the night of the shows. Simply show your Comedy theater ticket to the server and it's done! What a wonderful way to spend your Friday nights, dinner and a show...happy summer!

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Float

*by Diane Sullivan*

On the 4th of July The Village Players will celebrate 30 years of community theater with a float in the Wolfeboro parade. This blast-from-the-past float will feature members wearing many of the costumes from our most popular performances. The float will be decorated like a stage and will be carrying our very own charter members, which will include Carol Bense, Wayne Gehman, and others.

What we will need in order to bring this float to life are volunteers to wear some real great costumes. If you've always wanted to be on stage, but have stage fright, now is your chance to shine. Diane Sullivan and Willie Mork will be on hand two weeks before the 4th for members to come to the theater and be assigned their costume. On the morning of the 4th, we will all meet again, dress in costume, and march along side of the float carrying signs featuring 30 years of theater.

## CONTACT US...

**snail-mail:** P.O. Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894

**Voice-mail:** 603-569-9656

**web site:** www.village-players.com

### 2008 - 2009 Village Players Board

President - Russ Ellis .....569-9218  
Vice President - Mandy Ferriman .....569-6068  
Secretary - Kathleen Whitehead .....569-4973  
Treasurer - Joyce Wood ..... 569-5726

### Newsletter Committee

Carol Bense Dick Cary  
Willie Mork Pheobe VanScoy-Giessler

### Art Production

Richie OBrien richie@mirrorlakemedia.com

### Members-at-Large

Dick Cary .....569-4654  
Michael Wilkes .....569-4814  
Kathleen Hill .....520-1372  
Betty Sherwood ....569-5459  
Jim Pittman .....539-1360

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 Marge Wilson - [lilredmarge@verizon.net](mailto:lilredmarge@verizon.net) - if you have changes in your mailing address.



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SAVE THE DATE  
**Saturday, Sept. 13**  
COME CELEBRATE  
OUR 30 YEARS OF THEATER  
WINE, HORS D'OEUVRES,  
ENTERTAINMENT.  
A VERY SPECIAL EVENING

## VP Semi-Annual Meeting

The Village Players semi-annual meeting and talent show is coming June 8 at 3PM. Interested performers should contact Russ Ellis ([ram2sak@aol.com](mailto:ram2sak@aol.com)) to let him know what you'll be doing. In addition, there will be a brief tech rehearsal the week before to work out order of performances, lighting, sound and any other bugs. You won't find a friendlier audience or a more encouraging group of performers, so!

The doors are open to all Village Players members. Following the show, you'll get an update on all the VP happenings at the semi-annual meeting. When the business of the evening is complete, share your culinary talent at the potluck supper. Please bring a main dish, salad or casserole and your choice of drink.

### Did you know?

You can purchase tickets on-line from the Village Players website for any of our upcoming shows.

Go to:  
[www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com)

Click on the link:

