



# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

JUNE 2008



## Coming up in July

By Carol Bense-

A show with lots of laughter and some tears, *On Golden Pond* by Ernest Thompson is a wonderful examination of people like you and me dealing with life and families. In a summer cottage on a small lake much like those near here, Norman and Ethel Thayer struggle with the difficulties of growing older and their relationship with their only daughter and her fiancée's son. In 1979 this captivating play won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play, and in 2005 won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. A warm, funny and perceptive look at love and family life, *On Golden Pond* will provide you with an enjoyable evening of theater.

Norman and Ethel spend each summer at their home on Golden Pond, you may remember that the film version was shot on location at Squam Lake. When Chelsea and her fiancée leave young Billy with her parents while they travel in Europe, all three generations learn something from each other. This heart-warming and hilarious collision of family members is a show no-one should miss.

Performances will be at 8pm on Friday, July 25th; Saturday, July 26th; Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd. There will be a matinee at 2pm on Sunday, August 3rd. Tickets (Opening night only - \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door - All other performances are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door) will be available in early June at Black's Paper and Gifts on

Main St., Wolfeboro and on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com).

The show is directed by Russ Ellis, with assistance from Meggin Dail. Patti Parady will produce and Jay Sydow will design the set. Athena Ellis will be the stage manager.

At the time of printing, the cast list was not available, but check our website [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) for that information.



By Carol Bense

Don't miss the outstanding line-up of professional comedians coming to Wolfeboro this summer right in our theater. Join us the third Friday of June, July and August to enjoy an evening of laughs. There's nothing better for you. All shows are rated PG-13. Here's the line up of the **NEW** funny people coming, so be sure to mark your calendars.



**June 20th: Tim McIntire and Tom Mitchell** - A fixture in the Boston comedy scene, Tim was voted Best of Boston in Comcast Comedy Spotlight, has released two albums, written for Nickelodeon (Fairly Odd Parents), been featured on National Public Radio (Special Edition with Tom Ashbrook), performed at several comedy festivals (Boston and Chicago), and been on TV (Comcast Comedy Spotlight). Tom, spinning tales from his family life and years raised as a shut in, his college days and his dogs, seals the deal at show time.

(cont'd page 4)

## IN MEMORIAM - BILL FLUHR

By Carol Bense

Bill was the Music Man. He appeared in the very first production of The Village Players, and among the roles he filled was Harold Hill and from that time on, he was one of the people leading us forward to where we are today.

We lost Bill on April 15th after his valiant battle with cancer. He died at Huggins Hospital with his wife of 25 years, Christine by his side. Bill leaves three children, Peggy Terhune of Connecticut and Mariel and William Fluhr of Wolfeboro.

I met Bill during that first production and I remember him strutting down the aisle at Carpenter School in his white suit and straw hat leading us in the singing of "76 Trombones" with his wonderful ringing tenor voice. He and I next appeared in a musical revue which Bill directed and performed in, and he also worked on costumes for that show.

Many people may not be aware of it, but among Bill's many talents was sewing and he designed and produced costumes for many shows right up until *Pajama Game* when he made the aprons for the men to wear in the pajama factory. He also created the sets for many of our shows.

From the very beginning, Bill took roles in our shows or worked on the set or the costumes, or sometimes did all three. But the role for which we probably remember him best is Curly in *Oklahoma!* I can see him now, sauntering into the auditorium at Kingswood singing "There's a bright golden haze on the meadow." He was a wonderful Curly and when someone forgot to put the rope in Judd's house leaving Bill in the lurch when he was supposed to suggest that Judd use the rope, Bill didn't miss a beat. He simply drawled, "Well, if you had a rope you could hang yourself." I still smile when I think of that moment.

Through the years, Bill was always there. He had some part either on stage or off in almost every show The Village Players produced, both singing and non-singing. Some that you may remember are: Lord Dudley in *Play On!*, Professor Van Helsing in *The Passion of Dracula*, Dick Christie in *Play It Again, Sam*, Niceley-Niceley Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Mr. Bumble in *Oliver!*, Temperance Army Leader in *The Drunkard*, Watson in *Hound of the Baskervilles*, and Samuel in *Pirates of Penzance*.

He also directed *The Apple Tree*, and appeared in many other roles for The Village Players. At one time, long



before we owned our theater, Bill had dreams of opening theater himself. He never found the suitable venue, but he did buy theater seats from an old theater which had shut down. When we bought our theater, Bill and Christine very graciously donated those very seats to The Village Players. After a loving restoration, the seats with their beautiful wrought iron work, lovely polished wood arms, and charming lights now adorn our theater.

Always a supporter and always ready to help, he was a mainstay of the group and will be sorely missed, not only for his beautiful voice and hard work, but also for his wonderful good nature and ready wit.

### "You Can't Take It With You" Wrap Up by Willie Mork

"You Can't Take It With You" but you can take with you some chuckle-inducing memories from a fabulous show. Here are a few:

- A terrarium full of animated snakes - Jay Sydow's doing
- A veritable feast of papier-mâché' corn-on-the-cob, spaghetti and meatballs, blintzes, roast goose and watermelon slices courtesy of Betty Sherwood.



-Michael Wilkes' set loaded with 1930's memorabilia by Kathy Whitehead: old family photos, an upright wooden radio, a basketful of sports equipment in the entry hall, an old violin, a vintage typewriter

-Ed's frantic xylophone accompaniment to Essie's less-than-expert ballet attempts.

-Donald rushing back and forth for emergency grocery runs.

-The look on Mrs. Kirby's face at the very thought of having pickled pig's feet for dinner.

(cont'd on pg 3)



# July 4th Parade

by Diane Sullivan



(Sung to the tune "Cabaret")

What good is sitting alone in your room?  
Come hear the music play.  
Life is a pa-rade old chum,  
Come to the July 4th pa- rade.

Good, you did it! Just think, you too can be part of Wolfeboro's huge Fourth of July parade by participating in the Village Players 30th Anniversary celebration. Music from the past will be played in the background while our members march along with our beautifully decorated stage-like float while wearing costumes made for our musical productions over the past 30 years. (Yep, we still have them!)

Some of the costumes being worn will be from "Oklahoma," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Guys & Dolls," "My Fair Lady," "Hello Dolly," "The King & I," "Pirates of Penzance," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Oliver," and "Pajama Game." If you were in any of these productions and would like to wear your costume again, please feel free. Even if you weren't in any of these shows but have participated in other VP productions, we'll find you something to wear!

So how about it? Who would you like to be? Let's have a great 30th celebration of comedy, drama, music, and fun. Start your 4th of July day off right with a smile and a wave to the crowd cheering you on as you march down Main Street. It's a terrific way to show off your independence.

To take part, meet at the theater on Saturday June 21st at 9 a.m. to assign costumes with the help of Willie Mork and Diane Sullivan. We will need at least 12 men and 12 women in order to exhibit our list of shows. Then on July 4th, we'll meet again, dress in costumes, and proceed to the parade starting point along with the float. After the parade, we'll return to the theater and dress in those ordinary street clothes we all have to wear. How boring!!!!

It's going to be fun, so please help us out. If interested, which I know you are, please email me at [disully@worldpath.net](mailto:disully@worldpath.net) with your "yes, I'd love to" answer. Thanks!

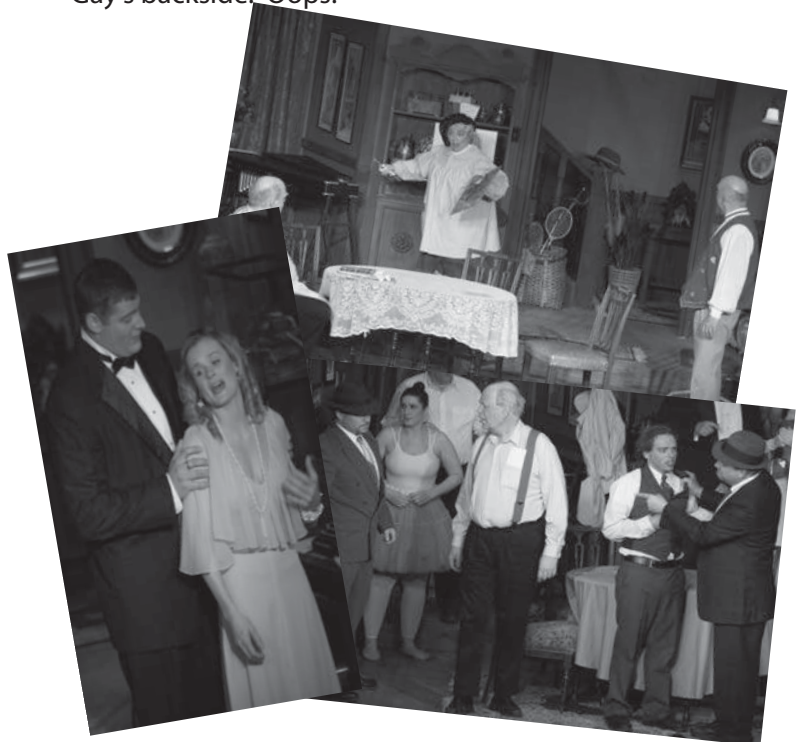
## "You Can't Take It With You" Wrap Up

(cont'd from page 2)

- Mr. Kolenkov demonstrating the benefits of wrestling to an indignant Mr. Kirby.



-Grandpa's dart bouncing off the target and landing on Gay's backside. Oops!



- Explosions and smoke pouring from the cellar when Mr. De Pinna's pipe ignited the fireworks workshop,  
-And on and on .....

The nearly 600 people who came to the show enjoyed themselves thoroughly as did the cast members who were obviously having a ball.

The bills are not quite all in, but it looks as if we made \$5,091.35 on this show which, as usual will go toward our ongoing building expenses, printing, mailing, etc.

## Sit Down for Stand Up

(cont'd from page 1)



**July 18th : Jim Colliton and Pat Napoli** - If you have ever been embarrassed about the contents of your recycling bin or tried to kill a flying bat in your house, you will find Jim's comedy hilarious. He has been seen on national television shows like Ed McMahon's Next Big Star, Comcast Comedy Spot Light and Comedy Central Laugh Riots. Jim can also be heard on XM Satellite Radio's Comedy Channel. Pat has made a name for himself in Boston and other cities around the country. His sharp edgy humor makes him a popular favorite



**August 15th : Laughing Stock Comedy Company** - The funniest company in business today, Laughing Stock's success is a result of extensive background research into every single audience for whom they perform combined with quick-witted comedians taking and using audience suggestions during the performances. Laughing Stock's experienced actor/comedians are well schooled in improvisational comedy techniques and — armed with their background research — spontaneously create fun and funny scenes based on the lives of the audience members. Making people laugh is their "stock in trade".  
(cont'd page 3)

door. You can get them at Black's Paper and Gifts on Main St. in Wolfeboro, or on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com). Shows start at 8pm and doors open at 7:30pm.

**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!

## AUDITIONS -

FOR

### "100 YEARS OF BROADWAY"

Sunday, June 15 and Monday, June 16, 7pm at the theater.

Celebrate the history of Broadway and our great heritage of musical theater in this marvelous choral medley by Mac Huff. From the music of Tin Pan Alley to state-of-the-art contemporary Broadway, you'll treasure the magic of an entire century of entertainment, laughter, and beautiful music. We are looking for talented singers and dancers to perform this fabulous musical revue at our special gala 30th anniversary event on September 13, 2008. This wonderful stroll down memory lane includes over 50 songs from classic Broadway shows. You'll have a great time singing and dancing.

Please come prepared to dance and sing one of the following songs:

*There's No Business Like Show Business*  
*Yankee Doodle Dandy*  
*Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*  
*My Favorite Things*  
*Send in the Clowns*  
*Greased Lightning*

Come to auditions in comfortable clothes prepared to sing and/or dance. You do not necessarily have to do both. **Members only will perform in this show, so be sure your membership is up-to-date.** You can find more information on this 50-minute show at Stanton's Sheet Music or [Sheetmusicplus.com](http://Sheetmusicplus.com)

### Did you know?

You can purchase tickets on-line from the Village Players website

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

Click on the link:



## SEND A LITTLE CHEER TO LEE



Our good friend Lee Robertson has been at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center for over 10 weeks now. If you have a chance, send her a card to brighten her day. The address is Lenore Robertson, PO Box 185, Melvin Village, NH 03850. She may be back and forth in the near future, but her husband, Struan, will be sure she gets your card. (Remember postage is \$0.42 now) Don't send flowers as she cannot have them in her room.

## The Drowsy Chaperone

By Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

One Sunday, May 4, a crew of about 20 Village Players members and supporters enjoyed a fantastic day in Boston. The voyage to the Opera House for the Tony-winning "The Drowsy Chaperone" was another in our series of 30th Anniversary events. Although the weather was fairly crummy, the hearty crew took the "scenic route" on a hike from South Station, through Chinatown and to the theater. The pleasure of a day out with good friends, fantastic theater, and a delicious meal at Legal Seafood made the chilly drizzle a mere nuisance.



Below are "reviews" from a few participants in the Boston trip:

- It was a wonderful trip and the day flew by. We had a great time and it was worth the money. We will do it again if possible. (Theresa Crowell)
  - What a fun day !! The chatting on the bus, the show was a riot - I loved it! Dinner company and the ride back chatter..... What a perfectly entertaining day!! (Gay-Ann Cooney)
  - "I don't wanna show off no more!" (Kathleen Hill)
- (Editor's note: Kathleen is not offering false modesty;

this is actually a hysterical, rousing number in the show.)

- It was so good we couldn't sleep afterwards! (Scott Giessler)

- Drowsy Chaperone was one of the funniest shows I have ever seen. I laughed through the whole thing. In fact, my only disappointment was that on the bus on the way home, we did not have silent re-runs of "Gilligan's Island" on the in-bus TV. Jay knows all the plots and did a running commentary for us on our previous trip. He does not know the plots of "Taxi" so we had to talk among ourselves. (Carol Bense)

Special thanks to Carol Bense for the logistical and organizational miracles that she arranged for everyone!

So... don't you wanna come next time?

### MEMBERS -

#### DON'T FORGET THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The Village Players semi-annual meeting and talent show is coming June 8 at 3PM.

This is a very important meeting as we will be voting on the revised By-laws and we need your vote. We must have a quorum in order to implement the new By-laws. If you are eligible to vote (dues paid before April 1, 2008), you have received a copy of the proposed By-laws which you might want to bring with you to the meeting.

And remember, this is the meeting when we host our VP talent show. Russ Ellis is in charge and may still be able to add your act if you are interested. Call him at 569-9218 or email him at [ram2sak@aol.com](mailto:ram2sak@aol.com). If you are not in the show be sure you come to watch. It's always lots of fun.

The doors are open to all Village Players members, even if you joined after March 31st, you can still come and enjoy the show.

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.



## 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 .....651-6068  
Secretary - Kathleen Whitehead .....539-4973  
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### Newsletter Committee

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### Members-at-Large

Dick Cary .....569-4654  
Michael Wilkes .....569-4814  
Kathleen Hill .....520-1372  
Betty Sherwood ....569-5459  
Jim Pittman .....539-7694

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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Membership 2008 Individual \$10 / Family \$18 (Circle one)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would love to work on a play or special event. Contact me about:

Set Design/Construction  Stage Crew  Props  Makeup/Hair  Costumes  
 Lights/Sound  Accompanist  Vocals  Choreography  Box Office  
 Usher  House Manager  Stage Manager  Director  Producer