



WINTER 2020

A Message from the President



As we close out 2020...

The end of the year can be such an emotional time and 2020 is no exception. For many of us, it cannot end soon enough, with the hope of a better year to come.

We began 2020 after an extremely successful 2019 production season with the goal to keep up the momentum for 2021. Then COVID-19 hit and everything was put on hold. We have now cancelled our season with the hope to pick up in late 2021. We learned what the “new normal” was all about, and did what we could to live by the guidelines where mask-wearing is mandatory in public and every sentence or phone call is ended with “stay safe.” Fundraising was taken to a new level with virtual fundraisers from varied sources filling our inboxes and on Facebook daily.

Last year during this holiday time, I spoke of cultivating kindness... being grateful for the simple things... paying it forward. That said, I am pleased to announce that **Playcrafters’ Board of Directors has unanimously voted to “pay it forward” to our membership by waiving the membership dues for 2021 and grandfathering in your membership for the entire year.** At a time when you are being solicited for donations by so many in need, what better way to pay it forward and express our gratitude to our members for their loyalty. Of course, should you wish to send in your membership as a donation, we would certainly be thankful.

If you don’t remember your level of membership, you can check the membership page on our website, www.bellport-playcrafters.com, and you will be grandfathered in at that level. If you let your membership lapse or were not a member in 2020, you can download a membership form on that page, send it in with your check and we will be happy to add you to our 2021 roster.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from Hal Borland, Journalist:

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning,
but a going on,
with all the wisdom
that experience can instill in us.”

– Amelia Chiamonte

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

We have struggled with this decision for the last several months and after much discussion have come to realize we will not be able to hold an “in-person” annual meeting.

We kicked around the idea of having a Zoom annual meeting, but the uncertainty of the number of attendees, their ability to join the meeting digitally and the uneven wifi stability in many households deemed it impractical for us to manage it at this time.

Therefore, as required by our By-laws, we will prepare to have the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes review and the 2021 nominees voted in, by sending out an Annual Report for 2020 in early January. This report will review the details of the 2020 Annual Meeting, give you a 2020 year-end review, and submit the 3-year 2021 nominees for your vote.

You should be receiving this via e-mail in mid-January.

NEW BOARD NOMINEES

Our nominating committee comprised of Board members **Kathy Loizides** (Chair) and **Jane Love**, and Playcrafters members **Barbara Allen**, **Joseph Skelly** and **Michele DePalo** are thrilled to announce the selection of the following 3-year term candidates to our board.

We are happy to welcome back former board members **John Simpson**, who was VP in 2011; **Vicky Fleming**, who served two terms and sat as VP and Secretary in 2013 & 2014 respectively, as well as provided the intricate props for many of our productions over the past two decades; and **Jim Hazard**, who is new to the board but no stranger to Playcrafters, having served as our set construction advisor for the past four years.

Since we will not be holding an in-person annual meeting in 2021, we will issue the voting ballot via our Annual Report, which will be sent out in mid-January. Please look for the Annual Report notice in your inbox to cast your vote.

Regarding nominations, every year we replace three outgoing board members. Nominations can always come from our membership. If you know of anyone or if you would like to be considered as a future nominee, please let us know by writing to info@playcrafters.com, and we will include the name to our selection list for next year’s election.

Thank you to our nominating committee for taking on this most important task.

WITH DEEP SADNESS

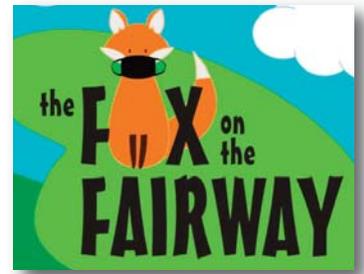
Our hearts go out to **Matt Palace** and his family for the untimely passing of his daughter, **Meaghan**, who was 33 years old. Matt has been a loyal Playcrafters member and has had our back many times over the years.

We've worked with him, enjoyed good times with him, and now we're here to support him and his family during this difficult time with the passing of his lovely daughter.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Matt and Terri Palace and Fran and Jeff Wood during this sorrowful time.

BEST LAID PLANS...

In our Summer newsletter we informed you of the second postponement of our Spring show "The Fox on the Fairway" to the Spring of 2021. Once again, we must push back our plans.



The situation with the resurgence of COVID-19 and the inability to schedule our theatre space for the proposed dates has once again forced us to put the entire production on hold.

We will keep you informed as things open up and we are able to once again present the theatre experience our loyal donors and members have come to expect.

Big kudos to our 60th Anniversary promotional team, **John Hannon** (chair), **Flo Federman** (e-mail guru), **Michele DePalo** (archivist), and **Joe Skelly** and **Judy Perfido**, who provided many of the memories of years' past!

If you have a memory to share, send it now to vermeerhere@aol.com.



PLAYCRAFTERS' 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 60th Anniversary promotion team is continuing their great work on our 60 Year Retrospective. To commemorate our 60th year celebration and in absence of the opportunity to hold our in person festivities until some time later in 2021, will have been sending out remembrances of the past – photos, memories, and anecdotes from members involved in productions that hit their funny bones.

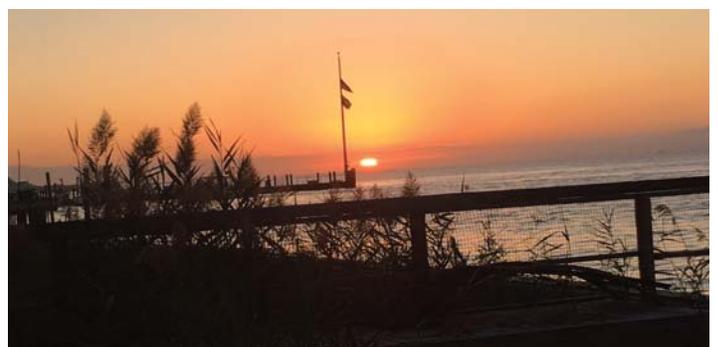
We've already covered our first two decades, in the 1960s and 1970s. The next installment, covering the 1980s, will be going out shortly.

WHILE WE ARE ON PAUSE...

*Our Summer newsletter contained new and interesting things some of our members discovered to do while we were "on pause" during the quarantine. The following comes from our Treasurer, **Annette Maillard**, while she was at her summer retreat.*

During this enforced hiatus in staging productions, I would imagine many Playcrafters members have reminisced about previous offerings and the value of what we volunteer to spend time creating. In my musings about the many wonderful shows that have been produced during my years as an active member, I realized that to highlight certain ones as memorable would be to denigrate any which I failed to remember. Also, if I listed only the ones which I do remember vividly and with great pride, the list would fill this page and still not give adequate praise and appreciation to the many who were responsible for them. Instead of creating such a list, I would like to share some of what I have missed during this hiatus.

Most of all, I miss the creativity demonstrated by each arm of the production team in support of the sincere work of the directors and actors. The envisioning of the set, its construction, decoration, lighting, etc. all aimed at producing a pallet upon and within which the actors can ply their craft, the initial and continuing publicity of our plans, the thoughtful and precise preparation of costumes and props, the work of tickets, concession and lobby display to create an environment for our audiences, and most of all, the enthusiasm and hard work of our Playcrafter minions to make it all happen.



And what is the reward? On those magical nights and afternoons when our audiences arrive and we enjoy compliments on our lobby, concession, set, etc. and then we move from pre-set to lights up, what fills our hearts with pleasure is when the actors take the stage and take us all into the story they came to tell. When the cast takes the playwright's words and makes them sing, we hope that the audience is engaged, entertained and perhaps changed by what we have created.

I miss it all, and I believe that when we can do it once again we will roar back with renewed energy.

– Annette Maillard

