

St. Clair Shores Players



50 Years of Theater

S.C.S. Players' Newsletter

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA NEUWIRTH

50th Anniversary

Special points of interest:

- *History of the St. Clair Shores Players*
- *Membership*
- *SCS Players Social Event*
- *Memories from the Past*
- *President's Note*
- *February Social Event*
- *Highlights from January General Mbship. Mtg.*

Inside this issue:

History of SCS Players	1
February Social Event	1
Membership	2
Memories	2
From the President	3
More Memories	3
Photo Play	5
Upcoming Events	8

As each year goes by and new members arrive, it becomes imperative that some record be made of what your organization has gone through so that you may have a better understanding of how we arrived at this point.

- Les Wilson

The History of the St. Clair Shores Players as told by Les Wilson.

In the Beginning

In the Spring of 1959 a very young mother of four, Jackie Duemling, got together with two other Shores residents, Kenny Revoir and Don Moenart, and discussed why St. Clair Shores lacked a community theater. The talk eventually progressed to, why not start one. Ken and Don were members of the Warren Thea-

tre Guild. This was a group that had started a couple of years earlier, and so they had an idea of the basic working of a community theater. The more they thought of it the farther the plan progressed until eventually they decided to go ahead with it.

The first thing they did was to notify the local newspapers like the St. Clair Shores Herald and the Macomb Daily that they were interested in getting people to join as charter members of the St. Clair Shores Community Players. The newspapers picked up on the idea and gave them front page attention. Their efforts succeeded in obtaining more than 54 people to sign up and become charter members.

Now they were ready to roll. They charged each person

\$1.00 membership dues which gave them a little money in their treasury to begin their adventure. The next step was to choose a play with a large cast so that a good percentage of the new members would get a chance to perform. They chose an old classic entitled, **The Night of January 16th**, written by Ayn Rand. This was a courtroom story based on a real life dreams of a young wife accused of killing her millionaire husband. Someone knew a teacher at Lakeshore High School, Robert Ulrich who would be willing to direct the show. (He, some years later became the superintendent of schools in the city of Troy.)

Now they were ready to move, but had no scenery or stage to perform on. They then made two brilliant moves. (**HISTORY continued on page 5**)

FEBRUARY SOCIAL EVENT

VALENTINE'S GATHERING

FEBRUARY 12TH, 6:00pm

GILBERT'S LODGE
HARPER AVE. Between
Vernier and 9 Mile Road

Come and join us for an evening of relaxing conversation and dinner with your friends celebrating Valentine's Day. Bring a Valentine's Card to share.

**DON'T FORGET
TO WEAR
YOUR RED!**



MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

The first memory that comes to mind is how accepting everyone was to help me when I was just starting out at the age of 16. I remember feeling very welcomed into the group and it made me extremely comfortable.

The amazing thing about community theatre is that everyone is there because

they love the theatre. Community theatre rarely pays and having the love for just doing the work to entertain family, friends, and strangers boded well with me. With the St. Clair Shores Players, there was no intimidation factor. Everyone was there to have fun, have a good time, make some new friends, but at the same time coming to rehearsal prepared to work.

We all worked as a team to move props, fix costumes, and run lines with each other. That's what a community is about and being The Players was a great way for me to gain experience by observing how others treated one another on and off the stage. I'll remember being a part of the group forever.

- Chris Kacpia

Membership

**MEMBERSHIP DUES
FOR THE 2009 -
2010 SEASON
SHOULD BE PAID IN
FULL BY THE
SEPTEMBER
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Now is the time to show your continued support for the SCS Players and renew your membership for the 2009—2010 season. Single memberships are only \$20.00 and families are \$30.00. Make

your check payable to "SCS Players" and mail it to Matthew Sheehy our

Membership Committee Chairman (see address at the end of this article.)

Here are a few things to remember about memberships:

Single memberships are for anyone 18 years of age and up.

Family memberships include you, your spouse (husband or wife) and your children. Family memberships **DO NOT** include grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and /or boyfriends/girlfriends.

Mail your 2009 - 2010 Membership dues check to:

**Matthew Sheehy
22521 Doremus
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080**



Friendly Family Restaurant Fundraiser

Another successful fundraiser!!!

This fundraiser was at the **Friendly Family Restaurant** on Saturday, January 23rd.

We managed to raise \$217; \$117 came in the form of donations from the big jug at the counter where we paid, and the \$100 came from the generous 10% from breakfast and lunch receipts of those that mentioned the SCS Players fundraiser... I would say that it was

a success. I was happy to see that so many of the members and their friends showed up to enjoy a great meal. Everyone came in at different times so I was able to visit with most of you and maybe you got a chance to meet the owners of the restaurant, Dave and Sue. Hopefully, you will come back and patronize the Friendly Family Restaurant. It was a "win win" situation for both the restaurant and the Players.

Speaking of the restaurant, we have been invited to fund raise there (the same way) any time we want...how generous is that?!!! We will set up another date soon (*we are looking at dates in March*). So, all in all, we had a great time, great food, and make some money; can't ask for more than that.

Let's do it again!!!!

**Sharon Kusch
SCS Players Treasurer**

A Few Words from the President



Hi,

Love is in the air...wait...Kathy's making dinner...Yup, that's love!

It's February and you know what that means! Time to get geared up for our Second Annual Valentines Get Together. Don't forget to bring a card to share! Last year we had a very good turn out and I'm hoping to see everyone there!

Meanwhile, I've got to get back to studying my lines for the show in April. That director guy is picky about knowing all that dialogue...

Scott Smith,
President

Visit our website:
<http://www.scsplayers.org>



Memories from the Past

Pat and I have been members of the Players since September 1970. With three children and another on the way, my involvement at that time was minimal. I later tried acting, but found set dressing, doing costumes and props, in other words backstage work, more fun. It was very satisfying to find that "special" item to make the set look "perfect" or as close to perfect as possible.

When the American Italian Cultural Center

Sold their building and the Players needed to move, we had to give away much of our furniture, props, and costumes. It just broke my heart to see those items leave because they represented memories of plays we had done and the people who had performed in them. A half century of being in existence, makes for many memories!

- Carol Sheehy

From The Director's Chair by Matthew Sheehy



Hello Everyone!

Since I last wrote you, the cast and crew of GUILTY CONSCIENCE has once again begun to rehearse with a view toward finally getting this play on stage and in front of an audience! Just quick background check... I first read the script for GUILTY CONSCIENCE back in 2005. At the time I knew I wanted to direct it, but not just yet. So I put it off until the Fall of the 2008—2009 season. At that time we began rehearsing even though we didn't have a stage locked down (we were still negotiating with South Lake, but had no reason to believe we

couldn't reach an agreement). We rehearsed this play to within 6 rehearsals of performing it, but at that point it became very clear that there would be no stage on which to perform it. So, we (the cast and crew) reluctantly put the show on the shelf. Over the next 15 months I asked each cast member at least once, "If we get a stage, will you come back?" the answer was always, "Yes."

Well, here we are 15 months later and they are all back! **Thank you!**

Now on to the health of the play... at this point we have 6 rehearsals under our belts and I have to say we are doing really well. It is truly amazing how much of this play has come back to

this fine bunch of actors (see **PHOTO PLAY** on page 7 for cast names and characters). If we continue as we are now we should be more than ready in April. *Keep up the great work!*

BACK STAGE PLEAD

I still need help back stage! Won't you consider helping make this one of the finest plays the Players have staged in their 50 year history? I need the following: Stage Manager, Lights, Sound, Costumes, Make-up. Interested in helping? *Please let me know (send email to mattsheehy@yahoo.com)!*

Highlights from the January General Membership Meeting

Sharon Kusch, Treasurer reported that the total amount of money in the checking account as of January 12th was \$2,207.91.

Matt Sheehy, Vice President reported that there is a total of 16 memberships. The membership cards are printed and will be distributed at the next General Membership Meeting. A couple of plays were submitted to the play reading committee for consideration. Rehearsals for *Guilty Conscience* will begin January 25th.

Kathy Smith, Publicity Chair reported that advertisements were ready to be sent to the newspapers, and is putting an article together to submit to the newspapers about

the upcoming play. Postcards are being made up regarding upcoming events and will be sent out. Another Open House will possibly take place in March, on a Saturday, at the St. Clair Shores Library.

Linda Neuwirth, Newsletter Editor reported that she is happy to receive memories for current and past members of the Players. If anyone would like to submit a memory can send it to: mamabear9876@yahoo.com.

Sharon Tasti, Social Chair organized the Valentines Get Together at Gilbert's Lodge on February 12th, at 6:00 pm.

Randa Angelo and Sharon Kusch organized the Friendly Family Restaurant and Bowling Fundraisers. Randa would like to thank the people who donated a prize basket to the bowling fundraiser. They are working on another Bowling Fundraiser for the future, along with Rachel Robinson.

Pat Sheehy is presenting a short skit for the workshop at the March 2nd General Membership Mtg.

History of the St. Clair Shores Players (continued)

First they approached the St. Clair Shores City Council and asked if they might use the council chambers to perform the play. The chambers were also where the Municipal Court held forth. It was a real courtroom with the Judge's station and Jury box.

You can imagine that there was some shock and even reluctance from some of the council members. The new building had just opened the year before in 1958. There was some concern that they might be setting a precedent if they allowed this and

other groups who may want to do the same.

In the final analysis, however, it wouldn't look very good on their part if they turned their backs on the fledgling civic organization. So they gave permission to use the chambers for a Friday and Saturday in late August, 1959.

The second brilliant move was to ask the mayor, Tom Welch, to take the role of the judge. Since most all politicians are hams at heart, he agreed without hesitation. It wasn't a difficult thing for him to do because

they typed the entire play out on legal size paper. So he could follow the play as it progressed and when it was his turn to say his lines, he could almost read them. It looked to the audience though that he was flipping through legal papers. By his taking on this role the Players got a lot more publicity. The whole endeavor proved to be a huge success. They played to a packed house each night. After paying all their incurred expenses, they cleared \$400. Enough to launch them on their way. Four hundred dollars in 1959 was like having more than \$2,000 today.

PHOTO PLAY

Fundraiser — January 23, 2010

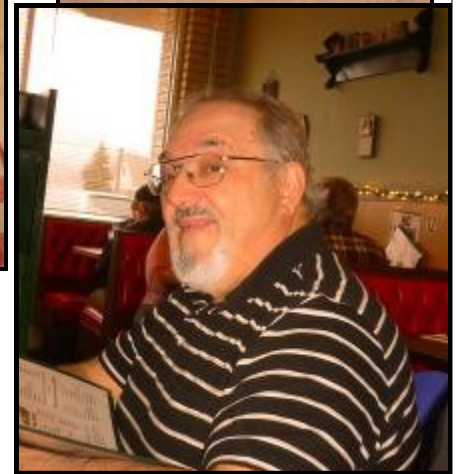


PHOTO PLAY

Fundraiser — January 23, 2010



PHOTO PLAY

The Cast of **GUILTY CONSCIENCE**



Mark Sulewski as Arthur Jamison



Karen Drum as Louise Jamison



Jenny Miller as Jackie Willis



Scott Smith as the Prosecutor

Newsletter Editor: Linda Neuwirth

St. Clair Shores Players
P.O. Box 141
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080-0141
United States of America

Email: scsplayersorg@yahoo.com



The St. Clair Shores Players

*A Celebration of Community
Theater Since 1959*

WWW.SCSPLAYERS.ORG

Mission Statement

The St. Clair Shores Players is a non-profit community theater group serving the city of St. Clair Shores and the surrounding environs. The SCS Players seek to provide a quality live theater experience to the community and also to provide an outlet for local talent in the production of these plays.

Membership to this group is open to anyone interested in furthering the purpose of the group (you do not need to be a citizen of the city of St. Clair Shores).

The SCS Players have, since the group formed in 1959, always held open casting calls for its productions. If you would like to try out for a play, or work behind the scenes assisting with props, set design and construction, costumes, etc. we would be pleased to have you as a member of our group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

02/12/10	SCS Players Social Event Valentines Gathering Gilbert's Lodge - 6:00 pm	04/23/10 04/24/10	Community Center - Doors: 7:30 pm Curtin: 8:00 pm
	Note: Wear RED (the More the better!) and bring A card to share with a Fellow member	04/24/10	Set Tear Down - Eastpointe Community Center - 10:00 pm
03/02/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm	05/04/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm
03/09/10	Board of Directors Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm	05/11/10	Board of Director's Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/05/10	Board of Directors Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm	06/01/10	General Membership Meeting - Jefferson Middle School - 7:30 pm
04/10/10	Set Construction - Eastpointe Community Center - 9:00 am - 1:00 p	06/08/10	Board of Director's Meeting Randa's House - 7:30 pm
04/16/10	Performance Guilty	06/13/10	End of Season Picnic - Spindler Park, Eastpointe 3:00 pm - ??
04/17/10	Conscience - Eastpointe		