

Acting is a form of confusion.
—Tallulah Bankhead

February 2012

The Newsletter
of the
Heritage Hunt
Little Theater



Play Time

Come play with us!

Calendar

February General Meeting

Thurs Feb 16—7pm—Craft Room
plus

our NINTH

Birthday Celebration

in Mountain View Room

following the General Meeting

Entertainment—Refreshments & More

March General Meeting

Thurs March 15—7pm—Craft Room



Inside

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Local Theaters..... | Pg 2 |
| Jan Minute Highlights ——— | Pg 2 |
| Play Review ——— | Pg 2 |
| Prez Sez ——— | Pg 3 |
| Welcome Joan ——— | Pg 3 |
| Email the Editor ——— | Pg 3 |
| The Spotlight ——— | Pg 4 |
| HHLT History ——— | Pg 4 |
| 2012 Board ——— | Pg 5 |
| Do You Know? ——— | Pg 5 |
| HHLT Website Info ——— | Pg 5 |
| Play Synopsis ——— | Pg 5 |

ATTENTION!!

A new feature has been added to *PlayTime*. You now can click on any **BLUE WORDS** to move you to other pages or websites.

Old Hams UPDATE

by Kathryn and Gene Schmiel,
Co-Directors

Preparations for HHLT's spring production is about to go into full swing later this month. *Old Hams*, a comedy written by Bob Rinfret, is the hilarious story of five aging actors who go on the offensive when threatened with the loss of their home to a cunning lawyer and his unscrupulous partner. When the actors stage a clever plan to outdo the lawyer and romance pops up unexpectedly, the action becomes fast and furious. We think it will make for a fun and enjoyable evening of comedy for all.

We were very pleased and grateful that so many HHLT members auditioned for the play, and we were only sorry that there weren't enough parts for everyone. Thanks to everyone who tried out!

In the end we assembled a talented cast, as follows: Iris Blume, *Dot Schuetze*; Rose Blume, *Nanette Ross*; Clara Voyant, *Midge Teahan*; Sarah Davis Cooper, *Lanna Krogman*; Louise Crockett, *Betty Hitchcock*; Eddie Chambers, *Jack Merelman*; Gus Hall, *Walt Meyer*; Ben McAllister Jr, *Chuck Breder*; David McAlister, *Roger del Rosario*; Radio Announcer, *Helen Esposito*.

We are, by the way, equally grateful that we have assembled a great production crew whose behind-the-scenes work will be essential to our success.

Rehearsals begin later this month, with performances scheduled for the third week in May (exact dates are still to be determined). More information will be coming as we get closer to the production. Thanks again to everyone. On with the show! ▲



Local Theaters: VI

by Bets Knepley

Wayside Theatre is the second oldest professional theatre in Virginia. The company was born in 1962 as the Maralarrick Players. A year later, Leo Bernstein, a DC-based financier and real estate developer, bought the theatre building and changed the name to Wayside Theatre. He hired Owen Phillips, then artistic director of the Barter Theatre as the Wayside's first artistic director and in 1963 the theatre began employing professional actors through Actors' Equity Association. In 1966, Wayside was incorporated as Wayside Foundation for the Arts, an independent non-profit organization with a Board of Directors from surrounding communities.

Wayside has grown from a 10-week summer stock company to a seven-month regional theatre with expanding potential. Some of its famous contributors include Stacey Keach, Peter Boyle, Susan Sarandon, Jill Eikenberry, Kathy Bates and John Lee Beatty.

The theatre space is a small and intimate venue. The building's past includes being used as a movie theatre, town hall, barbershop and jail. The 180-seat house has recently been renovated with plush new seating, a redecorated, lobby and state-of-the-art lighting grid (and new ladies room!).

HHLT donated \$100 to their emergency fund last year.

More information can be obtained on their very interesting and informative [website](#).▲

Treasurer Mary Glascock reported a balance of \$9,384.64.

Vice President Kathryn Schmiel asked for volunteers for the Play Reading Committee. There was a short discussion of the possible directions in which HHLT might move in reading, directing and learning.

Activities Chair Art Moscatello reported on HHLT's ninth birthday party.

Membership Chair Betty Hitchcock introduced new member Joan Patton.

Ed Prendergast, Member-at-Large, reported on the playwriting contest. Six submissions were received and evaluations have begun.

There was a lengthy discussion on the "No Friday Performance" rule. President Walt Meyer will approach Tim Woodruff to enlist his support. HHLT is prepared to offer to have dinners on Thursday and Friday nights in return for an easement of the Friday performance ban. Depending on Tim's response, Walt is prepared to present our case to the HH Board of Directors. A motion was made and seconded and ultimately approved that President Meyer carry out this approach.

M.J. Brickach has moved the dates of the fall production to October 21-25. ▲

Highlights of the January Minutes



Play Review: *Lend Me a Tenor*

by Bets Knepley

Lend Me a Tenor is a popular with little theaters because it appeals to a wide audience. With that title, I thought the play would be a musical comedy. But, no—it was a comedy, but not a musical. The play combines "low brow" farcical humor with a "high brow" art form (Verdi's *Don Carlo*). This Rube Goldberg machine of a play gives you a mixture of sex, sophistication and clowning that can't help but lead to a boisterous climax.

I usually love the plays that the Reston Players produce and this time it wasn't any different, but... The play was amusing and the actors were superb. So why the "but?" Well, sometimes the little things make a difference. Reston has got into the habit of starting late. A five minute delay is okay with me, but when 15 minutes approach, I feel like stamping my feet. And the 15 minute intermission stretched into a little over 20. This was a long play (the first act was about an hour), so if you add in the late start and long intermission, it becomes almost three hours. Too long for this play lover.

Next month, I'll review Wayside's *Smoke on the Mountain*, another play that's popular with little theater audiences. ▲

The Prez Sez...

Let Me Entertain You

That's what the members of Art Moscatello's troupe are hoping to do on February 16, as the HHLT celebrates its 9th birthday. After a brief, 30-minute meeting in the Craft Room, we will adjourn to the Mountain View Room for beverages, sweets and birthday cake. Should you wish to have something stronger than coffee or tea, the main bar will be open. The party runs from 7:30-9:30. In addition to the entertainment, there will be door prizes and time to just relax with friends. If you haven't confirmed that you're going to attend, please call Art **immediately**, 5354, or e-mail him arthurmoscatello@comcast.net.

Money Makes the World Go Around

Money also allows HHLT to function. As of this writing, there are several members who have not paid their dues. If you're in that group, please either bring your check or cash to the February 16th meeting/birthday party, or send you dues to Mary Glascock, 13405 Brogue Court. You may also contact her at 2999 or mlglascock@gmail.com. Your dues must be paid in order to attend the birthday party.

Another Opening, Another Show

Directors Kathryn and Gen Schmiel and Producer Jane Becker have cast *Old Hams*, our next play, currently scheduled for May 15-17 (see below). For more details and a listing of the star-studded cast, see the play article on page one.

Food Glorious Food

We took our case to allow us to purchase food on two performance nights, in order to have use of the Ballroom on Friday night, to the HH Board of Directors, on January 24th. The board was not opposed to the concept, but wanted the input of the Food and Beverage Committee. So, I'll be presenting our proposal to F&B on February 21. If they accept it, the play dates become May 16-18. More details at our brief meeting.

To Dream the Impossible Dream

That's what six members of the Heritage Hunt community are doing. They are the six aspiring playwrights who have submitted entries in hopes of winning our first play-writing contest. A five-person panel, using a 17 criteria scale, is independently evaluating the plays, and plans to submit a winner to the board at its March meeting. The winner will be announced on opening night of *Old Hams* and every night thereafter.

Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

That's what you should try to do with our newest members, Joan Patton, who was introduced at the last meeting, and Tom and Ginny Chapman. Membership Chair Betty Hitchcock may have two more new members waiting in the wings. Please make all of our newcomers feel welcome.

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye

Until next month's issue of *Play Time*...

Walt



Please welcome new member Joan Patton, a seven-year resident of HH. Joan states that she has little experience with little theater with the exception of playing the lead in a high school play, which was in French. She laughs that if she missed a line, few in the audience knew!!

Thanks to the Kathryn and Gene Schmiel and Betty Hitchcock for encouraging Joan to join. ▲



Email to the Editor

Last month I mentioned a new *PlayTime* section, **Letter to the Editor**. I should have said **Email to the Editor**. And what a response I got!!!! One email. Thank you, Denny. So I dare the rest of you—no double dare you to email bjknepley@comcast.net your opinions, suggestions, complaints, etc. Don't be a do-nothing member!! Thank you. ▲



The Spotlight Is on Lanna Krogman

by Bets Knepley

Lanna Cay Krogman grew up in Celina, a farming community in NW Ohio. Growing up, she showed beef cattle at 4H competitions in the Mercer County Fair. A theater scholarship to Otterbein University led her to Westerville, Ohio.

Lanna has always had a love for the theater, but, for various reasons, found it difficult to make that dream a 'fait accompli.' A palm reader once told her that the opportunity to fulfill that dream would present itself to her one day.

A friend of hers 're-booted' that opportunity by urging her to move to Heritage Hunt. After settling in here, she realized that her goal was within her reach—she joined the Heritage Hunt Little Theater, playing many different and exciting roles in six of our productions. She also was in the Prince William Little Theatre's *Inherit the Wind*.

Lanna has worked for Bell/AT&T for 39 years. While working in AT&T's Oakton location, she learned of a co-worker's problem—his wife needed a kidney transplant. At once, Lanna felt that this was her way to give back to the community. After undergoing many tests and sessions, she was found to be a good donor. In September 2010, she donated her left kidney to her co-worker's wife who was, coincidentally, named "Starlet!" ▲



A Brief History of HHLT

taken from our website

On January 23, 2003, Bets Knepley organized the first HHLT meeting with 41 residents in attendance. The bylaws, mission, board of directors, committees and play were chosen at this first meeting. So things were off to an enthusiastic start! Officers elected were: President, Bets Knepley; Vice President, John Gatt; Secretary, Pat Boggs; and Treasurer, Clare Keating.

Charter members are: Ed and Grace Baier; Jane Becker; Pat Boggs; Sal Buscema; Connie Chaszar; Gayle Chisholm; Richard Dahl; Joan DeBell; Claudia and Obie Dugan; Aileen Drennan; Ed Dufrane; Frank and Peggy Elim; Helen Esposito; John Gatt; Thelma Hample; Nan Hepp; Natalie June; Clare Keating; Lloyd King; Bets and Ed Knepley; Bob and Lynn Levvis; Connie Lloyd; Marie Loudon; Arlene Maroney; Dave and Jean Milbradt; Sandy Mills; Dick and Helen Myhre; Kathy Newell; Marie and Ron Phillips; Ellie and Bob Rewald; Nanette Ross; Cathy Schlupt; Joanne Smith; Steve Smith; Yvonne Stathis; Tom Sutton; Midge Teahan; Ana Van de Meulebroecke; Sue Wright and Julia Yablonski.

The first issue of our newsletter was published in April 2003. In June 2003, a Readers Theater was added as the Educational Arm of HHLT. It met twice a month. In May 2005, the Readers Theater became The Workshop, which met monthly. Bets Knepley coordinated both. The Workshop was abandoned in 2009 when member interest waned. In November 2004, a website was created for HHLT by webmaster Ed Knepley, followed by webmasters Rick Sullivan and Bets Knepley. In July 2006 the Traveling Theater Troupe (TTT) was organized by Ina Mayer. Using skits and music, small groups travel to nursing homes and senior citizen organizations—bringing entertainment and laughter to the audiences. In June 2007, Flick Fest (now Classic Movie Night) began at Joyce Mancini's home.

HHLT is and always has been a very social organization. Our events have included Pot-Luck picnics, Halloween parties, Christmas caroling, Sight & Bites and more. ▲

2012 HHLT BOD

President

Walt Meyer

Vice President

Kathryn Schmiel

Secretary

Sandy Mills

Treasurer

Mary Glascock

Activities

Art Moscatello

Membership

Betty Hitchcock

Member-at-Large

Ed Prendergast



HHLT's Website

by Bets Knepley

Have you visited our website recently? If not, I invite you to spend 10-15 minutes of your time to scan through it.

With the exception of all the past minutes, I have finally posted all the information and photos that I have. If you have any of the missing programs, photos or reviews, please think about loaning them to me, so that all members can enjoy them. Thank you.

Also, if you have any suggestions or corrections, etc, please email them to me at bjknepley@comcast.net

[Click here to go to the HHLT website.](#) ▲

Do You Know?

by Bets Knepley

Do you know where the expression “ham actor” originated? Below are two definitions from various sources.

Some actors prefer to think that the word derives from the old theatrical use of ham fat to remove blackface makeup—actors were thus called hamfatters or hams.

Another definition is ‘ham’ in the sense of one who overacts or outrageously overplays a scene—especially when his *intention* is to center all *attention* on himself to the exclusion of other players. In the days of blackface minstrel shows, a popular song, *The Hamfat Man*, clearly referred to second-rate actors of the type that usually appeared in minstrels.

Have you another definition to add? ▲

A Play Synopsis: *Dividing the Estate*

by Katherine Schmiel, Vice President

This play has been read & approved by the HHLT Play Review Committee.

Horton Foote, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter, is the author of *Dividing the Estate*, a drama in two acts that chronicles the trials and conflicts of a Texas family facing the severe financial realities of the late 20th century. The entire play takes place in the parlor of the Gordon family’s ancestral home, once the center of a vast and prosperous farm, which is now in the throes of a financial crisis.

The characters (nine women and four men) include three generations of the Gordon family and possess a wide-ranging collection of human foibles which they display with poignancy, savagery and humor. Stella, the matriarch of the family, believes that the only way to economize is to “grow your own vegetables, kill your own hogs, have a cow and calves and chickens.” Stella’s daughter Lucille, who lives with her mother, tries to be the voice of reason, saying, “Mama—be sensible. We’re living in the middle of the town on the highway.” Lucille’s unemployed, alcoholic brother Lewis, also living with his mother, continually borrows against his share of the estate, saying that it’s “my money.” Mary Jo, the third of Stella’s children, facing financial ruin due to her husband’s disastrous investments, has also borrowed heavily against her inheritance. Lucille’s son who lives at the farm too and is simply referred to as Son, tries to manage the finances and fend off his aunt and uncle’s pressure to “divide the estate,” which Stella has sworn will never happen in her lifetime.

Other characters include Mary Jo’s husband Bob and her two flighty daughters, Son’s schoolteacher fiancée, Lewis’s lady friend, and three long time servants who bring their own quirky personalities and pointed observations to the drama.

Foote was described by the *New York Times* as “one of the country’s foremost storytellers” who “depicted the way ordinary people shouldered the ordinary burdens of life.” *Dividing the Estate* is a drama of universal appeal, treating generational, marital and financial conflicts with sympathy, humor, and a sensitivity to the human condition. The climax of the play illustrates sadness, irony, and finally the resilience of the family. It is a play well-worth reading.▲

Newsletter is edited & published
by Bets Knepley
[HHLT Website](#)