

HERITAGE HUNT LITTLE THEATER PLAY TIME

May 2017

www.hhlittletheater.org

Dates to Remember

**May 18—HHLT General Meeting,
6:15, Mountain View Room
(earlier than usual due to the
Beach Boys concert)**

**May 21—Off Site Excursion to
“The Secret Garden,” Fauquier
Community Theater, 2 p.m.**

Our May meeting will be at 6:15 (earlier than usual) to allow members to go to the Beach Boys Concert. Our business meeting will be short and include a wrap up of the spring production “The Dixie Swim Club.” An announcement of the fall production will be made. Following that there will be a short beach trivia game to get us all in the mood for the Beach Boys. Hope to see you there!



Our Prez Sez



The theater masks are indeed appropriate for this month’s comments. We are sad for the passing of HHLT member Janet Taggart and our prayers are with Tom.

At the same time we are pleased with the fabulous success of our latest production, *The Dixie Swim Club*. Congratulations to everyone who assisted in this excellent endeavor.

Bill Harrison

Contents

Our Prez Sez

Spring Production Wrap Up

Remembering Janet Taggart

Off-Site Excursions

TTT News

Playwright of the Month

April Minutes

Remembering Janet Taggart



Spring Production Wrap Up

Everyone agrees: "The Dixie Swim Club" was a **SPLASHING** success! Great crowds! Even greater laughter! Those gals sure knew how to sling the barbs, while at the same time loving each other for over 50 years. Adding to the Outer Banks atmosphere was a delicious barbeque, beach decor, music, costumes, and set decorations. So many members worked on the production they are too numerous to name, but here's a great, big shout out to everyone who sold tickets, greeted, loaned us decorations, worked many hours on the set, memorized lines, directed, managed props, read lines, substituted for absent cast, managed sound and lights, and many, many more. **AND** finally tremendous appreciation and gratitude to all our neighbors, friends, and family who supported our production. Thanks a million!



The Board and membership of Little Theater extend our deepest condolences to HHLT member Tom Taggart on the passing of his wife Janet who was also a member of Little Theater. Janet supported Tom in all his stage roles and came to all our plays. She and Tom had planned to co-direct the fall production. We are very grateful for her support and contribution to our club. We will miss her and send our sympathy to Tom and his family.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Jane Becker and her family at the loss of her husband Don. Jane is an original member of HHLT. She has worked on over 20 productions, served as a board member, and is an invaluable member of HHLT. We send her our condolences

OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS



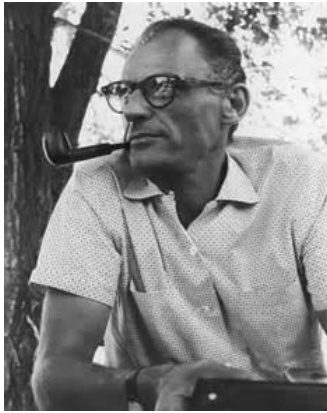
This month's Off-Site Excursion will be on Sunday, May 21, to the matinee of *The Secret Garden*, Fauquier Community Theater's spring musical. It tells the classic story of homeless orphan Mary Lennox who is sent to live with her very depressed uncle after her parents die of cholera. Very strange things seem to be happening in the old house on the moors: cries in the night, sly maneuverings by the doctor, a hidden child. All this is set to hauntingly beautiful music. If you want to come, just buy your ticket (on line fctstage.org or 540-349-8760). Dinner will be afterward at Bertucci's. RSVP to Georgiana (georgiana@ide123.com) for dinner reservations. Hope to see you there!



The Traveling Theater Troupe has been busy in the last month visiting nearby assisted living facilities and skilled health care centers with their entertaining and stimulating shows. The programs consist of music, sing-a-longs, jokes, dramatic and historical monologues designed to enrich and enliven the residents who attend. Often the content brings back memories of past times and places. Future visits will be to Tribute on May 23 and to Birmingham Green on June 13. Contact Ina Mayer (1906) if you would like to participate.



"The classic masks of Comedy and Tragedy, or as they're now known, emoticons."



Playwright of the Month: Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller was born in Harlem, New York on

October 17, 1915 to an immigrant family of Polish and Jewish descent. His father, Isidore, owned a successful coat manufacturing business, and his mother, Augusta, to whom he was closer, was an educator and an avid reader of novels.

The affluent Miller family lost almost everything in the Wall Street Crash of 1929, and had to move from Manhattan to Flatbush, Brooklyn. After graduating high school, Miller worked a few odd jobs to save enough money to attend the University of Michigan. While in college, he wrote for the student paper and completed his first play, *No Villain*, for which he won the school's Avery Hopwood Award. He also took courses with playwright and professor Kenneth Rowe. Inspired by Rowe's approach, Miller moved back East to begin his career as a playwright.

Miller's career got off to a rocky start. His 1944 Broadway debut, *The Man Who Had All the Luck*, garnered a fate that was the antithesis of its title, closing after just four performances with a stack of woeful reviews. *Focus*, Miller's novel about anti-Semitism, was published a year later. His next play *All My Sons* was a hit in 1947, running for almost a full year on Broadway and earning Miller his first Tony Award for Best Author.

Working in a small studio that he built in Roxbury, Connecticut, Miller wrote the first act of *Death of Salesman* in less than a day. The play, directed by [Elia Kazan](#), opened on

February 10, 1949 at the Morosco Theatre, and was adored by nearly everyone, becoming an iconic stage work.

Salesman won Miller the highest accolades in the theater world: the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the Tony for Best Play. (The work, in fact, swept all of the six Tony categories in which it was nominated, including for Best Direction and Best Author.) Later in 1956, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) refused to renew Miller's passport, and called him to appear before the committee. His 1953 play, the Tony Award-winning *The Crucible*, a dramatization of the Salem witch trials of 1692 and an allegory about [McCarthyism](#), was believed to be one of the reasons why Miller came under the committee's scrutiny. Miller refused to comply with the committee's demands to "out" people who had been active in certain political activities and was thus cited in contempt of Congress. Miller's other plays include *A View From the Bridge* (1955), *Incident at Vichy* (1964), *The Price* (1968), *The Creation of the World and Other Business* (1972), *The American Clock* (1980) and *Broken Glass* (1994). Arthur Miller died on February 10, 2005, which happened to be the 56th anniversary of *Death of a Salesman*'s Broadway debut. Surrounded by family and friends, the legendary playwright died of heart failure, at his home in Roxbury, Connecticut. He was 89 years old.

Heritage Hunt Little Theater

General Meeting April 20, 2017

President Bill Harrison called the meeting to order at 7PM. 30 members were present. Bill thanked everyone for coming to honor Chuck Breder and take a walk down memory lane.

Vice-President's Report: Bob Bowman invited everyone to join the set construction crew at 7 AM, Sat. April 29 to get the set on stage in the Ball Room. He announced Tom and Janet Taggart as Director's of the Fall play which is set for Oct. 17, 18 and 19. Bob also asked members to consider taking a position on the Little Theater Board for 2018. If interested, please get in touch with Bob and become more involved.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the March 18, 2017 General Meeting were displayed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported an Income \$80 of March and Expenses of \$285.71. The Balance as of March 1, 2017 is \$ 10,108.

Membership Report: Gene Schmiel introduced Mark Silverman as a new member tonight.

At-Large Report: Ina Mayer reported that the TTT is presenting programs on May 3 and May 23. If you are interested in being a member of this group, please contact Ina.

Activities Report: Val Bowman announced that the May meeting would be earlier than usual due to a conflict with the Concert Series. More information will follow. The June meeting will be a One Act Play. July's meeting will be a presentation by the TTT.

Communications Report: Kathryn Schmiel

noted that Bob Bowman won the April brainteaser.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: There was no New Business.

Bill adjourned the business meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Turner, Secretary

