



THE Tree of Life Theatre Troupe NEWSLETTER

She is a Tree of Life to those who embrace her, those who lay hold of her will be blessed. ~ Proverbs 3:17-19

A PRODUCERS VIEW

By Michele Field

With the *Miracle Worker* behind us, I am often asked, "How'd it go?" It's a question I love to answer! Although, I'm sure the person inquiring intends for me to give them an encapsulated tale of the performances, that is not what I delight the most in sharing. Oh yes, I love to tell them of your talents as a group so I usually begin my answer with the predictable tales of on stage antics! You know, the times during the fight scene when Helen nearly fell over the table onto her head or when there was no water in the cup to throw on her, so Annie pelted her with scrambled eggs. There was also the time during pick-up rehearsal when James nearly plummeted to his death out the window & who can forget the griping account of Helen's childhood experience as detailed in the unveiling of her "conscience"? No, there is much talent to expound upon to allow the inquirer a detailed account of our cast & crew's abilities on stage, but that is not what impressed me the most! It was the character of the individuals that when brought together, made the experience so memorable!

I know I briefly encouraged you all on your character during a rehearsal, but some things in life are important enough to repeat over again! You see, I've never done anything like producing before! I was never involved in theater in school, so there is much about putting on a show that I have never been exposed to before. There was a lot for me to learn, but I learned more about the abilities of our young people to make choices that glorify God than I ever anticipated, and that's what I enjoy sharing

the most! Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those stuffy old ladies who think all teens are lazy & disrespectful! But I think I had a preconceived notion that most young people don't look far beyond themselves, and by your example you proved my concepts correct!

Confused? Don't be. You see, I watched you all very closely, & then I began watching other teens & kids I encountered in the world more closely as well. I was amazed at the difference! None of you were average! You all displayed great skill in supporting & encouraging one another, even when it meant you had to go out of your way to be of help! There were people doing each other's hair & make-up, there were brothers encouraging brothers that make-up was okay (well, at least during the play), there were always willing hands to help with costume changes, props were hunted down as a team, older ones accepted the critiques of the younger ones & vice versa, and everywhere, laughter & smiles were shared! And it wasn't just the young folks, it was our older troupe members as well! Everyone, of every age group worked together not just on making a fabulous production, but on building up one another as scripture tells us to do! There were no age barriers, there were no cliques, and there were no prejudices to interfere in your ability to work together. Did we sometimes get on each other's nerves? Yes, we are all human, but it wasn't long before the moment was put behind us & we pressed on toward our goal!

You see, I saw in all of you,

Tree of Life
Theatre Troupe, Inc.
P. O. Box 1425
Eldersburg, MD 21784
geocities.com/TreeofLifeTroupe

June, 2005

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Local ToL Sightings | 2 |
| Board Meetings | 2 |
| May I Introduce Myself | 3 |
| Storage | 3 |
| Theatre Camp Presents | 4 |
| Miracle Worker | 4 |
| No Summer Vacation | 5 |
| Membership Update | 6 |
| "Paws" | 6 |
| ToL Shirts | 7 |

the ability to put your faith in your daily walk! How beautiful is a path that is walked in the light! Unfortunately many teens, adults, & even children walk in a world of darkness. And how sad it is that too many of us put our faith under a bushel, that no one may see the light. I won't be so bold to say that everyone who walks into Tree of Life is a believer of the Lord Jesus Christ, only God can see the heart, but I encourage each one of you to examine your relationship with God. If your relationship is a personal one, continue to seek Him daily in all you do! And remember, "Let your light so shine upon men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt 5:16) "Kudos!" to a job well done!

In His Love,
Ms. Michele

P.S. I'm still finding post-it notes!



LOCAL ToL SIGHTINGS

(or: THE NUT DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE)

We try our best to keep track of ToL actors to see what other productions they are appearing in. We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our members and anyone who has appeared on the Tree of Life stage. Well, lets see who our spies have spotted in recent productions.

A distinguished ToL veteran appeared on the Century High stage in April. Michael Grapes had a major role in *The Opening Knights* production of Guys and Dolls.

As we move east on Liberty Road, we discovered that Liberty High was presenting Into the Woods. Appearing on their creative set was some familiar faces such as Ashley Mellinger, Steve Bearman, Matt May, Shannon Huber, Brittany Crowl, Becca Sherwood and Kristin Nemecek. And somewhere backstage was John Davenport directing traffic.

Moving eastward again, we come to McDonough High where we spotted Molly Hayeslip in the cast of Footloose. We'll keep Molly's singing and dancin in mind when we get around to doing a musical.

Continuing eastward, we arrive at Mount Saint Joe. The Mount presented an excellent rendition of My Fair Lady. Many ToL'ers attended and were simply amazed by the performance of Erica George as Eliza Doolittle. ToL knew of her acting talents but we were missing out on her singing talent. The same goes for her sister Allison, who also joined her in the cast. Maybe we'll do that musical sooner than later.

We apologize if we left anyone out of the Tree sightings. Please notify us of your performances - our spies can't be everywhere.

"THE BOARD" Meetings Stop On By

Please join the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings. The meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The location alternates between Faith Lutheran Church in Eldersburg and Calvary United Methodist Church in Mt. Airy. Your input, questions, and concerns are welcome at any meeting. At these meetings the Board discusses future plans for ToL, the progress of the current production, and the ToL budget.

The Board is need of someone to assist in the duties of Treasurer. This would consist of making deposits, collecting receipts, etc. Let a Board member know if you can assist.

Our next meetings will be on:

JULY 6th, 7:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

AUGUST 1st, 7:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

SEPTEMBER 5th, 7:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

The members of the 2005 Board and their contact information:

President Joe Shinault
410-549-2471 shinault@wans.net

Vice President Lorraine Markosky
410-795-4175 lmarkosky@aol.com

Vice President Michael Saltzman
410-531-8058 michael.saltzman@ssa.gov

Treasurer Margaret Browning
410-875-5416 mebrowning@adelphia.net

Artistic Director Clydia Koch
301-829-2836 clydiakoch@aol.com

Recording Secretary Cathy Klimovitz
410-552-0481 mcklim@aol.com

Admin. Secretary Betty Enselein
410-795-8843 enselein@aol.com

Ex-Officio Todd Wells
410-795-8843 wellste@erols.com

May I Introduce Myself...

Hi. My name is Joe.

A while back I drove my daughter to an audition for *Anne of Green Gables*; was asked by Clydia to help run the video camera; then was offered a small part onstage; then became a Stage Manager; then Producer of *Little Women*; then became a VP; then had larger parts as a Lion and TweedleDum. And what has made it so enjoyable is seeing the passion of theatre and the love of God shared by the members. In addition, making the experience even more worthwhile has been sharing it my daughter, Jamie, who herself has developed many lasting friendships and experiences. It is very rewarding to see the fellowship and activities that now occur outside of the Troupe as well.

I now have the honor of being the new president of Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc. During my involvement with the Troupe over the past four years, I have seen the leaps and bounds the Troupe has taken under the guidance of Todd Wells. Lucky for me and all of us, Todd still remains on the Board to offer his guidance and talents.

I want to thank everyone for sharing their confidence in me and special thanks to the other new Board members who are taking this new journey with me. Betty, Lorraine, Michael and the other Board members have been very dedicated over the past few months in making sure that the momentum of the Troupe continues to grow and move forward. It has been a very active year as we prepared a spring production, Summer Camp and summer production.

Scott Fairley and Michele Field just spearheaded a successful production of *The Miracle Worker*. This dramatic presentation truly showcased the fine dramatic talent that this troupe is privileged have on its stage. This Troupe has truly been blessed with a wonderful group of dedicated parents and kids who have addressed many different challenges. With each production, Tree of Life becomes a more noticed and respected name within the community.

With our continued growth, we hope to perform in other venues or maybe join with other theater companies in producing a play, and maybe take a step toward presenting a musical in the near future. Our Summer Theatre Camp is our first step into a new venture and we hope the Troupes opportunities will grow upon its success. We also continue to upgrade and add to our equipment such as lighting, storage and stage pieces.

The Board and I are not the reasons this troupe continues to thrive, produce quality theatre and donate to local causes. This troupe only continues to exist due to the talents and dedication from those who step forward to assist in many ways; whether it is something as small as selling an ad or sewing a costume, to a more involved task of directing, producing, or designing and building a set. And we are always looking for suggestions and ideas for many different aspects of the troupe; productions, activities, fundraisers, publicity, charities, etc. So feel free to contact us with any input or attend a monthly Board meeting to offer suggestions and discuss our future plans.

The Tree of Life Theatre Troupe is currently the only group in the area that provides an arena for the public (of all ages) to perform and participate in the theatre arts. And we do it by producing shows and creating an atmosphere that glorifies God. We are able to share our proceeds within the community and are blessed in many ways. If you are involved, we thank you deeply (and spread the word). If you are not, come see what you are missing.

Joe Shinault

Where Can We Put All This Stuff

New lighting equipment was recently purchased, just in time for *The Miracle Worker*. Four new lights and a switch box replaced lighting that the troupe had been borrowing from The Calvary Players. We still own some older lighting that is fading fast, that we would like to replace in the future. Our wish list also includes a new lighting control panel.

Because our lighting is in need of proper storage, and due to new pieces that were recently built, our storage trailer is begin to bulge at the seams. It is truly amazing that we are able to continue to store new items from each new production. But the time has come that we need to increase the storage space. We have been looking to purchase a larger trailer to replace our original 14 footer. If you know of any trailers or anyone that could assist us in our search, please let us know. We definitely would like to upgrade sooner than later.

ToL Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation

The Miracle Worker just completed a successful run in May and now the Troupe is about to begin its first Theatre Camp in June. And by the end of June, auditions will be completed and rehearsals will commence in July for our Summer production in August. Obviously it is going to be a busy summer for Tree of Life.

Tony Cimino has returned to the Troupe after last co-directing *Anne of Avonlea* in early 2004. Tony will be the guiding force behind all of the summer activity. Tony is instructing the camp and then will go on to direct the summer production. He has many interesting activities and instructions planned for the camp and is already preparing his production team for our next performance in August.

When ToL presented *Cheaper by the Dozen* in the late nineties, Tony appeared onstage with the Troupe for the last time before moving onto high school. Now, Tony is in college and returns to direct the Troupes new presentation of *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Assisting Tony as Producer, will be Clydia Koch who has worked on several productions with Tony, most recently *The Calvary Players Godspell*.

A typical ToL production usually includes about 10 weeks of rehearsal. Since 'Cheaper' will be presented before school resumes, it will have a very aggressive rehearsal schedule of less than six weeks. Please keep that in mind if you are considering auditioning. A schedule will be available at auditions for you to review before you decide to make a full commitment to the show. All conflicts to the schedule (vacation, sports, jobs, etc.) must be stated on the audition forms. Due to time constraints, rehearsal time must be a priority to those involved in order to ensure a successful show.

There will be three auditions. The first is only open to ToL members and those attending Theatre Camp. If you or someone you want to attend are not a member, you may join that night prior to rehearsals beginning. Forms may be found at the ToL website or will be available at rehearsal. The "Members-only" rehearsal will be on Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30 at Faith Lutheran Church.

The other two auditions are open to the general public also and will be on Sunday, June 26, 1pm and Wednesday, June 29 at 6:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church.

Anyone who will be auditioning is encouraged to bring a one minute monologue, but it is not required.

Also, if acting is not your cup of tea, we will need assistance in many other areas of the production. If you are interested in stage crew, lighting, sound, make-up, set construction, etc., please contact us or come to an audition and let us know in person.

We hope to see you soon, if not at auditions, then mark your calendar for August to come check out *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

AUDITIONS

Roles are available for child through adult.
All auditions at Faith Lutheran Church.
A prepared one minute monologue is encouraged,
but not required.

MEMBERS ONLY AUDITION

June 22nd, Wednesday, 6:30pm
(You can become a member that day by bringing dues and completing application. See website for details)

OPEN AUDITIONS- All welcome!

June 26th, Sunday, 1pm

June 29th, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Rehearsals take place over six weeks on every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. A detailed schedule will be available at auditions. It is very important for all cast members to dedicate themselves to attending required rehearsals. Prior commitments must be stated at auditions and all other absences must be kept to a bare minimum. Please carefully consider all of your summer activities before auditioning .

PERFORMANCE DATES

The shows are presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday over two weekends.
All shows begin at 8pm

August 11, 12, 13

August 18, 19, 20

Membership Update

The Tree of Life Theatre Troupe currently has thirty-one families and/or individuals registered as members. Do you know someone who is interested in renewing their membership and has not done so? Have them contact Lorraine Markosky at 410-795-4175 to once again become a current member. Or complete the form below or go to our website. Of course, we always welcome new members.

Remember a membership allows you entrance to members-only auditions, as well as no charge for one script per production, if you receive a role (Two scripts per family will be given to family members.). You will also have an early opportunity to register for any Troupe Theatre Camps.

Our mailing list is growing as our organization continues to hold the reputation of presenting top quality, family productions. We currently mail information about our troupe and productions to 249 households. Give yourself a pat on the back for being such an outstanding group !

How can I be involved?

Lots of ways! For starters, you can become a member of the troupe. Individual memberships are \$15; family memberships are \$30. Membership is not required for participation in a production, but it helps the troupe for planning purposes, to better keep track of available talents and abilities.

What is the purpose of the membership dues?

Membership dues are used to cover the administrative costs of operating the troupe. They pay for such things as the Post Office box, storage, postage, web page, scripts and printing. At some point we hope to have enough members to support additional services and capabilities.

I've never done this sort of thing before; what could I possibly contribute?

In more ways than you can imagine. In addition to on-stage talent, we can always use people to help with costumes, make-up, props, set design, construction, publicity and the many other aspects of a successful production, There is also a Strong need for leadership talent to work on directing, producing and the Board of Directors. The only real requirement is a willingness to help. Many of the people who assisted with our recent productions were involved in community theatre for the first time.

Are there any other benefits to my membership (or our family membership)?

Yes. We produce a newsletter on a semi-annual basis. We offer a 'members only' audition to give members first crack at the roles. Cast with speaking parts who have an individual membership will receive a script at no cost (family memberships receive two). Additionally, members will have an early opportunity to register for any Troupe Theatre Camps.

Okay, I'm convinced; what do I need to do to join?

It's simple. Fill out the form below and mail to: *Tree of Life Membership, P.O. Box 1425, Sykesville, MD 21784*

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Membership Renewal: _____ New Membership: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City/ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Type (Check one): Individual (\$15) _____ Family (\$30) _____

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Troupe Takes "Paws" for Local Cause

By Cathy Klimovitz

As always, *Tree of Life Theatre Troupe* continues with its aim to produce plays in a way that will glorify God and reveal His love for others. We also strive to honor God by giving a portion of each production's proceeds to a worthy local cause. We were happy to choose *4 Pawed Freedom 4H Club* as our sponsored charity for our most recent production, *The Miracle Worker*.

4 Pawed Freedom is an organization that prepares Seeing Eye puppies for formal training. This Westminster-based group was founded in 1992 by 4-H club member, Stefanie Buckler. Puppies are received from *The Seeing Eye*, a dog guide school based in Morristown, New Jersey. Puppies arrive in the homes of volunteers when they are about eight weeks old. Sponsor families are responsible for teaching basic commands as well as house breaking and manners. Puppies learn to stay with one family member while he eats, sleeps, and participates in various activities. When the puppies are about four months old, they can begin to accompany their sponsors to public places similar to those they will encounter as working Seeing Eye dogs. These trips to schools, museums, parks, stores, libraries and on buses and trains help puppies become accustomed to new people, places, and things. Participants attend monthly puppy club meetings where they receive further training and advice on raising these special animals. When the puppies are about 18 months old, they are returned to *The Seeing Eye* for formal guide dog training.

The Miracle Worker cast members Sarah Hellman, Sierra Field, and Savannah Field joined *Tree of Life Theatre Troupe* president Joe Shinault in presenting a check in the amount of \$317 to *4 Pawed Freedom* on Monday June 6th at the troupe's monthly board meeting. Accompanied by Kirch, their one-year old golden lab guide dog in training, club president Kris Buckler and co-leader Bob Buckler were pleased to accept the donation and thanked the troupe for its generosity.

For information on how you can become involved in this worthwhile organization, contact club leader Larie Buckler at 410-876-7781 or e-mail: 4pawedfreedom@adelphia.net

Tree of Life Theatre Troupe is always looking for suggestions for organizations in need of donations. Contact any board member with ideas.

OFFICIAL LOGO SHIRTS!

The Official Tree of Life Theatre Troupe shirts have been a great success since being introduced last year. The shirts are being offered to members, cast, crew, families and everyone who would like to support the Troupe. A variety of apparel with the brand new official TOL logos is available to be purchased.

We are offering Golf Shirts with embroidered logos, and Sweatshirts and Tee-Shirts with either the embroidered logo or a large white printed logo. Most shirts are offered in Black, Navy Blue or Maroon.

Complete the bottom form and submit it with payment to ToL. All orders will be available for pickup at rehearsals in August. Some items may be already in-stock and available sooner.

NAME _____

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

| Shirt Description | Size (circle one) | Color (circle one) | Price Each | Embroidery | Screen Print | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Short Sleeve Golf Shirt | ADULT | S M L XL 2X | Black Blue Maroon | \$18 | included | N/A |
| | CHILD | S M L | Blue ONLY | \$16 | included | N/A |
| Crewneck Sweatshirt | ADULT | S M L XL 2X | Black Blue Maroon | \$12 | + \$3 | included |
| | CHILD | S M L | Black Blue Maroon | \$11 | + \$3 | included |
| Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt | ADULT | S M L XL 2X | Black Blue Maroon | \$17 | + \$3 | included |
| | CHILD | S M L | Black Blue | \$15 | + \$3 | included |
| Short Sleeve Tee-Shirt | ADULT | S M L XL 2X | Black Blue Maroon | \$8 | + \$3 | included |
| | CHILD | S M L | Black Blue Maroon | \$7 | + \$3 | included |

TOTAL (tax included)

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|--|



Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.

P.O. Box 1425

Eldersburg, MD 21784