

# NEWS & CUES

a publication for and about the players guild of dearborn

Anna Dewey, Editor

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## two by two A MUSICAL

"One of Rodgers' finest musicals...a show for anyone...rich in comedy, full of melody and that rare ingredient: heart." This quote was written by the Associated Press in a review of the 2002 revival that was mounted by actor Jason Alexander. The *New York Daily News* wrote, "A musical to be loved, to be cherished...it moved me profoundly...beguiling melodies...absorbing libretto...who wants a conventional song-and-dance show with shows such as this around?"

All but ignored when it debuted in 1970, and starring Danny Kaye in a triumphant return to Broadway after a 30-year absence, *Two by Two* deserves wider attention. The musical, one of composer Richard Rodgers' last, is the opening show of the Guild's 89th season.

Based on a mid-'50s play by Clifford Odets, *Two by Two* recasts the Biblical story of Noah and his family before, during and directly following the Flood. Noah and his wife, Esther, have three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem and Ham are married to the shrewish Leah and gentle Rachel, respectively; Japheth is, to the dismay of his parents, single.

As the play opens, Noah--much to his surprise--is visited by God, who orders him to build an ark and load it with his family and animals, "two by two." This order puts Japheth at risk, unless he can find a wife...and fast.

It seems that the building of the ark was only the first of Noah's many daunting challenges in a journey that wasn't always smooth sailing. By turns inspirational and hilarious, the musical allows us to discover that being chosen by God for great things does not necessarily simplify the daily demands made of a father and husband. It's good fun from *The Good Book*, and, when the land has dried, man and beast alike are invited to go forth and prosper in a bright New World.

## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Thank you to all the members, governors and committees who could lend a hand for our annual Clean-Up Weekend. The toilets are especially sparkling. Many hands do make light work and we appreciate the time you contribute to the Guild. We are ready for Opening Night and a fantastic season ahead!

*("Two by Two" continued)*

The show's witty book is by Peter Stone, who also wrote *1776*. Lyrics are by Martin Charnin, who would later supply the words for *Annie*. Stone uses the device of his hero chatting with God that had worked so well in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

In its original production, *Two by Two* captured the turmoil of its era with fresh-voiced commentary on the ecology, the Generation Gap and mankind's relationship to God. Even as our world challenges have changed over the decades, the essence of *Two by Two* is as profound as ever – "timely and relevant," as Jason Alexander says. "I've got a proposition that I know you will acclaim," sings Noah to the Lord at the end: "You don't destroy the world again; we don't forget your name." In these complicated times, the messages of survival, determination, and the importance of family that are at the core of this full-hearted musical still resonate, as true and timeless as ever.

Our talented cast for *Two by Two* is a great mix of veteran and new faces. Playing Noah for the tenth time in the last 40 years is our past president, **Mike Moseley**. Mike first played Noah as a senior in high school in the fall of 1976, and in this production is reunited with veteran director **Mary Jane (MJ) Town**, who was his drama teacher at Cabrini High School. This show is MJ's first directorial gig at the Guild, having acted on our stage in earlier productions of *The Rainmaker* and *Company*. Also reunited with Mike is **Sue Delosier**, who is playing Noah's wife, Esther. Mike and Sue played Noah and Esther 28 years ago in the Huron Civic Theater production. Sue has graced downriver stages for years, and was last seen at PGD in our production of *Deathtrap*.



Pictured above:  
Tom Varitek (Ham), Julie Ballantyne Brown (Leah),  
Brian Townsend (Shem), Mike Moseley (Noah)

*Photos courtesy of Diane Kaplan*

Pictured below:  
Mark Wagner (Japheth) and  
Kathleen Duffy (Rachel)





Leah Paige Cooley (Goldie), Tom Varitek (Ham), Julie Ballantyne Brown (Leah), Brian Townsend (Shem), Kathleen Duffy (Rachel), Mark Wagner (Japheth), Mike Moseley (Noah), Sue Delosier (Esther).

*("Two by Two" continued from page 2)*

One of the great strengths of *Two by Two* is the ensemble nature of the cast, and our cast is filled with amazing talent. The phenomenally talented veteran actor/director/writer **Brian Townsend** is playing Noah's eldest son, Shem. **Tom Varitek**, who last season was seen as Captain Keller in *The Miracle Worker* after his award-winning turn as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is playing Noah's middle son, Ham. And playing Noah's youngest son, the rebellious Japheth, is talented Guild newcomer **Mark Wagner**. Mark joined the Guild last year when he was in *Seussical*. **Julie Ballantyne Brown** gets to show us a new side after playing the sweet Miss Maudie in *...Mockingbird*, as she gleefully steps into the role of Shem's shrewish wife, Leah. Rachel, the long suffering wife of Ham, is played by the brilliant **Kathleen Duffy**, who has graced the Guild's stage the last two seasons as Betty Haynes in *White Christmas* and the delightful Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific*. And returning to the Guild stage, in a role that she has wanted to play for years, is the talented **Leah Paige Cooley** as Goldie, the girl from the Golden Temple (a role that was originated on Broadway by Madelyn Kahn). We are excited that Leah has rejoined the Guild for this production.

With a cast of this caliber directed by the talented team of Mary Jane Town and seasoned Musical Director **Richard Alder, Jr.** (who is also returning to the Guild after several years) and a gifted new choreographer **Emma Garber**, who has choreographed the last two Guildlings high school productions...there is no way you want to miss this exciting opening to our season.

*Two by Two* is one of those gems of the musical theater that you don't find very often, but when you have the opportunity to see it in a production of this caliber, you add it to the list of shows that you are glad you were able to see at the Players Guild of Dearborn! Get your tickets now and bring your friends!





### OUR MISSION

It shall be the purpose of the Guild to promote and foster community interest in good drama and all its forms; through group endeavors in the training of persons interested in theatrical arts — acting, directing, play production, scenery and costume design, and playwriting in apprentice workshops, youth productions, and actual presentation of plays by novices and experienced persons.

### ***YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!***

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Kim Donovan	Sept. 2
Sally Goodman	Sept. 4
Loretta Bullock	Sept. 12
Julie Sparrow	Sept. 14
Meredith Ferry	Sept. 15
Sydnee Dombrowski	Sept. 19
Jeff Bartos	Sept. 24
Maggie Kanclerz	Sept. 25

#### **OCTOBER**

Marc Walentowicz	Oct. 7
Corinne Fine	Oct. 8
Richard Moore	Oct. 14
Hailey Hayward	Oct. 16
Lois Sczomak	Oct. 20
Pat Denyer	Oct. 21
Julie Ballantyne Brown	Oct. 23
Mary Jane Town	Oct. 30

*My apologies to anyone I may have missed! We are working on updating our database. Let me know if you'd like to help!*

## Food for Friends

Invitation to the Players Guild of Dearborn Membership:

When one of our members has an illness, injury, hospital stay, new baby, or bereavement situation, we all want to reach out and support him or her. I have launched a group effort to help our fellow members by preparing and delivering meals to their homes. House/Hospitality Governor **Denise Kowalewski-Tucker** invited me to present this idea to Board members at the July 27 meeting, and it was well received.

Please contact me if you would like to participate in this group and/or if you know of a member who could benefit from such a service. I am coordinating this project by contacting potential meal recipients and scheduling volunteers to prepare and deliver meals. I welcome all suggestions of ways we can be successful with this project.

*So far, 14 of our members have signed up to volunteer and have already put this wonderful service into effect.*

Lois Sczomak  
[313-300-6969](tel:313-300-6969)  
[LoisScz@aol.com](mailto:LoisScz@aol.com)



## The Guild has been cast – **PODCAST!**

The **Front Row Podcast**, hosted by Deb Dworkin and Joseph Munem is a show “all about community theatre in the Metropolitan Detroit area.” It “focuses on the talented artists working on all levels in local community theatre.”

You can listen to Deb and Joe announce and discuss upcoming shows and auditions in the area and give local interviews. You never know whom you might hear! This week it was our own **Ron Williams, Jr.** and **Brian Townsend**. Ron and Brian introduce listeners to the Guild, talk about our upcoming season, plug *Legally Blonde* auditions and get audiences excited about our season opener, *Two by Two*. There may even be talk of a ghost and a murder. Tune in to hear all about it! You can find the link through our member Facebook page, by Googling “Front Row Podcast Metro Detroit” or following: <http://frontrowpodcast.libsyn.com/2016>.



## Future Guildling!



Meet: **Gibson Steven Ferry**  
 Opening Night: August 30, 2016  
 Curtain up: 10:58pm  
 Costume Measurements: 8lbs 4oz,  
 20.25"  
 Proud Stage Parents:  
**Meredith and Ken Ferry**  
 Fan club: Brothers Gabe and Gavin

*"A thank you to the Guild members who provided meals to us during our first week home. It was greatly appreciated."*

**Thank  
you!**

## ON QUEUE

The Players Guild has started a new formalized IT committee, tentatively and cleverly called, "On Queue!" It will be chaired by **Phil Booth**, who states, "Everyone I have spoken to is excited to hear about this new effort. We are currently getting the committee established and setting up our new logo and email. One of our first goals after all the housekeeping is done will be to reach out to any and all who are interested in working and learning together. Our long term goals include improving and expanding how the Guild uses technology in its operations and doing the same for the experience of our guests."

"Our process will give structure to the way we develop and implement projects at the Players Guild. Another of our immediate goals is to meet with governors/stakeholders to discuss their current wishes and talk about possibilities for the future. I will be working with **President John Sczomak** to identify these individuals."

The decision to begin the committee came from the idea to bring the talented and curious together to accomplish projects that we hope will match the expectations of people in today's technological society. Phil says that progress behind the scenes may be the only progress we make for some time, but the goal is to use that progress as a solid foundation for all the efforts of the future. Please feel free to contact Phil at [itcomm@playersguildofdearborn.org](mailto:itcomm@playersguildofdearborn.org) with any questions.

*Submitted by Phil Booth*

A big thank you to all the members who came *two by two* to the Guild for our most recent postcard mailing:

David Wood  
John Sczomak

Sandra Keavey  
Snickers

Bruce Hack  
Cheryl Hack

Rebecca Scott  
Nancy Schuster

Mary Calder  
Jeff Bartos

Victor Heidel  
Mike Moseley

## 2016 – 2017 Board of Governors

President – John Szomak  
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Historian – Tim Carney  
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## Website Update

*By Tom Sparrow, Webmaster*

The Guild's website is undergoing some modification to make it more attractive. Our friends at RBD Creative have been doing the work, and the site looks and performs better each day.

-The site has a new slider element on the front page.

-The site is much more "device friendly." Check it out on your smart phone or tablet.

-The layout and type characteristics have been changed to make pages more attractive.

-The new Video Gallery displays all of **Mike Mayne's** wonderful videos that have helped advertise our shows.

-Show photos have been moved from Picasa (which has been discontinued) to Google Photos. Take a look at your favorite shows among those in the collection and click for a slide show. We have more than 5000 photos in the collection.

I am looking for show photos for those productions that don't have them. If you have show photos on a disk, please share them with me, and I'll add them to the collection.

You can search the site using the search window at the top right. Key in your name, click search, and see how many times you are mentioned.

**Kori Bielaniec** continues to do a great job with our social media pages. I hope you're following us on Facebook and Twitter.

I am looking for help with the many tasks of the webmaster. If you are willing to help and have webmaster experience or are interested in getting some training, please email me at [sparrow.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:sparrow.thomas@gmail.com)

## Garden Club



Have a green thumb? The Building Committee is starting a garden club and is looking for members who are interested in helping with the landscaping at the Guild. Contact **Pat Denyer** at [pdenyer@wowway.com](mailto:pdenyer@wowway.com) if you'd like to get involved.







*Starshine Theater Workshop 2016*

## Starshine

The Starshine Theatre Workshop has been a great example of how seemingly different organizations can come together for a common purpose. For five days in August, members of the Players Guild and Neighborhood Service Organization spent a large portion of their week giving young adults who have intellectual or developmental disabilities a phenomenal opportunity to be a part of a live theater experience. This collaboration was our

seventh workshop, and it is humbling to see something that was just an idea thrown out in a brainstorming meeting between PGD and NSO evolve into an expected annual event.

This year, we had 21 participants, which is one of our largest groups, and the week went pretty seamlessly, ending with an energetic performance filled with singing and dancing. Each year, PGD members step up and take on a variety of challenges, not the least of which is transforming the workshop week of Starshine into a show. Some PGD members, like **Tom Sparrow** and **Mary Calder**, have helped every year, but over the years, more than 75 members have participated in some way. A wonderfully unexpected result of the workshop is the involvement of some of our younger members, who each year take on more responsibility and share their creativity.

I can't write about Starshine without giving a huge thank you to the members of the Players Guild, who have always been fully supportive; to **Jeff Ostrowski**, who as president, championed Starshine from the very beginning; and to **Margaret Kinnell** and **Marybeth Kinnell**, who took on the seemingly overwhelming task of doing a workshop and putting on a show--and did it in a way that was a pure joy to all who have been involved.

Thanks as well to NSO members for their hard work and creativity in recruiting participants, figuring out transportation, soliciting lunches, and generally helping out. NSO has also financially assisted PGD by covering all production costs for the past several years. I have to relate one instance: I received a call just before Starshine regarding a young man who wanted to participate, but his physical challenges were such that he could not get on our stage. He wanted to be the DJ for our afterglow, and, I have to admit, I was a little stymied about how we could make this situation work. The young guy showed up during the workshop with his family, and **Inez Hernandez**, in the middle of working on costumes, added his energy to creating a DJ station, from which the young guy did a tremendous job.

*Submitted by John Sczomak*







This past August, current president **John Szomak** called the ol' gang back together for a Saturday morning breakfast at Leon's. He and eight of our past presidents shared stories about the past, ideas for the future, and most likely a lot of laughs.

Pictured left to right: **Denise Kowaleski-Tucker** (president 2004-2006), **John Szomak** (2012-2014, 2016-2018), **Rich Bulleri** (1978-1980, 1982-1983), **Jeff Ostrowski** (2008-2010) and **Rose, Richard Moore** (1997-1999), **Mike Moseley** (2010-2012, 2014-2016), **John Rinn** (1987-1989), **Tom Sparrow** (2006-2008), **Nancy Wolter** (1991-1993, 2001-2002).

### ***Curtain Call: On other stages***

**Lindsey Brenz** (Snoopy) in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Ridgedale Players

Show dates: **Sept. 9-11, 16-19, 23-15** // <http://ridgedaleplayers.com>

**Kimberly Elliott** (Bonnie) in *Bonnie & Clyde* at Downriver Actors Guild

Show dates: **Oct. 14-16, 21-23, 28, 29** // [www.downriveractorsguild.net](http://www.downriveractorsguild.net)

**Kori Bielaniec** (Doris Crumley) in *Minus Some Buttons* at Rosedale Community Players

Show dates: **Oct. 28-30, Nov. 4-6, 11, 12** // <http://www.rosedalecommunityplayers.com>

**Sally Goodman** (Ma Bailey) in *It's A Wonderful Life: On The Air* at Park Players

Show dates: **Nov. 11-13, 18-20** // <https://parkplayers.org>

### ***Support our Guildlings in upcoming productions!***

UofD Jesuit High School: *The Outsiders* – **October 20-22, 2016**

**Peter Moore** (Ponyboy), directed by **Nancy Valentini**

Divine Child High School: *Alice in Wonderland* – **November 10-13, 2016**

**Luke Boudreau** (Stage Manager and lights) and **Molly Boudreau** (March Hare)

Dearborn High School: *Moon Over Buffalo* – **November 16-19, 2016**

**Kyle Polidori** (George Hay), **Maria Viscomi** and **Maddie Kaplan** (Charlotte Hay), **Kayla Katona** and **Katie Garber** (Rosalind Hay), **Trevor Berry** (Paul), **Heather Slanec** (Eileen), **Matt Apostle** (Richard)

## Recently Closed Shows

Kori Bielaniec (Crissy Kelly) in *I'll Be Waiting* at Rosedale Community Players

DATA's Random Acts of Theater – directed by Dianne Bernick, music by G. Kevin Dewey  
Guild performers: Molly Boudreau, Rich Bulleri, Paul Morgan, Ken Overwater, Karen Pritchard, Jamie Pashke, Andrew St. John and many more familiar local talent!

### CREDITS & SPECIAL THANKS for this edition of *News & Cues*

Content contributors and/or writers:  
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Editor:  
Anna Dewey

*My sincere apologies to anyone I may have omitted. I appreciate all contributions great and small, which help make News & Cues possible.*

## MEMBER VOICES MATTER

Is there something or *someone* you'd like to see in the next edition of *News & Cues*? Contact Editor Anna Dewey at [ahnatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:ahnatiuk@gmail.com) with your suggestions or submissions.

**The DEARBORN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
AND  
The PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN  
PRESENT**

## MURDER *at the* Courthouse

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016**

**19th District Courthouse**  
16077 Michigan Avenue  
Dearborn, MI 48126

**6:00 pm**  
**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

**Martini Bar**  
"Silver Bullet" • "Smoking Gun"  
**Wine • Perrier**

**7:00 pm**  
**DELICIOUS SEATED DINNER**  
**(to die for!)**

**ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT**  
featuring a Murder or Two?  
Trial by Jury  
Perhaps you'd like to play a part?  
A Little Night Music

**DECADENT DESSERT TABLE**  
**(to tickle you to death!)**  
Coffee/Tea Service with a little Baileys

**ATTIRE: DRESS TO KILL**

Support the Guild and the Dearborn Symphony in this fantastic fundraising event, made possible by a variety of local benefactors and sponsors, including Westborn Fruit Market, Merchant's Fine Wine, Park Place and quite appropriately Howe-Peterson – to name just a few.

Writer Brian Townsend and special committee members Diane Kaplan, Richard Moore, and David Reynolds, II have been working hard behind the scenes to make this a success.

Download an invitation today from the Guild website and bring a friend! You won't be sorry, but you might be *murdered*...

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*the musical*

**Performances:**

November 11–13, 18–20, 25–27  
and December 2–4, 2016

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

**Audition Dates:**

Monday, September 19 and  
Tuesday, September 20

**Callbacks:**

Wednesday, September 21

Auditions will be held at the Players Guild  
of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn,  
Michigan 48124.

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Auditions will begin at 7:30 p.m.

You must be registered to audition.

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE DAY TO**

**ATTEND.** We will hold a callback on September  
21. Callback time is TBA. If you are called back,  
you will be notified at the end of your audition  
day. Callbacks will not be mandatory, but, if  
requested, it is highly suggested that you attend  
if possible.

Audition Forms and Conflict Calendars are  
available on the website for downloading.

Visit [www.playersguildofdearborn.org](http://www.playersguildofdearborn.org)

book by Heather Hach

music and lyrics by

Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

produced in cooperation with Music Theatre International

direction by Ron Williams

music direction by Steve Woznicki

choreography by Jenny McPherson

This fabulous international award-winning musical,  
based on the hit movie, follows the transformation of  
Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery, and  
scandal in pursuit of her dreams. From from the sorority  
house to the halls of justice, the show is equal parts  
hilarious and heart-warming — it's so much fun it should  
be illegal!

**For character descriptions and additional audition information,  
please see the next page.**



# Audition Notice

**PLEASE NOTE:** The ages listed in the descriptions below are the “playing ages” of the characters in this show. Actors who fall out of these parameters with respect to their own chronological age may still audition for the role if they physically fit the “playing age.”

## **BROOKE WYNDAM**

*late 20s–early 30s, A3 – G5 Alto or Soprano*

An exercise video star who is also a former sorority girl. Has a great, firm physique. A tough exterior but a heart of gold.

## **CHUTNEY** *late 20s–early 30s*

Brooke Wyndam’s step daughter, affected by her “station” and marginally psychotic.

## **ELLE WOODS** *early–mid 20s, Gb2 – G5 Soprano Belt*

Quintessential Valley Girl who follows her ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law School and realizes that she has more to offer than just a pretty face and a bubbly personality.

## **ELLE’S DAD** *late 50s, D3 – E#4 Baritone*

Elle’s rich, golfer father.

## **ELLE’S MOM** *late 50s, C4 – E5 Alto*

Elle’s socialite, country-clubbing mother.

## **EMMETT FORREST** *mid 20s–early 30s, B2 – A4 Tenor*

Smart and sensitive law student who takes Elle under his wing. His charm overshadows his understated good looks.

## **ENID** *early–mid 20s, G3 – G5 Soprano Belt*

Mousy, intellectual law student.

## **KATE** *early–mid 20s, Bb3 – Eb5 Alto*

Elle’s Delta Nu sister and consummate bookwork.

## **KYLE (UPS GUY)** *late 20s–early 40s*

Great-looking, in-shape employee of the United Parcel Service. Irish stepdances.

## **LEILANI** *early–mid 20s, B3 – Eb5 Alto*

Elle’s Delta Nu sister.

## **MANAGER** *any age, G3 – C5 Alto*

## **MARGOT** *early–mid 20s, G#3 – F5 Soprano Belt*

Elle’s Delta Nu sister, a pretty and funny California sorority girl.

## **PAULETTE** *late 20s–early 40s, A3 – A5 Soprano Belt*

Brash and funny stylist, befriends Elle and longs to find a man for herself.

## **PILAR** *early–mid 20s, G#3 – F5 Soprano Belt*

Elle’s Delta Nu sister, a bossy and feisty California sorority girl.

## **PROFESSOR CALLAHAN** *early 40s–mid 60s, A2 – F#4 Baritone*

Pompous and manipulative Harvard law professor, a “shark”.

## **SERENA** *early–mid 20s, G#3 – F5 Soprano Belt*

Elle’s Delta Nu sister, a spirited and sassy California sorority girl.

## **VIVIENNE KENSINGTON** *early–mid 20s, A3 – F5 HUGE Soprano Belt*

Smart and savvy law student who initially dismisses Elle, but grows to be her friend.

## **WARNER HUNTINGTON III** *early–mid 20s, Eb3 – Ab4 Tenor*

Good-looking but pompous guy who breaks Elle’s heart, THE dumbest smartest guy!

## **ENSEMBLE** *Roles include:*

Grandmaster Chad (Rapper); Dewey (Paulette’s Ex); Pforzheimer, Lowell, & Winthrop (Harvard Admissions); Nikos (Brooke’s Poolboy), Carlos (Nikos’ Boyfriend); Padamadan (Indian Law Student); Aaron Shultz (Law Student); District Attorney Joyce Riley; Whitney (Law student, Vivienne’s friend); Saleswoman; Judge; Reporter; Kiki the Colorist; Salon Folks; Court Stenographer; Assistant D.A.; Gaelen (Delta Nu); Frat Boys; Jet Blue Pilot; Harvard Student; Workout Video people; Dana (Brooke Fan); Inmates; Guard; H&H Salesgirl; 2nd perfume girl; Salesgirls; Parade folks; etc.