



# Our 100th Season - December 2019

# The Prompter

## Players Guild of Leonia Monthly Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a magical time of year when wishes come true and friends and family reunite with one another in celebration. The cast of Free to Be You and Me has been sharing a little of their own magic as they performed at the Leonia Annual Tree Lighting to the largest turnout in history and warmed audiences' hearts with three wonderful performances this past weekend. Make time in your busy schedule to come support this special cast in this very special show. Director Alison Miller has been spearheading our outreach efforts within the Borough and members are sponsoring a matching fund donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital, so please donate as well. Some of the magic goes on quietly but nevertheless it is there and it is as simple as one cast member visiting another in the hospital, playing Santa and bringing joy into a family's day during an otherwise impossibly trying time. Many thanks to Lisa Katzoff for her outgoing spirit in her effort to bring a little bit of joy to Alex and his family during this difficult time. The Guild family will be getting together for our Holiday party on the 20th for a night of holiday themed songs under the direction of musical director Kerr Lockhart & guest. This year we are again pushing the risers to the walls and transforming the theater into a more festive space so that we may sit, eat, and celebrate together. I hope to see as many of you there as will fit! The more the merrier! **Dan Giordano**

### UPCOMING DATES:

- December 13** Damn Yankees Viewing Party @ PGL
- December 20** Holiday Party @ PGL
- January 7** Board Meeting
- January 16** Membership Meeting  
Workshop by:  
Alison Miller
- February 8** Opening Night for AMADEUS plus Post-show Reception
- February 20** Membership Meeting and Workshop

### Reminder:

**If you haven't done so, reserve your spot and join us next Friday, December 20 for our annual PGL holiday party with music, dinner, and dancing.** Cost is \$25 per person. Doors open at 6:30 pm for cocktail hour and appetizers, Entertainment by the Steve Teti Quartet. RSVP by mailing your check payment to: Players Guild of Leonia, Attn: Holiday Party, P.O. Box 131, Leonia, NJ 07605.

Please contact Mark Watson, Bunny Giordano or Ralph Martinez if you have questions.

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Ad Journal** - Beth Parrillo Mark Watson
- Budget/Finance** - Ralph Martinez
- Building/ Facilities** - Dan Giordano
- Costumes** - Diane Arabella, Laurette Miller, Joanne Livelli
- Director/Play Selection** - Diane Arabella
- Historian** - Annette Lenge
- Hospitality** - Diane Arabella
- Membership** - Bunny Giordano, Laurette Miller, Chris Thorn  
Alison Miller
- Music/Sound/Video** - Chris Thorn
- The Prompter** - Ralph Martinez, Alison Miller, Nicole Parente
- Props** - Art Penque
- Publicity** - John Garbo, Mark Watson
- Set Construction** - Steve Moldt
- Tickets** - Lynne Vitale, Bobbi Weintraub
- Website** - Ralph Martinez
- Workshops** - Alison Miller, Chris Watson, Angela Cozzi

### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Membership discussed our Centennial season and the various ways in which we need to organize and execute a memorable, celebratory season. We now have 4 committees that are seeking help!

- 1) HISTORY** - Annette Lenge - a.venge@verizon.net.
- 2) AD JOURNAL** - Beth Parrillo (bethparrillo@yahoo.com) and Mark Watson (cwatson1093@gmail.com) - We need help scanning and organizing playbills, memorabilia and photos. Scanning can be done on premise or at home. If interested, please email: a.venge@verizon.net
- 3) OUTREACH** - Alison Miller -yoginizucchi@gmail.com. Help is needed generating fundraising campaigns, drafting letters of sponsorship, and building morale with local businesses and dignitaries.
- 4) GALA** - Joanne & Steve Moldt - moldts@aol.com. End of the year celebration honoring the Guild's history.

## SUPPORT FOR ALEX MEYER

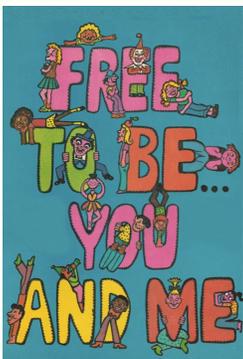
One of the children (Alex Meyer) who was in our current production of FREE TO BE YOU AND ME had to leave our show when doctors discovered his medical condition. Alex spent his 11th birthday in the hospital and has been in specialized care for approximately 1 month. Seen below is cast mate, Lisa Katzoff, visiting Alex in the hospital and delivering gifts for him and his entire family.



The below Facebook link has been created by and shared with us by Alex's family for anyone who wants to donate and help cover his medical expenses:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/2483821858553383/>

## FREE TO BE YOU AND ME



Free To Be You and Me is a brilliant rainbow of color, exactly sixty minutes in length, that illustrates the best of humanity with song, story and dance. And just like anything worthwhile in life, it is at the Civil War Drill Hall for a blink in time. HELP US FILL OUR AUDIENCES FOR FINAL WEEKEND! The cast has worked hard to produce a magnificent show to be enjoyed by the entire family!

Mommies and Daddies too! Don't miss this cast of children and adults bring to life the 1972 classic conceived and created by Marlo Thomas. **Shows Saturday December 14 at 3pm and 7pm. Sunday December 15 at 3pm.** Let us warm your spirit this December with FREE TO BE!  
- Alison Miller

## CALLING ALL LIGHT BOARD OPERATORS

Nikki Parente will be holding several light board operation training sessions, emphasizing what to do when you volunteer to run lights. These sessions will include: how to turn on/off the equipment, queues to hear and look for, how to quickly respond during a technical glitch, etc. This simple training will help enhance the skills of all levels of board operators. Whether you are a first time, new, or a current operator looking to refresh your knowledge, then these sessions are for you. Dates and times to follow and all sessions will begin after the new year. Please see Nikki Parente or email her at: [nicole.parente9@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.parente9@gmail.com) for more details! She looks forward to seeing you.

## LEONIA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Cast of FREE TO BE YOU AND ME performed at the annual Leonia Tree Lighting Ceremony, and what was recorded as being the best attended in Leonia's history. Thanks to our local Girl and Boy Scouts for your organization! See the video here:



Cast featured: Sasha Garcia, Anaya Hamid, Avaleigh Quinton (Girl Scout too!), and Katrina Michalewski. Production Team: Director/Choreographer: Alison Miller; Musical Director: Catherine Watson; Technical Director: Michael Wurl Larson.

**Don't miss out on our 3 remaining shows:**

Saturday, December 14 at 3pm and 7pm, and Sunday, December 15 at 3pm.

Tickets available at: <https://m.bpt.me/event/4387677>

## PGL FUNDRAISING

Participate in the CHARITY CHALLENGE! Help the Players Guild of Leonia raise \$1000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital during performances of FREE TO BE YOU AND ME! For every \$1 dollar that is placed into the bucket, \$1 will be matched to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded by Marlo Thomas' father, Danny Thomas. Since it's inception, St. Jude's Hospital has helped children from all 50 states battle childhood cancers and other living diseases. To learn more about this organization, visit their website by clicking on the link: <https://www.stjude.org/>

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Diane DeCenzo Blood Arabella joined the Players Guild in the 1970/71 season when she was just 18. That's a lot of years to talk about! She always wanted to be a singer and the acting came later but mostly she loves to make people laugh! Diane thought being fair was very important so for every show she performed in she would work backstage on the next show. Even back then she was chairman of the costume (over 40 major shows) and hospitality committees and has maintained interest in both. Diane has directed and produced but still loves being onstage (24 major productions and many other workshops) more than anything else. In a pinch she finally learned how to work the light and sound boards this year- whatever it takes the show must go on! Her most important productions were Jennifer (who grew up in this theater and is now an equity performer) and Eric (who has resisted the onstage call but paints some fabulous scenery for us). As current Vice President and chairman of costumes and hospitality she has had a lot of help and welcomes it! Especially now as we gear up for next season looking for members to either direct or be on the play selection committee. Email Diane at [sunsetwntr@aol.com](mailto:sunsetwntr@aol.com) if you are interested!



*Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Prompter? Send your pic and bio via email to [Ralph Martinez](mailto:ralph.martinez@art70.com) at: [rm70art@gmail.com](mailto:rm70art@gmail.com).*