



Our 100th Season - May 2020

# The Prompter

Players Guild of Leonia Monthly Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new reality we find ourselves living in presents many challenges, especially for a community theater. However, they are not insurmountable and create opportunities for us to interact and perform in new ways. Our most recent virtual meeting had the highest attendance in recent memory and new ideas for workshops and online performances were presented with a positive outlook for the future. I hope, that as we begin to see an easing up on social interaction restrictions, we can combine online and in-person programs to keep the momentum going and breathe some life back into our home at 130 Grand Avenue.

Before I get ahead of myself, I must remind you of the importance of this upcoming meeting. It is the Annual Meeting of The Corporation, where new Board members will be elected. There will also be a fun workshop of monologues put together by Marc Leland, so please set aside some time this Thursday night, log or call in, and visit with your friends and fellow PGL members! Share your ideas by emailing them in or share them during the meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone's familiar faces so be sure not to miss it!

**Daniel Giordano**

Please enjoy this virtual encore performance of **12 Angry Jurors** from 2018, directed by Claudia MacDermott. Continue to follow us through The Prompter for additional PGL encore performance links.

[Click here to see 12 Angry Jurors](#)

## UPCOMING DATES:

May 28 Membership Meeting - Board Elections, followed by a virtual digital workshop.

**Note: Our 2019-2020 season has been cancelled, including the Gala. Please visit our website's Home page for additional information and updates.**

## 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 has 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.enge@verizon.net.

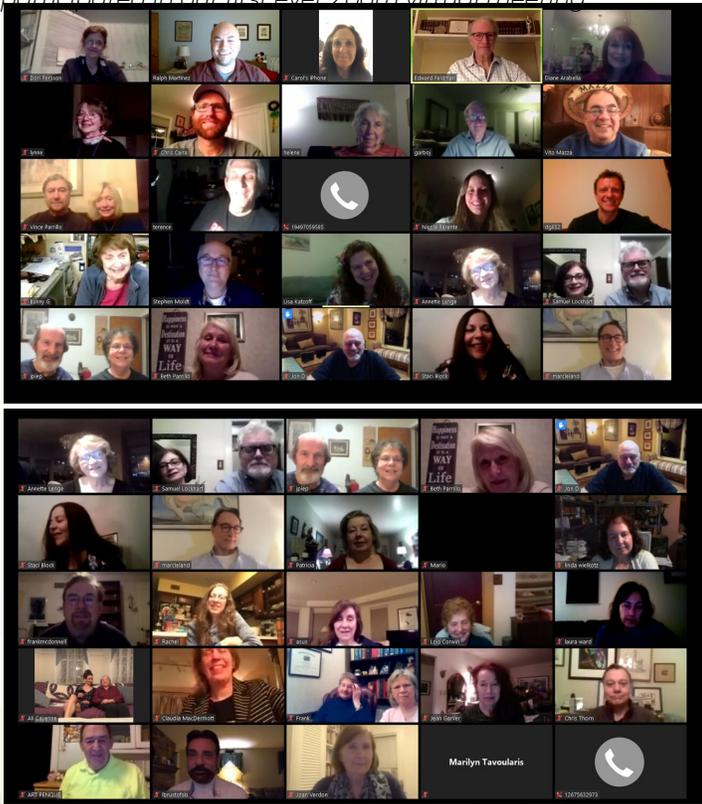
**2) AD JOURNAL** - Beth Parrillo (bethparrillo@yahoo.com) and Mark Watson (cwatson1093@gmail.com) - We need help scanning and organizing playbills, memorabilia and photos. Scanning can be done on premise or at home. If interested, please email: a.enge@verizon.net

**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.

## ZOOM'ING TO A NEW ERA

Thank you to all PGL members who attended our first ever virtual general meeting. With an attendance of almost 50 members, and approximately two and half hours long, the meeting was made possible through the online virtual meeting platform - Zoom. While, only two members called in "conference" call style by telephone, everyone else was able to video connect and contribute to discussion topics such as, the postponement of Follies, which is now re-scheduled to possibly reopen on October 30th, review Treasurer's report for April, hear nominations for the board by Bunny Giordano, as well as learn of voting details for the upcoming May 28th meeting, where all members will be able to vote for the nominees anonymously via Zoom's polling feature. Members who are not able to vote electronically, may be able to call or text via a proxy method - detailed instructions will be explained at the meeting. PGL board members are making calls to remind everyone of this important upcoming meeting. Pictured below are PGL members who participated in our first ever Zoom virtual meeting.



## NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

Please make sure to attend the upcoming general membership meeting this Thursday, May 28th at 7:30pm via Zoom. An email blast was sent on 05/24 with additional information and Zoom link. The below slate has been presented by the nominating committee for a seat appointment on the board:

Alison Miller  
 Marc Leland  
 Alice Garcia

### Nominating Committee:

Bunny Giordano  
 Joanne Livelli  
 Suzanne Renaud

## PGL WORKSHOPS

As we are ushered into the digital realm of theater, the PGL is thinking of new and innovative ways to engage our members, and provide them with alternative methods to express and enhance their acting skills. At our recent virtual meeting, we asked members to think "outside the box" and some of you are responding. Staci Block is offering a fun, weekly virtual improvisation workshop to help members stay connected and is available for all levels of experience. Nikki Parente is also offering a virtual workshop on how to run theater lights. The lighting workshop had been previously set in April but because of the Covid-19 outbreak, training had to be re-scheduled. Additional workshop detailed information can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.leoniaplayers.org/workshops.html>

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We are saddened to learn of two individuals who are no longer with us. Alice Garcia recently lost her husband Henry on April 27th and Cathy Faust, a former PGL member, who also recently passed. The PGL would like to extend its heartfelt and sincerest condolences, in hopes that Alice and Cathy's family find comfort and consolation from those closest to them during this time of loss.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KERR LOCKHART

Kerr Lockhart has been doing theater since the Nixon Administration, at school, in stock, and in community groups including the St. Francis Players, incognito, Old Library Theater, St James Players and Studio Players. His first contact with the Players Guild of Leonia was through workshops, playing piano for a Christmas event modeled on the Revels and playing Frederik in *A Little Night Music*. He was also privileged to be invited by Chris Watson to music direct *High Society* For many years, Kerr's theatrical energies were invested in his students. But as he stepped back from such activities, he felt the need to commit to a community group again. The warmth, collegiality and, frankly, proximity of The Guild recommended themselves to Kerr, and he joined in the fall of 2017. Since then he has played a live accompaniment to Linda Wielkottz's hilarious production of *Drop Dead!*, played and sung in PGL Christmas celebrations coordinated by Mark Watson, done the same for a cabaret produced by John Kiely, run sound for a few shows, including *Damn Yankees*, and directed *Amadeus*, with the extraordinary help and support of Claudia Macdermott, Suzanne Renaud and Olivia Thrasher. Thanks to Chris Thorn, he was able to do his own rather complex sound design for the show. Kerr is also a playwright, scribbling away during these stay-at-home days, and says that as far as the Players Guild goes, "I've made so many good friends and found so many wonderful collaborators. I'm just getting started."



If you have an editorial piece you want to share or want to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Prompter? Send your write-up or pic and bio via email to Ralph Martinez at: [rm70art@gmail.com](mailto:rm70art@gmail.com).