



THE MINOTAUR

ATHENIAN BEREAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS NEWSLETTER

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The Athenian Players Theatre and Berean Community Players Merge

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Current Officers:

- ◆ Joe Balding, *President*
- ◆ Cecilia Rinaldi, *Vice President*
- ◆ Celeste Parsons, *Secretary*
- ◆ Jim Parsons, *Treasurer*



ABC PLAYERS
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At the March 18 Athenian Players Theatre meeting, the motion to merge Athenian Players Theatre and Berean Community Players was unanimously approved. After discussing several possible names, the majority of those present approved "Athenian Berean Community Players."

Treasurer Jim Parsons immediately began taking care of all the necessary paperwork to make this merger legal.

APT and BCP have both been registered non-profit corporations in the State of Ohio and with the Federal Government. To maintain the State status, both organizations have had to file "Certificates of Continued Existence" every five years. To maintain their Federal status, they have had to file abbreviated returns every year certifying that they were still in business with gross receipts totaling less than \$25,000.

To join the two organizations, it was decided that BCP would be dissolved and APT would apply for a name change. Jim started with the State registration. He filed an "Amendment to Articles of Incorporation" with the Ohio Secretary of State, formally changing the organization's name from "Athenian Players Theatre" to "Athenian Berean Community Players." The Secretary of State replied with a certificate documenting the change.

Jim then sent letters to the Athens County Treasurer, the Ohio Department of Taxation, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services informing them that we planned to dissolve BCP by a certain date about a month in the future. The point of these letters was to allow the organizations to determine whether BCP owed them any money, allowing them to collect it while BCP still

existed. At the same time, Jim filed for dissolution of BCP with the Ohio Secretary of State's office, which replied with a certificate of dissolution.

Jim then turned his attention to making the Federal Government aware of the changes. He wrote to the IRS, sending the certificate of name change and requesting a new "Letter of Determination" that the organization (now ABC Players) qualifies as tax-exempt.

Jim is still waiting to receive a reply from the Federal Government.

Thanks, Jim, for all your hard work!

It makes my head spin just writing about it!

What's on the 2009/2010 Program?



Get ready for an exciting 2009/2010 Season! Members present at the April 15 meeting considered many fine proposals and decided on:

◆ *Wyrd Sisters* by Terry Pratchett, adapted by Stephen Briggs. The performances are slated for October 29 - November 1, 2009.

A general satire of Shakespeare and Macbeth, the three main characters (a coven of witches) must find a refuge for the infant son of the murdered king of Lancre.

The cast will consist of approximately eight men, eight women, and 4-8 boys and/or girls.

Dean Barker will try his hand at directing for the first time. Good luck, Dean!

◆ *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, adapted

and directed by **Julie Stout**, with performances December 4-5, 2009.

In this famous tale, stingy Ebenezer Scrooge is taught the true meaning of Christmas by visits from three ghosts during a Christmas Eve night.

◆ *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, adapted by Peter Clapham. The performances are scheduled for March 4-7, 2010.

An eventful year in the life of the March family. While their father is away in the Civil War, the four sisters (Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy) and their mother (Marmee) work hard to maintain a happy and peaceful home.

The cast calls for four men and seven women.

Valerie Schrader will be directing for the first time,

with help from **Linda Watkins, assistant director. Good luck, Valerie!**

◆ *Seussical* by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, based on the works of Dr. Seuss. The May 7-8 & 14-16, 2010 performances will wrap up the 2009/2010 season.

A romp in the fun world of Dr. Seuss, with favorite characters from all of his books including *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton the Elephant*, *The Mayor of Whoville*, *The Grinch*, *Yertle the Turtle*, and many others.

Sylvia Abbott will direct, and Lynn Sullivan will be musical director.

Please keep posted for important dates for each of these exciting productions!

"I feel happy, yeah, yeah, yeah."



He Feels Happy

Submitted by Joe Balding

ABC Players President *Joe Balding* is appearing in an Ohio Lottery commercial that began airing on April 20th.

Joe was lucky enough to have won \$10,000 last August and was selected as one of the people to take part in a commercial featuring actual winners.

He is the guy in the tuxedo going down the aisle of a theatre singing, "I feel happy, yeah, yeah, yeah".

Try to catch it on TV!

Upcoming Auditions

Submitted by Celeste Parsons

Auditions for *Quilters* will be held at 1 PM, Saturday, May 16, at Stuart's Opera House. The cast includes seven women, all of whom play many different parts.

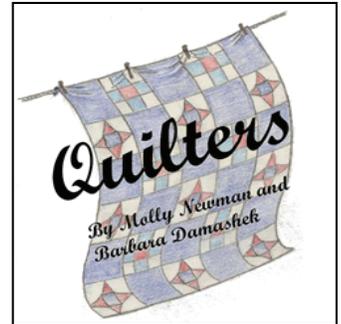
Scripts are on reserve at the public libraries in Athens, The Plains, and Nelsonville. Further information about the auditions is posted on the ABC Players web site www.abcplayers.org, or

call Celeste Parsons at 753-2034.

Quilters is a musical patchwork of scenes and songs celebrating the lives of frontier women and the art of quilt-making by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek. Celeste Parsons will be directing and the musical director will be Lynn Sullivan.

The show was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. It is based on recollected experiences of real pioneer women; the events range from comic to tragic.

This is a benefit production for Stuart's Opera House.



Opens Thursday, August 6th at 8 PM with performances continuing August 7-9.

Athens High School Band Director Wins Basket

On Saturday, April 18th, the AHS Band Boosters held a fundraising event for new band uniforms at the high school. The AHS Concert Band performed at 4 PM and a spaghetti dinner followed.

Throughout the festivities people bid on more than 20 gift baskets donated for the silent auction, including a basket donated by the ABC Players. There

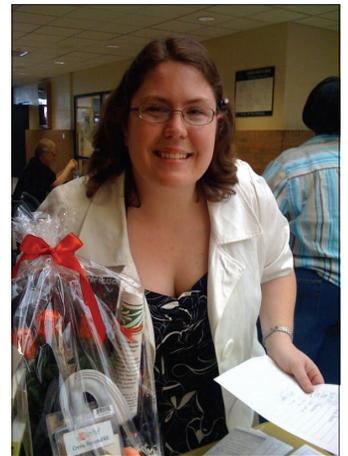
were many bidders but ultimately the high school band director, Sarah Labovitz, won the coveted basket.

Patty Witmer put the basket together with offerings from many ABC Players' members. Items included: two passes to the 2009/2010 season; three acting lessons from Karen Chan; one custom community theater

seminar from Celeste Parsons; one voice lesson from Ellee Prince at EP Voice Studio; a theater make-up kit; and acting and monologue books.

This was a fun event that hopefully spread the word about ABC Players.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the basket.



A happy Sarah Labovitz poses with the ABC Players basket

This and That

ABC Players is coming to **Facebook**. Emily Maluski will have our new Facebook page up and running by the first week of May!

Don't miss our next production, *Dearlly Beloved*, opening May 7th and continuing through the 10th. A fast-paced comedy about love, marriage, sisterhood, gospel music and three hundred pounds of good, ol' Texas barbeque.

Also coming up from Actor's Moveable Theater at Arts/West: *Six Bawdy Comic Scenes* by Shel Silverstein May 8, 9, 15, 16, 2009 at 8pm. Featuring Jane Adams, Carol Ault, Dean Barker, Robin Barnes, Ken Bowald, Karen Chan, Pat Berry Frazee, Carol Patterson, Gordon Pettay, Shelly Riggs, Clyde Tippie & David Whealey.



2009/2010 Season Officers Elected



The election of the 2009-2010 officers occurred at the April 15 meeting. Voted unanimously into office were:

- Celeste Parsons, President
- Annah Abetti Korpi, Vice President
- Valerie Schrader, Recording Secretary
- Alison Bartlett, Corresponding Secretary
- Jim Parsons, Treasurer

Officers are elected annually and serve from September 1st through August 31st. You will notice that for the coming year, the office of

Secretary has been split into *Recording* Secretary and *Corresponding* Secretary. The recording secretary will be present to take the meeting minutes and will pass them on to the corresponding secretary who will then compile and distribute the minutes.

Thank you all for stepping up for these roles for the coming year. We all appreciate the time and effort each of you will be putting into your office.

Brainstorming at Carol Ault's House



Have an idea?

Please share it with us!

Have you just stuck with one "role" in theater, afraid to step out of your comfort zone? If you have considered exploring other areas of theater, please speak up! "Cross training" members was a well received suggestion that we encourage everyone to consider!

Carol Ault and Annah Korpi hosted a "backstage brainstorm" meeting at Carol's home in Athens on March 29th.

As you can see from the photo, those in attendance celebrated the recent APT and BCP merger before sitting down to business!

The informal meeting gave rise to much discussion on a wide range of topics, from how to recruit new members to the various challenges some face when producing a play or musical.

The ideas for plays and musicals were endless (there were 36 plays and musicals that made our "possible" list), however, ideas for "reviews," dinner theater, family shows, and workshops also abounded.



We discussed taking advantage of community events like Nelsonville Christmas and Parade of the Hills to get the ABC Players' name out there.

To drum up business, taking portions of our shows "on the road" to nursing homes and high schools was suggested, as well as getting our program listed on as many of the area community calendars as possible.

Setting up a table at each performance with

brochures and membership information was also suggested as a way to reach out to our audience.

The idea of free ticket giveaway's has already been implemented through the AHS gift basket, and two more sets of seasons passes will be provided for the upcoming "Little Cities of Black Diamonds Festival" and "X for the Cure for Breast Cancer" events.

Thanks to Annah and Carol for organizing this worthwhile gathering!