



Welcome Back Spotlight!

The Kirk Players are a family who have worked, played and grown together for 53 years. We have performed and entertained thousands of patrons, given much back to the community, and created a world where people from diverse origins and backgrounds can come together under our mutual love of theatre. We have many stories to share, and that's what our Kirk Spotlight is all about. Stories about Kirk Players, by Kirk Players, for Kirk Players.

We recently held a contest to rename our publication. We had many great suggestions from our creative membership. In the end, the winner of our contest was "Papa" John Lynn, our beloved founder who created the first "Spotlight" newsletter so long ago that no one can remember the exact date.

Jon Leslie Lynn, our artistic director and son of our founder tells the story. "It was my Dad, and he did it himself, besides doing all the jobs that our Board currently does with committees. Back then, the committees were 'Advisory' and could not do anything on their own. They did good work, reported to my Dad, and he would tell them what to do next. It still amazes me how much work he did single-handedly to run the group back then. In the early days of the newsletter, many of the stories were about what was going on in the Lynn family! At that time there were 10 Lynn's in the group. It's a little different today!!"

We hope you enjoy our first quarterly issue of the revived Spotlight. We salute the early pioneers of the newsletter as well as the flame keepers Jon Matousek, Randy Rice and Fred Vipond (former Communications directors) and the many contributors to the publication. Going forward we welcome your suggestions and help in publishing the newsletter and helping to share the great news that is Kirk Players.

Cheers to a great 2019! – *Peter*



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January 2019

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“Fairy Tales and Fables” Cast & Crew Ready for a Fun Run!

Kirk has always been proud of our children’s shows. Adults and children work together on stage and off to bring magic to our young patrons and their families. This year we are bringing to life a collection of fairy tales and fables from legendary storytellers like Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm.

Our creative team has woven these stories into a narrative about a young girl named Sara who has a homework assignment to read seven stories and determine if each one is a fairy tale or a fable. She learns that her sixth-grade class is being paired with second graders resulting in her and her younger brother Gabe exploring this challenge together. The siblings engage in debate as we watch as the talented ensemble bring the stories and characters to life, some stories you may know such as “The Ugly Duckling” and others you may not, such the Russian story “When the Czar’s Son Becomes Sick”.

Director Patrick Blake is pulling this delightful show together. “I am thrilled to be directing this show. We have a remarkable ensemble of children and adults, ages range from 8 to 66 (not our record!). We have just started rehearsals and many of these kids absolutely amaze me.”

Patrick is also grateful for his strong support team. “We have put together a wonderful tech team. I am happy to be working again with Amy Sharer”. Jon Matousek (who has directed our children’s show for many years) will serve as Producer, Bev Karns as Stage Manager, Hannah Chapa as Assistant Stage Manager, Kimberly Barr as Choreographer, Lisa Willems as Technical Director, Brenda Sparks will design the set, Natalie LaVoie will lead the Sound crew and Martin Hill will design Lights for the production.

Patrick is excited about the versatility of the actors and the flexibility of the material. “It is a great mix of new and returning actors. Most everyone is playing multiple roles throughout the various stories. We have intrigue, drama, music and even dancing! It’s gonna be a blast – don’t miss this one!”



Happy Birthday Kirk Members!

Gretchen Grassl - Jan 2	Susie Hill - Mar 4
Kat Basso - Jan 25	Dominick Basso - Mar 12
Lisa Willems - Feb 12	Ann Lieberman - Mar 17
Meghan Lane - Feb 16	Bev Karns - Mar 26
Peter Grassl - Feb 27	Betty Slack - Mar 30
Brian Motyka - Feb 28	

Remember to send Randy Rice, our membership director, your birthday so we don’t miss including you in our Birthday Wishes

Membership Anniversaries

Jon Matousek - 1/15/92 (27 years)
Sara Gunther - 1/31/96 (23 years)
Amy Sharer - 2/6/15 (4 years)
Lisa Willems - 2/27/17 (1 year)
Gretchen & Peter Grassl - 3/1/11 (8 years)
Lisa Soare - 3/1/11 (8 years)
Susie & Martin Hill - 3/1/13 (6 years)
Mike Stebbins - 3/1/13 (6 years)



Doctor Chester Ciecko

“Organization of the Year” Award

Kirk Players are being honored by the Mundelein Community Connection. Their Awards and Fundraising Event where we will receive the award is Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at Dover Straights – 6PM cocktails, 7PM dinner. Cost is \$50. For more information, e-mail [Brenda](#).

KP Constitution

Brenda Sparks and Meghan Lane have been working hard on a new constitution for our group, meeting with all directors and making many revisions. Please remember to read through the pages that were distributed at the January membership meeting. If you were not at the meeting and would like to see those documents, please e-mail [Brenda](#).

Open Board Meeting

Have you ever wondered what happens in a Kirk Players Board of Directors Meeting? Now is your chance to see all of the action up close! On Tuesday, February 5 we will be meeting at St. Andrew Lutheran Church and we welcome Kirk members and aspiring members to come and check it out!

Summer Workshop

It's only January, but we would welcome any ideas that you have for Summer Workshop. In the past we have done one-act plays, scene work, improvisation, original works and highlighted different tech areas. Please e-mail any ideas to [Les](#).

What's News with You?

December / January

Mike Stebbins welcomes a great new career opportunity as Sr. Systems Engineer at Wintrust.

[Mike and Anna Lieberman's son Steve was recently engaged to Cheryl.](#)

Jon and Sue Matousek are hosting a big 1-yr old birthday party for their granddaughter, Maddie Rose, on Saturday, January 26. All are welcome (just kidding – could you imagine?).

[“Fran Hansen has left because of the snow \(smart cookie\). She'll be back in Spring when snow is no more.”](#)

Hugs from Puerto Vallarta, Fran

February

Martin Hill is performing in concert Saturday, Feb 23. For more information, please visit [Lake County Symphony Orchestra](#).

March

Don't miss our children's show “Fable and Fairy Tales” the weekend of March 29th. Click here for more [information and tickets](#). Tell your friends!

[Patrick Blake performs with the Picard Players Improv Troupe whose quarterly performances benefit a variety of charities. Their next performance is Friday night, March 15, at the Lakeside Lanes.](#)

April

Auditions are on April 8 and 10 for “A Night of One Acts” featuring “Actor's Nightmare” directed by Peter Grassl and “Black Comedy” directed by Jeff Harding.

[Franny Pollack's son Scott Eliot is getting married to Andrea Mazur on April 7, 2019. Congratulations!](#)

Lisa Willems was selected as the director of the Mundelein Arts Commission's Shakespeare Shorts. Auditions in early April with three performances on the circle in front of Village Hall, July 11, 12 and 13th

KP Calendar

Open Board Mtg: All are welcome!	February 5 (Tue) 7 PM	St. Andrew Church
Membership Mtg.	February 8 (Fri) @ 7:30	St. Andrew Church
Membership Mtg.	March 8 (Fri) @ 7:30	St. Andrew Church
“Fairy Tales and Fables” at MHS	March 29 (Fri) @ 7:00 March 30 (Sat) @ 2:00	March 30 (Sat) @ 7:00 March 31 (Sun) @ 2:00
Auditions for “A Night of One Acts”	April 8 & 9 (Mon/Wed) Callbacks Thu if needed	St. Andrew Church 7-10:00
Membership Mtg.	April 12 (Fri) @ 7:30	St. Andrew Church

Board of Directors

Brenda Sparks, President/Sales Director
Gretchen Grassl, VP/Admin Director
Jon Leslie Lynn, Artistic Director
Jon Matousek, PR Director
Marilee C. C. Rusiniak, Comms Director
Randy Rice, Membership Director
Susie Hill, Financial Director

Spotlight Editor: Peter Grassl
Research/Copy editing: Gretchen Grassl