

**SHOESTRING COMMUNITY PLAYERS**

PO BOX 481  
SAINT HELENS, OR 97051

Phone: 503-366-4406  
Email: newsletter@sscptheater.com

ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE...



Quarterly  
Newsletter



The ShoeString Community Players has been producing plays and other performances in Columbia County for over 30 years. Formed from a dedicated group of "Reader's Theater" performers, SSCP was officially founded in 1982. The first production was Brigadoon, performed at the St. Helens High School Olmscheid Auditorium. SSCP has consistently produced productions and performances since that time, tapping into the rich and "undiscovered" talent Columbia County and its surrounding areas have to offer. We perform Revues, Musicals, Dramas, Comedies, Children's Theater, and any other type of production that captures the attention of the community. In fact SSCP is recognized in the Cultural Inventory of St. Helens in the Columbia County Cultural Coalition Summary. ShoeString was also recently recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts for its participation in the "Big Read" with its performance of "The Persian" a Sam Spade radio play. We have been a long-standing, well-respected community group. SSCP is a fully non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, relying on volunteers for every aspect of our operation. Our mission is to support theater and arts through successful productions and participation of the community. We hope you enjoy our show and programs.

**THE CHERI ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP**

The ShoeString community Players annual Theater Arts Scholarship is intended to assist graduates of St. Helens, Scappoose,

Vernonia, Clatskanie, and Rainier High Schools who intend to major or minor in theater or in a related field (such as technical theater, dance

performance, film production, or makeup) at an accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or conservatory.

**MAY 15, 2018 DEADLINE**

More info at:  
<https://www.sscpmusicals.com/support/college-scholarships/>



Volume 36, Issue 1  
MARCH 2018

**INTRODUCING NEW & OLD BOARD MEMBERS**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**No need to introduce this guy.**

**You've probably already met him!**

**R. Keith Marks, ShoeString's Special Project Coordinator**

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players." William Shakespeare hit that right on the head. I got interested in theater back in High School in the 10th Grade, in Longview Washington. I was a shy, studious young man. Someone convinced me, because of my personality, and height, I would be hilarious in the role of a n 8-

year-old kid in a one-act play. Don't remember the plays name, it's been over 50 years ago. But I did it. Nervous, shaking, I rode a little trike with my knees hanging out. I got tremendous applause for my 10 little lines, and everyone thought I was a natural. I went on to act, star, and be in every stage production after that. Became the president of the Drama club. Went to college seeking out a drama and speech education degree. I was going to be a teacher. But, real life came and except for a few brief moments in local Portland Theater in the 70's, I dedicated myself to work. But, I had become outgoing, some would call me funny, even many would

say a ham whenever I could be, kind of guy.

Then after many years, I was working at TW Telecom in the mid 2000's, along with the "man" called Brian. Mr. Vaerewyck and I worked side by side. We were one of the most successful sales teams Portland had ever seen. He let me know one day, that he and his wife Shannon were involved in a local community theater in St. Helens. And he thought I might like to be involved. **WOULD I.....COULD I....?** Well that was history, and from then on, I fell in love with being back in theater and doing productions with the Shoestring players. I

**"THE 39 STEPS" IN MAY**

The 39 Steps: A Live Radio Play by Joe Landry Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. ([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

Performing in MAY  
THURSDAY 17, FRIDAY 18  
and SATURDAY 19 AT 7PM

Inspired by Hitchcock's classic tale and performed as a live period radio play, this romantic thriller is a fast-

paced ride through the signature world of the Master of Suspense. Richard Hannay is visiting 1930s London when he meets Annabella Smith, who is on the run from foreign agents, after a disturbance at a music hall. Later that night, Annabella is murdered and Hannay must then try to break the spy ring and prove his innocence. From an epic

train chase to a feisty love interest, Hannay has his work cut out for him as he searches for the truth about The 39 Steps.

Performance at Address:  
St. Helens High School,  
Building B, LooWit Room  
2375 Gable Rd, St Helens,  
OR 97051

Box Office Opens at 6pm  
Doors Open at 6:30pm

**Inside this issue:**

"Helen on 86yh Street"	2
SUMMER CLEANUP	2
Special Thankyou	2
Letter from President	3
Membership Memo	6
New Treasurer Position	6
Secretary Position	7
New Publicity Position	7
All Board Positions	7
Annual Meeting	7
Scholarship Deadline	8

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

- The 39 Steps  
Show Dates  
- May 17 thru 19
- Helen on 86th Street  
Auditions  
- May 29—31  
Show Dates  
- July 20-22 & 26-28
- Membership Drive  
- Pay Dues Today

# “HELEN ON 86TH STREET”—SUMMER MUSICAL

This year’s summer musical is Helen on 86th Street. Vita is a 12-year-old that desperately wants the lead “Helen of Troy” in the school musical. Of course, the popular girl gets the role that she doesn’t really want. The play takes us through Vita’s struggles with her dreams of stardom. Will her dad make it home to see her perform? Vita making the most of her one line. Events happen to give Vita a chance at her big dream. This charming and big-hearted musical brings a new twist to a classic tale.

The cast will consist of three adults and 25-30 current 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. Cast members will have the opportunity to participate in the following workshops; makeup class, lighting and sound, stage design, song, dance, costumes and props as well as their role in the production. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to learn what goes on behind the scenes and on stage. This will give the students an introduction to all aspects of theater. This will be the first time that SSCP will do a production in this manner. The show is designed so that the students get a full package experience.

They will hit the stage the last two weekends of July. I am super excited to be offering a show for students in this manner. Auditions will be the last week of May. Please watch our Facebook page and website for dates, times and location.



Designed by Elliot Vaerewyck

Audition requirements: Adults 30-50ish years of age, 2-3 females and 1 male. Students must be currently in 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade, boys and girls of various height, size and looks. Must come prepared to read from the script,

have a prepared song to sing without music accompaniment, a completed audition form and a wallet size photo (does not need to be professional) We just want it to match a face with the name. Please keep in mind that anyone that has vacation plans in June and July should reconsider auditioning as we will have a tight rehearsal schedule and missing rehearsals will jeopardize the productivity of the show. ■

**Auditions are being held May 29, 30 and 31 at 6:30pm**

**Show Dates July 20-22 & 26-28**

**Location for auditions:**

**St. Helens High school  
Loowit Room, Building B.**

**2375 Gable Rd.**

**St. Helens, OR 97051.**

**Director Contact info:  
Shannon Vaerewyck  
(503) 396-2682  
shannon@vaerewyck.com**

## SUMMER CLEANING OF STORAGE UNITS

We will be planning a working party this summer to clean up and organize the storage units, we have 3 off them now and they are in desperate need of being purged. If you are interested in

helping please send us your email address and phone number so we can include you in the planning of the day and time. Please leave a message at 503-366-4406.



## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

SSCP would like to thank the following individuals for their many years of dedication, service and support.

Bill Cade, who was a Founding Member of SSCP, and also served as the Treasurer.

Shannon Vaerewyck, who was a Charter Member for SSCP, and also served as President.

Merle Pence, whom we adopted, and

served as Maintenance.

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## SECRETARY

You see her every year as the dedicated Volunteer in our Ticket Booth.

But, did you know that she’s also the Secretary for SSCP?

Hiya. My name is Colleen and I’ve been volunteering for SSCP for 5 years now.

We first started by building the ticket booth for the St Helens Haunted Tours. Then I had the pleasure of selling tickets, candy, and letting visitors know what is happening in the town of St Helens during the month of October from the very booth we built.

I have been elected as secretary on the SSCP board and take pride in keeping SSCP organized and keeping the records updated.

I look forward to serving on the board and keeping involved in the community theatre whenever and wherever I can.

## PUBLICITY

Cheers! Let me introduce myself. My name is Gretchen Williams and I am newly elected to the SSCP Board as Public Relations. I am a lifelong resident of St. Helens, former Board Member for St. Helens Economic Development Corporation (SHEDCO) and former organizer of the Spirit of Halloweentown Parade.

I first met Brian V. just 2 years ago while I was working at the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. He came in to inform me of all the amazing events that SSCP was doing during the

month of October. I had no idea that one organization did so many incredible things all in one month. I was very impressed with all the dedication the SSCP volunteers had put into creating these events that I wanted to know more, see more and experience more of their adventures. After I retired from SHEDCO in late 2017, Brian made me an offer that I couldn’t refuse-become a Board member for SSCP and the position comes with a team to work with. Not just a team, but a team of my good

friends. Ben Tiscareno, Beth Hoffee and Kathleen Jenkins had already been volunteering with Shoestring. They knew the ropes and were happy to assist me as I transitioned into my new role. Together our team will be creating the newsletters, keeping up with all Social Media, printed Media and all of the promotions for SSCP. Shoestring is a very active group and it definitely takes a team to keep up with it all!

## CURRENT 2018 SSCP BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Vaerewyck	President	brian@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2018-2019)
Kathleen Grant	Treasurer	kathleen@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2018-2019)
Colleen Ohler	Secretary	colleen@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2017-2018)
Kim Harris	Membership	kim@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2018-2019)
Gretchen Williams	Public Relations	gretchen@SSCPtheater.com	(Appointed 2018)
Keith Marks	Special Projects	keith@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2017-2018)
Byron Ohler	Maintenance	byron@SSCPtheater.com	(Term 2018-2019)

## THE SHOESTRING COMMUNITY PLAYERS ANNUAL MEETING

A few changes.... this years annual membership meeting will be held on Sunday June 10, 2018 at 7pm at the SunShine Pizza banquet room in St. Helens. Some of the topics to be discussed are update on our financial standing, elections of new board positions in the fall and up

coming season, and changes to the constitution..

Attending the annual meeting is a great time to pay your membership dues, join SSCP, volunteer and be first to hear what is coming next and add your input on the direction of SSCP. If there is something you

would like to see on the agenda please go to our website at [SSCPtheater.com](http://SSCPtheater.com) and email the secretary@SSCPtheater.com by May 30th which is the agenda deadline. Hope to see you there. ■

## THE MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Membership privileges include the following: Voting privileges in all SSCP general meetings, one vote per member. The right to eligibility for committee positions. The right to accept nomination for the Governing Board, serve if selected. The right to attend any ShoeString Board or Membership meeting.

You are ready and want to sign up? Where is the membership form? <https://www.sscpmusicals.com/support/membership/>

### Why Be a Member?

Shoestring Community Players (SSCP) is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization established in 1982 by a core group of theater enthusiasts from the Columbia County area. SSCP is run completely by volunteers and financially supported through ticket sales, memberships, tax-deductible donations and community/corporate sponsorships.

SSCP proudly supports the community by giving back to the community in many ways. In partnering with other theaters and the local schools, SSCP provides an outlet for expression that is slowly being cut out from public schools. SSCP sponsors the Cheri Adams Scholarship given every year to a graduating high school student looking to further their education in the Arts. A

## TREASURER

### Introducing Kathleen Grant, newly elected SSCP Treasurer

I am Kathleen Grant, SSCP Treasurer for 2018. This is my second year as a member. I have assisted with October activities and have enjoyed it very much.

percentage of all profits from shows and activities along with supplemental funds from sponsorships and donations provide the funds for the scholarship each year. As a sponsor, your contributions will directly help us to continue this venture.

SSCP typically produce one large summer musical with a cast and crew of about 100 volunteers, plus smaller venue shows and activities each season. This year we are introducing new corporate level sponsorships. The advantage of sponsoring now is having the benefit of preferred advertising in the programs as well as showing your dedication for the arts in our community. We are excited to announce we will be performing Helen on 86th Street for our summer musical. In addition, we have been asked to reprise our St. Helens Haunted Tours this fall with a new twist. Our shows provide another means of reaching hundreds of potential and future clients. We hope we can count on your support for this coming year by becoming a member.

Please forward this newsletter potential members or members that you would like to see back in productions and in the organization. This is not a chain mail, but if you could forward this to some close friends, it would be very much appreciated.

If you are interested in getting active

My interest in Shoestring Players began a few (many) years ago when I met business partners, G Graham-Gaston and Bill Cade. They had just opened Bertucci's in a shop next to the post office. In fact, I have met several other Shoestring members through Bertucci's. I loved hearing about productions and helped during auditions for Grease. G tried to get me more involved, but I have always shied away from joining

again please let us know. Some of the membership information that we may have for you may be outdated or incomplete, and we would like to update our records. We have a lot of fun stuff that we would like plan and get accomplished, and we need your support, and input. We understand sometimes these things get forgotten, or put at the bottom of the pile. After this month everyone should be receiving a status of their membership and or an invoice for membership if payment is due and has not received. it may be decided to put unpaid members or on an inactive list and you may miss out on some upcoming timely important information.

The membership form is on the website and you should be able to type in your information right on the form and or print and mail it with your check. If you feel at all uncomfortable sending this on E-mail, and I do understand, please use postal mail and send the Membership Form, with your check to:

**PO Box 481, St. Helens, OR 97051**

Sorry to sound like a broken record... broken record... record... record... but

Shoe String Community Players needs your volunteerism and help.



anything. I have continued sitting on the outside over the years. This year I decided to step inside the ring, out of my comfort zone, by accepting the position of treasurer. I look forward to being more involved and will do my best while learning the aspects of the position.

## A LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

**W**ell, here it is 2018 and it looks like we are already off to a good start, new faces on the board, and we have a plan. Still in the works are for a spring event, on track for a summer musical, and a lineup for the month of October events. Maybe a one act play or radio show, the summer musical is gearing up for "Helen on 86th Street" and the good news is we have a program for our youth cast, and the bad news... there is no bad news. We have a director and an ever-growing production team with new and old faces.

Sponsorships have been outstanding and my hat is off in thanks to our business community. SSCP owes much of our success for having the right equipment, props, effects, and costumes to through the ads placed in our programs. We will be visiting your business once or twice per year to show how we can partner together and show support for our community.

I think if you envision the mission of ShoeString Community Players, I think we have kept a pretty tight course over the years, however one thing we have lacked is training the next generation. That is going to change next few years and foreseeable future, and we are going to make an investment in our volunteers and community. If it were not for SSCP, and the high schools with Ron Barnett and Tom Weaver, theater would be all but dead, without going to Forest Grove, Portland, New York or Las Vegas. Everybody wants excitement. The fact is that the cost of royalties are rising every year, and the cost to put on these plays is at times challenging and shocking. Sometimes it is a losing proposition if we don't fill the seats. Selling more tickets solves most problems.

A call to action. We also need talent and volunteers. How do you spend your time? Online? Zoning on

YouTube videos? Fully engaged participating in community events? It is such a double-edged sword, to participate to make it happen or watch it happen. You could be directing and editing YouTube videos for SSCP. There are so many people that sleep in St. Helens and work elsewhere that they don't even see any of the interworking's of our community. We need people to get out once and a while by participating with the community. It gets better with practice.

How we have tried to be successful, we have been fairly lucky the past few years by providing unique experiences for audiences and one of kind shows that we have showcased in October that coincides with the month-long celebration Spirit of Halloweentown and tourist dollars. We pull it off but still struggle to get people to sign up and volunteer, we need more volunteers. We have so much more that we can accomplish if we get more people to be committed to participate and be in charge of events and activities.

How do we avoid throwing volunteers into the fray with a trial by fire and that is a horrible experience.. I know because I have been burned, brushed myself off and gotten on the ride again. Not everybody is wired that way, so you wind up with fewer people wanting to do it again and improve. So now we are putting into place a system where we put interns in with a coach to help them navigate the pitfalls of putting on a show, by working with a director putting on the show.

This is almost a broken record, but I will say it again. There are challenges with booking large, medium, and small sized venues, because we are looking for the most inexpensive route to keep the cost of admission affordable for our community. We earned the name ShoeString, because we do it on a shoestring budget, but we do it with style and make it look great. We really need a permanent

home that accommodate a 100 person dinner theater or a large scale production that can fit 250 people and be within fire code. Anyone taking notes? We need an arts and theater center for our community.

You might be asking yourself why is Brian president of ShoeString, well I ask myself that very question almost weekly if not daily, I have some pretty big shoes to fill in you look at the past 30 plus years. Many of the people that hold my deepest admiration have passed on to that great theater in the sky or moved out of the area to other theater groups or silver screen. There is no business like show business. We need more directors to step up and move forward.

Have any ideas? Reach out to us by any communication you desire, snail mail, email, BookFace, Twitter, or you can reach any Board Member at our web site [www.sscpmusicals.com](http://www.sscpmusicals.com) or you can call us at 503-366-4406. Together we can take SSCP to the next generation and secure a place for theatre in our community. Here's to a great season! Break a leg!

Humbly yours,

*Brian Vaerewyck*

[president@SSCPmusicals.com](mailto:president@SSCPmusicals.com)

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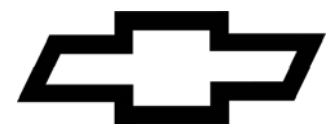

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