

Theatre Workshop of Nantucket  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, May 28, 2021  
(via Zoom)

**Directors present:** Kay Bernon, Max Berry, Beth English, Jane Forman, Ellie Gottwald, Susan Lucier, Jean Doyen de Montaignou, Chris Mortenson, Maria Roach, Terry Schubach, Elaine Schwartz, Judy Seinfeld, Lisa Soeder, David Southwell

**Theatre Council members present:** Amber Cantella, Kathy Garre-Ayars, Victoria Girvan, Jeff Lucier, Les Silverman

**Staff present:** Justin Cerne, Bethany Oliver

**Welcome and call to order:** Board president Susan Lucier called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and thanked everyone for their participation.

**Approval of Minutes of the March 12, 2021 meeting:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Special announcement (Susan & Justin)**

- Susan welcomed Judy Seinfeld back and called on Justin for an exciting announcement.
- Judy has pledged a challenge gift of \$250,000 to TWN, the largest gift in our history. Judy's commitment to TWN and her willingness to support us in such a monumental way means a lot for our future -- especially for the quality of our productions. Judy's pledge is truly a blessing. Susan thanked Judy for her extraordinary generosity, and read the text of a press release that will be released today (attachment 1).
- Judy said that Nantucket is now an international destination, and TWN can grow and prosper with that. She wants her gift to be a catalyst, and she urged everyone to cultivate new donors and garner even more support.
- Given Judy's long history as a TWN patron and advocate, and because of her love and passion for live theater, the Executive Committee voted to add her as an ad hoc member.

**President's remarks**

- This summer, TWN will produce theatre at Bartlett's Farm. Susan recognized John Shea, who was instrumental in making this happen. It was through his foresight and his contacts with the Bartlett family that we will be able to use their land – at no charge! – for our summer productions.
- Strategic Planning members are working on updating our Bylaws. A draft for Board review will be distributed, prior to the August meeting, when we will take a vote.
- Susan asked the board to help engage new donors by encouraging everyone to provide names of people who may be interested in supporting TWN as a Producer – or whom we should cultivate for the future. This is critical, especially now that we have Judy's challenge gift. Susan recognized and thanked the generous donors who have already made Producer commitments.
- Friendly reminder to pay 2021 dues, and thanks to those who have already done so.
- Save the Date for a Pine Grove Open House and Champagne Toast on June 17 in the late afternoon. Thanks to Victoria for her work on a surprise project for the PG property.
- Save the Date for TWN's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration scheduled for August 15.

- NCTV is hosting their version of LunaFest on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Lisa Soeder for making sure TWN will be properly represented and listed as a sponsor.
- The Facilities Committee met on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Helene Patterson agreed to serve as chair. The agenda included house maintenance and landscaping. The new roof is done. TWN is talking to The Garden Group about a sponsorship trade.

### **Nominating & Governance**

- Terry reported that we are in the process of recruiting new members. It's important to "fill the pipeline." We're trying to connect with young people. Please make suggestions for people who might want to get involved; the committee will follow up.

### **Producing Artistic Director's Report (Justin)**

- Sarah Fraunfelder, staff Marketing Coordinator, is selling business sponsorships and building relationships with places like Cisco Brewers, the Chicken Box and Marine Home Center. MHC is now our top Business Sponsor for donating the lumber for our outdoor stage – all new and significant signs of community support.
- Our summer shows at Bartlett's Farm should greatly enhance our position and reputation on the island. Judy said there will be great value in having year-round residents and businesses involved, and it would be advantageous to have some of their leaders on our Board as well.
- Thanks to Beth English for donating costumes for *A Grand Night for Singing*. Susan recognized Justin's husband Andrew Graham as music director of our summer shows. Andrew also bought TWN a set of electronic drums.
- *Godspell*, our joint youth production with the DL, is coming along well with 13 to 17 aspiring young actors. Show will be rehearsed at BH but performed at the DL.

### **Executive Director's Report (Bethany)**

- Kay is involving people to work on the Events and Hospitality Subcommittees.
- Flex passes went on sale May 1<sup>st</sup> and are selling nicely. Tickets for our summer shows will be available later today. Seating will be in pods, accommodating up to 8 people.
- Renters are vacating Pine Grove. We're doing small projects on the interior.
- Bethany highlighted a few items in the 2021 budget and the fundraising spreadsheet, both of which were distributed prior to the meeting.
- We are on track to have a great summer. Some of our 2020 funding was COVID-related and will not recur; thus, we mustn't let the Producer Appeal languish.
- We skipped the Spring Appeal for good reasons but we're pleased with our Business Sponsor results so far. The retail value of the MHC's donated lumber is over \$10K.

### **Treasurer's Report (Chris)**

- We are off to a good start. Our budget shows a small operating surplus for the year.
- To improve returns on our excess cash, we took Amber's suggestion to prepay \$100K of our PG mortgage. Instead of getting a few more basis points on invested capital, we reduced our monthly mortgage payment by 5%. Meantime, we are invested in diversified mutual funds and will gradually increase our equity allocation.
- Cash flow through May has been strong, and though we expect to burn more cash through the rest of the year, we should end the year in a good position.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Ellie Gottwald

## **ATTACHMENT 1**



**Contact:**

Bethany Oliver, Executive Director

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Theatre Workshop of Nantucket, the island's longest running professional theatre, is honored to announce a challenge gift in the amount of \$250,000 from Ms. Judith Seinfeld. This marks the largest donation from a private individual in the history of TWN.

Ms. Seinfeld has played a key role in the success of Theatre Workshop of Nantucket for nearly two decades. Her gift exemplifies her commitment to the performing arts on Nantucket and her passion for theatre. For years, Seinfeld has played a key role as a TWN producer. More recently, she was on the producing team of the Tony Award-winning Broadway show, *The Ferryman*, and was one of the producers of the Tony-nominated show, *The Inheritance*. She is also involved in the upcoming Broadway production of the international smash hit, *SIX*.

"We are humbled by Judy's support and generosity," said TWN's Producing Artistic Director, Justin Cerne. "Her dedication and passion for theatre are unending. This year Theatre Workshop celebrates 65 years of theatrical productions on Nantucket. Judy's generous producer gift will re-energize and support the creativity on the TWN stage--today, tomorrow and for seasons to come."

"I am thrilled to be able to do this for the theater. It has enriched my life completely and I want to share the energy and excitement and make opportunities available for others. Theater is a gift and we are the gifted."-- Judy Seinfeld