

As seen in the Vermont Standard – March 8, 2021

Pentangle Gives Thanks

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and staff I thank the Town of Woodstock and the voters for supporting Pentangle's appropriation in the town budget and the special article. Support that is critical to our ability to reopen the theatre when it is safe to do so. It also makes possible a summer and fall season that includes our popular *Music by the River* series, an end of summer Community Celebration and September outdoor movies!

With vaccines now widely available I am hopeful we can reboot the movie operation at some point during the summer. That could be optimistic given the State's current figures. Regardless, we will be ready to roll and will continue to develop safely distanced programming such as Burlington-based poet Rajnii Eddins May visit to the Woodstock Union High School Campus, the Vermont Mural Project and our Virtual Speaker's Series, *Dream Jobs in the Arts*.

In other Pentangle news we are thrilled to welcome Phil Neuberg, Tom McCaughey, and Lauran Corson to the Board of Trustees.

Phil Neuberg is a licensed architect and architectural historian with specialized experience in historic preservation. He splits his time with his wife Susan between Washington, D.C., where works as an architect, planner, and Federal Preservation Officer at the National Institute of Standards

& Technology, and Woodstock where he serves on the Village Design Review Board. Phil's appointment to the board is especially timely since it coincides with Town Hall Rejuvenation Project. A project that falls squarely in his wheelhouse!

Tom McCaughey has decades of experience in all areas of domestic and international finance through positions at Chase Manhattan Bank, Salomon Brothers, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Prudential Securities, and ING. Tom also spearheaded several very successful charitable projects in New York and Connecticut. We will certainly tap the breadth of his experience to help build Pentangle's capacity and down the road raise funds for an Endowment.

Lauran Corson moved to Woodstock with her husband Bill in 2019. Lauran, a graduate of U. of Michigan with a Master's in Voice Performance and scholarship student at The Juilliard in Opera studies. She has performed throughout the country in major roles with companies such as Pittsburgh Opera, Eugene Opera, American Opera Center, NYC, Long Beach Opera, and Amarillo Opera. Lauran and her husband Bill co-founded the Light Opera of New Jersey where they both performed, directed, and produced Opera and Musical Theatre for 25 years. We look forward to Lauran and Bill's involvement in program development such as future Pentangle live musical theatre productions.

In 2020 we welcomed Trustees, Jill Amato, Amy Boesky, and Bill Corson.

Prior to moving to Woodstock, Jill taught art to high school students in Montgomery County, MD. She and her husband Tony renovated and now run

the Blue Horse Inn. Jill has done a phenomenal job as the head of the Nominating Committee, evidenced by depth of talent and diverse experiences our Trustees bring to the table. Jill and Tony have been especially gracious allowing artists to stay at the Inn at no charge.

Amy, another educator, and author splits her time between Woodstock, with her husband Jacques, and Boston, where she chairs the English Department at Boston College. Amy's contacts in the literary and educational world will help us diversify our Youth in Arts programming, and add ancillary events connected to movie screenings to incent patrons to return to the theatre.

Bill moved to Woodstock in 2019, after he retired from 37 years in Benefits Insurance in New Jersey. Bill along with Katie Brickner, chair of the Programs Committee spearheaded the Virtual Speaker's Series *Dream Jobs in the Arts*. Bill is also a member of the Village Trustees among the many other hats he now wears since moving to Woodstock! As noted above Bill and Lauran's extensive theatrical experience will be a huge asset when we can once again present live musical theatre.

In June we bid a fond farewell to our Chair, Joshua Pauly and Secretary and former Chair, Wendy Spector.

Joshua has chaired the board since July 2019. Joshua's steady leadership allows for thoughtful yet focused discussion at the monthly board meetings. He encourages lengthy discussions and back and forth at committee meetings, making the Board meetings efficient and effective. He is always available, for a quick chat to bounce off ideas or problem solve, even though he works full time as the Music Director at the White River Valley High School. Hopefully, we can reel him back in with his trumpet in future Pentangle productions!

I feel as though I have grown into this job with Wendy Spector by my side. Wendy joined the board in 2015 less than a year after I started. As Chair, she like Joshua was a supportive leader and offered consistent guidance and counsel over the years. Wendy's honest and direct manner was always welcome, especially when she could spot an iceberg I did not even see on the horizon. She takes with her a wealth of institutional knowledge which provides context and history to new board members. She is a crack-jack secretary delivering minutes shortly after a meeting's end.

A few years back I recall Wendy telling me that she did not like asking people for money, but through her many virtual village meetings and phone conversations she has been the engine behind the fundraising effort for the Campaign to Save Town Hall, a role which she will continue to play after she completes her second and final term on the Board.

A heartfelt thank you to Joshua and Wendy for their service to Pentangle as leaders, volunteers, mentors, and as cheerleaders for the organization!