

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Welcome to Lakeside Chautauqua!



If you have not visited Lakeside Chautauqua, you are missing one of the best-hidden treasures that Ottawa County has to offer. Shirley Stary, Vice President of Programming oversees all of the shows and events that are booked at Hoover Auditorium and the Lakeside Chautauqua area. Shirley recently took some time to share how her career path lead her to Lakeside and the wonderful shows that are booked for the 2017 season.

Originally, from the Cleveland area, Shirley became interested in theatre when she was in high school. "My dad and grandpa did a lot of wood working and handy-man repair. I joined them as their sidekick, which translated to be working backstage when I became older. I felt valued when I worked on theatre productions. It gave me a sense of doing something important," explained Shirley. "I had great mentors in high school and college. I did an internship for the Great Lakes Shakespearian Festival. I felt that I had great organizational skills and could envision myself being a stage manager,



Shirley with Chubby Checker

which is the first job I pursued at the San Diego Repertory Theatre. I had received an opportunity to become as assistant stage manager and it changed my life. I worked there for five years."

"Eventually I moved back to Ohio and started working for my Alma Mater, Ashland University in the theatre department when a position opened up for Director of Student Activities," said Shirley. "You needed a Masters Degree in Arts Administration and since I had a great deal of experience I went back to school to earn the degree. That position was similar to what I am doing now at Lakeside but I was working with the college demographic. College students are a great age group to work with and learn from because there was always a new group coming through every year. I held that position at Ashland for 12 years. It was a great experience to manage shows, work with agents and it served as a great forerunner to what I am doing now at Lakeside."

There came a time when Shirley was at a crossroads in her life and knew it was time for a change and redirection. "My husband, Bill is from Catawba and I knew it was time to start something new elsewhere," explains Shirley. "Through networking with great people I found this ideal position where I could use my creativity and work experience skills. I have been working at Lakeside since 2005. It is a positive environment. It is an interesting dynamic because the height of the season for us is the summer months and it seems I do more in three months than I did in nine months at the college."

(laughs)

"There is such an incredible sense of satisfaction when I see people enjoying the shows that I have booked. I often-times get so caught up in the booking that I forget to enjoy the shows," said Shirley. "I love to do jigsaw puzzles

and consider the Hoover Auditorium season as one large jigsaw puzzle. You have to build the framework from the outside and then fill in the middle with the details. I use that metaphor and analogy when booking shows. I try to get all of the Saturday shows booked first because they are the biggest sellers. I juggle several schedules and usually wait the longest for answers regarding Saturday shows. Some responses are instant and others take longer. Booking Chubby Checker took one day, Gary Puckett took two days and Lou Gramm took a week. Some artists can take up to three months to answer. I start booking for the summer during the month of October so at least by Christmas, I have a working schedule of who is coming and people can start planning their visits. It's always best to stay ahead of schedule. I would say nearly every day there are at least 3 to 5 new emails of possible entertainment interests requesting to play at Hoover Auditorium. I network with others in



Shirley with John Tesh and her husband, Bill.



Shirley with the group, Lovin' Spoonful and staff

Lakeside, cont'd on 10

Kids COLLEGE

Mark Your Calendars!

Kids College 2017 will be July 24-27th
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Classes will run from 8:30am - 2:45pm with an optional end of the day program until 5pm*

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Kiss-Me-Over-The-Garden-Gate

By Grace Sidell

At this writing, April is half gone. It's hard to believe, isn't it? It seems like we just took the Christmas tree down!

So, what's going on at The Old Garden House, you ask? Well, I'm transplanting, weed killing, planting, painting and trimming like a lot of you, I'm sure. We are gathering the daylilies from here and there and creating a daylily garden. Also, I'm re-locating the perennial plants in the triangle sections of the flower beds that from a half-circle in front of the flag pole. I've got red and blue flax seeds and white baby's breathe to plant there. Green grass paths separate the triangles. We're making good progress on both projects.

Sometimes we get too busy doing the big things that we pass by the little things. I rarely go in or out my dining room door as I use the garage door opener and drive into the garage and enter through the kitchen door. Yesterday I went out the dining room door to get the mail. As I returned and started up the steps I was greeted by two seasons-neither one was spring! There were artificial poinsettias in the corner and a large fall leaf arrangement on the wall above it. Trust me we now have spring in both places!

My daughter Angie and I will be driving to Atlanta, Georgia in a couple of weeks to visit my daughter Kaye and her sons. We hope to see another grandson, Jake, who located there after graduating from college. We're looking forward to the visit and some "southern hospitality". Not to mention the beautiful drive through the mountains, hills and valleys to get there.

A reminder of the Tea-At-Two programs coming up: May at 2 p.m., program is "Share Our Flower Stories"; June at 2 p.m., program is about "Pins of the 1880's" and July when we will have Tea in the garden and our Victorian Fashion Show. There is space in all of these except the July, where only 5 spaces remain. For reservations call me at 419-332-7427.

Mother's Day will soon be here and for us mothers, grandmothers and great-grand mother's, it is a day filled with many memories of those we love and days gone by. For me there are many. One I wish to share with you from 1989. It is a poem that Angie wrote and embroidered on cloth then framed for me. I would like to share it with you.

It's not what's on the outside that matters most to me,
But what is on the inside that brings security.
It reaches out to touch those encircled in its fold,

You feel it the moment you step over the threshold.

It has grown since the beginning with every passing year,
Through all that goes with living-laughter, joy and tears.

It comes softly from the woodwork, furniture and walls,
Quietly from ceiling and whispers in the halls.

It has left an echo for those who wish to hear,
Renewing all you hoped for and stilling all fear.

It will always be there waiting wherever you shall roam,
For LOVE is what has made this house into a HOME.

Happy mother's Day; May your life always be good.

Ms. Grace is the owner-manager of the Old Garden House. She is the mother of eight grown children, has 16 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She has over 45 years of "hands in the dirt" experience with flowers which she loves with a passion second only to her love for people - especially children.

Lakeside, cont'd from 6

the field as much as I can. We look out for each other, share ideas, possible acts, etc... I would say that between 75% to 80% of the shows I book are working directly with an agent or the artist themselves." Hoover Auditorium seats 2,500 with 50 seats for handicapped guests.

The upcoming 2017 season proves to be an exciting time for all as there is something for everyone on the schedule from entertainment, crafts, speakers, magicians, comedians and more!

"I grew up listening to Foreigner," said Shirley. "It's great to see that original singer; Lou Gramm will be coming to Lakeside in June. We also have The Grassroots who will be coming during Memorial Day weekend; Jefferson Starship, which is sanctioned by Grace Slick, will be here in mid-July. We also have other events booked such Jim Croce's son, A.J. and Jack Hanna from the Columbus Zoo. We have something on the schedule for everyone during the season. I usually work with a college crew over the summer and they become interested in the music of the older artists even if they had never heard of them at first because it's a different generation. The music from these artists has a sense of authenticity. There is a connection to the artist with the fans and it changes people's lives with their music."

"It's important to let everyone know what we do and what we offer at Lakeside. The fees are cheap. The schedule is full and people enjoy themselves," said Shirley. "Most of the artists we book have an amazing experience when performing at Hoover Auditorium. They appreciate the crew, the staff and ask to come back again in the future. That says something about who we are and what we do. We welcome everyone."

www.lakesideohio.com



Shirley with Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits (and her husband, Bill)

Drive-thru Chicken BBQ 4 U 

Liberty Center of Sandusky County
Fund Raiser for the Homeless

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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