

FCP awards scholarships to four '03 grads

The Players gave scholarships to four graduating high school seniors in June. Shown at right is FCP president David Glendinning, who presented scholarship checks to (l to r) **Ehren Remal**, **Andrew Armstrong-Rogers**, and **Hilary Maines** at Freeport High School's Senior Awards night. **Alexandra Dietrich**, of North Yarmouth Academy, also received an FCP scholarship.

The FCP scholarship has been given each year since 1991 to seniors who have participated in productions both in school and with FCP.



FOOTLIGHTS

The newsletter of Freeport Community Players

November 2003

Join us to help FCP



A benefit performance

Saturday December 6, 7p.m.

Freeport Performing Arts Center at Freeport High School, Holbrook St.

Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

Advance tickets available at:

Brown Goldsmiths, 11 Mechanic St., Freeport, & The Village Store, 97 South Freeport Rd., South Freeport.

Tickets also available from cast and crew. For ticket or other show info call 865-2220.

What a show! FCP's stars return to the stage to reprise showstopping favorites from past productions such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Oliver!* and *Cabaret*. Join us for a sparkling, fun evening — proceeds will be used to purchase theatrical lighting to be installed in the new Freeport Performing Arts Center. Come help Sparkle weekend *really* sparkle!

Make a night of it—a special offer

Take advantage of this special discount offer from Freeport's own bistro, the School Street Cafe (on School Street, just down from Main Street). Get your tickets and make reservations for a



PRE-SHOW DINNER or come for POST-SHOW CHEER at a 15% DISCOUNT — Just show your ticket or ticket stub to their wait staff when ordering. For dinner reservations, call School Street Cafe, 865-0100. This offer valid on the evening of the show only.

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Recognize these Players?



At a recent rehearsal for Light Up the Night, Elizabeth Guffey, Mark Dils, John York go over some details while pianist Sharyl Webster waits to get back to her favorite job.

Scheduled to appear:

(listed with *some* of the FCP shows you may have seen them in!)

Mark E. Dils, *Guys and Dolls* and *Cabaret*.

Daric Ebert, *Li'l Abner*, *Damn Yankees*, *Oliver!* *On Golden Pond* and *Table Manners*.

Ellen Ebert, *Li'l Abner*, *The Music Man*, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Elizabeth Guffey, *Antigone*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Godspell*

Geoffrey Ives, pianist

Andrea Olsen, 17 shows! Including *Barefoot in the Park*, *Cabaret*, *Crimes of the Heart*.

Laurel Robertson, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oliver*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Tim Ryan, *Guys and Dolls*

Leslie Soule, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Carousel* and *Damn Yankees*.

David Webster, *Songs of Love*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Amahl*

Sharyl Webster, pianist, *Songs of Love and Other Afflictions*.

Norman Whiteside, *Amahl*, *Oliver!* and *Table Manners*

John York, *Godspell*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Music Man*, *Amahl*.



There's a lot more coming, but mark your calendars for these dates now

Upcoming events—find out more January 22

January 22 6:00p.m. - **Annual Meeting** — Home Ec Room, Freeport High School

February 15 & 16 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
Auditions: Steel Magnolias

February 19 6:00p.m.
Callbacks, Steel Magnolias

SPRING SHOW — FCP presents *Steel Magnolias*, 7:30p.m.

April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 and May 1 & 2


May 23 & 24 6:00 – 9:00p.m.
Auditions: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

May 27 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
Callbacks, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

SUMMER SHOW — FCP presents *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, 7:30p.m.

July 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and August 1, 6, 7, 8

Stay connected with
theatre in Freeport
FCP's info
and reservation line
865-2220
AND
visit us online at
www.fcponline.org

Freeport Community Players
P.O. Box 483
Freeport, ME 04032

President's message

Everything old is new again—New plans for 2004

Greetings to one and all:

As I begin to write this I am aware that Thanksgiving is only two weeks away. The holidays are upon us. On behalf of the Board may I wish you all the joys of the season upcoming accompanied by as little stress as possible.

I'd like to catch you all up on our life as a theater company. Because it has been a busy fall, the Board has elected to put the annual meeting off from our usual November date to January 22nd of next year. (See announcement on page 3). We will have a regular Board meeting on 11/20 but will skip December's. Lots of effort is being channeled into the *Light Up The Night* benefit on December 6.

More than before

We expect to have developed a full year's program for 2004 (significantly more than just two shows per year) that we will be able to announce on January 22. Please plan to attend the annual meeting for we would love your response and input into our planning.

Lights for the new space

Most of you are aware of our Lighting Fund Drive. I have written a status report on that separately, and I hope you will pay attention to it. You may be interested to know that the Players have applied for a grant from a foundation to extend the range of our ability to purchase equipment for the theater. That decision should be made in December and hopefully we will hear before the first of the year. If granted we might be able to accomplish so much more in equipping the new Freeport Performing Arts Center. We were well represented at the opening Gala on November 8. I felt that the mix between the school and non-school use of theater space was aptly demonstrated. And everyone DID SO WELL!

2005 season and beyond

Dorothy Glendinning is chairing the Play Reading Committee that has added Jackie Oliveri and Julia Langham (veterans from *Sylvia*) and Kathy Remal to its ranks. They are

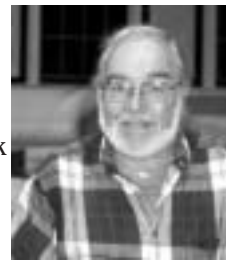
working on choices for 2005 and are also looking for original local work for other efforts.

A fine team—join us

I want to tell you how grateful I have been for the support and hard work of all the Board members. It is a fine group and they produce a great deal. As we look ahead to the annual meeting and the election of new Board members, I would like to put out an appeal for someone to consider becoming our **treasurer**. Our books are neither complicated nor that time-consuming, but it is a role we need to fill. Call the Players number at 865-2220 if you are interested.

Stay warm and well and above all connected.

David Glendinning



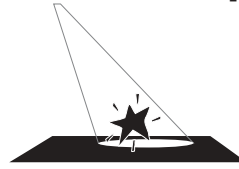
FCP President
Dave Glendinning



Players entertain 'troops'

On June 20, FCP's Ruth Clark, Elizabeth Guffey and Alex Dietrich (left to right in photo) performed as The Andrews Sisters (Maxine, Laverne and Patty) in a *1940's USO Show* celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Falmouth House (Assisted Living Facility at Oceanview in Falmouth). Playing piano (and Ensign Irving "Louis" Berlin) was Louis Philippe of Reindeer Theatre Group and FCP's music director for *Grease* and *Godspell*. Emcee. "Barb Hope", was Falmouth House Activities Director Barbara Buck, who has directed for FCP since 1999.

A fine helping of FCP adds zest to new Performing Arts Center gala



The new Freeport Performing Arts Center opened with its first gala performance,

called *A Taste of Things to Come* on November 8. Planned as a fund-raiser to help equip the new performance space at Freeport High School, the event was designed to give the audience a "taste" of the local talent they can expect to see there in the future.

FCP shows its stuff, briefly

FCP was a key contributor to the evening's success, both on stage presenting tragedy and comedy, and behind the scenes in planning production (Director **Tim Ryan**) and tech (Tech Director, **Ken Carew**). Here's a quick look at the great acts Freeport Community Players contributed to the production: **Carmela Masterson** (*Crimes of the Heart*) performed a serious dramatic monologue, "Clear Glass Marbles" — a daughter's heart-rending perspective of her quirky mother's last days. Changing the pace and tone, trio

Shannon Ryan, David Webster, and Elizabeth Guffey followed this with a hysterical "exotic" dance routine called "Cha-Cha-Cha."

Our own **Valerie Tarantino** (*Crimes of the Heart, Godspell*) sweetly demanded appropriate behavior in the new space — "Because we all want to be genteel," — as she instructed the audience with a comedic *Miss Valerie's Rules of Auditorium Decorum*, written by **Sam Hunneman**.

Accompanied by her friend Gail Parker on piano, **Ruth Farabee Clark** (*Cabaret, Grease*) reprised her sad song of survival under the Nazis from FCP's *Cabaret*, "What Would You Do?"

In a performance that competed in speed and humor with the best FedEx commercials, **Andrea Olsen** (*Cabaret, Crimes of the Heart, etc.*) wrote, acted and sang *The Compleat Wrks of Freeport Community Plyrs, (Abridged)* highlighting all 13 years of 29 shows, somehow in under four minutes.

Another Player, **Cathie Stebbins Petersen** (*Cabaret*) was also on deck, joined by members of her funk and

swing band "Bait the Hook."

A community effort

Along with the FCP presentations, the variety show format featured performances by members of Freeport High School's Chamber Choir, Drama Club, Rock and Roll Club, Band, and BackStage Club, and members of Greater Freeport Community Chorus, and local band "Bait the Hook." Celtic/contradance band "Tin Ceiling" offered lively tunes in the lobby as patrons bought tickets and refreshments.

Thanks for the success

The night was a success in raising funds as well as re-introducing the community to the breadth and depth of its performing talent. The event also provided an opportunity for performance groups to work together and appreciate each other. The audience was diverse, and we hope that many who were first-timers enjoyed FCP's contributions and will join us for future productions. Thanks to everyone who took part in or who went to "taste" the show.

Did you forget to send your gift?

Lighting Fund Report

As of November 17 . . .

There is good news and bad news—you've heard that line before! But it is a bit true. The good news is that we stand at about 80% of our stated goal. We need about \$3,000 more to go over the top. Further, the average gift is slightly over \$175, so generosity has not been our issue. Most of the gifts are one-time. We have \$450 pledged but not received for 2003 and \$1,425 pledged to be paid in 2004.

Not so good are our percentages. Our responses to date represent only 12% of our total mailing list. Of our core constituency we have heard from about 17%. Anecdotally, I know there are numbers of people who have spoken to me

personally in very positive terms but from whom we have yet to hear. We had set an end time of October 31st to the program mostly in order to facilitate the effort and the purchase of the equipment. I guess I need to say that we are still open for business and would hope that if you intend to contribute you would do it soon. The High School Musical is scheduled for the weekend of January 16. It would be wonderful to have been able to make our purchase and to have the equipment in place to support their efforts. Let's wrap this up quickly. Thanks for your cooperation.

—David G.



Players Take 3rd!!

Celebrating Freedom of Expression: A hardy troupe of volunteers raided the FCP costume closet, made some snazzy signs, and hammed it up for the crowds at **Freeport's 4th of July Parade**. The theme of the parade this year was "Celebrating Freedom", and the Players reveled in theirs! In addition to entertaining parade watchers, the Players took home the coveted **3rd prize** award from the Freeport Rotary Club. Photos at fcponline.org.

FCP alum honored for work at Lyric

Margaret Murray, who has served on FCP's board, as well as stage managing many shows for us, was recently honored by Lyric Music Theatre as Volunteer of the Year with the Cedric Thomas Award in honor of Margaret's work. Congratulations!

If you go to just one meeting next year, make it this one

On the agenda: new shows, new lights, new and old friends, dinner

The **Annual Meeting** of the Freeport Community Players will be held **Thursday, January 22, 2004**—beginning with a **POTLUCK dinner at 6:00p.m.**—in the Home Ec Room at Freeport High School, Holbrook Street, Freeport.

The agenda will consist of regular business including the yearly financial statement and the election of members of the Board of Directors for the up-coming year.

In addition there will be

- a final accounting of the **2003 Lighting Fund**,
- a report from the Play Reading Committee about **show selections for 2005** and
- a review of the Players' **calendar for 2004**.

Please come join the feast and the fun, and share your ideas about what great community theatre in Freeport can be.