



**NEW KENSINGTON CIVIC THEATRE
MAY 2014 CALLBOARD**



GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the NKCT will be at 8 pm on Friday, May 2, at the workshop. An important meeting...Please try to attend. We have nominations of officers for the coming year and we need a quorum. Hope to see you there!

Note: Executive Board Meeting is Monday, April 28 at 7:30 pm.

"WONDER OF THE WORLD"

We have a cast for "Wonder of the World." And, they are busy with rehearsals! Opening night (May 15th) will be here before we know it!

WONDER OF THE WORLD CAST LIST

Cass Harris.....Klase Danko
Kip Harris.....Frankie Shoup
Lois Coleman.....Lisa Joyce
Karla.....Shelly Spataro
Glen.....Dennis Gills
Captain Mike.....Alex Novickoff
Barbara & Others.....Pam Farneth

Director is Matt Mlynarski and Sue Shirey is the stage manager.

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This month I had an "Audience with the Queen!" Yes, our own "Queen," Pam Farneth! Read and enjoy learning more about one of our most active current members.



*Fifteen Minutes with Pam Farneth*



"I had always been fascinated with the theater from a very early age and was always involved with the drama club in high school and did productions both there and in college. I remember my very first show in High school was *The Solid Gold Cadillac*. I was a freshman in high school and I got the part of Miss L'Arriere conveniently pronounced to sound more like derriere; who was sort of a "Betty Boop" type character. I still remember my big line spoken with a fake French accent and wearing a bikini which went, "I had my swimming pool dug by a General Products steam shovel!" That was the beginning of two things for me. My love for theater and my constantly getting parts, that for lack of a better description were the dumb blonde roles. From that moment on, I could think of no place I would rather be than to be on stage. No matter what the part was, I loved playing characters and bringing their stories to life.

There was a period of time that I didn't do theater and that was when I started having kids. So, I took a break for short period of time. We had been living here in New Kensington for about 5 years when I was in church

singing for Rick my husband's grandparent's funeral. This very cheerful and colorful lady approached me after the service and introduced herself as Rick's grandfather's cousin. She said her name was Nora Ann Pastrick and that she belonged to this organization called New Kensington Civic Theater. She told me about the theater and she said, "We could use someone like you." Well it peaked my interest; but, I was pregnant with my 3<sup>rd</sup> child at the time. So, it would be 2 more years before I would actually take Nora Ann's advice and seek out NKCT and audition for my first show. It was *Charlottes Web* and the director was Louise Ziccarelli. I took my 2 oldest kids with me to the audition and we all tried out. Well, when Louise called me to say she was casting all three of us and that Austin would be playing the part of young Wilbur, I was excited beyond words. It was the beginning of a wonderful high that I have never come down from. To be on stage with my kids and to share my love for theater with them is a moment I will never forget. That very first production with NKCT introduced me to Chris Pastrick, Jill Magill, Maria and John Delvecchio, Bob Stein, Dennis Earney, Eric Bitar, Larry Tempo and I'm sure there were others in that production or staff that I might have forgotten. We got to be on stage with all of them. I can never thank Louise enough for casting me and my family that day. It was the start of what would become my second family. That one show helped me to developed friendships that will last a lifetime! A few months later Larry Tempo would cast me in my first musical with NKCT, *Into The Woods*, where I met this person they, the "old time cast members," called the Nazi choreographer named Laura Wurzell. After that show, I could see why they would call her that name. I lost so much weight doing that show. I would later get to work with Laura again when she cast me as Vicky in *The Full Monty*; which became my favorite musical role because I got to play opposite some of the most talented men on stage ever. Anyway, after those first 2 shows with NKCT, I was totally hooked. I would go on to meet Ron Ferrara; who would cast me in some of my favorite comedic roles ever! I think my favorite was my most recent role as Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing*. And, then there was Colleen Sulava, who would give me my first dramatic role on stage as Karen in *The Children's Hour*; still one of my all-time favorite roles, And, Sylvia Garzotto, who would cast me as Romaine in *Witness for the Prosecution* alongside Bill Mitas. Finally I got my chance at the dramatic roles and the opportunity to learn from great directors. These people taught me the talents of directing, too and I would then go on to direct shows of my own... *In One Bed and Out the Other*, *Wait until Dark*, *The Fantasticks* and *Nuncrackers*. I have been the President, Directing Chair, Acting Chair and Historian of this organization at one time or another and presently, I am the directing chair again! It's been a wonderful and sometimes bumpy ride here at NKCT. I mean, you can't have an organization like this without its share of the drama, too. I mean, come on, "Hello People," we are actors here and we are dramatic; but, no matter what, the good, the bad, the ugly; this is my family, these are my friends. This is NKCT and this is where I call home!"

Thank you, Pam for taking the time to share your experiences!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Cynthia Ansani*  
*Editor*