

Theatre Guild of Simsbury would like to share with you several announcements, changes and a review of the overall state of our organization during this challenging time.

As of today, all TGS productions are on hold, and we will not be producing any live full-scale stage shows in 2020. Our hope is to bring *Our Town Simsbury* to the stage and audiences in the spring of 2021 and to resume our fall musical production in the fall of 2021. We had announced *Shrek the Musical* as our next musical production, which is still our first choice. However, keeping the health and safety of our cast, crew, directors and audiences as our first priority, we will be watching diligently how COVID-19 plays out over the next several months.

We are pleased to announce our new Board of Directors for 2020-2021. Diana Yeisley is stepping up as our new president and Cindy Braunlich as our new vice-president. Rick Anderson will continue as treasurer and Elizabeth Valdez as secretary. Doreen Cohn, Priscilla Hurley, Steve O'Brien, Dian Pomerantz, Donna Sennott, Iona Turnbull, Anna Vdovenko and Steve Vincenzo complete our board. We would also like to recognize and thank two board members who have stepped off the board: Darlene Davis and Jeff Schlichter. We appreciate the time and dedication they have given and are pleased they will continue to work with TGS in a non-board capacity. We also thank past-president Donna Sennott for her years of leadership and passion.

We will be spending much of this year planning our safe return to the stage and, for this purpose, are creating a re-opening committee. Reopening arts, and theatre in particular, is no easy task in the age of COVID, and we will ensure we do so diligently and responsibly. Many new precautions and procedures will need to be undertaken, and we must understand them fully and be prepared when the time comes. We are also taking this time to restructure all (many?) aspects of the organization, including the warehouse.

Many fun interactive activities are being planned (perhaps even a virtual performance opportunity)! Stay tuned for more information on how you can participate in these events and stay involved with your favorite group of theatre friends!!

New membership opportunities and levels have been designed for this unique time and will be sent to you soon. As you know, it is more important than ever to support arts organizations. Without the ability to stage live productions, we have lost a year's income. Your support will help TGS be ready and able to reopen when the time comes. Plus membership benefits can keep you engaged and connected with TGS even while at home.

We miss you all and look forward to the time when we can be together again. The show **will** go on . . . just not yet. (But we're leaving the lights on for you!)