



STACIE BOORD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHADOWBOX LIVE

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Debbie Johnson introduced today's speaker, Stacie Boord. Stacie is the executive director of Shadowbox Live, the largest resident ensemble theater in America. Shadowbox was founded in Columbus in 1988. In addition to being one of the troupe's most popular performers Stacy is responsible for all the fundraising, community relations and education efforts over the past five years. She has worked to establish groundbreaking arts education programs such as "STEM Rocks the Box", the Shadowbox Live Summer Rock Art Boot Camp and the Columbus State Community College artistic sign language course.

Under Stacie's leadership Shadowbox Live has an aggressive outreach program that donates over a quarter million dollars each year in tickets and educational services to the youth here in Central Ohio.

She graduated cum laude from Ohio State University with a master's in music and vocal performance and completed two years of Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance performance. Among her pre-Shadowbox

endeavors was a stint as an opera singer. She has appeared in over 10,000 Shadowbox performances.

Stacie noted that they are very much looking forward to partnering with UA Rotary on the fundraiser and raising some much needed funds for the club's projects. She also sees it as an opportunity to introduce club members to Shadowbox Live and what the organization does.

Shadowbox Live began 30 years ago when Stacie was in college. She embraced an opportunity to team up with an aspiring rock performer, Shadowbox founder Stev Guyer, on a rock opera. The result led her to realize that rock and roll was more her style. The show itself was an original story that "was really, really flawed".

The troupe did, however, see the potential in telling a story through rock and roll music. Putting their own spin on the music was very compelling and satisfying to the artists.

Shadowbox was a volunteer organization the first seven years. To survive they did things like clean a bakery in order to use it as rehearsal space. It took about three years and three revisions to the rock opera before a good review was achieved.

At that point the decision was made to actually start a black box theater. At this point the troupe was only doing one show a year.

Programming was very happenstance at first. There was no there was no rhyme or reason to the scheduling. Eventually the music and acting components were combined/coordinated and shows were grouped together thematically.

GREETERS

March 26

Connie Aschinger
Scott McKenzie

April 2

Dan Ralley
Chris Aschinger

April 9

Barri Jones
Paul Berg

REGISTRATION DESK

March 26

John Hansel
John Adams

April 2

Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

April 9

Don Leach
J.D. Dickerson

CALENDAR

March 26 | Scioto CC

Doug Kridler
Columbus Foundation
Host: DeHays

April 2 | Scioto CC

TBD

April 9 | Scioto CC

David Herman
Almost Yankees
Host: Harrer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

March 26th
Scioto CC

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



STACIE BOORD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHADOWBOX LIVE



It was Stev Guyer, Stacie and several others who thought, “you know what, we could write better sketch comedy than Saturday Night Live. It’s just not that funny anymore”. They gave themselves a 10 day rule and wrote a sketch comedy, a rock and roll show, in 10 days and presented it. It was wildly successful. This is when the company found its roots.

When shadowbox became more established they added food and beverage to create more of a cabaret atmosphere. For a number of years Shadowbox found itself in different locations – from the Buggyworks to Spring Street to Easton Towne Center. There was also a location in Newport, KY.

During this nomadic period the troupe secured support for a trip to New York and a short off Broadway run. Planned funding for this venture did not come through which the troupe ultimately turned into a learning opportunity. All focus was directed toward sketch comedy rock and roll. Thought turned to acquiring their own building with a street presence.

Stacie thanked Bill Schottenstein, Larry James and Marilyn Brown for helping the company realize that dream. Shadowbox Live now has a permanent home in the Brewery District. The operation has been consolidated there and the Newport operation shut down.

Founder Stev Guyer passed away in March of last year after a fighting his battle with cancer “like a rock star”.

Since becoming CEO, Stacie worked with the troupe to wipe the slate clean and ask “why are we doing this and why are we doing that?” There has been a revitalization of the organization. It has evolved into a women run organization.

She hopes a takeaway from today’s meeting will be that we appreciate that passion for a cause or a project can get you through a lot and that the same passion can yield good in the community.

Shadowbox is currently running several shows including Leather and Lace and Women of Rock, which is a celebration of all the women of rock. They also recently closed a show called “F*** cancer”. The musical was inspired as Stev Guyer was fighting his battle. It was done in collaboration with national recording artists and is getting national attention. There is consideration of taking the show elsewhere. It is “a beautiful celebration of life...”

Here is a link to an article about Shadowbox Live from the current “American Theatre” magazine. [Shadowbox Live](#)



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The Meeting



President **Brad DeHays** opened the meeting and asked **Jim Ayers** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We greeted visiting Rotarian **Jim Lynch** from the Tri Village club today.

Brad announced that on Monday, March 18 the board approved three funding request for community service.

The first one is a collaborative effort with Second Chance ministries that we've provided support for in the past for \$7,500. The grant supports a collaborative effort between them and Central City church that is going to provide training and outreach for the homeless primarily in the Franklinton community.

The second grant supports the Second and Seven Foundation's program to provide books to children in need. The books (the "Hog Mollies" series) are distributed by the Foundation and we will provide funding for 90 sets of the eleven book series for West Broad Street Elementary School in Columbus. Total funding for this project is \$4,950.

The final approved request (\$3,000) will provide food for 50 children and their family members.

Our board also has approved a new initiative for "under 40" members in an effort to tear down barriers to entry. Brad can provide details if you know of someone who may have an interest in joining. The program potentially provides cost reductions to members whose age plus membership tenure total less than forty.



Notes and Announcements



Jeanine Hummer rolled out the Fundraiser raffle ticket campaign today. She distributed signup sheets for ticket purchases - \$25 each or 5 for \$100. She's a rookie at this so she asked for maximum participation and support. It is her expectation that everyone will write their name on the signup sheet with the number of tickets needed. Billing will be through the club. Tickets will be distributed at future meetings. Phase II of the raffle program is next week - she threatened to physically make folks who haven't responded fill out the sheet. Phase III will be the final step - potentially forging names and ticket requests. Bottom line - help us reach our goals by participating fully. She noted that she follows in the footsteps of **Bill Mielke** and asked us to keep his memory alive. First prize in the drawing is \$300 and second prize is \$150.

Jim Winfree contributed to the grandparents fund and announced the birth of a new grandson.

Alan Yarletts, on behalf of **John Huneck**, distributed signup sheets for YWCA Family Center meal service next Monday, March 25. Let John Know if you'd like to help out.

J.D. Dickerson announced next week's roundtable will feature his granddaughter who will discuss her trip from Charleston, SC to Santa Monica, CA on her bicycle. She is currently a sophomore at Dennison University.

Debbie Johnson promoted the Fundraiser and distributed flyers for sponsorship support. She also reminded us to let her know about auction items. So far her auction item inventory includes a golf club and a golf ball. She thanked Jeanine Hummer for filling Bill Mielke's shoes on the raffle campaign. Debbie also thanked **Jon Hellstedt** and **Matt Rule** for their excellent efforts in obtaining sponsorships.

