

Over the Hill and In the Know



TROUPE OVER THE HILL HILLTOP LAKES, TEXAS - VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4 - DECEMBER 15, 2014

WELCOME

Time for some news! As 2014 comes to an end *Over the Hill and In the Know* by Troupe Over The Hill of Hilltop Lakes, Texas, wants to get some great information to the Hilltop community members and surrounding area regarding Community Theater and things we offer here at Hilltop Lakes. In each issue we put the spotlight on one of the Troupe's active members (actor, stage crew or other support functions) and on one of the Troupe's sponsors.

Inside this issue

TROUPE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

... Letha Tibbitts pg. 2

TROUPE DONOR SPOTLIGHT ...

Diana and Rex Kelly pg. 3

THEATERS – IN AND AROUND OUR AREA.. pg. 3

**TENTATIVE
2015
DATES
AWARDS NIGHT
Feb. 24
SPRING SHOW
May 1, 2, 3
FALL SHOW
Oct. 23, 24, 25**

A SWINE PATCH CHRISTMAS BENEFITS HTLVFD

Thank you for helping our Hilltop Lakes Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services by attending Troupe's Hilltop version of a down-home Christmas titled, *A Swine Patch Christmas*. We had a wide variety of entertainment lined up for everyone to enjoy. There was singing, dancing, skits, and even a wonderful Jolly Ol' St. Nicholas.

The best part of this show is that it was the Troupe's way of giving back to the community. We know the community had a great time at our community benefit performance in 2013, which netted over \$1300 for the Hilltop Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. DRUM ROLL PLEASE... Troupe is extremely proud to announce that the proceeds for 2014 brought in \$2220. That is double the funds! Our special thanks to Linda Noey, manager of the Overlook Restaurant for preparing a special chili & baked potato bar meal with \$5 of each \$10 meal going to the HTLVFD. The restaurant brought in \$415. That is \$2635 together.

The Tonkawa Room was the place to be for all the fun. Remember the HTLVFD is something special for our community. They are there when you need them most, when you call 911. They can always use our help too. Tax revenues from the ESD have decreased, while their expenses have increased. Additional donations may be sent directly to the HTLVFD at P.O. Box 1474, Hilltop Lakes, TX, 77871. Thank you again to everyone who participated in *A Swine Patch Christmas* by being on stage, setting up the stage, behind the stage, or most important of all, in the audience enjoying the show. Troupe Over The Hill salutes you all!

Annual Meeting & Board Election Results

After five years as an organization it is always time to take a look at where we have been and how we are doing things. At the Annual Troupe Over The Hill meeting on November 17, 2014 the membership approved a few changes to the by-laws to be more in line with the way our organization has been doing business. Our website, troupeoverthehill.net has a section for "official paperwork" where you can take time to download and read these important documents. Thanks to the committee and board members for all the hours of work going over the items. The business side of the organization is very important.

We also had our annual election of the board of directors. The board members serve for a term of three years. Our newly elected board members for the term of 2015 – 2017 will be Janice Hall, while Margaret Parker and Meta Ashpaugh will continue to serve. Troupe would like to thank Louella Elmendorf for her service and support on the board of directors during this past term.

The board members met on December 15, and have elected new officers. Their contact information is on page 4 of this newsletter. Those serving in 2015 along with our new board members will be Ann Falconer, Mary Christensen, and Swen Crone with their terms ending in 2015, while Joyce Perkins, Karen Woods, and Ruth Hime will continue to serve through 2016.

Troupe Membership Up

Troupe membership is open to everyone. The dues are only \$5 per year to become a voting member. The idea for low dues is that we want you to participate as much as possible in all of our activities and productions. In 2009 we began our organization with thirteen willing souls. We met in homes, we met at the restaurant, and we now meet in the Tonkawa Room.

There are so many jobs to be done for all our productions. The board of directors (see listing on page 4) does most of the "business" work for the organization. We always need help with publicity, make-up, acting, singing, dancing, making phone calls, website work, photography, video taping, stage transport and setup, serving refreshments, costume design and creation, and operating the sound and lighting equipment, and much more. We always have a need for volunteers! Besides performers for each production, we have a long list of other necessary functions – all so very important to our continued success.

So, whether you like to "ham it up" on stage, configure the stage for the "hams," or sell the "ham" to the public, there's a job waiting for you. Oh, yes, we do have a lot of fun, too! Match up your talents and interests, and contact one of our members to let us know in what areas you'd like to help. The board members are listed in this newsletter or send e-mails to

troupemembers@gmail.com for more information. We can always use additional help and participation. We would like each of you to consider becoming a member of Troupe. Our dues to be a voting member are only \$5 per year. Join in the fun. Call 936-855-2878, 936-855-2906 or troupemembers@gmail.com. ☐

TROUPE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of Over the Hill and In the Know we put the spotlight on one of the Troupe's active members (actor, stage crew or other support functions). This issue's spotlight member is Letha Tibbitts.

Letha Tibbitts is a founding member and known best for all the hours she puts behind her keyboard. Letha has worked on nearly every production either at the keyboard or helped by supplying snacks for rehearsals. These past five years Letha helped get us going during our meetings and was a major part as "Lil' Bit" in *Swine Patch Junction*. Since Troupe's beginning, if there is music involved Letha is usually helping us out.

Letha was born in Jacksonville, Texas. Galena Park, Texas, became her home for many years. Letha went to school in Galena Park ISD from grades one through twelve. She even came back to Galena Park as a teacher after getting her degrees from San Jacinto Jr. College and then finishing with a Bachelors and Master's degrees from University of Houston Clear Lake. While in Galena Park she taught 7th grade reading for 17 years, along with 7 years as a high school literature teacher, while nights and evenings took up time teaching college prep reading and other night school reading classes.

Letha met the man of her dreams in high school, Bob. They have been married for 52 years. They have three sons and ten perfect grandchildren (well, almost perfect...ha)! The grands range in ages from 3 – 24. Letha was always very active in helping with Granny Camp when all the grands would participate. We have such fond memories of her skits with them.

Letha has retired three times. Once officially, but continued to work at the same job, while drawing that extra income from teacher retirement. Then again she retired from teaching, then did that again, then finally really retired

when they moved to Hilltop in 2004. While her children were young, Letha taught piano from home. She got a real estate license and did that for a while before going back to college to get a degree in reading.

Piano has been her life. She was the pianist for Uvalde Baptist Church before moving to Hilltop. She is now the pianist for the Flynn Methodist Church and a substitute at the Normangee Methodist church once a month or more if needed. Twice a month she plays her keyboard for the Bible study group at Bill and Robby Lyle's home. Of course most of us love the accompaniment she does for Sweet Harmony. But most importantly for Troupe, she is our "Lil' Bit" behind her keyboard to help with our musical productions.

The Tibbitts laugh about how they came to buying a lot at Hilltop Lakes in 1971. The development offered free babysitting! They really never used it, but it sounded like a deal and the place for them. The big attraction to Bob and Letha was the extra \$50 just to come take a tour of Hilltop. The extra perk about the free babysitting was the added deal breaker to sell them their lot.

They built their beautiful home in 2004. Their home has been the host location for some of the Sammy Sneed Block parties, as well as a large New Year's Eve party for friends. They love to entertain. Being named the Hilltop Lakes Citizen of the Year in 2009 has honored Letha. She has been active in many organizations, church and school activities. At one time, she led a monthly birthday celebration for Hilltop residents.



A little tidbit about Letha, she swam in the Jr. Olympics during her teen years. She even won a few medals. Letha was the Lt. Colonel and charter member of the Galena Park Jacketeers during high school. Can you imagine those high kicks from her at the end of the drill team line?

Letha is very proud of being a member of Troupe Over The Hill and would give this advice to others. "It is a wonderful thing to entertain others and see them enjoy the productions. It is a blessing to be part of this group."

Troupe is truly blessed by having Letha as an active member. Thanks for so many wonderful performances. We look forward to many more. ☐

HAVE YOU SEEN A GOOD PLAY? Troupe is looking for titles of plays, skits, sketches, ideas for productions and events. Please send us some titles and information on shows you think we could do or any special talents you have seen in the area. Contact any member or send your ideas to troupemembers@gmail.com.

2015 Membership Drive

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Please send \$5 to *Troupe Over The Hill*

P.O. Box 1104

Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871

FIND US ON THE WEB AT: Troupeoverthehill.net

FACEBOOK -- <https://www.facebook.com/TROUPEOVERTHEHILL>

TROUPE DONOR SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of *Over the Hill and In the Know* we put the spotlight on one of the Troupe's donors.

Troupe Over the Hill relies on its theatre patrons, members, donors and advertisers to ensure that we can continue to bring live theater to "The Hill." Our donors include both individuals and companies. Our donor spotlight turns on **Diana and Rex Kelly**.

Diana and Rex Kelly became **Troupe** members about three years ago. Rex made his debut on stage in *Kilroy Was Here* in 2011. The theatrical bug has bitten Rex. He has now become a regular as a faithful cast member that can bring some spark to any scene.



Rex was born in Mission, Texas and graduated from Linden High School in 1973, while Diana was born in Houston and graduated from Galena Park High School in 1977. Yes, Coach Tibbitts was her drivers ed. teacher. Do we need to watch the road when Diana is behind the wheel? HA!

Rex and Diana have been married for 39 years this coming April 2015. They have two daughters and five grandchildren, two girls and three boys. Rex is considering retiring this coming summer after nearly 33 years with NRG Energy. Diana works for College Station ISD and hopes to retire in three years. Rex's job brought them to Hilltop Lakes. They had bought a small piece of land about 15 years ago so that Rex could play golf. Rex was transferred to the Jewett plant in 2004 and they bought a house at Hilltop in November of 2005. Rex is an avid golfer and this was a perfect place for them to be as they near retirement.

Diana has served on the Kickapoo Club board and was also a volunteer firefighter and EMT while living in Houston. She was also very involved in the PTA boards while her daughters were in school. Diana holds a Texas and National Lifetime Award to PTA and was a Rookie Firefighter/EMT of the Year in 2000. Rex loves golf and fishing and is still waiting for his special awards in those areas. Guess that is another reason to retire soon.

Rex and Diana enjoy playing Mexican Train with friends. Diana has some advise for others thinking about joining

in the Troupe fun, "The Troupe is an awesome group of people that Rex and I have grown to admire so much. It takes a lot of hard work, but with the folks we have on board it makes the hard work fun."

Troupe is very fortunate to have donors like the Kellys. Each donor helps Troupe continue to grow and advance with every production. Hats off to Rex and Diana, thanks for your support. □

THEATERS - IN AND AROUND OUR AREA

Live theater is a great experience. There are a number of theater companies, which are close to Hilltop Lakes for theater enthusiasts to easily attend. Many theaters have afternoon matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. We encourage you to attend, if you like the plays, be sure to let us know...even bring us a program from the production. Call or check website for updates.

Texas A&M University - OPAS - opas.tamu.edu - 979-845-1234

Houston, Sarofim Hall, The Hobby Center - 713-315-2525

Theater Under The Stars, Houston - www.tuts.com

Broadway Across America - houston.broadway.com

Unity Theatre Group, Brenham, TX - unitybrenham.org

Brazos Valley Troupe, Bryan, TX - www.bvtroupe.com

The Theatre Company- Bryan 3125 Texas Ave. Ste. 500) Tejas Ctr. behind JoAnn's Fabrics.. www.theatrecompany.com 979-696-2787

Kiss Me Kate - Feb. 6 - Feb. 15,

Peter Pan - Apr. 10-Apr. 26

Carousel - June 5 - June 14

The Addams Family - July 24 - Aug. 9

Stage Center Community Theater 201-B W. 26th St. Bryan, TX 77803 (Located in old Town Bryan) stagecenter.net

Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean Feb. 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

Crighthon Theatre 234 N. Main Conroe, TX (936) 441-7469 ext. 201

www.crightontheatre.org

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - Dec. 5 - 21 *Singing in the Rain* Feb. 13 - Mar. 1

Navasota Theatre Alliance

104 W. Washington Ave. Navasota, TX

(936) 825-3195 - Thurs, Fri. & Sat. 7:30 PM, Sundays 2 PM

navasotatheatrealliance.com

*M*A*S*H* - Feb. 19-22, 26-28, March 1, 5-8

Witness for the Prosecution - Apr. 30, May 2, 3, 7-10, 14-17

Huntsville Community Theater - J. Phillip Gibbs, Jr. Centre for the Performing Arts, 1023 12th St., Huntsville, TX 77340 (Old Town Theatre)

www.huntsvillecommunitytheatre.org

Fri. & Sat. 7:30 PM, Sundays 2 PM -

Dr. Cook's Garden - Feb. 13 - 15, Feb. 20-22 *Arsenic & Old Lace* - Apr. 17-19, Apr. 24-26

HELP WANTED - experienced in graphic design, advertising, web site development, and the creative side of print and web based content. Please contact Joyce Perkins @ 936-855-2626 or jperkins@valornet.com.



Troupe members had a great day touring the Rudder Theater Complex on Dec. 8. Members of the Hilltop Red Hat group joined in the fun.

**2015
Board of Directors**

President

Ann Falconer
gmfalconer@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Swen Crone
swen.crone@yahoo.com

Secretary

Joyce Perkins
jperkins@valornet.com

Treasurer

Janice Hall
janicehallcpa@live.com

Meta Ashpaugh
flying5a@windstream.net

Mary Christensen
mary35.christensen@gmail.com

Ruth Hime
ruth@jimhimecpa.com

Margaret Parker
margaretparker@windstream.net

Karen Woods
karenwoods98@windstream.net

**TROUPE OVER THE HILL
P.O. Box 1104
Hilltop Lakes**

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROMOTE, EDUCATE AND
DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF
THEATER AND DRAMA, WHILE
PROVIDING WHOLESOME
ENTERTAINMENT TO THE
COMMUNITY THROUGH AN
ATMOSPHERE OF FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP WHILE BRINGING
CHEER, JOY AND HAPPINESS
TO ALL WE TOUCH

**Check us out on the web:
Troupeoverthehill.net**

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN BIG SUCCESS

Troupe Over The Hill began the idea of fundraising each year with our *Bravo* night in September in 2010. That night allowed *Troupe* to begin dreaming of being able to provide something special for Hilltop Lakes and the surrounding community.

It has been a great experience to watch us grow from our "baker's dozen" to a membership of over 60 with an inventory that grows each year. One example is our stage units. We began with 192 sq. ft. area. We now have more than doubled that space to over 436 sq. ft. of staging available in a wide variety of configurations. We have added carpet, lighting, props, and an ever-growing costume wardrobe.

The generosity of our donors allows *Troupe Over The Hill* to be an organization that is able to provide many wonderful performances and activities for our community, surrounding areas of Leon County and the Brazos Valley area.

If you are interested or you have a friend or family members that would be interested in donating or advertising with *Troupe Over The Hill*, please contact, Joyce Perkins at 936-855-2626 or e-mail troupemembers@gmail.com. □

THANKS TO OUR 2014 DONORS

Please consider supporting *Troupe Over The Hill* with your contributions. Our 2014 campaign continues through Dec. 31, 2014.

ENCORE – (\$500+)

Normangee State Bank

BRAVO – (\$250 - \$499)

Glenda Dretke, Mary Lynn & John Faulk,
Ruth & Jim Hime, Diana & Rex Kelly

APPLAUSE – (\$100 - \$249)

Ella Bishir, Mary & Scott Christensen,
Daughtry & Jordan, P.C., Attorneys at Law,
Kari & David Hodges, Mary & Al Jolly, Kay Maddox,
Memories for Moms, Joyce Perkins - Photographer,
Joan Mitchell, Margaret & Earl Parker, JoAnn & Bob Peters,
Neila & Hernando Porto, Waynette & John Shockey,
Mary Stewart, Marie & Larry Youngblood,
Marce & Walter Welch,
Wells Fargo Advisors, Tim Michel, Financial Planner,
Karen & Eldon Woods, Marie & Larry Youngblood

Friends of the Troupe – (\$20 - \$99).

Meta & Larry Ashpaugh, Rhea & Al Hooper,
Marge Kelarek, Shirley & Gordon Purser

Special Thanks for their support:

K & J Event Planning,
Hilltop Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.,
Charlotte Waddill,
Copy Corner

2014 Advertisers

All Secure Storage, America's Choice Roofing, Archer Lumber*,
Best Interior Shutters & Blinds, Mike & Kathie Sieger*,
Triple S Irrigation, Swen Crone, Janice Hall*, Carol LaBouve – Hair Care*, Lagravier Real Estate,
Memories for Moms, Joyce Perkins, Neila & Hernando Porto, Handy Randy - Randy Ryder*,
Don Sorrells, Realtor, WealthMax – Danae & Brian McGann*, Donna & Jack Wimbish*

* Fall Show Only