



# SPOTLIGHT

February 2016

## 2016 Board of Directors

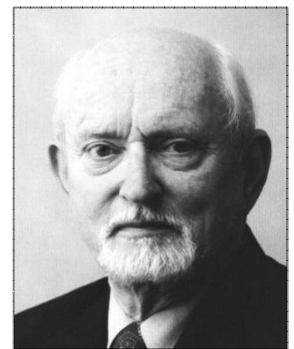


The annual meeting of Brevard Little Theater was held on January 16. The members present approved the slate of board members and officers. Eight new members were added to the existing five for a total of thirteen.

The gavel was passed from outgoing president, Julie Vorus, to incoming president Al Edick. Sandra Whitmore remains on as secretary, Dick Thompson is now the vice-president, and new board member Terry Moore has assumed the role of treasurer. Other new members are Steven Gee, Marianne Plunkert, Bonnie Whitmire, Kevan Smith, Sandi Thompson, Darien Aiken and Carolyn Winchester. Last but not least, Annette Hobbs, Julie Vorus and Nita Porter remain on the board.

**From top, clockwise:** Steven Gee, Marianne Plunkert, Sandra Whitmore, Dick Thompson, Al Edick, Darien Aiken, Julie Vorus, Bonnie Whitmire, Kevan Smith, Annette Hobbs. Not pictured: Terry Moore, Sandi Thompson, Nita Porter, and Carolyn Winchester

## A Word From Our New President



Al Edick

Following his election at the annual meeting, new President Al Edick addressed the attendees with the following remarks:

“For most of the past year, BLT has been guided by a Board of Directors consisting of just five people. Julie Vorus, Nita Porter, Dick Thompson, Sandra Whitmore and Annette Hobbs have kept this organization afloat with rentals and special events. Without their work, we wouldn’t be here today, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Please join me in saying thank you to them.

“Now we must build on their efforts. In my many years of theater activity, I’ve worked with 14 different theater groups in different parts of the country. Unfortunately, seven of those 14 are no longer in business. They had to close their doors because of dwindling audiences and poor attendance at auditions. In fact, those seven all had to

cancel productions occasionally because they couldn't cast them. BLT has much in common with those failed seven.

"I didn't agree to take over the president's position to see BLT become number eight. My term of office is one year. In that one year my goal is to make BLT a needed and respected leader in this community. Working with this new board of directors, we're going to again be active so people will know we are here and who we are. We'll have a booth at celebrations like the White Squirrel Festival, Halloween and Christmas events. We'll have a float in parades, and our BLT-To-Go will expand, providing entertainment at meetings, conferences and parties throughout the county and elsewhere, and in so doing they'll tell the BLT story and pass out our season brochures. We'll offer productions our audience wants to see, and we'll greet them when they arrive, making them feel welcome and urging them to come back. There will be a regular education program, and we're going to reestablish a working relationship with the college while, at the same time, establishing a scholarship program with Brevard and Rosman High Schools for students interested in theater. Finally, we're going to recognize those who make BLT what it is...our volunteers--those who build our sets, find our props, paint our sets, produce and direct our plays, and perform on our stage.

"I'm asking all board members and those of you who are part of our membership to make a list of the things we should do to accomplish our goal, and with those lists we'll develop a plan for the year. We'll then work through committees, and those committees will include people who are NOT on the Board, but are people interested in things like marketing, fundraising, education, special events, publicity, theater décor and others.

"In short, I guarantee that for at least the next year at BLT, we'll be busy, and it will not be quiet."

## *The Kitchen Witches Gear Up for a Fight*



Two "mature" cooking show hostesses have hated each other for 30 years. When they both end up on a TV show called *The Kitchen Witches*, the insults are flung harder than the food. The show becomes a ratings smash as they top both Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer!

The show stars Sandra Whitmore and Marianne Plunkert as the "witches," Terry Moore as the producer/son and Meredith Kuhn as the camera gal. Al Edick directs, Maureen Edick is producer and Linda Branham is the stage manager. BJ Winchester has created an amazing set.

*The Kitchen Witches* by Caroline Smith runs February 19 - March 6, 2015, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM & Sundays at 3:00 PM.



Sandra Whitmore



Marianne Plunkert



Terry Moore



Meredith Kuhn



# New Volunteers Jump In

Several of our new volunteers have jumped in and become indispensable. Linda Branham joined us last December, and although she had absolutely no theater experience, she agreed to fill the role of stage manager for *The Kitchen Witches*. Under the guidance of veterans Al and Maureen Edick, she is learning the job and apparently loving it, since she has also volunteered to stage manage our next play, *Angel Street*.



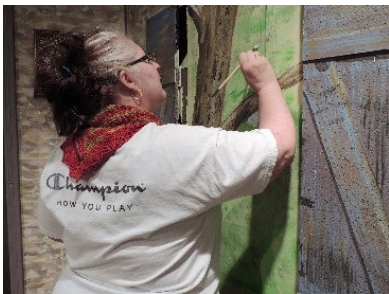
Linda Branham



Martha Miller

Martha Miller joined us a year ago and agreed to be our props master. She did a fabulous job organizing and labeling our props as well as painting sets and doing just about anything that needed to be done. When our facility manager resigned last year, Martha took over and has worked diligently with the Fire Marshal to assure our building is safe. She spends countless hours at the theater making certain that everything is in working order.

## Set Design 101



BJ Winchester

Under the tutelage of professional set designer Steve Marsh, several of our volunteers are learning the basics of set design. Steve retired to Connestee Falls after a 30+ year career as a set designer. He still works part-time: You can see his work on *Mercy Street*, a PBS series playing on Sunday evenings.



Linda Branham & Steve Marsh

Under Steve's guidance, BJ Winchester has become one of our terrific set designers, and just completed the set for *The Kitchen Witches*. New volunteer Linda Branham has learned the technique of wood-grain painting.



Shutter open

Shutter closed

When you come to see the play, be sure to notice the shutters (shown at left). At the beginning of the play, they are open, revealing a tree trunk and squirrel. After the first scene they're closed, and each displays a painting of a witch. The idea came from Steve and was implemented by BJ.

# The Basement

Did you know BLT has a basement? It's located under the stage and is where all the tools, paint, wood, props, etc. are stored and much of the work is done.



Martha Miller and Steve Marsh emerge from the BLT basement, arms loaded with supplies.

# Dancing With Our Stars

BLT is proud to present our **9th Annual *Dancing With Our Stars*** fundraiser at the theater on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 7 PM. This popular event features local personalities paired with a very skilled or professional dancer in competition. Each couple performs its dance and audience members vote for their favorites with dollar bills. Each dollar counts as one vote, with the couple raising the most money winning. Proceeds help offset our operating expenses. The audience will have an opportunity to dance before and after the competition. Tickets are \$10 and are available the night of the performance. Advance sales are Thursday and Friday, February 4 & 5 from 11 AM - 1 PM at the theater. Makeup date in the event of bad weather is Saturday, February 13.



# BLT-To-Go

by Julie Vorus



Brevard Little Theatre is offering its BLT-to-Go program to area organizations. If your club is looking for a fun, 20-30 minute entertainment presentation at a meeting, please call the theater at (828) **884-BLTR** [2587] for information. This service is free to the community, but donations are gratefully appreciated.

# Season Tickets Available Now

Did you miss one of our shows last year because you forgot to get tickets? That will never happen again if you purchase season tickets. Our Five-Flex Pass gives you the ultimate flexibility. Use the five punches (\$73) for one person attending five different shows or take four friends to one show to save \$7.00 per pass. Three-Flex Passes are also available for \$43. Call the theater or stop by the box office to purchase yours. If you received a 2016 Season brochure, you can fill out its order form and mail it in. See you at the theater!



# In Memoriam: Charles Almand

by Dick Thompson

For the first time in my memory, BLT has received a bequest from a former member's Last Will and Testament. It is from the estate of Charles Almand.

I remember 'Charlie' as active backstage with BLT in helping with sets, attending shows with season tickets, and making small donations every year 2002-2011. He had a home on Railroad Avenue and was an overall good guy. He kept to himself, and we just sort of lost track of him after 2011. His wife had passed away and he was alone.

Anyway, Charlie passed away last year, and in his will he designated that \$2,000 of his estate was to be left to BLT without any restrictions. We received the check in early January. Here is his obituary:



**Charles W. Almand, Deland FL (Age 84).** Charly (also known as Bill) passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia on November 7, 1930 and was a proud Navy veteran who served in the Korean War. An active Georgia Tech alumnus with a degree in Building Construction, he built several custom homes. One of his homes was widely recognized in a full page story in the Asheville Times a number of years ago. He had a long career with United States Gypsum consulting with the Federal Government on many projects, most notably developing standards for drywall installation. He retired and left the Washington, DC area to Brevard, North Carolina in 2002 and most recently moved to Deland, Florida to be closer to family. He is survived by his only son, Chas (Chuck) Almand of Apopka, Florida.

## Reservations & Information Line (828) 884-BLTR [2587]

**Brevard Little Theatre is the  
Official Community Theatre of  
Transylvania County & Brevard**

[www.brevardlittletheatre.com](http://www.brevardlittletheatre.com)  
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(828) 884-BLTR [2587]

## 2016 SCHEDULE

### ***The Kitchen Witches***

February 19 - March 6

### ***Angel Street*** (aka "Gaslight")

April 15 - May 1

### ***The Odd Couple*** (Female version)

June 3 - 19

### ***Godspell***

July 28 - August 7

### ***Delval Divas***

September 16 - October 2

### ***A Christmas Carol***

December 1 - 4

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