

# STAGEBRIDGE

June 20, 2016

## It's your last chance to give to Stagebridge!



Marilyn Leavitt in *Tomas and the Library Lady*

Thank you to all who have given to our end-of-year campaign. **We've been so struck by the generosity of our community.** What another great reminder that Stagebridgers are some of the most enthusiastic and supportive people around! Keep an eye out for a special thank-you email and list of all who've generously donated.

If you'd like to appear on that list - there's still time - **you can donate until June 30th.** Of course, you're welcome to donate whenever you'd like, but donations given before the end of the fiscal year are especially helpful to us! [You can donate by following the link here](#) , or you can mail or drop off a check to our office at 2501 Harrison St. Oakland, CA 94612.

Many of you also received our announcement of the **Memorial Fund in Honor of Marilyn Leavitt.** Sadly, Marilyn passed away in March of 2016, leaving a deeply felt absence at Stagebridge. In memory of Marilyn and her many contributions to our community, her family and fellow students have established a fund to support our Performing Arts Institute. This fund will be used for student scholarships, to support new and innovative programming, and to increase equity in our Performing Arts Institute. Please note that the link in the original email was not operational. [For more information or to donate to the fund, follow the link here.](#)

### Summer Camp Class Focus: Musical Theater



Musical Theater performing *My Fair Lady* at our June 2016 Showcase. Photo by Stuart Kandell

Summer Camp is a great time to take **Musical Theater**, whether you're a veteran



Playback Theater

**Summer Class Focus: Playback Theater and Yes And... Climate Change Ensemble Creation**

who wants to continue honing your skills, or a new student who's always imagined yourself on stage! This week-long intensive is part of our summer camp and runs from July 11-15.

**Join Ellen Robinson and Benjamin Pither for selections from Showboat, a classic musical from Hammerstein and Kern based on Edna Ferber's novel of the same name.** Dating back to 1927, it's the first Broadway score ever to have a coherent plot and integrated songs. Showboat is the story of the Hawks family and their showboat troop of actors aboard the Cotton Blossom floating theater. Includes favorites such as *Ol' Man River*, *Bill*, and of course, *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*.

You have the option of signing up for the morning only session of camp and taking just Musical Theater, or you can take a full day and add classes in Singing, Drumming, Storytelling, Acting, and more! [To register for camp online, click here.](#) [To see a camp schedule, click here.](#)

### Laugh Lines, with Stagebridge Storyteller Olga Loya, travels to Chicago!



Photo courtesy Olga Loya

**Stagebridge's partnership with the DHHS's "Brain Health" campaign continues in the Windy City!** Laugh Lines:

**Join instructor Martin Holtz for one or both of these challenging, growth-oriented classes.** If you've never tried Playback or improvisation before, check out Playback Theater, which starts July 19. If you're an experienced player, Yes And... Climate Change Ensemble Creation might be the perfect way to grow your skills.

Playback Theatre transforms audience members' stories into theatre pieces right on the spot through spoken improvisation, movement and ritual. In this summer class, **participants will experience warm-up games, short forms and story improvisation techniques that capture the essence of this interactive art form.** Fun, challenging and meaningful!

Yes And... Climate Change Ensemble Creation utilizes Playback Theatre forms and improvisational techniques to create and perform an original performance piece. **This class will explore and express thoughts, feelings, facts and the future, focusing on the importance of global warming in our planet's survival.** Playback experience or comfort in improvisation necessary. Fun, challenging, and important!

[To register for one or both of these classes, or other summer classes, CLICK HERE.](#)

### Congratulations to Stagebridge Playwright Shirley Issel!



Grandparent's Tales winner Iris Wang reads her story

Shirley Issel's original play "Angel of Darkness" has been accepted into San Francisco Theater Pub's 2016 Pint-Sized Play Festival. An excerpt from Shirley's play was presented as part of our Playwriting Showcase this spring. If you were lucky enough to catch that performance, you know you're in for a treat.

The festival runs August 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 8 PM at PianoFight in San Francisco, CA. For more information about the festival, visit <https://sftheaterpub.wordpress.com/>

A Storytelling Event about the Experience of Getting Older will be held on June 25th from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre at the Center on Halsted (3656 N. Halsted Street). If you happen to be in or around Chicago (or know someone who is) - stop by and say hello!

This free event will feature six amateur older adult storytellers, each of whom will be selected from a previously held storytelling workshop. **These storytellers will engage in a friendly storytelling competition, sharing their personal narratives and humorous stories on the topic of growing older in front of an audience of their peers.** The event will be hosted by a local celebrity emcee, kicked off by professional storyteller Olga Loya, and a panel of judges will determine the winner.

**Stagebridger Mary Luerson won the Laugh Lines Storytelling Competition held in San Francisco in April.**

## THANK YOU!

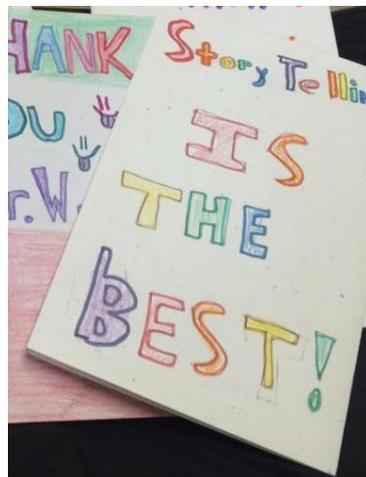


Jazz and Broadway Harmony Showcase performs in our 2016 Class Showcase. Photo by Stuart Kandell

**Thank you to everyone who attended, performed, supported, and participated in our end-of-year events.** We had a packed schedule, with our end-of-year class showcase on June 6, in-class showcases throughout the week, and our end-of-year luncheon on June 10th. **Our instructors and students did a fabulous job** performing and rolling with any unexpected technical glitches!

**We've had so much fun this year, and we hope you have too.** Our instructors and students give so much to our community, and all of the staff at Stagebridge appreciate it.

## Thank you to all who made Grandparent's Tales great!



Our 2016 Grandparent's Tales writing contest was a huge success this year. **Elementary School children wrote stories told to them by a grandparent or older adult in their lives,** and winners read their stories at Books

Inc. in Alameda and on air for the Wee Poets program.

**We'd like to thank everyone who made this program work:**

**Hank Headland and the staff at Books Inc.** for hosting the Grandparent's Tales Reading on Saturday, June 11. Over 75 kids, parents, grandparents, teachers, and community members attended. Books Inc. also generously donated a percentage of sales made during the event to Stagebridge.

A special thanks to the **Mayor of Alameda, Trish Herrera-Spencer,** for taking the time to attend and to encourage the students, parents, and teachers to continue to support intergenerational storytelling.

Stagebridger storyteller **Ann Reilly** was on-hand to tell some tall tales - thanks Ann!

We also had six **teachers** in attendance from Bella Vista, Laurel, Glenview, and McKinley Elementary Schools.

Finally, thank you to all of the **students, grandparents, and teachers** who worked to write and submit stories to this event. It is truly heartwarming to read all of the wonderful entries.

*We are supported by Aroha Philanthropies, Banks Family Foundation, Bernard Osher*

Seeing everyone's impressive performances makes all of our hard work worth it!

A special thanks to Z's Café for preparing the luncheon, and thanks to Sprouts Grocery, Star Grocery, and Piedmont Grocery for their donations. Thanks also to all who donated during the luncheon and showcase.

*Foundation, California Arts Council, City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, Clorox Company Foundation, Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Moca Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, the Alameda County Arts Commission, The Lowell Berry Foundation, West Davis Bergard Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and donations from individuals like you!*

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**Stagebridge was founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandell.**

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