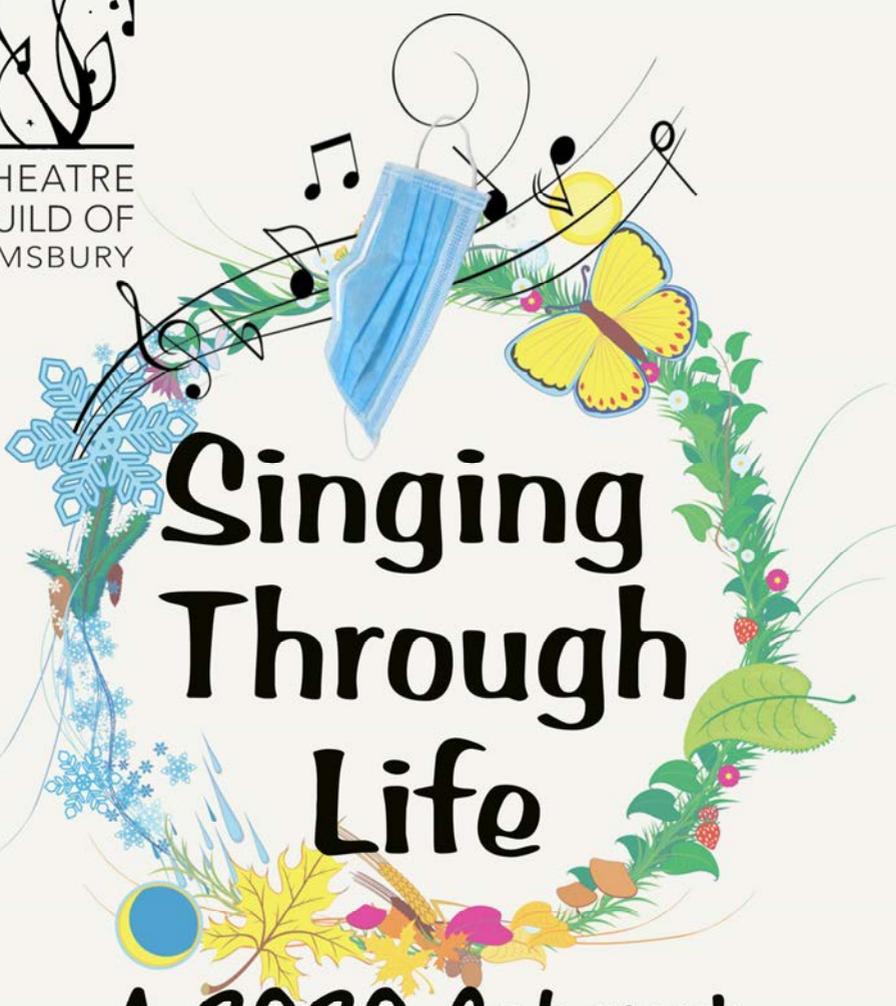




THEATRE  
GUILD OF  
SIMSBURY



# Singing Through Life

A 2020 Cabaret

December 2020

# THEATRE GUILD OF SIMSBURY PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1973	1776	2000	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying / Broadway From A-Z
1974	Kiss Me, Kate/ Rally Round the Flag	2001	Sweet Charity / Broadway With a Beat Cabaret
1975	The Most Happy Fella / George Washington Slept Here	2002	Annie Get Your Gun / Love Through the Ages Cabaret / Heart Suspended & Glory in the Flower
1976	The Red Mill	2003	My Fair Lady / Plaza Suite
1977	Anything Goes	2004	Miss Liberty / Night of January 16th
1978	Kismet	2005	Prelude to a Kiss / Cabaret / The Sound of Music
1979	Hello Dolly	2006	Rumors / Cabaret / The Pajama Game
1980	Fiddler on the Roof	2007	The Mousetrap / The Wizard of Oz
1981	Showboat	2008	An Impeccable Larceny / Annie / Cabaret
1982	Carousel	2009	Over the River and Through the Woods / Thoroughly Modern Millie
1983	Mame / The Good Doctor / Our Town	2010	Kiss Me, Kate
1984	Brigadoon	2011	The Foreigner / Cabaret / Curtains
1985	My Fair Lady	2012	Our Town / The Music Man
1986	Camelot	2013	Pride and Prejudice / 9 to 5: the Musical
1987	The Pajama Game	2014	Almost, Maine / My Favorite Year
1988	Oklahoma / The Music Man	2015	Dearly Departed/The King and I
1989	Girl Crazy / The Dining Room	2016	The Dining Room/ Beauty and the Beast
1990	42nd Street	2017	Bedtime Stories/Sister Act
1991	Me and My Girl	2018	All My Sons/Honeymoon in Vegas
1992	Hello Dolly!	2019	A Christmas Carol/ Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
1993	Anything Goes / Adult Comedy		
1994	Mame / An Evening of Melodrama		
1995	Best Little Whorehouse in Texas / Mother Goose O'Rama		
1996	Crazy for You		
1997	Will Rogers Follies		
1998	George M! / An Evening of Cabaret		
1999	Fiddler on the Roof/ Cabaret 2000~A Tribute to Frank Loesser		

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Anderson, Treasurer  
Cindy Braunlich, Vice President  
Doreen Cohn  
Priscilla Hurley  
Steve O'Brien  
Dian Pomeranz

Donna Sennott  
Iona Turnbull  
Diana Yeisley, President  
Elizabeth Valdez, Secretary  
Steve Vicencio  
Anna Zuckerman-Vdovenko

Theatre Guild of Simsbury, Ltd  
*Proudly presents*

A graphic of musical notation on a staff, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and several notes and rests. A large, decorative flourish is positioned above the staff.

**Singing  
Through  
Life**   
**A 2020 Cabaret**

Conceived and directed by Iona Turnbull  
Music direction by Michael Yachanin  
Produced by Diana Yeisley

To learn more about the  
Theatre Guild of Simsbury  
go to our website

**[www.theatreguildsimsbury.org](http://www.theatreguildsimsbury.org)**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

At the start of the year theaters canceled shows and closed doors. Audiences stayed at home. But a light stayed on, a light of hope for a new way forward. Early in September, volunteering my years of theatre experience, I took the bull by the horns and stepped into the driver's seat to create a virtual show. The experience has been incredible - not only artistically crafting, creating and directing my first show, but also being challenged by these unprecedented times when many were losing hope of performing in 2020. Fortunately, I had a fantastic team who jumped on board to be part of this new venture while also maintaining strict COVID-19 safety measures to keep everybody safe! I wanted to base the show on challenging situations faced throughout 2020 and hope you find relatable moments through both humorous and touching songs. Hopefully *Singing Through Life – a 2020 Cabaret* brings a spark of magic back to the community, and you will enjoy watching it as much as I did creating it! I am excited to keep searching for new opportunities in 2021 and look forward to seeing you soon!

*Iona Turnbull, Director*

## ABOUT THE GUILD

*Spanning over 47 years with over 74 productions involving more than 1,000 people and audience attendance close to 100,000! This just begins to tell the story of the Theatre Guild of Simsbury (TGS)...*

Community theater forges connections between people, creating a new kind of “family.” Regardless of how we spend our working lives, actors, musicians, dancers and others gather to pursue our common interest in creating live theater. And that shared passion creates strong bonds among people whose paths might never have crossed.

Each year TGS produces a Broadway-style musical and a play, enriching the community with these and other performances such as staged readings and Simsbury Celebrates shows. Our organization has been successful for nearly 50 years because of the endless hours donated by volunteers.

Looking ahead to the future, we remain committed to our mission: bringing top-quality theater productions to our community. Anyone who has the inclination to try theater should join us! Our membership program is filled with activities that help us get to know each other better. Grow with us and make new friends along the way. We welcome anyone who'd like to give theater a try, either onstage, backstage or behind the scenes!

For more information visit our website:

**[www.theatreguildsimsbury.org](http://www.theatreguildsimsbury.org)** or email us at  
**[theatreguildsimsbury@gmail.org](mailto:theatreguildsimsbury@gmail.org)**

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Last January when we announced our next musical, we never expected to be where we are today.... not staging any live performances at all! We are heartbroken that we could not stage our spring play or fall musical to live audiences and be on that stage doing what we love. COVID has certainly thrown us all for a loop. But as performers often must do, we have refocused our lens, shifted and found new ways to be productive and creative. We have researched COVID safety measures and what must be done for our cast, crew, and audience to eventually reopen responsibly. We have found fun ways for members to stay connected, such as virtual Trivia Nights, virtual Murder Mystery events, and a virtual Blingo fundraiser. More exciting events for members are being planned for the holidays and into 2021. We are taking this time to reorganize ourselves by starting inventory lists and cleaning out our stock. But the most exciting and ambitious undertaking has been creating this virtual cabaret. We plunged in headfirst to this new way of performing and bringing joy to our audiences. Technology has allowed us to perform safely, but most excitingly, has given us a sense of togetherness as we worked on this unique project as a team. It was challenging and rewarding and brought to TGS a wonderful cast of both familiar and new faces.

We hope you enjoy our virtual show, *Singing Through Life – a 2020 Cabaret*. We look forward to being together in person again soon, but until then - the show must go on... in a new way.

*Diana Yeisley*  
*President*

# THEATRE GUILD MEMBERSHIP

## Supporting

Rachel Armstrong  
David Black  
Kristine Boswell  
Shira Flowers  
Albert Girard  
Deborah Glass  
Robert Janas  
Lori Kluessendorf  
Kristin Lilley  
Chris Nikirk  
Jenna Nikirk  
Rebecca Pardoe  
Emmalee Richards  
Lily Richards  
Melissa Richards  
Lauren Sheldon  
Anna Vdovenko  
Helen Walton

## Patron

Sharon Amundsen  
Richard Anderson  
Caoilfhionn Carr  
Rene DeSalvatore  
Ruthie Gardner  
Priscilla Hurley  
Jack Knall  
Kathryn Kozey  
Betsy Maguire  
Kathryn-Ann & Steve O'Brien  
Ray Paquet  
Lucille Passer  
Jeffery Schlichter  
Amy Sheehan  
Katie Stood Knapp  
Iona Turnbull  
Jennifer Valentine  
Don & Sandy Weigt

## Star

Cindy Braunlich  
Hal Chernoff  
Doreen Cohn  
Dana Culligan  
Kathy Dayton  
Ted & Kathy Fleming  
Dian Pomeranz  
Jill & Rick Rendeiro  
Donna & Jack Sennott  
Andrea & Chuck Silverstein  
Jack Summers  
Stephen Vicencio  
Carol & Michael Yachanin  
Diana Yeisley

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Rachel Armstrong (Rachel)** is thrilled to be a part of this amazing show. Previous shows with TGS include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, and *Sister Act*. She also appeared in *Mamma Mia* with WHCT. She sends thanks to all the amazing people who made this show possible and to her family for always being a support.



**David Black (Preston)** David is a junior at the University of Connecticut currently pursuing a degree in psychology. He lives in Simsbury, Connecticut. This was his first time performing with TGS, and he is excited to have had the opportunity to participate in this project. David feels especially fortunate for this experience during a time when performing has become somewhat challenging



**Kristine Boswell (Winter)** is thrilled to be performing again with the Theatre Guild of Simsbury after many years. She has also performed locally in musical theater productions and been a featured vocalist with the Manchester Musical Players, The Producing Guild, the Warner Theatre, and Good-speed Opera House. Kristine is especially grateful for this unique opportunity to share her passion for performing and to reconnect with the Theatre Guild in such an emotionally challenging time. She believes that singing is a gift that can bring performers and audiences together in an intimate and emotional experience, especially in times of uncertainty. Kristine would like to thank everyone involved in this production for giving her this wonderful opportunity.



**Owen Bouley (Alex)** is a 5th grader who loves playing basketball and football with his friends. He plays drums as well as piano and enjoys spending time with animals, especially dogs and his pet goats. "I wanted to do this show because I got to work with a dog and because it was a good opportunity to perform since there haven't been any shows because of COVID."

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Caoilfhionn Carr (Summer)** caught the theater bug in 4th grade through an Simsbury Arts Academy class taught by Shira Flowers. She was hooked playing Titania, Queen of the Fairies, and summer meant SAA for the next 6 years. Her love for song and dance continued with *The Lion King* ensemble at Henry James and various crew positions for *42nd Street* and *Mary Poppins*. She was an ensemble member for *Kiss Me Kate* and *Hairspray* at SHS and for the TGS production of *A Christmas Carol*. She hopes this unique virtual cabaret ushers out a year we will all be glad to see the back side of!



**Robert Janas (Bob, Fred)** is a retired consultant and guitarist, composer, singer/songwriter and sometime-actor who lives with his spouse, Lois, and their golden doodle, Luna, in West Hartford. He is excited to be working with TGS for the first time.



**Shira Flowers (Barb/Narrator)** is thrilled to be a member of the ensemble for this production. Shira was active in musical theater productions in high school and college. Favorite roles include The Snake/Balladeer/Narrator in *The Apple Tree*, Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* and ensemble roles in Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and *Ruddigore*. She also portrayed Sister Mary Luke in the SHS faculty production of *Nunsense*. Shira teaches English at Simsbury High School, where she advises the school's Unified Theater Ensemble. In her spare time, she writes poetry, competes in marathons and triathlons and teaches yoga.



**Ruthie Gardner (Fall)** - This is Ruthie's third production with TGS. She played Bea in *Honeymoon in Vegas*, orchestra back-up singer for *Sister Act* and now *Singing Through the Years!* She also helped with costumes for TGS's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Ruthie has been singing as a mezzo soprano, since she was a child, with a heavy background in theater, choirs, ensembles, solos and church venues. She is proud to be a member of TGS and thanks her husband, kids, family and friends for all their support. She also sends blessings during this difficult year and hopes this production brings you joy.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Al Girard (Harry)** is no stranger to Theatre Guild of Simsbury after appearing in the musicals *Honeymoon in Vegas* (Jack Singer), *My Favorite Year* (Benjy Stone), *Beauty and the Beast* (LeFou), *Sister Act* (TJ), and *The Music Man* (Jacey Squires). Al also appeared in TGS' non-musical productions as Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice* as well as Junior Turpin in *Dearly Departed*. 2020 has definitely been a unique and challenging year as we face this pandemic and adjust our lives accordingly. But one of the things Al misses most is live theater - both as a performer and as an audience member. He sends a thank you to TGS for this opportunity to participate in such a unique event that will hopefully fill the theater void so many of us are experiencing. It may not be "live," but it is to be cherished as we find creative ways to keep the arts alive! And thank you, the audience - enjoy the show!



**Kristin Lilley (Laura)**, is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful and innovative TGS production along with her talented cast mates! Previous favorite roles include Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, and a Flying Elvis in *Honeymoon in Vegas*. She is an active member of the award-winning Farmington Valley Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International, singing women's competitive barbershop. Kristin resides in Simsbury, CT with her husband, Chris, their daughter, Ava, their 2 dogs and bearded dragon. She is deeply thankful for all of their constant love and support.



**Chris Nikirk (Adelaide's boyfriend)** loves acting for the challenge and the camaraderie, so getting with friends and learning to play to a camera was a very happy time. Chris's favorite roles have been Gary in *Hilda's Yard*, Kit Gill in *No Way To Treat a Lady*, Buddy Rocky in *Honeymoon In Vegas*, and Drs. Fine/Madden in *Next to Normal*.. He believes it's wonderful to make art with talented actors – especially in this year as we all hunger for connection. Best health in the New Year to all.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Jenna Nikirk (Adelaide)** is “over-the-moon” to have the opportunity to perform during a time when very little live theater is possible. Jenna is a special education teacher in Connecticut and has been teaching for 20 years. Outside the classroom, she has been blessed with many community theater families, TGS being one of her favorites. Jenna has performed in many theaters around the state, most recently being lucky enough to be in several productions with her wonderful and talented husband, Chris (where they met!). Favorite recent roles include Flora/Alexandra in *No Way to Treat a Lady*, Mother Superior in *Sister Act* and Muzzy Van Hosmere in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. “Thank you to Iona, Michael, Diana and everyone else who made this show possible and for including me in this unique project.”



**Emmalee Richards (Bella)** is a sophomore psychology major at the University of Hartford. She lives in Simsbury, CT. This production is her first experience with TGS, and she is very excited to be a part of it! “With COVID, it has been extremely difficult to find performing opportunities, so this production is a perfect way to be a part of a show.”



**Lily Richards (Spring)** lives in West Simsbury and is in the 8th grade. She has been performing with TGS and other local theater groups since age 7 and is happy to have the chance to perform this year.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Melissa Richards (Jolene)** is grateful to be able to perform during this strange time. Melissa is a photographer and lives in West Simsbury with her husband and three kids.



**Amy Sheehan (Phoebe)** is happy to be back for her 3rd consecutive year in a TGS production. She last appeared in 2019's *A Christmas Carol* and 2018's *Honeymoon in Vegas*. Amy is so thankful for her theater family, as well as her husband and children for their support.



**Jennifer Valentine (Sherry)** is thrilled to be making her musical debut with Theatre Guild of Simsbury! She has been out of the theater world for nearly 18 years while being a mom, wife, preschool teacher's assistant and licensed massage therapist! The quarantine made her want to get back into acting, out of her comfort zone (and just OUT, in general!) She has been enjoying classes with Hartford Stage and Sea Tea Improv, all via Zoom. Her last role in a real, live production with a real, live audience was Diana in *Lend Me A Tenor*. She holds a B.F.A. in theater from Emerson College and studied at the prestigious Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Jen currently lives in Avon with her family. She'd like to thank Anthony, Connor, Alissa, Beck, Em and her mom and dad for their love and support.



**Lani Vdovenko (dog)** is a Bernese Mountain Dog who is a member of the Vdovenko family. She was born in Argentina and bred at Canton Sur by Cora Riccione and Dalmi Sirabo who hand delivered her via airplane to her loving home in the USA.

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

**A Change in Me** ..... Bella  
*Lyrics by Alan Menkin, Music by Tim Rice*

**Purpose** ..... Preston  
*By Robert Lopez, Jeff Marx*

**9 to 5** ..... Jolene and Delores  
*By Dolly Parton*

**Tomorrow** ..... Alex and Lani  
*Lyrics by Martin Charnin, Music by Charles Strouse*

**Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better** Laura and Harry  
*By Irving Berlin*

**Singin' in the Rain** ..... Fred  
*Lyrics by Arthur Freed, Music by Nacio Herb Brown*

**Adelaide's Lament** ..... Adelaide and boyfriend  
*By Frank Loesser*

**People** ..... Barb  
*Lyrics by Bob Merrill, Music by Jule Styne*

**Friendship** ..... Rachel and Phoebe  
*By Cole Porter*

**Seasons of Love** ..... Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter  
*By Jonathan Larsen*

**Thanks for the Memory** ..... Sherry and Bob  
*By Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger*

**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas** ..... Company  
*By Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane*

## Cast in Order of Appearance

Barb/Narrataor .....	Shira Flowers
Bella .....	Emmalee Richards
Preston .....	David Black
Jolene .....	Melissa Richards
Delores .....	Diana Yeisley
Alex .....	Owen Bouley
Dog .....	Lani Vdovenko
Laura .....	Kristin Lilley
Harry .....	Al Girard
Adelaide .....	Jenna Nikirk
Adelaide's boyfriend .....	Chris Nikirk
Fred .....	Robert Janas
Rachel .....	Rachel Armstrong
Phoebe .....	Amy Sheehan
Spring .....	Lily Richards
Summer .....	Caoilfhionn Carr
Fall .....	Ruthie Gardner
Winter .....	Kristine Boswell
Sherry .....	Jennifer Valentine
Bob .....	Robert Janas



## PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director/Creator .....Iona Turnbull  
Music Director ..... Michael Yachanin  
Producer..... Diana Yeisley  
Costume Design..... Cindy Braunlich/Iona Turnbull  
Assisted by Teresa Carr  
Videographer .....Jeffrey B. Schlichter  
Photography/Video Assistant .....Anna Zuckeman-Vdovenko  
Music Producer/Orchestra Director ..... Marc Sokolson  
Props/Set Dressing.....Iona Turnbull,  
Assisted by Dian Pomeranz, Teresa Carr,  
Carolyn Clement, Diana Yeisley  
Advertising/Publicity .....Doreen Cohn, Priscilla Hurley,  
Anna Zuckerman-Vdovenko  
Covid-19 Safety Advisor ..... Cindy Braunlich  
Membership ..... Iona Turnbull  
Program Design/Graphics/Webmaster .....Doreen Cohn  
T-shirts ..... Priscilla Hurley  
Runner.....Jonathan Yeisley

## PRODUCTION TEAM



**Iona Turnbull (Artistic Director/Creator)** hails from the bonnie banks of Scotland and has been performing and entertaining audiences for over two decades. She became a TGS member when she moved to the US in 2018. This year has been very challenging for performers. Iona took her wealth of experience to create *Singing Through Life*, a reflective and heartwarming 2020 virtual-style cabaret. Iona is very touched to have worked with such an incredible team to make this show possible, including a very talented cast! She hopes audiences find humor along with relatable and reflective moments throughout. This show is dedicated to all her family, especially her Gran Joyce, who turned 85 this year!



**Michael Yachanin (Music Director)** is a resident of Simsbury, and this is his fourth show with Theater Guild of Simsbury. He has been involved in over seventy stage productions as actor, director, music director and pit musician. Michael has also recently worked on shows for Farmington Valley Stage, Simsbury Summer Theatre, Warner Theatre, and Playhouse on Park. He enjoys the tremendous enthusiasm of our TGS actors and their devoted followers. Michael eagerly anticipates a return to live theater with next fall's production of *Shrek*.



**Marc Sokolson (Music Producer/Orchestral Director)** is excited to be joining the TGS team as this production's music producer and orchestral director. He has created music and played piano for twelve shows for several groups over the last year. In addition to music directing, he also produces music and albums for various artists across the East Coast. A Simsbury High School alum, he is currently a student at the University of Connecticut studying music, mathematics and statistics.

## PRODUCTION TEAM



**Jeffrey Barber Schlichter (Videographer)**, owner of Cameo PhotoVideo for over 25 years, was excited to accept the challenge of this year's socially distanced cabaret. Jeff has been the archival videographer for many local theater and dance companies. After graduating from Simsbury High School, he attended Emporia State University where he earned a BA in speech with an emphasis in theater. When Jeff returned to Connecticut after an 18-year career in music and theater in Southern California, he became involved with organizations that inspired him such as Simsbury Summer Theatre for youth, the Warner Theatre and TGS.



**Anna Zuckerman-Vdovenko (Photography/ Video Assistant)** has been a professional photographer since 1984 and has been serving TGS as a board member, as well as shooting headshots and show photos, for many years. She is the “mom” of Lani, a beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog who is one of the “stars” of our show. A “shout out” to her husband Alexandre who welcomed the cast and crew for the socially distant filming during which their garage was converted into a soundstage, the outdoor areas became location sites, and the sauna was converted into a constantly disinfected recording studio.



**Diana Yeisley (Producer, Delores)** is not only the producer of our first virtual show, she is also the president of the Theatre Guild of Simsbury Board. She is thrilled to be performing in this show as well. Usually a performer on stage, Diana has done other behind-the-scenes work, not only for TGS but also for Simsbury High School and Avon Summer Theater. Living in Simsbury with her family, she is involved in and chairs local disability advocacy groups and diversity committees. She is grateful to bring her passion for music and performing to a new audience in a new way with this virtual show.



**Cindy Braunlich (Costumes, Covid-19 Safety Advisor)** has been costuming for high school and community theaters for almost 20 years. She has been with Theatre Guild as costume designer for the past 10 years, costuming *A Christmas Carol*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Sister Act*, *King and I*, as well as *Beauty and the Beast* to name a few. Cindy has served on the TGS Board for five years and is currently vice president.

## PRODUCTION TEAM



**Doreen Cohn (Publicity, Graphics)** is thrilled to have a role in presenting TGS's first virtual performance. A member since 1978, Doreen has directed, produced, and created set designs and artwork over the years for many TGS productions. She is a member of the TGS Board of Directors.



**Dian Pomeranz (Props)** is the resident set dresser and props mistress for TGS and Farmington Valley Stage. She has helped create sets that enhance the author's story, but *Singing Through Life* is the most unique production she has ever worked on. She sends a "hats off" to all of you who brought this show to life in these challenging times with talent, creativity and determination and is honored to have played a small part in staging this production.



**Teresa Carr (Props, Costumes)** is so happy to have helped behind the scenes for this year's virtual show. "Thank you, TGS, for allowing me to show my appreciation to this group for creating entertainment for all by all!"



**Carolyn Clement (Props)** has been designing and curating props for many years for educational theater programs and loved being a part of the props team for *Singing Through Life*. A product manager by day, Carolyn has spent the pandemic working at the kitchen table and mastering the use of BandLab for virtual music-making, all while creating a codependent relationship with her derpy dog, Dwight. She is thrilled to be a part of the TGS 2020 production, and wishes good health to all who enjoy this show. (And to everyone else, for that matter.)

Coming (*hopefully*) in 2020-21

