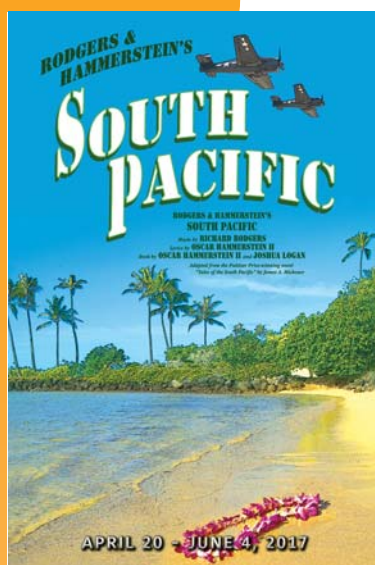


## American Musical Theatre At Its Best!



*"So let me just say that if you come to our production of SOUTH PACIFIC this spring you will have a theatrical experience that you will never forget!*

*— Ed Flesch*

**I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET. WRITING THESE ARTICLES FOR THE FLAME IS ABOUT THE HARDEST JOB I HAVE. I PRODUCE AND DIRECT SEVEN SHOWS A YEAR, WRITE A NEW BAND SHOW EVERY YEAR, WRITE A NEW CHRISTMAS SHOW EVERY OTHER YEAR, AND GO TO NEW YORK AND CHICAGO 4-5 TIMES EACH YEAR TO CAST THE SHOWS. BUT WHEN I SIT DOWN TO WRITE THESE FLAME ARTICLES I AM OFTEN STUMPED!!**

How can I write interesting and entertaining things about a show I haven't started working on yet? Better still – how can I write something new and interesting about classic shows such as SOUTH PACIFIC. After all the awards, the reviews, the accolades heaped on the show what more can I say?

I could write about the fact that SOUTH PACIFIC was the show that opened The Fireside Theatre in 1978 and was the first show I ever directed (and starred in) at The Fireside. I could tell you the story about how we were still painting the theatre and putting in the seats three days before we opened the show! To add to the fun – the actress playing Bloody Mary had injured her knee and sat in the audience during rehearsals, throwing her lines in from there. Of course we did open on time, to unanimous rave reviews, and led the way for the 188 shows that have followed on our stage.

I could write about the fact that SOUTH PACIFIC is one of only seven Broadway musicals to have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Drama and that it is just as powerful and relevant now as it was when it opened

in 1949. It is a story of men and women who struggle to maintain their dignity and their humanity in the face of war. They depend on the camaraderie of friends, they keep their good humor, and they fall in love. It is a message that resonates in today's world.

I could write about the fabulous score – one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's best. Filled with hit after hit: "Some Enchanted Evening," "Bali Ha'i," "There is Nothing Like a Dame," "I'm in Love With a Wonderful Guy," and more.

I could write about how SOUTH PACIFIC is one of my personal favorites among great Broadway musicals. I have directed and starred in the show three times. It touches my heart in ways that few other shows do.

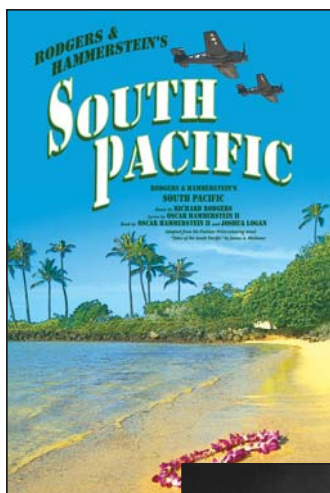
I could write about so many different things. It is a dilemma. So let me just say that if you come to our production of SOUTH PACIFIC this spring you will have a theatrical experience that you will never forget! (And never want to forget). I can't wait to revisit this masterpiece of the American Musical Theatre. I hope too see you all there.

*Ed Flesch*



# Hospitality *never goes out of style!*

**JAMES MICHENER'S BOOK "TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC" WON THE 1948 PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION. TWO YEARS LATER, THE RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN MUSICAL BASED ON THE BOOK WON THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR DRAMA. ALL IN ALL IT'S BEEN ONE OF THE MOST AWARD-WINNING MUSICALS ON BROADWAY!**



James Michener served as a Navy publications officer during World War II, stationed on the island of Espiritu Santo. His experiences inspired Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, and Joshua Logan to adapt his novel into a musical. When it premiered in 1949, the war was still quite fresh in the minds of the public and the show became a major theatrical event, winning

10 Tony Awards including a sweep of the four best acting awards. It

closed after 1,925 performances over five years, was made into a film in 1958, and revived on Broadway in 2008 when it won another seven Tony Awards and five Drama Desk Awards.

The songs of SOUTH PACIFIC are fun, beautiful, and have stood the test of time - including "Some Enchanted Evening," "There is Nothin' Like a Dame," "Bali Ha'i," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Happy Talk," and "This Nearly Was Mine." The beautiful ballad "You've Got to be Carefully Taught," addresses the crux of the plot line, that neither Nellie

Forbush nor Lt. Cable can see their way past the prejudices they were taught to accept the love they find so far from home.

We opened our theatre in 1964 with a production of SOUTH PACIFIC. Today it is equally as enjoyable and relevant. Just as the New York Times wrote in 1949 that the show is "magnificent - as lively, warm, fresh and beautiful as we all hoped it would be" we're certain that's how you'll feel about our new production as well. See you soon!

*Rick Logan*

Mary Martin as Nellie Forbush in the original Broadway production and scenes from our 2004 production of SOUTH PACIFIC.







*"I schedule trips when I want to go, where I want to go, and then see who wants to come along!"*  
— *Lavanda Woosley*

# Learning from each other

**LAVANDA WOOSLEY RUNS  
PUBLIC TOURS OUT OF  
CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA**

Lavanda Woosley's first visit to The Fireside was on a FAM tour with Circle Wisconsin. She decided to give us a try and had some success with an overnight stay but then had the idea to try a trip on Thanksgiving Day. Their own children were out of state and there wasn't really any place special to go around their home town of Cedar Rapids, Iowa so they booked a tour, and it was a hit. They have now been coming for our amazing Thanksgiving Buffet and Christmas production for at least the last ten years.

New Year's Day. By the time they're home, they're ready for the Christmas season!

Lavanda started her company 32 years ago. She had an interest in travel, a childhood dream, and the opportunity to give it a try. She draws customers from a 50 mile radius and considers it more of a hobby really, it's not a job to her. She's self-employed and has no employees. Her husband, now retired, comes along on the trips but enjoys being one of the passengers. They don't travel a lot in the

winter months, but come Spring 2017 and beyond she has trips planned to Bloomington, IL for the Passion Play, a ten day trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and New York City, Branson at the end of October to enjoy the fall scenery and kick off the holiday season, and more.

We asked Lavanda if she had any advice for someone just starting out. She replied, "You just have to really want to be in this type of business to make it work. There can be a lot of unforeseen situations come up and you just have to deal with them." She had corporate jobs with financial firms but really felt this was a God directed path for her. There were lean years, and it took some time to build the business, but she kept praying about it and felt guided to keep going. She is certainly providing enjoyable opportunities for people who wouldn't get to experience them without her, so 32 years later she knows it was truly the right thing to do. "All you can do is try," she said. "If you want it, go after it."

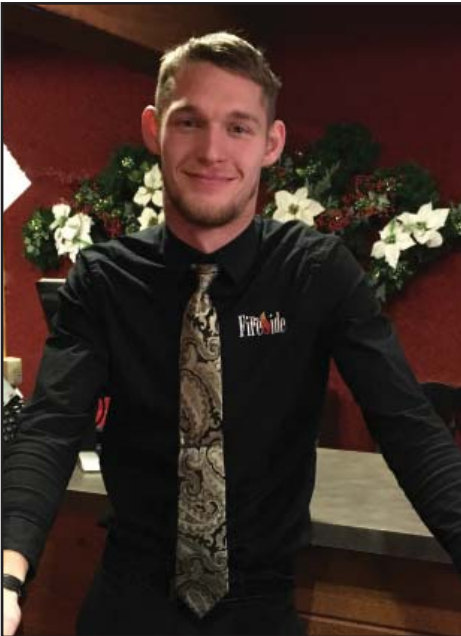
Next season Lavanda hopes to try another tour to The Fireside and make it an overnight including the mail boat in Lake Geneva. Given her excellent track record, we're betting it will be a success!

Lavanda's is the only motorcoach group here for Thanksgiving, with the rest of the theatre filled with families. She has found it to be a very special day out for her travelers, combining both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many are repeat guests coming back year after year, others are new. It's a four hour drive from Cedar Rapids to Fort Atkinson so they're up early to get here by 10:30 a.m. Then on their way home, they go through Dubuque and catch the opening of "Reflections in the Park," a drive-through Christmas light display in Louis Murphy Park that operates as a charity fund-raiser from Thanksgiving night through



## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE RESTAURANT MANAGERS

### Meet Royce, newest assistant manager, the quiet, fun one!



Royce Neujahr may have only been an Assistant Restaurant Manager for three months, but you might say he's been in training since 2009. That's when he started as an expeditor (bus staff) as a 15-year old high school freshman. In that position he perfected the art of bussing tables before moving on to being a food runner (delivering meals to the servers), prepping dinners on Friday and Saturday nights, calling the buffet (sending the food runners to the kitchen for more), working the coat check, and helping with the Opening Night hors d'oeuvres reception. Always eager to learn something new, he tackled each new challenge with remarkable energy and drive for a student also busy with homework and sports.

Royce finished high school a semester earlier than the rest of his class and headed off to Germany to follow his dream of playing professional soccer. The realities of that system and how difficult it would be to support himself

at the entry level made him leave that adventure behind, so he came home to Fort Atkinson and back to The Fireside. Now 18, he was ready to train to be a server. Being the charming, personable young man that he is, Royce made an excellent server and quickly rose through the ranks of our associate recognition program, earning his place in the Associate Hall of Flame in May of 2015. Unfortunately for us, that was just before he left to move near his father in Florida. There he started work on a degree in International Marketing and Management. The following February, not quite a year ago now, he decided to return. Coming back when we weren't actually in need of servers, Royce accepted a "floater" position that had him helping out wherever he was needed, including re-stocking merchandise in the gift shops on Mondays and Tuesdays. In time, he made his way back on the server schedule until late last summer when a spot opened up on the management team.

Always up for a new challenge, and after talking with the other managers about what it would entail, Royce decided to apply. At 22, we're pretty sure he's the youngest assistant manager we've had but he's doing great! Even though he had worked in the restaurant for seven years, there was a surprising amount of work going on behind the scenes he had no idea about. What we call "front of house," laying out the dining room, table assignments, wait stations, bus stations, and duty sheets is a HUGE job but when done correctly insures that each and every guest is cared for in the manner we expect. "That's been the hardest part so far," said Royce. "There was so much

to learn that it was overwhelming at first and the deadlines are absolute because you have to be ready when the guests start arriving. Plus, every shift is different because it all depends on the makeup of the reservation list, how many parties of 2 and 4 up to how many coaches there are." Hopefully all of that work done on your behalf behind the scenes makes for a relaxing and enjoyable day for you every time you're here!

Royce's favorite part of restaurant work is meeting new and different people every shift. Hearing their stories and re-connecting with regular customers is a real treat for him. In his free time, he does landscaping work on the side during the spring, summer and fall; enjoys running, working out and playing soccer; likes just hanging out with his friends; and hopes to coach Fort Atkinson High School's JV boys' soccer team this fall. His motto is "Stay busy so you stay out of trouble." That seems to have worked pretty well for him, with a management position with one of the Midwest's most popular attractions. As a manager, he considers himself the quiet, fun one. Get to know him, you'll definitely see he's right about the fun part!





# Inside the Kitchen

with Chef Mike



Hi everyone! The featured meal for SOUTH PACIFIC is going to be one of your favorites! We'll start out with a Tropical Salad we've served just once before. We received such good feedback we decided to offer it again and SOUTH PACIFIC was the obvious choice. This light salad features fresh pineapple, mangoes, strawberries, dried cranberries, and peaches over fresh garden greens, sprinkled with walnuts and topped with our famous Papaya Chutney Dressing. YUMM!!

The entree is another crowd favorite, Chicken Kona Kai. We'll use a boneless, antibiotic free, all natural chicken breast, dipped in an egg wash and coated with Panko bread crumbs and coconut. It's sautéed to a golden brown then glazed with our very own Brandied Apricot Sauce and finished in the oven. On the side, enjoy stir-fried rice with Jones Cherrywood Smoked Canadian Bacon and a "power blend" mix of fresh julienned vegetables. This blend of golden beets, broccoli stalks, cauliflower hearts, brussel sprouts, carrots, kale, and radicchio are considered a super food mix and they're as delicious as they are good for you. YUMM!! YUMM!!

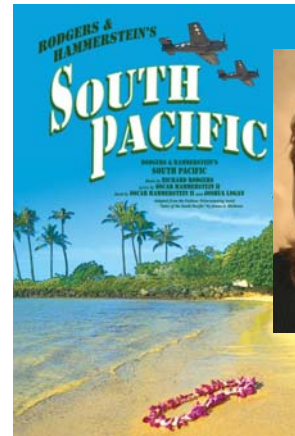
The Grand Finale is a new one we've been busy perfecting - Banana Bread Pudding topped with a Caramel Rum Sauce served with our homemade Vanilla Bean Ice Cream. YUMM!! YUMM!! YUMM!!

*Michael Scott*  
Executive Chef

## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS!

# 2017 Season Group Sales Staff Favorites

For SOUTH PACIFIC, I am shouting from the top of The Flame that this is the best musical EVER. Funny, romantic, energetic, touching, bittersweet, and dramatic with unbelievable dancing and singing. And the songs... "Some Enchanted Evening" (sung by almost every romantic crooner); "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right out of my Hair" (what woman cannot relate to that feeling); the haunting "Bali Ha'i" (sends our imaginations to our own special place); "A Cockeyed Optimist" (that describes most of us in the travel business); and "Dites-Moi" (what other show offers French lessons?); plus many more.



*Jean*



I even have a bit of the South Pacific going on in my cubicle every day. Just wait until I build my tiki hut at work. I have the bamboo and grass, all I need is the time... I'll keep you posted. The music is engraved in my brain so I can easily start to hum and sing whenever the mood strikes.

Arriving as a freshman at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN in the fall of 1977, my dream was to major in theatre, or maybe music, but my father wanted me to major in business. "More practical," he said, "Something you can actually do for a living." The first production scheduled for that fall was SOUTH PACIFIC, a show I knew nothing



about, but one of my brand new friends from my orientation group was planning to audition. I didn't want to audition, but I did want to be involved. On the first day of school in my Introduction to Theatre class, the teacher announced that part of our grade would be based on participation, either on stage or behind the scenes. He was especially looking for someone to run the box office. Perfect, I thought - the

business end of theatre! My friend ended up being cast as Lt. Cable and I kicked off my career in Arts Management. After four years at Concordia I came to The Fireside, and have been here ever since, making a living at what I love most!

*Julie*

# 2017 Season

## Jean's Corner of the World



For personal help with any of your bookings, call me at 800-477-9505 or email [jean@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:jean@firesidetheatre.com).

I am looking at the snow outside finishing Christmas decorations at home while writing to tell you to join us for SOUTH PACIFIC next summer. That strikes me as funny ...and confusing!

Speaking of Christmas, if you have not already booked for MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: THE MUSICAL the time is NOW! It is selling very fast as it is the most popular time of year to visit The Fireside. Remember, as we did this year, Friday matinees and evenings are added for December. Even though you've just finished your Christmas celebrations, it's time to think ahead for 2017.

Since your MAMMA MIA! bookings are probably pretty well set, we hope you're working on promoting your BEAUTY AND THE BEAST trips. While the vibrant production design

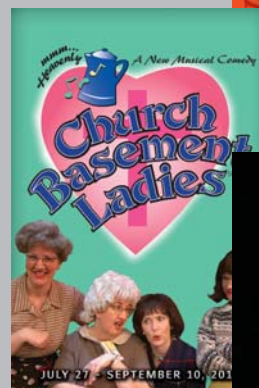
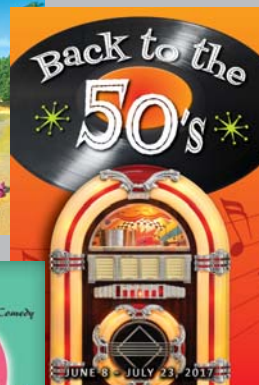
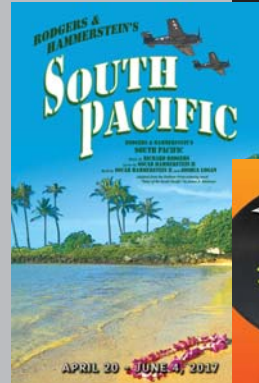
and entertaining musical numbers appeal to a young audience, parents and grandparents can enjoy this show just as much as the kids. The more mature audience members will enjoy the witty banter, one-liners, and catchy puns that the children may miss. Universal themes such as rooting for the underdog and Belle's deep love for her father also appeal to the adults in the audience. At its core, Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST is a tale of transcending love, magnificently told with a timeless tale and beautiful music. It's truly one of the best shows for a multi-generational tour! If you're a teacher bringing a school group, we can direct you to several study guides available online, just give us a call or send me an email.

Now back to the warm waters and balmy breezes of SOUTH PACIFIC. Everyone comes to The Fireside for a good time, but why not make it even more fun by encouraging your guests to come dressed for the islands. Hawaiian shirts, leis, hula skirt, orchids (plastic is good) adorning the hair, flowers on the wrist, moo moos, plus WWII military looks would be some fantastic ways to add FUN! The Fireside will help you out and offer the best dressed of each group a bakery item (more than one person needs to dress up though—LOL)! We will also take pictures to add to our next edition of The Flame and maybe even on Facebook!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying a spectacular New Year. We're all hoping for a mild winter, but if you have any questions about how we handle bookings that coincide with snowstorms, please give me a call. In the meantime, think Spring!

*Jean Lyons*

Box Office and Sales Manager



You can now order your 2017 promotional material from the "Groups" page of our web site.





## Celebrating the Birds of Springtime

WHETHER YOU'RE ENJOYING THEM IN YOUR YARD OR IN YOUR HOME, BIRDS ARE ONE OF THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING AND HOLD THE PROMISE OF LONGER DAYS FILLED WITH SUNSHINE AND WARMTH. ALWAYS A POPULAR SUBJECT FOR ARTISTS, THEIR IMAGES CAN ADORN YOUR HOME IN MANY DELIGHTFUL WAYS.



The American Expedition ceramic and travel mugs feature vintage songbird designs. The stoneware mugs feature a pastel interior glaze and the steel travel mugs have a spill-proof lid. Picture yourself enjoying your morning coffee in one of these while listening to the birds chirping outside!

If you don't attract a lot of live birds, you could keep a pair of these in the yard to add a touch of elegance. Regal Art's distinctive Bird Statuaries are handcrafted from thick metal and finished with weather-resistant metallic paints. Use them as self-standing decor in your home, or use the 6" stake included to stabilize them in the garden.



Perhaps the birds will be enjoying a splash in one of these lovely glass birdbaths. Available in many beautiful designs, they're often displayed indoors and can even be used as a serving dish.



If you prefer a different style of art, this work by Dean Crouser is called "painterly wildlife imagery" featuring vibrant colors with a bit of an impressionist feel. His mugs, plates, and prints include bird images of cardinals, hummingbirds, owls, ducks, and loons. They're a fabulous look for your home or cabin!





**SAVE NOW! CALL 800-477-9505**  
**WWW.FIRESIDETHEATRE.COM**

## Visit early to get the best discount!

- In addition to the Featured Menu, try our Sunday Brunch, Thursday Evening Signature Buffet or five course dinner on Saturday nights.
- Groups of 18 or more are \$67.95 (Sat. Evening \$71.95) plus tax.
- Save an additional \$3.00 per person when you book a performance for April 20 - May 14, 2017.
- Ask about our Incentive plan for Wednesday & Thursday matinees.
- Arrive at 10:30 a.m. for Matinees, 2:30 p.m. for the Sunday Midday, 5:15 p.m. for Thursday Evening and 4:45 p.m. for Saturday Evening.

## SOUTH PACIFIC

### Featured Menu April 20 - June 4, 2017

Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday Matinees, Saturday Evenings, and Sunday Midday

#### Tropical Salad

Pineapple, Mangoes, Peaches, Strawberries, and Dried Cranberries over Fresh Garden Greens, sprinkled with Walnuts and our famous Papaya Chutney Dressing.

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

#### Chicken Kona Kai

Skinless Breast of Chicken dipped in a special Egg Batter, rolled in Coconut Panko Bread Crumbs, sautéed to a golden brown, and glazed with our Brandied Apricot Sauce. Accompanied by Stir Fried Rice with Canadian Bacon, and a mix of Fresh Julienne Vegetables.

#### Banana Bread Pudding

Topped with a Caramel Rum Sauce and served with our Homemade Vanilla Bean Ice Cream.

Coffee, Tea and Milk