

What's Mime is Yours *from the desk of the artistic director Bob Kloos*

This September 22nd will mark the twentieth anniversary of the inconspicuous inception of Beacon Street. That day marks the “okay” from Fr. John Cregan of Our Lady of Angels Church to the five co-founders to take possession of the manor on the back of the property. With the roof over our heads, our vision began to take shape in a hurry. Jean Hulseman, Maria Livers, Kim Manning, Steve Rico and myself conceived the idea and stewed the possibilities for two years before that fall date made us all blink once, or twice. Beacon Street was born.

There were walls to paint and articles of incorporation to write. And little did we know at the time, a board of directors to seek out and appoint, and money to raise. All we focused on in those early days was what we hoped to provide to the first church or school that called on us to minister. Twenty years later, the old manor has been razed and only one of the co-founders continues to serve as performer and artistic director. But Beacon Street's beginnings were solid and the ministry remains as a unique and highly regarded resource in northeastern Ohio.

We welcome Julie Beers to our board of directors. Julie is spotlighted on page 6 and 7. She has attended nearly all of our annual fundraisers and has contracted our services for students and families at her school. As a long-time teacher and principal, she comes with educational expertise that helped shape the “We First” bullying prevention project. We are thrilled to have her on board.

“We First - Bullying Prevention On Demand” will include a 38-minute video and an 80-page study guide laying out the premise, philosophy, and practice for eliminating unwanted behaviors in our schools. A second supplementary study guide of equal length for parochial and faith-based schools applies the gospel standard for those who choose to reach for more. It includes prayer services, more activities, and scriptures for easy reference in the classroom or school. The manuscript is cur-

rently being reviewed by potential publishers. Perhaps our next Beacon will joyfully announce the publication date. (Light a candle. Thanks.)

Several schools have taken the initiative to address bullying in a comprehensive manner. I will be presenting to two teaching staffs this fall and to multiple student assemblies with age-appropriate programming. Those parish schools have scheduled a program for parents and guardians, too. The home front is a vital component if the bullying prevention is to be thorough and effective.

The annual appeal letter is on page 3 and a *prepaid* envelope has been tucked in this issue to facilitate your response. We continue to donate nearly 25% of our services to schools and churches that cannot afford our modest fees. We need your help to fill the gap. Thanks again.

This will be your last issue of *The Beacon* unless we have heard from you in the past few years. Our mailing list has been lumbering along with hundreds of outdated addresses. That's why we have been asking you to let us know if you want to be a “member.” No dues; just mutual benefits. You continue to receive our newsletter and all you have to do is support our mission any way you can: in prayer, as a client, sending referrals, or considering a donation. Churches and schools who have contacted us in the past few years don't need to call. And donors will always hear from us regularly! We will continue to rely on this newsletter to keep our ministry in your “current” file, but good stewardship demands that we use our resources wisely. So, . . . “LAST CALL!”. If you have not done so already, drop us a line, send us an email, take advantage of the enclosed *prepaid* envelope, or leave a phone message to remain on our mailing list. We need to hear from you.

Finally, before audio cassettes disappear all together, we will send you either or both of Barb Ballenger's recordings for the cost of postage! Two dollars for one or three dollars for both tapes!

The Beacon is published quarterly by Beacon Street *Performing Arts in Ministry*, an Ohio nonprofit organization. Bob Kloos, editor and artistic director and Pam Kestner, office manager. The Board of Directors:

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