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New board members at The Wilton Playshop

By Robin Walluck

There are eight new members on the Board of Directors at The Wilton Playshop, and there is room for seven more.

The board members donate their time to continue with the mission of the playshop. As stated on its Web site — wiltonplayshop.org — “the mission of The Wilton Playshop has been to further the performing arts by providing quality live theater to the greater Wilton area, and by doing so, provide an educational and growing experience for all involved.”

According to members of the playshop, not everyone is from Wilton, but all want to see the playshop succeed. The Board of Directors released a biography of the newest members.

- Zelie Pforzheimer is the president of the board. She graduated with a degree in musical theater performance from the University of Utah. At the university, she taught summer children's programs. Ms. Pforzheimer performed in international and national tours around the world for 20 years and is the program director at Viacom/HBO.
- Lynne Vanderslice is the treasurer of the board. She has previously served as a member of the board of A Better Chance of Wilton for 10 years, including the positions of president, vice president and capital campaign chair. Ms. Vanderslice has served as a Wilton Library board member for two years, one of them as fund-raising chair. She currently is a college coach.
- Sarah Friedman is the first vice president for the board. She has been involved with the playshop for nearly 20 years. She has served on the executive board for the past two years, both times as second vice president. Ms. Friedman has also served on the student programming board as the special events chair. As first vice president, she will be the executive producer of the season. She oversees sets, lights, sound and production for all shows.
- Genia Meinhold is the second vice president for the board. In this position she oversees ticket sales and marketing for the playshop. This is the 11th year she has been a season subscriber/supporter of the playshop. A member of the Wilton Congregational Church, she has been on the pastoral search committee, membership committee and is a current member of the church expansion committee. Ms. Meinhold has been a PTA board member and volunteer at every public school in Wilton over the past 11 years.
- Jane Alexander is the third vice president of the board, in charge of operations. Ms. Alexander has volunteered for a variety of programs at the Wilton public schools. She has been a member of the Wilton Woman's Club for two years and served on committees for the Wilton Family Y Community Celebration for 14 years. Also, Ms. Alexander has been on the Wilton Family Y board of directors for three years.
- Carin Freidag is the fourth vice president at the playshop. She will oversee special projects such as the student performances. She said she was introduced to The Wilton Playshop when she auditioned and was cast in “Little Me” in the early '90s. Ms. Freidag has served as the box office chair for the playshop.
- Ralph Pastore is the fund-raising chair at the playshop. He is vice president and treasure of UST Advisers, Inc., a division of Bank of America. He is a current board member for Curtain Call, Inc. He is also a member of the New Audiences Development Committee for the Westport Country Playhouse.
- Janice Dehn is the publicity chairman for the playshop. She is the marketing director for a firm in Westport. She has been active as a performer, stage manager and board member of several community theater groups in Westchester County for 13 years. She performed with her husband, Tom, and sons, Christopher and Nicholas, in the production “Revolution” in Norwalk.

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[Top of Page](#)

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