

Shelton AARP Chapter 3240 Membership Meeting

February 20, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Phyllis Kupec.

Secretary's Report: No report

Treasurers Report: Charles Vollaro

As of 1/31/2018

Beginning Balance (1/1/18)	\$2,449.67
Income	\$72.50
Expenses	\$65.00
Ending Balance	\$2,457.17

June 2018 Installation Luncheon is 6/12/2018 at the Blue Goose in Stratford. Tickets are \$24 and will be sold at the March, April and May membership meetings.

Membership: Vincent Ribeiro

Total Members: 85

Emeritus: 35

Dues Payable: 50

Dues are \$5.00, those who wish to can make an additional donation to the chapter.

Nominating: Dot Ward

Nominations are needed for the upcoming election.

Elections will take place at the May membership meeting, with installation in June.

In June directors rotate 3-year to 2-year, 2-year to 1-year.

Legislative: Byron Peterson

Byron referenced the update provided at the January meeting. He urged members to contact their legislative leaders.

Website / Newsletter: Linda Gabor

The February newsletter has been emailed and posted to the website.

Photos and handouts from previous meetings are posted to the website.

Watch the Speakers page for the latest updates on meetings.

Hospitality: Joan Platt

Joan thanked Apple Rehab for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Program – Center Stage Theatre

Gary and Francesca Scarpa treated us to a very entertaining discussion of their life in the theater. Both had musical roots. Fran's father was a renowned opera conductor. Gary's parents encouraged music but he was 21 before he ever saw a live play.

Gary and Fran's "show-mance" started when they were cast as dance partners in a college production of *She Haunts Me*. When Gary heard Fran singing' "it was love at first sound. We enjoyed Fran's hilarious telling of how Gary asked her father for her hand in marriage!

As an English teacher, Gary began directing the drama club at Shelton High. He started with *The Music Man*, then in 1978 *Fiddler on the Roof* put them on the map. Gary and Fran also started the Youth CONNecTion summer group, which will celebrate its 35th year this summer.

The seed for Center Stage Theatre was planted in 2005 when Francesca attended a conference where Oprah told the audience to listen to the "idea talking to you". Fran's idea – "I gotta open up a theater with you". As a result, they opened up "Center Stage 1.0" – a bookstore and coffee shop with a tiny theater.

Learning they were better at theater than bookselling eventually led them to the current Center Stage. The theater puts on multiple productions per year and provides a way for adults, teens and children to experience and participate in various aspects of live theater.

Fran and Gary measure their lives not in years but in shows. Even though they tried to retire several times they keep coming back, building community one play at a time

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m., followed by refreshments and social hour.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Gabor