

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Sixth Annual Production by The Walpole Players

The Walpole Players have excitedly begun rehearsals for their Sixth Annual production of Charles Dickens' classic tale A CHRISTMAS CAROL. It will be presented Wednesday through Saturday, December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2013, in the Helen Miller Theater at the Walpole Town Hall with Mr. Dickens arriving at 7 PM. As always, admission is free, but the players ask that you make a cash donation at the door to benefit local food shelves. In its first five years, over \$16,760 has been contributed, with 100% of all those donations going to The Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center. Any expenses of the production are borne by the Players.

Co-directors, Tara Sad and Ray Boas, grew concerned as auditions approached. "We had so much interest early on we knew we would have more people auditioning than available parts," Tara stated. "There are only so many speaking roles, particularly for children," Ray continued to say, "and we have so many of our junior players, who attend our summer theater camp, and have matured and were hoping to be cast in a speaking part." "When so many came to auditions we knew we had to do something because in the past we always cast everyone," Tara said. The perfect solution - five of the children's roles will be shared by ten youngsters. "And," Tara happily concluded, "everyone was thrilled to be cast." Forty-four people are in this year's cast of A CHRISTMAS CAROL not including the carolers which will be singing preceding Mr. Dickens' arrival.

Again, Ray has continued to make minor adjustments to his adaptation of Dickens' tale "The story stays the same, of course, but I can add and subtract to the vignettes providing some variety for our faithful audiences," Ray mentions, "and again we have added to our special effects for this year." The Walpole Players' production features Mr. Dickens reading (as he often did at public appearances and benefits) and over a dozen scenes are acted out by the players behind a magical scrim. "It continues to amaze us that so many are willing to give of their time for an intense five weeks during this busy time of year to raise funds to help those less fortunate," Tara said.

Tickets to the 7 PM production on December 11, 12, 13 and 14 are required because of limited space, and hold your seat until 6:45. "No one has ever been turned away at the door," Ray happily relates, "but I have had to put up additional chairs to accommodate additional guests." The free tickets are available in Walpole at Real to Reel; Galloway Real Estate; Costume Ladies; Murray's and Jake's; and, in Bellows Falls, Vermont at Village Square Booksellers. For any questions call Ray Boas 603 756-4545 or Tara Sad 603 756-4861. Full details are on The Walpole Players' website www.thewalpoleplayers.org A CHRISTMAS CAROL has been read and performed since 1843 -- and since 2008 in Walpole. Please mark your calendars to attend and be included in Walpole's tradition.