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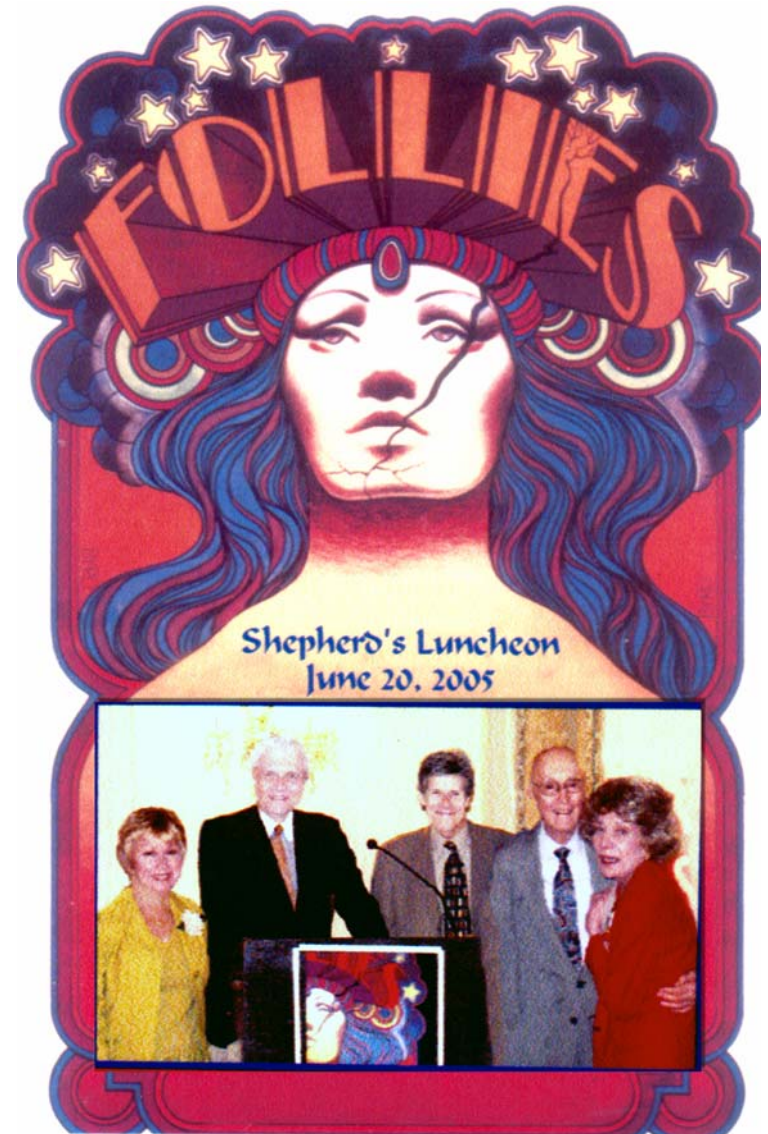
# Lambs' *Script*



A Publication of The Lambs, Inc.

America's First Professional Theatrical Club, Established 1874.

Summer 2005



**The Lambs' Script**

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Gerry Ruth, Peter Kingsley, Randy Phillips, Davida Rothberg

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Who is not familiar with the famous photograph of Gloria Swanson standing in the ruins of the old Roxy, arms outstretched in homage to the fabled theater falling to a wrecking ball? Published in *Life* magazine with the caption "Swan Song for a Famous Theater," it inspired the Stephen Sondheim/Hal Prince landmark musical *Follies*.

Guest speaker at the latest Shepherd's Luncheon was president and director of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, Ted Chapin, who shared with us his personal memories of the creation of this musical, the subject of his new book, *Everything Was Possible*.

It just happened that a number of original cast members were present at the Luncheon, including Lamb Mary Jane Houdina, Victor Griffin and friend of The Lambs, Sheila Smith. Our cover story is by David Dow Bentley III.

Also in this issue is an article on the City University Club of London, with which The Lambs has just concluded an agreement for reciprocal membership rights. Your editor, by the way, just paid it a visit and will report in the next issue.

We are saddened that The Lambs has lost one of its most loyal, long-time members, Jim Ruth, about whom we will have more to say in an upcoming issue. But we are pleased that his wife, Lamb Gerry Ruth, has agreed to take over Jim's regular column in *The Script*.

Our cover, designed by Randy Phillips, features (*l.-r.*) Mary Jane Houdina, Shepherd Bruce Brown, Ted Chapin, Victor Griffin and Sheila Smith.

**Nancy D. Zehner** is a former litigator who practiced at Shea & Gould and Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis. More recently, she founded and is President of The Artemis Group Ltd., an attorney search firm based in New York City. She earned a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a B.A. from Muhlenberg College. Nancy's passion is music (voice and piano especially), and she has had leading roles in numerous Off-Broadway, community theatre and school venues as well as singing groups. During college, she was President of Alpha Psi Omega (National Theatre Honor Society), won an award for outstanding all-around musician, and was Music Chairperson of the Muhlenberg College Arts Council. Nancy has studied with, among others, voice: Elenor Steber and Nancy Evers; piano: Margaret Garwood, Consuelo Elsa Clark and Henri Noel; and acting: Charles Richter. Nancy is absolutely delighted to be a newly inducted Lamb.

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### Welcome to the Fold

**Dianne Richoz Barclay** is a Managing Director at TAG Associates, Ltd. and provides tax advisory, compliance, estate planning and investment services for individuals. Dianne graduated from Kalamazoo College, a private liberal arts college, in 1979 with a BA in Theater Arts. Toward this degree she completed a year with the British and European Studies Group London. Dianne received a Master of Business Administration degree from the New York University Stern School of Business in May of 1990. Dianne's theatrical career began in the fourth grade with a leading role in *Captain Castaway's Captives or Bad Grammar Walks the Plank*. She continued her interest in theater through high school and college and performed professionally for several years following college graduation, appearing Off-Off Broadway and with children's theater touring companies. She has served on the Board of Directors of MCC Theater from 1994 to 2004, including three years as Chairman and five years as Treasurer. Since 1984 Dianne is a member and a past president of The Snarks, Ltd., a women's amateur theatrical club, and is currently Chairman of its play selection committee. She has performed with The Snarks and The Amateur Comedy Club in over 25 productions including *Little Mary Sunshine*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Bell, Book and Candle*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Good Doctor* and *You Can't Take It With You*.

**Camille Savitz** began singing in the New York High School All City Chorus and has been going strong ever since. She has since performed at Carnegie Hall as a soloist with the Blue Hill Troupe and the NY Pops, in concerts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and sang and danced her way through almost all of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. She has entertained at the Yale Club, the Harvard Club and the National Arts Club. Recent cabaret performances have been at The Triad, Danny's, Dillon's and the Gramercy Theater. She recently was seen on television on the *Barry Z Show*. Camille organizes and performs in Christmas Caroling every year at the Hospital for Special Surgery. A native New Yorker, she also designs giftware, specializing in products made in Asia. But that's only when she's not singing!

### Shepherd's Luncheon Introductory Remarks

by Randy Phillips

"I don't know where you were on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1971, at precisely 6:45 PM, but I was at the Winter Garden Theatre attending the opening night of the monumental musical *Follies*. "Our special guest today was also out front that evening, but he was also there 'before' day-1 rehearsals. As a 20-year old Connecticut college student he had been engaged as the 'go-fer'!

"He not only went for tea (no lemon), coffee (black, one sugar) pencils and yellow legal pads, but he tooled around NYC in a vintage red Volkswagen to pick up Jim Goldman's latest scenes, delivering them to the rehearsal space on West 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Then, he was off for the latest Stephen Sondheim song—with ever-changing lyrics, which he extracted and typed up using nine sheets of carbon paper—then delivering the song to orchestrator Jonathan Tunick, and finally Jonathan's work to copyist Mathilde Pincus.

"No faxes ... no computers ... everything was written by hand! And, oh yes, the cast of 54 wore no body mikes!

Sometimes he chauffeured the staff to Feller's Scene Shop in the Bronx for "unusual rehearsals" from 4 PM to Midnight on the set before the Boston try-out. He drove the costume truck to photo shoots (the Teamsters were especially kind to him). One night he escorted a certain movie star to the Copa for dinner, where he was introduced to



... the Mafia! He didn't go-fer them!

"People still talk about the original *Follies*, and its many re-incarnations. And since October 2003, when the copious notes from Ted Chapin's college journal—written back in 1971—were turned into a stunning chronicle of that show, people are discussing *Follies* even more. His book has been called "A matchless eyewitness account." (*Inset Photo; Ted Chapin and Sheila Smith.*)

"Last June, when Ted was presented with the Theatre Library Association's George Freedly Memorial Award (and the program was running overly long) Hal

Prince leaned over to him and said, "I'm going to make this short!" Hal then said to the audience, "All I know is, if you are going to hire a production assistant, he'd better be a damn good writer."

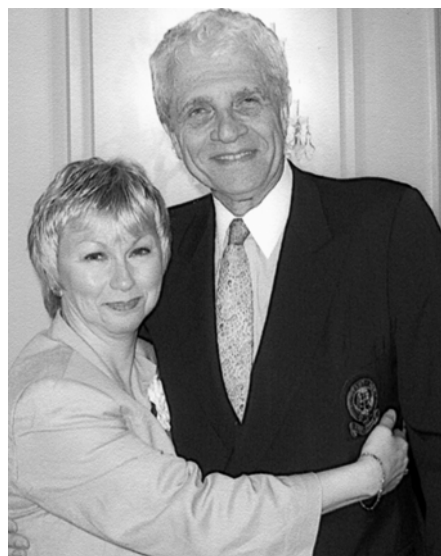
Ladies and Gentlemen, and outstanding member of the international theatre community ... and ... that 'damn good writer' ... Mr. Ted Chapin."



: Ted Chapin enjoys the Shepherd's Luncheon buffet along with an enthusiastic crowd. Photo by Randy Phillips.



Left: Chapin's Book Right: Mary Jane Houdina & Shepherd Bruce Brown. Photos by Randy Phillips.



### *The Umbrian Hills Are Alive with Music*

The Umbrian hills rang with sounds of Gospel this July as 23 singers, including myself, raised their voices in a gospel concert attended by local residents. The concert was the first of two performances, a culmination of a nine-day singers' training program called "The Tuscany Project."

The singers hailed from around the world. We worked on a rigorous schedule, refining our acting techniques and stretching beyond our self-imposed limitations. The group was divided into three parts so that we could efficiently work with the four coaches; BZ Goldberg (director), Belle Linda Halpern (vocal technique), Ron Roy (accompaniment), and Dr. Phillip Wood (gospel and *a capella*).

On the night of our last stay – in another concert - each singer presented the song they had brought. The progress from day one was rewarding to see. My song was "At the Ballet" from *A Chorus Line*.

- Sandra Bendfeldt

### *The Out-Of-Towners*

The Lambs recently had visits from persons afar; Bill Exley, of the Magical Castle in Hollywood, and Mary Aspinal, the niece of Lamb Walter Kinsella. In each visit several Lambs came out to greet our guests and show off our Clubhouse.

Lambs are reminded that we have reciprocal privileges at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, the Savage Club and the City University Club of London. Members traveling should ask one of the Officers for a letter of introduction for your visit. Future issues of *The Script* will include a report from another visit to the Savage Club, and two visits to the City University Club of London. Stay tuned!

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*I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.*

- Albert Einstein

(A pal of Shepherd Harry Hershfield)

the NY, NJ and PA areas – so popular they are being put on a CD ... **Richard Wolf's** new play, *Bookstore*, will get its premier run at the Amelia Community Theatre, Fernandina Beach, FL, in a 500-seat proscenium staged theatre on January 26-29, 2006 ... Syracuse, NY Lamb **Bill Knowlton** hosted his 33rd annual Bluegrass Ramble Picnic on Aug. 7th near Cortland NY. It's the Northeast's oldest bluegrass event. Bill also did his annual three-hour "live" broadcast from the New York State Fair on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> ... **Heather Duke** was one of the "above the title" producers for *Little Women*, the musical that began its Broadway previews on December 7, 2004, and opened in late January 2005, and alas, closed in May 2005. However, a year's tour of 48 cities launched August in San Diego with an incredible cast led by Maureen McGovern ... *War Brides*, with lyrics by **Frank Evans** and direction by **Bick Goss** had two staged readings – one at the York Theater, and the other at the BMI Musical Workshops ... **Peter Buchi** has been giving bravura performances in Milan and England ... **Paul Craffy** did *A Tribute to Marilyn* at Rose's Turn.

### *In Memoriam*

The Lambs mourns the loss of Jim Ruth, Cartoonist (self-portrait below), Lifetime Member of The Lambs' Council, and friend.



### *Who's Who; Cast and Staff Present at the Shepherd's Luncheon, June 2005*

*Compiled by Randy Phillips*

**Mary Jane Houdina** - Life Member of The Lambs. Her late husband, Al Toigo, was also a Life Member of the Club. Mary Jane was Michael Bennett's assistant on *Follies*, and played Young Hattie, the Ghost of Ethel Shutta, Ziegfeld Follies star, 1925. Ms. Houdina is now a noted director/choreographer regionally and specializes in restaging *Follies*.

**Victor Griffin** – Created the role of Vincent of the Bolero Dancing Team, 'Vincent and Vanessa'. Mr. Griffin, now 87, a veteran of the original Broadway productions *High Kickers*, *Ziegfeld Follies of 1943* (with Lamb Fay Lytelle), *Oklahoma!* (London's Will Parker), *Ballroom* (Harry the Noodle), *Amadeus* (with Lamb Peter Kingsley), PBS' *Great Performances*, Alex Cohen's *Night of 100 Stars II*, and is currently the highly visible 'Face of Vytorin' on TV.

**Sheila Smith** – Was born at an early age in Conneaut, Ohio, and has been performing ever since. Broadway debut: *Ziegfeld Follies of 1956*, with Tallulah. Following that with *Fiorello*, *Hot Spot*, *Mame*, *Follies*, *Company*, *Sugar*, *Five O'Clock Girl* (Revival), *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Show Boat* (Revival 1993-97), and others. She received the San Francisco Drama Critics Best Support Actress Award for her portrayal of Carlotta singing Sondheim's tribute to survival, "I'm Still Here."

**Cheryl Raymond** – Administrative Head to the Donnell Library, Cheryl provided the beautifully preserved color slides of the original *Follies* company, photographed by the late Bill Yoscarly in 1971.

**Carol Cornicelli** – Mr. Chapin's associate at Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals was responsible for the technical presentation. A year ago, Carol starred as Phyllis in a concert version of *Follies*.

## Reflection on the Birth of Follies

by David Dow Bentley III

[www.ThePeoplesCritic.com](http://www.ThePeoplesCritic.com)

When the groundbreaking Broadway musical *Follies* opened in 1971, I was in the early part of a New York City teaching career that was to last nearly three decades. Teacher salaries of the day did not afford me too many Broadway shows, but I managed to get a ticket for *Follies* at the Winter Garden. It was a dazzling production for this young theatergoer. I only wish I had the maturity at the time to more fully appreciate the many creative dimensions of the show that were recently touched on at length by Ted Chapin, during the delightful Shepherd's Luncheon held June 20<sup>th</sup> in The Lambs club ballroom. *Ted Chapin at the podium.* (Photo by Randy Phillips.)



Weather wise, it was the most perfect last day of spring imaginable. The wine flowed, and an abundant and sumptuous buffet put the crowd in an even better mood. Then our Shepherd, Bruce Brown, and event Collie, Randy Phillips, introduced the accomplished Mr. Chapin, president and executive director of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization in New York. The focus of Chapin's talk was the background tale of the "Birth of the Musical *Follies*." That, in fact, is the subtitle of his popular book on the subject, "Everything Was Possible." And Chapin had a peculiar qualification for writing such a memoir: As a young college student he was given the unique opportunity to serve as production assistant during development of the show. More importantly, he kept detailed journals recording the project's progress. It would be years later that his carefully preserved notes would come to the attention of editors and inspire the book that Stephen Sondheim has called, "...the best book about the musical theater I've ever read..."

In addition to sharing many interesting anecdotes regarding the show, Chapin presented a color slide show of rare cast photographs he was able to track down during his research. The dramatic and Tony Award-winning Florence Klotz costumes were a highlight of that

... Good News: Our own **Beth Holland** is now the first woman president of the Episcopal Actors Guild. Congratulations and good luck and "here's looking at you, kid." Beth also did her one-woman show at Danny's ... **Annette Hunt** has been so busy I can't remember all of her gigs, but I do recall her mentioning *The Sopranos*. Annette also appeared in a new musical about Stanford White, the architect who designed The Lambs' old clubhouse on 44<sup>th</sup> Street ... Pleasant Surprise: I received two CDs from an old friend and venerable Lamb, **Sonny Kippe**. Sonny had his own orchestra during the "golden years." The first features Sonny singing with the orchestra and a female vocalist. The second disc contains a collection of overtures extracted from original cast albums of *Industrial Show*. The original music was written by Sonny, conducted the shows. The music is as smooth and easy to listen as you could want. Thanks, Sonny, I really enjoy listening! ... **Bernice Lee**'s musical *Rachel*, which was premiered in Nashville, will see its New York premier at the Wings Theatre next December and feature **Kay Arnold, Sandra Bendfeldt, Kathy Kelleher** and **leslie Shreve** ... **Mabel Wensley Jorgensen** is very happy to have joined the staff of the Connecticut Ballet Center, which celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ... **Peter Dizozza** is the musical director of *Let's Be Frank; The Rat Pack is Back* at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Rep. Songs by Peter introduced a collection of one-acts at the Neighborhood Playhouse ... **Tom Bisky** appeared in the independent film *Mr. Gibb*, shot in Poughkeepsie it stars Tim Daly and is produced by Kevin Spacey ... **Lee Moore** has been busy, as always, he was in the feature film *Hit To Right*, and in a National commercial for Subway – and his screenplay, *The Barrymore Chair*, is in development ... Maestro **Don Pippin** forever busy and traveling: His symphony dates have included, the San Francisco Symphony, The Fairfax Symphony, The Chicago Symphony, The Naples Philharmonic and several solo recitals with Marilyn Horne. The height of his adventures was being invited to Cardiff, Wales, by the BBC to be a judge on the panel to select the best new theatre voice – their equivalent to *American Idol*, but for the theatre) ... **Jacqueline Kroschell** sang with the Council of American Master Mariners Memorial at Sailors Snug Harbor, performed at the *Vintage Musical Fashion Show* and in *Gilbert & Sullivan By the Carte*. Jacqueline appeared with **Steve DePass** in his *Stories, Songs and Ballads*, and in a benefit for fire victim Noel Cobb called *Burnt Offerings* ... Steve unveiled his 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Jingle Campaign featuring 13 jingles heard in

## News of Lambs

by Gerry Ruth

‘Tis autumn. How great. Regrettably, I missed all of the spring and summer Lambs activities except for a very memorable birthday dinner in March in the clubhouse Pub. The birthday celebrants were **Alice Dillon**, **Missy McMahan Pappas** and yours truly. Alice was accompanied by her next door neighbor, Prof. John Roach.; **Joyce Randolph**, **Peter Johl** and **Jim Ruth** completed the table. It was Jim’s last trip to the Club. Proof that it’s a small world after all: Prof. John Roach had been my senior advisor in my last year of college, and though we each knew of our “Dillon Connection” we hadn’t seen each other for over 30 years.

I wasn’t able to attend the Shepherd’s Luncheon of June 20<sup>th</sup> with special guest Ted Chapin, I looked forward to hearing his remarks on the making of Sondheim’s “Follies” and touching base with Sheila Smith and **Mary Jane Houdina**, who had both appeared in the production. Fortunately we have the wonderful remarks of **David Dow Bentley III**, “The People’s Critic”, whose work appears in newspapers “from the east coast to the gulf coast,” to give us a feel and flavor for that afternoon.

September 18<sup>th</sup> was the Ziegfeld Club’s Evening of Musical Memories. **Peter Johl** as Emcee did a grand job of introducing the singers, many of who were Lambs, and connecting their selections to the Follies and the Ziegfeld era ... I had to skip **Helen Klass** when she and Diana Templeton performed together in *Bosom Buddies* at Helen’s (formerly “Judy\*s”) in May. I’m definitely planning to be at one of her *Another Klass Act* shows in October. And I wouldn’t miss **Kathy Kelleher’s** *Love Who You Love* at Danny’s at the beginning of October Danny’s is also the venue for **Camille Savitz’s** *Food Show* ... I really enjoy **Roseanne Sheridan’s** style and I’m sorry I didn’t get to her one woman show, *Mother Never Wore Flats* ... New Lamb **Anita Brown** performed her one-woman show, *Forever Foolish*, at the Shooting Star Theater at the South Street Seaport with Woody Regan at the piano - I’ve never been to Shooting Star Theater at 40 Pecks Slip. It was a mini adventure ... All you Lambs with email, know what a slew of announcements we’ve been getting, from **Scott Glascock**, for a wide variety of things, from The Association of the Bar for original musicals



presentation, and there were even rare backstage photos of a visiting Grace Kelly. There were great stories about theatre luminaries Michael Bennett, Hal Prince, James Goldman, and Sondheim. And there were more tidbits about the stars, including Gene Nelson, Alexis Smith, Yvonne De Carlo, John McMartin, and Dorothy Collins.

Among the luncheon guests were a number of those connected with the original production of *Follies*. Sheila Smith originated the role of Meredith Lane and nicely supplemented Chapin’s remarks with many recollections of her own. Other original cast members present included Lambs Mary Jane Houdina (Young Hattie & Assistant to Michael Bennett) and Victor Griffin (Vincent of the Bolero Dance team known as Vincent & Vanessa).

Following Chapin’s talk, the author autographed copies of the book for those of us wanting to purchase the volume. When I asked him if the topic might not work nicely in a PBS special documentary, he hinted that such a project might be under consideration. With incorporation of the show’s lovely music, and whatever film clips and cast interviews could be assembled, it would be something to look forward to.



L.-R: Peter Johl, leslie Shreve, Billie Stewart wait to have their book copies autographed by Mary Jane Houdina & Ted Chapin. Photo by Randy Phillips.

### *In the Fold*

by Davida Rothberg

Hello and welcome to *In the Fold*. It's hard to believe but summer is now officially over and we are into fall, one of my favorite times of the year in New York. Friday Low Jinx Nights have been packed.



Some of the interesting events over the summer include award winning author Ted Chapin, who wowed everybody on June 20<sup>th</sup> with a well attended Shepard's Luncheon which had to be moved to the ballroom due to the overflow crowd. His book "Everything Was Possible" told of backstage at the *Follies*. Ted provided many slides that complimented his talk. Lamb David Dow Bentley III, who is a reviewer, wrote about the luncheon and it appeared on the World Wide Web; Dow supplies our cover story for this issue.

July 15<sup>th</sup> there was a theme night called "*Belles and Beaus.*" The collies that evening were Billie Stewart, and Gini Dustin.

The September 23<sup>rd</sup> theme night was a tribute to David Merrick with Collie Sylvia Schwartz and her co-producer, Lamb David Sokol. The program was filled with wonderful Merrick songs



performed for packed audience. We were pleasantly surprised and honored by a visit from Marge Champion (*pictured left*). Sylvia Schwartz used to work in the Merrick office and really did her homework for the show which was viewed by a packed house. Marge was smiling all night.

Emcees for other Low Jinx included : Theme Nights ... "Schmaltz" with Peter Kingsley ... "Duets" with Marc Baron and Neva Small ... "Mother's Day" with Billie Stewart ... and the other wonderful MC's have included Peter DiZozza, Peter Kingsley, Peter Johl, Eleanor Carney, Kathy Kelleher, Helen Klass, Linda Fields & Gene Rodgers.

Other upcoming highlights for the fall include theme nights on October 28<sup>th</sup>, our Halloween hostess Billie Stewart will preside again over all of the ghostly festivities. November 11<sup>th</sup> Peter Johl will host

Songs from WWI and WWII a patriotic view. 2M will be closed on Thanksgiving Friday. Hold the date December 16<sup>th</sup> which shall be our annual Christmas Party held in the ballroom with songs and door prizes.

I have heard about a *Brigadoon* reunion including our own Casper Roos which will be held at 3 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street. *Brigadoon* is one of my all time favorite shows and The Lambs Foundation have benefited by a bequest by composer Frederick Loewe

Let's look forward to all the exciting events up to 2006. And may we all have a happy healthy and safe Fall. And let us keep you In The Fold.

### *Lambs' Art Conservation Up-date*

In April, artist Jen Northup - niece of Sheila Smith - restored the Bronze plaque of Immortal Lamb, Edwin Burke, the Oscar-winning screenwriter (1932). Then Ms. Northup returned to clean the Robert Reid paintings, "Moonrise" and "Columbine," and fully restored the oil portrait of William Courtleigh by Artist Hubert Vos.

### *The Lambs' Webbed Feat*

The Lamb's web site continues to promote the Club and inform its Members. Since the activation of our web page [www.the-lambs.org](http://www.the-lambs.org) there have been more than 1,030,000 hits (an average of 2,400 per day) with more than 35,000 visitors. The site is highly ranked by search engines including Google, Yahoo, and others, and we also use Google *AdWords* to direct searches to our site.

The main site contains photos of the Clubhouse, listings of current and past members. Lambs should visit the Members' Only section, as many have, where you can find information regarding upcoming meetings, events and announcements.

If you're not receiving e-mail from The Lambs, be sure to send us your current e-mail address, and up-date your info should you change your e-mail. The 'Net' gives us an efficient way to keep members informed.