

KVTA Studios Black Box Theatre | 1 Stuart Dr Kankakee IL 60901

Tickets at: www.kvta.org



Fiddler on the Roof SR

JULY 24-26, 2026

Directed by Marsha Hill

Book by **Joseph Stein**

Music by **Jerry Bock**

Lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick**

Presented on the New York Stage by Harold Prince

Original New York Stage Production

Directed and Choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Based on Sholem Aleichem's stories

By special permission of Arnold Perl



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KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

A Note from the Director . . .

“Tradition” ...a tradition of putting your heart and soul into a production...Theatre! Where the creator makes...life! Not sounds, objects, or movements, but life! To Life...L’Chaim!

For 60 years I have been grateful to the loyal audiences and staff members who have supported my endeavors.

Fond memories of *Mame*, *Camelot*, *George M. Barnum*, *The King and I*, *Music Man*, *The Sound of Music*, *Something’s Afoot*, *South Pacific*, *Annie*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Everybody Loves Opal*, *Exit the Body*, *The Hobbit*, *The Great Cross Country Race*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, and 5 productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*...to name but a few...fill my heart.

My biggest fan, Lee, my late husband’s seat will be empty, but my gratitude remains full-hearted. Again, “To Life...L’Chaim!” There are many people to recognize who gave special assistance to make this road to Anatevka possible. Heartfelt thanks to this cast and crew and those who went the extra mile, namely, Miles and Susan Turner, Sherrill Stichnoth, Courtney Stephens, Ariana Baginski, Jaylen Rick, Bonnie Brewer, April Whittington, Andy Stephens, Danielle Hanus, Michaela Richey, Pat Ward, Carol Snyder, Julie Tomisek, and Kathy Vogt (Logo Design). An additional thank you to all ushers and those who joined the crew after the program went to press.

Thank you to the families of these wonderful people and to those of you who came to applaud their efforts for this new adventure for KVTa. Thank you to the cast, for once more, making a memory! L’Chaim!

I encourage those of you who thought you could “never do this” to try Senior Theatre. It all starts with, “wouldn’t it be fun to put on a play?” Thank you for being a part of our audience!

Marsha Hill

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Tickets can be purchased online at www.kvta.org.

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit www.kvta.org.

KVTA is a Proud Member of:

- Community Arts Council of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

Scene Synopsis and Musical Numbers

The Place: Anatevka, a small village in Russia

The Time: 1905, on the Eve of the Russian Revolutionary Period

Prologue.....“Tradition”

Scene 1: Kitchen in Tevye's House..... “Matchmaker, Matchmaker”

Scene 2: Exterior of Tevye's House.....“If I Were a Rich Man”

Scene 3: Interior of Tevye's House.....”Sabbath Prayer”

Scene 4: The Inn.....”To Life”

Scene 5: Street Outside the Inn

Scene 6: Outside Tevye's House

Scene 7: Village Street and Tailor Shop

Scene 8: Tevye's Yard.....”Sunrise, Sunset, Wedding Dance”

Scene 9-10: Exterior of Tevye's House.....”Do You Love Me?”

Scene 11: Exterior of Railroad Station.....”Far From the Home I Love”

Scene 12: Motel's Tailor Shop

Scene 13: A Road

Scene 14: Outside Tevye's House..... “Anatevka”

Scene 15: Outside Tevye's House

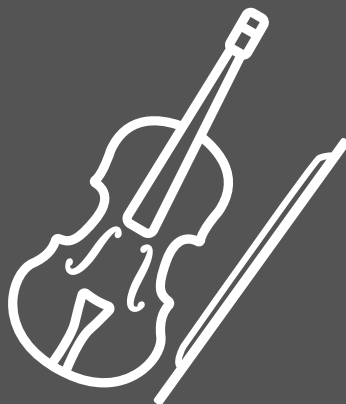
Cast of *Fiddler on the Roof* SR.

(*Denotes first appearance in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production)

Tevye, the Dairyman.....	Miles Q. Turner
Golde, his wife.....	Bonnie Brewer
Tzeitel, his oldest daughter.....	Sally Evans
Hodel, his second daughter.....	Jodie Brugler*
Chava, his third daughter.....	Debbie Hurling*
Shprintze, his fourth daughter.....	Karen A. Dannenhauer*
Bielke, his youngest daughter.....	Gretchen DeMarah*
The Fiddler.....	Julie Tomisek*
Yente, the Matchmaker.....	Estella Cruz*
Motel, the Tailor.....	Robert Guastalli
Perchik, the Student.....	Randy Tumblin
Fyedka, the Russian suitor.....	John Siergiej*
Lazar Wolf, the Butcher.....	Dale Tolly*
Mordcha, the Innkeeper.....	Burt Taylor*
Rabbi.....	Pat Skelly
Mendel.....	Mike Snyder
Avram, the Hatmaker.....	Michael Pammer*
Constable.....	Romero Lewis
Sasha, the Russian.....	Randy Fisher
Petrov, the Russian/Priest.....	Charlie McCarthy*
Anya.....	Kim Mauritzer*
Mirala.....	Janet Glidden*
Shayna.....	Lana Waselewski*
Fredel.....	Char Mitchell*
Shaindel.....	Carroll Tumblin
Rivka.....	Cynthia Thinnes*

Production Staff

Director **Marsha Hill**
Assistant Director **Ariana Baginski**
Vocal Director **Susan Turner**
Choreographer **Jaylen Rick**
Production Coordinator **Courtney Stephens**
Costumer **Bonnie Brewer**
Jeanne Benson, Miles Q Turner, Angel Noelle, Jordyn Clark
Set Builder **Andrew Stephens**
Jim Ozee, Zac Stephens, Gerry Hawes
Set Decorator **Danielle Hanus**
Properties **Carol Snyder**
Stage Manager **April Whittington**
Michaela Richey, Jarriid Nordin, Erin Thomas
Makeup..... **Jordyn Clark**
Rehearsal Pianist **Sherrill Stichnoth**
Box Office **Gina O'Connor**
House..... **Andy Purcell**
Program **Kimberly Hall**
Marsha Hill, Courtney Stephens
Publicity **Courtney Stephens**
Jackie Pletsch
Lights **Cole Pilbeam, Andy Breeden**
Sound **Main Street Music Production**
Ella Nitschke



Meet the Cast

Bonnie Brewer (Golde)- Bonnie has been involved with KVTa since the 1980's and has played the role of Golde opposite Miles in two previous productions of *Fiddler*. Recently, she played Ouiser in the KVTa production of *Steel Magnolias* and Puffer in KVTa's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. When she is not on stage, Bonnie can be found sewing costumes. She'd like to thank her good friend, Jeanne Benson, for helping with costumes on *Fiddler*. Bonnie has three adult children, Barbi, Jay and Joe and three grandchildren, Allison, Cole and Ryder.

Jodie Brugler (Hodel)-This is Jodie's first show with KVTa and she has loved every minute of it. She resides in Frankfort, Illinois and has performed in several theaters throughout the southwest suburbs including *Our Town* (Narrator; Playnfield Players, Plainfield, Illinois), *Funeral For a Gangster* (Ruby; Spotlight Theatre, Manhattan, Illinois) *Lend Me a Tenor* (Maria; Galaxy Theatre), LaGrange Illinois) and *Anastasia* (Ensemble; Natural Talent Productions, Winfield, Illinois). Her daughter, Skye encouraged her to participate in theatre back in 2017 and Jodie has been an active participant since then. Tonight Skye has traveled from South Dakota with her brother, Hunter, from Minnesota to see her sing solo in her first community theatre musical in her favorite show of all time. Jodie welcomes them along with their friends Mark and Pierce who have always attended her past shows. She thanks Marsha Hill and the amazing production team for enlightening her awareness as an actor and molding her talents to present a true to life character. Our hardworking cast hopes to draw you into this heartwarming story as you smile, laugh, cry, and sing the songs all the way home.

Estella Cruz (Yente) This is Stella's first KVTa production and is humbled and honored to perform alongside this wonderful cast! She lives in Tinley Park and thanks her family and friends for their unwavering support and love. She has performed with Covered Bridge, Tinley Park Playhouse, The Joliet Drama Guild and one of her favorite roles was The Narrator in The Rocky Horror Show with Spotlight AC. She wants to thank Marsha Hill for this opportunity to realize her dream of playing Yente and thanks KVTa for producing a Senior show! In May of 2020, a mammogram found cancer and saved her life...so get your mammograms! Enjoy the show. L'Chaim!

Karen Dannenhauer (Shprintze) Karen lives in Kankakee and is a retired teacher from the Kankakee School District. This is her first performance with KVTa (or any other theater company, for that matter). She has a feathered child, Corkie, an African Grey parrot; and a horse, Penelope. Karen thanks her longtime boyfriend, Larry, for the many hours he has spent in the audience watching her play violin for various area orchestras, and now as an actor on the stage. She wants to thank all of the staff and fellow cast members for this memorable experience.

Meet the Cast

Gretchen Demarah (Bielke) This is her first performance “on stage”, but has many years behind the stage doing makeup for theater/dance groups. Playing this role (Bielke) with husband Michael Pammer (Avram) has given her an idea of a new theater experience. Mother of Danielle Demarah and Kendra Souligne (grandmother of 6) taught her to be a baby in the family. Gretchen has just published her first book, *Skincare from Behind the Chair*, about her 47 years working as an Esthetician.

Sally Evans (Tzeitel) Sally and her husband, Steve, live in Bonfield. They have a total of five adult children and 15 grandchildren. She just retired from FASTSIGNS of Kankakee at the end of June and is very excited to begin this next chapter! It has been 49 years since Sally performed on stage, which happened to be with KVTa, as one of the maids in *My Fair Lady*. Sally would like to thank her family for encouraging her to return to the stage again and a BIG thank you to the KVTa staff for all of their help and encouragement!

Randy Fisher (Sasha) Randy lives in Bradley, IL with his two kids, Dakota and Adyson. I thank them, as well as others, that have encouraged me and supported me throughout the years. Randy has been in several KVTa productions over the years. Most recently added to my long list were *The Christmas Schooner* and *Matilda*. Hope you all enjoy.

Janet Glidden (Mirala) Janet and her husband Richard live in St. Anne. Janet is retired from the Kankakee School District. This is her first KVTa performance, having been in her last play in Jr. High School. Janet’s daughter encouraged her to audition and she’s very glad she did!

Bob Guastalli (Motel) Bob and his wife Valerie live in Kankakee. They are the parents of 7 adult children and the grandparents of 23. Bob is playing the role of Motel and he has been in a number of KVTa shows over the decades including the 2003 KVTa production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. If you look at the photos in the KVTa hallway you’ll see that there are 3 generations of his family that have been involved with KVTa productions. Thanks to all of the staff for working on this production and to everyone, BREAK A LEG.

Meet the Cast

Debbie Hurling (Chava) Debbie is from Beecher and is very excited to be in her first production with KVTa! After studying theatre in college she spent many years performing around the Chicagoland area. Most recently she worked as the Drama coach for Beecher High School. She is currently a part-time substitute teacher and mail carrier. As a “mature” actor, she is so happy to be able to play a character she missed out on earlier in her career! She hopes to continue to work with KVTa and is so impressed with the company. Enjoy the show!!

Romero Lewis (Constable) Romero lives with his husband, Shane, in Aroma Park. Retired from the Air Force and FedEx, Romero now calls Illinois home, now working at CSL Behring. He has been in over 10 productions with KVTa since 2016 and is a past board member. Romero is excited to be part of such an organization that brings diverse art offerings and opportunities to actors and patrons in our community

Kim Mauritzen (Anya) Kim & her husband Kevin live in Bradley. They are retired & have 5 grandchildren. This is Kim's 1st play ever! Her daughter April & her 2 youngest have volunteered & performed in many KVTa productions. Kim's sister in law, Joann, also performed & was Assistant director in the 1970's for KVTa. *Fiddler on the Roof* has always been Kim's favorite musical! After seeing all the fun her family was having, she decided to give it a try at “70”. Kim would like to thank her family for supporting her in this new experience!

Charles McCarthy (Petrov) Charlie lives on the river in Kankakee where he practices law (the ultimate stage), plays the banjo, and stores his sailing gear. This is his virgin appearance in a KVTa production. Many years ago, he performed as the sheriff in *Finian's Rainbow* in Canton, Ohio and Eugene Ionesco's *Bald Soprano* in a collegiate production. He has sung in various choirs and Glee Clubs and enjoys hootenannies.

Char Mitchell (Fredel) Char Mitchell lives in Bourbonnais and works as a Business Administrative Associate with the University of Illinois System. This is Char's first KVTa production, and she is excited to be part of the cast and experience the joy of live theatre. Char would like to extend a special thank you to her granddaughters for encouraging her to go for it and to her entire family for their unwavering love, support, and encouragement.

Meet the Cast

Michael Pammer (Avram) and wife **Gretchen (Bielke)** live in Bourbonnais with the feline family. This is Michael's very first production appearance. He is a retired registered nurse after 34 years, the last 18 years at the University of Chicago as an operating room nurse. He volunteers at a local kankakee cat shelter where he helps run the weekend vaccine clinic. Besides a degree in Nursing, he also has studied physics at Arizona State University and has his substitute teaching license for Kankakee and Iroquois county.

John Siergiej (Fyedka) This is John's first time in a KVTa production and his first time performing in a play. John is from Chicago where he retired as a sergeant from the Chicago Police Department. His family, **Haley (wife)**, **Jovie** and **Jenna** (twin daughters), and son **Henry** now live in Ashkum. His children are active with KVTa and school productions, so John surprised them by secretly auditioning for *Fiddler*. John is excited for this role and really hopes he performs up to his children's' high standards.

Patrick Skelly (Rabbi) Pat Skelly is delighted to return to the KVTa stage, where he first performed in 1985 as Drake, the butler in *Annie*, directed by Marsha Hill. By day, he serves as Lead Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee and as a deacon at Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais. Pat and his wife, Sharon, make their home in Bourbonnais. He is grateful to be part of this wonderful cast and hopes you enjoy the show!

Mike Snyder (Mendel, the Rabbi's son) Very pleased to be in this show. I am the only KVTa member to be in the cast of all 4 of our *Fiddler on the Roof* productions.

Burt Taylor (Mordcha) Burt, 86, and his wife **Carla** (my biggest supporter) live in Bourbonnais. They have three daughters, **Denise**, **Michele**, and **Ruthann**. He retired after 37 yrs with COMED. In 1969 he played the part of The Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood*. He has enjoyed singing in church choir, various choruses, and a Barbershop Chorus. This is his first performance with KVTa and is enjoying every minute. All the staff is amazing. Looking forward to participating in a wonderful production.

Cynthia Thinnes (Rivka) Cynthia lives in Kankakee with her spouse, **Angie**. They have lived in Kankakee since 2011. She retired from the practice of law 13 years ago and is currently working as a Teacher's Aide for Kepler College. This is Cynthia's first production with KVTa. The last time she performed in any theatre production was over 20 years ago. She is very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of this production and to everyone who has been a part of making it happen. She is especially grateful to **Bonnie Brewer**, who talked her into auditioning!

Meet the Cast

Dale Tolly (Lazar Wolf) Dale and his wife Pam live in Kankakee. Dale has many hats that he wears outside of KVTa. Together they have two adult, married children Chris (Liz), and Erin (Ivy) and are Grandma and “Papa” to eight grandchildren. Not quite retired but not fully working - Dale just needed one more hat to wear and being a lover of musicals all his life thought this to be a perfect opportunity. All four years in High School Dale was stage manager for the Spring musicals. *Fiddler* - an all-time favorite, Dale was of course involved in the 1972 production at Eastridge High School. This is his first real onstage performance and he is completely excited and grateful for this wonderful opportunity. Hope you enjoy the show.

Julie Tomisek (Fiddler) Julie retired after teaching orchestra in the Kankakee School District for 36 years. She plays violin in several orchestras and has been involved in numerous KVTa musicals either as a violinist or as Orchestra Conductor, most recently conducting *The Producers*. Julie is making her acting debut in *Fiddler on the Roof* and then back to the pit to conduct *Dreamgirls* in September.

Randy Tumblin (Perchik) Randy lives in Bourbonnais with his college sweetheart, Carroll. He retired after 30 years of college and university administrative work and 13 years as a pastor and hospital chaplain. Randy has been in several shows with KVTa and The Acting Out Theatre Company. His favorite KVTa role, twice, was as Adam Pontipee in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Last summer he performed in *Godspell* at the Grove in Bourbonnais. Randy loves being a dad to Hannah and Jonathan (wife Tiffany) and being Papa to Leah, Rowan, Titus, and Judah. He enjoys spending time with family, golfing, reading, and riding either his scooter or his 1993 Harley Davidson “Police” edition motorcycle.

Carroll Tumblin (Shaindel) Carroll lives in Bourbonnais with her husband of 45 years, Randy. After music and theater experience in high school in Arlington Heights, she concentrated on raising two children, Hannah and Jonathan (wife Tiffany). She also worked in a fulfilling 40 year career as a registered nurse in cardiology, most recently at Franciscan Health in Olympia Fields. Her last stage appearance was in the ensemble of KVTa’s *Cinderella*. In retirement, she enjoys the blessings of gardening, friends, family, and grandkids, Leah, Rowan, Titus, and Judah.

Miles Q. Turner (Tevye) Miles, 71, is a Manteno resident married to Susan Turner, the vocal director. He retired after a 35 year career teaching from BBCHS in 2014 where he taught English and directed over 70 plays and musicals. A veteran of several KVTa productions, this will be his fourth time playing Tevye.

Lana Waselewski (Shayna) Lana lives in Bourbonnais and is retired from the State of Illinois where she was a regional administrator. She is in the praise band (keyboard and vocals) and choir at her church. Lana is thrilled to be in her first local theatre production and is thoroughly enjoying the experience while learning so much. She is thankful for this opportunity and the “push” from her niece Sarah Christensen to audition.

Meet the Production Staff

Marsha Hill (Director) Marsha moved to Kankakee in 1966 and now lives in Bourbonnais. During these 60 years she appreciates her family who have survived and supported her passion for theatre: Viri Hill from Seattle, Lee Hill from Frankfort, and Emily Hill Meyer from Manteno. She has 6 grandsons and one granddaughter. Marsha is a retired teacher who has enjoyed a lifetime of theatre with Engle Lane Theatre, Streator, IL, KVTa, Young People's Theatre, Acting Out Theatre, and Cissna Park's CTW. She is grateful for this initial opportunity to present Senior Theatre to the area audiences, and to this wonderful cast and staff who made it possible.

Ariana Baginski (Assistant Director) Ariana currently lives in Orland Park and works as a Metrology Engineer for CSL Behring. She was recently on stage in KVTa's production of *Big Fish* as a featured dancer. With this being her first time as an Assistant Director, she has gotten really good at writing emails and running around the rehearsal room trying not to look so frantic. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this production! You have been incredible!!

Susan Turner (Vocal Director) Susan and her husband, Miles (Tevye), have lived in Manteno for 46 years. She is a retired music teacher and for 40 years an organist-choir director. During those years, her participation in KVTa has included singing on stage and helping with costumes and props, but mostly in the capacity as a Vocal Director. This is her fifth time working on *Fiddler*. "Tradition!"

Jaylen Rick (Choreographer) Jaylen lives in Bourbonnais with her partner, Nick. She works as a Customer Care Specialist at Essential Utilities. She was most recently seen on stage in KVTa's *Big Fish* as Jenny Hill and an ensemble member. This is her first time choreographing at KVTa. Jaylen is having a blast with the cast of *Fiddler Sr*. They are awesome!

Courtney Stephens (Production Coordinator) Courtney resides in Bourbonnais with her husband Zac. She is currently serving as the President of KVTa. She will also be the Director for *Newsies JR* in KVTa's 2026-2027 Season. Courtney stated, "Thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers, actors, and staff members that created this production. What a beautiful creation you all have made! Bravo!"

Meet the Production Staff

Andrew Stephens (Set Builder) Andrew lives in Bourbonnais with his wife, Sarah. He credits his many KVTa appearances to his daughters who talked him into auditioning for *Mary Poppins* many years ago. His favorite roles were in the KVTa productions of *Spamalot* and *The Producers*.

Danielle Hanus (Set Decorator) lives in Limestone with her fiancé, three children, a pup named Monty, and 37 chickens. I got involved in set decorating because of my daughter Charlee. This was my first experience being a head set decorator! Hope everyone enjoys the show!

Bonnie Brewer (Costumer) It was Carol Semmens who inspired me to get involved with costuming in high school at Pontiac and Phyllis Witt who drew me in at KVTa. I enjoy designing costumes which I was able to do for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for KVTa and will get to do this fall for *Dreamgirls*. Thank you to Jeanne Benson and Miles Turner for providing special help with costumes for this show and all the cast members for pitching in.

Carol Snyder (Prop Goddess) I've been involved with KVTa for about 35 years since my children started with the young people's productions. My husband Michael has been on stage for longer than that. I choose to always work backstage as I know when to applaud! I am always flattered to be asked to be part of a production and am happy to be doing this show.

April Whittington (Stage Manager) April lives in Bradley with her husband Rodney along with 3 children: Owen, Savannah, and Crosby. She has been stage manager for *Shrek Jr.* with KVTa. When she is not working backstage, she is busy as a homemaker and volunteering for La Leche League. She is grateful to have the opportunity to work with Marsha Hill just like her Aunt did many years ago. April's involvement in *Fiddler on the Roof* is in memory of Joann Barney. Forever in our hearts.

Sherrill Stichnoth (Pianist) Sherrill lives in Bourbonnais with her husband, Marvin. They have 4 children and 11 grandkids, all of whom have played piano and other instruments. Several have been music majors in college. This is Sherrill's first time playing the piano for a KVTa performance. She has enjoyed watching this production come together as an emotionally moving performance. Enjoy the show!

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FIDDLER ON THE ROOF SR

JULY 24-26, 2026



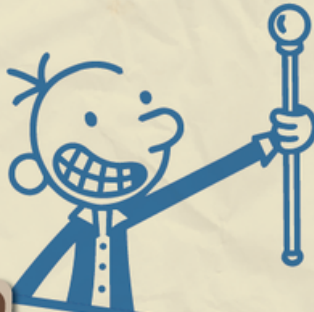
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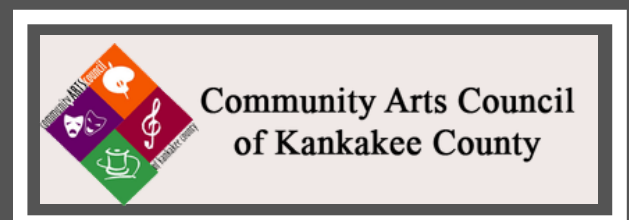
*This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency
through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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