

Resident in the Spotlight

Kristine Tesar

Meet Kristine Tesar, a.k.a. “Queen Evergreen” – Wife, Mother, Singer, Actress, Comedian, Artist

“If anybody would have told me 22 years ago that I would never leave Moreland Hills, I would’ve told them, ‘You’re crazy!’” said Kristine Tesar. Now, feeling very anchored and blessed with all that life has to offer, Tesar said she isn’t going anywhere.

Born and raised in Boston, Tesar initially viewed relocating to Ohio as a sort of “temporary assignment.” She and her husband, George, decided to make the move to Cleveland when George received a job offer from the Cleveland Clinic to chair the psychiatry department. They were drawn to Moreland Hills because it reminded them of their New England roots with its Western Reserve charm. It didn’t take long for them to settle in and call the Village “home.”

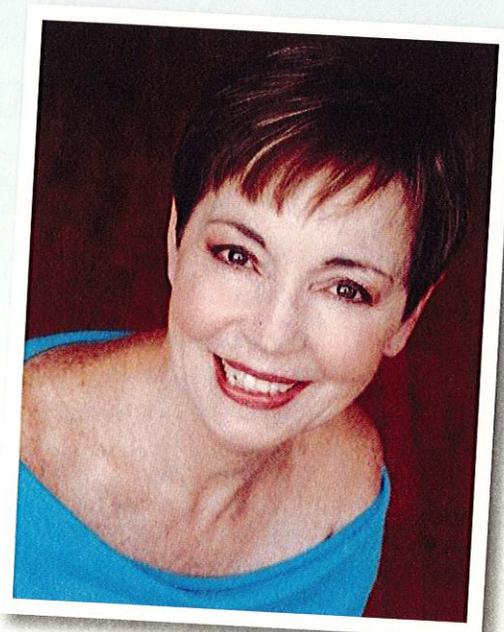
Tesar, who had 25 years as a nurse under her belt at the time, chose to stay home full time with their young son whom they adopted from Columbia. A short while later, the couple adopted a little girl to complete their family. Tesar said she feels very fortunate to have been able to stay home and raise her children, but as they got older, she decided to explore some of her creative passions.

In 2005, she auditioned for a musical and received a role; from that point on she was hooked. “I started taking music lessons, acting lessons and dance lessons,” Tesar said.

Over the last 10 years she has been cast in many Chagrin Valley Little Theater (CVLT) productions, including *Christmas Carol the Musical*, *The Full Monty*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Gyps and Dolls* and a couple of experimental original plays at CVLT River Street Theater. She also has made a few appearances in *Murder by the Falls*, as well as performing in *Mame* with the Mercury Theatre Company.

Tesar’s love of improvisational comedy (she’s a huge SNL fan) and preference for playing comedic roles led her to start studying improv a few years ago. “There are a few guiding principles for improv,” Tesar said. “First, you can’t think about it. Second, once you commit to a character, you can’t drop it. Third, don’t bail on your partner. And lastly, don’t worry about being silly if you’re having fun!” She hopes to soon become part of a new comedy troupe at CVLT.

In addition to comedy and acting, Tesar is a member of the Orange Stagecrafters Adult Glee Show Choir. “We sing, dance and perform every year at Orange High School along with their junior troupe and Broadway Buddies – the latter being a performance-based program for children and teens with special needs. You must have a very large box of tissues on hand to watch them...they melt your heart and take your breath away!”



Tesar said she loves working with children, thus her all-time favorite production is the annual Christmas show at CVLT in which she regularly plays the character “Queen Evergreen.” (Tesar confessed she has a thing for royalty.)

“I like her because she’s silly, royal – and runs through the forest keeping everything green!”

And “green” just happens to be one of Tesar’s other passions. A member of a grassroots group of residents, who, many years ago, were interested in protecting the land that is now Forest Ridge Preservation on Chagrin River Road, Tesar now serves on the Moreland Hills Parks and Green Commission. “Sometimes I like tell people I do it because I love Amy Poehler [star of the hit comedy Parks and Recreation] and I want to be just like her,” Tesar joked.