

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2010

PLEASE MARK MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 7:30 P.M. ON YOUR CALENDARS! We start off 2010 with the **Annual Membership Meeting and Election**. This is an opportunity for members to “meet and greet,” to hear reports from the various branch chairs, to get a preview of what’s coming up, to participate in future plans and most importantly elect the officers to serve for the next year. We need your attendance! Refreshments will be served. This year’s nominees for “Lifetime Member” are *Judy and Art Vander*. They have contributed time, energy and money towards the revitalization of the music branch, including organizing chamber music concerts, scheduling the talent, hanging posters, making cookies, and seeing to every detail of producing what has become a welcome new dimension of the Art Center. Come honor this delightful duo.

THEATRE..... The first selection of the 2010 theatre season is the comedy, **Shirley Valentine**. This one-woman show, winner of the Tony Award and the Oliver Award for Best Comedy, will run January 29 to February 27. *Frank James Malle*, who directed the highly successful “*Private Lives*” last year, returns to oversee this well-loved play and has selected the perfect person to play the title role - *Jenna Scanlin*. The plot tells of a Liverpool housewife’s journey of personal transformation from a humdrum existence to the life of her dreams. The first weekend will be two-for-one. Bring a friend for free. On Sunday, February 14, a special Valentine’s Day performance will feature complimentary cheesecake, chocolate and champagne. Performances are Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. Call 640-8797 or log on to www.OjaiAct.com for reservations and info.

Due to health issues of director *Taylor Kasch*, the production of **Inherit the Wind** (March 19 – April 17) has been cancelled. We wish him well and hope to fill the slot soon. Stay tuned.

AUDITIONS*.... *Gai Jones*, director, and *Herb Hemming*, producer, are looking for actors of various ages and levels of experience for the cast of “**Charley and the Chocolate Factory**.” This is the non-musical version of the classic book by Roald Dahl. Auditions will be in March, rehearsals start in April, Monday to Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., then Monday to Friday in May with performances weekends in May. We are also looking for stage manager, assistant director, vocal director (for a few simple songs), choreographer/movement for Oompa-Loopas, set/prop designer, set construction and costume manager. Call Gai at 640-6472 or email her at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net.

MUSIC..... We are ready to kick off the first of our four chamber music concerts in 2010. On Sunday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m., *Virginia Kron*, cellist, and *Miriam Arichea*, pianist will delight us with their program entitled “American as Apple Pie.” With the exception of one piece by Bach, this American pie is filled with works by Foss, Stevens, Muczynski, Rouse, Kernis, Hogan (teaches at UCSB), and concludes with Gershwin’s “Summertime,” arranged especially for Kron by Ojai’s own Jimmy Calire. Tickets only at door. General admission \$10, Art Center members & students \$8. Call 640-8327 for more info.

LITERARY.... On Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., the Literary Branch will present *Tom Eubanks*, author of the newly-released novel *Worlds Apart*. His talk is titled “Self-Published: The Story of *Worlds Apart*.” It will take you on his journey to publish his story about a boy whisked away by his missionary father to Haiti in the summer of 1966. *Mr. Eubanks* is well-known to our theater community. An active member of the Theatre Branch, he served six terms as Chair and two additional terms on the Executive Committee. He has produced, acted and directed over 65 productions and is currently Artistic Director of The Elite Theatre Company. He will be available for a book signing following. Suggested donation -\$5.

ART... In our Main Gallery the two-woman show, “**Painted Edges**,” will feature a contemporary collection of work on canvas by *Shahastra*, an Ojai Studio Artist member and award-winning artist and her daughter, *Zandra Lily*, an emerging painter. Using exploratory approaches in both acrylic and oil, each artist employs the transformational soul-qualities of artmaking into images that inspire and provoke. *Mary-Gail King*’s aquamedia and mixed media floral and landscape paintings will be on display in our Signature Gallery with *Judee Hauer*’s three dimensional works in our Front Showcase. Reception for all artists is Sunday, Feb. 7, 1- 3 p.m.

New Class: ZUMBA comes to the Art Center on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30. Diana Lopez, licensed instructor, will lead you through this super fun, Latin-inspired, easy-to-follow, calorie burning, feel-it-to-the-core dance work-out fitness party. Call 640-7216 for more info.

